

*Full Length Research Paper*

# **Early marriages and parental influence: An evidence from Momba District in Tanzania**

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Received 26 May, 2019; Accepted 4 April, 2022

**This study aims to find how parents influence early marriage among girls in Momba District. Households' socio-economic characteristics were explored as factors influencing parents to marry off their daughters early. Cross-sectional design was adopted in the collection of data from 120 respondents in Momba District. Multiple regressions were used to analyze the data. Results showed that age, occupation, and household size were significant factors influencing parents to marry off their children early. The study recommends that the parents and community should be educated to discourage early marriage. Education can also help them to make informed decisions. Households should diversify their economic activities as majority in the area rely on farming which is a very sensitive occupation. Parents should also maintain small family sizes and see girls as having equal rights to education and growth as boys. The government should enforce policies that prohibit early marriage and set up strict laws to end early marriage practices in society.**

**Key words:** Early marriage, parental influence, Momba District.

## **INTRODUCTION**

Marriage is wedlock or a social union between man and woman and becoming one with each other (Gallagher, 2002). According to The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) (2001), early marriage is considered a marriage, which is conducted when girls are under eighteen (18), before they are physically, psychologically and physiologically prepared to undertake the marital responsibilities. Although the marital age is generally on the rise, the marriages of children and adolescents below 18 years old are still in wide practice (UNICEF, 2001). Children marriages are fairly spreading in some countries of Africa and South Asia (UNICEF, 1998). Africa has over

70% of children marriage, which is the highest observed rate in the world. The countries with a high rate of marriage under 18 years old are Niger, Mali, Chad, and Ethiopia.

Tanzania's prevalence rate of child marriage is among the highest in the world, and on average two out of five girls are married before 18 years (United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), 2012).

The extent of early marriage varies from society to society. The prevalence of early marriage is also highest in Shinyanga, Tabora, Mara, Dodoma, Lindi, Singida, and Mbeya (UNFPA, 2006). Child marriage is a serious

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problem, and it is common due to various reasons including poverty, financial status, illiteracy, and rural residence (Levine et al., 2009). Today, many parents, relatives, or guardians conduct involuntary marriages on their children (Mutyaba, 2011). Many children particularly teenagers as young as 14 to 15 years old girls are forced into marriage. They may drop out of school to get married. As such they are denied the opportunity to mature and make decisions on their own before marriage (UNICEF, 2009).

Early marriage in Tanzania has become a serious problem; it leads to school dropouts and early motherhood in most regions of the country, particularly in the rural, coastal, and poor populations in urban areas (UNFPA, 2006). The Tanzania Marriage Act (United Republic of Tanzania (URT), 1971) gave power to parents and judges to marry off as young as 14 years old children. This law provided a loophole for the parents to marry off their children in the past. Even though this law allowed marriage at such young age, the practice violated girls' human rights (Jensen and Thornton, 2003). Early marriage leads to disruption in the accumulation of human resources due to school drop-out, removal from labour market, and adverse health effects resulting from early child-bearing (UNICEF, 2011).

In many early marriages, girls experience physical and sexual abuse from their husbands and in-laws after being married and become mothers at a young age (Nyakubenga, 2009). This leads to reproductive consequences during birth including maternal death, obstetrics fistula, premature delivery, malnutrition, and anemia. In Momba District, this problem is very serious; it has been found that many young girls that get married before their 18th birthday are unable to continue with their schooling (UNFPA, 2012). This problem exists mostly in families with a poor living standard. Even though many researchers (Levine et al., 2009; Mothiba, 2012; Panday et al., 2009) attempted to find out the factors contributing to early marriage, this study intended to determine what influence parents have on early marriage in Momba District, Songwe Region, Tanzania.

### Objectives and questions of the study

The main objective of the study is to determine parental influence on early marriage. Specifically, the study aims to examine the factors influencing parents to marry off their children early.

This study was guided by the following question:

What factors cause parents to marry off their children early and their influence on early marriage?

### Conceptual framework

Early marriage is among the major socio-cultural customs

influenced by parents/guardians of the girls. Therefore, it is essential to understand the factors influencing parents to marry off their children early at the local level. The high rate of early marriage of girls is associated with poverty, dowry, lack of education, peer pressure, poor parenting causing girls to engage in early marriage (International Center for Research on Women (ICRW), 2015). Some girls get married early because of the hard life of their families. Also, the illiteracy of parents contributes to early marriage because parents fail to realize the importance of educating their daughters. In a family with good living standards and a high level of education the rate of early marriage in their family is relatively low. This relationship is shown in Figure 1.

## METHODOLOGY

### Study area

This research was conducted in Momba District, Songwe Region, Tanzania. The region is located in the Southwestern part of the Southern highlands of Tanzania. It was created in 2016 and was a former part of Mbeya Region. Momba District is one of the four districts of Songwe Region. The district has a population size of about 196,818 (URT, 2012). It lies at Latitudes 8°10' South and 9° 15' South of the Equator and Longitudes 32°5' East and 32° 45' East of the Greenwich meridian. It is bordered by Zambia and Rukwa to the west, Chunya District to the north, Ileje District to the South, and Mbozi District to the east (URT, 2017).

### Study design

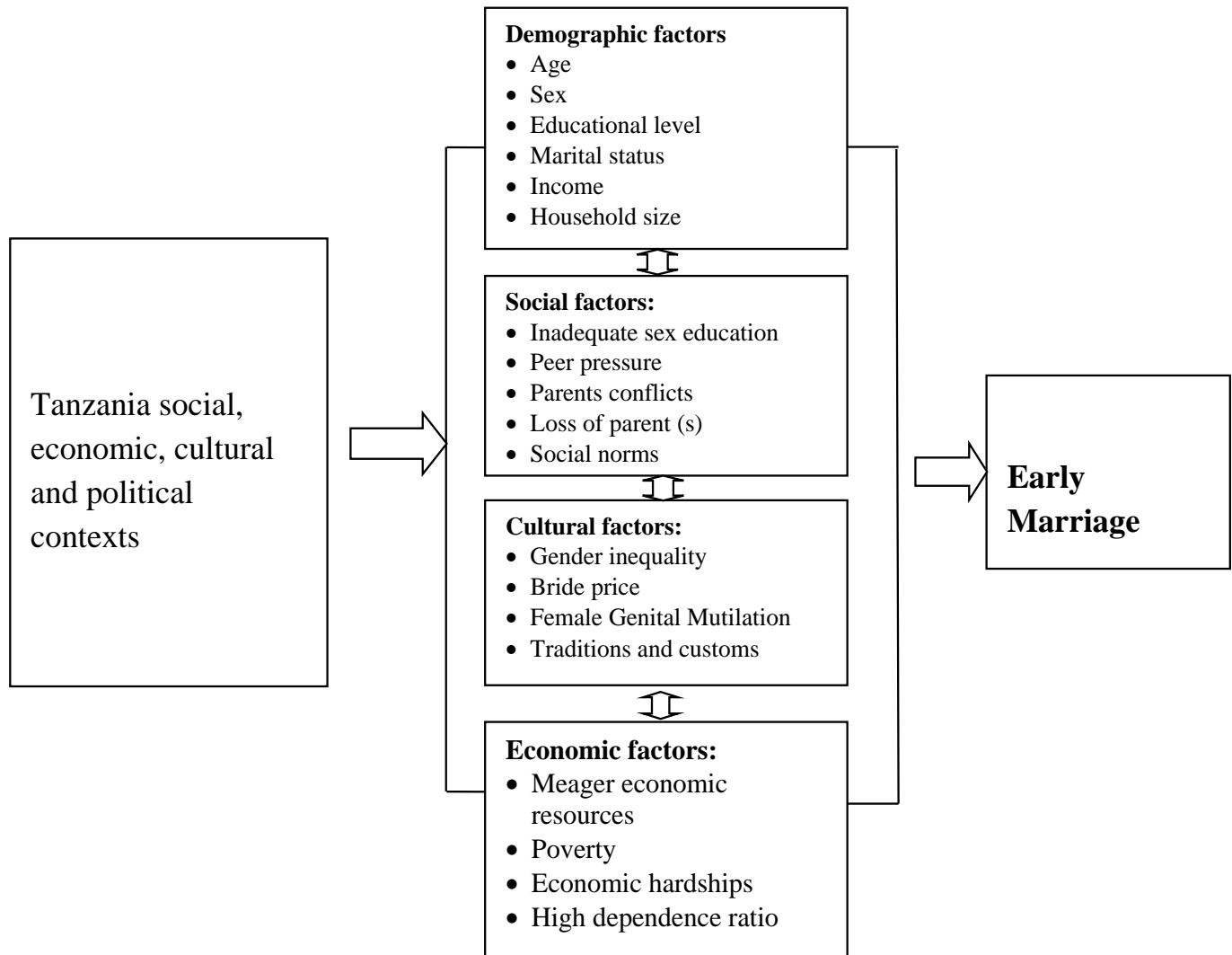
In this study, a cross-sectional design was adopted in the collection of data on the influence of parents on early marriage. This design was chosen because it was quicker, cheaper, and enabled the researcher to collect data at a single point in time (Levin, 2006). This design is also appropriate for descriptive studies and measuring of relationships between variables (Varkevisser et al., 2003).

### Data and instruments

In the study area, both primary and secondary data were collected. The interview schedules were conducted to capture the primary data on parental influence on early marriage. Secondary data were obtained from various literature from the library and the internet. Focus Group Discussions were used to get in-depth information about early marriages in the study area. Two groups (of 10 people each) were formed according to gender and age. Also, Key Informants were used, whereby the elders and leaders who are well versed in the history of the community were selected to offer some information about the prevalence of early marriages in Momba District. Data collection instruments included questionnaires, which were used to collect primary data, and checklists or interview guides for the collection of qualitative data.

### Target population

The target population of the study included all parents/guardians and households used as the unit of analysis in which heads of households were interviewed.



**Figure 1.** Conceptual framework of the influence of parents on early marriages (Source: Author).

### Sampling of the study

Multistage sampling was adopted for this study; purposive sampling was used to select the region and district and random sampling was used to select the parents among the households. The criteria for the sampling frame of this study involved the list of all parents/guardians from the households. A sample size of 120 respondents was randomly drawn from the study population. Saunders et al. (2007) acknowledge a sub-sample of 30 household heads as the minimum requirement for statistical data analysis irrespective of population.

### Data analysis

Both quantitative and qualitative data were analyzed. Qualitative data, obtained from the focus group discussions, were analyzed by using content analysis. While, the quantitative data were coded, edited, compiled, and analyzed by using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) software. The quantitative analysis included both descriptive and inferential statistics. Descriptive

statistics analyzed percentages and frequency, while inferential statistics analyzed the t-test and Chi-square to test the significant associations amongst parents' influence on early marriage, if any. Multiple regressions analysis was used to determine the influence of the parents to marry off their daughters early. The regression model is expressed as:

$$y_i = \alpha + a_1x_{i1} + a_2x_{i2} + \dots + a_7x_{i7} + u_i$$

Where  $y_i$  is the early marriage,  $x_i$  is the explanatory variables for parental influence on early marriage ( $x_{i1}$ =Sex,  $x_{i2}$ =Age,  $x_{i3}$ =Occupation,  $x_{i4}$ =Educational level,  $x_{i5}$ =Income status,  $x_{i6}$ =Peer influence,  $x_{i7}$ =Household size) while  $a$  is coefficient of the explanatory variables,  $\alpha$  is the constant and  $u_i$  is an error term.

During regression, multicollinearity diagnosis was done to detect if there was a correlation amongst the independent ( $x_i$ ) variables. The multicollinearity problem can be described by the presence of linear or near-linear relationships among explanatory variables (Pallant, 2011). The diagnostic test of the model on multicollinearity was done by using the Tolerance and Variance Inflation Factor (VIF) test, which builds in the regression of each independent

**Table 1.** Socio-economic characteristics of the respondents.

Variable	Respondent	Proportion (%)
Sex	Male	72.7
	Female	27.3
Occupation	Farmer	59.1
	Student	27.3
	Employed	13.6
Age	Below 35	61.3
	36-40	20.5
	41-55	11.4
	Above 55	6.8
Household size	Below 2 people	4.0
	Between 2 and 3 people	11.0
	Between 4 and 5 people	35.0
	Above 5 people	50.0

variable. As a rule of thumb, a tolerance value less than 0.10 and a VIF above 10 suggest multicollinearity (Pallant, 2011).

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Socio-economic characteristics of respondents

Socio-economic characteristics of respondents included the variables such as sex, occupation, age, and household size. The results are presented in Table 1. Table 1 shows that 72.7% of respondents were females, while the remaining 27.3% were males. According to these results, female respondents dominated the area. From this finding, we can assume that there are more females than males in the study area. About 59.1% of the respondents are farmers, 27% are students and 18% are employed. The results show that majority of the respondents (61.3%) were aged below 35 while few respondents were above 36 years old. Such a high proportion of young household heads has implications on child marriage. About 50% of the household's size has above 5 people, 29% of households have 4 and 5 people and 4% of households have below 2 people. The pressure of large household size makes parents unable to take care of their children.

### The influence of parents on early marriage among girls

In this study, multiple regressions were used to determine parents' influence on early marriages in Momba District. Before regression analysis multicollinearity diagnosis was

carried out and the results indicated that no variable had a VIF value less than 1 and above 10. Results are presented in Table 2. In addition, the Watson D test was conducted. The results showed that Durbin Watson was 2.068, indicating that there was a positive correlation. Also, it can help to determine predictors which are significant (Kutner et al., 2005). As a rule, the statistic values in the range of 1.5 to 2.5 are relatively normal.

Table 2 shows that most of the respondents allow their children to marry early due to different reasons: age, occupation, and household size, which are significant ( $P \leq 0.022$ ,  $P \leq 0.021$ ,  $P \leq 0.011$  respectively).

### Age of respondents

The age of the household's head had a great influence in determining child marriage. It was found that most of the household heads (61.3%) were below 35 years old, which indicates that parents at this age are not mature enough. The association between age and early marriage was statistically significant ( $P \leq 0.022$ ). Parents in this age category are likely to allow their children who are under 18 years old to get married due to their lack of maturity. UNICEF (2011) noted that lack of maturity has proven to be one of the significant reasons for the higher rate of child marriages among girls. Parents and household heads decide to marry off their daughters with little regard for the consequences. They fairly look upon marriage as a family-building strategy, an economic arrangement, or a way of protecting girls from unwelcome sexual advances. Regarding age, it was also noted during FGD that one elderly woman informed us of very distinctive characteristics of young household heads, especially

**Table 2.** Factors determining parents' influence on early marriage in Momba District.

Model	Unstandardized coefficients			Standardized coefficients		Co linearity Statistics	
	B	Std. error	Beta	t	Sig.	Tolerance	VIF
(Constant)	5.514	2.122		2.599	0.014		
Sex	0.134	0.456	0.049	0.293	0.771	0.804	1.244
Age	-0.802	1.281	-0.631	-0.626	0.022*	0.022	1.560
Occupation	0.484	1.327	0.377	0.365	0.021*	0.718	1.892
Education level	-0.319	0.408	-0.129	-0.782	0.440	0.815	1.227
Income status	-0.560	0.454	-0.204	-1.234	0.226	0.813	1.229
Peer Influence	-0.080	0.139	-0.094	-0.576	0.568	0.831	1.204
Household size	-0.248	1.820	-0.197	-0.137	0.011*	0.892	1.295

\*Significance at 0.05.

stepfathers:

"... Households composed of young couples, particularly with very young stepfathers who are household heads, have shown a tendency to marry off their daughters early." She added, "This happens because most of the young couples are not well settled and not yet matured to take care of family responsibilities, especially children care. By marrying off their daughters early they relieve off their shoulders from children's dependence and use the dowry which is obtained from marriage as the source of income to support the households" (FGD, Momba District).

The above findings imply that contrary to young couples older adults have experience which can be applied to endure difficulties that come with household responsibilities (Blane et al., 2011). Also, when the parents consist of a young husband or household head, who is a stepfather to a daughter, is likely that the stepfather would like to relieve himself from the responsibility of children by marrying them off early. Older parents cope better with the stresses of children that occur in a household. Comparatively, younger parents may lack some means to cope with households' parental problems.

### Occupation

Occupation of the respondents showed that there was significance between occupation and early marriage ( $P \leq 0.021$ ). In the study area, there are various occupations among which the farmers constitute the major proportion (over 59%). Farming occupation is unreliable with low-income to handle the households' needs and children. This is the main reason that influences early marriage as physical agricultural workers are more likely to practice early marriages. Farmers marry off their daughters to wealthy families so that they can gain economic benefits (Karam, 2015).

This view was also supported by the results obtained

from Focus Group Discussions conducted in Momba District. In such cases, parents get a greater financial offering from marrying off their young girls as bride price. Young females from the poorest families are married early because of poverty, and some of the girls perceive that marriage will be a solution to secure a better future. Marrying off their daughters allows parents to cut the family expenses. It is also a way to repay household debts, and resolve disputes, and the dowry obtained can be used to buy agricultural equipment so that parents can improve their agricultural activities and benefit from marrying off their daughter (ICRW, 2015).

### Household size

The study shows that household size was statistically significant ( $P \leq 0.011$ ) among factors that influence the parents to marry off their daughters early. Often, the typical household in Africa consists of a large number of children (Lucy, 1969). This is due to the lack of safety net available for poor families. Thus, parents often rely on their offspring for support when growing old. Early marriage of children provides the parents with a greater chance of getting more children. Also, UNFPA (2006) attributed poor conditions and insufficient medical care, in which not all children are likely to survive as the reasons for having many children (family size) as a security measure.

When it happens that a household raises many children, to cut the cost of having many girls, child marriage is considered the best option when dealing with financial deficits (Duncan and Brook-Gunn, 2000). One tradition which is related to early marriage practices is the fact that the girl's family receives a form of "payment" for the girl. This can be either an amount of money or other forms of support from the husband to be and his family. For this reason, it can be more profitable for the household when girls enter marriage very young to get rid of the cost of the girl and possibly receive an amount of money in exchange (UNFPA, 2006).

According to Wagner et al. (1985), large families are more often engaged with early marriage and rapid birth of first children because the parents tend to cut the number of children in their family. This is the reason they marry off their daughters. In the study area, during Focus Group Discussions some discussants revealed that some families practice early marriage because of traditions and social norms. In this way, families appear to have a desire to conform that they are coordinating with the rest of society; hence, keeping the tradition of child marriage alive. Similarly, Singh and Samara (1996) acknowledge that staying away from shaming the family and instead of continuing with the tradition is often an alternative.

A lot of parents still prefer to live according to the old traditions. Also, many parents who marry off their daughters before they reach adulthood do that because they believe that they are acting in their best interests. They believe that marrying off their daughters is the best way to protect them from sexual violence and the husbands will provide them with their needs. On the contrary, early marriages can be the beginning of the problems which are associated with early pregnancy and child-birth. The babies given birth to by young mothers are more likely to suffer from various problems such as low birth weight, late physical and cognitive developments (Gaffney-Rhys, 2011).

## CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This study concludes that age, occupation, and household size were significant factors that influenced the parents to marry off their children early. The age of parents is one of the significant factors that influence early marriage due to the lack of maturity of the parents who marry off their daughters before they reach the legal age of getting married. Occupation of parents was also the reason parents marry off their daughters early. The majority of parents were farmers, and therefore this kind of occupation is unreliable in handling household needs. This study revealed that household size was significant in influencing the parents to marry off their daughters early as large families were mostly associated with early marriage. Parents allow early marriage because they are unable to take care of their families.

Due to these findings, the study recommends that education should be provided to the parents and community to discourage early marriage because the girls are not physically, psychologically, and physiologically ready for marriage. Also, young girls cannot make free and informed decisions. Households should diversify their economic activities as the majority in the area is relying on farming which is unreliable and sensitive to climate change variability; as such many farming households live in poverty due to low productivity and income. Parents should maintain small family sizes and regard girls as having equal rights to education and growth as their counterparts. Small household sizes will

reduce over dependence on the households' heads, which will, in turn, discourage early marriages. The government should make and enforce policies that prohibit early marriage and set up strict laws for those who will practice early marriage.

## CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

The authors have not declared any conflict of interests.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The authors sincerely thank all study participants in Momba District for their valuable time and participation in this research study. The authors also wish to thank the anonymous reviewers of this paper for their beneficial comments and suggestions.

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*Full Length Research Paper*

# **Curbing casualisation of labour in the financial institutions: A study of banks in Sokoto, Nigeria**

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Received 12 April, 2022; Accepted 30 May, 2022

**The study assessed measures in curbing casualisation of labour in financial institutions with a specific study of banks in Sokoto metropolis. The exploitative nature of most commercial banks in Sokoto reflects on the working condition of most casual staff in these banks as payment is not commensurable to the work done. While the casual staff is being deprived of certain social benefits, allowances and social security of jobs, such exploitation necessitated the need for stratifying measures in curbing casualization of labour for equal status of staff in the banking industry. The study was exploratory and employed a qualitative research design; 60 participants (casual staff and bank managers) were selected for the interview sessions. The study found that Business Solution Firms (BSFs) were the major agents in the exploitation of casual workers in commercial banks in Nigeria. In proffering solution for achieving the targeted objectives, the study recommended that there is a need for concerned individuals, labour ministry or lawmakers to legislate laws (where absent) or ensure strict compliance with existing labour laws (if available) regulating recruitment, salary payment, promotion or regularization as well as retrenchment of casual workers in the financial institutions, and erring banks should be properly sanctioned. Furthermore, unionization was strongly recommended as a move towards negotiating the rights of casual staff.**

**Key words:** Bank, casualisation, contract staff, exploitation, labour laws.

## **INTRODUCTION**

The Nigerian financial sector is as old as the country itself and is full of several activities of the 'invisible chain' called casualization of labour. The utilization of provisional work shapes a huge part of the workforce in the financial industry in Nigeria and businesses use organizations known as work/administration project workers through moving to utilize contractors (McLaughlin,

2011). In the capitalist societies, many workers are paid wages that do not satisfy their basic needs, but continue to work because they could not find other lucrative jobs. Hussmanns (2004) noted that Sokoto like many other cities in Nigeria is braced by unemployment levels following the effects of economic recessions. Most of the people employed are in the informal sector and one of

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the categories in the informal sector are employees who have informal jobs, whether employed in the formal sector enterprise, informal sector enterprises, or as paid house workers by households. Courtois and O'Keefe (2015) defined casualisation as temporary employment; it is defined as twining work less secure so that workers work on an occasional basis instead of being offered full time employment. Different terms have been deployed for this type of irregular employment contract such as contract work, temporary work, seasonal work, casual work etc. Casualization as a type of work practice is the interaction whereby business shifts from a prevalence of full time and stable situations to more elevated levels of easygoing situations, in a sporadic or discontinuous nature (Luswili, 2009; Fapohunda, 2012). It is important to distinguish between three types of casual labour: First, there are those employed directly by the firm; secondly, those supplied by a labour broker and thirdly, the independent contractors. In the first type of casual labour, the workers are directly employed by a firm on a casual or temporary basis. These contracts are used to supplement the work force during period of peak demand like holidays and so forth. The second type of casual labour is of the triangular employment relationship in which a labour broker supplies labour to a firm, if a firm contacts a labour broker to provide workers, does it assume the responsibility of employer or are these workers employed by the subcontractor or labour broker? Workers often identify with a firm in which they have been deployed even though they are employed by the labour broker, especially in cases where deployment is for an extended period of time. Independent contractors and home-based workers fall into the third category of casual laborers. Many social scientists that discuss and examined the recent crises in capitalism treat work as subordinate. They only see work in the context of employment and as field which has to cope with the consequences of crises (Nies and Sauer, 2018). They do not take the performance of the labour process into account. In studying work, attention is mostly focus on the growth of precarious forms of employment like agency work, mini jobs and wages below the subsistence level (Cranford et al., 2003). Worker's organization, lawful and strategy specialists from all throughout the planet have contributed important years of involvement and examination into the current report, giving some underlying thoughts for how to accomplish fair work for tricky specialists (Seidman, 2007). Directing problematic work will require mediations in monetary and social approach, counting a strong social floor, a living pay, diminishing monetary market unpredictability, reinforcing the assessment base, public administrations and public speculation for comprehensive, profitable and earth reasonable social orders, keeping wage development in line with efficiency development, and forestalling unmerited rivalry in the work market. Thorough government backed retirement frameworks specifically fortify the capacity of laborers to dismiss unstable positions (Barchiesi, 2011).

Lawful structures should likewise be refreshed to guarantee that problematic specialist's advantage from at any rate similar security as any remaining laborers. Against this background, the study examined measures in curbing casualisation of labour in the banking sector.

## METHODOLOGY

The study is an exploratory research. It is described as a study used to analyze a trouble which is not always certainly described (Stebbins, 2001). It is meant to gather descriptive information and provide a better understanding of the ways to curb casualisation of labour. It is carried out to have a better know-how of the present trouble; however it does not offer conclusive results. For the sort of studies, a researcher begins off with a popular concept and makes use of this study to become aware of issues that may be the focal point for future studies. The study utilized both primary and secondary data. The primary data involved information obtained from the informants (casual workers and the bank managers), while the secondary data information was from the literature reviewed. Qualitative method of data collection was used. Data were collected through the use of in-depth interviews and key informant interviews. The interview questions were derived from the research objectives. Purposive sampling procedure was used in selecting the respondents from the study population. This is because it allows the researcher to gather qualitative responses, which leads to better insights and more precise research results. The information gathered was coded, transcribed, analyzed and presented in descriptive manner based on each objective of the research and discussed on the bases of themes. The general population of the study includes all the banks in Sokoto metropolis. The reason for selecting this site is because of the familiarity with the community and also most of the banks in the community employ more casual workers than permanent ones. Another reason for selection of Sokoto town is because of the access to the respondents. Presently there are eighteen (18) banks operating within Sokoto metropolis (First bank, Access bank, Guaranty Trust, Diamond bank, Jaiz bank, Echo bank, United Bank for Africa, Zenith bank, and Union bank, FCMB, Fidelity, Heritage, Wema bank, Unity bank, Stanbic IBTC, TAJ bank, Polaris bank and Bank PHB). The target population includes all the casual staff of the sampled banks. As at 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2020, all the banks have one hundred and seventy one (171) casual staff, as such complete enumeration of inclusion will be appropriate to generate the desired data. A total of 5 banks were used as sample for the purpose of the study: these constitute seventy percent 70% of the banks in Sokoto metropolis. Out of the one hundred and seventy one casual staff of the selected banks through random sampling, fifty (50) respondents (casual/contract workers) were purposively selected to constitute the sample of the population (Table 1). Also five (5) management staff, one (1) from each of the selected banks was interviewed through the use of key informant interview guide. This was done in order to have more information from the managers of the banks, who were believed to have relevant knowledge regarding the measures to be put in place to curb casualisation in the banking sector.

Qualitative method was employed in conducting the study. This was done through the use of in-depth interview and key informant interview. The in-depth interview was carried out with 50 casual staff under the guidance of the researcher; the venue was quiet, spacious enough and comfortably accommodated all participants. This is because it will facilitate face-to-face contact between the researcher and the respondents and minimize any perceived differences between them and us. Interview guide was designed in line with the objectives of the study. The researcher used an audio recorder to record all the conversations; also one research assistant was employed and trained as a note taker who assisted

**Table 1.** Categories of Interviewees/ Participants.

<b>Name of bank</b>	<b>Casual/contract staff (In-depth interview)</b>	<b>Management staff (key informant interview)</b>
Jaiz Bank	10	1
United Bank for Africa	10	1
Stanbic IBTC	10	1
First Bank	10	1
Guaranty Trust Bank	10	1
Total = 10	50	05

Source: Field work (2022).

the researcher in taking notes of the conversations. The study also used key informant interview (KII) to gather data; the researcher chose respondents from the management staff who have relevant information regarding the topic of the study and engaged them in face to face interactions with a range of issues on allowances, loans/advances, benefits, salary/wages, hours of work, freedom of association, opportunity for personal growth, job security, etc. This enabled better understanding and ability of the respondents to express more on answering the research questions. Thematic analysis was employed in analyzing the data collected. The data were transcribed through converting recorded conversations into written form; the data were studied and linked with analytic notes. The researcher familiarized himself by reading the transcripts of the data to be collected again and again to be familiar with the data collected from the field. The data were categorized into sub-themes; a number of categories were categorized under each theme according to research objectives. Therefore, the data collected were arranged according to each theme and presented in a thematic form (attached with verbatim quotations/matrix of voices 1-4 in a matrix tables (Appendix)) based on the research objective, sub-merged and interpreted on the basis of sub-themes.

## RESULTS

This section presents and analyzes the data obtained from the field. The data were presented in a thematic manner based on the objective of the study. The transcribed interviews (in-depth interview and key informant) were discussed and analyzed on the basis of themes and sub-themes.

### **Curbing casualisation of labour in financial institutions in Sokoto Metropolis**

Regularization of contracts is expected after six months or one year, except when expertise is contracted after retirement for regularized staff to take advantage of retired employees' skills and knowledge. Contractual employment is viewed by some as exploitative, while others believe that it paints a poor picture of most contract workers, whose employment can be terminated at any time. As a result of casualization of labour in Nigeria, dominance, subjugation, and exploitation are common characteristics. In Nigeria, a casual employee is deprived of his time; a casual worker must report to work as early

as 7:00am and must finish working by 8:00pm. A casual worker is deprived of his leisure time during the weekends to spend with family and friends, since some of these employees are obliged to work on Saturdays to maintain ATMs. In the subsequent paragraph, a discussion will follow suit on the ways to curb or mitigate the casualization of labour in Sokoto Metropolis. In doing so, an attempt will be made to look at how enacting laws will help curb or mitigate casualization of labour, whether an increase in wages will mitigate casualization of labour or eradication of casualization system will be the best, the choice of allowing freedom of association and implementation of existing labour laws.

### **Implementation of the international labour laws and enacting of laws to curb casualization of labour in financial institutions in Sokoto Metropolis**

Stakeholders lamented that the labour law opined that "if somebody is a contract staff between 5 years to 10 years, it is either he becomes a full-time professional staff or he exits the system". Despite having knowledge of the labour laws by commercial banks, participants allude that the commercial banks strategize ways of manipulating the labour laws by retrenching staff that had completed at least 10 years in the banking system once a replacement is found for that position. This is to minimize the cost of validating the appointment of such a person being a full-time professional staff with all benefits attached. Commercial banks have a policy of employing full-time professional staff with a minimum of B.Sc or Higher National Diploma; this means casual staff has the grace of 5 years to acquire any of the qualifications since findings from the study discovered the most casual staff to be diploma holders. Such casual staff has the grace of 5 years to improve themselves and acquire higher qualifications to justify their validation of appointment. To mitigate the phenomenon of casualization of labour, laws were enacted both at the international and local levels by concerned labour unions. The international labour law specifies that anybody who has worked for 6 months should be given regularized employment. It is expected

that anybody that had worked in an organization for 6 months has acquainted and familiarized himself with all modalities in the job; this is to evade exploitation of such workers at a minimal cost. Similar to the international labour law, the labour act of 1994 also enacted laws to protect the right of casual workers. Even though the labour act of 1994 seems vague, the findings underway suggested possible ways to either curb or improve the conditions of casual workers in Nigerian financial institutions. Stakeholders expressed divergent views on ways to mitigate the casualization of labour in Nigerian financial institutions. Most stakeholders allege that there is a need for lawmakers to enact laws guiding the recruitment, regularization and irregular retrenchment of casual bank staff in Nigerian financial institutions. This will guide the practices of financial institutions on reliance on contract staffing by individuals for over a decade without regularization, so as to minimize cost and profit-oriented motive. Most commercial banks in Nigeria only employ a few full-time professional staff to manage the activities of the vast employed casual staff to minimize cost. This is why participants call for regulation in the recruitment process by enacting laws at the federal level, and monitoring units at the state and local level. The Nigeria Deposit Insurance Corporation (NDIC) and the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) were recommended to serve as overseer to ensure full compliance. To ensure the sustainability of the labour laws, participants recommended that Nigerian labour laws should be reviewed every 10 years taking into consideration emerging development, global labour market and emerging scenario and events in the global market. Stakeholders further expressed that policies and laws by the international labour laws should be strengthened where casual staff should be granted automatic employment after 6 months into the banking job. It was in the course of the study that most internet fraudsters were former casual bank staff (retrenched casual bank staff) due to their knowledge of the banking system. Enacting the international labour laws will further minimize the ceaseless prevalence of internet and banking fraud perpetrated in the Nigerian society.

### **Increase in the wages of contract staff in Sokoto Metropolis**

The reason behind the general outcry of casual staffing revolves around the income of casual staff in comparison to the full-time professional staff that does almost the same job (sometimes not up to the casual staff) as the casual staff. The wide variability in the income of full-time professional staff which exceeds over 50% that of the contract staff exert extreme inequality and double exploitation of the contract staff by the chief executives of various commercial banks in Sokoto metropolis. Based on the findings from the study, a contract staff receives

50,000 naira, and 115,000 naira at most for contract staff that have spent over a decade in the system; while a full-time professional staff receives at least 200,000 naira for a start-up, where both the contract staff and the full-time professional staff execute the same job. In the banking hall, it is difficult for someone to differentiate a contract staff from a full-time staff except if one carefully looks at the identity card of the staff; the identity card of contract staff usually captures CS signifying Contract Staff. What further accentuates the wide variability in the income are the middlemen/company employment brokers known as the "business solution firms" (BSFs) owned by the chief executives of the commercial banks. It is based on the findings that stakeholders recommended that the income of the casual workers be increased (not necessarily equal to that of the full-time professional staff) for them to be motivated to diligently execute tasks assigned to them, instead of allowing the BSFs to recruit the contract staff and post them to different banks as Place of Primary Assignment (PPA). This can only be achieved if the system of middlemen/company employment brokers (BSFs) is completely eradicated, by accruing all proceeds paid to the BSFs and transferring such to the wages of casual staff. Stakeholders recommended a system where commercial banks will recruit the contract staff directly and offer appointment letters.

### **Eradication of the system of casual staffing in banks in Sokoto Metropolis**

Stakeholders allege that eradicating the system of casual staffing will further entrench unemployment and redundancy among the semi-skilled graduates possessing Ordinary National Diploma (OND) since most of the casual staff recruited by commercial banks in Sokoto only have OND qualifications. Since every commercial bank has a standard for recruitment and the minimum qualification is B.Sc and HND, it is best all casual staff in the banking sector acquire higher qualifications for them not to be retrenched. In contrast, some participants recommended that banks can adjust their standards by conferring appointments to OND holders who have considerable wealth of experience in the banking sector.

In a divergent view from the above discussion, most participants alleged that amendment in the system of casual staffing can only be offered in a partially beneficial system. Since the phenomenon of casual staffing is enfeebled, the best practice would be to eradicate the system due to the double exploitation attached as well as the profit-oriented motive of commercial banks. Findings from the study recommended that eradication of casual system in the banking sector can only be achieved through policy back-up attached with stringent laws by the federal government or legislatures as participants believed the top executives of commercial banks are key

officials and allies in government.

### **Allowing freedom of association by contract staff in Sokoto Metropolis**

Stakeholders lamented that section (3) of the Nigerian constitution guarantees freedom of association as long as that association does not involve the commission of a crime or breaking of any law, thus encouraging unionization to boost solidarity and collegiate relationship through a collective bargain with the bank management. Even though all commercial banks in Sokoto metropolis ensure a strict ban on anything that deals with forming a union for a collective bargain or to fight for their rights by all bank staff (regardless of contract or full-time professional staff), or anything similar to such, stakeholders contend that in making laws, there is need for the government to make provisions where contract staff in Nigerian financial institutions can collectively bargain their right with their employers. This will go a long way to minimize the domination, double exploitation and subjugation suffered by contract staff in most commercial banks in Sokoto metropolis. In furtherance to that, such unionism should only be formed when the system of contract staffing has been eradicated, otherwise, commercial banks may still suppress the casual staff by intimidation as they are yet to be conferred with letters of appointment. Attempts had been made by some casual staff in some commercial banks for a collective bargain with their employers; but due to the fear of the unknown (being sacked), most of the agitators withdrew from such agitation and accepted modern slavery.

### **DISCUSSION**

To curb the casualization of labour in Nigerian financial institutions, findings from the study discovered various recommendations to curtail the exploitative and contemporary form of slavery. Most of the stakeholders allege casual staffing is only another form of exploitation and add little or no meaningful value to financial industries since the chief executives of commercial banks and the BSFs are sui generis but dissimilar in salary payment of casual workers where all proceeds accrued transverse to a single treasury. This finding was also corroborated by Bodibe (2007) who notes that some casual workers work seven days and get an hour break in a day. Stakeholders call for the total elimination of the BSFs. Based on the above, the study discovered that there is a need for an increase in wages and social security benefits as well as the elimination of the BSFs. This is in line with Tukamuhabwa (2012) who revealed that organizational incentives in form of reward improved workers compliance and performance. This means that where there is poor or no appropriate motivation, workers

are likely not to give in their best. In a separate development, major findings from the study call for the implementation of both international and national labour acts law (where available); enactment of new laws are absent, and regulatory bodies should be put in place to monitor the activities of financial institutions as it relates to recruitment, salary and benefits payments, as well as retrenchment. This authenticates the findings of Tinuke (2012) who revealed that informal employment of people is not regulated via the Nigerian Labour Laws; their fame is not described and no provisions are made for the law of the phrases and situations in their employment. Tinuke further asserted that the Nigerian Labour Act does not outline casualisation and offer a criminal framework for the law of the phrases and situations in their paintings arrangement. However, Section 7(1) of the Act affords that no employee should be hired for more than 3 months without the regularization of such employment. After 3 months each employee ought to be regularized via the corporation to encapsulate total freedom from bondage and create room for a collective bargain; stakeholders recommended freedom of association in Nigerian financial institutions to ensure workers' rights are protected.

### **Conclusion**

Sociology is the scientific study of human social behavior. In the course of such study, sociology studies the social behaviour and normative codes in every organizational structure for comparison with the ethical standard of jobs assigned to individuals as it commensurate to the income received. Even though casualization of labour is expected to be a short term appointment with automatic regularization after a few months or at most 2 years in service, commercial banks in Sokoto hold casual bank staff to ransom for 12 to 15 years of casual labour with little or no benefit attached and retrenchment may set-in without prior notice, especially when a replacement for such position is available with little pay. This is an entrenching factor worsening the system of casual labour in financial institutions in Nigeria. This is why the study concludes on unionization in the banking sector as well as enacting policies targeted towards eradicating the system of casual staffing. Based on the above findings, the Effort-Reward imbalance model was ascertained as there is an imbalance in the effort put by casual workers in Nigerian banks and the reward paid as take home coupled with other benefits. This is a clear indication that the findings of the study are in line with the postulated model. There is a need for government and lawmakers to analyze the exploitation leveled against casual workers by most commercial banks as well as the BSFs. A thorough investigation should be conducted on the working hours spent by casual and their commensurability to the salaries and other allowances accrued. This will

help to shape future action on whether the BSFs scheme should be completely eradicated or whether certain amendments should be made to the scheme, especially the management of such organization. Payments of the benefit accrued by a casual staff should be delinked from the BSFs and linked between the contract staff and the bank directly. This will minimize the double exploitation suffered by casual staff in the hands of the bank and the BSFs as well. Unionization should be highly promoted in Nigerian financial industry where all workers can collectively bargain their rights and air their grievances, to minimize exploitation and occupational threat, especially among the contract staff. This can be achieved when government and lawmakers capture the freedom of association and unionization as a constitutional backing of which all financial institutions must abide. Casual workers employed with OND should hastily enroll into higher institutions of learning for self-development and enhancement in terms of regularization since the minimum qualification most financial institutions employ is B.Sc or HND for full-time professional staff. This will give most casual staff the opportunity for quick regularization that was previously recommended after 2 years of employment.

## CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

The authors have not declared any conflict of interests.

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**APPENDIXES**

**Matrix of Voices 1.** Implementation of the international labour laws and enacting of laws to curb casualization of labour in financial institutions in Sokoto Metropolis.

Variable	Responses
Enacting of laws to curb casualization of labour in financial institutions in Sokoto Metropolis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Am very vast in this aspect. Based on labour law which is currently implemented, I think it is like after 5 years to 10 years; "if somebody is a contract staff, it is either he becomes a permanent staff or he exits the system". There is a space for you to grow and by growing in our system you can convert from contract staff to full-time staff. So you have the opportunity within a space of 5 years to have developed yourself to grow from where you started from casual staff to full-time staff. If you implement the labour law, it's a good thing (KII, Male Sokoto).</li> <li>• Managing casualization of labour can be achieved on the side of the government by enacting policies on employment based on educational qualification guiding contract workers; these policies should be laid down by the government and imposed on financial institutions. Even if there are existing policies, there should be enforcement compliance (KII, Female Sokoto).</li> <li>• Those that represent us at the national level can come together and decide to make laws that would solve that problem. If not, the most important thing in the banking sector is that they are profit-oriented and anything that will touch their profit, they don't like it. You will see that there are various categories of staff in the banking sector. There are few professionals or management staff that manages the activities of others. They are well-paid, well-taken care of. All these laws should be put into consideration and by the time they made it from the federal level, there should be a unit, maybe NDIC or CBN that monitor the full implementation of that law so that it must come to effect. I believe that all these contract workers would benefit (KII, Male Sokoto).</li> <li>• Very well, I am fully in support of the international labour laws because for someone to work for 6 years, the person must have mastered the job, knows the in and out, so the person should be allowed to serve better instead of just retrenching the person to go into the world of fraud, this is why you see fraud increasing day-by-day (KII, Female Sokoto).</li> <li>• People are angry when someone has served you for 6 years, and the benefit you get is just for the person to go into the street and start doing worst, so most people will just divert to do something that will hurt other people, but if we are given opportunity to become permanent staff, it will serve better. I believe the country at large will become better. You know people that worked in the bank knows the in and out, these Yahoo boys (internet fraudsters) you see, not that I know them; I believe that some or most of them are bankers before. They must have known some certain things on the system that they then improve on to dupe people. If they were frustrated, like for instance, there was a man that was dupe by fraudsters, when he called them, the person still had conscious and pleaded that he was sorry, he does not have an option but to dupe him, he apologized and admitted because he needed money (KII, Male Sokoto).</li> </ul>

Source: Field work (2022).

**Matrix of Voices 2.** Increase in the wages of contract staff in Sokoto Metropolis.

Variable	Responses
Increase in the wages of contract staff in Sokoto Metropolis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In banks, even the professional staffs I believe that they put serious efforts, but the banks don't want to have anything that has to do with association of staff in the bank, coming together and fighting for collective effort or negotiate with your employer on what should be paid. But if also the government comes today and says that, the junior staff and contract staff in the financial sector has rights to form an association that would take care of their interest and it is backed by law, I believe when this thing comes into force the problem would be addressed (KII, Male Sokoto).</li> <li>• Of course, increment of wages would be a welcome idea. The idea is if you want to increase wages of the contract staff is as simple as A B C D, you can remove the company that employed them, That is, the business solution firms. That business solution firms that employed them, post them to banks and banks are their primary assignment. But on their ID cards, you will see CS signifying contract staff. In their ID cards, all people with CS, that is contract staff in that ID number. Do you understand? So, what banks pay to those business solution firms should be taken from them and pay the ad-hoc staff what they are paying to contract companies so that they can be absorbed if they like. They can create a cadre within the system that is okay since your work is a daily operation you are now a full staff of the company. But the area of this work is operation. Do you understand? That would also motivate them (KII, Male Sokoto).</li> <li>• Salary increment is very important because of the benefits that the core staff get, even if we cannot get up to that amount, they should give us a token so that we will feel belong (KII, Female Sokoto). But for me, I feel that contract workers should have another way of payroll, another way of motivating them because in any organization, motivation matters in anything you do (KII, Male Sokoto).</li> </ul>

Source: Field work (2022).

**Matrix of Voices 3.** Eradication of the system of casual staffing in banks in Sokoto Metropolis.

Variable	Responses
Eradication of the System of Casual staffing in Banks in Sokoto Metropolis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If you are looking at the role that they play, if you are trying to say you are curbing it, it's like to an extent taking out some people from the job. What am getting is that every organization has a standard. It's either they drop their standards for them to be able to eliminate the issue of contracting staff. By dropping their standards, they may be able to accept OND holders or HND holders to take a higher role or at the other end, eliminate these staff and take full-time B.Sc holders. In that case, taking some people out of their jobs, it's a dicey situation, if you say you want to take out contract staff, you are taking some people out of their job because they don't have the qualifications, curbing it will be to encourage everybody to become a B.Sc holder based on the bank standard (KII, Male Sokoto).</li> <li>• I think the banks don't want to manage the system, they prefer a contract staffing system. They want to spend less and earn more. For example; you will see a permanent staff earning maybe #150,000 but they pay contract staff #50,000. You see the money the banks are making (KII, Male Sokoto).</li> <li>• Increasing the wages of contract staff will never solve the issue because the full staff of the bank are the ones that own the labour brokers organization supplying contract staff to the banking industry, even if they increase the wages, it will still go back to their pockets and peanuts will still go back to the contract staff (KII, Female Sokoto).</li> <li>• It should be eradicated since they know they cannot adequately pay them, the government should also look into it as it seems they got the power from the government, the people that own the labour brokers organizations that recruit contract staff are the full staff of the bank, so they want the system to continue due to double exploitation making (KII, Female Sokoto).</li> <li>• Even CBN cannot regulate the activities of contract staffing because the body that owns the broker's organization has a collegiate relationship with the CBN staff (KII, Female Sokoto).</li> </ul>

Source: Field work 2022.

**Matrix of Voices 4.** Allowing freedom of association by contract staff in Sokoto Metropolis.

Variable	Responses
Allowing freedom of association by contract staff in Sokoto Metropolis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yes, you know there is a section (3) of the Nigerian constitution that guarantees freedom of association as long as that association does not involve the commission of a crime or breaking of any law. So, yes, unions should be encouraged as a matter of cooperation should be encouraged (KII, Male Sokoto).</li> <li>• In banks, even the professional staffs I believe that they put serious efforts, but the banks do not want anything that has to do with association of staff in the bank, coming together and fighting for collective effort or negotiate with your employer on what should be paid. But if also the government comes today and says that, the junior staff and contract staff in the financial sector has rights to form an association that would take care of their interest and it is backed by law, I believe when this thing comes into force the problem would be addressed (KII, Male Sokoto).</li> <li>• That is what I'm telling you that there may be some people that would come and say let us fight for our rights. But in the end, some people will change their minds that if I lose my job because of this how do I cope. You know that is the fear of the unknown. That, if I lose my job this is what will happen, so, I cannot fight because the outside is harsh. So they are being enslaved (KII, Male Sokoto).</li> <li>• Freedom of association will equally not serve because they know how to suppress the contract workers. There is no point in creating an association where contract staff can collectively bargain their rights, it should be eradicated (KII, Female Sokoto).</li> </ul>

Source: Field work 2022.