

Factors Responsible For Minors Involvement in Street Selling-A Case Study of the Commercial Hub of Red Light



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Abstract

The involvement of minors into street-selling is unwelcoming and against the rights of the kids. Some negations associated with teens found in street-selling are: psychological problem, behavioral impediment, sexual molestation (females in particular), and the use of those kids by power greed or devilish individuals for ritualistic purpose.

To expose parents or guidance involve in the abuse of child's right; to remind government to institute stringent measures that will deter parents or guidance from sending their children in the streets to sell; and also, to scare would-be violators of such act and to ensure those kids return to school.

An interpersonal interview was conducted with street kid peddlers who are the direct victims of the problem under review.

From the total of fifteen (15) participants (10 boys and 5 girls) interviewed between the ages of 12-17 years, 7 are schooling while 8 are out of school. Moreover, 7 of the minors are living with their parents, 7 are living with other family members and relatives and a single kid lives on his own. Also, the parents of all the participants were of low economic status and those kids were involved in the act because of financial gains of the family.

Parents need to understand that children are not responsible to provide for the family. They are kids and must treated at such. Many parents or guidance that were found in this act during the study were obliged due to unemployment. Therefore, it is recommended that government attract foreign investors to aid in the creation of jobs for citizens, since the government lacks the capacity to employ everyone.

Keyword: Child labor

Background of the study

The World Book Encyclopedia (2001) defines child labor as the employment of children as wage earners. The book disclosed that child labor became a serious social problem during the Industrial Revolution in the United Kingdom during the 1700's and the problem spread to other countries as they became industrialized. As a result, social reformers began to condemn child labor practices because of its ruinous effect on children's health and welfare.

The most effective attack on the evils of child labor may have come from Charles Dickens's novel, *Oliver Twist* (1837-1839); the book was widely read in both the United States and the United Kingdom. Gradually, countries passed laws to protect children against child labor, but up to date, children in Canada, Britain, the United States and other countries are still experiencing this menace (World Book Encyclopedia, 2001)

Even though there are laws on the book banning this act, one of those countries that is still being confronted with this challenge is Liberia. In 2012, former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf signed the Children's law of Liberia making the country one of the first to adopt a comprehensive legislation for children that incorporates the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and the African Charter, identified by the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) as one of the most comprehensive pieces of children's rights legislation in the continent (UNICEF, 2012).

The Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection oversees the issue of child welfare in Liberia, supported by the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare as well as other government agencies, international and national NGOs.

A member of the United Nations and the African Union. Most importantly, Liberia is a signatory to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), and African Charter. But

Despite the enactment of these laws for children's protection, Liberia is yet to implement them, which is proven by the enormous number of children in various streets in Montserrado and other neighboring counties.

In spite of the resources the country has, the issue of street kids particularly engaged in selling remains prevalent in the society (CIA 2015). According to State of the World 2015 and US AID 2012, nearly a quarter of school age children will never enter school.

These reports are demeaning, pathetic, and heartbreaking for Liberian kids; at such, the government needs to put its feet to the fire to ensure that this public embarrassment is brought to an end.

In January of 2017, The Global News Network (GNN Liberia) reported that the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection (MGCSP) in partnership with the Monrovia City Corporation (MCC) embarked on a campaign to remove children involved in street selling from the streets, especially during school hours.

The news agency (GNN Liberia) noted that the then Mayor of Monrovia, Clara Doe Mvogo warned that while carrying out the exercise, commuters who will be caught purchasing from school-age kids along the road will be arrested and fined.

GNN Liberia (2017) further that former Mayor Mvogo called on MCC employees to actively engage in the exercise to ensure that the streets of Monrovia and its immediate environs are cleared of child peddlers who are the future leaders.

According to GNN Liberia (2017), the then mayor disclosed that the exercise which initially covered the Christmas Season, will remain in force until the government's goal of removing school-age children from the streets to the class room is achieved.

The Global News Network however added that former Mayor Mvogo warned parents and guardians involved in using their children as bread winners to desist or face the full weight of the law.

Despite all these theoretical aspects of protection for minors, the implementation is what we await. Now is the time that the Government of Liberia through the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection and other international partners moved in urgently to ensure that this menace that is gradually overtaking the Liberian society be addressed.

Statement of the Problem

Even though Article 26 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which Liberia is a signatory to clearly states that all humans have the right to education, but this is not the case with most Liberian Children. This situation is evident by the increasing number of children selling in the streets particularly during school hours when they too should be learning. Moreover, Liberia is a signatory to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and African Charter. More importantly, in 2012, Liberia's former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf signed the children's law, making the country one of the first to adopt a comprehensive legislation for children that incorporates UNCRC and the African Charter. Additionally, in 2012, the signing of the Children's Law of Liberia was identified by UNICEF as "One of most comprehensive pieces of children's rights legislation in the continent".

Article 7 of the Children's Law of Liberia unequivocally unveiled the right to education for all kids, but the enforcement of this law by the government remains to be seen.

Additionally, it is been perceived by commentators that children found in street peddling are mostly taken from the rural parts of Liberia by family members under the pretense of making those kids to live a better life, which is inclusive of them going to school. But this assurance is not realized as the children turn out to be bread winners for those family members.

Therefore, this research is to establish the untold stories behind the reasons for which teens are not going to school but rather serving as the wage earners for their relatives.

Significance of the Study

When this study is completed, citizens as well as national government stand to benefit because it will disclose the unexplainable reasons for which most children are becoming the main sources of income generation for their families.

Government is under obligation to protect its citizens in accordance with the rule of law; in which, this problem is of no exception. It is hoped that the findings will enable the Government of Liberia to introduce appropriate measures to curtail the problem. The findings will also help parents or guidance to take the necessary actions relative to the welfare of these children. The study is also important because its findings will add to the existing literature in the field.

Objective of the Study

Those teens involved in street selling must be protected as per the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the African Charter, and the Children's Law of Liberia.

These children are Liberians and therefore deserve the protection of the rule of law like any other human being. With that being said, the objective of this study is to expose parents or guidance involved in the abuse of child's right; to remind government to institute stringent measures that will deter parents or guidance from sending their children in the streets to sell; and also, to scare would-be violators of such act and to ensure those kids return to school.

Delimitations of the Study

This research study focuses on Red Light, one of the largest commercial hub located outside Monrovia. The participants of the research are boys and girls between the ages of 12-17 years who are always selling in the street during school hours. The research also adopted simple random sampling.

Limitations of the Study

The problem under discussion is a one Liberia is engulfed with, and this research has only targeted a single area (Red Light). There is a need for other researchers to conduct study on the issue in other communities. Also, the researcher could not get the parents or guardians of the participants to sign the consent forms on behalf of their children because the children expressed fear of being punished by their parents or guardians for exposing them (parents/guardians).

Moreover, institutions such as the Liberia Institute of Statistics and Geo Information Services (LISGIS) and the Division of Women and Children at the Liberia National Police failure to provide needed information or statistics on the problem was also a challenge to the research.

Chapter Two: Literature Review

Impact of Child Labor on kids

Child labor still remains a serious problem in many parts of the world today. The United Nations Conventions on the Right of the Child (UNCRC) clearly states that:

“Government should recognize the right of the child to be protected from economic exploitations and from performing any work that is likely to be hazardous or harmful to the child’s development or to interfere with the child’s education (Moses, 2005).

In spite of many state signatories to this vital international document, the problem still persists in many developing countries in astronomical proportions. There have been nearly insurmountable challenges in combating this social challenge due to competing socio-economic and political priorities, mostly in Africa and Asia (Archampong, 2001).

According to UNICEF (2013), there are half a million children out of school across Liberia and until recently, evidence suggested that up to 21% of children between the ages 5-14 were engaged in some form of child labor, ranging from domestic servitude and street vending to agricultural labor and sexual exploitation.

Liberia has the highest proportion of out-of-school children in the world; in fact, it is currently expected to be the last country on earth to achieve universal education (Street Child, 2018). Street Child Report 2018 also revealed that Liberia’s Southeast has the worst education outcomes. Hence, children born in this region have the lowest chance in the world of learning to read and write.

People living in the Southeast face a lack of opportunity and employment; in River Gee, Grand Kru and Maryland, 65% of the population lives in food poverty;

gold mining represents one of the only forms of livelihood available and children as young as seven or eight can be seen working in the small-scale mining sites (Street Child 2018).

Street selling poses serious risk to our lives, especially on the main boulevard where motor vehicles are seen moving up and down, a minor street peddler is quoted as saying (New Republic Liberia, 2017). The Red light Community- a commercial hub in Monrovia- has a reportedly disproportionate rate of child street-selling, and an even more terrible environment for children survival and successful upbringing (Front-page Africa, 2017).

In a New Republic Liberia interview (2017), Edwin, a 4th grader of the Red light Community lamented that there is no means he can stop selling in the streets, though it seriously challenges his studies. The minor complained that street-selling, especially as a child exposes children to danger including motor accident, kidnaping, and living loosed life; ending up as zogoes- a Liberian slogan for social deviants. At the same time, a 13-yr-old girl selling peppermint candies in the same locality narrated traumatically her near rape experience by some unknown men after she had completed selling in the night and was on her way home (Ibid, 2017).

Consequences of Street Hawking Among Minors

The International Journal of Scientific and Research Publication (2017) found that the nature of treatment that a child is subjected to is significantly linked to the child's performance in school. Mavrokonstantis (2011) however avowed that child labor is widely perceived to impede the educational attainment of children in a multitude of ways; fundamentally, since both are time inputs, work competes with time devoted to education related activities such as attending school, attending extra classes and completing homework. Left with less time for school and study,

working children are not able to derive the same educational benefit as their non-working counterparts.

Child labor can also be strenuous, causing exhaustion and leaving children lacking energy, impeding their ability to focus in the classroom or on home study. Even if they devote the same amount of hours to attendance and study as children who don't work, their lack of energy could hamper their ability to gain the same returns from the learning process (Ibid, 2011).

Street Hawking in Regional Perspective

In Nigeria, research proves that juvenile street hawkers develop maladjusted patterns of behavior, which impair their academic, moral, social, physical, and psychological growth and development thus affecting their future negatively (World Journal of Education, 2012).

In Peru, the consequence of street-work led to many of the children reported deteriorating educational progress. Having to work long hours on the streets is not only exhausting, but also has negative influences on school performance. Work reduces the number of hours at school or the time spent on completing homework, which can result in a definite school dropout (Ensing, 2008)

Furthermore, in Australia, Robinson (2009) observed that the phenomenon of child labor is arguably the tallest challenge that directly impacts school enrolment, attendance, academic performance, completion rate as well as health, rest, leisure and the general psychological disposition of children. Research results from Colombia showed that labor conditions, the number of weekly hours dedicated to work, and the presence of work scheduled in the morning negatively affected the academic performance of child laborers. These results show that the

relationship between child labor and academic performance is based on the conflict between these two activities (International Journal of Educational Development, 2014).

In addressing this strategic global problem, the World Journal of Education (2012) recommended that government provides free basic education, improve workers remuneration, provide academic grants and aids to economically disadvantaged parents, and create jobs for unemployed parents in order to keep children from hawking under the guise of subsisting family at the expense of their total development.

Chapter Three: Methodology

The primary objective of this single design qualitative research study is to test the research questions that correlate with minor street-selling, its causative and resulting factors. The methodology employed to test the research questions is presented in this chapter. This chapter is organized into five sections: selection of participants, instrumentation, data collection, data analysis procedures and ethical consideration.

Selection of Participants

In this study, purposive sampling provides a convenient way of investigating a specialized population of street-selling minors. A purposive random sampling of minors between the ages 12-17 involved in street selling was conducted in the area of study- Red light Community. Based on the vastness and commercial vibrancy of the area under consideration, a sample of 15 kids were interviewed and taken primarily from along the road side, where they are easily identified.

Instrumentation

The first instrument used in this study was direct non-participant observation. Another pivotal instrument employed was a semi-structured, open-ended interview of 15 street-selling minors in the Red-light area. All interview questions were directly correlated to the research questions, and allowed participants to fully reflect on their challenges and experiences.

Data Collection

This study was conducted using multiple sources of documentation to ensure a proper balance of evidences that connect the questions asked to the data collected and conclusions drawn.

The triangulated data collection procedure for this study includes: direct, non-participant observation, semi-structured interview of 15 street-selling minors and document analysis (from government, media publications and social workers review).

Data Analysis Procedure

The data collected were coded, categorized and themed to determine relationships among variables. Content Analysis, Thematic Coding, Conversation and Narrative Analysis were employed to establish and understand patterns or themes of related ideas from information gathered or data collected. All the major ideas were mapped out, identified and themed from the perspective of the participants.

Ethical Consideration

Ethical consideration was not entirely observed due to the unwillingness of most of the participants to take the researcher to their guardians for fear of being punished. Additionally, the researcher could not reach other parents due to financial constraints.

Chapter Four: Findings and Results

From the research conducted, children's involvement into street selling in Red Light can be attributed to various reasons:

According to the first respondent, a fifteen year old boy who sells cold water in order to get his recess said: "I was taken from Nimba County(where my Ma and Pa living) by my big brother and the two of us living in 72nd. My big brother selling Corn Bread to pay my school fees at 72nd Public School, but he can't give me recess, so I selling ley cold water so I can get money for recess".

In the same manner, respondent two, who is a 15 year old girl said:

"I live Jacob Town and is attending the Pipeline Public School. I sell cold water also to help me get my recess because my mother na (not) having money, and so, she can't give me recess when I'm going to school".

When the respondent was asked why she is selling water during school hours when she should be in school, this is what she explained:

"I am selling cold water today because I was sent home for school fees; so, my Ma (mother) asked me to sell and help her pay my school fees".

Also speaking, respondent three (a 12 year old girl) had this to say:

"I living with my uncle and aunty behind Ma (mother) Kebbeh Gas Station in Red Light. They took me from my Pa and Ma (father and mother) in Gbarnga, Bong County and since da (that) time, ley (they) wah (were) sending me to school, until ley few day (recently) ley school sent me home for school fees".

The third respondent added:

“Since my school sent me home for school fees, my uncle and aunty forced me to come sell cold water so they can pay my school fees”.

Also explaining his ordeal, was a 13 year old boy who also sells cold water. This is what he disclosed:

“My uncle take (took) me from in Bong County two month na, but he say (said) I mon (must) be selling water yea (for some time) so he will sent me to school second semester”.

When the little boy was asked whether his uncle is currently working, he explained this:

“My uncle selling lak (door locks) and plenty tin dem (variety of goods), but he na (is not) sending me to school”. “My other brother and sister in school. Only my one can come sell cold water,” the 13 year old boy narrated.

Another participant was a 16 year old girl, who sells peanut. She said,

“I Guinea-Kpelleh girl. I come from Guinea two year na. Since da (that) time, I na in school”.

“I living in Johnsonville with my Ma (mother). She (her mother) selling small small thing too but in Johnsonville ley people can’t really buy, so la it make I can come way in Red Light to sell lay ground-pea (peanut);” she said.

The 16 year old girl disclosed:

“One woman wah (was) teaching me how to sew, but ley woman na (isn’t) here again. So since la time, la ley ground-pea here I selling. In the evening after I finish selling, I can take ley money to my Ma (mother) for her to keep it; then,

anytime I ready to go buy, I can ask her for ley money.”

Just like the 13 year old boy who sells cold water, the sixth respondent, a 15 year old boy also selling cold water had this to say:

“I came from Grand Bassa County in ley same year, October to live with my aunty in Pipeline Supermarket. My aunty promised to send me to school second semester, but until la time (until then), she say I mon (must) be selling cold water yea (for the time being)”.

When the researcher posted the question of what job is his aunty doing in order to send him to school second semester, this is how he responded:

“My aunty na (isn’t) working but her husband doing business”.

The next minor interviewed was a 15 year old boy (the seventh respondent) who sells what is popularly known as Pollo in Liberia. According to him,

“I in school but I na (don’t have) get copy book, so I selling ley Pollo so my Ma (mother) can put susu and buy my copy book”.

The respondent continued:

“I living in 72nd with my Ma (mother), but she na (isn’t) doing anything na na (right now), so I got to help her for her to buy my copy book”.

After the question, are you sure this is not something you do usually was posted to the little boy, he responded like this:

“I in PCA (Paynesville Central Academy), but come sell every day after school to help my Ma (mother)”.

Similarly like other respondents mentioned, the eighth participant (a 16 year old boy) said:

“Ley send me out of school for school fees. Da why I come sell to get money so that my people can be able to pay my school fees”.

“I na living with my won Pa (father) and Ma (mother). Ley people I living with na doing anything, so I got to sell ley slipper dem to get money for them to pay my school fees,” he added.

Also speaking, a twelve year old boy (the ninth respondent) revealed:

“I selling ley water here because my Ma (mother) na (doesn’t) get money to send me to school na na (right now). My Pa (father) died ever since and since da (that) time, da only my Ma remain, but she na (isn’t) working; so I have to sell lay cold water for us to buy food to eat. We praying to God that second semester I will go back to school”.

Moreover, the tenth respondent (a 16 year old boy selling disk) had this to say:

“Proh (big brother), I want lie to you. I selling ley disk here because I got to pay my rent, buy cloth and eat because man like me pa, I doing everything for myself”.

With that being said, the researcher asked the little boy,

“wettin make you on your own, you na with your people”? The boy disclosed: “oh la eh because my people dem ley area where they air, ah want be there”.

“My people dem way in Grand Bassa, la only my big big sister dem with my aunty dem, la only dem I having here,” the 16 year old boy respondent to the question about the location of his family by the researcher.

The little boy added:

“La me and my senior man we come here, me and my proh. My born brother but ley problem la there ley man woman too get problem yeah! She na want see me in ley house and other thing them; since I come in ley house ley way she can be behaving and tin dem, so myself too, I just decide to lee ley house”.

When the disk seller was asked whether he has been in school since he left Grand Bassa, he said this:

“Me, no! La only my Ma used to send money because me and my Ma, we can communicate one one time”.

From the story of the boy, the researcher gained more interest and decided asking the minor when he left Grand Bassa; a question the little boy didn't hesitate to respond:

“Since I left from there na, la my four year here na”.

He said,

“lay disk here, I na make one year selling lay market na because lay first market I wah selling, I wah helping one big brother right here in front lay bank, LBDI Bank, I wah helping him to sell and other tin dem, but I wah get lay money and tin dem because I lee keeping money, keeping money, I get lay money and tin dem la how come I buy lay tin dem”.

Also adding his voice to the participants was a 17 year old boy who sells black plastic. He narrated the reason behind his street selling:

“I selling because my Ma na here and my Pa sick, so I got to sell to pay my school fees”.

“I go to school then after school I come in lay market to sell my plastic bag. For our food pa, da my Ma can send lay money, but for my school fees da my seh seh. Me and my Pa living in Pipeline Community,” the boy explained.

For his part, a 15 year old boy also selling plastic said,

“Bribee, I selling lay market here to help myself because I living with my grandma in Soul Clinic and she na doing anything”.

“My Pa living Bernard Farm with ley other children dem, but he na even sending them to school,” he responded to the question about the whereabouts of his parents.

This is how he concluded:

“I got to come sell my plastic after school to pay my school fees in PCA (Paynesville Central Academy)”.

Just like few of the previous respondents, the thirteenth participant said,

“I live Bernard Farm, Toe Town”.

When he was asked like aforementioned respondents about why was he not in school but rather selling during school hours, he quipped:

“Because my parents na get lay hand”.

Another question follows,

“Who you living with in Bernard Farm”? This was his response: “With my Ma”.

The researcher developed interest in knowing the location of his father. The little boy said:

“My Pa in the state (United States of America). He na paying my school fees yea because he just go, he na settle yea and my ma too na working”.

“I can save lay money. La lay five month here na,” were answers the child provided when he was asked what he does with the money after selling and how long he has spent doing business.

Also explaining her ordeal was a 12 year old girl who sells beans.

“My Ma and Pa died in Guinea ever since, so la how I go lived with my grandma. Then it na still long too, my grandma died. La how ley woman I living with na na wah in Guinea la time and tell lay people dem for me to come be with her here in Liberia.”

“Lay time we come, she get sick so I tell her say I will lee sitting down side until you finish alright na, la lay time I will be going to school. I lee sitting down side la woman she lee me here she go Conakry because la lay play where her grandchildren them air, she go there. La Conakry her medicine air, lay sickness la wah on her la lay play lay medicine air,” the little girl revealed.

She further:

“So la how I lee behind la woman, lee behind her. She get her well-house in Gobachop field. So I lee selling for la woman, for la woman but lay day I tell la woman say I want go to school, she can say she na get money. Myself, I na get problem, I can say lay way you na get money let me be selling because she can sell Beans and plenty people owing her in town. So I tell her lay way ain’t going to school let me be selling for you. Lay day we be get money na, I will be going to do small small work then in the evening I come and do lay small small work.

La how she agreed. So la it bayney ain't going to school," the girl added.

Additionally, she said:

"Da woman la good woman but la her husband tell her say she mon na sent anybody who na her child living with her to school. But she making money because she selling and her husband too working, but all lay children them what been living with them can't go to school. They can only be there and get big and go to their husband them".

As for the fifteen respondent (a 16 year old girl selling bra). This is how she addressed the researcher's concern:

"Fine boy, ley (let) me tell you the truth yeah. Da my aunty and myself can sell ley market (bra) here, because my ma old na, and she na doing anything".

"We used the money we get from here (the business) to buy food for the house and pay my school fees too. We living Mount Barclay. I can only come sell after school or ley day we na having school."

"When do you study if you have to come from school to sell?" the researcher posted a question to the participant. She answered in this manner,

"When I go home in lay night I can study, but sometime I can be tired because lay walking around can be too much".

Chapter Five: Discussion

Kids' involvement into street selling is a common practice in Liberia, even though it is a form of child labour. This is necessitated by the need for children to assist their families financially, and in some aspects serve as bread winners for their families, especially when those families are economically impaired. In some instances, family members or other relatives intentionally treat children in such manner without the slightest thought on the effects or challenges they may face while selling.

In this study where boys (11) outnumbered girls (4), the findings proves that most minors are into street selling because of their parents or guidance inability to provide most of their basic needs, due to the unavailability of jobs for the fathers, mothers and other relatives or caretakers. Moreover, the study also shows that a handful of teens are just used as income generators, and are not even into any academic or vocational institution. Like in few cases, where the teens were taken from other counties with the promised of being sent to school, only for them to end up selling in street corners for their survivability.

Street hawking is hazardous for minors particularly taking into account the effects such as: kids' involvement into road traffic accident, verbal abuse, molestation particularly on the part of females and the use of those kids by power greed or devilish individuals for ritualistic purpose, among others.

Street peddling also has psychological effects on the development of children, in the sense that the environment they grow in coupled with friends they interact with have its own role to play in the child's life. Street selling kids' behaviors are similarly affected through vices such as:

stealing, sexual escapades, drug abuse and smoking which they willingly acquire from peers and adults.

Even though the study did not obtain the educational background of parents or guidance of street selling teens, in most cases, poorly educated parents or guidance may likely not appreciate the value of education in the long term, but see schooling as reducing workforce for earnings in the short term. Additionally, poverty, low socioeconomic status and the associated necessity to raise families' income may explain the lack of education and high school drop-out rate.

It is important to be noted that the phrase child labor, which street selling minors cannot be disassociated from, brings to the minds of people that they are children that are maltreated by unrelated guidance. But for this study, majority of the kids disclosed that they are involve into the act based upon their parents or guidance incapacity to provide their basic needs.

Conclusion

The purpose of this study was to dig out the untold stories behind the factors responsible for minors' participation in street selling in the biggest commercial center in Paynesville, called Red Light. Findings from the study prove that poverty is a major factor leading to kids' existence in street hawking. Most children found in the street (Red Light) during this study decried their parents or guidance joblessness as the reason for they were selling.

Nevertheless, parents need to understand that their kids' education is more important in the long term than putting the teens in the street to work through street selling, which is more of a short term provision of families need. Moreover, parents also need to understand the dangers associated with street selling kids.

Additionally, parents also need to understand that children are not adults; therefore, they must not play a role as parents who are charged with the responsibility to serve as bread winners or income generators for their families. More importantly, fathers, mothers, relatives and other caretakers must also be cognizant that street-selling kids deserve to be given their full rights.

Recommendation

Based on the findings of this study, the following is recommended:

1. Since poverty is the leading factor for which kids are engage into street selling; the government needs to urgently improve the economy. This can be achieved through the attraction of investors, companies and NGO into the country. When this is accomplish, the huge number of unemployed parents or guidance will drastically reduce, thereby also reducing the poverty rate in Liberia.
2. Parents and guidance must not abandon their responsibilities to provide for members of their families irrespective of whether they are members by blood or adoption.
3. If children must be in school and not in street corners selling, government must ensure that there are not only free primary and secondary schools, but also take measures to guarantee that education provided is truly and completely free, quality and of compulsion. Legislating and effecting punitive actions on education stakeholders that default will bring success in this area.
4. School administrators must also ensure that the learning environment is not a place for loitering of students, but a surrounding set aside exclusively for learning.
5. It is also pivotal that a legislation be enacted against children trading particularly during school hours in Liberia.

If the above mentioned are implemented by parents, guidance and relevant agencies, a great deal would be achieved in the fight against kids peddlers.

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