

Preparing Strategies to Eradicate Child Labour from District Bahawalpur

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Abstract

The district Bahawalpur is counted as one of the most backward and underdeveloped area of south region of Punjab where a great majority of the population is convicted of ignorance & illiteracy, lack of information and awareness about life skills.. The 75 % local people are attached with agriculture & other petty socio-economic sectors to earn their bread & butter .They are mostly from poverty stricken communities and under control of Landlords as well as rulling class of Abbasids.Resultantly, they have submissive attitude, behavior and practice and send their young generation in to various forms of child labor.

Keeping in view the gravity of the Situational Analysis, The Researcher has selected that burning issue aiming to probe deeply in to the matter and seek various aspects & dimensions related with concrete & sustainable solution that could be helpful & instrumental for the Government, Labor department Policy Makers, and other UN Agencies working on providing Service Delivery to that core vulnerable group of Children and their Families. No Doubt, Child Labor is a black spot on the face of Civil Society; Let us feel our social & moral duty while jointly trying to erase it.

Keywords; Child Labor, Illiteracy, Awareness, UNICEF, ILO.

1.1 INTRODUCTION:

International Conventions adopted by the United Nations and the International labour organization (ILO)1996 define "Child" below the age of eighteen years and "Child Labour" as some type of work performed by the children. The issue of Child Labour has been at the top of the International Agenda on Human Right in the last few years. Human Rights and Child Rights Organizations have especially highlighted the problem of exploitation of Child Labour in both developed and under developed countries of the world for the production of cheap goods. This has led to growing International demand to prevent, and eliminate Child Labour in all its forms, especially in the hazardous industries, throughout human history. The children participated in economic activities necessary for the survival of their families. This is true for the Pakistan Day. Federal Bureau of Statistics conducted a national survey to estimate the child labor in Pakistan at the request of the ILO under its "Programme for the Elimination of Child Labour" (IPEC) in 1996. According to the Survey Report there are about 3.3 (million) Child Labour between the age of 5 to 14 years engaged in different trades. The biggest employers of children in country are agriculturist, Brick Kiln, small industries, carpet weaving, domestic services and urban informal sectors -A sizeable number in self employed doing manual Jobs like vending, scavenging etc. Children do small demands at home and outside. But there is a clear different between such works and Child Labour. Work by children is essential for training and discipline but if it interferes with Child's growth and development or possess threat to health and safety or deprives the child of rest and recreation, than it is certainly "Child Labour" which cannot be justified on any pretext Child Labor is not a phenomenon which is restricted to the third world only. It is prevalent both in the developed as well the developing countries.

1.2 OBJECTIVES:

1. To identify the extent and nature of the child labour in District Bahawalpur.
2. To identify the various causes of Child Labour in District Bahawalpur.

1.3 DELIMITATIONS OF STUDY

This study was delimited to;

1. Laboring Boys and Girls of Rural and Urban areas of Bahawalpur district.
2. This study was delimited only for 7th to 18th years.
3. All parents and guardian of working children of District Bahawalpur.

1.5 TYPES OF CHILD LABOR:

1.5.1 Visible Versus Invisible Child Labour:

Awan and Khan in his book labour (1992) say, Child's work in agriculture, petty commodity trade, informal sector and other services is the most worst form of child labor. It generally attracts and attention as well as the sympathy of the researcher and intelligentsia. "family help" is considered to be the social and cultural norm of every society. The working of the children home based carpet industry, should really be point of concern of policy makers and key actors/ stakeholders.

1.5.2 Paid Versus Unpaid:

Paid child labour is concerned to the selling of labour power. In most of the cases, children cannot exercise their authority over their labour power. Their parents and guardians sell that power and in return receive the wages. Nature of the work done by the help of their parents is the worst form of exploitation formu. Tarp "Shagird" and "Ustad" relationship under the non-formal education systems are usually exploitive and Shagard has to work for so many years.

2 Literature review;

2.1. CHILD LABOR IN DOMESTIC SERVICE:

Child labors in the form of casual jobs like working at homes is common .Their duties include cleansing, cooking and other household duties. Domestic labor is mainly come by girls. These children do not go to schools according to Rapid Assessment (RA) on child labor .

By SPARC 2004 in Pakistan gives us details about child labor in domestic services. A 62 percent were girls but in Baluchistan and KPK the proportion of child labor in gender ratio of girls is comparatively less than that of boys.

2.2 FORMS OF CHILD LABOR: [National child labor survey, 1996]

National Labor Child Labor Survey 1996

Age Groups / Provinces	All Areas			Rural			Urban		
	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls
Pakistan	3,313,420	2,431,992	881,428	2,945,675	2,110,358	835,317	367,745	321,634	46,111
5-9	573,084	333,656	239,428	536,145	302,694	233,451	36,939	30,962	5,977
10-14	2,740,336	2,098,336	642,000	2,409,530	1,807,664	601,866	330,806	290,672	40,134
Punjab	1,943,305	1,414,787	528,518	1,704,577	1,212,330	492,247	238,728	202,457	36,271
5-9	217,817	147,836	69,981	192,973	127,710	65,263	24,844	20,126	4,718
10-14	1,725,488	1,266,951	458,537	1,511,604	1,084,620	426,984	213,884	182,331	31,553
Sindh	298,303	273,350	24,953	208,783	190,798	17,985	89,520	7,258	6,968
5-9	30,099	27,938	2,161	21,995	20,680	1,315	8,104	75,294	846
10-14	268,204	245,412	22,792	186,788	170,118	16,670	81,416	34,264	6,122
NWFP	1,058,089	730,471	327,618	1,021,147	696,207	324,940	36,942	3,413	2,678
5-9	323,201	155,915	167,286	319,375	152,502	166,873	3,826	30,851	413
10-14	734,888	574,556	160,332	701,772	543,705	158,067	33,116	2,361	2,265
Baluchistan	13,723	13,384	339	11,168	11,023	145	2,555	165	194
5-9	1,967	1,967		1,802	1,802		165	2,196	-
10-14	11,756	11,417	339	9,366	9,221	145	2,390		194

2.3 Child Trafficking

US Dept. of State, Trafficking in Persons Report, July 12, 2001 mention in the report that Pakistan is a source, transit, and destination country for an increasing number of trafficked persons.

Pakistan is such a country from where the human resource in the form of younger boys can be easily kidnapped and further they may be used for Camel Jockeys particularly in Gulf States, Trafficking in Persons Report, July 12, 2001. US Dept of State, Country Reports on Human Rights Practices - 1999, 25 February 2000 reported very dangerous point There is extensive trafficking of children from Bangladesh, primarily to India, Pakistan, and destinations within the country are also largely for the purposes of forced prostitution.

2.1 A. ILO MINIMUM AGE CONVENTION, 1973 (NO. 138):

Pakistan has ratified the ILO minimum age convention in 2006. Now after ratification of convention, Government of Pakistan has to make policies and strategies to eradicate the child labor in country. It must be made clean to all establish that employment or worth can't be taken from children who don't exceed the minimum age criteria. They need to force low basic education before entering the work environment. This is a good decision taken by the Government of Pakistan. But a shocking statement made by the spokesman of the Ministry of Finance that the Government subsidy for exports. Have no choice but to confirm the ILO Minimum Age Convention.

2.1A.2. ILO FORCED LABOR CONVENTION NO. 29:

According to this convention, any form of forced labor will be prohibited. Measures will be made to eliminate forced labor as soon as possible. This convention exempted five forms of works from forced labor as:

- 1 These are certain civic obligations which cannot be considered as forced labor.
- 2 The labor, which is done in prison convicted by court, is not considered as a forced labor.
- 3 Work which is needed during emergencies like earthquake, fires, war is exempted from forced labor.
- 4 Youth schemes are not considered to be as forced labor.

2.1 A.3 Task force on child labor 1998:

On 1998 Govt. of Pakistan made a task force on child labor. The formulation of above task force is to prepare policies and strategies to eradicate child labor.

2.1A.3 Legal Issues:

Since child labor is constantly on annoying situation in Pakistan. But, Pakistan has adopted a number of legal measures to eradicate child labor. Constitution of Pakistan says in details about child labor.

Article (1):

Constitution of Pakistan does not allow any form of slavery in Pakistan.

Article (2):

Constitution of Pakistan prohibits all forms of forced labor.

Article (3):

Constitution of Pakistan says about the minimum age permissible for child work. No child can be employed in any factory or other hazardous occupations below the age of 14 years.

Pakistan has ratified various conventions since its came into being. The details of ratification of conventions by ILO and implementation of these laws are given below.

2.1A.4 Road Transport Workers Ordinance 1961:

Road transport workers ordinance implies the conditions about working of children as road transport workers. The above ordinance was passed by Govt. of Pakistan in 1951. The minimum age fixed for employment of drivers is 21 years.

UN Convention on Rights of Child (CRC):1990The convention on rights of children (CRC) made laws about child rights.

These laws implement the necessary changes in local laws of a country concerning child's rights. These protective measures made by CRC as:

- i Children should be saved from abuse.
- ii Children should be protected from torture.
- iii Children should be saved from being exploited.

2.1A.5 Employment of Children Act (ECA) 1991:

Employment of children act (ECA) was passed in 1991 by Govt. of Pakistan. It regulated the conditions of child work. Child work can never be exceeded for long hours. Section 3 of ECA determines the minimum age of child laborers which is 14 years. Part II of ECA declares that child labor can't be employed in different wrist forms of occupations. Section 3 of ECA also authorized the Govt. to prescribe the rules concerning maximum hours of work.

National committee was on rights of child established under the ECA (1991). The committee started the work and its first advice was to add certain occupations as Hazardous for child labor.

2.3 A.;LABOR POLICY 2002:

As we know Govt. of Pakistan has declared the minimum age for child labor as 14 years as in ECA (1991). But after ratifying ILO convention No 182 regarding worst forms of occupations in 2001, now it's the

duty of Govt of Pakistan to there are the minimum age limit for child labor in worst form of occupation to 18 year. This fait is also confirmed by national policy and notional plan of action (NPA) and also included in labor policy 2002.

2.3A.;1 ;THE NATIONAL POLICY AND PLAN OF ACTION 2000 ON CHILD LABOR:

The national policy and plan of action 2000 was prepared by Govt. of Pakistan to eliminate child labor. Its tasks were to eliminate worst forms of child labor children were used to withdraw form labor and provided with basic education. The national plan of action had to ensure that work places remained child labor free and children must be provided by Govt. of Pakistan basis primary education.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY;

Common research method can request a systematic and scientific approach to achieve some results to solve the problem. Researchers chose to study for descriptive research topics related to present circumstances. Descriptive study is related to the description, recording, analysis and interpretation of the conditions that now exist.

Research is a basic requirement and can not be avoided to plan and planning is the only key to development. So research on "Preparing a Strategy to Eradicate Child Labor from Bahwalpur District" will give us insight into the problem and parents and children about child labor strategy can be posted out to eliminate these problems because a child is cornerstone of our country's development and progress .

In summary this study aims to provide information about their strategy with the need to be adopted to reduce the forms of child labor if not removed within a reasonable time.

Among various techniques of descriptive research researcher choose survey method for this research.

Research may commonly call a systematic and scientific approach to reach some finding to solve concerned problem. Researcher has chosen descriptive research for study because topic is related to present situation. Because descriptive research concerns itself with the present phenomena in terms of conditions, practices, beliefs, process, relationships or trends.

3.1 DATA COLLECTION

This study was descriptive in nature therefore survey method of data collection was considered appropriate. As this study was descriptive, there for Questioner was considered appropriate research tool.

3.2 DIFFICULTIES FACE BY THE RESEARCHER

The problem faced by the researcher during data collection was as under:

The researchers faced the problems of transportation in reaching the labour places and traveled on vans, Local buses, Riksha and Tonga's to approach the respondents which took long time.

- Difficulties in tracing the responding because without non availability of their appropriate addresses.
- Respondents were available at for of places in scattered form.
- Difficulties of face mistrust female responding.
- The researcher faced the problem due to the respondents because the respondents many times refused to be interviewed owing to their engagement with their labour work and some of personal fear.

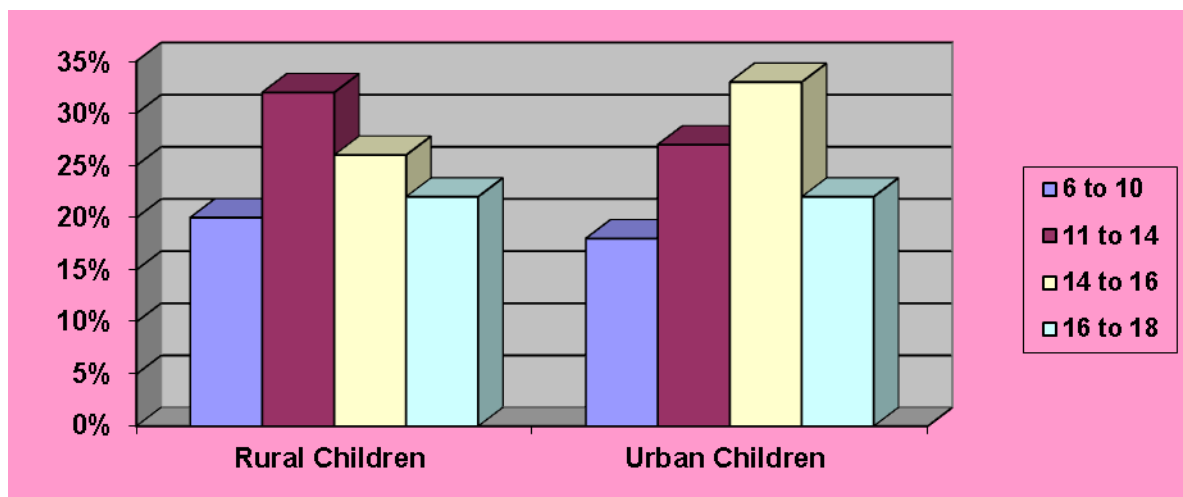
REESULTS AAND DISSCUSSION;

A-Analysis of Questionnaire/ Interview for Children

• **Table No 4.1.1 Age of Working Children**

Q.1- What is your age?		6.-10	11-14	14-16	16-18
Rural parents	Frequency	40	68	52	40
	^				
	P	0.20	0.32	0.26	0.22
	Percentage	20%	32%	26%	22%
Urban parents	Frequency	26	55	70	49
	^				
	P	0.18	0.27	0.33	0.22
	Percentage	18%	27%	33%	22%

• **Figure no. 4.1.1**

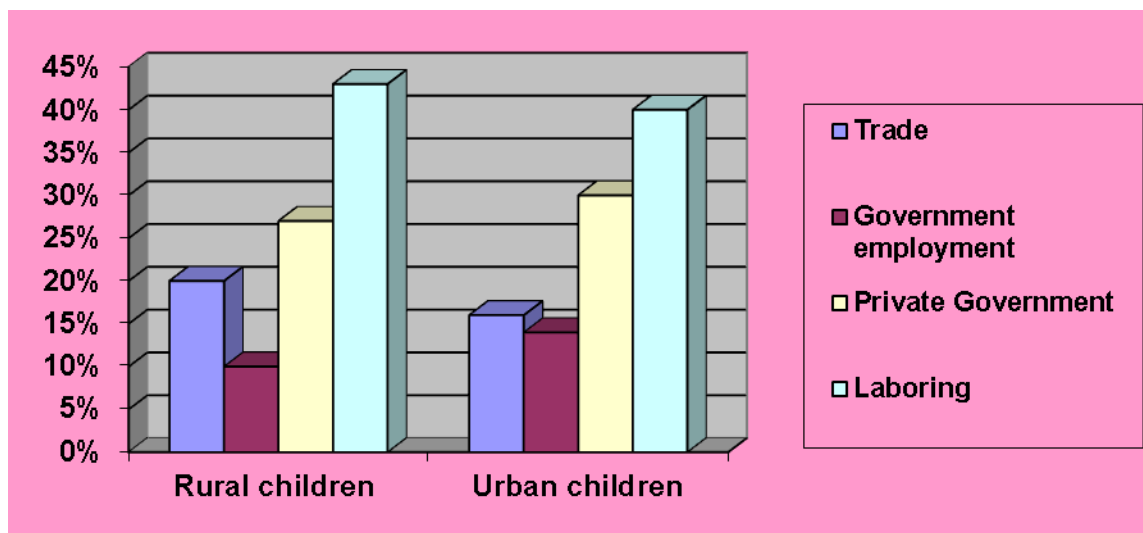


- Table 4.1.1 indicates that the age ratio of working children. It found that the ratio was 0.20 in 6-10 year old children in rural areas & 0.18 in urban areas, 0.32 in age of 11-14 in rural areas & 0.27 in urban areas, 0.26 in age of 14-16 in rural areas while 0.33 in urban areas as far as the proportion is concerned.
- While in percentage it is 20% in 6-10 year old children in rural areas while 18% in urban areas, 32% in age of 11-14 year in rural areas, while 27% in urban areas, 26% in age of 14-16 in rural areas while 33% in urban areas and 22% in age of 16-18 in rural areas while 22% in urban areas.

• **Table No 4.1.2 Occupation of father**

Q.2- What is the occupation					
Responses		Trade	Government employment	Private employment	Laboring
Rural parents	Frequency	20	22	56	102
	^				
	P	0.10	0.10	0.27	0.53
	Percentage	10%	10%	27%	53%
Urban parents	Frequency	28	22	70	80
	^				
	P	0.16	0.14	0.30	0.40
	Percentage	16%	14%	30%	40%

• **Figure no. 4.1.2**

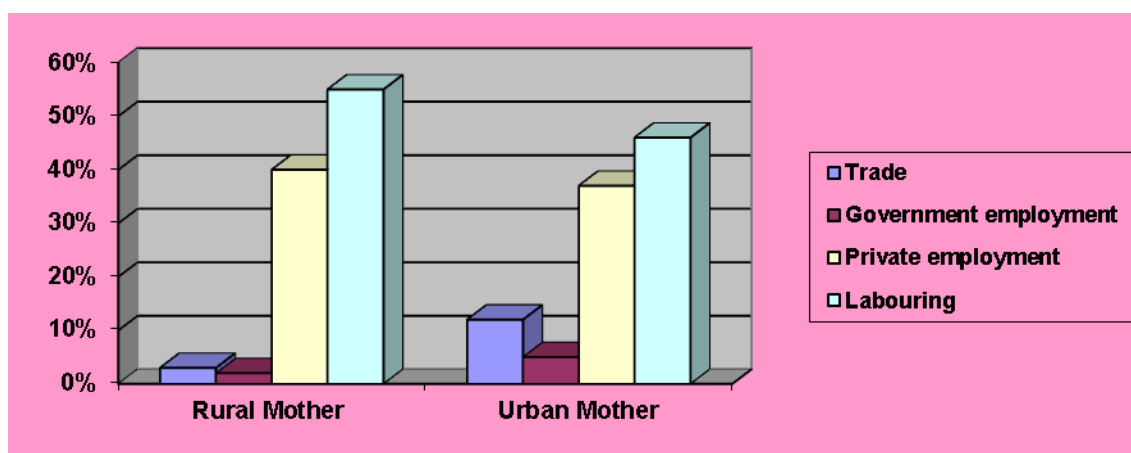


- Table 4.1.2 shows the ratio of the father, jobs. It was found that the ratio is 0:10 depending on the trade in rural & urban 0:16, 0:10 rely on government jobs in rural areas, private job 0:27 rural & urban 0:30 and 0:53 accompanied by a job working in the area rural and urban areas as 0:40 in the relevant section.
- While in percentage it was 10% of depended on trade in rural areas & 14% in urban areas, 27% private employment in rural areas & 30% in urban areas and 53% of attached with labouring occupation in rural areas while 40% in urban areas

Table No. 4.1.3 Occupation of Mother

Q.3- What is the occupation of your Mother					
Responses		Trade	Government employment	Private employment	Laboring
Rural parents	Frequency	10	8	80	102
	^				
	P	0.3	0.2	0.40	0.55
	Percentage	3%	2%	40%	55%
Urban parents	Frequency	25	15	70	90
	^				
	P	0.12	0.5	0.37	0.46
	Percentage	12%	5%	37%	46%

• **Figure no 4.1.3**



- Table 4.1.3 indicates the ratio of mother's occupation. It was found that the ratio was 0.3 of depended on trade in rural areas & 0.12 in urban areas, 0.2 of depended on Government employment in rural areas & 0.5 in urban areas and 0.40 of private employment in rural areas & 0.37 in urban areas.

5.2 FINDINGS

5.2.1 Findings of children's Data

The age ratio of working children was 20% in 6-10 years old children in rural areas while 18% in urban areas, 32% in age of 11-14 year in rural areas, while 27% in urban areas, 26% in age of 14-16 in rural areas while 33% in urban areas and 22% in age of 16-18 in rural areas while 22% in urban areas, The ratio of children per family was 12% in rural areas, while it was 9% in urban areas. In rural areas, the ratio of boys, per family, was 5% and of girls was 7%. While, in urban areas it was 4% boys and 5% girls.

The Literacy rate of working children's parents. 72% parents illiterate in rural areas while it was 66% in urban areas, primary pass parents were 14% in rural areas while 20% in urban areas. Middle pass parents were 9% in rural areas, while 8% in urban areas and the ratio of metric pass parents was 6% in rural areas, while 6% in urban areas. The children's duration of work. 10% children in rural areas were doing work since last 6 months, while 13% in urban areas, 16% of 1-2 years were working in rural areas, while 20% in urban areas. 22% of 4-5 years were working in rural areas while 18% in urban areas. 27% were working 5-6 years in rural areas while 25% in urban areas. 17% 7-8 years in were working rural areas while 17% in urban areas. The distance between home

and work place. 21% children were doing work less than 1 kilometer far to their homes in rural areas, while 9% in urban areas. 25% distance was 1-2 kilometer in rural areas, while it was 26% in urban areas, 55% ratio of children 3-5 kilometer in rural areas while it was 65% in urban areas. Reason laboring, 32% of children working as child poverty in rural areas, and 36% in urban areas. 10% work to earn pocket money in rural areas and 11% in urban areas. 25% of working families to bear the expense of rural areas, and 27% in urban areas. 20% are children whose parents use drugs work in rural areas, 15% in urban areas. 16% of children who are working to improve their financial situation in rural areas, while 12% work in urban areas.

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