

Research Article “CHILD LABOUR IN PAKISTAN”

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## Abstract

My research article is all about child labour in Pakistan. What is child labour. And what is the rate of child labour in Pakistan. Mainly children work in small age because their families have poor economic condition. Also there is no concept of education. As the child grows, their parents think that he should work for some money, so that they can live and eat. Also according to government research, there are average 8 persons in the homes of child who is working as labour. There is also no concept of improving standard of living. They usually live below the poverty line.

## Keywords

Child labour, literacy, education, low pay, poverty, standard of living.

## Description

### What is child labour?

“Child Labour” is generally speaking work for children that harms them or exploits them in some way (physically, mentally, morally or blocking access to education), United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund (UNICEF) defines “child” as anyone below the age of 18, and “child Labour” as some type of work performed by children below age 18. (UNICEF)

Some types of work make useful, positive contributions to a child's development. Work can help children learn about responsibility and develop particular skills that will benefit them and the rest of society. Often, work is a source of income that helps to sustain children and their families.

However, across the world, millions of children do extremely hazardous work in harmful conditions, putting their health, education, personal and social development, and even their lives at risk. These are some of the circumstances they face:

- Full time work at a very early age
- Dangerous workplaces
- Excessive working hours
- Subjection to psychological, verbal, physical and sexual abuse
- Obligated to work by circumstances or individuals

- Limited or no pay
- Work and life on the streets in bad conditions

Inability to escape from the poverty cycle -- no access to education

### Why do children work?

- Most children work because their families are poor and their labour is necessary for their survival. Discrimination on grounds including gender, race or religion also plays its part in why some children work.
- Children are often employed and exploited because, compared to adults, they are more vulnerable, cheaper to hire and are less likely to demand higher wages or better working conditions. Some employers falsely argue that children are particularly suited to certain types of work because of their small size and "nimble fingers".
- For many children, school is not an option. Education can be expensive and some parents feel that what their children will learn is irrelevant to the realities of their everyday lives and futures. In many cases, school is also physically inaccessible or lessons are not taught in the child's mother tongue, or both.
- As well as being a result of poverty, child labour also perpetuates poverty. Many working children do not have the opportunity to go to school and often grow up to be unskilled adults trapped in poorly paid jobs, and in turn will look to their own children to supplement the family's income.

In Pakistan children aged 5-14 are above 40 million. During the last year, the Federal Bureau of Statistics released the results of its survey funded by ILO's IPEC (International Program on the Elimination of Child Labour). The findings were that 3.8 million children age group of 5-14 years are working in Pakistan out of total 40 million children in this age group; fifty percent of these economically active children are in age group of 5 to 9 years. Even out of these 3.8 million economically active children, 2.7 million were claimed to be working in the agriculture sector. Two million and four hundred thousand (73%) of them were said to be boys.

According to survey findings, the major factors responsible for child labour were:

- Large population with high population growth rate;
- Almost three-fourths (70 per cent) of the total population living in rural areas, with subsistence agricultural activities;
- Low productivity and prevalence of poverty;
- Unpaid family helpers, especially in agricultural activities;
- Discriminating social attitude towards girls and women;
- Inadequate educational facilities.

Working children come from large families in the low-income bracket. The average household size of working children was found to be eight members, which is higher than the national average. A higher proportion of economically active girls falls under households with nine plus members. The survey indicates that the most cogent reasons given by parents/guardians for letting their child work are to assist in house enterprise (69 per cent), and to supplement the

household income (28 per cent). The former is pronounced in rural households, whereas the latter is more significant in urban families.

### Conclusion

- The children are working as a labour in school going age for the survival of there families and to full fill the basic necessities.
- People don't know the importance of education. That's why most of children remain illiterate.
- It is not just responsibility of government we are also responsible for that.

### Suggestion

- Awareness must be raised and parents should pay attention to the education of their children.
- Child Labour Laws should be strictly put into practice.
- Increased family incomes
- Education - that helps children learn skills that will help them earn a living
- Social services - that help children and families survive crises, such as disease, or loss of home and shelter

### References

Child labour survey report.