

Child Labor in Pakistan with special reference to Small Industries of Larkana

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National University of Modern Languages

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Abstract

Child labor is the growing curse in the world particularly in the developing countries and Pakistan is also the victim of this growing global phenomenon because of multiple reasons behind which encourage intentionally or unintentionally the dilemma of child labor. Child labor had multiple side effects that disturb the social fabric of the society and its growing statistics alarms the government of Pakistan to take the most possible and appropriate measures to combat this curse. This study attempted to highlight the socioeconomic and political causes of child labor and had the objective to investigate the problem by applying qualitative methods of research using the survey techniques to get the real essence of the study with the multi-perspective lens.

Child is not born for work rather to study, but wall of encumbrance either in financial term, economic term or in social term made him compelled for labor work. Understanding real economics of child labour can have better policy to tackle this issue. Using primary data from district of Larkana of Sindh, the study examined supply side determinants of child labour comparatively and found significant relationship between average wage set by his employer and labour decision of child. Though household income, parental education and family characteristic do contribute, but study also determined perception of parents regarding job uncertainty another factor that increases supply of child labor in case of Sindh. Legislative sanctions(e.g. ban) can not only be the proper solution for this quandary, drawing a survey from poor household study also determines some effective policy implications for government to overcome this curse as well

This survey was limited to 90 children from various working participants the sampling was done on the basis of proportional allocation whereas the enterprises in which such children worked was selected at random. The findings of this research clearly indicate that a vast majority of working children were illiterate. The results showed that a whopping 71.11% of children out of the whole population were illiterate. This survey targeted the household of these children to better gauge their living conditions. The results of this research showed that the children from poor households were most likely to work in either factories or small industries. To be more specific, the data showed that approximately 17.78 percent of working children with in the total demographic belong to household that earned less than 1000 per week. As compared to the rest of the country, the ratio of child labor in Larkana is going at the similar pace. The main reason for this phenomenon is a poor socio-economic conditions of the indigenous inhabitants. The study also provides recommendations along with the statistics to the policymakers for legislation.

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Abbreviations list

ILO	International Labor Organization
ICCPR	International Convent Art on Civil and Political Rights
FBS	Federal Bureau of Statistics
NGO'S	Non-Government Organizations
ECA	Employment of Children Act
SEATO	Southeast Asian Treaty Organization
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
PHED	Public Health Engineering Department
UN	United Nations
TV	Television
IPEC	International Program for Elimination of Child Labor
PCO	Public Call Office
GNP	Grass National Product
GDP	Grass Domestic Product
CLRC	Child Labor Resource Center
USA	United States of America
UNICEF	United Nations International Children Education Fund

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Chapter # 01

1.0 Introduction

The phenomenon of Child Labor is not new. Its creation can be seen through its gradual development that is deeply rooted in social evolution. The Parents and the Families have always been encouraging the Children to participate in their work and to learn the skills of their siblings. Child Labor has been occurring in variable forms since pre historic era. It is a social issue as it is a practice that impedes the dynamic natural development of a Child.

Many have discussed the problem of Child Labor in terms of human rights and Child rights. This issue has attracted the intelligentsia or the cultural classes. A lot of argumentation is going on in favor or opposition of Child Labor.

Every society formulates its opinion about childhood and Child Labor according to its own norms. The causes and effects of Child Labor also vary from one society to another. We should understand the socio-economic scenario of a society especially if we want to have a clear notion about Child Labor issue. Hence, a single definition of Child Labor does not suffice for the whole world. It can only be defined in perspective of a social and economic scenario of one society.

Nonetheless children can be seen working at various work places around the world. The intensity of this issue is more alarming in the under developed world. Asia has the major portion in the bulk of world's Child Labor. Whereas, South Asia is ahead in this regard. The federal bureau of statistics, in collaboration with ILO, conducted a Child Labor survey in 2014-2015. The survey gave the figure of 12.5 million for Child Labor participants in Pakistan.¹

Larkana is densely populated and a famous city of Pakistan, where people from every walk of life are settled. The proportion of Children is immense in Larkana and a reasonable number of these children perform Child Labor. Poverty, low status (caste), low support of the parents, inflation, unemployment and illiteracy pushes the Children to work in the small industries in larkana. However, they often work in dangerous condition. The issue of Child Labor in small industries and workshops is extremely serious.

¹ International Labor Organization, *Every child counts: new global estimates on child labor* (Geneva: ILO, 2015), 06.

The researcher will try to find out the socio-economic causes, factors, determinants, working condition and problems of Child Labor in small industries. The findings of this research can be more effective and helpful in taking initiative to analyze the issue of Child Labor in small industries of district Larkana. However, many children are self-interested to work in small industries, because they are unwilling to get education or few children are demotivated by their peer group and parents and due to any purpose of life they join to work in small industries. Nowadays, the main purpose of Child Labor in Pakistan and in district Larkana is poverty, inflation, and unemployment.

1.1 Statement of the Problem

Child Labor is one of the most challenging issue of Pakistan in the current years. Especially, abundant Child Labor can be seen in district Larkana. Mostly in the small industries of Larkana, hundreds of Children are involved in Child Labor. Various socio-economic causes are responsible for Child Labor in small industries of district Larkana. However, they often work in hazardous and dangerous conditions. The issue of Child Labor in small industries is extremely serious and invisible in nature. Although a large number of children are engaged in work within small industries, especially in rural areas. Larkana district of Sindh can be considered as the rural areas and having huge number of Child Labor activities prevail there, while working in explosive, dangerous and in perilous sectors. A vast number of children in district Larkana are working in small industries on low wages. The owners of small industries do not give importance to the child as a labor and don't think that the life and rights of children are being exploited. The owners offer them low pay and make them work to their bones. But in district Larkana due to poverty, unemployment, illiteracy, low status, and no support and alternative option by parents, while children are in full agreement with them on low wages. Because they think that if they will learn work fully, then they will get more payments (including more experience), thus they agree on low wages. Therefore, in Larkana district, people do not support and give zero importance to the issue of Child Labor in small industries.

1.2 Significance of the Study

This research holds both personal and professional significance of the researcher. It also carries a distinct value because the district of Larkana has been neglected in the academic circle. In the past, the issue of Child Labour has not addressed in a suitable manor. The government requires guidance from the academia in order to formulate policies and this research aims to provide such guidelines. This research also hold personal value for the researcher as well. The researchers own participant observation will guide this study as he worked in welding shop during his childhood.

1.3 Objectives of the Research

The objectives set for the research are as under:

01. To examine the issue of Child Labor in Pakistan.
02. To identify the status of Child Labor in district Larkana, while focusing on the small industries.
03. To explore the socio-economic causes of Child Labor of Larkana district.

1.4 Research Questions

01. What is Child Labor and how Child Labor prevailing in Pakistan?
02. What is the status of Child Labor in district Larkana, and especially in the small industries?
03. What are the socio-economic causes of Child Labor of Larkana district?

1.5 Research Methodology

The researcher has used multiple techniques or methodologies in the field to conduct this research. The selection of technique or method depends upon the nature of his research. The purpose of selecting a research method is to get answers to questions regarding his problem to find out the truths and realities or to get information about an occurrences in the world. Methodology is a vital feature of a research. It is a way of getting first hand, empirical and valid data. It has two major aspects

01. Qualitative

02. Quantitative

This qualitative-quantitative classification depends on three standards.

01. The purpose of the study.
02. How the variables are measured, and
03. How the information is analyzed.

The main purpose of this study pertains to description of the phenomenon, situations, problems, and events related to aforementioned topic. This study is qualitative in its essence as it has established the various situations and phenomenon through analysis without any quantification. “A quantitative study deals with the variations in phenomenon, situations and problems with regard to the specific issue. An analysis is done to understand quantitative variables to make sense of the problems in the research. Whereas a qualitative research focuses on the description of said situation from the perspective of the people effected by such phenomenon. The conditions that are experienced by individuals and communities are the focus of qualitative research.”

1.5.1 Socio-Economic Census Survey and Questionnaire

A hybrid approach has been utilized in this research as both socio-economic survey and field questionnaire has the integral part of the Performa. In order to assess the general background of the area, quantitative data has been collected from socio- economic census. This data contained all the required information about the area for example, family status, occupation, educational level, economic standing, age group, cast and residential variations etc. On the other hand field, questionnaire was utilized to gather qualitative data.

1.5.2 Key Informants

Key informants hold a significant importance for data collection because they have a better understanding of an area and the inhabitants. This is the reason why, the firsthand experience of the informants is helpful in the understanding of their way of life including the practice of child labor in the Larkana division. Thus, this research contained various accounts from informants that hail from different socio-economic backgrounds.

1.5.3 Participant Observations

The researcher has indulged in participant observation for the better understanding of the behavior and respective context of children related to labor. The researcher speak their native language and pay them regular visits in order to observe their daily routine. This method is helpful in making sense of all the important moments in the life of such children. The researcher has also countercheck the information provided by the informants through the application of observing theory in practice. This observation of participants will also be useful in understanding new dimensions related to the topic.

1.5.4 Group Discussion

The researcher organized focus group discussion of working children and their parents in order to attain the desired data. This method is help full in creating a relationship which leads to the acquisition of relevant information as it enable the participants to open up about their situation. Thus, enabling the researcher to fathom different aspects of their lives.

1.5.5 Interview Guide

The method of interview guide was employed to gather qualitative data. It help the respondents to discuss their problems without any hesitations. Thus creating a friendly atmosphere which is necessary for quality research.

1.5.6 Case Study

Case study is a valuable method for the gathering of qualitative data. Therefore, the researcher will utilize this method in order to gauge the situation of Child Labor. Hence, this research contains children as case studies to understand the intricate details of their lives.

1.5.7 Snowball Sampling

In snowball sampling, the participants identify other potential candidates for the research. This method is especially helpful in dealing with the small population of people. The small communities are most often connected with each other hence making this type of sampling very effective. On the other hand, when dealing with large population only infamous individuals are identified as important participants thus limiting the choice of participants in a crowded situation. This method will be utilized by the researcher because of the cast system in rural Sindh. Majority of the participants will be from friend circle or Biradary (cast) thus making it easier for them to identify and relate to one another.

1.5.8 Selection of the Locale

In order to conduct the research, the area of Larkana has studied by the researcher. The main reason for the selection for particular area is its familiarity for the researcher as he is a resident of Larkana. Numerous children work in small industries of the selected area hence an emphasis was put on the workplace to acquire knowledge about the background and socio-economic status of such children as well as their families. This research has addressed a particular dimension that has been neglected in the previous researches like the relationship of these children with their parents, relatives and other children.

1.6 Literature Review

An important aspect of research is to go through its relevant literature. It provides help in the research because it contains knowledge about the ideas of the research problems. It provides us knowledge about the topic. It clarifies our thoughts about the problems. It helps in comparing and contrasting the present research findings with the previous ones. It provides a basis for the reliability or unreliability of the research findings.

A researcher reviewed some literature pertinent to his topic before going to the field and before compiling and analyzing data. Survey of literature proved helpful in drawing my attention towards my topic. I scanned and skimmed a number of books, journals, thesis and encyclopedia. This classified my thoughts and I came to know the causes and effects of Child Labor.

It is difficult to get the precise data about Child Labor because this practice is not recommended at Government level almost everywhere around the world. It is not possible to give the precise number of Child workers in Pakistan. They are under-recorded in the census for a number of reasons. Firstly, since they are not legal workers, they hesitate to be recorded as workers, under the threat of losing their jobs on the part of their employers, who don't want to face legal actions, on the other hand, girls working at homes are not considered as labors because they are not paid, they only help their family. Secondly, the working students are kept in student category by the census-takers who is comfortable in filling the forms in this way. Thirdly, census-takers

sometimes knowingly conceals the fact about Child Labor on account of his trouble of extra work of form fillings.²

To find out the native opinion about the causes and effects of Child Labor the socio-economic background of the society should be understood.

The bulk of Child Labor is found in the working class. Sometimes children of the upper classes are encouraged to join their family business in order to be trained their family business in order to be trained as future business-owners. However Children from poor families have to work for their bread and butter. In some cases they learn skill such as carpet weaving that is transmitted from one generation to the next.

1.6.1 Factors responsible for the Child Labor in Pakistan

Three aspects of Pakistan's incoherent development are directly responsible for Child Labor in the country. First, a large number of Children do not have the facility of schools and they belong to a poor family background, naturally tend to become Labor. Second, as the population increases without any control, the large number of Children become a continuous supply in the Child Labor market. Almost half of Pakistan's total population is under 15 years of age. It is very difficult to cater to the social and financial requirements of this huge population, they ultimately appear as hungry mouths in poor large families. On the other hand they become a source of cheap man power for the employers. More ever fear of falling an idle Child a victim to drugs and guns compel the parents to send their Child to work. A survey conducted in Lahore supported the view that parents send their Children to work at an early age to save them from wandering aimlessly.³

Farhat Jabben, a student of Department of Anthropology Quaid e Azam University, Islamabad, conducted field work on '*Child Labor in Punjab in the rural area of District Sargodha*'. She states three factors for Child Labor:

Economic factor is the most important one responsible for Child Labor. Pakistan is among the poorest countries of the world where per capita income is US \$340 per anum. Employment opportunities should be provided and minimum wages should be fixed in order to improve the

²Sabeeha Hafeez, *The Changing Pakistan Society* (Karachi: Royal Book Company. 1991), 278.

³Weiner Myron & Noman Omar, *The Child and the State in India and Pakistan* (Karachi: Oxford University Press, 1995), 21.

situation. The bounded labor is the second important factor, in the traditional Pakistani society feudal set up survives and the feudal lords have maintained their authority, which is responsible for bounded Labor in that society. The lack of education is the Third important factor. Illiteracy and Child Labor are inversely proportional to each other, where one increases, the other will decrease. The presence of some schools in rural areas does not achieve the desired results.⁴

1.6.2 Child Labor is an Issue Prevalent in Every Society.

The discussion on Child Labor and its ultimate disapproval has been a little misunderstood. In such argument different types of jobs done by the Children are taken under the same category of Child Labor. But in reality different types of work have different implications, elaborations and effects. The socio-economic and native facts have not been sufficiently taken in to consideration.

1.6.3 Four major factors involved in Child Labor:

The Child Labor can occur because of (1) Unemployment or Poverty, (2) educational system, (3) Careless attitude of parents and society, (4) Absence of any formal security mechanisms.⁵

The socio-economic scenario of the society is responsible of the Child Labor existing there in:

The socio-economic structure of the society plays an important role in encouraging the Child Labor. The misery of the working class can be seen in their poor working conditions and in the ways they are exploited. Their poverty is evident in their low-ranked food, dress and houses, lack of education, joblessness, large number of population and family disintegration are the factors involved in the generation of Child Labor.⁶

Olga Nieuwenhays in her article “*The Paradox of Child Labor and Anthropology*” has provided an Anthropological view of the problem.

⁴ Farhat Jabeen, *Child Labor in Punjab: An area study of District Sargodha* (Islamabad: Quaid-e-Azam University, 1989), 33.

⁵ Sabur Ghayur, *Child Labor, Nature, Concerns, Reasons and measures for elimination* (Islamabad: Friedrich Ebert Stiftung. 1995), 72.

⁶ Behera Surendra Nahth, *Socioeconomic Dimensions of Child Labor Issues and Policy Options. Child Labor in India (ed.) S.N .Tripathy* (New Delhi: Discovery Publishing House. 1996), 15.

"From its beginning the idea of Child Labor has been linked with factory work and hence was limited to the developed countries. It has its association with the theories of socialization population growth and unfair economic competition".⁷

In the same article

The consideration of gender, age and kinship are important in determining a Child's usual work and they play an important role in evaluating poor Children's work. It becomes a key to tag some work as Labor or other as praise worthy.

Manzooruddin Ahmed writes about the conventional work of Children:

Some Children as in the case of females conventionally help the other females in the daily chores of the house hold, and in the case of males, because of their ability to work, they are sent to generate income for the family.⁸

Prof Qadeer in his article published in Globe and Mail, Canada Mominger:

"While the harms of Child Labor are considered as social perversions, it is essentially an economic compulsion in poor countries for the Children to work. As they grow up, they are expected to take up financial responsibilities in the family".⁹

Mr. A.B.S, Jafri reasons that Children working at home to help their parents or in workshops and stores and apprentices, learn new skills and get knowledge about that profession. In his article published in the *daily Dawn*.

"It is seen that child who does not attend a school and who works, still remains under parental controls and enjoys their emotional support. The Child, including the girl child could learn local skills and the spirit of local culture. In all such conditions the Children are emotionally peaceful with a sense of self-sufficiency".

Children are employed in Child Labor in various shapes. Asifa Sohail states various shapes of Child Labor in her article appeared *daily the news*¹⁰.

⁷ Olga Nieuwenhays, *The Paradox of Child Labor and Anthropology* (Amsterdam: Institute for Development Research, University of Amsterdam, 1996), 127.

⁸ Manzooruddin Ahmed, *Child Labor: A Time to Reflect*, (Islamabad: UNICEF. 1991), 35.

⁹ Abdul Qadeer, *The Issue of Child Labor in Pakistan* (Toronto: Globe and Mail, Canada Mominger, 1997), 35.

1.6.4 Three Shapes of Child Labor.

First is non exploitive where Children work within their family under the supervision of their parents. They may work on farms, take care of younger siblings or may weave carpets. Child Labor can be largely seen in carpet industry that is usually a family business. Child Labor in this industry is not for economic gains because the quality of work produced by the adult weavers is higher than that of the Children. Second is hired Child Labor where Children are hired out to other business owners. This is done to earn the livelihood for the family. Such labor is handy and economical for the employers. Children from eight to sixteenth years of age can be seen in such form of Child Labor. The employers pay them low wages and extract the maximum of work out of their labor. Such form of Child Labor can be observed in textile, leather and sports goods industries. Third is bonded or forced labor. It seems to reach the extent of slavery. The Children are sometimes sold for forced labor. This shape of Child Labor is miserable and it presents on pathetic scenes of human society. It is detestable and is not human. This kind of Child Labor can be found in brick and glass industries, As well as in agriculture and construction sites. Several million Children are reported to be employed in forced labor The problem of Child Labor has also been discussed in terms of human rights violations.

*"The system of international human rights agreements has its foundation on the idea of universalism. It means that all human beings irrespective of their cultural or regional variations, must enjoy the minimal rights, termed as human rights".*¹¹

1.7 Scheme of the Study

This study consisted of six chapters. First chapter is the introduction of the thesis. It starts with statement of the problem and defines objectives, significance of the study, research questions, research methodology, literature review and organization of the study. The second chapter has focused on the theoretical perspective of Child Labor. In third chapter the status of Child Labor in Pakistan has been discussed. Fourth chapter assessed Child Labor in Small Industries of Larkana region. Fifth chapter has examined and analyzed the socio-economic causes of Child Labor in Small Industries of Larkana. In the end findings and conclusion has been added along with bibliography and questionnaire.

¹⁰ Asifa Sohail, *Letter to the Editor (Dawn, 2010, April 5)*

¹¹ Zeechenter Elizabeth, *In the name of Culture: Cultural Relativism and the Abuse of the individual.* (Philadelphia: Journal of Anthropological Research, 1997), 267-382.

Chapter # 02

2.0 Child Labor: A Theoretical Frame Work

The existence of child labor is not unprecedented. Its origin can be found in its historical development that is associated with man and his social evolution. Historical traces show that children have always been working side by side with their parents and family members. This practice has been occurring in variable appearances since times unknown. Child labor, according to some social scientists, is a social problem and its very occurrence inhibits the wholesome physical and mental development of the child.

Although the ban on child labor is imposed in majority of states, a large number of children are still undergoing labor to survive in our world. Hence their position is risky, they can be easily harmed and can be utilized unfairly. The children are made to labor for longer hours than others and they are paid less, says a report by the international labor office.

2.1 Concept of Child Labor

There is until now no such definition of child labor as may be universally and statistically acceptable. Hence the job of calculating the magnitude of child labor in various countries over a period of time becomes even more difficult. These calculations must be comparable and must not be open to more than one interpretation. A statistical standard is essential to consolidate the response towards child labor policy. Regardless of how you look at it, child labor may be defined as the recruitment of children for any job who are below the age decided by law or social norms¹². The occurrence of such child labor is deemed as unfair by a number of countries and many international organizations. Child labor had never been a disputed issue in ancient history. The matter has gone controversial only after the introduction of school education around the world as well as after the establishment of labor and children rights organizations. Child labor is termed as any kind of job where children are unfairly employed and hence they are unable to attend the school. The gap between the rich and the poor has been increasing during the past few decades, all around the world. This has been instrumental in compelling the children towards child labor. The children under such economic pressure are leaving the schools and taking up some jobs to earn their livelihood. A report of the international labor organization states that 246

¹² Friedrich Stiftung, *South Asia: Elimination and Rehabilitation of Child Labor* (Islamabad: Comsats institute of technology, 1997), 06.

million children from 5 to 17 years of age are working under such harsh conditions which are not only illegal but are damaging as well as unfair. Owing to their extreme misery and poverty children below the legal age are taking up every kind of jobs all through the globe. Child labor survey shows that majority of children are working in commercial agriculture, industrial manufacturing, mining, fishing and domestic service sectors. A considerable number of children are working in such hideous fields like drug supply and prostitution etc. Some minors are involved in such painful activities like working as soldiers. Child laborers in mining are undergoing very harsh and miserable conditions. They suffer from high illness rate and frequent injuries while laboring in underground and opencast mines and quarries. Minors from 6 to 7 years of age break heavy stones. They wash, sieve and pick up raw mines. They remain busy in setting explosives in the mines and picking up heavy loads.

The child labor employed in the mills and factories features some historical figures. The children from nine to twelve years of age were initially employed there. Most commonly children worked side by side with their fathers in mills or factories¹³. The children there had been working as long as for twelve hours a day. The typical machines of the age also encouraged the employment of the children for obvious reasons. The children were the most suitable workers to be employed in earlier cotton machines because of their small size. Besides, a child could learn cotton spinning more easily. In 1830s children used to join broken threads in the spinning machines and they used to earn two to three shillings per week. The mills in those days were small and the mill owners preferred the workers from six to twelve years of age for their low wages.

2.2 Who is a child?

A child has been defined by international agreements and regulations as under eighteen years minor. The definition of “child” may differ from one government to another with respect to age group or any other standard. The variant cultures of the world may have their own versions of “child” and “childhood”. A “child” is not essentially limited to a certain age group. Some social scientists clarify that it may be deceptive to determine adulthood by chronological age because the children differ from one another in their ripeness and capabilities.

¹³ Satvant Sing, *Child Labor an International Phenomena* (New Delhi: Oxford and IBH publishing co. pvt Ltd, 1992), 22.

2.3 Child Labor under international law

The international Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) says that the family, the society and the state are bound to safe guard the rights of the children. The Convention of the Rights of the Children maintains that children are the persons of either under eighteen years of age or otherwise stated by the laws of a country where they have not yet reached the age of ripeness. These children have the right to be kept away from any kind of work which is dangerous for them or which blocks their way of getting education or which is damaging to their health and to their physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development.¹⁴ All the countries who sign this convention are bound to take suitable law-making or regulatory steps to execute the rights of children acknowledged in this convention. The Worst Form of Child Labor Convention explains in detail the damaging and dangerous work and demands the removal of such kind of child labor where work and its conditions are damaging for the health, security and morality of the children. The countries who sign this convention are bound to take steps with immediate effect to ban and remove the worst forms of child labor. This convention lays emphasis on the signees to highlight the outlines of the dangerous and damaging work banned by this convention and they shall do this in collaboration with workers' and employers' organizations keeping in view the respective international standards in this regard.

2.4 Child Labor under Domestic Law

The law-making process is still uncertain to settle the minimum age to fifteen for taking up any job or for completing compulsory schooling. In any case, presently the children from fourteen to seventeen years of age may take up jobs under the complete supervision of their parents or the patrons acknowledged by law. The Minor's Code forbids the employment of the children under fourteen except that the children courts may permit the children from twelve to thirteen years of age to work as trainee workers if they have completed their primary school education. The Juvenile Court, before allowing permission, must see to it that the work taken up by the trainee is suitable for him and it does not stop his school education and it is not harmful for his health.

The working conditions in child labor practice vary from a child of four years who has been kept indoors forcibly in carpet weaving and who is not allowed to run away, to a child of seventeen

¹⁴ International Labor Organization, *International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labor*, (Brasilia: III Global Conference on Child Labor, 2013), 11.

years who is giving a helping hand to his family on the farm. In some cases taking up jobs turns out to be a good experience in the development of a child because it gives financial benefits and hence contributes to the well-being of the child and his family¹⁵. A number of factors are conducive in this regard, for instance the age of the child, his work and working conditions and the consequences of his work on his school education. The children sometimes undergo such working conditions that are detrimental to their health and where they have been financially exploited. The job providers take advantage of the children's status where the children cannot make their labor unions as they are illegal workers and hence they can do nothing to change their working conditions. Moreover, they are ever-obedient in doing all sorts of tasks. This mishandling suppresses the healthy growth of the children. These working conditions lack the urge to grow mentally and physically healthy. Consequently such children are void of the innocence and delicate joys of childhood and they are restricted to live a dull and drab life. Nonetheless, the effort to put an end to the child labor is encountered with many problems. The ultimate definition of child labor varies internationally. Every country has its own age restriction for work. Moreover, this restriction varies from one type of labor to another. In this way the whole issue of child labor appears to be unsettled and it is open to disputing argumentation. Majority of nations agree that a child of six years should not be compelled to any kind of work but the status of a twelve years old child in terms of employment is yet blurred. It is very difficult to eradicate child labor until the whole world comes to some agreeable conclusion in this regard. Some on the contrary say that work is conducive in helping a child towards his socialization process, to maintain his self-esteem and to train him for the challenges of life. Hence the problem no more remains the child labor itself but the working conditions where the children suffer from the adversities of the child labor¹⁶.

It is vital to clarify the term "child labor" before moving ahead. This term can be explained in two dimensions- financial and social. The financial explanation sees the children as earning members of the family whereas the social explanation signifies the importance of taking the working conditions into account.

¹⁵ Hussain Maskus, *Child Labor use and economic growth: an econometric analysis* (Lahore: The World Economy, Vol. 26,2003), 993–1017.

¹⁶ Ray Randal, *comparative analysis of Child Labor in Peru and Pakistan* (London: Journal of population economics, 2010) 27.

The induction of children in profitable professions is risky. It damages their health and it deprives them the environment to grow naturally. The International Labor organization (ILO) has calculated that 250 million children from five to fourteen years of age are employed in some kind of work, in the developing countries. Among these, about 120 million are working as full time laborers. Asia's share in such kind of labor is sixty one percent, Africa's thirty two percent and Latin America's is seven percent.

Majority of the children are working in agriculture sector where many of them are domestic workers. The child labor in urban areas is found in trade and services with some proportion in manufacturing and construction sector. As for the age, the child labor varies from four years of age children who work in carpet weaving and are kept indoors and not allowed to run away from work, to seventeen years old children who are seen extending helping hands to their family members on the farms. Sometimes the labor comes out to be beneficial for the working children and their families. It comes out to be a healthy practice because work brings earning and it can be advantageous in providing a child all the necessities required for healthy development. This healthy development however is conditional because the age of the working child, his working conditions and the consequences of his work on his school education are three important factors to be considered in this regard¹⁷.

Child labor cannot be eradicated until the poverty is removed. The child labor in third world countries comes from the families suffering from poverty where children have to work to make both ends meet.

The tanning industry is unsafe for the children to be employed as laborers. Pakistan exports labor goods and earns a lot of foreign exchange from this industry. The working conditions in this industry are risky and dangerous for human health and a child may suffer more than an adult working there. A large number of children are working in these industries.

The leather factories have been excreting a huge amount of poisonous chemicals. They employ children on large scale under these damaging working conditions.

¹⁷ Rashid Rana, A Comparative Analysis of Rural and Urban child labor in Pakistan (Bahawalpur: islamia university, 2010), 72.

The proportion of child labor in urban areas is increasing because developing countries show a tendency of the people to migrate from rural areas to urban areas. The rural families tend to leave harsh working environment in the fields and want to be settled in urban areas where economic prospects might be more promising which turns out to be untrue in the end. A large scale migration from villages to cities occurred during last forty years. The urban areas of the developing world comprised seventeen percent of the whole population in 1950. The percentage reached to thirty two in 1988 and forty in 2000. This will reach to fifty seven percent in 2025. This large scale migration to cities along with bad economic scenario compel the children into work and hence because of the poor economic conditions in urban areas child labor increases there.

The ILO's Worst Forms of Child Labor Convention bans worst forms of child labor and the Children's Right Division at Human Rights Watch has centered its efforts on these. The children who work for longer hours under insecure and damaging conditions are suffering from life-long psychological and physical distress. The children working in carpet weaving are suffering from eyes' and lungs' diseases, their growth is prevented and they are likely to suffer from arthritis towards their growing old. The children injure their hands in silk thread industry¹⁸. Their lungs are damaged inhaling fumes of the factories and dead worms cause infection. The children work for longer hours under burning sun in cutting sugarcane and may cause injuries to their hands and legs.

The human rights and the child rights are badly violated in some forms of child labor. Some children are kept in captivity, physically thrashed and deprived of the right to go to school and grow normally as a child. Such kind of treatment is paralleled to child slavery. Some children are not given the right to move or even to visit their families. Some are kept by force and threatened to work. All these instances show the violation of the basic rights of the children. The children in Asia, the Middle East, Latin America and the United States work for longer hours for little or no pay. They work with poisonous chemicals and use dangerous tools.

This debate intends to bring the variety of child labor aspects into light, to highlight the misery of the working children, to promote the process of uprooting these fearful practices and to focus the debate on the wider issues of the working children.

¹⁸ International Labour Organization, *Facts on Child Labor* (Dakar: ILO, 2006), 42.

It is not bad for children to help their parents by doing some job but the rights of the children to grow, to develop and to get education should not be denied. We should supervise the working hours of the children; should give them the opportunity of getting education, nutritious diet and recreational environment.¹⁹

Two hundred and fifty million children have been employed to work in various professions. Seventy percent of these, about one hundred and seventy million, are working in agriculture sector. The children in agriculture work for longer hours under the burning sun, pull heavy loads of crops, risk the harms of poisonous chemicals used in agriculture and they get themselves injured working with a variety of agricultural machines and instruments. Their work on the whole is fatiguing and hard. Hence the rights of the children to be healthy and educated and to be kept away from damaging work have been violated.

Child labor is a worldwide problem. The argumentation on the issue of child labor and its ultimate rejection has been misunderstood in some way as different types of jobs taken up by children have not been discriminated. The variety of jobs should be seen in their respective contexts with their own definitions, elaborations and outcomes.

ILO's new report on child labor states that the child labor engaged in agriculture is ten times that of the industrial labor engaged in the jobs like carpet weaving, soccer ball stitching and garments manufacturing etc. This huge magnitude of child labor in agriculture has been paid less attention in terms of safeguarding their rights.

Human Rights Watch observes that in Egypt, in Ecuador, in India and in the United States the child labor engaged in agriculture is being utilized unfairly and has been put at great risk of denying the basic rights of the children. These four different regions of the world have the same misusing and damaging attitude towards the working children.

Human Rights Watch has observed the condition of the cotton industry in Egypt. It is major cash crop of Egypt and every year more than a million children work there to remove the pests present in cotton by using their hands. In Ecuador about six hundred thousand children are found working in rural areas. In the United States three hundred thousand children have been found working in the wide range of commercial agriculture. In India the child labor study has shown

¹⁹ Rashid Jafri, *Some Dimensions of Child Labor in Pakistan* (Karachi: Durbar printers, 1998), 24.

that nearly fifteen million children are working as bonded child labor. Most of them belong to the lower casts. About eighty seven percent of them are working in agriculture. They have been seen working in the fields, looking after the animals and obeying the commands of their employers²⁰.

The family, the society and the state are bound to take steps to safeguard the rights of the children in accordance with The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR).

The Covenant maintains that all persons under eighteen years of age or otherwise according to the law of a country have the right to be kept away from employing in any kind of work that may be harmful for them or may impede their education or may be damaging to their health and their physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development. All the signees of this convention are bound to take suitable steps like making laws or directing the government departments to ensure the rights of the children acknowledged in this convention.

A follow-up, The End Decade Review, evaluated gradual achievement of goals which were set by World Summit for Children in 1990. The object of this evaluation was to speed up the process of securing children's rights by ensuring their survival, protection, development and participation. It also aimed at reaching the milestones set by the Summit in 1990 by way of making policies for the coming years and by taking some immediate initiatives.

All sections of civil society were on board and their role in EDR had been vital. National and Provincial Steering Committees included all significant NGO's. EDR contained the response of national NGO's in the form of matrix questionnaire. NGO's remained busy in sensitizing people about child rights.

2.5 Background of Child Labor in Pakistan

In Pakistan children can be easily harmed either physically or emotionally. The reports show that the children suffer a lot in spheres of economic and social progress. Nonetheless, a strong political will and implementation of law can facilitate the children, as the part of the society, in a better way. This can be done by including national and international organizations active in this regard. The children's status can be improved by making child-centered economic and social

²⁰ United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund, *The State of World's Children: Adolescence – An Opportunity* (New York: UNICEF, 2010),21.

policies. Poverty has direct impact on children in a society. If we strive to remove poverty of children we can go a long way in lowering down the poverty level in society. The early phase of a child's life is crucial in his development. It is a point where we can set the direction of intellectual and physical development of our society. Any damage done in this phase of a child's development cannot be retrieved²¹. The diet of a child is very important in his brain development and it has a life-long effect on his mental and educational development. Same is the case with medical facilities. Improper or insufficient medical cure can impede a child's wholesome physical and intellectual development.

It is strongly recommended to improve the economic status of the children in a society because in the usual course of life poverty travels from one generation to the next. The poor children are likely to have the poor children of their own. If a child does not enjoy good health, is underfed and is not given good education he is unlikely to break the chains of poverty.

The offspring of such poor children will also be poor and their social and economic status is unlikely to be higher than their parents. The women who are underfed give birth to underweight children. Similarly uneducated parents cannot guide their children in their daily school assignments.

It is strongly recommended to reduce the poverty of the children because they are helpless section of society. A country can make iconic development by helping the helpless. The children can be easily harmed or they can be unfairly taken advantage of. They remain helpless as well as dependent. The government is therefore morally bound to save the children from such sufferings²².

Another strong reason for raising the children's economic and social status is that it is not a matter of choice but becomes a compulsion after signing the Convention on the Rights of the Children which binds the signees to ensure children's rights to enjoy good health, diet, education and standard of life. It is a very challenging task but Pakistan can do it. Speeches cannot do this. The demand of the time is action. A strong political will in this regard should manifest itself in

²¹ Chaudhry M. Saifullah. "The Nature and Extent of Child Labour in Pakistan: An Anthropological Perspective." *Voice of Intellectual Man-An International Journal* 2, no. 1 (2012): 1-18.

²² Chaudhry Saifullah *The Nature and Extent of Child Labor in Pakistan: An Anthropological Perspective* (Islamabad: Voice of Intellectual Man-An International Journal 2, 2012), 1-18.

the form of financial and legal resources for the protection of the children in society. In this way poverty can be stopped from travelling from one generation to the next. The government, in collaboration with global services of good living standards can help the children to enjoy a reasonably good economic and social status. Hence the coming generation can be protected from poverty. The government can invest in the children by introducing large scale economic and social activities where a large portion of masses can be provided with an environment of economic growth.

The children have the right to live in a society which is ready to guard them from exploitation and harm. Eight key points are suggested for secure environment in Pakistan which can ensure the provision of the rights of the children. These eight points are linked with one other. They may have some common features with one another. They may affect one another, as one is implemented fully it can enhance the implementation of the other.

2.6 Legislation against Child Labor in Pakistan

The constitution of Pakistan in article 11 (1) disallows slavery in any shape and prohibits any law to help the promotion of slavery. All shapes of forced labor have been disallowed in article 11 (2). Induction of under fourteen children in any kind of work in factories, mines or in any damaging condition has been prohibited in article 11 (3)²³.

Following are the main law making proceedings on national level.

2.6.1 The Employment of Children Act (ECA), 1991:

According to section two of the act, a child is any person under fourteen years of age. Induction of under fourteen children has been prohibited by prohibition section three of the act, in all sorts of jobs linked with railways and railway stations. Part two of the same disallows the recruitment of the children in thirteen more areas of work. All these bans do not include the organizations run by the family or established by government.

2.6.2 The Bonded Labor System (Abolition) Act, 1992:

The act gives clarified definitions about peshgi (advance), bonded debt, bonded labor, bonded laborer and bonded labor system as well as about family and nominal wages. It declares the work

²³ Myra Imran, *Children's Issues Never Been on Priority in Pakistan* (Islamabad: Institutionalized Children Explorations and Beyond, An International Journal on Alternative Care, 2016), 257-258.

done against Pashgi as a shape of bonded labor. It liberates all the bonded laborers from any kind of work.

The same act forbids employing the laborers under forced environment. All agreements, contracts and practices of bonded labor stand null and void according to this act²⁴.

2.6.3 The Prevention and control of Human Trafficking ordinance (Promulgated in October 2002):

This law concerns the children below eighteen years of age. It defines unfair entertainment and various shapes of it in sports, sex and in other evil customs. It states that human trafficking is employ, buy or sell a person with or without his will, by using force or taking him away against his will or paying for his transportation charges.

This ordinance recommends seven to fourteen years of imprisonment for the persons involved in such crime whether they are individuals, groups or even the parents of the children. This crime can be prosecuted in the court of law and the accused are not entitled to bail. This ordinance is likely to stop the instances of human trafficking.

Pakistan is signatory to the:

01. ILO Convention on the Worst Forms of Child Labor (No. 182) ;
02. ILO Forced Labor Convention (No. 29) ;
03. ILO Abolition of Forced Labor Convention (No. 105);
04. UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).

2.7 Bonded child labor:

The advance payment or peshgi is chief cause of bonded labor. This advance payment is sometimes as little as US \$ 15. The employer takes possession of the child after he has paid the advance. The bonded child most often remains unable to earn so much as to pay back the debt. The family too cannot provide enough to buy back the child. The work places in such cases are the ones that render the child helpless in paying back the loan because there are ample deductions like “expenses” and “interests” etc. This bonded labor sometimes go generation after generation in a way that a family is bound to supply a new laborer every new generation.

²⁴ Ministry of Labour (2000), *Situation of Child Labour, Labour Force Survey of Pakistan 1999-2000* (Islamabad: Government of Pakistan: Ministry of Labour, Manpower and Overseas), 05.

The exports of Pakistan received a heavy set back after the condemnation of child labor there. The world did not see the real picture of child labor and inflicted heavy economic penalties. Consequently, Pakistan's economy was damaged and it did no good to the health and betterment of the miserable children. In this regard a cross-sectional study was conducted with structured questionnaire method which included questions related to work, food, health and expectations of the children. There were twelve to fourteen years old children, mean 13.91 years. These children had a family of 7.4 members on the average. The average family income per month was Pak Rupees 2884. Fifty seven percent children got no rest and the remaining enjoyed half to one hour rest during the day. The food consumption ratio was: pulses 46%, vegetables 39% and meat 15%. Eighty seven percent children had no ailment when interview was conducted. The children on the average earned Pak Rupees 615 per month, range 200-1200. Forty five percent children were working as helpers in the shops and the rest were working in other areas. The reasons for taking up jobs were: family support 89%, parent's pressure 5%, fond of work 4%, learning skills 1% and self-support 1%. The majority, 56%, worked more than seven hours a day. Seventy nine percent did not want to work but to study, play and become doctors, engineers and officers. They even wanted to be born in another family. They were the children whose rights were denied. They had the compulsion to work for their families but they wanted to live like children with dreams and hopes. It did not prove fruitful for them to relieve them from their labor. On the contrary they suffered financial problems and their health deteriorated. It did not improve their social and economic status.

A comprehensive policy is required to help these children. Their financial needs should be met. They should also be provided with educational facilities.

2.8 Combating child Labor:

Move forward at a greater pace to ban and remove the worst forms of child labor. Work for their recovery and social unification process by giving them free basic education along with vocational training where necessary. Collaborate internationally for the removal of worst forms of child labor by providing social and economic development projects for such children.

Evolve and execute the mechanism to keep the children away from ill-treatment and labor that is damaging to their health and to their physical, mental, spiritual and moral development or that may cause hindrance in their education²⁵.

Secure the children from any kind of financial utilization. Encourage national and international collaboration to better the status of the children by giving them free basic education along with necessary vocational training, and by devising and executing such policies as may help to remove their misery and to provide them with better chances to earn to meet their expenses.

2.9 The problem of child labor in Pakistan:

The child labor issue has many faces in Pakistan like anywhere else in the world. A shape of child labor is found in motor workshops or in brick factories with all the risky and damaging working conditions. Another shape is in the countryside of Pakistan where children in the carpet weaving suffer mental and physical health problems. Another shape of child labor is in the hidden and illicit factories where children are compelled to work for twelve hours a day.

Millions of children from five to eighteen years of age have been employed in numerous working conditions full of risks and difficulties. Federal Bureau of Statistics (FBS) in September 1996 gave the figure of about 3.3 million children employed in Pakistan. It is almost seven percent of the total labor force. These official figures do not include the children employed in unregistered work places.

The domestic child laborers, majority of which are girls, remain usually hidden and away from the eyes of the researchers. It is the hidden sector of labor. They suffer threats, abuse and sexual exploitation. The street children although not hidden, also suffer from abuse and their real picture is difficult to record. The types of jobs and the working conditions of the hidden labor are also untraceable. They have no access to legal aid and they face a great deal of risk, insecurity and unfair handling²⁶.

²⁵ Ministry of Education (2008), *Comparison of Educational Data Government of Pakistan* (Islamabad: Ministry of Education, 2008), 03.

²⁶ Malik Abdul Khaliq, Niaz Ahmed Bhutto, Danish Shaikh, Erum Akhter, and Falahuddin Butt, *FACT ABOUT CHILD LABOR* (Pakistan: In Proceedings of 2nd International Conference on Business Management, 2006), 1-35.

2.10 National Child Labor survey:

Federal Bureau of Statistics conducted the National Child Labor Survey in 1996. The Survey stated that among a total of forty million children 3.3 million, from five to fourteen years of age, have been regularly employed as full-time workers. These working children have the ratio as seventy three percent, 2.4 million, boys and twenty seven percent, 0.9 million, girls. The rural areas have inducted eight times more child laborers as compared to urban areas. The portion of child labor from ten to fourteen years of age is four times the children from five to nine years of age.

The child labor in rural areas is mostly, seventy four percent, in agriculture. In urban areas most of the child labor has been inducted in manufacturing. Both of these sectors have the girl workers with higher percentage²⁷.

The indicators show that girl child laborers are more likely to be employed in agriculture as well as in manufacturing. Majority of the child laborers in non-agriculture, ninety three percent, are doing casual pieces of work.

A remarkable, forty six percent, ratio of child laborers from five to fourteen years of age are working for more than usual working hours that is thirty five hours per week, and about thirteen percent are working for fifty six or more hours per week. In urban areas as much as seventy three percent of the child laborers remain busy for more than usual working hours. The urban picture in this regard is therefore bleaker.

2.10.1 Major factors involved in the practice:

This survey found the following elements involved in child labor:

01. Population explosion
02. Larger, seventy percent, rural population
03. Poverty
04. Low productivity
05. Less or no salaries in agriculture
06. Gender discrimination

²⁷ Ministry of Finance, *Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper of Pakistan* (Islamabad: Government of Pakistan, Ministry of Finance, 2003), 07.

07. Social attitude

08. Lack of educational facilities

Majority of child laborers belong to large families with low income. Their average family size is found to be eight members, greater than the national average. Majority of girls who are busy in domestic labor come of a family with nine members. The survey also highlights the convincing reasons given by the parents for their children to be put into work. Sixty nine percent responded that their children help in domestic or family run business, a prominent feature of rural areas. Twenty eight percent told that the labor of their children brings an essential addition to family income required to make both ends meet. It is the common reason among urban parents.

Out of the whole child labor force, one third is literate. To complete primary education is not a strong discouragement for child labor. School enrolments show that percentage of working children, 34.2, outside the schools is higher than those who have been enrolled, 13.2 %. Hence the enrollment is negatively correlated with the engagement of children in various kinds of jobs. The rate of completion of education is low because of other obvious reasons like less chances of education because of lack of schools, unaffordable school fees, inappropriate school syllabi for practical life and check on the movement of girls in typical social contexts.

Chapter # 03

3.0 Child Labor in Pakistan

Pakistan is a 3rd world country. Which has limited resources and is going through slow socio-economic development. In stark contrast, the population growth rate within Pakistan is a whopping 2.77 percent. This growth rate is the highest among all of the countries that exist within the South Asian region. This situation creates numerous challenges which hinder its economic progress. Pakistan is the country where immense disparity between social classes can be witnessed as more than 30% of its inhabitants live a destitute life which is way below the poverty line. According to an economic survey done in the year 1996, the gross national product per capita of Pakistan was 490 whereas the literacy rate was a mere 38.9% within the total population. A clear gender disparity can be witnessed between male and female population, 50% of male where 27% of women within the total population of Pakistan were deemed as literate²⁸.

As Pakistan is currently going through a developmental phase, a plethora of socio-economic issues can be witnessed. The problems that it faces are no different than the problems present in the other 3rd world countries of south Asia. The issue of child labor is a one among such problems.

When it comes to Pakistan, the children inhabiting this country are involved in the most heinous types of child labor. Many investigating reports have showcased the pitiful situation of those children that are smuggled to Middle Eastern countries. The main objectives of such child trafficking involves forced labor, house hold servitude and sexual exploitation. Whereas, the most common job for these kidnapped children is the work pertaining to gambling in the form of camel jockeys. Then there is the whole industry which caters to the exploitation of young children by the application of debt bounded system. It is brick kiln industry, in which children are forcefully made to go through tedious labor. Pakistani children are also pushed into harsh

²⁸ Federal Bureau of Statistic Pakistan, *Population and Labor Force Employment* (Islamabad: Statistics Division Ministry of Economic Affairs and Statistics Government of Pakistan, 2008), 28.

jobs such as garbage picking, trash weaving and other forms of manual labor. Some twisted individuals within our society used children for the smuggling of contra bend items and recreational drugs. On the other hand, there is miniscule data present which entails the true horror of child manipulation within the private sector (both in formal and illegal sector respectively).

Many Different surveys were conducted to assess the issue of child labor in Pakistan. These surveys were conducted between the span of three years international labor organization. These surveys selected cohort of children with the range between 10 and 14. According to these surveys, about 2 million children were initiated within the labor force during 2011-2013. Whereas, in the previous years this number was 1.8 Million. It also showed the increasing trend of hiring girl workers as their ratio was much higher when compared to the selective proportion of boys. This trend was even higher in the urban areas. In the major metropolitan cities. The service sector alone employed 52.14% from a total population of a children working as a labor. The second highest number of children employed in the rural setting can be attributed to manufacturing sector. When it comes to the occupational system of child labor a vast majority of children work in agricultural venues. This number includes 64.70% from the total population of boys while 66.68% from the girls²⁹.

Among these children that participated in production activities, 22.53% were boys while 28.70% were girls. A large number of children were getting zero wage as they were helping out their families .the percentage of such children was 63.22 within the boys while 65.41% within the girls. Such kind of unpaid Labor was much more abundant in the rural population as compare to the urban one, likewise, a hefty number of children were working overtime in the urban areas. The percentage of children that worked worn then 35 hours per week was a staggering 70%.

Federal bureau of statistics conducted a national survey in association with ILO in the year 2006. This survey discovered that there were about 3.5 million or 35 lack children who were actively contributing to the economy of Pakistan. The statistics of ministry of labor and findings of overseas Pakistani's came upon alarming facts and figures from the survey. It discovered that 33 lakh children between the ages of 5-14 were practically working in the full time job. Total

²⁹ ILO, *protecting children from having to work* (Geneva: ILOs international program for the elimination of child labor, 2013), 04.

number of children in Pakistan was estimated to be about 4 crore. Thus 8.3% of children were economically active in their professional endeavors. The provinces of Sindh and Baluchistan were unapproachable at that time thus it was estimated that the true number of children working in the labor industry was much more than expected. Within these 33 lac children, 73% were boys while 27% were girls. The probability of participation of such children working as child labor was at that time higher when compare to the urban areas. When we classify these children as per their nature of their work, the majority of these children were involved in basic unskilled jobs in agriculture, seles and services, mining, construction, manufacturing and transport³⁰.

Thus/ the children working in the occupational sector mentioned above makeup 71% of all working children. A significant number of children with their family members as unpaid informal Labor. These children make up about 70% of all working children. One disparity that was prominent in that data consisted of urban-rural differences in the intensity scope and nature of their work. The ratio of children working with their family was much higher in the rural setting as compare to the urban setting. The number in the urban areas turned out to be 1/3 whereas in rural areas it was an overwhelming 2/3. It was also discovered that a significant number of children worked for more than 56 hours per week. Sadly, about 7% of such children were battling serious illnesses and occupational injuries, the data showed the similar trend as before. The children that had gotten ill or injured, mostly came from rural background. The chance of series injury was much higher in the field of agriculture. After agriculture, the most common cause of occupational hazard pertained to the field of mining, building sector, production and transit.

A similar survey was conducted by the federal bureau of statistics in the year 1996. This survey targeted 2.5 crore children that were not getting any kind of formal education. Among such out of school children, 26 lack were working as child labor. This survey did not account for the rest of nonworking children out of school. The employment of children Act 2005 clearly defines a hazardous condition in with a young child works in. According to this survey, nearly all of the working children mentioned above were working in dangerous environment. This survey did not entail the living condition of the children that worked part time or occasional basis. It also did

³⁰ Federal Bureau of Statistic Pakistan, *Pakistan Social and Living Standard Measurement Survey data* (Islamabad: Statistics Division Ministry of Economic Affairs and Statistics, Government of Pakistan, 2006), 11.

not include the children that have informal occupation and those that worked in their own household on per item wage basis. When it comes to the studies conducted by the nongovernmental or private sectors, the number of working children turns out to be humongous. Such researches conclude that more than 20% out total number of children in Pakistan work full time. The exact number given by these organization varies between 80 lack and 1 crore.

All of the previous surveys that targeted labor related issues never paid much attention to the working children under the age of 10. National plan of action was initiated by the government of Pakistan in order to formally address the issue of child labor for the first time in the administrative history of government sector. The findings matched the estimate given by NGO's that was about 1 crore. In the similar fashion, a brochure printed by federal ministry of labor in 1996 acknowledged the number of working children to be more than 63 lack. For government of Pakistan, the number of children working as formal labor mattered in major way³¹. No matter what the volume was, this children were the responsibility of the state and it was accountable to these children for their prosperous future. Thus, the government took an initiative to dissipate child labor from its soil.

This whole situation is much more complicated than what it appears to be on surface as there are many dimensions that need intricate acknowledgement. It is unlikely to remove such children from their work place because that is most often the only source of bread and butter for than and their family. Their abrupt departure from the work place will cause social agitation and economic stress on their family. This action will cause a chain reaction within society that would be detrimental for the society as a collective³².

Any kind of abrupt actions by the government would worsen the situation hence a cautious and study approach was deemed as desirable. Instead of immediate elimination of abysmal form off child labor a gradual change was favored by the government for the benefit of all parties involved. In order to carry out such initiatives, many pragmatic programs were initiated to achieve the specified target. These programs include IPEC (international program for the elimination of child labor). This aforementioned program was carried out under the umbrella of

³¹ Ministry of labor, *assessment of the situation of child labor in Pakistan* (Islamabad: department of social development, 1996), 15.

³² Federal Bureau of Statistic Pakistan, *National Education Census* (Islamabad: Statistics Division Ministry of Economic Affairs and Statistics Government of Pakistan, 2005), 03

ILO (international labor organization) other than such initiatives recognition for the rehabilitation of child laborers was also in order. Thus, programs for the rehabilitation of children working as laborers was also organized under this initiative. In order to functionalize this initiative such children that were taken out of the work places were given both formal and in formal education. This program included vocational training and other incentives which included medical care financial stipends and nutritional items. All of the previously mentioned efforts led to a singular objective which pertained to the rehabilitation of these children through the medium of main stream education.

The government was adamant about the achievement of their goals for the access of primary education for children from all social classes. Such objectives required an increase in GDP especially when it came to its proportional section for education. Therefore, an active participation of high level bodies such as, ILO-IPEC national steering committee, national commission for child welfare and development, advisory committee of child labor and child care foundation is imperative to carry out the government's initiative for the eradication of child labor. And other positive indication for this initiative is the participation of NGO's, laborer organizations and the employer's positive attitude for the plans laid out by the government. The concern for all the sections of society is necessary to create the atmosphere which is suitable for the permanent solution of this issue³³.

3.1 Status of Child Labor in Pakistani Society

In the past, the government of Pakistan has tried to gauge the status of child labor on Pakistani soil. For this purpose, federal bureau of statistics collaborated with ILO and carried out a national survey on child labor in 2005. This survey was directed at the children between the ages of 5-14. This demographic target population of children was estimated to be 40 million and within this population the economically active children turned out to be 3.3 million. This specific number of population constitutes the 8.3 % of children within the total population. A vast majority of such children consisted of 73% of young boys whereas the number of girls was near 27%. The province of Punjab had the largest majority of child labors which was estimated to be

³³ Nafees, Asaad Ahmed, Kausar Saeed Khan, Zafar Fatmi, and Mubashir Aslam, *Situation analysis of child labor in Karachi* (Pakistan: a qualitative study *Journal of Pakistan Medical Association* 62, no. 10 2012), 1075.

1.94 million or 58.6% within the total population of such children in Pakistan. It was also discovered that the tendency of child labor was 8 times greater than in urban setting. Only 33 % of such children were literate while boys were discovered to be more likely to be educated than their female counter parts. Similarly the urban children were also more likely to be formally educated when compared rural children it was discovered that 70 % of such children were helping out their families while getting nothing in return. There was a clear disparity between the rural and urban unpaid family members that happened to be children. In rural areas, more than 75% of working children were working as unpaid family members whereas in urban settings this number was a mere 33%. More than 46% of such children were working about 35 hours per week and a good chunk within this population was being forced to work even more than 56 hours. On the parental side of things in regards to the work carryout by these children, the parents considered this labor as nothing more than a required support for their small cottage industry³⁴.

3.1.1 Agrarian Child Labor

As it is mentioned about that the majority of the children involved in child labor were working in the agrarian activities within rural setting. There is an underlying dimension within this whole scenario when it comes to the dynamics and structures within the rural life style of the inhabitants living in Pakistan. It is a norm within Pakistani rural society to include children as workers in agriculture related activities related to farms and livestock. It is a dilemma for the researchers to consider these children as child labor because these children indeed do attend schools, while also take care of their household chores. On the other hand, there are certain industrial sectors that cause both physical and psychological harm to these children.

The majority of the injuries occurred in the line of work that involves machinery, pesticides, and fruit picking. The children should be taken out of such industries through immediate action taken by the government.

3.1.2 Dangerous Types of Child Labor

Pakistan government became the signatory of ILO convention 182 held in year 2001. In that convention Pakistan ratified an agreement with regards to 'worst form of child labor'. Therefore, Pakistan formally became the part of international campaign to eliminate all types of dangerous

³⁴ International Labor Organization, *Combating Child Labor in Carpet Industry Phase II* (Islamabad: International Programme on Elimination of Child Labor, 2005), 25.

and inhuman forms of child labor. According to this convention, any person below the age of 18 years would be considered as the child. The article 3 formulated why this convention clearly identifies the worst forms of child labor. Accordingly, it show cases the 3 specific activities that create a parameter to attribute the worst types of child labor. These perimeters include all kinds of slavery and bonded labor. The slavery can be practiced in different manner for example child trafficking and debt bondage. For the first time, the recruitment of the children as soldiers was also identified as forced and worst form of child labor.

3.1.3 Children Compelled to Work

It is obligatory for the Pakistan government to implement the values of justice and equality that were laid down in the convention mentioned above on the rights of child. Such values can be considered as the necessity for human growth and for the safe guarding of the rights and lives of such vulnerable children. For this purpose, the indigenous laws of Pakistan are in need of major changes. Likewise, a practical implementation of such laws is also required in order to provide legal support to these children. It seems that, Pakistan is committed and moving to words the achievement of rights for these children especially looking at the broader perspective which encompasses all children from all communities³⁵. The simple reason for the emergence of child labor is the vulnerability of children to be exploited is cheap labor. The children that work in isolation are most likely to be paid less than their adult contemporary workers. In most cases the children are deprived of their salary as it is either given to parents or use to clear their debts. In many cases the employers refrain from paying these children as they are considered as apprentices thus making their work an educational experience. While the lessons taught by their masters as the payment for their labor.

3.2 Situation of Child Labor in Large Industries

Child labor is prominent in every major kind of industry within Pakistan. This section of research tried to understand the functional implications of children working as labor. It also covers the causes and ramifications of this phenomenon as it is ongoing process which needs better understanding.

³⁵ Ilyas, Aamar, Muhammad Shehryar Shahid, and Ramraini Ali Hassan. *Evaluating the motives of child laborers in the informal economy* (Islamabad: International Journal of Sociology and Social Policy, 2020), 05

3.2.1 Carpet Industry

The most affluent export from Pakistan that utilizes child labor comes from carpet industry. It was previously understood that this industry was the soul contributor for child labor. When it come to the export products of Pakistan significant number of children are employed as carpet weavers. This can be seen in the memorandum of official meeting between US department of labor and the Pakistan secretary of labor. In that meeting the Pakistani carpet industry was discussed and scrutinized as the major antagonistic contributor towards child labor. This meeting was also references in the ILO report on human right practices for the year 1996³⁶.

3.2.2 Sports Equipment

The Pakistani city of Sialkot is well knows for the premium quality sports goods. The south Asian coalition on child servitude concluded that this particular industry in Sialkot was employing children from the adjoining towns and villages. On the other hand, the Pakistani human rights commission reached the different conclusions as they found zero Child labor in the factories that produce export quality sports equipment's. The large factories that exported their products to international sporting goods firms refrained from employing children. Whereas, the small cottage-level family units utilized children as child labor for stitching soccer balls. Children between the age of 12 -15 constitute 25% works force in this industry. There working shifts often consisted of six hours per day. Whereas, daily wages 100 rupees per day and 80 rupees per football.

3.3 Application of Child Labor Laws in Pakistan

Similar to any other law in Pakistan, the child labor laws also originated in the British colonial era. These laws prohibit and discourage the employment of children below a certain age. The application of these law incompasses economic sectors which include manufacturing, trade, transportation, mining and marine shipping. Strangely, these laws are not applicable on agriculture sector including tea plantation small shops and cottage industry run by families. On the other hand, all of the laws formulated after the independence of Pakistan mostly focus on hazardous working conduction for children. These laws target specific professions and procedures of production that endanger the lives of vulnerable children. For this purpose, a brief introduction of such laws is in order.

³⁶ International Labor Organization, *Summary results of Child Labor Survey in Pakistan* (Islamabad: IPEC, 1996),17.

3.3.1 Employment of Children Act 1991

The employment of children act 1991 clearly declares the employment of children under the age of 14 is an unlawful act. Any profession and procedure that puts the lives of such children in harm's way was made null and void. The consideration for the physical wellbeing of working children and their health is recognized by this act. It is not applicable on the professions and occupation which include family operations or school activities. It also laid down the time frame of working hours for children as they cannot work for more than 7 hours per day and also cannot work after 7pm.

Due to this act the employers are compelled to keep a formal tab and maintain a register of children working for them. It also makes it obligatory for the employer to take all the necessary safety measure and utilize the safety provisions in their work place. If the employer fails to meet the required conditions in his work place then he will face both imprisonment and fine. The imprisonment might cost up to 1 year and would be fined up to 20000 rupees. Likewise, if a person employs children in the specified prohibited professions then he would be liable to face 1 month imprisonment and 10,000/- rupees fine. Previously, the pledging of labor act 1933 stated that the children under the age of 15 years can be employed for the purpose of earning bread and butter. No such prohibition was made in that act to create a safe working environment for these vulnerable children³⁷.

3.3.2 The Constitution of Islamic Republic of Pakistan 1973

01. No child below the age of 14 years can be employed in any kind of factory or mine work if it is deemed as hazardous to his /her life.
02. There can be no law committed to facilitate slavery of any kind, be it in the form of host labor or child trafficking.

3.3.3 The West Pakistan shops and establishment ordinance, 1969:

01. Child labor in all kind of establishments has been prohibited in the section 20 of West Pakistan shops and establishment ordinance 1969.
02. Similarly children between the age of 14-18 years are allowed to be employed within the certain parameters which indicate the time limit of 9am to 7pm.

³⁷ Iftakhar Raza, 'An Elusive Goal', *The State of Pakistan's Children 2006*, (Islamabad: Society for the Protection of the Rights of the Child, 2006),13.

03. A limit was put on the working hours of such children which was 7 hours per day are 42 hours per week.

3.3.4 Factories Act 1934

01. The section 50 of this act clearly prohibits child labor in factory.
02. This act stated the adolescence status of the child which was set out to be more than 14 years.
03. For this purpose a certificate from a practicing surgeon was made obligatory while it also made the presence of factory owner imperative during this process
04. After the whole process the child would be given a token to identify him and to provide a reference for that certificate.
05. The working hours for the child were limited to 5 hours per day on the whole no child should be work 7 and a half hour when we take an account his overall shifts for the months.
06. The working hours for sets between 6 am to 7 pm to assure that no child or adolescence work over time.
07. When working with heavy machinery the employer was made obligatory to inform the working child or adolesceni the danger that comes with that line of work. The factory owner was advised to take every caution for the workers wellbeing.
08. When it comes to cotton pressing children were not allowed to be part of any process related to that line of work.

3.3.5 The Mines Act 1923

01. The employment or the presence of any child in any underground mine was made forbidden in the section 25 of mines act 1923.
02. Any person under the age of 18 shall not be allowed to do any kind of mine work.
03. To access the physical fitness, a certificate by a medical practitioner was made obligatory under the super vision of manager in the mine.
04. After that process, the miner was to be given a token as a reference for that certificate.

3.3.6 The Road Transport Workers Ordinance 1961

01. An age limit was set for all the employs working in any road transport service. This age limit excluded drivers which was set to be 18 years.
02. Whereas, the age limit for the employment of drivers was set to be 21 years.

3.3.7 The Bonded Labor System Abolition Act 1992

Before the advent of the bonded labor system abolition act 1992, the creditors shackled the poor class through the chains of unsatisfied bonded debts³⁸. In order to pay such debts, the poor families had to relinquish their children to child labor. This act abolished all the major forms of bounded labor system by terminating all of the obligations put forth on the child laborers in order to pay the debts they had nothing to do with. For this purpose, it provided guidelines in the form of rules of enforcement at the provincial government. It established vigilance committees, to in force law. It also established a fund for the welfare and rehabilitation for the liberated bonded laborers. The punishment for caring out bonded labor contained both imprisonment and a fine.

3.3.8 Other Related Laws:

Such laws are as follows:

- The tea plantations labor ordinance of 1962.
- The merchant shipping act of 1923.
- The Punjab compulsory education act 1994.
- The NWFP compulsory education act 1996.
- The Punjab neglected and destitute children right act 2004.

Prostitution is considered as a criminal act under the Pakistan's panel laws. The bases for such prohibition entails moral and social ethics of Pakistani society. The punishment for organized prostitution is severe under country's criminal laws. But, there is no mentioning of child prostitution under the guise of child labor. On paper, there is a basic legislation to address issues most often associated with child labor. But when it comes to the implementation and enforcement of such laws, a stark contrast and zero interest can be witnessed.

3.4 Pakistan as a Signatory of Many International Initiatives for Child Labor

The following are the main international commitments made by Pakistan regarding child labor. For example, EFA (Education for All) initiative and many more. This section will cover such initiatives.

³⁸ Ibid,

3.4.1 UN Convention on the Rights of the Child:

Article 32

01. The article 32 within the UN convention on rights of the child states that a child should be protected from any kind of exploitation within the working environment. The state should protect the rights of the children pertaining to his/her education and safety against the hazardous conditions within the working environment. Anything that can be harmful to child's physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development should be eliminated from that particular area.
02. Article 32 also states that the government shall take all kind of measures to implement said article, these measures should include legislative, administrative, social and educational efforts. For this purpose, the state shall abide by the relevant provisions laid down by international instruments such as.
 - a) Determine a minimum age for employment.
 - b) Dictate regulation for working hours and working conditions.
 - c) Enforce punishment for the breaking of child labor provisions.

3.4.2 ILO Conventions

Pakistan has ratified the following international instruments concerning child.

01. Night work of Young Persons (Industry) Convention, 1919.
07. Minimum Age (Trimmers and stokers) Convention, 1921
03. Medical Examination of Young Persons (Sea) Convention, 1921
04. Minimum Age (Industry) Convention (Revised), 1973
05. Night Work of Young Persons (Industry) Convention (Revised). 1949
06. Elimination of Worst forms of Child Labor 1982³⁹

3.5 Federal and Provincial Institutional Functions Regarding Child Labor in Pakistan

This list deals with the both the federal and the provincial institutions that deal with the issue of child labor.

³⁹ International Labor Organization , *the end of child labor: Within reach, Global Report under the follow-up to the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work* (Geneva: ILO, 2006).57.

3.5.1 Federal

01. Ministry of Labor, Manpower and Overseas Pakistanis
02. Central Labor advisor's Unit
03. Child Labor Unit

3.5.2 Functions of Child Labor Unit

01. Formation of National Policy on Child Labor.
02. Coordination with Federal Ministries and Provincial Governments.
03. Coordination with employers and Workers organizations and NGOs.
04. Keeping a watch full eye on the implementation of laws on child labor.
05. Monitoring the application of National Policies and Plans against Child Labor.
06. Creation of nexus between United Nation agencies and other international Organizations to ensure cooperation and assistance for elimination of child labor.
07. Monitoring the indigenous programs of action for elimination and rehabilitation of vulnerable children.
08. Ensuring implementation of ILO's initiative against Child Labor.
09. Informing ILO with regards to implementation of guide lines provide by ILO conventions.
10. Submission of reports about International events such as Commission on Human Rights or International Labor Conference.
11. Formation of National Policy against Bounding Labor.
12. Supervision of implementation activities with regards to laws on bonded labor.
13. Keeping an eye on the enforcement of international Policy and Plan for the elimination of Child Labor.
14. Administration of the Fund for Education of Working Children and Rehabilitation of Freed Bonded Laborers.
15. Conducting Meetings of ILO-IPEC National Steering Committee

16. National Committee on Bonded Labor

17. National Committee on the Rights of the Child

3.5.3 Provincial

01. Department of labor

02. Directorate of labor welfare

03. Child Labor Resource center (CLRC)

3.5.4 Functions of CLRC:

01. To create a focal point for the reception of information and data on the issue of child labor within the province.
02. To create new private social partners for the fight against child labor.
03. To utilize media for the purpose of creating awareness through the activities of the government and public sector.
04. To govern the projects and the activities for the eradication of child labor⁴⁰.

⁴⁰ Ministry of Education, *Education for All, National Plan of Action 2001- 15 of Government of Pakistan* (Islamabad: Ministry of Education, 2001), 24.

Chapter # 04

4.0 Child Labor in Small Industries of Larkana Region

Any Small business with a miniscule number of laborers can be defined as small or cottage industry. When we take a look at the global dynamics, it is eminent that a variety can be observed when it comes to the volume and mass of the industry. But if we were to generalize it in accordance to international standard a clear scope can be determined. For example, any industry that has less than 100 employs in US can deemed as small industry. Whereas, the European standard equates to 50 employs as per their own regulations when it comes to definition of small industry. Similarly, the American standard for mid-sized industry is 500 employs, whereas the European standard is 250. Both of aforementioned standard apply on privately on cooperation, partnership and so ownership⁴¹.

Throughout the globe, small businesses are established in nuance with their economic conditions and system of operation. The most common prominent examples of small business include small shops, solicitors, tradesmen, hair dressers, accountants, lawyers, Photographers, restaurants, guesthouses, small-scale manufacturing etc. the operational value of small industries is independent due to private ownership. The small industries that are often established in residential domiciles are known as micro business (this term is often used by international organizations e.g. World Bank and international finance corporation). Other term for small business include solos or mom and pop business. Such an informal terminologies are useful for businesses that entirely operated by single family when seen through the lens of American and European standards. A similar number which denotes 210 employs or less can be attributed to small family business.

4.1 Effect of Child Labor on Childhood

This section covers the situations and circumstances in which children work as labor in larkana. These conditions effect the both psychological and physical health of such children. In order to understand this phenomenon, we need to pin point the relationship between child labor and childhood. Indeed child labor has adverse effects on working children when it comes to their health

⁴¹ Boyden Levison, *Children as Economic and Social Actors in the Development Process*, (Stockholm: Working Paper in EGD, 2000:1), 55.

and socialization. The relationship between the child and his mentor better known as 'Ustad' is a complicated relationship to ponder upon. This relationship will be the subject of discussion in this chapter. Other than that, the researcher will try to make clear distinction between child labor and child work.

4.2 Difference between Child Labor and Child Work

The poor working class in Pakistan includes members from all age groups within the family. Most often the children provide support and work along with their elder family members from a very early age⁴². In rural settings the male children can be found assisting their fathers and elder siblings in farms. Whereas, the most common practice of such assistance in urban areas pertains to common chores in privately own shops. The researcher also has the adequate personal experience when it comes to work in both urban and rural settings. He assisted his family members in both scenarios as his chores included farm work and welding. Therefore, his participant observation served as a pivotal factor towards better understanding of child labor as social phenomenon. On the other hand, the female children assist their mothers in house hold work such as washing of clothes and dusting of house. All of these activities are carried out concurrent with school work weather their work involves formal or informal sectors. Thus. Child work has to be disassociated with child labor as former involves full time work with is very much similar to adult labor in scope and volume.

When it comes to child work, all of the developmental needs of such children are meet with in adequate manner. A child requires an environment which caters to his/her motor functioning. The development of child is dependent on factors such as education, recreation and ample rest⁴³. Any kind of over work can over burden the child which may lead to mental stress or physical injuries. The researcher himself fell victim to serious injuries while working on form and welding shop respectively. While working on form, he almost lost a finger. Whereas, he once required stitches on his head due to an accident in the welding shop. He also suffered many concussions due to head trauma caused by such accidents. Another observation by the researcher

⁴² Khaskheley Ambreen, Munwwar Ali Kartio, Abdul Sattar Shah, and Faiz Muhammad Shaikh, *Child labor and Its Impact on the Attitude of Child: A Case Study of Sindh* (Pakistan: Case Studies Journal ISSN (2305-509X)–Volume 3, 2015), 07.

⁴³ Charles Heady, *The Effect of Child Labor on Learning* (Brussels: Forum of achievement Science Direct-World Development, 2003), 1-18.

implies that poor working standard and over work in welding shops causes visual deterioration and chronic pain in the eyes of working children. To top it all off, the factory children are most often treated with over the counter medication such as Peracetamol and Ponistan. It is common misconception that children working as labor work for full day shifts and do not attend school. It is the finding of this research that many children working as labor indeed go to school and work for near few hours per day. Yet still this work should be labeled a labor as this children work in the similar circumstances as their adult contemporaries.

The indigenous people of Larkana associate child labor with the simple act of earning ones bread and butter. This perspective has become a norm in their everyday lives. The researcher tabulated this perception as a follows:

Child Work vs Child Labor

S No	Difference	Frequency	Frequency
1	Un responsive behavior	16	6.2
2	Child work can be defined as an assistance for the parents were as chills labor can be defined as formal work that is similar to adults.	180	69.2
3	Child labor involves in full time shifts weather a children is getting formal education are works at home.	42	16.2
4	There is no difference between them	22	8.5
	Total	260	100

4.3 The status of Manufacturing Industry in Larkana

The district of Larkana enjoys moderate success when it comes to the commercial activities in the entire Sindh. It is situated in the center of Sindh province which makes it significant due to its prominent location in the region. It has become a hub of small scale industry. Other than this aspect, all of the major activities with regards to logistics provide Larkana with an ample business. The inflow and out flow of goods is rampant whereas the hassle and bussel of indigenous transport makes it a lively region. The last 3 decades have witnessed abrupt and sustainable industry growth in Larkana. The main reason for this development is the policy laid down by Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto as she was an indigenous residence of Larkana. The district

of Larkana is transforming from a commercial trading center to an industrial hub. The liberal fiscal policy of Pakistan People's Party (PPP) has transformed this region to some extent. The private sector has benefited from the packages and incentives that were provided by the government. If the situation remains the same, a further development in the infrastructure and the industrial sector can be achieved in the major area that needs expansion is the industrialization of both small and large business. For this purpose, an incentive is in order for example: exemption of customs duty, income tax holidays, sales tax on imported machinery and carded facilities etc.

When we take a look at the indigenous industry of Larkana, there are two major industrial zones functionally operating. The first major zone can be found in Qamber. This zone can be considered as a miniature industrial zone. Whereas, second is located at Naudero. The industrial zone located in Naudero was established in Zulfikar Ali Bhutto's era. These two zones fulfill the utility requirements of other industrial state near vicinity. The directory of industrial establishment in Sindh provided information about the situation in Larkana. There are more than 23 types of industrial activities being carried out in Larkana, most of these industries fall in the category of small industry. Most of these small industries are labor intensive as they rely on more than 5000 laborer. All of these laborers constitute 211 working units⁴⁴.

4.4 Role of Women and Children for the Industrial Sector

The exact figure for the females and children working in the industrial sector is unknown. Any information that was obtained by the researcher comes from various sources including data from labor department and news articles. The researcher has limited scope of information to informal sector. According to the information at hand there are more than 160 different establishment with the aggregate number of 25063. Such units contained 35857 workers. One interesting aspect emerged from this research, the ratio between women and children showed a clear disparity as there were less children in comparison.

4.5 Development of Small Enterprise

There are many small enterprises operating in district Larkana. Such enterprises include electric work, flour mills, transit companies and engineering workshops. All of the industries mentioned above only employ male workers. In the current times, it is the first and foremost priority of the

⁴⁴ Iqbal, Fatmi Khan, Jumani, Amjad, and Nafees, *Malnutrition and food insecurity in child labourers in Sindh, Pakistan: a cross-sectional study* (Islamabad: East Mediterr Health, 2020),10.

government to provide subsequent vocational training to the employed persons. This vocational training will equip them with the necessary skill set in order for them to earn their bread and butter. A skilled labor force is imperative for the development of the country. Therefore, the Sindh government is providing a vocational training in professions such as tailoring, mechanical work, furniture making and computer assembly, As for the established traits, the government has created carpet weaving centers brick kilns and fruit picking especially for the employment and rehabilitation of female workers.

4.6 Situation of Child Labor in the Industrial Sector of Larkana

This section covers the issue of child labor in various industrial enterprises. For this purpose, the researcher observed industrial sector in larkana regardless of the scope of enterprises. There are many different sectors that employ children which are as follows:

4.6.1 Leather Manufacturing Sector

Leather is processed in order to manufacturer purses, belts and shoes. The demand for leather in Karachi is at all-time high. Thus, the residents of larkana fulfill this demand by providing raw leather to the industrial complexes. The only worthwhile leather product of Larkana is Chapel (shoe) which is locally produced. The Small shopkeepers procure raw leather from households that process that leather. These small house holds constitute a cottage industry that attains leather from slaughter houses and farmers. The shopkeepers manufacture briefcases, purses, wallets, shoes, seat covers, jackets, vescote, hats, and rucksacks from this leather. The main function of the working children in such shops is to wash and collect the leather. The more experienced children take part the manufacturing of the products made from that leather. The one major side effects of working in such shops is skin problem and pulmonary diseases. Another negative aspect of this work pertains to the beating that these children receive at the hands of shop owners. No matter how miniscule the mistake is the beating is considered as mandatory by the Ustad.

4.6.2 Handicrafts

The province of Sindh is well known for its embroidery. Most often this industry is associated with women. It should be noted that this industry not only generates economic activities but can also be considered as traditional heritage of Sindhi culture. The embroidery work of Larkana is exceptional even if we take into account the heritage of Sindh province. Embroidery work is mostly done on shalwar kameez, Bed Covers, Pillow covers, capes, Blouse, shawls (Dupata), and

hand kerchiefs etc. Other handicrafts include wooden items such as sweaters, shawls, and covers. Many women including young girls partake in such activities to support male counterparts. Mirror work on embroiled shirts hand bags and jackets is well known throughout Pakistan, But embroidery and mirror work on sindhi tophi (Cap) is exceptional in Larkana even when compared to the rest of the Sindh. In order to proliferate the importance of handicrafts, the government has formulated many initiatives especially for young girls in larkana. These initiatives include projects that cater to the rehabilitation and vocational training for such children both the Girls and women bring their finished goods to the local shop keepers. One interesting facts that emerged from this research was that women from all walks of life, whether inside or outside of the household, participate in the making of such handy crafts. There are also many NGO's that are established for the purpose of providing vocational training to the girls. These NGO's accommodate the trade of these handicrafts to other cities. With the advent of internet this trade can reach international status with the support of the government. Many exhibition held in Karachi include these handicrafts but both the scale and scope is nominal⁴⁵.

4.6.3 Carpentry and Furniture Making

Both carpentry and Furniture making can be deemed as booming business in larkana. The majority of this Business is located in the main city. Many furniture manufacturing shops can be found that employ both skilled and unskilled children. The most common duty of such children is to polish the furniture goods. The more skilled children can be found working in more skilled ventures such as cutting and crafting. The most common products of this industry in Larkana are doors, windows, carts, chairs, tables, beds and so many others wooden artifacts.

4.6.4 Carpet Making

The industry of carpet making has not flourished in Larkana but is present nonetheless. This is an industry which employs a lot of children within the age of 9-16. The working condition in such factories are abysmal. The congested atmosphere and small windows further create an unsafe

⁴⁵ Sindh Education Foundation, *the Child Labor Education Program* (Karachi: Sindh Education Foundation, government of Sindh, 2001), 12.

working environment. The majority of these children are paid as daily wage workers whereas only the skilled children are paid on monthly basis⁴⁶.

The parents of these children are most often exploited by the carpet manufacturer. The parents send their children to work in order for them to acquire the necessary skill set to earn their living. The carpet manufactures seduce the poor parents with promises of lessened burdened and increase income. In reality, such employers require obedient children that work as cheap Labour. There is also a prominent myth in this industry which considers children as ideal carpet weavers as their small hands and fingers are deemed perfect for intricate carpet work. In stark contrast to this believe, the children are in all actuality more prone to injury and illness when compare to adults. The most common hazard for these children is loss of eyesight due to insufficient of life as well as aches and pains in joints due to bad sitting posture for a prolonged time. These children also do not receive adequate nutrition which cause pulmonary disorder, headache, lack of concentration and physical weakness.

4.6.5 Cotton Picking

The Indus valley civilization is unknown to be based on numerous agrarian societies. The transition to the modern age has not affected the agrarian status to a worthwhile extant .The moen jo daro (city of the dead) is located on the out skirts of Larkana. Most of the ancient cities where established on the banks of the river and Larkana is no different. Cotton, rice and wheat are the main cash crops of larkana region. When it comes to the status of child labor in agriculture sector, cotton picking industry is prominent in employing children as laborers. The children pluck the cotton poppy and sort it out in order to be sent to cotton factories .The working conditions for such children are harsh and inhumane. These children receive very little incentive for such labors. This tedious task of cotton picking is also hazardous for their physical well-being. The most common illness associated with cotton picking pertains to respiratory health of such children. Due toprolong exposure to dust, these children develop allergies and respiratory trapped infections.

⁴⁶ Avais, Muhammad Abdullah, Aijaz Wassan, and Ms Erum, *Socio-economic causes of child labor in carpet weaving industry: a case study of Union Council Ali Wahan* (Karachi: Journal of Social Welfare and Human Rights, 2014), 251-264.

4.6.6 Automobiles Workshops

The district of Larkana is witnessing a rapid increase in population. The main reason for this rapid growth is the migration of rural demographic towards the urban settlements. When such a large population is concentrated in any particular area then various modes of transit are used to transport dead populous. Pakistan is under developed country whereas larkana is even more under developed region. Such a populous cannot afford four wheel vehicles. Hence one can easily spot a plethora of bikes in such regions and larkana is no different. In majority of the workshops located in larkana, young children can be found working and providing repair service for all kind of vehicles in small industries and shops. The age group of such children ranges between 8-16 years. In local language, these children are known as Shagirds (disciple), whereas their masters are known as Ustad. It is a common practice by the Ustad to beat up their shagirds. Such physical abuse has become a norm in this industry. The main reason for the parents to send this children to such workshops is to safeguard their financial wellbeing. The parents are motivated by the fact that someday their children well establish workshop of their own. Most often, such children work on daily wage basis and are given miniscule amount for their efforts. The most common illness in this industry involves skin and respiratory disuses. Only male children work in such auto mobile workshop. The researcher himself worked in tyre shop and suffered various injuries as result of poor working conditions. For example, he almost lost his an eye due to a bursting of the tyre. Thankfully, he only suffered a minor forehead injury and concussion.

4.6.7 Soap Industry

Many factories that produce soaps can be found in the main Larkana city. The majority of these factories produce local washing soaps. Such soaps are used as an alternative for detergents for washing fabrics. There is a large concentration of children working in such factories. The main job of such children is to pick and wrap soap bars. The salary that this children get is pitiful as compare to the scope of the work done by then. The daily wage of such children is only 100 rupees per day. All of the children working in these factories are male. The owners of such factories cut their losses by abstaining themselves is from providing safety equipment and appropriate safety measure in their factories. For example they do not provide hand gloves to this children for the packing of soap. The children work in such factories are not given any king of monitory incentive instead their parents receive their wage. The children are only given one time

meal for their efforts. It is the common practice by the supervisors of the factory to beat the children if a mistake is made. Sometimes these supervisors go as far as to threaten the parents of these children with warnings of termination for their children from job. This children provides a significant income for their households therefore they and their parents are exploited by the factory owners. This exploitation compels the children to work extra-long hours thus leaving no time for education or play time. This whole situation puts immense pressure on these children. In order to release this pressure, many of them start smoking cigarettes, quarreling, with their peers and trying to escape from the work place.

4.6.8 Hotel Industry

When it comes to the functioning of the hoteling industry, there are two major types found in Larkana. The first type of hoteling deals with the accommodation and providing of edibles. Whereas the second type consist of restaurants that only provide food to their customers. Both types employ children as laborers. This children serve in various manners; they can serve tea and food in the restaurant has waiters, they can deliver food items to shops and homes as delivery boys or they can work in the kitchen to assist the cook by washing dishes and chopping food items. The salaries of these children depend upon the skill level. For example, if the child provides an active service and gives a good performance then he is viable to receive pay on monthly basics. If that child fails to carry out his duties and fail to meet the requirement of the owner then he receives his salary on daily wage bases. The children from the distant area are often victims of physical abuse as their parents are far away from them thus cannot come to their rescue. These children are beaten by senior workers, hotel owners and even the customers on minor mistakes. They are not provided with adequate formal education and over worked to an extent that they become unhealthy both physically and mentally. These children are not allowed to be socialized thus they become stoic and are rough. All of the factors mentioned above lead to the bad behavior and bad activities

Such as smoking, stealing and quarrelling these children develop negative feeling towards society which results in petty quarrels with their coworkers and customers. Some of them turn to a life of crime in order to cope with their mental status and bad experiences.

4.6.9 Tailoring

The tailoring industry was always prominent in Larkana region. Due to over population and urbanization, this Industry is booming at a rapid pace. Tailoring industry is an industry which requires skilled workers thus is beneficial monetarily. When it comes to Larkana, there are two major types of Tailoring shops. First type caters to male populous whereas the second type is established for female suiting. Child labor is prominent in both sides of the industry as mentioned previously, children are considered to be best suited for intricate worked I-e carpet making. Similarly, it is believed that children can do a better thread work as compared to the adults, especially when it comes to fancy female suits. The shagird (Student) help out their Ustads in various chores. For a novice child starting out, only food is provided as an incentive. After six months they start earning their wages. The skill that children acquired is considered as there initial pay. The more the child learns the more skillful he becomes. With the increase in abilities and increase in pay is witnessed. The parents send their children to tailoring shops in order for them to have better future. Most often these shops are located near the domiciles of such children. These shops are most often situated in narrow streets that receive very little sun light. Thus, the children working in such shops suffer from lake of vitamin-D which makes their bones brittle and week.

4.7 Directorate of Small Industry

The directorate of small industries is operating in Larkana region for quite a while. This directorate has laid down the following objectives.

01. To provide support for the indigenous people that create traditional crafts.
02. To provide jobs for skilled labor.
03. To take initiative for the enhancement of financial income for the crafting. The easiest to do so is by marketing their handicrafts directly. This will dissipate the influence of middle man and will provide temple incentive for craftsmen.
04. To ensure the production of craftsmen from exploitation by the private sector.
05. To provide vocational a fiscal assistance to female workers.
06. To develop and preserve indigenous handicrafts.

4.8 NGO/GO/SME, etc. Role in Industrial Development

When it comes to vocational training of local individuals, both the local government and NGO's have taken initiatives to provide ample training and incentives. In case of provincial government,

it has both the resources and the connections to provide commercial services for the small scale industry. On the other hand, the role of federal government is limited to provision of credit through banking sector. The private enterprises are involved in the credit and marketing services which are in many ways similar to federal government initiatives. The small enterprises cannot sustain or support the large scale manufacturing sector. But gradually this sector is evolving in order to meet the needs of the industry⁴⁷.

Comparison of different sectors

Coverage commercial services	Local govt.	Provincial govt.	Federal govt.	NGO	International Donor	Private Enterprises
Vocational Training	x	X	-	X	-	-
Management training	-	X	-	X	-	-
Acquisition	-	X	-	-	-	-

4.9 The Effects of Labor on the Socialization of the Child

Young children are impressionable hence they are badly affected by the greed of incentives meant for adults. This whole ordeal creates disorders in their personality. The ambiance of the personality within the working child and the normal child differ to a large extent. This section will cover the variables that cause such diversity within the social structure of Larkana.

4.9.1 What is Socialization?

Socialization can be simply defined as an ongoing venture to become a part of society. Both formal and informal education indoctrinate the children in to social norms and mores. It is an ongoing process which continues on throughout the life time. The circumstances and cultural standing within society dictates our role in society. In order to overcome this adversity the individual employs strategies which help him reach better position and acceptance within society.

⁴⁷ Khalid Nadvi, *the Effects of Global Standards on Local Producers: Pakistan Case* (Karachi: Edward Elgar Publishing, 2004), 82.

4.9.2 The Impact of Child Labor on Socialization Process

It is said that the personality of the individual is nothing more than a reflection of his social environment. From an early age, the child starts to mimic the social actions of his peers and elders including brothers, sisters, relatives, friends and neighbors. In the most cases, a working child abandons his educational activities due to some kind of influence within his family. Such children join factories and workshops at the behest of their elders. This in return leaves a huge mark on his personality thus changing the interest and the attitude towards education or work. This whole situation creates the perspective towards society and social norms. In all actuality, he is just imitating the steps of his senior generation that also paved the way on which he walks on. If such a child is admitted into a school then he becomes unsatisfied with the nature of tasks given to him.

Initially, education does not provide any kind of money whereas that child enjoys the liberty and financial stability enjoyed by his seniors. This creates a disinterest for the process of education while creates an attraction towards the jobs that pay monetary substances. The attitude of the parents of such children also create problem toward the process of education. In Pakistan, a vast majority of such children abandon their education and look for work. The nature of that work encompasses many fields such as workshops training, scrap collection and salesmanship. Some children become victim of the professions that instill begging or stealing. These children are exposed to a variety of individual from different age groups and social stratification. Either these children fall victim to their seniors or they become sharp enough to deal with people of all age groups. These children become mature prematurely as they behave like their elders and develop an advanced sense of humor. The relationship between them and their seniors is quite different from the relationship that normal children enjoy. These children most often address their elders with an informal terms like Yaar etc. They openly joke and chat with them with full frankness that is absent from the rest of the society⁴⁸.

4.9.3 Substance Addiction

The vast majority of working children get addicted to some kind of substance in their early age. Tobacco (smoking cigarette) seem to be an initial and gateway drug which affects the children in major way. Because these children are from the poor families therefore they cannot afford an expensive drugs. Hence, there most common go to addiction is sniffing of Petrol and Samad

⁴⁸ Mahbbub-ul-Haq, *Human Development in South Asia*, (Karachi: Oxford University Press, 2005), 91.

bond which is abundantly found at their working stations. Both of these substances are drenched in clothes and put the plastic bag. The children cover that bag around their mouth and inhale the odor of that substance. Both of these substances invoke a feeling of drowsiness and semi consciousness. Recently, Naswar has made its way to the district of Larkana. It is a product of tobacco that is placed over the gums for a prolonged period of time. Now a day's, children are also using it for leisurely activities as it is also a cheap addiction which casts only 10 rupees. The main cause of these addiction pertains to the dissatisfaction in life along with tensions and frustrations that these children have due to the nature of their work. These addiction provide a temporary escape from their hectic life. Sadly, this momentary piece and satisfaction does not last for a long time. The ongoing grievances and hatred for their ustad, seniors and supervisors also pushes these children towards substance abuse. The harsh treatment that these children receive plays the vital role in their downfall. Many of these children indulge in late night wandering and movie watching to ease their pain.

4.9.4 Sexual abuse

Most of these children are left by their families to fend for their own. Thus these children becomes vulnerable and objects for sexual abuse. Most often their own Ustads sexually molest them. This creates personality disorders which results into homosexual relationship with their coworkers. The senior Carigars and Ustads employ different tactics to sexually abuse these children. These tactics include both financial incentives and threats of punishment. Eventually, by hook or by crook these ustads are successful in their misadventures. Due to social stigmatization the parents of such children refrain from admitting this type of relationship.

4.9.5 Relationship between the Ustad and Shagird

The working children should be the responsibility for the Ustad. But in reality, these children are at the mercy of their respective Ustads. The parents of such children have zero concern about the methodology that these teachers utilize too teach their students. Unjustifiable and cruel punishments are common in such workshops. It is a common practice for an Ustad to beat up his shagirds for committing mistakes. In case of loss due to the negligence of the Shagird, the ustad cuts his losses by taking the money out of his wages. This factor is eminent in the table presented below which show cases the nature of relationship between the ustad and shagird plus the reaction by the parents against certain behavior.

It is evident from the table presented above that a vast majority of Ustads do not consider their relationship with their shagirds to be good one. It is a common occurrence for a child to run away from his work place due to harsh treatment from his respective Ustad. Such children join other workshops to earn their keep. In some peculiar cases, the children went back to their schools in order to avoid harsh beating from the ustad. About 90.7 % of the parents displayed a stoic reaction in relation to Ustads behavior. It was their firm belief that it is up to the ustad to choose whatever kind of teaching method he deems fit for the child. According to them, it is the Ustads prerogative to punish the child accordingly as he knows what is best for the child. A significant number of parents went as far as to urge the Ustad to punish the child severely in order for him to learn the skill well. If the parents of the child have good relationship with the ustad then the ustad would show leniency towards the child. And if not so then the teaching procedure would indeed be a lengthy and tedious affair for the child. A working boy by the name of Abdul Jabbar stated that he learned the essential mechanical work for the motorcycle within one year, whereas his less fortunate cousin was unable to do so even after the passing of two years.

4.9.6 Child Laborers Behaviors after Work

The following table shows the data about the behavior of child laborers after work.

Behavior of Child after Work

S. No	Behavior	Frequency	Percent
1	Unsatisfied	150	57.7
2	Rude	24	9.2
3	Antisocial	10	3.8
4	Quarrelsome	20	7.7
5	Normal	56	21.5
Total		260	100

The table presented above clearly indicates that the majority of children (about 51.7%) became dissatisfied with their work. whereas, only (21.5%) showed no change in their behavior towards their work. A small number of children displayed negative tendency such as rude, quarrelsome

and anti-social behavior. This shift in behavior of the children is dependent upon the nature, volume and the intensity of the work.

4.9.7 Effect of Child labor on Mental and Physical Health

The early years of childhood play a vital role for the development of physical, social and psychological attributes of the child. It has been mentioned previously that in order for the child to grow both physically and mentally, an environment free of tensions and frustration is necessary.

According to article 27 of the convention on the rights of child:

Every child has the right to a standard of living adequate for his or her physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development. Parents have the primary responsibility to ensure that the child has an adequate standard of living. The states duty is to ensure that this responsibility can be fulfilled, and is state responsibility, can include material assistance to parents and their children⁴⁹.

The reference presented above clearly states that certain prerequisite arrangements are mandatory for the development of the child. The main obligation for the full filament of such prerequisite fall on the shoulders of parents. If somehow they are unable to oblige than it is the duty of the state to full fill those needs in the form of assistance.

When it comes to the living standards of inhabitants in Larkana, it would be a common occurrence to witness children from poor families to participating in child labor. These children live and work in pitiful conditions, while their parents would be unable to provide them with basic necessities of life. Therefore, it is the common practice of such parents to send their children into labor or to work at the workshop. These parents envision of prosperous future for their children which is dependent upon the acquired skill set of such children. The state involvement in the lives of such families is near to none. Though some initiatives like Benazir income support/Ehsaas program try to alleviate the suffering of down trodden yet these efforts encompass a very small section of society.

Such children start their laborious carrier from a very early age, in order to generate income for their family. The conditions in which they work are extreme to say the least. The children either

⁴⁹ United Nation Development Programme, *Human Development Report* (New York: UNDP, 2007- 2008), 03.

work in very cold weather or very warm weather without adequate clothing for that situation. This practice badly effects their health both physically and mentally. God forbid, if such children get sick then they are not provided with ample medical treatment.

The greedy factory owners make this children work for strenuous and prolonged shifts thus one cannot expect from them to provide proper medical care as it decreases the profit. The bodies of these children are not designed for such kind of work as they are undergoing through the growing process. The work meant for grown adults is imposed on fragile shoulders of children. For example, the children working in carpet industry develop asthma due to the constant exposure to dust. The most common illnesses in the child labor industry pertains to the problems of ENT (ear, throat and nose). They also develop skeletal or spinal deformities due to carrying heavy load. For example, the children working in a loading section of industries often become hunch backs. These children also experience eye trouble and chronic headache. A vast majority of them turn to drugs in order to cope with such aches pains. The researcher worked in a welding shop therefore he witnessed a practice of self-medication in order to deal with the problems related to welding. It was a casual affair to treat red and sour eyes with Ponistan tablet and local remedies such as application of leftover tea and mud on the eyes. When taking in account all the aforementioned problems, the common cuts and bruises seem trivial⁵⁰.

4.10 Working Conditions

According to the article 32 of the convention on the rights of the child;

“ The child has the right to be protected from work that threatens his or her health, education or development. The state shall set minimum wages for employment and regulate working conditions”.

(The convention on the rights of the child, 1990:16)

4.10.1 Working Environment

The table given below gives the data about the working environment of child labor with regards to health problems due to this type of environment. The provision of safety measures to avoid these health hazards is also mentioned here.

⁵⁰ Soomro Ali Murad, and Ahmad Saeed, *Identification of the factors causing drop out among elementary school students in Larkana, Sindh* (Karachi: International Journal of Research in Social Sciences, 2016), 78-90.

Working Environment

S No	Work Environment		Safety Measures			
			Yes		No	
	Safety Measures					
	Yes	No	Yes	NO		
Smoke	01	26	04			31
Poor	01			02		03
Toxic Chemicals	08		09	05		22
Excessive	01			02		03
Live Electric Wires	01			02		14
Poor Light				01		01
Poisonous Fumes				01		01
Excessive Sanitation				02		02
Excessive Cold				06		06
Poor Sanitation				05		05
Normal	01			37		38
Total	01			37		130

There are countless factors that inversely effect the efficiency and subsequent health of workers let alone children. Such factors include toxic smoke and live virus, sound pollution, poisonous sprays, excessive cold, excessive heat and poor security measurements. These condition have become norm for the workers. Ironically, both the adults and children workers did not blame the owners as they had gotten accustomed to their situation.

4.10.2 Working Shifts

Working shifts depend on the type and the nature of their work. The following table indicates the nature of these shifts whether fixed or not.

Weather Timing are Fixed

Sr. No.	Response	Frequency	Percent
1	Yes	72	55.4
2	No	58	44.8
Total		130	100

The table presented above clearly indicates that the majority of children (55.4%) worked on fixed shifts. On the other hand, the following table provide the data related to normal working hours.

Normal Working Timings

Sr. No.	Timing in (Hours)	Frequency	Percent
1	Less Than 4	06	4.6
2	4—6	20	15.4
3	7—9	92	70.8
4	10--12	12	9.2

It is evident from the table presented above that the majority of working children worked for 7-9 hours. A small minority within these children carried a shift that was between 4-6 hours.

The following table presents the data about free hours, off days and casual leaves.

Resting Time Allowed to Child Labor

Sr. No.	Resting Time	Frequency	Percent
1	Free Hours	48	36.9
2	Off Day + Free Hour Casual	20	63.1
3	leave	0	0.0
Total		130	100

According to the table presented above only 36.9% of working children indulge in work free hours within their shifts. Whereas 63.1% enjoyed the luxury to take off days along with free hours. Interestingly, among all the children surveyed none reported casual leave. Thus, it is apparent that these children were given deducted salaries due to notion of no show no pay.

4.10.3 Social Security

The concept of social security is an alien notion for both the working children and their parents. A complete lack of awareness is prevalent in our society when it comes to the concept of social security regarding disease and accidents. Hence, there is zero social security present within the confines of factories. In case of an accident or an illness, the full weight rests on the shoulders of parents. To make matters worse, due to the pitiful condition of our health care system the parents are robbed of their lives saving. The only category of children that enjoy the privilege of medical treatment by the factory are trained and skilled workers. Whereas, all the rest of the children whether Shagirds or Karigar do not enjoy such privileges. Among such workers, a vast majority works for 9 hours per day yet the employers don't care about their physical wellbeing as only trained workers subscribe to such treatment⁵¹.

⁵¹ Avais, Muhammad Abdullah, Saima Shaikh, and Abdul Mirjat, *Socio-Economic Analysis of Child Labor in Hyderabad City Pakistan: International Research Journal of Interdisciplinary & Multidisciplinary Studies*, 2015), 180-185.

Chapter # 05

5.0 Social and Economic Causes of Child Labor in Small Industries of Larkana Region

According to international labor organization (ILO), more than 215 million children around the world were reported to be involved in some kind of child labor. This practice of child labor is both deplorable and harmful to the child as it not only snatches away their childhood, dignity and mental grooming but is also hazardous for their physical health.⁵²

Approximately 120 million children between the age of 5 and 14 work as fulltime laborer, whereas 1/3 of this population works unsaved environment. Under normal circumstances these children just like other children should have rights to play, learn and dream. The issue of child labor has garnered attention due to its forceful and compelling nature. A vast number of children are pushed into forced work due to many foreseeable reasons. The major cause for this phenomena is the poverty of the families that send their children to these factories and small industries. The acquisition of education and basic amenities is a dream for such families which turns into a farce. A vast majority of social protection programs initiated in the under developed countries target such families as whole unit but do not pay much attention to the working children.

When it comes to the situation of child labor in Pakistan, it cannot be considered as a paradise for children in this predicament. A humongous number of children work in brick kilns, agriculture fields, mechanical workshops, small foods outlets, carpet weaving industries etc.

Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto took steps to counter this issue as it was addressed in the 1973 constitution. Said constitution banned the participation of any child under the age of 14 in any kind of laborious activity. Yet, this practice is eminent in both agricultural and industrial sector.

⁵² Rana, Ejaz, *Gender analysis of children activities in Pakistan* (Islamabad: the Pakistan development review, 2008), 163-175.

The research conducted by international labor organization (ILO) revealed that the number of children working as the child labor had increased from 41091 in 2010 to 45417 in the current scenario. The targeted demographic of that particular research included the children aged between 10 and 14. When taking into account the total number of children, an increase of 6 lakh children was witnessed in the span of 1 year (2010-2011). The target of the aforementioned research included children that worked as domestic servants, bus cleaners, daily wage laborers, garbage pickers, street hawkers, shoe polishers, mechanic helpers etc⁵³.

Another demographic community that sends their children for child labor includes mohair inhabitants. These people migrated from India to Pakistan during partition. Most of them belong to lower class as they either left their belongings in India or were down trodden to begin with. Their children start working from a very early age in order to support their siblings and adult family members.

5.1 Main Causes of the Child Labor in Pakistan

Because of the indigenous socio-economic condition of south Asia, the issue of child labor has become a prominent phenomenon. The situation in Pakistan is no different than the situation of child labor in south Asia. The main reason for this predicament pertains to variety of factors intricately woven in the texture of society. Such factors are both economic and cultural in nature for this reason, an application of global dynamics is in order to better understand the social economic structures and variables. Pakistan being under developed country, as to fulfil the economic obligation pertaining to demand and supply. Hence, we need to understand this phenomena from every dimension. On the supply side, the matters are as such;

5.1.1 Rapid Population Growth

Due to rapid increase in population the demographic situation in both micro and macro level has become stark. The size of the household has increased exponentially thus there are more mouths to feed. It should not come as a surprise if parents send their children to work as laborer.

⁵³ ILO, *Combating abusive child labor* (Geneva: International Labor Organization, 2012), 02.

5.1.2 Children as a Contingency Plan for Adults

Due to the industrialization in rural areas, parents send children to work in order to create a buffer between them and unemployment. One may say such children serve as insurance against any form of economic instability⁵⁴.

5.1.3 Division of Responsibility

This factor mostly effects the female section of the society as mothers exchange responsibility with their daughters. Such happenings encompass the life of mothers working in cottage or medium size industry.

5.1.4 Shortage of Quality Educational Institutions

This research showcased the tendencies of working parents to send their children to school. The only assurance they required entailed the yearning for quality education. The formal education in Pakistan has become a liability for the poor section of the society. The main reason being the lack of monetary incentive and future security for their children.

On the other hand, the demand side of affairs is quite simple in its essence. Due to the thriving market economy, the informal sector has grown at an exceptional rate. Thus, the demand for cheap labor is all time high. Such factors lead to increase in quantity of employment but the quality suffers. Children are a cheap source of labor thus are desired by manufacturing agencies. This in return, exponentially reduces the production cost. Young children are impressionable thus can easily be controlled and compelled to work for long shifts.

To simply put, poverty is a major cause of child labor as it impacts the lives of a major section of the society. Due to UN sympathetic nature of the work pertaining to the wage earner, in case of any kind of this frequency in employment, the child is left to bear the blunt blow of responsibility. However, in some cases, the children' are disillusioned with the promises related to formal education. Either due to their own intent or personal greed such children prefer work over school⁵⁵.

⁵⁴ Barqi Tazeen, *Household 'non leisure time' allocation and determinants of child labor in Punjab* (Lahore: University of Punjab, 1998), 899-915.

⁵⁵ Ahsan Akhtar and Ambreen Fatima, *Socio-economic situation of child labor; a case study of fishing coast of Baluchistan* (Karachi: international journal of social economics, 2010), 316.

5.2 Situation in Larkana

The researcher carried out the study in his own district Larkana in order to better understand the social economic condition which lead to child labor. The researcher himself worked as child laborer thus he knew which populous was best to target. The participant of this research included auto workshops, cycle repairing points, furniture and wood work, whole sale trade, retail trade, restaurant/hotels, brick workers, carpet weavers, shoe making, shoeshine and tailoring. The survey done by the researcher (for the understanding of social economic condition) was conducted separately from the survey mentioned in chapter-4 of this dissertation. This survey targeted the household of these children to better gauge their living conditions. This survey was limited to 90 children from various working centers the sampling was done on the basis of proportional allocation whereas the enterprises in which such children worked was selected at random.

Larkana Situation

Sr. No.	Labor Activity	Children interviewed (sample size)
	Auto Workshops	28
	Wood works and furniture	08
	Cycle repairing	06
	Restaurants/Hotels	32
	Retail Trade	24
	Wholesale	12
	Carpet industry	8
	Tailoring	26
	Shoe Shine and Shoe repair etc.	12
	Bricks kilns	24
	All	180

5.2.2 Relevance of Financial and Educational Status

Both the in the income level and educational status of parents were found to be a major contributor towards the child labor within district Larkana. It is not much hard to understand the implication of low income level of parents on the lives of such children. Whereas, their stands on formal education amplified this problem as well. The results of this research showed that the children from poor households were most likely to work in either factories or small industries. To be more specific, the data showed that approximately 17.78 percent of working children with in the total demographic belong to household that earned less than 1000 per week. This no decrease to 14.44 percent when children from slightly richer household were served (from ten thousand to fifteen thousand per month). Similarly the higher the income level of family got, the lower the ratio of child labor was observed. Therefore, one can clearly state that ratio of child labor is clearly dependent upon the financial condition of their respective family. Another major factor that emerged from this research pertains to the literacy rate of parents and children alike. In case of working children, a remarkably 71.1% were illiterate, whereas only 28.89% could read and write. Thus, it would not be farfetched to say that child labor is directly proportional to the illiteracy level of the children, these findings are in similar alignment with the research done by Khan in 2003 (**khan in 2003**). He reached the conclusion that the literate and well of parents refrained from sending their children to work.

5.2.3 Perception about Formal Education

As mentioned above, the poor economic condition of the house hold is responsible for child labor. Similarly, the same factor contributes towards the perception that these children have towards formal education. For example, 56.67% of working children wanted to go to school but were unable to do so due to lack of resources possessed by the parents. Whereas, 22.2% of such children showed zero tendency or interest towards formal education. The main reason for their disdain for educational activity varied due to many reasons. For example, above 13.3% fail out of the school due to poor academic performance. On the other hand, 7.7% among these children resented and feared their teachers due to their bad experiences related to harsh punishment. Yet, the gist of this research attributes the absence of literacy level to poor socio-economic factors.

5.2.4 Educational Classification of Working Children

In order to understand the dynamics of child labor, their responses about education were required. Both the literate and illiterate showed varying responses, akin to their experienced and

interest. The findings of this research clearly indicate that a vast majority of working children were illiterate. The results showed that a whopping 71.11% of children out of the whole population were illiterate. Only 26 children out of the 90 children surveyed could read and write. Within these 26 illiterate children a vast majority comprising of 34.61% out of total population worked in restaurants. Whereas 23.7% worked at auto workshops, 11.53% at general stores and 7.69% at tailoring shops. The worst situation with regards to educational status was observed in brick kilns as only 3.84% of the children were illiterate. Most often, the parents of illiterate children seem to be related to wood works, brick kilns, cycle repairing, geranial stores, carpet industry and agriculture. Only other hand, the parents of literate children were found to be associated with restaurants, auto workshops, and tailoring shops.

Educational Classification

Sr. No.	Category/Labor activity	Primary		Middle		Madrassa	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
	Auto Workshops	6	11.54	2	3.85	4	7.69
	Wood works and furniture	2	3.85	0	0.00	0	0.00
	Cycle repairing	2	3.85	0	0.00	0	0.00
	Restaurants/Hotels	12	23.08	2	3.85	4	7.69
	Retail Trade	2	3.85	4	7.69	0	0.00
	Wholesale	0	0.00	2	3.85	0	0.00
	Carpet industry	0	0.00	0	0.00	2	2.85
	Tailoring	2	3.85	0	0.00	2	3.85
	Shoe Shine and Shoe repair etc.	0	0.00	0	0.00	2	3.85
	Bricks kilns	0	0.00	0	0.00	2	3.85
	All	26	50.00	10	19.23	16	30.77

5.2.5 The Nature of Work and Interest in Education

The respondents in this research were asked about the intensity of their interest in education. The purpose of this notion was to understand their perspective about the value of education. The result of this research indicates a negative attitude towards education within the majority of working children. Approximately 51.11% displayed zero interest in any kind of educational activity whereas 48.89% showed a keen interest in education to be more specific the formal schooling. The most positive response towards formal education was observed in children that work in restaurants. These children clearly showed their ambition for being educated and uplifting their standard of living. The main reason for this positive attitude pertained to their exposure while interacting with educated customers. These interactions plant seed within these children to become a respectable member of the society. About 16 out of 12 children working in restaurants wanted to go to school. Likewise, 9 out of 12 children at brick kilns displayed keen tendencies to be formal educated. The main reason being the nature of their work which was rigorous and laborious. The most negative attitude towards education was displayed by children working in tailoring shops. These children show cased such tendencies because the tailoring business is lucrative without any kind of formal education. When these children see their tailor masters earning a handsome amount when compare to educated persons, they associate their nature of work with success that has nothing to do with educational status. The socio economic conditions within society indeed impact the perception of working children with regards to acquisition of formal education. Similarly, their interaction with the educated people also shaped their perception and the same goes for the negative elements within society.

Educational Interest

Sr. No.	Labor activity	Total Number of respondent Children	Interest in education			
			Positive		Negative	
			Number	%	Number	%
	Auto Workshops	14	6	13.64	8	17.39
	Wood works and furniture	4	2	4.55	2	4.35
	Cycle repairing	3	1	2.27	2	4.35
	Restaurants/Hotels	16	12	27.27	4	8.70
	Retail Trade	12	4	9.09	8	17.39

	Wholesale	6	1	2.27	5	10.87
	Carpet industry	4	2	4.55	2	4.35
	Tailoring	13	4	9.09	9	19.57
	Shoe Shine and Shoe repair etc.	6	3	6.82	3	6.52
	Bricks kilns	12	9	20.45	3	6.52
	All	90	44	100.00	46	100.00
	Overall average	-	48.89%		51.11%	

5.2.6 Other Major Reasons for Child Labor in Larkana

When these children were asked about the main reason for their work. The responses varied with their respective age group. The result indicated that a vast majority were working in order to learn and master their craft. Such children comprise of 50% within the total population surveyed. In the meanwhile, 23.33% of working children were working in order to earn money and support their family. About 26.67% of working children showed both reasons as they intended to learn the craft while supporting their family through financial incentive. In general, the children which displayed both tendency to earn and learn, came from vary poor house hold. They required some kind of monitory rumination in order to earn bread and butter for their family. In the case of such children, their wages were dictated by their parents while the same parents received the hard earned money of these children. These children never laid their eyes on the fruit of their labor as it would be taken away by the ones they loved. This phenomenon was most often observed in the brick kilns of Larkana.

As compared to the rest of the country, the ratio of child labor in Larkana is going at the similar pace. The main reason for this phenomenon is a poor socio-economic conditions of the indigenous inhabitants. The constant increase in inflation has decreased their purchasing power thus it has created a disparity between their income and expenses. Therefore, one may say that the increasing rate of child labor is dependent upon the financial condition of Larkana locals.

Poverty is the main contributing factor which compels the parents to send their children for work in both small and large industries⁵⁶.

Another major variable that effects the rate of child labor can be attributed as lack of formal education. Illiteracy creates an avenue that is suitable for child labor. This research entails the living working conditions of children above the age of 10 years. This particular age is a good indicator of a child's inclinations towards education. The major cause for discontinuation of education can again be attributed to poverty. Whereas, the secondary major cause could simply be stated as lack of interest due to poor academic performance and fear of punishment at the hands of teacher. These children are somewhat forsaken by the society. Thus, they fall victim to adverse behaviors of their respective employers. One day these children will become a contributing part of society thus the manner in which they are dealt with engraves negative attributes in their personalities. The environment they work in and the nature of their labor is both tedious and hazardous for their physical or mental wellbeing. Hence they fall victim to bad habits that turn out to be dangerous and at some time fatal for their existence in the mortal realm.

This research show cased that the restaurants provided the best working conditions for these children. The main reason being the soft nature of their work along with their exposure to educated customers. Such environment created an ambition for improvement in the life style for such children. In stark contrast, the children that worked in brick kilns also showed immense aptitude towards formal education. Such children wanted to leave that harsh line of work and join school. The process to acquire formal education was much less tedious for such children thus they would opted for easier life if given the chance while a vast majority of children working in illiterate on the other hand most of the children working in hotel industry were literate. Other major working sector that contained literate children included auto work shop, tailoring shop and general store.

Among the total population of children that were surveyed, none reached the matriculation level of education. When it comes to the main purpose of their work, they could be categorized in

⁵⁶ Iqbal, M.Z. Fatmi, K. S. Khan, Y. S. Jumani, N. Amjad, and A. A. Nafees, *Malnutrition and food insecurity in child laborers in Sindh* (Pakistan: a cross-sectional study East Mediterr Health, 2020), 10.

three sections. Such children either work to learn the trait or in order to earn wage for their family. Then there were those children that working for both reasons mentioned above. Almost in all cases, their wages were not predetermined while their parents took the major chunk of their salary with them. For example, children working in brick kilns never received any kind of monetary remuneration for their hard work.

5.3 List of Overall Contributing Factors for Child Labor

There are numerous factors that either repel or attract children for work.

01. The adult females play a vital role in securing a job for their offspring and younger sibling.
02. Some of the children working as child laborers have single mothers at home that are either divorced or widowed. These children work to support their mothers.
03. Due to urbanization and the resulting industrialization, poor families migrate to cities and their children work as laborers.
04. Within the poor class a notion prevails that child work creates mature character for development, adulthood and marriage.
05. Children are a cheap source of labor while they are also easy to manipulate.
06. The children provide financial support to the family.
07. In carpet industry children are considered as better workers due to their small hands for intricate weaving and stitching.
08. The part time work is desirable for many working children.
09. The parent send their children's to tailoring shops for the promise of prosperous future.
10. Those children that hate formal education often escape from school and madrasas to work in the factories.
11. The children that are engaged in bad habits and bad companies are often sent to factories .this deed by the parents is done to keep their children to be occupied thus safe from bad company.
12. The parents that are drug addicts send their children for work in order to procure drugs. For example, children working in brick bhattas are often the victims of male parents that send their children to such extreme and harsh conditions just to get their drugs.

13. There is a vast number of children in working sector of Larkana that belong to Mahajar community. This community contains individual that live below the poverty line thus send their children for financial support.
14. The joint family system of south Asia is also responsible for the emergence of child labor in the region. In poor joint families the children are expected to assist their elders thus creating a social cultural phenomena better known as child labor.
15. Most often the elder siblings face the blunt below from life as they have immense responsibility towards their younger sibling. Such children engaged in child labor to fulfil their social duties.
16. Many of the children from poor families turn to the child labors in order to become financially independent.
17. Most of the time, the families that migrate towards the city become homeless. In order to put the roof over their loved ones, children indulge in child labor. The homeless parents also send their children to work in order to create shelter for entire family.
18. It is evident from this research that poverty is the major driving force for the increase in child labor. A large section of society indulges in child labor due to poverty. In such families the main bread earner is often unemployed due to some kind of illness, disability, addiction and marital status. In majority of cases related to child labor, the children are forced to work against their will.
19. The period of childhood is very important for the socialization and the personality development of child. The children that work as laborers are deprived of such socialization thus they develop mental and social disorders. The environment in which these children work often needs them to a destitute and immoral life style. Such children develop bad habits such as gambling, stealing, addiction, prostitution and homo sexuality.

Chapter # 06

6.0 Conclusion

Any nation that aspires for prosperous tomorrow needs to pay attention towards security and well-being of its children. Children are indeed the builders of bright future for any nation. Any country that disregards this factor is left in dust due to heavy burden placed on the fragile shoulder of its fledglings. A child should never shoulder the responsibilities meant for the adults. This action not only destroys the childhood of such children but also stunts their mental and physical development. Indeed, the moral values of the poor in the under development countries, do not take into account the needs of children and their well-being. The family which hardly gets by cannot have the same mores as a family in developed country. When they have many mouths to feed then any help by any members of family is desired and enforced. Thus child labor has been engraved within the poor section of the society while it takes roots which cannot be enrooted that easily. This whole phenomenon causes the formation of a belief system which in return creates a culture that considers child labor as a necessity. To simply put, child labor is a lesser demon when compared with other factor such as starvation, survival and displacement.

This research focused on both small and large industrial sector found in Larkana. The district of Larkana was favorable for the researcher as it is his own hometown. Plus, the socio-economic factor which led to child labor were favorable in order to conduct a valid research as well. Hence, the researcher opted to understand the causes and the consequences of child labor especially when taking in to account the socio-economic states of the family. This research intended to gage the relationship between child Labor and the socialization process for the child engaged in this line of work. The district of Larkana is filled to the brim with an industrial sector which employe's children as laborers.

The researcher formulated certain objectives which opted to better understand contribution of working children in the house hold economy, to know about the level of education of working children and their parents, to know about the nature of their work and to know about the perception of people. It was imperative to know how they differentiate between child work and

child labor and the impacts of labor on the child hood of the children regarding his health and socialization process.

The researcher applied the methodology which was most suitable for the understanding of socio-economic factors of child labor. This methodology was a product of both the conceptualization and the operationalization of framework opted by the researcher. The researcher own participation observation served as the key material on which the foundation of the research was built upon. Therefore, the methodology included filling of socio-economic survey forms, structured questionnaires, key informants, group discussions, scheduled purpose of review of literature books, scholarly articles and dissertations were utilized. This research applied mix methodology as both qualitative and quantitative data was gathered and analyzed to make sense of this issue in that particular region.

This research was limited to the district of Larkana. This district houses majority of sindhis while other ethnicities such as Mahajirs and Saraikis thrown in to the mixture as well. The district of Larkana is developing day by day as the urbanization and industrialization is increasing within that particular region. This factor has caused a surge in economic activities which contribute towards the economic growth as well as the problem of child labor in the vicinity. Larkana has witnessed a spike in population in the previous decade. With the increase of population the poverty also increases. It has been mentioned in this research that poverty is the main variable which is causing a rapid growth of child Labor in this area. The families that send their children to work often have three to four members playing the part of bread earners. In such families at least one child could be found taking part in economic activity. The average income per month that a child earns was somewhere between 2000-5000. Even though nearly every member of the family works yet such families are unable to generate enough wealth for savings. Such families live a very poor life and often fall victim to informal credit schemes in order to deal with their expenditures.

Thus it should be obvious that such families do not have enough revenue to spend on educational activities such as formal schooling. The literacy rate of both parents and their working children was discovered to be staggering low. Some children were discovered to be working in order to earn money for their educational expenditures. On the other hand, this research found out that a vast majority of children abandoned their study and left the school due to a plethora of reasons.

Once again, the main reason for this predicament came down to poverty. The other economic problem pertained to the unemployment of parents and lack of incentives for formal education. The children also got disinterested in the formal education due to bad company of their peers, parental attitudes and hefty punishment by the teacher.

This research differentiated between the concept of child Labor and child work. The term child Labor encompasses the process of earning and learning a skill in any sector of the industry. Whereas, child work denotes to the aid provided to the parents in the daily household chores. Child work contains activities done by female children to assist their mothers or agricultural activities by the male children to assist their fathers. On the other hand, child labor is solely done to earn wage in order to support the parents, siblings and the household.

This research discovered that average working shifts for child labor were somewhere between 04 to 09 hours. A very few number of child laborers enjoy break time a resting hours during their shifts. Similarly, a very few number enjoyed their weekends through off days. The environment and the working conditions in the work place were discovered to be hazardous to the physical and emotional health of these children. Such children were deprived of any kind of social security and medical facilities. Whereas, only a discrete few used safety measures and were provided with the adequate safety equipment. Both the children and the parents have grown accustomed to harsh working environment. The parents deemed the health problem associated with this line of work as nothing more than natural factor that comes with the trait. Both the parents and the children were content with their work as they had zero complain about their health and well-being. They had a point of view that a children can become a victim of any disease, whether they work or study in school.

As mentioned above, child Labor creates adverse effects within the personality of children and their socialization process. Lap of the mother is the first educational institute for a child. The mother instills social norms within that particular child. Thus, the training of the mother comes into full effect when a child interacts with other children. In the meanwhile, this interaction of the child with his peers in imperative for his/her motor functioning and mental grooming. The child labor takes away such opportunities from the child to learn and grown while acquiring new experiences. Therefore, the personality of a child is deformed and stunted for the rest of his life. Such children loose their childhood and or forced into adulthood. These children developed bad

habits such as smoking, substance addiction, homo sexuality, vagabond personality and kleptomania.

It was observed in this research that most mentors (ustaad) harshly behave with their pupils (shagirds). Similarly, these children are harshly beaten for minor mistakes that are entirely negligible. Such children fall victim to both verbal and physical abuse. As they are scolded and beaten on daily routine. This abuse imprints abysmal effects on their personality. These children start to resent their colleagues and mentors. Hence they develop zero respect and loyalty for their mentors and seniors. The parents are also to blame for this situation as they deem this inhuman traits as mandatory for the acquisition of skills in their particular trades. Therefore, the physical beating gets extremely severe and sometimes result into injuries yet the parents remain silent.

The mentors (ustaaads) most often make excuse for their uncalled fore behavior. Such mentors also blame the parents of these children as according to them the parents force them to use harsh methods to make the child respectful and obedient. In reality, these mentors prefer children as their pupils because they are docile, impressionable, powerless and easy to manipulate. Such mentors know that these children work on nearly zero wage thus improving their profit margin as well as decreasing their cost of production. To simply put, it is the matter of earning more profit and cold hard cash at the expense of poor children. Some children tolerate this ordeal in order to learn the trait and acquire the skill set to open their own business in the future. In majority of the cases observed, the parents took off with the hard earned wages of their children. To simply put, these children are helpless section of society that are powerless against the harsh reality. Because of this factor, many mentors sexually abuse and violate these children. Yet the society and their parents remain silent and do nothing about this sick practice.

This research utilized general theories about child labor as a conceptualization to better understand the dynamics about the culture and society of Pakistan. In any form, child labor is a nuisance that's needs to be eradicated from society. This problem is a cultural phenomenon in which some children provide support while working in the confines of the household. Whereas, there are others that support the family by working in the similar fashion as adults, then there is another situation in which the children are send to mentors for the acquisition of skill set. The work done by these children is carried out under the guise of learning a craft. There is a notion present in our society that schools take money in return for education whereas the mentors not

only teach the children but pay them as well. In this form of education, there is no need to buy books and spend fees for educational expenditures. Plus, the children are fed and given shelters along with daily wage. The parents of such children believe that the act of child labor will provide financial security in the future for their children. Hence, such parent would rather have their children skilled labor than being educated as there is a strict competition for jobs due to under developed nature of Pakistan. Therefore, it should be obvious that the demand for unskilled child labor does not exist. In any particular field where children work as unskilled labor, the wages are exponentially low to an extent that it could be called an exploitation. Only extremely poor opt for unskilled labor as it is considered useless in all forms of industrial sector. The parents need a skillful player to support the household and themselves. Some drug junkies force their children into child labor in order to have the money to purchase their substances.

In Pakistani scenario, almost all the children working as laborers face severe poverty and physical abuse. This whole ordeal corrupts their youth while taking away their innocence. Like any other human being, these children also require emotional and financial incentives to live and work for their prosperity. When every member of the household is engaged in making their ends meet, then one could not expect the members of that household to provide emotional or psychological support. This fact is eminent when the responses of parents with regards to the health of the children were discovered. For example, they believed after the absence of one week from the work due to illness, then and only then a child should be taken to doctor for treatment.

One can say that there are both good and bad aspects present in relation to the practice of child labor. However, the bad aspects overweigh the good ones. The good aspects pertains to the notion that a child will not only support the family with the financial incentives but will also secure a prosperous futures for himself. The early exposure to child labor is also regarded a key factor to mature the child but this notion is a double edged sword. With early and forced maturity the child also loses his childhood as well as the right to be educated. The Factories and the workshops do not present a favorable environment for a child to grow. Thus the child matures pre-maturely and develop personality flaws. Without a doubt, this pre-mature exposure to hard labor creates mental, emotional, physical and psychological problems. The exploitation of a children is a norm in the industrial sector. To an extent, it becomes slavery as bonded labor is quite similar to the practice of slavery in the olden times. Such children are weak and defenseless

to any form of exploitation. The employers cut cost by employing children as cheap labor. Thus this practice carries on under the guise of necessity in the underdeveloped nations. Indeed, there is a better chance to acquire a certain job through the application of child labor but it comes at the cost of stunted development as very little economic development is witnessed in the lives of such individuals. The nature and scope of their work remains the same while they deal with inflation and more mouths to feed to due to over population. When such individuals are unable to provide for their dependents, then dependents are forced to work and survive on their own. Hence, it can be said the child labor is un-fruitful and un-sustainable practice which further adds to the un-stability in the lives of poor class. It is also a very complex phenomena as it does not come to existence out of nothing. There are prominent reasons for the existence of child labor that are in need of proper addressing by the government. Such factors include excessive poverty, lack of governmental support, lack of education migration to urban areas, and zero interest for education by parents and working children. The urban environment creates further problems for these children as they are un-supervised and their actions are un-accounted for hence these children fall victims to evil sections of society.

6.1 Recommendations

In order to deal with the issue of child labor. This research came up with appropriate suggestion and recommendation. These recommendations are based on the findings of this research. Whereas, the purpose of such recommendations entails the process to eradicate and reduce the child labor. The following section comprises of different clauses that deal with the responsibilities and functions of the various institutions that can alleviate the ordeal faced by working children.

6.1.1 Role of Government

01. This research clearly indicated that poverty is the main cause of child labor. Thus, the government should take proper initiative to alleviate the living standard of a poor citizens.
02. Many initiatives started by the Sindh Government such as Benazir Income Support Program has tried to provide financial incentive and monetary support to poor section of society. But this effort covers a very small section of society.

03. The Sindh government has initiated the policy to enroll every child in to school. For this purpose the government is providing free education till secondary level. Yet the enrollment has not increased at a worthwhile pace. Hence, the government has to provide need based scholarships for deserving students. Scholarships shall also serve as financial incentive for the parents to send their children to school.
04. There is an outright need to review the laws that deal with the issue of child labor in Pakistan. First of all, these laws are out dated and secondly such laws are not enforced strictly to deter both the parents and employers.
05. Un-employment has created a lack of aptitude for educational activities. The government needs to ensure a proper incentive with regard to formal education.
06. Cottage industry should be given fiscal incentive in the form of monetary aid and subsidy. This section will directly impact the lives of the youth working in such small industries.
07. The Pakistani government is a signatory of many international initiatives to combat child labor. Therefore, state should follow the line of action laid down by such initiatives like EFA (education for all).
08. The state should ensure equal distribution of resources in all major fields to reduce financial disparity and injustice.

6.1.2 Role of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's)

01. Even though the main responsibility of problem identification and resolution rest with the state and its machinery. Yet there is a vacuum with regards to the mechanism for service delivery and needs of recipients. This void can be filled by Non-governmental organizations.
02. A clear social agreement should be formulated and implemented between the state and the private sector. This agreement should entail the responsibility for the corporate sector to create a working environment that ensures safety, public security and well-being.
03. An awareness campaign should be initiated to educate the community about hazards of unsafe working environment. Such campaigns should include seminars, training

workshops and rallies in order to give central stage to the scope of this problem. Such organizations should involve individuals from gross root level to ensure right measures. The community based organizations, the community people and community leadership should come together to address this situation.

04. The socio-economic conditions of the poor families should be addressed. The reasoning behind their actions that force a child to work in industrial sector should be understood in an appropriate fashion. For this purpose, vocational institutes can be established to teach the children all the necessary skills to aid the parents.
05. Child labor is a complex phenomenon hence it needs to be dealt in an intricate manner. For this purpose, a costly campaign is in order to effectively deal with this issue. Civil society will have to allocate their collective resources. More specifically, they will have to collaborate if they wish to bring out significant change in society.
06. The civil society organizations will have to employ both national and international resources to address this problem. For example, along with service delivery mechanism within country, they will have to create pressure through effective lobbying. This action will compel the state to create effective policies in order to ensure social justice through the usage of state machinery.
07. The academia has the moral duty to contribute towards the resolution of this complex issue. Till now, there is a prominent gap in research area when it comes to the indigenous phenomena of child labor in Pakistan. For this regard, more detailed and targeted researches are in order.

6.1.3 Role of Parents

01. A basic education with regards to family life is needed in our society. Such education should be mandatory before the establishment of new family (most specifically married life). The government should include family life education in order to create awareness about over population and the rights of offspring.
02. The parents should be made aware about their responsibility pertaining to their obligations for their children.

03. The parents should be educated about the importance of recreational activities for their children, As such activities generate mental grooming and positive development in children.
04. The parents should be made aware about the importance of inquiry about their child's activities at work. They should keep an eye on the environment and the company that a child keeps in the work area. The parents needs to be engaged with the employers to eradicate any kind of maltreatment. Then and only then, a child can develop high moral standards and can become a respectable part of society.

6.1.4 Role of Media

In the current scenario, the media can play a vital role in order to better the life of children working as laborers. The media can utilize following points to create a solid framework for this purpose.

01. Media should allocate air time for the subject of child labor. It should conduct programs that create awareness within the masses while tackling the subject from all angles.
02. The common man should be made aware about preventive measures to eradicate child labor. For example, the masses should be sensitized about child rights, legislative aspects, safety standards for laborers and national plus international law etc.
03. Programs containing group discussions, video logs and documentaries should be aired in order to create influx of information. Such programs must include the working children in order to get their point of view.

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