

SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITION OF CHILDREN LABOUR IN AUTO WORKSHOPS OF DISTRICT HYDERABAD

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Abstract

The study was carried out to investigate the child labour in auto workshops in Hyderabad District. The nature of the study was descriptive survey. The major objective of the study was to find out the number of child labour working Auto Workshops in Hyderabad District in the light of prevailing economic condition in the province of Sindh. The population of this study comprised of: (i) child workers working in Auto Workshops in Hyderabad District (ii) Employers of Auto workshop, (iii) Parents of child workers. Purposive sampling technique was used. The sample consisted of 150 child workers working in Auto Workshops in Hyderabad district, 25 Employers of Auto Workshops in Hyderabad and 25 Parents whose children working as child labourers in Auto Workshops. The instruments used for data collection were three questionnaires, each for child workers, Employers and Parents of child workers. The researcher visited all the sampled auto workshops for data collection from child workers, employers and met the parents of child workers for collection of data. The data were analyzed and interpreted by using percentage method.

Keywords: *Child labour, auto workshops, Hyderabad district, economic condition*

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INTRODUCTION

Child labour as “work situations where children are compelled to work on a regular basis to earn a living for themselves and their families, and as a result are disadvantaged educationally and socially; where children work in conditions that are exploitative and damaging to their health and to their physical and mental development; where children are separated from their families, often deprived to educational and training opportunities; where children are forced to lead prematurely adult lives.” This stricter definition throws caution to those child advocates who tend to equate all forms of child labour with exploitation, thereby hiding the real issues, through playing more on emotions rather than on reason. The types of child labour which are really exploitative should first be identified instead of lumping all forms of child labour and in the process, lose sight of the forms of child labour that should be fought. What is economically exploitative, however, is essentially a cultural decision depicted in the community’s daily practices. The State formalizes this decision through the formulation of national standards which become part of its laws.¹

Many children work under force-able conditions that apart from totally precluding schooling have harmful effects on their physical condition and mental health. The working conditions of child garbage pickers in the Philippines clearly increase the risk of disease and disability through exposure to lead and mercury, heavy lifting, and the presence of parasites. Children in agriculture are more likely to be adversely affected than adults by climatic exposure, heavy work, toxic chemicals, and accidents from sharpened tools and motorized equipment.²

The phenomenon of child labour is a result of the exploitation of socio-economic system in a society. It not only ignores the basic rights of proper development to millions of children in the world but also hinders the development process of many a developing countries. About half of the world’s child labour is engaged in South Asia in miserable conditions in the fields of agriculture, brick kilns, small industries, carpet weaving, domestic services and auto repairing workshops.

Child labour is a serious problem in the Hyderabad district. The auto workshops are among the most widely prevalent work areas for the child labourers. The phenomenon of child labour is a result of the exploitation of socio-economic system in a society. It not only ignores the basic rights of proper development to millions of children in the world but also hinders the development process of many a developing countries. About half of the world’s child labour is engaged in South Asia in miserable conditions in the fields of agriculture, brick kilns, small industries, carpet weaving, domestic services and auto repairing workshops.

¹ Jose, D. *Understanding Child Labour, Philippine Child Labour Laws and Legislation*. . 1998.

² Brayman, A. and Duncan, C. *Quantitative Data Analysis*. Rutledge, New York, 2001.

LABOUR IN THE LIGHT OF ISLAM

Islamic concept of labour has distinct status. It does not degrade people due to his profession. Allah says in the Holy Quran: "I created the Jinn and humankind only that they might worship me."³

The Holy Prophet (PBUH) was the pioneer who gave dignity of labour. The Islamic concept of Brotherhood eliminates all discrimination between human beings. "By the blessings of Allah, you have become brothers to one another." While the Holy Prophet declared that "one who carried a load of firewood on his back was better than the person who begged."

Honestly, truthfulness, responsibility and trustworthy in the labour work will be a great task and wish of Allah not alone. But it will be a honour and respect in society. "And for all there will be ranks from what they do, that he may pay them for their deeds! And they will not be wronged."⁴

CHILD LABOUR: GLOBAL TREND AND STATISTICS

It is estimated by the ILO that more than 250 million children, between the age of 5 and 14 years, working in developing countries are found in child labour.⁵ Most of these children are concentrated in Asia and Africa, which together account about 90 percent of total child labour in the world.⁶ Asia alone accounts for 61 percent of total child labour, as compared to 30 percent for Africa, seven percent for Latin America and one percent for USA, Canada, Europe and other nations.⁷ The main factors behind child labour are poverty and financial deprivation which compel the parents for sending their children to work under rigorous and hazardous conditions. Child labour is a serious global issue, through which mostly under developed and developing countries are directly or indirectly affected. According to ILO, in several Asian countries 1/10 man power consists of child labour. In India the number of children between the ages of 10 to 14 is more than 44 million, in Pakistan 8 to 10 million, in Bangladesh 8 to 12 million, in Brazil 7 million, whereas in Nigeria the number of 12 million.⁸

Domestic service is primarily undertaken by girls and is one of the occupations that can cause serious psychological and social adjustment problems. Such child workers typically live away from home and work long hours, often in almost total isolation from their family members and friends. In Colombia, domestic servants comprise the majority of all child workers labouring over 60 hours per week. It was reported that psychological stress, premature aging, depression and low self-esteem are common symptoms among young household helpers.⁹

³ Al-Quran, Surah Al-Dharyat:56

⁴ Al-Quran Surah-Ahqaaf: 19

⁵ Gay I.R and Peter, A. *Educational Research Competencies for Analysis and Application* Prentice Hall. New Jersey, 2000.

⁶ Marshall, G. *Dictionary of Sociology*. Oxford University Press, 1998.

⁷ Babbie, E. "The Practice of Social Research WADA Worth Publishing Co. " Inc. Belmont, California., 2001.

⁸ Gray, L.R. and Diehl, P.L. *Research Methods Business and Management*. New York, Max Well, Macmillan, Inc., 1992.

⁹ Fallon, P & Tzannatos, Z. "Child Labour Issues and Directions for the World Bank. American Writing Corporation." 1998.

At the extreme, traditional forms of child slavery such as bonded labour exist in South Asia and in East Africa. Instances of slavery have also been reported in many countries reported by World Bank, 2000.¹⁰ Slave labour is more common in agriculture, domestic help, carpet and textile industries, and quarrying and brick making.

CHILD LABOUR IN THE CONTEXT OF PAKISTAN

Until 1996, no authentic and reliable data was available on the situation of child labour in Pakistan. This absence of information has also been a cause, for long, of hindrance to society's recognition of the issue, not to mention the effective action against child labour in the country. The first 'National Child Labour Survey' was carried out in 1996 by the Federal Bureau of Statistics, Government of Pakistan with the technical assistance of ILO-IPEC. The survey shed some light on the nature and extent of this important issue for the first time. Thus, the reality of existing child labour could not be denied any more. Available ILO statistics (ILO, 2002) show that of the 127.3 million economically active children of 5 to 14 years of age in Asia and the Pacific, 3.3 million were in Pakistan. The working children represent above 8% of the total children's population in this age group. The gender distribution of child labour in Pakistan presents a picture, which is much in favour of the female child as compared to the situation in other countries, even though the same trend is observed internationally, in terms of gender aspects of child labour.

The female child workers are estimated to represent only about one-fourth of the total working children. However, this might be to some extent, due to a general trend of under-reporting of female child work and also because they are mostly bound to work at home (own farms, family business, etc.) which is often not considered child labour by the parents.

According to Gray and Diehl, 1992¹¹ two-thirds of the working children are in the agriculture sector in rural areas. Of the rest, manufacture, wholesale and social services around large urban and industrial centres employ significant number of child workers. Since most children work in the informal economy, it is even more difficult to control or reach out to help them.

Nachmias and Nachmias, 1996¹² reported that in addition to stealing their precious childhood, child labour in Pakistan (as the case is elsewhere), also means that these children are deprived of education and other positive learning and growth opportunities. According to the National Child Labour Survey, only about one-fourth of the total working children had a pre-matriculation education at the time the survey was conducted. The Survey indicated that working children were suffering from abuse of longer working hours: around 46% of the working children, especially in the urban areas, were putting in more than the normal 35 hours per week. The problem of work related illnesses/injuries was also prevalent (7%).

There are powerful economic suggestions for steps to reduce child labour. Premature and extensive engagement in work prevents children from accumulating

¹⁰ Bank, World. "Report "Teachers against Child Labour" A publication of Education International the Global Union Federation Brussels." Belgium., 2000.

¹¹ Gray, L.R. and Diehl, P.L. *Research Methods Business and Management*. New York, Max Well, Macmillan, Inc., 1992.

¹² Nachmias, C.F. and Nachmias, D. *Research Methods in Social Sciences*. London, Arnold., 1996.

human capital and having higher earnings in later life, while economic growth adversely affected by lower rates of productivity growth. In many instances, child work is the result of capital market failures: when households cannot afford education for their children and cannot borrow for this purpose, although the long term benefits would be high.

Not all child labour is harmful. Many working children are within stable and nurturing environment with their parents or under the protection of a guardian and can benefit in terms of socialization and from informal education and training. Between 50 to 70 percent of working children, depending on the country in question, are studying at the same time, although this may reduce their chances of completing primary education. There are, however, many children for whom work does unquestionable harm, the main culprits being long hours and physical and mental damage as reported in Provincial Census Report of Sindh, 1998.¹³

PROBLEMS FACED IN COMBATING CHILD LABOUR

According to Babbie, 2001.¹⁴ the causes of child labour are multiple and complex, so are the forms, varying from extremely discrete to subtle openness. The working children remain among the most vulnerable members of society due to multiple factors, including impoverishment, malnutrition, socio-economic disparities and lack of awareness and lacuna in the implementation of existing laws.

It is due to this reason that populations are going to be increased day by day in underdeveloped countries. Lack of funding and economic stabilities in the country are main hindering factors to divert their programmes towards the reduction of child labour due to which the most of the countries are suffered a lot. There seems to be one drastic solution to minimize the major social issues in these countries and that is through the controlling economic instabilities to reduce child labour.

Experience also demonstrates that progress is not guaranteed. There have been false starts and reversals, especially where the impact of natural disasters, conflict or economic shocks forces families back into traditional modes of coping. But these too provide important lessons that we ignore at our peril. In a divided world, subject to calamities of human and natural origin, progress often appears fragile at best. Such contemporary realities force a sense of proportion. Child labour is one aspect of world poverty ILO Report, 2006¹⁵

MEASURES TO REDUCE CHILD LABOUR

The government also constituted a task force in March 1998 on child labour, chaired by the Minister of Labour, Manpower and Overseas Pakistanis, to formulate policies and strategies for the elimination of child and bonded labour. This Task Force approved the National Policy and Plan of Action to combat child labour in the year 2000.

¹³ "Provincial Census Report of Sindh." Hyderabad Division at a Glance, 1998.

¹⁴ Babbie, E. *The Practice of Social Research* WADA Worth Publishing Co. Inc. Belmont, California., 2001.

¹⁵ Report, ILO. "The End of Child Labour: within reach. ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles Rights at Work 2006." Geneva, 2006.

According to Brayman and Duncan, 2001¹⁶ different ministries have formed committees to address the issue from their perspective and mainstreaming of child labour concerns in their policies and plan of actions. Prominent in this regard are the Ministry of Women Development, Social welfare and special education. Government officials, particularly the labour inspectors of the provincial directorates have received rigorous orientation and training for better and more effective child labour inspections. Others who got similar support include employers and workers representatives, community volunteers, teachers and NGO staff. The first National Survey of Child Labour was carried out in 1996 by the Federal Bureau of Statistics with the collaboration of the Ministry of Labour. Other researches include a number of modular surveys, rapid assessments and several sector-related localized surveys. The capacity of the Punjab Council for the Rights of Children and Child Labour Resource Center (DOLW) was strengthened through a two -year ILO-IPEC intervention. The support consisted of development of child labour training course and the production of training materials. The Center now has the capacity to train the Government officials, labour inspectors, NGOs and workers' organizations.

A future without child labour is at last within reach. Significant progress is being made worldwide in combating child labour. The new global estimates of trends reinforce this message of hope. However, a strong and sustained global movement is needed to provide the extra push towards eliminating the scourge of child labour. This is no time for complacency. The future belongs to those with a vision to shape it. The ILO and its partners stand for a world where no girl or boy is forced to work at the expense of their health and development and their future prospects of decent work. This Report charts the significant progress that has been made towards turning this vision into a reality.

Research Methodology

In this research, it has been emphasized to collect qualitative as well as quantitative data. The primary data was collected from district Hyderabad, Sindh whereas secondary data was gathered from newspapers, research journals and internet. The population of this study comprised of: (i) child workers working in Auto Workshops in Hyderabad District (ii) Employers of Auto workshop, (iii) Parents of child workers. Purposive sampling technique was used. The sample consisted of 150 child workers working in Auto Workshops in Hyderabad district, 25 Employers of Auto Workshops in Hyderabad and 25 Parents whose children working as child labourers in Auto Workshops. The instruments used for data collection were three questionnaires, each for child workers, Employers and Parents of child workers. The researcher visited all the sampled auto workshops for data collection from child workers, employers and met the parents of child workers for collection of data. The data were analyzed and interpreted by using percentage method.

¹⁶ Brayman, A. and Duncan, C. *Quantitative Data Analysis*. Rutledge, New York, 2001.

Data Analysis

Table 1
Age group of child workers

Age group (years)	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
< 11	17	11	11
11 to 12	45	30	41
13 to 14	67	45	86
15 to 16	21	14	100
Total	150	100%	

Table 1 shows that 45% of the child labours working in the factory/ auto workshops were in the age group of 13-14 years, 30% of the child labours were in the age group of 11-12 years, 14% of the child labours were related to the age group of 15-16 years and 11% of the child labours were belonging to the age group less than 11 years who were working in the auto workshop / factory to increase income of their families and supporting in reduction of poverty.

Table 2
Address and name of area of child workers

Place of work	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Bhitai Town	8	5.33	5.33
Chandia Goth	5	3.33	8.67
Citizen Colony	10	6.67	15.33
Fateh Chowk	12	8.00	23.33
Haider Chowk	7	4.67	28.00
Hala Naka	22	14.67	42.67
Hyderabad City	18	12.00	54.67
Latifabad No.8	15	10.00	64.67
Nasim Nagar	16	10.67	75.33
Qasim Chowk	7	4.67	80.00
Qasimabad	19	12.67	92.67
Tanodjam	11	7.33	100.00
Total	150	100%	

Table 2 shows that 14.67 % of the child workers were belonging to the area of Hala Naka, 12.67% from Qasimabad, 12.00% from Hyderabad city, 10.67% Nasim Nagar, 10% from Latifabad No.8, 8% from Fateh Chowk 7.33% from Tandojam of the sample area of Hyderabad. Majority of the child workers belong to these poor areas of the city and these child workers were working as child labourers in the auto workshop in different areas in the city.

Table 3
Where do you work?

Work place	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Shop	5	3	3
Employer's house	0	0	3
Street	0	0	3
Workshop	142	95	98
Repairing center	0	0	98
Farming	0	0	98
Construction	3	2	100
Others	0	0	
Total	150	100%	

Table 3 shows that majority of the child labourers (95%) were working in auto workshops, 3% of the child labourers were working at shop and only 2% of the child labourers were attached with construction work.

Table 4
Do you get any pocket money from your parents?

Pocket money from parents	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Yes	63	42	42
No	87	58	100
Total	150	100%	

Table 4 shows that 58% of the child labours did not get pocket money from their parents to go for their work in the auto workshop and daily routine expenses of their lives while 42% of the child workers got pocket money from their parents for their routine expenses.

Table 5
Who utilize your salary?

Utilize of salary	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
For siblings education	4	3	3
Household expenses	134	89	92
Self-education	12	8	100
Others	0	0	
Total	150	100%	

Table 5 shows that majority of the child workers (89%) utilized their salary for household expenses by their parents and family members 8% of the child workers utilized their salary for self-education and 3% of the child labours utilized their salary for sibling's education.

Table 6
Parents' educational level

Educational level	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Illiterate	11	44	44
Read and write	5	20	64
Primary	5	20	84
Secondary /middle	1	4	88
Matric	3	12	100
Others	0	0	
Total	25	100%	

Table 6 shows that 44% of the respondents were illiterate people, 20% of the respondents had ability of read and write, 20% of the respondents had primary level education, 12% of the respondents had matric level education while 4% of the respondents had secondary/middle level education.

Table 7
Main causes of child labour

Causes of child labour	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Large family	2	8	8
Lack of school/ education	3	12	20
Labour shortage	0	0	20
Poverty	12	48	68
Parents unemployment	5	20	88
Failure of education	3	12	100
Others	0	0	
Total	25	100%	

Table 7 shows that 48% of the respondents declared poverty as main causes of child labours, 20% of the respondents considered parents unemployment as main cause of child labour, 12% of the respondents considered failure of education and lack of school/education as the main cause of child labour while 8% of the respondents considered large family as the main cause of child labour in the society.

Table 8
Type of activity of employers

Type of activity	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Manufacturing	0	0	0
Assembly	0	0	0
Repairing	17	68	68
Trading	2	8	76
Servicing	6	24	100
Others	0	0	
Total	25	100%	

Table 8 shows that majority of the respondents (68%) are engaged in the business of repairing of vehicles in auto workshop while 24% of the respondents provide servicing of the vehicle and only 8% of the respondents involved in the business of trading of parts of vehicles. In the business of repair/spares of vehicles parts are used in the vehicles therefore, more income can be generated from this business and labours for repair of vehicles are available on cheaper rates in the market.

Table 9
Employer's educational qualification

Educational level	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Illiterate	5	20	20
Read & write	4	16	36
Primary	7	28	64
Secondary/middle	5	20	84
Matric	4	16	100
Other (e.g. technical)	0	0	
Total	25	100%	

Table 9 shows that majority of the respondents (28%) had primary education while 20% had secondary/middle level education while 20% had no education but they were running their business by hiring labourers and they had not enough educational qualification. Most of the respondents had no educational qualification in this field and they are running their business successfully. Only 16% of the respondents had matric level of education.

Table 10
Nature of employment of workers under 18 years of age

Nature of employment	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Paid employee	19	76	76
Unpaid employee	0	0	76
Apprentice	6	24	100
Others	0	0	
Total	25	100%	

Table 10 shows that majority of the respondents (76%) had hired paid employees (child worker) to work at their auto workshop under the age of 18 years while 24% of the respondents had hired child workers under the age of 18 years for apprenticeship or training. In the area most of the people were poor and their life style is very low therefore, they wanted to send their children for work under the age of 18 years to get some income and support their house and they did not have more income to fulfill the domestic expenses.

Table 11
The mode of payment to apprentice

Mode of payment	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Cash	22	88	88
Kind	3	12	100
Both	0	0	
Other	0	0	
Total	25	100%	

Table 11 shows that maximum 88% of the child workers were paid in the shape of cash payment who were working in auto workshops while 12% were paid their wages in other different forms.

Conclusions

- It was found from the study that majority of the child labours were poor and they were working as child labour work in auto workshops to increase the income of their families.
- It was concluded on the basis of results of the study that majority of the child labourers were illiterate and they had no more income to continue their education in the school and due to unemployment child workers were compelled to work on daily wages in Auto workshops/factory.
- It was indicated that majority of the child workers were helped by their parents to seek their job in any workshop and parents decided the kind of their job and child workers were not allowed to decide about their job.
- Data showed that education plays a key role in eradication of child labours in auto workshops and results showed that majority of the labourers were illiterate and primary pass and parents of the child workers were illiterate and poor in families.
- It was found that majority of the employers of auto workshops wanted to create awareness about employment child workers to eliminate illegal child labours and should not allow employment to child to eliminate the illegal child labours from country.

Recommendations

- Government should launch poverty alleviation programme, because poor economic condition can be diagnosed as the major reason of child labour. For this purpose it is necessary to identify the cultural factors of poverty.
- Labour counsellor should be trained by the district government, so that they can protect the right of labourers who are working in different factories and industries/auto workshops.
- Government should provide opportunities to get education upto metric level free of cost and government should open schools in every area of the country.
- There exists no organization in the locality which is working for the elimination of child labour so the NGOs which are working on child labour should pay due attention in the present area.