



Child Labor in the Supply Chain in Coconut Crop Agriculture in Aleosan, North Cotabato

by: HAUMAN

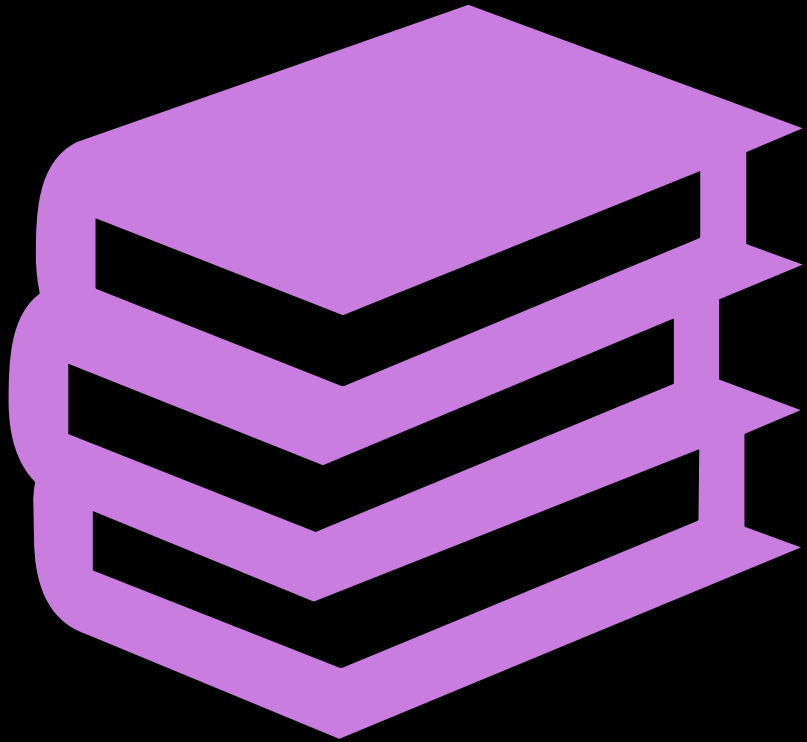
Research Technical Partner:

Social Research Training and Development Office

Ateneo de Davao University

Highlights

*Research Document Version 2: On the process
of review for Certification*



Background of the Study



Statement of the Problem

1. General demographic characteristics of children participating in the coconut supply chain



Statement of the Problem

2. Views on child labor and the perceived factors that contribute to it



Statement of the Problem

3. Location of the child laborers in the coconut supply chain



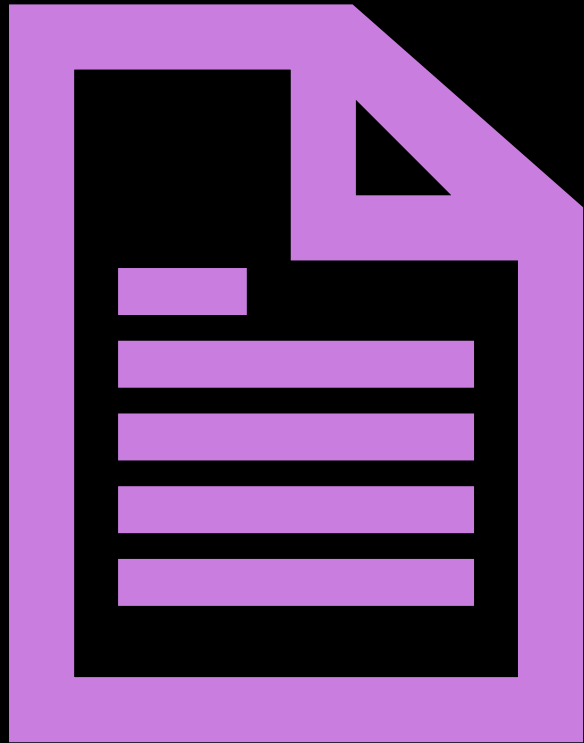
Statement of the Problem

4. Experiences of child laborers in the coconut supply chain in terms of:
 - a. Demand and supply factors
 - b. Supply chain environment
 - c. Key players and entities involved
 - d. Processes, Hazards, Benefits
 - e. Phases, Activities, Channels
 - f. Supply chain activity, products, and services

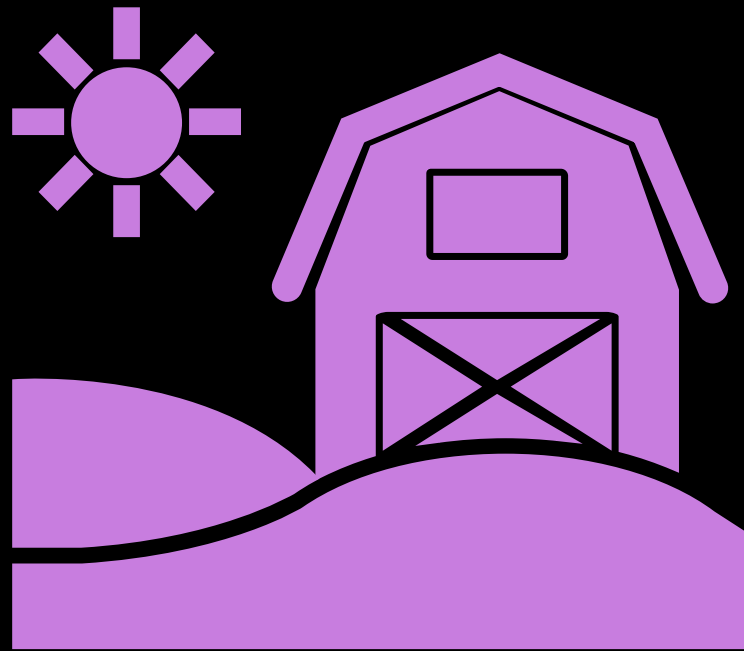


Statement of the Problem

5. Good practices, challenges, and recommendations in addressing child labor issues in agricultural supply chain



Operational Definition of Terms



Location of children in the identified crop agriculture

- place and sites of participation of child laborers in the coconut supply chain

Supply chain environment



setting in the supply chain environment in coconut crop agriculture as described by the child laborers and the key informants.



geographic context



interplay of the networks and elements in the coconut supply chain covering activities such as but not limited to farming, processing, distribution, and retail.

Supply chain activity, products and services

- tasks performed by the child laborers in the coconut supply chain
- specific product or commodity produced
- expected output from the child laborers

Phases in the supply chain

various stages in the
coconut supply chain where
child laborers are involved



Demand factors

- perceived causes, circumstances, or conditions in the coconut supply chain system that trigger the demand for child labor



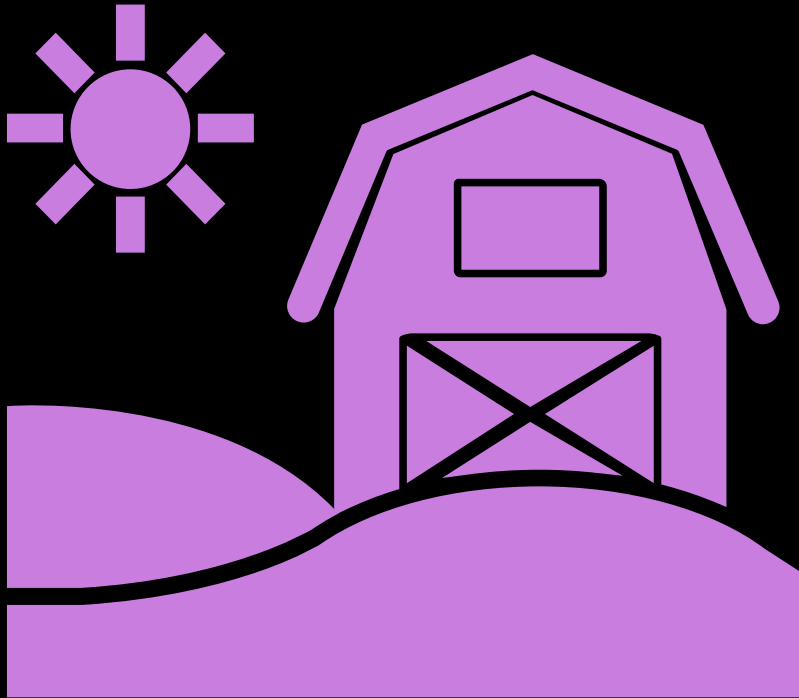
Supply factors

- perceived causes, circumstances, or conditions in the coconut supply chain system that trigger the supply of child labor



Process and channels

- procedures, steps or protocols, routes, or avenues in the coconut supply chain in which child laborers are involved

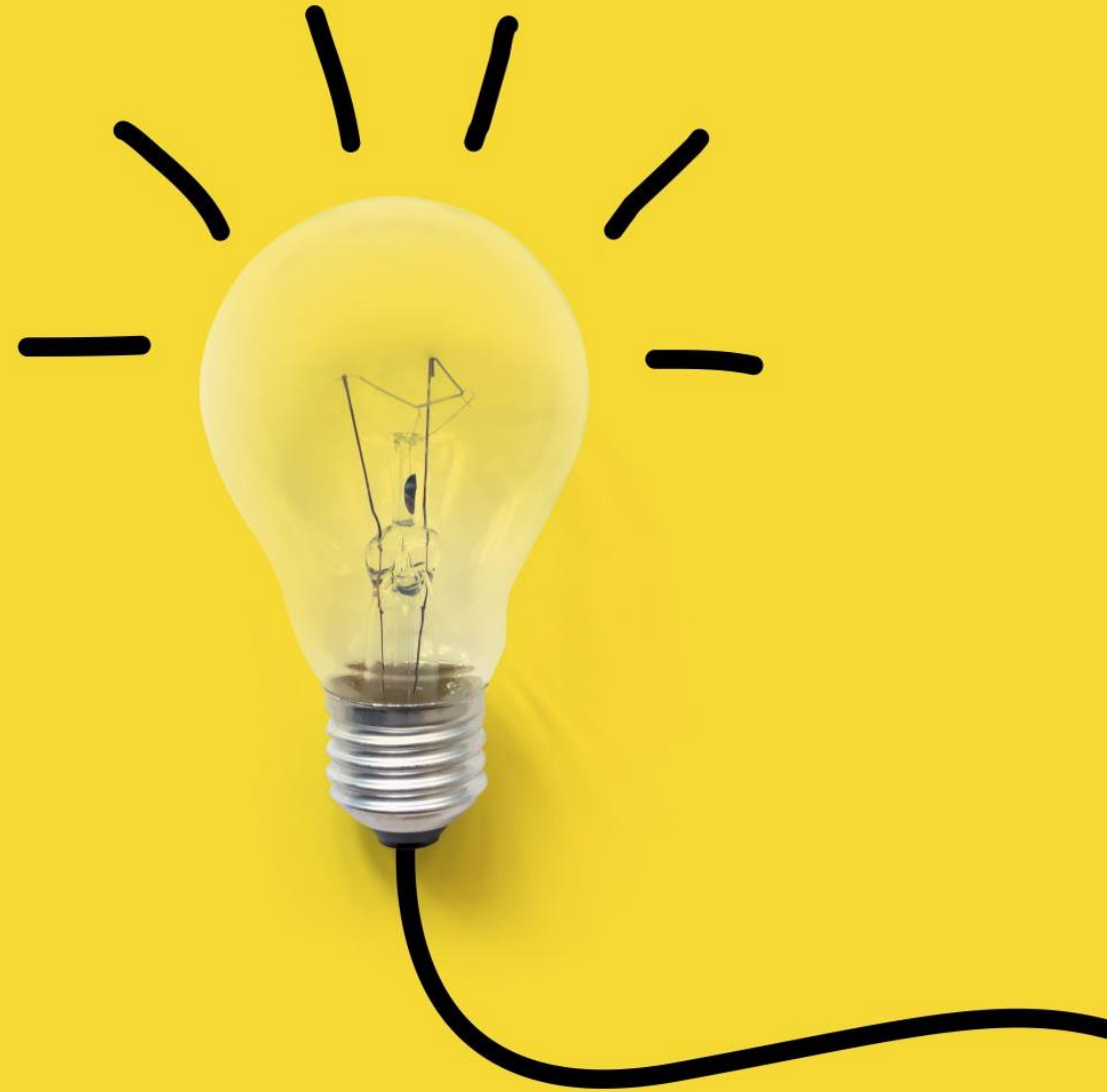


Key players and entities involved

various stakeholders involved in the
coconut supply chain

Good practices

- refer to the perceived positive mechanisms and policies that promote child protection and acceptable conditions of work in the coconut supply chain





Challenges

difficulties encountered
by the child laborers in
the coconut supply chain



Respondents' recommendations

- suggestions of the child laborers and the stakeholders on how to combat child labor

Scope and Limitations of the Study

- Qualitative research design
- focused on child labor in the coconut supply chain in Aleosan, North Cotabato specifically in the following barangays: 1) Dualing and 2) Barangay Katalicanan.
- Purposive sampling
- In-depth interviews and key informant interviews
- Data collection period: November to December 2020

Methodology

The background features a series of overlapping, wavy, paper-like layers in various shades of blue and white, creating a sense of depth and movement. The layers are arranged in a way that suggests a stack of pages or a dynamic, flowing structure. The overall color palette is dominated by blues, ranging from deep navy to light sky blue, with white highlights.

Research Design

Qualitative

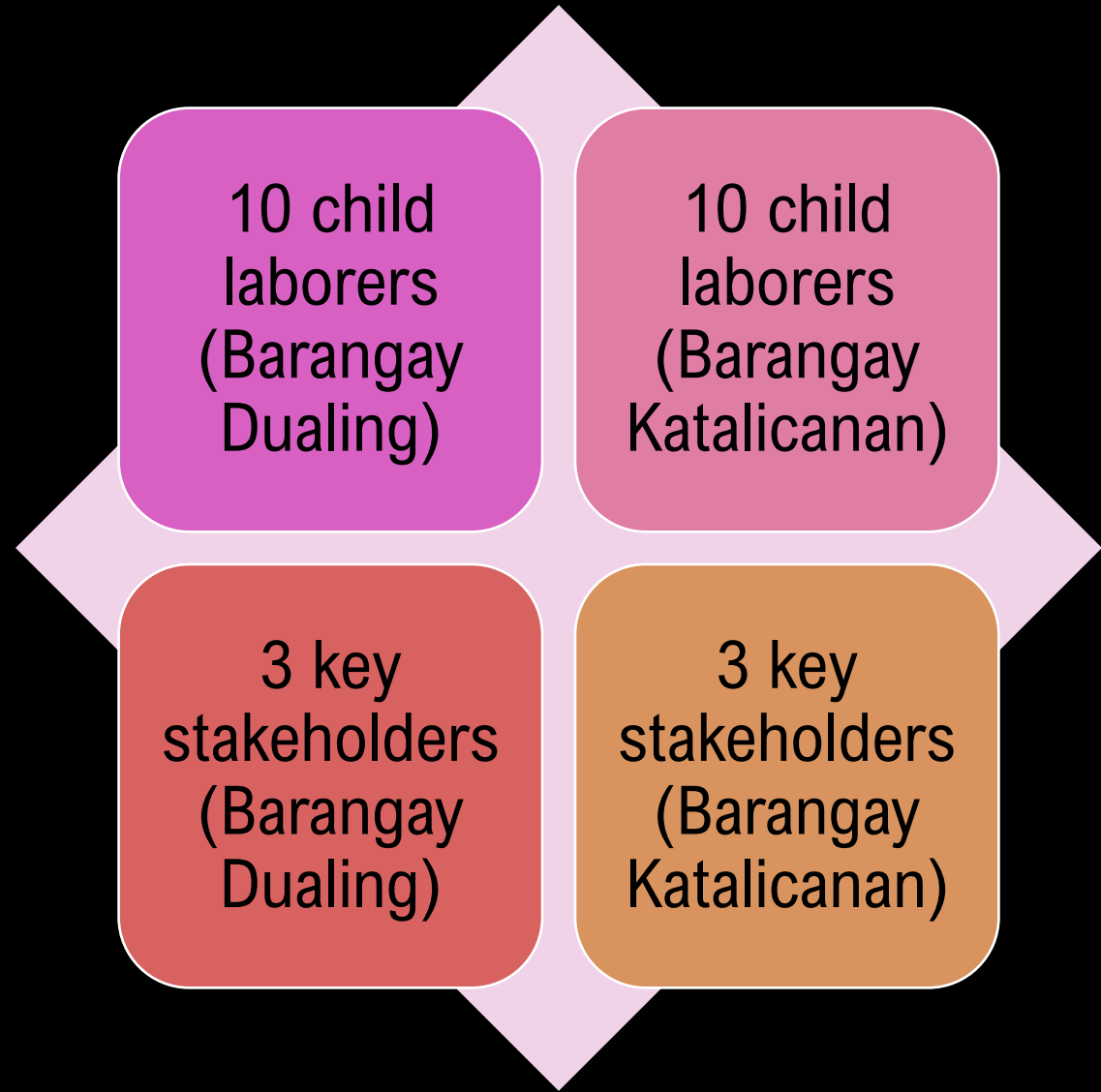
Descriptive

A photograph of a coconut palm tree. The left side shows the textured, grey-brown trunk of the tree. To the right, a cluster of several bright green, unripe coconuts hangs from a branch. The background is a clear, bright blue sky. The image is oriented vertically, with the trunk on the left and the coconuts on the right.

Sampling

Purposive sampling

Respondents





Research Locale

- Aleosan, North Cotabato
- Barangay Dualing and Barangay Katalicanan

Data Collection Strategies

Key informant
interviews

In-depth
interviews



Data Collection Period

• November - December 2020



Data Analysis Procedure

Thematic analysis

Ethical Considerations

Privacy

Anonymity

Confidentiality

Consent Forms

Assent

**Adherence to
Covid-19 health
and security
protocols**

A dense tropical forest of palm trees under a blue sky with light clouds. The trees are tall and slender, with some leaning at an angle. The foliage is lush and green, creating a thick canopy. The sky is a clear, bright blue with a few wispy white clouds. The overall scene is bright and sunny, suggesting a warm, tropical environment.

Research Findings



Demographic profile of child laborers interviewed

Out of the ten (10) child laborers interviewed, five (5) are male and five (5) are female. Their ages range from 13 to 17. Moreover, only one (1) reached Grade 6 while nine (9) among them reached the high school level. They belong to the Christian faith (Catholic, Salvation Army, Baptist). Majority them are Ilonggo and only (1) one is Manobo. In terms of the size of the family, most of the child laborers belong to large families.



Demographic profile of key stakeholders interviewed

Out of the six stakeholders who were interviewed, five are male and one is female. These stakeholders fall within the age range of 45 to 53. Two of them are Barangay Captains, while one is a parent of a child laborer, two are Secondary School Principals and one is a PESO Department head.



Views on Child Labor

- *“child labor is a means to meet the family’s economic needs”*
- *“child labor is acceptable as long as there is economic gain”*
- *“child labor means economic survival”*

Child labor is a means to meet the family's economic needs

- *“Nagtatrabaho kami, kasi walang kinakain ang ang aming mga magulang.”* (We are working because our parents have nothing to eat”) *Tapos ang mga anak ang bumubuhay sa mga ina nya”* (Then, the children are the ones earning for their mother).

Child labor is a means to meet the family's economic needs

“Sabi, inuutasan sila para meron silang makain, pambili ng bigas para sa kanilang pamilya. And then minsan yung parent nila walang income, walang trabaho. Minsan ang tatay nila may trabaho pero seasonal rin ang trabaho. Hindirin makaugmin. So buti na lang may anak na medyo maasahan sa trabaho yun ang makabigay ng tulong para meron sila makakain at tsaka, may pambili sila ng sabon panlaba, bili sila ng ulam at tsaka bigas.”

(They told us that they were reprimanded to work so the family will have food to eat and have money to buy rice. Sometimes their parents have no income and work. There are also instances when the father works, but it's only seasonal. So, they rely their children for the family to eat, and have money to buy laundry soap and rice).

Child labor is acceptable as long as there is economic gain

“Acceptable na na sa ilaha kay makaincome sila. Dili na sila mucomment... di maayo pero wala silay kahatag di mao na gyud na kuan sa mga bata kay daghan dira mga bata usahay ang uban murag gipasagdan nalang para makakwarta sila diba syempre maningkamot pud. Maningkamot pud na sila para makakwarta lisod especially yung parent na walang pakealam sa mga anak. Galaroy laroy ang mga anak. Syempre iutilize ng mga tao kapag di sila ka maka-akyat ng niyog”.

(It is acceptable for them because it gives them income. As long as it provides them money, they will not comment, even if they neglect their children. As a result, the children work hard to earn money, especially if their parents neglect them. The children who stroll around were utilized by others to do climb coconut trees). – KII 11

Child labor means economic survival

“Para maka kaon mi. kay wala man mi sapat na income kay budlay ang trabaho sa uma. Kalouy, init tapos para maka kwarta lang” (So that we can eat, because we have no sufficient income. Pitiful, it’s very hot, but we still work only to have money).

“nagtatrabaho kami, ano kasi walang kinakain ang ang aming mga magulang” (We are working, because our parents have nothing to eat).

“Para may kwarta. Para may e-bakal sang tinapay” (So that we can have money and we can buy bread).

Perceived Factors that Contribute to Child Labor



1. *“lack of financial support from parents”*
2. *“parents’ lack of education and limited awareness on anti-child labor policies”*
3. *“peer influence”*
4. *“some child laborers belong to broken families”.*



Lack of financial support from parents

“Ang una una gyud syempre ano siguro, poverty gyud number 1 siguro oy. Na ang parents cannot support so kaya siya nagawa trabaho na dapat indi man siya magtrabaho kay dapat nasa school man gyud na sila”.

(The first thing is, ahh, poverty. Parents cannot support that is why, children are working even if they are not supposed to work and should be in school).

Parents' lack of education and limited awareness regarding Anti-Child Labor Policies

“Pero di man iyon na child labor kasi parang libangan na ng libangan na naming nuon baka maka pera makabili ng mga bagong damit, makabili ng tsinelas ganoon. So basta siguro hindi naman iyon siguro kuan as long na iyong trabaho nila is iyon bang hindi ba hindi mabigat hindi ilegal sa kanilang sa kanilang edad hindi man sila nag alsa ng niyog iyon bang mga sako mga baggages mga packages na malaki pa sa kanila.”

(But it wasn't even child labor because it is a form of leisure, to make money they can buy new clothes, buy slippers like that. As long as their work is not heavy; it is not illegal for them at their age. They did not even lift coconut bags, sacks, baggage, packages that were even bigger than them.) - KII_9

Peer influence

“Kay gina pangal na kwarta na kung ug kanang gina-copras mao nay ihatag nila sa magulang nila. Iban lang pang bakal, pagkaon, computer, panagsa lang, way raman ko ga laro lage sir kay way signal. Oh, hulog hulog tag-singko. (Because we need money, the money that we earn from working on the coconut field we give it to our parents, other portion of the money will be used to buy food and while the rest will be utilized for playing computer games like ML)

Peer influence

“Ah o kato murag didto siya kuan kung kaisa ang rason mao to kapoy mageskwela ba, ana ba. Di tapos naay mga barkada nga ah sila nagharvest didto pagkahuman baligya naay kwarta, ana ba. Murag mainggit murag maano didto ba.

(Yes, that’s it. Sometimes the reason is they are tired of going to school. They have friends. Then they get jealous of their friends who join during harvest, market the harvest, and then have money afterwards.)

Some child laborers belong to broken families

“Hindi ko kaayo makasure kung ginahisgutan na nila sa family kay syempre unang-una ngano magchild labor man na pag kanang mga cases na damo kaayo mga separated gud na mga parents. Mao na pud na amon isa kaproof na kanang less ang ilang mga concerns sa mga bata eh. Kay though indi man nila, wala lang man sila. (R7_KII)

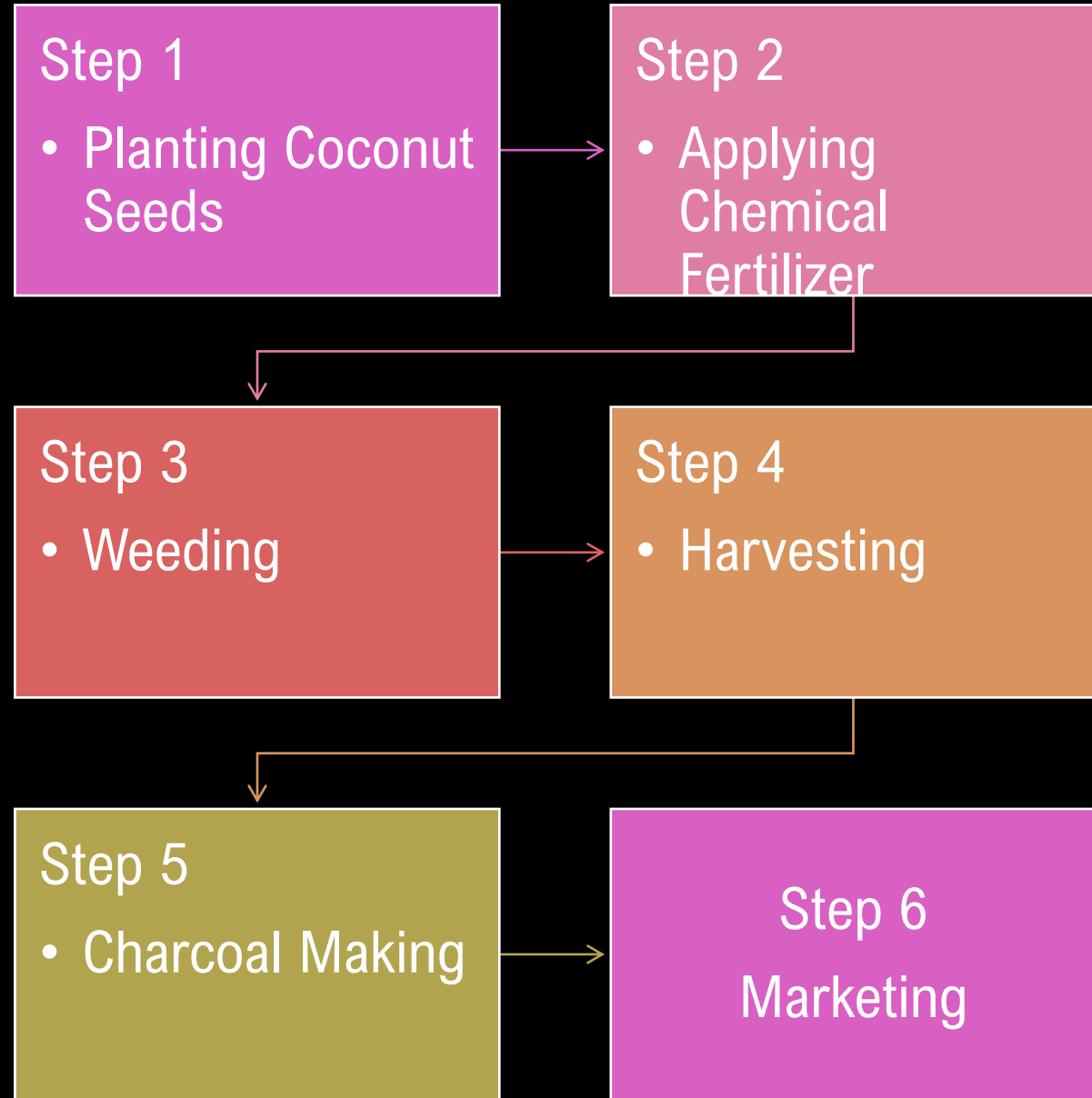
(I am not really sure if it is tackled in their families. Because, first of all, why is child labor existing? There are many cases of separated parents. This is a proof that those parents are less concerned of their children. Although they do not like it, they are not doing anything).

Some child laborers belong to broken families

“Pero na kita ko nga mao na ang isa ka rason ga kuan sa may child labor. Damo ang child labor kay sa mga. One year na lang man ko noh pag 1 year nako diri na encounter ko na ang kanang kadghanan man gud mga problemado na mga bata na kanang maabot gud diri sa office oo na mga bata kay mahitungod sa absences noh mao na damo sila mga kaso kaso so didto mo mabal-an ba nga damo diri sa ang kanang ahh damo ma fall gud sa mga broken family kay ngano man kay ang motherhood for example nagatrabaho wala sa balay, ginabilin lang ang bata tapos kanang separated ang mga parents mabilin lang sa mga lola lolo, sa auntie.”.

(One reason I have seen why there is child labor, within my 1 year here, I encountered that most of the children who got into my office are problematic because of their absences. There are a lot of cases where you will know that many of them has a broken family. Why? For example, the mother is working outside leaving their children at home or leaving the children with their grandparents or aunts).

Location of Child Laborers in the Supply Chain in Coconut Crop Agriculture



Child laborers are involved in the planting of coconut seeds.

“tanum ka niyog” (Plant coconut).

“Gintudluan niya (parent) ako kung paano magtanom ug mag seedling”
(My parents taught me how to plant coconut seedlings).

Child Laborers are involved in the application of chemical fertilizer.

“Lisud kaayu, bughat ug layu gyd ang lakawun” (It is so difficult, it is heavy, we walk long distance).



**Child laborers
are involved
in weeding.**

Child laborers are involved in harvesting

“saka ka lubi” (climbing coconut)

“ga-buka sa lubi” (Splitting coconut)

“gabulad” (drying)

“gasaka gasungkit, ga-libu-libo” (Yes, I climb. I pick with the pole)

“gapamulot” (just picking).

Child laborers are involved in harvesting

“Harvest, ayun kasin meron din mga bata rin naga akyat per puno. Bayaran silayan akyatin mo yun tag 15 pesos yung puno. 15 pesos minsan 20 per puno na akyatin nila regardless ilan bunga basta 15 yun maakyat mo yun tas ubusin mo yung bunga 15 pesos. Yung mga bata na yun sige kapit din sila sa patalim automatic nay un instantly tira na yun kaagad basta makaakyat sila ng niyog yun. Kasi medyo malakas yung mga bata eh yun sila talaga ang mag-akyat”

(They are paid 15 pesos for every coconut tree they climb. Sometimes 15 pesos, sometimes 20 pesos per coconut tree they climb regardless of how many coconuts they must harvest to clear the tree. Those children accept the task immediately as long as they are able to climb the coconut tree. They are stronger, so they are the ones that should do the climbing.)

Child laborers are engaged in charcoal making.

“Pwede pud siya ulingon.” (It can be made into charcoal) - IDI_14

“Kami gihapon gakuha sa tapas”. - IDI _14

“Oo pero kung mag uling na, kung mag gabie na, sila na.” (Yes, but at night, in making the charcoal, others do it.) - IDI _14

“Ayy, ginatanggal ang iya nga ginabuhat gud uling. Ginakuha iya nga panit.” (We remove the part that is used in making charcoal. We remove the husk.) - IDI_17

“Although may mga comment minsan... mga kawawa yung nanay nila nagapaningkamot din trabaho so yun... pero sa community marami na kasi ang kuan utilize nila na magtrabaho kagaya ng minsan naglalako..naguuling yung bagol gani uhm minsan makita gawa sila ng sako paglagyan nila..makita nila ang bagol dalhin nila sa bahay ilagay sa drum yan tas ilagay sa butas tas ihulog. Yun ang kabusihan nila uling ng bagol kasi nakatira man sila doon.”

(Although they comment sometimes... Their mothers are also helpless because they also need to strive hard to work. But in the community, many children were utilized for selling in the streets, charcoal making. Sometimes I see them with coconuts, they place it in the sacks, bring those into their house, and then put it in a drum. Most children are busy with the coconut charcoal making because it is their means for economic survival.”)



Experiences of Child Laborers in the Coconut Supply Chain



Demand Factors and Supply Factors

- 1) *“child laborers work fast”*
- 2) *“it is easier to give orders to child laborers”*
- 3) *“child laborers are willing to accept any amount of compensation”.*

Child laborers work fast.

“Paspas man unya sugu-suguon”.

“suholan mo lang sila dayon, ah, abtik kaayo na moobra” (By just paying them they will work fast). KII_7

Child laborers are work-efficient.

“Kay ang ila dira maam matapos lang ang obra and then wala man pud kaayo pud ang mga ano, pilion guro nila mga batan-on pud eh kay mas kusgan”.(Their intention is to finish the work. They chose the young ones because they are stronger.)

“Tapos murag ang mga parents man gud kay kalabanon sa uma man gud di man gud sila abtik. Indi mo man ma ano, pero kanang mga pamatanon abtik man gud na sila kay basta suhol bai”. (Then the parents are less efficient, but the younger ones are more work-efficient in the farm, they do the task and are lured by the pay.)



Child laborers accept any monetary amount of compensation.



Supply Chain Environment

- 1) “child laborers experience severe injuries and accidents”
- 2) “child laborers are exposed to the scorching heat of the sun”
- 3) “child laborers are exposed to wild animals”

Child laborers experience severe injuries and accidents

“Marami na yung na pilas doon sa amin sir nasamaran”. (Many of us got hurt sir and our hands have bruises.) - IDI_19

“Ou, nasamad akong kamot, dis a kay pag lakaw nako natipalo akong tiil.” (Yes, my hand was wounded, one time I sprained my ankle.) -IDI_15

Nalipungan ko ng lubi, ano lang gapangopras. I was dizzy when I got hit. (IDI_15)

“Wala, lagyan mo lang nang anu, ung kalamunggay gud” (It is nothing...just apply Moringga).

Child laborers exposed to the scorching heat of the sun

“Ang init, grabi ka init” (It’s too hot.) -IDI_19

“Sa initan man mi ga trabaho” (We are working under heat of the sun) -IDI_20

“Mainit. Tapos, nag ano diri oh, Sakit gud diri o.” (It is hot, and then, its aching here...) - IDI_13



**Child laborers are
exposed to wild animals**

Key Players and Entities Involved

- 1) parents of child laborers
- 2) relatives and neighbors
- 3) friends of child laborers
- 4) landowners





Benefit:
monetary gain

Processes, Hazards, and Benefits

- **Child laborers perform hazardous work**
- **Child laborers are too tired**

Child laborers perform hazardous work

“Nasamad akong kamot, dis a kay pag lakaw nako natipalo akong tiil,” (My hand was wounded, one time I sprained my ankle)

“Marami na yung na pilas doon sa amin nasamaran”. (Many of us got hurt and our hands have bruises.) -IDI_19

“Delikado sir, mahulugan ka niyog.” (Dangerous, you might be hit by a falling coconut.) -IDI_11

“Karang lisod kay slide tapos tong kanang ang lubi gud sir na nabulad, di pa gyud kayo ano kanang di pajud naglitik sir ba tapos pag ana nimo di man na makuha tanan sir” (It’s hard specially if the coconut is not dry, it’s hard to get the meat inside the coconut shell) -IDI_19

Child laborers are too tired

“Kapuy. Ga-pamaol ang lawas ko”. (Tired. We got muscle pain all over our body” (IDI_11)

“kapoy mi, eh” (We are tired, eh.) -IDI_12



Benefit:
monetary gain

Phases, Activities, Channels

1) harvest of coconut fruits

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graph TD; A[1) harvest of coconut fruits] --> B[2) gathering, splitting, and de-meating of coconut]; B --> C[3) husking and charcoal making]; C --> D[4) drying of coconut meat, sacking the copra, and marketing];
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2) gathering, splitting, and de-meating of coconut

3) husking and charcoal making

4) drying of coconut meat,
sacking the copra, and marketing

Supply Chain Activities, Products and Services

harvesting the fruits by climbing

gathering the nuts

splitting the nuts

collection of coconut meat

removal of husk

gathering coconut shells

charcoaling

drying coconut meat

sacking the copra

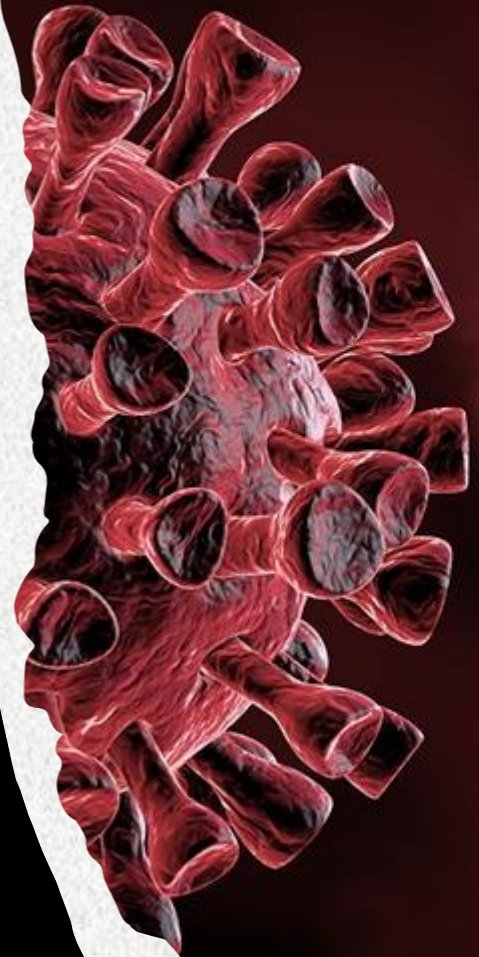
marketing

Child laborers also undertake getting coconut for making “buko salad” and “buko juice”. They also sell old coconut in the neighborhood in making “suman” and other delicacies.



Impact of Covid-19 Pandemic to Child Laborers

- 1) “ongoing child labor”
- 2) “more tasks for child laborers”
- 3) “adjustment to remote learning modality”
- 4) “wearing of face mask and face shield”



Ongoing child labor

“Ngayong kuan ngayong pandemic kasi 24/7 dito sa atin usually dito sa munisipalidad is nasa rural areas naman tayo so hindi natin ramdam iyong impact talaga ng pandemic so actually dito normal pa rin, kahit doon sa mga urban areas iyong normal na dito pa rin sa pag normal pa rin makita mo naman magpunta ka diyan sa mga farm wala naman naga facemask iyong mga tao so normal pa rin iyon. So kung ano iyong dating nakasanayan nila na trabaho iyon pa rin.”

(This time of the pandemic, it is 24/7. Usually here in the municipality, we are in rural area, so we do not feel the real impact of the pandemic. It is still normal even in urban areas. You can see that when you go to the farms no one uses face mask, that is normal for them. The work that they were used to is still the same.)

“Wala lang. Mag-undang sila sa obra gid. Kay kapoyan sila ron. Kay naa man pud pulis”

(Nothing, they stop to work because they felt tired, because of the coming of the policeman.)



More tasks for child laborers



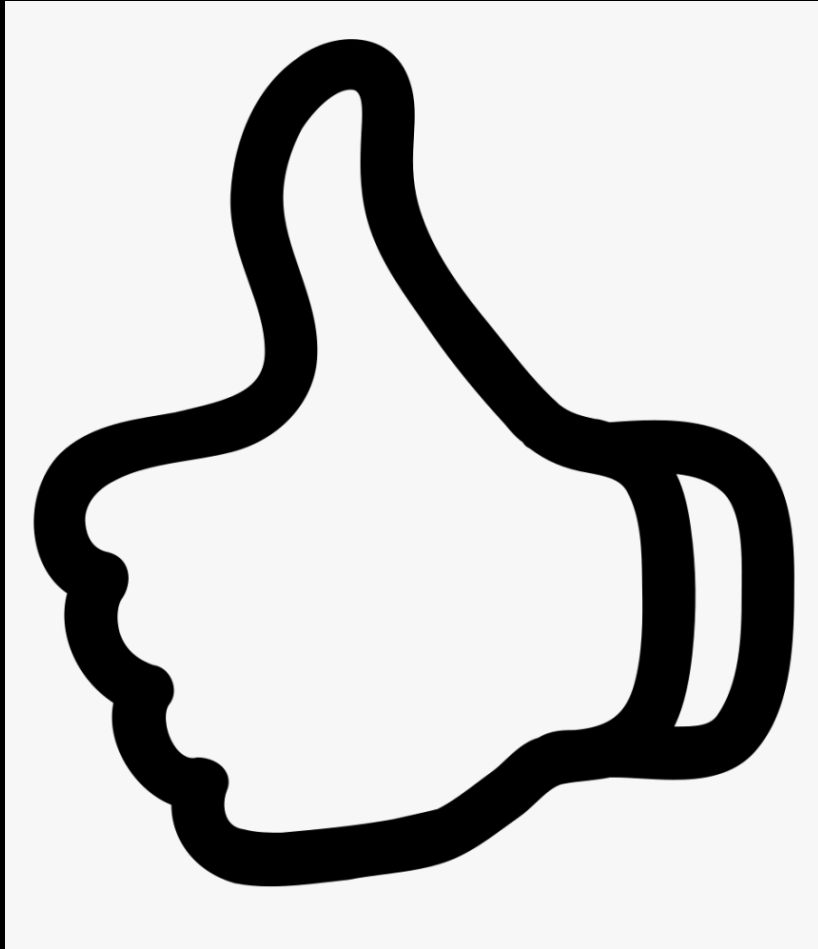
**Adjustment to
remote learning
modality**

Wearing of face mask and face shield

“Dati nagalakat kami walay facemask. Karon kay mag facemask mi kay importante man.”

(We used to just walk without facemask. Now we wear face mask because it is really important.)

“Naglisod kay covid abi kailangan mag mask”. (To wear a mask is difficult, but it is necessary because of Covid).



Good Practices

“Adopt a child laborer”

“Teachers’ referral of child laborers who are qualified for assistance”

“Alternative Learning System and TESDA programs”

“Collaboration of the Council and the teachers in monitoring students”.



Challenges in addressing child labor in coconut supply chain

- “lack of political will”
- “limited resources”
- “functional structure of advocating agencies in combating child labor”
- “updated list of child laborers”



Respondents' Recommendations

- 1) *“Creation of municipal ordinance banning child labor”*
- 2) *“Livelihood assistance to the parents of child laborers”*
- 3) *Seminars and orientation for parents of child laborers*
- 4) *“Strengthening of advocacy to end child labor”.*



Implications

The findings and analyses of data provide a rich source of empirical evidence which can be used for policy recommendations on child labor in the supply chain in coconut crop agriculture. It offer relevant stakeholders important insights to deepen their understanding of the phenomenon of child labor in Mindanao.



Recommendations

- Strengthen inter-agency coordination to formulate policies, guidelines, framework, and programs/projects for the effective enforcement of Republic Act No. 9231 and related laws.
- Establish and maintain effective monitoring mechanisms to review and track progress to end child labor.



Recommendations

- Conduct advocacy campaign and massive information dissemination on the existence of Republic Act No. 9231 and related laws, and the various issues and problems attendant to child labor;
- Provision of educational assistance to child laborers and livelihood services or income-generating projects to their families.