

Analysis of Various Forms of Child Labor in D.I.Khan City , KPK, Pakistan

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this research paper is to highlight the various aspects of child labor in the city of D.I.Khan. In a highly diverse economy of Pakistan the children are hired and engaged in different categories of occupations. There exists a light and sophisticated form as well as highly risky and worst form of child labor. The child work varies from a part time help on stores, tailoring and furniture shops, hotel business to full time hazardous work in chemical and glass industries in unhealthy work environment, construction work, domestic work and welding etc. Part time light work may provide training during education while worst form may produce serious physical and psychological problems in an early and innocent age. In a survey based study using the simple random sampling technique in D.I.Khan City it was found that tough and full time child labor is adversely effecting the children well-being and personality development. Current research paper comprises an introduction, literature review, research methodology and the survey results. In the end there is a brief discussion, conclusion and suggestions to eradicate child labor from Pakistan's economy.

Keywords: Survey based study, semi structured interviews, various forms of child labor, determinants of child labor, Physical and Psychological effects, I.L.O Conventions, D.I.Khan city

INTRODUCTION

Children perform various types of economic activities in the less developed countries where one third of the total population is still living below the poverty line. Due to certain limitations it is quite difficult to estimate precisely the exact magnitude and data of child labor in Pakistan. According to a survey conducted in 1996 by the government of Pakistan the number of children engaged in various forms of labor was around three and a half million, 2.4 millions were boys and 0.9 million were girls both having a ratio of 73% and 27%.

SPARC (2009) reported that approximately 23 million children were not attending school and with an annual population growth rate of 2% annually, the actual number of working children could exceed the then official figures, and could be higher than 10 million in Pakistan.

Shamima K. (2013) wrote that such a dismal scenario indicates that Pakistani parents have become quite moderate and used to let their children work instead of going to school to earn money for their survival. Mostly they are the low paid wage earners for their overwork. The government and the NGO's are required to pay attention to this serious issue.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Child labor referred to the full time employment practice of hiring children on very low wages in industrial work which is often hazardous to child health and where the working environment is also unhealthy, unfavorable. Sailee Kale (2011) wrote that such a practice was still common in less developed countries situated in Africa, Latin America and South-East Asia. Millions of children around the globe were deprived of their innocent childhood and had to work under miserable, uncaring working conditions getting a nominal reward for their services.

(ILO), the international labor organization defined child labor as following:

It is the child labor if

- 1- A child starts work to earn in an early age.
- 2- He or she overworks and works for a longer duration of time to earn some extra amount.
- 3- He or she works under the influence of Psychological, Social, and Economic Pressures.
- 4- He or she is willing to work for a very nominal wage rate.

“Child Labor” was also defined as the work by children that could be harmful or might exploit them physically, mentally, morally and also depriving them from education. United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund (UNICEF) defined a “child” as anyone less than eighteen years of age, and “child Labor” to be any kind of work done by a child under 18 years.

ILO (1999) categorized child labor in to various forms as:

1. Light form, which does not retard the natural growth of a child including the physical and psychological growth.
2. Hazardous and risky form which adversely affect the natural physical growth of a child.
3. Worst form which interferes with the mental and psychological growth of a child. It includes slavery, selling human, trafficking, as a debt repayment bond, and serfdom, enforced or compulsory labor. Thus the "worst form of labor", literally and practically means it. It is the miserable childhood which is a dismal image of a modern economy.

Dessy & Pallage (2005) argued that altruistic parents may in fact be instrumental in choosing the worst form of child labor as such forms pay well.

Adiqa K.K (2010) distinguished between the child work which refers to the skill development and child labor which hampers the physical and mental well being of a child and results in exploitation of children rights.

Khan (2003) analyzed the various determinants of child labor by developing an econometric model. The findings revealed that the children belonging to financially stable and educated families could go to school while the children from uneducated poor class had to work to meet the both ends. There existed a significant gender difference and parents preferred the education of their male issues. It was also found that school attendance and child labor had a negative correlation while the child labor and size of the family had a positive correlation.

Mahmood, et al. (2005) conducted a case study on engineering and automobile workshops and concluded that the socio economic causes perpetuated the child labor. The example of automobile/ engineering workshops supported the fact that most of the children were forcibly sent to work by their poverty ridden parents. Poverty was the true major cause behind child labor. Poverty, hunger and squalor were the common reasons behind ignorance, illiteracy, large family size. The ill clad, ill housed, illiterate and undernourished children had no future in this society except to work hard for their survival.

Awan et al. (2011) concluded that the mother's lack of education generally and in women's headed families especially the supply side determinant of the child labor. Low family income level of parents was pushing them to send their children to such hard work which really hampered their normal physical growth and mental development. The study results indicated that the parents of laboring children were either unemployed or were having a low paid unsecured job.

Chaudry M.A et. al (2002) conducted a study in D.I.Khan to indicate the various economic and social determinants of child labor in the far flung southern area of KPK where people suffered a general lack of basic necessities and facilities of life. The findings revealed that the children were low paid and had to work for longer hours in a very dusty and dirty environment. They worked in repair shops automobile shops construction work and metal work factories. Most of them developed a weak eye sight, bone deformation and lungs diseases.

Toor, I.A (2005) found the poverty and unemployment were the correlates of child labor.

Adult unemployment caused economic problems which were so strong that the parents found no other way to send their children to make a livelihood.

Tayyaba Zarif et al. (2013) conducted a study over a sample size of 130 respondents including the children, parents, teachers and employers and results concluded that due to a large size of family and low level of income the children had to work and contribute their earnings and there fore were deprived from going to school at an early age.

METHODS

The current study is based on descriptive statistics. The primary data was collected using the semi structured interview. The sample size was 120 children involved in various forms of labor. A simple random sampling technique was applied to gather the primary data and the researcher tried to contact children in various categories of labor. Using the pertinent research questions and demographic variables of children the various determinants of child labor were investigated in D.I.Khan city. The data collected was presented in different tables. The interpretation guided towards indications of the results which were discussed and concluded. In the end certain feasible suggestions were propounded.

RESULTS

120 respondents were contacted in the city of D.I.Khan from the areas inside and around the circular road. The types of work are given in table 1.

Table 2: The age groups of sampling population in Various Forms of Child Labor

<i>Age groups of Laboring Child</i>	<i>Frequencies</i>	<i>Percentages</i>
8-10 Years	13	10.8

10-12	19	15.8
12-14	37	30.8
14-16	31	25.8
16-18	20	16.8
Total	120	100.0

The results in table no 2 indicate that the majority of sampling population (30.8%) comprised the children in the age group from 12 to 14 years, and (10.8%) was the smallest group constituting from 10 to 12 years . The 14-16 years age group was representing 25.8%, and the 16-18 years age group constituted 16.8%.

Table 3: The Income/Daily Wages of sampling population in Various Forms of Child Labor

<i>Daily Wages</i>	<i>Frequencies</i>	<i>Percentages</i>
20-40 Rs per day	4	3.3
40-60	16	13.3
60-80	68	56.7
80-100	24	20.0
Above Rs 100 per day	8	6.7
Total	120	100.0

Results presented in table no 3 show that the majority (56.7%) of the child laborers in current study received their daily wages ranging between Rs. 60-80 which is less than USD 1 at the prevailing exchange rates. Only 6.7% of the respondents received a daily payment above Rs. 100 while 20.0% received wages from 80-100 Rs. 3.3% were working for 20-40 Rs. per day and 13.3% were earning from Rs. 40-60% of wages.

Table 4: The Education levels of sampling population in Various Forms of Child Labor

<i>Education Level</i>	<i>Frequencies</i>	<i>Percentages</i>
Illiterate	88	73.3
Primary Level	22	18.3
Middle Level	10	8.3
Secondary Level	0	0.0
Total	120	100.0

Results presented in table no 4 indicate that the majority of child laborers (73.3%) were illiterate and never went to school, 18.3% mentioned to pass their primary level education, 8.3% had passed the middle level while none of the sampling population got the opportunity to complete the secondary level of education.

It is concluded on the basis of table 4 results that all the children surveyed for this research study could not complete their matriculation when they started their contribution as the child laborer.

Table 5: Age of Laboring Child * Form of Labor Cross tabulation

Count	Age of Laboring Child	Form Of Labor					Total	
		Conductor s/Cleaners	Welders	Factory workers	Construction workers	Domestic servants		Hotel/Canteen workers
	8-10 Years	3	0	0	3	5	2	13
	10-12	4	0	0	5	5	5	19
	12-14	10	8	6	10	1	2	37
	14-16	7	9	6	1	0	8	31
	16-18	2	9	6	0	1	2	20
Total		26	26	18	19	12	19	120

Results presented in table no 5 show the association between the child's age group with the form of labor performed by the child.

There was a comparatively low ratio of the first two age groups i.e. those between the ages of 8-10 and between the ages of 10-12 were involved irrespective of the tough nature of work in such a tender age. The age group of 12-14 years represented the maximum number of child labor involved in all six forms of child labor included in this study. The age group of 14-16 was second in rank as far as the total strength was concerned. 26 out of 120 were the van conductors, 26 out of 120 worked as welders and 18 out of 120 were engaged in some kind of factory work. 19 out of 120 were engaged in construction work while exactly the same number of children was working in hotels and canteen shops. 12 out of 120 were working as domestic servants it is the area of work which is proved to be the most sensitive in the light of reported and unreported cases of sexual abuse of female child servants.

Table 6: Age of Laboring Child * Daily working hours Cross tabulation

Count	Age of Laboring Child	Daily working hours					Total
		6-8 Hours daily	8-10	10-12	12-14	More than 14 hours	
	8-10 Years	3	7	2	1	0	13
	10-12	4	9	2	1	3	19
	12-14	9	14	4	5	5	37
	14-16	7	13	3	3	5	31

	16-18	6	6	3	4	1	20
Total		29	49	14	14	14	120

The survey found that the majority 49 out of 120 children were working for 8-10 hours daily. 29 out of 120 worked for 6-8 hours while 14 out of 120 worked for 10-12 and 12-14 hours daily. 14 out of 120 worked for more than 14 hours a day which was the longest duration of work in current study. All the children worked in prime time from morning to evening and thus deprived from any kind of schooling or other recreational activity. Going back to home they were too tired to spare some time for playing or some kind of activities which the other children of their age group enjoy to do. Their life is stuck in a rut for work, work and earn for the family. This obviously has a far reaching negative implication for the child's physical and psychological growth and well being.

Table 7: Form of Labor * Health Problems Cross tabulation

Count		Health Problems					Total
		Physically weak and underweight	Cough and fever	Breathing problems	Bones deformation	Weak eyesight	
Form Of Labor	Conductors/Cleaners	9	4	5	6	2	26
	Welders	8	4	3	8	3	26
	Factory workers	6	1	3	7	1	18
	Construction workers	5	2	3	8	1	19
	Domestic servants	5	1	3	2	1	12
	Hotel/Canteen workers	5	7	2	5	0	19
Total		38	19	19	36	8	120

Results presented in table no 7 show the distribution of sampling population based on their health problems, which included the diseases like being Physically weak and underweight, suffering from cough and fever, having breathing problems, Bones deformation and having a weak eyesight.

DISCUSSION

The current study provided a detailed overview about the various aspects of child labor in Dera Ismail Khan City. It covered a limited sampling population but covered the various aspects of child labor. The discussion here focused primarily on the health issues and the economic issues.

Physical Well Being

The child labor affects adversely their physical health. The children come from economically poor families where hunger, disease and squalor are the common features. Such children are undernourished and therefore can not grow up with a strong body and mind. Throughout their

life they have to survive with a weak health which makes them vulnerable to certain major illnesses like tuberculosis, liver problems and physical pains. Khair (2005) concluded in their research study that the health deterioration mostly depended on the nature and type of job, the duration of working hours and the work environment.

The study indicates that 30% of children were having age group of 12-14 and 25% from 14-16 while 40% of the children had to work for 8-10 hours daily. This may hamper their physical well being immediately in the short period and permanently over the long period in their future life.

When the nature of job is tough, the child age is tender and the work duration is long the outcome will be any kind of physical ailment. Additionally in the absence of affordable and available medical facilities the child health may get worsened.

Economic Well Being

Child laborers are mostly the low paid workers. Their earning is really meager keeping in view their age, the tough nature of their work, the work duration as well as the work environment.

The study indicates that 57.6% of the laboring children get only 60-80 Rs daily. Mostly this meager amount is shared for the family needs and is not spent on the child's personal development and care. Such a bad luck and tragic life never ends it becomes exactly like the vicious circle of poverty. The child labor transfers to the next generation and continues.

The employers preferably engage children in welding, brick making and construction because they are innocent and unaware of their rights. They don't protest when subject to exploitation. Employers on the other hand follow their own interests. In the absence of any expressly written contract they are quite free in making all kinds of arbitrary decisions. Regarding the terms and conditions of work, the working hours/duration, the amount and mode of payment, the termination of work/service etc is totally at the disposal of the employer.

In the absence of proper education and training their economic status remains weak and poor and they are unable to generate a reasonable amount of income

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

D.I.Khan is an ancient city situated in the northern districts of K.P.K. The income distribution like any other part of Pakistan is not equitable and there is an acute poverty in the midst of plenty. The families below the poverty line have mostly a large size and are unable to provide their children the basic necessities of life. Their children start work at an early stage and remain deprived of getting education. They are engaged in menial, unskilled and tough jobs in factories, automobile jobs, van conductors, construction and heavy load pulling jobs. Their job contracts are not express and written therefore subject to exploitation of all types. The female children working as domestic servants are subject to physical and sexual abuse but only few such cases are reported. Working facilities including the medical facilities are nominal and the hygiene at the workplace is poor. Children clad in greasy, dirty and inefficient clothing have to work in severe cold and extreme hot weathers. Such a tough and inhuman labor hampers both the physical and psychological well being of the laboring children. It is a matter of great concern and has been realized at the global level.

Each and every child has an inherent right of proper care, education and the basic necessities to enable him to grow up normally to spend a healthy, productive adult life.

It is required to adopt effective measures and implement feasible and practicable programs to eradicate the problem of child labor at its root cause level.

1. Creating a greater and greater awareness about the harmful long run impacts of child labor to the parents and the children
2. Taking measures to ensure a hundred percent enrollment and attendance at school and taking a serious notice of early drop out before the completion of matriculation level education.
3. Making education free of cost and attracting the poor families by a package of additional financial support i.e., free books, uniform and lunch etc.
4. Making the education system more and more meaningful by introducing certain career supporting crafts like tailoring, metal work, pottery, computer basics etc. The education and training needs to be adjusted with the current market needs so that the poor children get suitable jobs after completion of their school education.
5. Creating awareness among the poor and uneducated families about the advantages of a minimum and affordable family size. Developing the brief family norms may also help the country's economy to be stable and more developed.
6. The employers of the laboring children may be contacted and informed that hiring children for worst kind of labor is illegal and in case they hire children it is obligatory to take proper care of their health, respect and self esteem.
7. The media shall highlight the cases of child abuse and exploitation and the administration also take a serious notice and action against the culprits involved in such cases.
8. Providing maximum health facilities especially in the rural areas. The mobile medical teams shall visit the workplaces for a proper medical check up.

A society which is cool and conducive for all the citizens and especially for the minor children is the ideal and healthy one and we all must strive for it.

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