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Socio-Economic Causes of Child Labor in Domestic Work: A Study of Sukkur City

Muhammad Abdullah Avais^{a*}, Rafique Ahmed Chandio^b, Najma Shaikh^c,
Albeena Mirza^d

^aPhD Scholar, University of Sindh, Jamshoro. Pakistan

^{b,c,d} Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, University of Sindh, Jamshoro. Pakistan

Abstract

The study was conducted in Sukkur city. The data for ongoing study was collected through convenience sampling method. It is an exploratory research with quantitative analysis. Samples were consisted on 150 female child domestic workers. The age of respondents is between 10 – 14 years. 45 % respondents are Sindhi, 39 % Urdu, 9 % Saraiki, 5 % Balouchi and 2 % are Punjabi speaking. Per month family income of 56 % respondents is Pak Rs. 9,000 to 12,000. Fathers of 83 % respondents while mothers of 89 % respondents are illiterate. 53 % female child domestic workers were never enrolled. 33 % respondents have 09 family members. 56 % respondents live in rented homes and 53 % respondents get honorarium of Pk Rs. 11, 00 – 15, 00 per month and they work 08 hours daily.

Keywords: Socio-Economic; Child Labor; Child Domestic Work; Sukkur City

1. Introduction

Domestic work is the most common and traditional form of work of children especially women or girls. This work is carried out in homes, therefore it is hidden from government control as well as public supervisions.

* Corresponding author.

E-mail address: Abdullahawais77@yahoo.com.

Its hiddenness make it vulnerable and domestic workers have higher chance of socio-psychological and physical abuse due to long working hours. Unfortunately accurate number of domestic workers are unknown because government as well as community don't take it as a serious problem. Work of a child in home of third party either for remuneration or without remuneration is called child domestic work [1]. Child labor is a social problem of underdeveloped countries. Poor economic conditions, political un-stability, over population, Low wages are the factors that push children in labor. Mostly under age working children belong to illiterate families. Parents send their children to work without knowing bad social, psychological and emotional effect on their children. Usually parents try to increase their income with support of remuneration of their working children. Any activity that disturbs schooling of children or harmful for child's socio-psychological, physical development is called child labor [2].

According to International Labor Organization (ILO), commercial domestic work is hazardous work for children as well as Child labor in domestic work is prohibited by government of Pakistan [3]. According to children Act 1991 of Government of Pakistan, employment of under age children (05 to 14 years) is strictly banned and accused will be punished by imprisonment or fine [4]. Supply and demand rule is applicable on child domestic work. Due to uncontrolled profession by government, domestic workers get low wages. The hidden pushing factor of child labor is unemployment of their parents or low income of family. Through child labor in domestic work we are wasting our valuable resources and future of our nation. Child labor in domestic work is invisible, illegal and usually unmarked by other society members or policy makers. These domestic workers have less chance to participate in social gatherings or make friends.

2. Literature Review

It is identified that child domestic work is a practice like "A drowning man catches at a straw" to increase income or reduce daily costs/expenditures [5]. High ratio of unemployment, over population & poor resource distribution work as pushing factors that lead towards child labor [6]. Female child have less access to education. Due to gander discrimination, parents reluctant to send their girls for education. Therefore female child involves in child labor [7]. A work by children that obstructs physical development, opportunities to get education is called child labor [8]. It is also described in these words " Work of children below 15 years age with the aim for earning livelihood either for himself/herself or for their families" [9].

3. Demography of Sukkur

Sukkur is a district of Sindh province in Pakistan on right bank of Indus River. It is divided in 04 administrative parts (Sukkur City, Rohri, Salah Patt & Panu Aqil). According to urban resource (2010) the population of Sukkur was 750,00010 [10].

4. Research Methodology

The ongoing research is exploratory research with quantitative analysis through interview schedules. 150 children (All Girls) were selected through convenience sampling. The ages of respondents are 10 – 14 years. The domestic workers who are working with their guardian at same place have not been included in the study.

5. Objective of Study

The main objective of the ongoing research is to find out socio-economic causes of child labor in domestic work.

6. Results & Discussion

6.1 Cultural Back Ground

45 % respondents are Sindhi, 39 % Urdu, 9 % Saraiki, 5 % Balouchi and 2 % are Punjabi speaking.

6.2 Monthly Income

Outcome of poverty is scarcity and unhappiness. It is important to note that family's poor economic conditions push children in child labor either child is male or female. Children work to fulfill day to day needs of their family. Poverty and low family income are main cause of child labor in domestic work.

Table1: Monthly Family Income of Respondents

Monthly Family Income (Rs.)	Percentage (N = 150)
5,000 to 8,000	40
9,000 to 12,000	56
13,000 to 16,000	4

Source: Primary Data

Analysis: Table 1 is showing the monthly family income of respondents. It shows that family income of 56 % respondents is Pak Rs. 9,000 to 12,000 per month. While family income of 40 % respondents is Pak Rs. 5,000 to 8,000 and 04 % respondents' family income is Pak Rs. 13,000 to 16,000.

6.3 Education of Parents

Uneducated or less educated parents are also cause of child labor. Educated parents know the power of education. Uneducated parents feel that cost of girl education is a burden. They feel that girls' education is worthless for their future. After marriage their girls will go to their husbands' home and they cannot be beneficial from their girls' education. Sometime fear of unemployment in educated people may lead to child labor. Therefore they like to send their children especially girls to work.

Analysis: Table 2 is showing the education level of respondents' fathers. It shows that 83 % fathers of respondents are illiterate, 15 % are primary (5th Standard), only 01 % are Middle (8th standard) and Matric class (10th Standard) pass. The result verifies that most of the child labor girls belong to uneducated families.

Table 2: Education Level of Respondents Father

Fathers Education of Respondents	Percentage (N = 150)
Illiterate	83
Primary	15
Middle	1
Matric	1

Source: Primary Data

Table 3: Education Level of Respondents Mother

Mothers Education of Respondents	Percentage (N = 150)
Illiterate	89
Primary	3
Middle	1
Recite Holy Quran	7

Source: Primary Data

Analysis: Table 3 is showing the education level of respondents' mothers. It shows that 89 % mother of respondents are illiterate, 03 % are primary (5th Standard), only 01 % is Middle (8th standard) pass and only 07 % recite holy Quran. Through the analyses of table 3 & 4 it must be cleared that majority of parents of female child workers are illiterate.

6.4 Education Level of Respondents

Table 4: Education Level of Female Domestic Workers

Education Level of Respondents	Percentage (N = 150)
Enrolled But Drop out	20
Dropped Out in 2nd year of schooling	27
Never Enrolled	53

Source: Primary Data

Analysis: The table 4 is showing the education level of respondents. It shows that majority of respondents 53 % were never enrolled, 27 % enrolled but dropped out in 2nd year of schooling and 20 % were enrolled and dropped out without any development. The results support the study that female child has less access to education [11]. Poverty and unawareness regarding importance of education lead to drop out and push child in child labor [12]. Parents' education may bring about significant effects on children education.

6.5 Family Size of Respondents

Table 5: Family Size of Respondents

No. of Family Members of Respondents	Percentage (N = 150)
6	11
7	19
8	34
9	33
10	3

Source: Primary Data

Analysis: The table 5 is showing the number of family members of respondents. It indicates that 34 % respondents have 08, 33 % have 09, 19 % have 07, 11 % have 06 and only 03 % have 10 family members.

6.7 Working Hours VS Honorarium of Respondents

Table 6: Per Day Working Hours of Female Domestic Workers VS Honorarium

Working Hours (Per Day)	Honorarium (Rs, Per Month)	Percentage (N = 150)
6 Hours	800 - 1,000	42%
8 Hours	11,00 - 15,00	53%
24 Hours	25,00 - 3,000	5%

Source: Primary Data

Analysis: The table 6 is showing the per day working hours of female domestic workers VS honorarium. It shows that 53 % respondents working time is 08 hours and their honorarium is Pk Rs. 11, 00 – 15, 00. Working time of 42 % respondents is 06 hours and their honorarium is Pk Rs. 800 – 1,000. While 05 % respondents live 24 hours at employers home and their honorarium is Pk Rs. 25,000 – 3,000 per month. These child labors have

only 1 or 02 holidays in month. These domestic workers perform many tasks like dusting & cleaning, taking care of children, cooking, dish washing and washing cloths etc.

6.8 Residential Status of Respondents

Table 7: Residential Status of Respondents

Residential Status	Percentage (N = 150)
Own	44
Ranted	56

Source: Primary Data

Analysis: The table 7 is showing the residential status of respondents. It shows that only 44 % respondents have their own homes. While 56 % respondents live in rented homes. The factors like, rented homes, inflation, low income, illiteracy and large families may push children toward child labor.

7. Conclusion

Child labor is becoming a serious issue of developing countries. According to Law of Pakistan, children are not allowed to work. But child labor is a fact of our society. Due to domestic child labor in homes, it is hidden from public eyes. Domestic child labor is not simple phenomena because it is directly related to illiteracy, large family and inflation. Socio-economic up set of our country is a major force behind domestic child labor. The ongoing research indicates that unbearable economic pressure forces parents to push their children in child labor.

8. Recommendations

1. Right to play is a basic right of every child. Government should enforce child labor laws very strictly.
2. Need of sensitizing the community by religious leaders on "Right to Education" of every child.
3. Education department may launch campaign to prevent drop out with help of Labor and social welfare department.
4. Income generation activities must be initiated by NGOs.

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