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## **CHILD LABOR AND ITS IMPACT ON SOCIETY; A SOCIOLOGICAL STUDY OF DISTRICT MALIR, KARACHI**

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### **Abstract**

*In our daily life we see many children under the age of 14 working on the streets, which is school going age, but due to lack of resources, huge family size, illiteracy, poverty and other reason they are compel to work rather than going school. The purpose of the research was to determine the status of child labor in District Malir. Study shows out that most of the children belong to Sindhi and Balochi ethnic group. Majority of children were boys. Majority of the children were illiterate and belong to those families where their parents are labor, disable, drug addicted, bagger, unemployed and elderly. In few cases the children were orphans and they didn't have any other source of income that's why they were compelled to do their work and play the part of bread winner for their families. Due to working environment and working hour these children don't have the time for playing game and other physical healthy activities. Not only government but also different NGO's are working for the welfare of these children at the national level. Overall scenario shows children are in bad condition. Education is the crucial need that should be considered.*

## **Keywords**

Child Labor, Poverty, Illiteracy, Malir, Pakistan

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## **1. Introduction**

Pakistan is one of those countries where child labor remains one of the important problems. The country is also the signatory of Child Rights Convention despite the significant measures have not been taken yet. In our surrounding we often see the children of school going age working at different places in spite of, going to school. This is because of no availability of basic necessities of life at their door step, as well as poverty, illiteracy, big family size, unemployment, insufficient income of guardian, lack of awareness and drug abuse by the father/guardian. Both constitution and labor law prohibit the child labor under 14 years of age. It may cause social, physical, mental and moral harm to the children. In 1990's human Rights Commission in Pakistan estimated that about 1 million children were working in country, half of which were under the age of 10. In Hyderabad, children started work at the age of 4 or 5 years old and rewarded very low salary that is of making bangles and bracelets. They make around 12 sets (per set containing 65 bangles) and only receive Rs.400 which takes around 2 to 3 days. This is not a situation of Hyderabad but all other Katchi Abadis of Pakistan, not only katchi abadis but well developed area of Pakistan also included in it like big cities of country like Karachi, Lahore, Islamabad and Peshawar are also a victim of child labor. Currently the child labor is widespread universal phenomenon is a result of the failure to challenge the conditions of economic injustice and child exploitation (Habib, R. 2019).

The International Labor Organization (ILO) suggests that poverty is the greatest single cause behind child labor. It is viewed that most of the children involve in the child labor belong to the poorest families. According to the PDHS the average family size is 6.5 members. On other hand the inflation rate is very high. However, it is difficult for any head of the family to fulfill the needs. Therefore, such situation compels to the families they allow children for work. On other hand the poverty rate in Pakistan is also higher. Quality of life in this country particularly the lower class is compromised. The children suffer due to the illiteracy, poor health and poverty. Underlying this failure are policy frameworks that do not address the underlying conditions that produce child labor, namely state fragility, armed conflict, and environmental problems.. Various scholars and reports (Admas, 2011; Annual Report SPARC, 2015; Bhuyar, 2008 & Report CLI, 1994) are witness that the child labor is a one of the most critical issue in the society. There are many reasons of it but again it is the prime responsibility of the state to



**Figure 1:** Pictorial Representation of Child Labour. (A) Child working in Autoworkshop, (B) Child Working in Tyre Puncture Shop, (C) Child Working as Cobbler, (D) Children Working as Garbage Collector, (E) Child Working as Brick Loader, (F) Child Working as Confectionery Seller, (G) Child Working as Crusher and (H) Child Working as Brick Maker

look in to the matter (Craitcer, 2014; Vazir, N., & Meghani, Y. M. (2010). The incidence of child labor is at least 77% higher than the global average (International Labour Organization, 2017; UNICEF (2016).

### **1.1 Focus of the Study**

The research studies focuses on the socio-economical changes and behaviors adapted by the children who were the victims of child labor at their childhood and their lives couldn't be entertained even with the basic necessities of life. The study also focuses on the consequences of child labor onto the development of healthy society.

### **1.2 Research Issues**

It has been seen that there are various studies have been conducted on child labor in city areas. Most of the studies are conducted in industrial areas where people work in the factories. It's obvious that the status of child labor seems high in such areas. But on other hand it was dire need to determine the status of child labor where there is a limited number of industries exists. However, the conduction of study pertaining to child labor from such kind of area is quite difficult. The researchers collected the data from pockets and different parts of District Malir. Furthermore, the population of Malir is living in scattered areas/villages. But the researchers managed all the issues related to this research and done it in smooth way.

### **1.3 Justification of Study**

The topic of my research study is "impacts of child labor". Children constitute half no. of the world population yet. In Pakistan, they are mostly neglected. About 1.5 million children are working on the streets. Children are working often due to their low socioeconomic status and experience violence, prolong duty hours, and bears cheap, abusive and aggressive languages during working hours from the owner of their working place (World Bank, 2014).

These factors are hazardous for the physical and economic health of children (Xiaohui, Flou, 2010). The above issue of child labor related to their causes and consequences of work on streets will help to improve and support intervention program which attempt to prevent child labor's problem through education and other resources. It may also help to understand inform and influence policies legal and social gathering in which child labor cause and consequences concern.

### **1.4 Variable**

A variable is a characteristic of a person phenomenon or object which can take on different values.



#### **1.4.1 Dependent Variable**

1. Poverty
2. Illiteracy
3. Unawareness

#### **1.4.2 Independent Variable**

1. Number of earning member
2. Unavailability of basic necessities of life
3. Lack of proper implementations of labour law
4. Age of the child
5. Regulations in laws

#### **1.5 Hypothesis**

Hypothesis is an assumption about the status of events or about relationship variables. It is an idea which helps to make statement about something after doing research on it by a person or group of people.

1. Child labour is a consequence of illiterate background.
2. Less age of working child may cause poor health.
3. Child labour leaves negative impacts socioeconomics of society.
4. Victims of labour use abusive languages due to their surrounding

#### **1.6 Objective**

1. To determine the roots of child labour in our society.
2. To find out the status of child labour in Malir town Karachi.
3. To see the involvement of family in child labour.
4. To discuss the solution of issues of child labour on basic of research findings

#### **1.7 Policies of Government to Prevent Child Labour**

The constitution of Islamic republic of Pakistan sates “No Child below the age of fourteen shall be engaged in any factory or mine or in any other hazardous employment.” Also, “All forms of forced labor is prohibited.” A number of laws contain provisions prohibiting child labor in Pakistan are as under; the factories Act 1934.

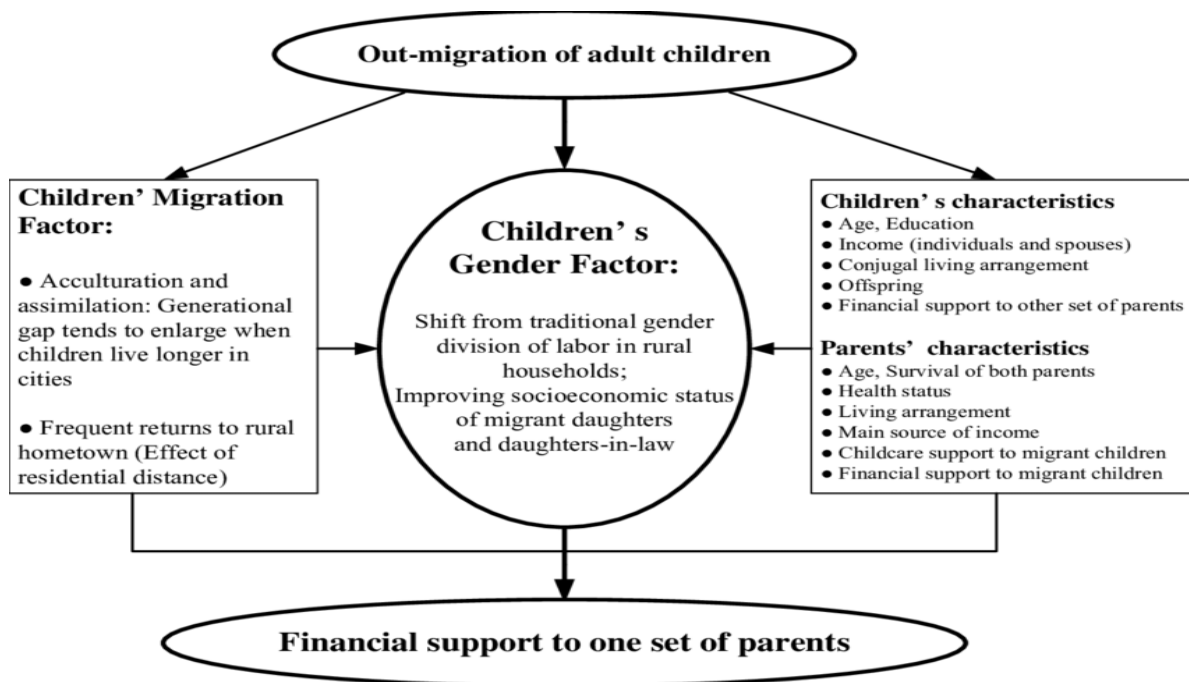
The Punjab Compulsory Education Act 1994 the present government in Pakistan has made elementary education compulsory. Along with this, the government has announced some policies to eliminate the child labor. The agreement that has been approved last year by Pakistan, Norway and ILD to eradicate child labor must be given importance and hopefully in the near future, Pakistan will be able

to dispose the child labor (UNDP, 2014). Pertaining to the learning skill among labor children is very slow. Generally children comparative to the learners, native speakers are able to better communicate and comprehend the main idea of the text that utilizes cohesive devices (Bae, M., 2019).

According to ILO child labor is defined as during the early age a child start doing work, a child do work too hard or we can say According to ILO, Child Labor is defined as work that has the potential to deprive children of their childhood, their dignity and is also harmful for their physical, moral and mental development and it interferes with their education. It is biggest dream of every parent that they provide good education to their children and it is the right of every child to enjoy their life with fullest without doing any hard work. But in Pakistan some families don't have enough money and resources to spend on their children education to fulfill their basic needs of life (Unicef, 2016; CRR, 2014).

There are various organization are working for the development of children with different approaches i.e. provision of sports opportunities and entertainment (Husselbee, 2000). ILO has also worked enormous pertaining to the situtatuion of children with regards to the child labor ([www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/27111111](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/27111111)). According to ILO and UNICEF, all work done by children can't be classified as child labor. So, there is a need to differentiate between child labor and child work (<http://repec.econ.vt.edu/Papers/Tideman/OryoieWorking.pdf>). If work is not affecting the health and personal development as well as the schooling of children, then this type of work cannot be taken negatively and does not fall in the category of child labor, e.g. assisting in family business or working during school holidays or after school hours. These activities are not "child labor", rather these can be termed as 'child work' (Balakrishnan K. 2009). Child work is not only important for the personal development of children but it also provides them with necessary skills to be useful and productive members of a society (<http://www.ilo.org/ipec/facts/lang--en/jndi3x.htm>).

## 1.8 Theoretical Framework



**Figure 2:** *Child Labor Theory of Marcus W Feldman*

Figure 2 depicts the variable i.e. age, income, living arrangement, financial sources and their family background. However, these variables were used in the questionnaire accordingly. At theoretical framework gives the foundation to any research. Without using the effective and relative framework the study could not be reflected as the aligned one.

## 2. Methodology

It is undertaken where no research information is available regarding research subject. It is a basic for further research. Here we conducted exploratory study to collect data about Socio economical impacts of child labor. A population is the number of all the inhabitants of a particular place. In terms of research methodology, a population is a group consists of a set of individuals who share at least one characteristic in common which a researcher tries to explore. In statistics and quantitative research methodology, a data sample is a set of data collected and/or selected from a statistical population by a defined procedure. It was very difficult for the researcher to taken into account of all such child labor as they are available in various parts of city and it is quite difficult to meet each and every respondent in such in short span of time. The researcher visited different portions of Malir Town, Karachi. The researcher interviewed 50 respondents so the sample size for the present study was 50 (Fifty respondents). Malir Town of District Malir Karachi was selected as the universe of study. Malir Town is a town of District Malir Karachi.

### 3. Results

The data was collected, tabulated and analyzed in Microsoft excel.

**Table 1: Gender Ratio of Children**

Category	Frequency	Percentage
Boys	47	94%
Girl	03	06%
Total	50	100%

The above mentioned table displayed that boys ratio is 98% and girls ratio is 2%. In the research it was found that mostly girls are involved in bagging because of the social norms when a girl demands or bags people used to give her money. Therefore, boys are engaged in the child work or child labor in district Malir.

**Table 2: Mother Tongue**

Category	Frequency	Percentage
Baloch	27	54%
Sindhi	21	42%
Pathan	1	2%
Punjabi	1	2%
Total	50	100%

Table 2 showed that 54% children belong to Baloch family, 42% to Sindhi family, 02% to Pathan family and 02% to Punjabi family.

**Table 3: Profession of Father**

Category	Frequency	Percentage
Jobless	06	12%
Dead	09	18%
Out of country	03	06%
Other	25	50%
Employed	07	14%
Total	50	100%



Data revealed that 12% children said their fathers are jobless, 18% children’s fathers were dead, 06% said that their fathers are out of the country, 14% said that their fathers are employed and 50% said that their fathers doing different kind of jobs.

**Table 4: Profession of Mother**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
House wife	37	74%
Job	05	10%
Widow	05	10%
Labor	02	4%
Other	01	2%
Total	50	100%

47% children said that their mothers are house wife. 10% said that their mother doing jobs, 10% said that their mothers are widow, 04% said that their mothers are labor, and 02% said that their mothers are doing different kinds of jobs.

**Table 5: Education Level of Family Member**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Zero	11	22%
One	20	40%
Two	10	20%
Three	03	06%
Thirteen	06	12%
Total	50	100%

22% children said that there is no educated person in their family, 40% said that one person is educated, 20% said that two persons are educated, 06% said that three persons are educated and 12% said that they have thirteen educated person in their family.

**Table 6: Having their Own Home**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Yes	40	80%
No	10	20%
Total	50	100%

90% children said that they have their own home and 10% said that they don't have their own home.

**Table 7: Children have their Family Members**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Three	02	04%
Four	05	10%
Five	07	14%
Six	05	10%
Seven	09	18%
Eight	08	16%
Nine	04	08%
Ten	03	06%
Eleven	03	06%
Twelve	03	06%
Fourteen	01	02%
Total	50	100%

04% Children said that they have three family members. 10% said that they have four family members. 14% said that they have five family members. 10% said that they have six family members. 18% said that they have seven family members. 16% said that they have eight family members. 08% said that they have nine family members. 06% said that they have ten family member. 06% said that that they have eleven family members. 06% said that they have twelve family members. 02% said that they have fourteen family members.

**Table 8: Family Income**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
5000-10000	7	14%
10000-15000	11	22%
15000-20000	10	20%
20000-25000	08	16%
25000-30000	14	28%
Total	50	100%

14% children said that their family monthly income is 5000-10000. 22% said that their family monthly income 10000-15000.20% said that their family income monthly 15000-20000.28% said that their family monthly income 20000- 25000.16% said that their family income monthly.

**Table 9: Monthly Income/Earning**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
50-100	13	26%
100-150	13	26%
150-200	11	22%
200-250	06	12%
250-300	07	14%
Total	50	100%

26% children said that they earn 50-100 rupees daily. 26% said that they earn 100-150 rupees daily. 22% said that they earn 150-200 rupees daily. 12% said that they earn 200-250 rupees daily. And 14% said that they earn 250- 300 rupees daily.

**Table 10: You Start Work in Age**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Five to seven	01	2%
Seven to nine	06	12%
Nine to eleven	15	30%
Eleven to fourteen	28	56%
TOTAL	50	100%

06% children said that they started work age of five to seven.08 % said that they started work age of seven to nine. 30% said that they started work age of nine to eleven. 56% said that they work started work age of eleven to fourteen.

**Table 11: Child Labor by Choice**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Own wish	39	78%
Someone compelled	11	22%
Total	50	100%

78% children said that they are working with their own wish but 24% said that someone compelled them to work.

**Table 12: School Going**

Category	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	16	32%
No	34	68%
Total	50	100%

32% children said that we went to school and 48% said that they did not go to school.

**Table 13: Happy with your Life**

Category	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	21	42%
No	29	58%
Total	50	100%

42% children said that they are happy with their life but 58% said that they are unhappy with their life.

**Table 14: Want to Improve Life**

Category	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	28	56%
No	22	44%
Total	50	100%

56% children said that they want to improve their life while 44% do not want to improve their life.

**Table 15: Domestic Language Style in Surroundings**

Category	Frequency	Percentage
Harsh	04	08%
Soft	08	16%
Normal	24	48%
Abusive	13	26%
Other	01	02%
Total	50	100%

08% children said that very harsh language is being spoken in their surroundings, 16% said that soft language is being spoken in their surroundings, 48% said that normal language is being spoken, 26% said that abusive language is being spoken and 02% said that other language is being spoken in their surroundings.

**Table 16: Drug Use**

Category	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	38	76%
No	12	24%
Total	50	100%

76% children said that they are using different kinds of drugs while 24% said that they are not using any kind of drugs

**Table 17: Type of Drug Used**

Category	Frequency	Percentage
Pan	13	26%
Naswar	02	04%
Other	08	16%
Children using other types of Drugs	23	46%
Total	50	100%

26% children said that they chew pan, 04% said that they are using naswar and 16% said that they are using different kinds of drugs.

**Table 18: Beaten by Boss and/or Parents**

Category	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	33	66%
No	17	34%
Total	50	100%

66% children said that their boss or parents beat them and 34% said that their boss or parents don't beat them.

**Table 19: Parents Willingness to Educate their Children**

Category	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	11	22%
No	12	24%
Not know	27	54%
Total	50	100%

22% children said that our parent should give us further education, 24% said that our parent do not want to give us further education, 54% said that we don't know whether our parents want to give further education or not.

**Table 20:** *Willingness to Leave this Job*

Category	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	36	72%
No	14	28%
Total	50	100%

32% children said that they want to leave their jobs and 68% said that they don't want to leave their jobs.

#### 4. Discussion and Conclusion

It is concluded that the most of the children working in different places are induce to do so because of different social and economic problems. An estimated 250 million children live in armed-conflict affected areas (Raqib, 2017). Generally, we found that children were mainly due to poverty, illiteracy and lack of awareness and Poor parents enforce to send their children to work. But in my findings as a relatively stable society in Malir town and education system in this area is operating for more than 100 years, the most children were those, who resisted to get more education despite of their parents strong wish. In the time of gang war the parents found it better that children are safe to join work rather than to be part of gangsters.

These children in their early ages find that their earned amount is far more sufficient than their needs, but as they grow older they find this amount not enough to satisfy their need so this will lead them to disillusionment and finally be parts of either heinous crimes or to get refuge in drugs. Most of children said that they are working by their own wish; this reveals that the children and their parents are unaware of the negative impacts and consequences of child labor on their life. These children have lost opportunities for education and career development. Some of the children, about 52% of them showed that they want to go to school again but their parents have not enough resources to send them school. The majority of children about 70% showed a strong wish to change their quality of life but lack of financial, moral and counseling support they are unable to do so. Consistently deteriorating governance of public sector the government schools are unable to produce the quality education for many decades, most of the student passed from these schools are unable to get suitable jobs, this is also a big reason of



children drain from schools. Mostly children who are involved in the child labor they face psychological stress. They do experience a unified consciousness and sense of self (Shelby, C., L., 2019).

It is observed that some of the child laborers were lured to get more money so they joined criminal groups but in the end they lost their life. It is also observed that consistently doing the same job by all their lifetime they will be unable to utilize their creativity and talents, and their lives are nothing but a dull practice.

The observations reveal that there is a need of strong social, political and government role to minimize the child labor and improve the quality of life of the children. Now this is a job of social workers or NGOs, political leaders of the area and government to come forward, provide awareness to people of locality about the positive impacts of education on the life of their children, mobilize the society in this regards, political workers put pressure on the government institutions so that they restore their governance to the extent that the public sector schools can improve their quality of education.

All kind of media like electronic, print and social media can also be used for social awareness against child labor and positive results of education on the children. The poor families who are the big victims of the child labors are provided proper training counseling and information to get better jobs and more income so that they can afford the expanses of the education of their children. It is also the job of nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) that they start projects to address the problem and also contact both children and parent to find ways that how they will be able to send their children to school again. And make these children better citizens so that they play their role to contribute to improve the quality of life of the society.

## **5. Recommendations**

Pakistan is politically, constitutionally and legally committed to the welfare and development of children. Entry of children below a prescribed age in the labor marketing is prohibited and under its constitutional and legal system.

- It is recommended that to put pressure on the governmental institutions to improve their governance so that the quality of education may possible in government schools.
- The NGOs must make projects to cope with the problem and consistent contact with both children and parents to provide them proper guidance and awareness.
- It also recommended that the poor parents are provided trainings, guidance and counseling so they can earn more income and afford the expanses of their children educations.

- It is also recommended that sports and other recreational activities are organized by all types of the governmental and nongovernmental institutions so that children have more chances to enjoy their life.

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