

CHILD LABOR; THE EFFECT ON CHILD, CAUSES AND REMEDIES TO THE REVOLVING MENACE

Ali Sher^{1,*}, Shujaat Gilani³, Muhammad Zeeshan², Mehran Hussain¹, Khalid Mushtaq¹

¹Institute of Agricultural and Resource Economics, University of Agriculture Faisalabad;²Institute of Agricultural Extension and Rural Development, University of Agriculture Faisalabad;³Department of Economics, Government College University Lahore.

*Corresponding author's e-mail: alieconomist2796@gmail.com

Sensitive issue of child labor has gained attention throughout the world and turn into a hub of serious discussions in underdeveloped and developing countries. It is usually hard to get any exact information on child labor because the majority of the child laborers are working in the unorganized informal sectors. Such type of labor markets is not properly regulated by labor laws and also are not monitored by any organization. These early aged and inexperienced child laborers are usually illiterate and vulnerable to work. Present study was analyzed the determinant acting as push factors for child labor, effects of child labor on child and causes of child labor in various labor markets of Faisalabad. Multiple Linear Regression Model was employed to assess the determinants of child labor. Findings of the study suggested that family size, family income, wages in child labor get as opportunity cost of school education have positive inclination toward child labor. It was recommended that Government should take amicable policy measures to reduce child labor by implementation of labor laws. Child laborers should provide with the monthly allowance for getting enrolled in schools encompass their opportunity cost in work. Incentive payments provision in form of compensation to the poor families for the education of their children. Primary and secondary education should be made free, adequate in learning prospects and school dropout rate should be reduced by policy changes in primary school education through asserting reforms in education.

Keywords: Sensitive, underdeveloped, child labor, unorganized, inexperienced, encompass, opportunity cost.

INTRODUCTION

Pakistan is ranked sixth among ten globally worst countries for child labor. Child labor has continued to flourish in several manifestations. According to bureau of statistics labor force survey conducted in 2012-2013. There are almost 4.4 percent children between age group of 10-15 years that take part as active country's labor force. According to our national laws, no child under 14 year of age should employ in any factory, mine or in other unsafe work and employment which affects health, education and interferes with physical, intellectual and moral development. It is also examined that number of working child belongs to this age group has increased over time. Child labor is increasing at a faster rate, in 2010-2011, it was 4.29 percent so it showed an incremental trend in period of one year which is an alarming situation. Researchers claimed that the estimated figures are less than the actual ones because there is huge number of children which are still uncounted and uncovered by surveys especially children working in the unregulated informal sector. According to International Labor Organization (ILO), in Pakistan there were 12 million child laborers in 2012. Informal unregulated sector accounts for 80-91 percent of the total child labor (GOP, 2014). A huge number of children around the world particularly in developing countries don't have access to basic

education and also deprived by amenities of life. The socio-economic pressure and poverty act as pulling factor for child labor, instead of attending the school and getting education they are facing the harsh realities of life and do work for their survival (Basu, 2000). Poor social and economic conditions are responsible for child labor in developing countries. Children usually work longer and more hours in dangerous and life frightening conditions. A morally, emotionally and physically vigorous child is an asset of a nation. Being the part of society it is our moral duty to make sure that the children of our age are educationally, physically and mentally prepared for the future (Rogers *et al.*, 2002). The fundamental responsibility of the government is to set up their desires for economic support, proper health care, safety and basic education. In some stances child labor may have some positive aspects but mostly it affects negatively on the health of the working children (Basu, 2005). This problem is not only bounded to the developing countries, it can also be seen in highly developed countries as well, a few numbers of children also engages in unsafe working activities (Awan *et al.*, 2011). Working condition for child labor in both developed and developing countries are unsafe and their profile is hazardous. The medical evidences had proved that there are significant impacts of some occupations on the health of working children in comparison to the non-worker ones

(Fassaet *et al.*, 1999). The socio-economic factors are the major determinants of child labor and they also play a key role in parent decisions regarding working and time utilization of their children. It was observed that children have illiterate parents and belongs to rich families were more liable to go to school and less prone to work (Cigno *et al.*, 2000). The gender gap existence and son preference also pay key part in over population resulting in poverty and girl child labor, which is more dangerous for society (Heady, 2003). Moreover, it was discovered that school attendance have negative but child labor have positive relation to the size of household (Khan, 2003). The fragile implementation of diverse type of labor policies and labor laws has previously caused key economic damages to the country (ILO, 2014). The main objective of the study was to identify and analyze determinants of child labor and their working conditions in Faisalabad.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Study was proposed to assess the determinants of child labor, effect on children, causes and remedies to the revolving menace of child labor in Faisalabad, Pakistan. Working children below 15-year age was the potential respondents of the study. Various labors market with varying working conditions was visited for interviewing the child laborers. Cluster sampling technique was employed for data collection. A sample of 120 child laborers was taken to magnify the findings for child labor in Faisalabad, Pakistan. Multiple Linear Regression Model was applied for statistical analysis of the study variables and the model contained following variables;

$$Y_i = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_1 + \beta_2 X_2 + \beta_3 X_3 + \beta_4 X_4 + \beta_5 X_5 + \mu_i$$

Where,

Y_i = Child Labor (No. of child laborers per working place)

β_0 = Intercept term in the model

X_1 = Family size (Number of family members)

X_2 = Education of household head (No. of years of schooling)

X_3 = Family income (Thousands, 000)

X_4 = Monthly wages (Thousands, 000)

X_5 = Working Condition (Value assigned 0-100 percent)

μ_i = Error term in the model

0 Percent = Lowest, 100 Percent= Highest (i.e; 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5,100 percent)

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

On the basis of the findings of the study descriptive analysis revealed the following results for the demographic, social, economic, working condition and push factors for child labor. Education is the basic determinant of human capital which fills its capacity and leads to a non-convergence growth. It was obvious from the results that educational status of the child laborers was very low. Results (Table 1) revealed that

most of the child laborers belong to the 3-5 years of schooling. There was 30 percent of the respondent have 3-5 years of education and 26.67 percent of the child laborers having 1-3 years of schooling while 22 percent of the child laborers having 0 years of schooling. Study suggested most of the child laborers don't even get under the category of literacy. Most of the child labor markets running currently running on the non-educated child laborers (Rena, 2004).

Table 1: Education of child laborers

No. of years of schooling	Frequency	Percentage
0	22	18.33
1-3	32	26.67
3-5	36	30.00
5-7	19	15.83
7-9	8	6.67
Total	120	100.0

Table 2: School going Child laborers

Responses	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	18	15.00
No	102	85.00
Total	120	100.0

It is clear from the results (Table 2) that there was 15 percent of the child laborers were going to school and 85 percent of the respondent were not going to school. It was examined that most of the child laborers claimed that they do not found themselves lighten up by carrying both activities at once. It is obvious from the results of the study that most of child laborers were not the part of school going children. It is an imperative truth education with child labor is not doable. Child labor is the foremost determinant of low education rate among economically deprived areas (Maitra and Ray, 2010).

Table 3: Father's job status of child laborers

Responses	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	43	35.83
No	77	64.17
Total	120	100.0

Father's income is a fundamental source of child education. It is evident from results (Table 3) that 35.8 percent of the child laborers fathers were doing job while 64.17 percent of the child laborers fathers were not doing job. The huge number of non working child laborers fathers was the fundamental explanation of their children presence at work. Family income generated the father job status secure child health and education. Review suggested that non-employment status of father among child laborers also a leading factor causative positively in escalating child labor (Mahmood *et al.*, 2005). Mother is the first institution which shaped the children intentions for seeking education and provides circumstances

to support her children in the right direction. It is obvious from results (Table 4) 26.67 percent of the child laborers mothers were working as house wives, 7.75 percent doing government job, 35.83 percent working in factories and 30 percent were working as massi/house service lady. Mothers working environment is the leading factor rousing children go for work or get educated (Ray and Lancaster, 2005).

Table 4: Mother ‘s occupation of child laborers

Responses	Frequency	Percentage
House wife	32	26.67
Govt. Employee	9	7.50
Working in factory	43	35.83
Massi/House Service lady	36	30.00
Total	120	100.0

Table 5: Child laborers interest in education

Responses	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	66	55.00
No	54	45.00
Total	120	100.0

Positive interest for getting education may lead to fulfilling of dream with immunity of work. It was examined (as in above table) that 55 percent of child laborers were having positive attitude toward getting education and 45 percent of the child laborers were not having interest in education. It can be concluded early age vulnerability to work have ruined their dreams and develop a stereotype thinking which allows to think they were born to earn for living. Literature revealed that it is too intricate after being the part of child labor to get himself/herself prepare for getting educated. Most of the child laborers want to get enrolled and have keenness for education (William *et al.*, 2010).

Table 6: Type of work done by child laborers

Responses	Frequency	Percentage
Sales Boys at shop laborer	13	10.83
Clean the cars or buses	7	5.83
Work at Food point	11	9.17
Servant at house	16	13.33
Factory or industry	29	24.17
Loading	4	3.33
Any other	16	13.33
Total	120	100.0

Nature of work done by child laborers is much important for being involved and adoption of work as a career source of earning. All of child laborers were belongs to nonproductive learning sector which were making them efficient in skills and does not required any special skills which leads to make them future informal sector entrepreneurs. Results (Table 6)

explored that 10.83 percent of child laborers were sales boy at shops, 20 percent laborers, 24.17 percent of the respondents were working in factory area and the lowest 3.33 percent of the child laborers were working as truck loader in the working areas. It was concluded that most of the child laborers were working in factory areas. Child labor in small factories which are not regulated properly by government laws is common among under developing and developing economies (Awan *et al.*, 2011).

Table 7: Nature of work done by child laborers

Responses	Frequency	Percentage
Permanent	33	27.50
Daily wages	67	55.83
Others	20	16.67
Total	120	100.0

Nature of work done by child laborers carry out a positive or negative push factor for increasing the pool of child labor. Study explored (Table 7) that 27.50 percent of child laborers were having permanent job, 55.83 percent were working daily wages and 16.67 percent were working on other form of job. Many studies reveal that nature of work demanded by child laborers in contributing factor toward child labor in case of forbearance work availability by child laborers at market place (Cignoet *et al.*, 2002).

Table 8: Epoch in work

Years	Frequency	Percentage
0-1	25	20.83
1-3	17	14.17
3-6	32	26.67
6-9	38	31.67
above	8	6.67
Total	120	100.0

Period for engaging in work revealed the stability of child labor market. It is obvious from results (Table 8) that 20.83, 14.17, 26.67, 31.67 and 6.67 percent of the respondent with number of years varies from 0-1, 1-3, 3-5, 5-7, 7-10 and above respectively. Vulnerability to work insists new comers to child labor markets. It is ordinary fact if liability is unproblematic it augment child labor dilemma (Ainsworth, 1996).

Table9: Daily working hours devoted by child laborers

Hours/day	Frequency	Percentage
0-4	7	5.83
4-6	13	10.83
6-8	19	15.83
8-10	20	16.67
10-12	44	36.67
Above	17	14.17
Total	120	100.0

Study revealed that daily working hours were distributed among various periods according to the nature of work done by the child laborers. It was examined (Table 9) that about 5.83, 10.83, 15.83, 16.67 and 6.67 percent of the respondent with number of years varies from 0-4, 4-6, 6-8, 8-10, 10-12 and above respectively. Study suggested that child labor markets offer low wages and demand for longer working hours by taking the benefit of low age, skills and experience of child laborers (Dayolu and Meltem, 2006).

Table 10: Weekly earnings of child laborers

Weekly earnings	Frequency	Percentage
0-200	18	15.00
200-500	23	19.17
500-700	16	13.33
700-1000	32	26.67
1000-1500	27	22.50
Above	4	3.33
Total	120	100.0

Stability in high earning act as an indispensable push factor for child labor. It is clear from results (Table 10) that there were about 15, 19.17, 13.33, 26.67, 20.50 and 3.33 percent of the respondent with weekly earnings varies from 0-200, 200-500, 500-700, 700-1000, 1000-1500 and above respectively. Study suggested that most of the child laborers were not getting competitive market wages among child labor market. It's a rigid legitimacy that child laborers were underpaid among child labor markets (Grimsrud, 1998).

Table 11: Factor of child labor for being affianced to work

Responses	Frequency	Percentage
Poor economic condition	41	34.17
Orphan	21	17.50
To support your family	26	21.67
lack of interest in education	19	15.83
Any other pressure	13	10.83
Total	120	100.0

There were several push and pull factors which leads to affianced to work. Results (Table 11) depicted that about 34.17, 17.50, 21.67, 15.83 and 10.83 percent of child laborers with factor of child laborers for being engaged in work varies from poor economic condition, orphan, to support your family, lack of interest in education and any other pressure respectively. Study depicted that poor economic condition was most effervescent factor escort to mounting child labor. None of fact other than poor economic condition accountable greatly in amplifying child labor (Krisztina and Gunther, 2005).

Table 12: Working circumstances

Responses	Frequency	Percentage
Own will	43	35.83
Pressure	77	64.17
Total	120	100.0

A choice of work is the key factor for long time stay and ensures the higher success rates. Results (Table 12) depicted the will of child laborers and revealed that about 35.83 percent of child laborers were having positive working intention while 64.17 percent were working due to the pressure which may be social and economic. Results reveal that most of the child laborers were implicated by pressure for child labor. Among deprived economic regions it is frequent to seize work by the use of force, abusing or exploiting other unmannered measure (Delap and Emily, 2010).

Table 13: Child laborers happiness to work

Responses	Frequency	Percentage
Happy	36	30.00
Unhappy	53	44.17
Don't know	31	25.83
Total	120	100.0

Happiness is a state which has positive consequences on one's decision. It is obvious from results (Table 13) that there were about 30, 44.17 and 25.83 percent of the child laborers perception varies from happy, unhappy and don't know either they were happy or not happy with their working decision. Study suggested that most of the children working in their non-willingness to work and were not happy with work. It's tough to get happy with exposure to work and choice work at early age by children (Bhalotra, 1997).

Table 14: Owner's behavior with child laborers

Responses	Frequency	Percentage
Polite	26	21.67
Harsh	65	54.17
Normal	29	24.17
Total	120	100.0

Child laborers often face many hardships at work. Study revealed (Table 14) that about 21.67, 54.17 and 24.17 percent of the child laborers with facing polite, harsh and normal behavior of the owners at work. Study exhibited that most of the children were exposed to harsh behavior of owners at working place. Unregulated labor market employs a large number of child laborers and bares them to harsh working condition which frequently abuses them in assorted manners (Congdon, 2010).

Table 15: Child laborers owners’ behavior at committing mistake

Responses	Frequency	Percentage
Salary deduction	28	23.33
Physically punished	37	30.83
Abused	20	16.67
Take it lightly	23	19.17
Positively guide	12	10.00
Total	120	100.0

It is common perception prevailing in the society about child abused at working. It is obvious from the results (Table 15) about 23.33, 30.80, 16.67, 19.17 and 10 percent child laborers claimed owners’ behavior at committing mistake as salary deduction, punishment, abuse, taking it lightly and positively guiding respectively. Literature suggested that physical punishment, child abuse, salary reduction and intimidating to life are common in unregulated child labor work places (Krisztina and Gunther, 2005).

Table 16: Child laborers factors of mental depression

Factors	To great extant	To some extant	Not at all	Percentage
Owner harsh behavior	39.17	48.33	12.50	100
Hard nature of work	32.50	27.50	40.00	100
Not willing to work	40.83	30.00	29.17	100
Low salary	49.17	37.50	13.33	100
Longer working hours	45.00	38.33	16.67	100

Mental depression leads to sickness of work and decrease working efficiency. Results (Table 16) explored that owner’s harsh behavior, hard nature of work, not willing to work, low salary and longer working hours were the key factors leads to enhance child laborers mental depression at a great extent. It is obvious from the finding of study that most of the child laborers to great extent exposed to harsh behavior, hard nature of work, low salary and facing long working hours (William *et al.*, 2010).

Table 17: Child laborers suffering from disease

Responses	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	26	21.67
No	59	49.17
Don’t know	35	29.17
Total	120	100.0

Suffering from disease and vulnerability to work leads to spread of disease and overdue recovery. Results (Table 17) depicted that there were about 21.67, 49.17 and 29.17 percent of the child laborers suffering from disease as ye, no and don’t know respectively. Exposure to hard sort of work and improper working condition direct child laborers to serious infectious diseases which may cause of permanent illness and

reduce their working efficiency. Most of the child labor markets are causing major diseases among child labor due to non-presence of hygiene measures at working places (Heady, 2003).

Table 18: Results Based on Statistical analysis

Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
	B	Std. Error	Beta		
Constant	1.091	0.442	-	2.469	0.015
Education of household head	1.222	0.000	0.033	0.451	0.653 ^{NS}
Family size	0.225	0.086	0.236	2.606	0.010*
Monthly wages	0.484	0.156	0.562	3.095	0.002*
Working Condition	0.142	0.076	0.166	1.856	0.046**
Family income	0.161	0.084	0.200	1.922	0.190 ^{NS}

(*Significant at $p \leq 0.01$, **Significant at $p \leq 0.05$, NS for non-significant), $R^2 = 74.86\%$

Results for the statistical analysis of the study variable suggested that coefficient of family size was significant at 1 percent probability level. It indicates that with each member increase in family size there was 0.225 units increase in child labor. So it can be concluded that large family size has positive association with child labor. As the size of family increases it demands for increased resources for food, education, health and shelter (Congdon, 2010; Heady, 2003 and Krisztina and Gunther, 2005). It is obvious from the results that the estimated slope of wages earned by child laborers was significant at 1 percent probability level. It revealed that with thousand increase in wages provided to child laborers at their working place there was 0.484 units increase in child labor. Consequently, increase in wages calls for incremental numbers of child labor (Khan, 2003, and Awan *et al.*, 2011). Results depicted that estimated coefficient for working condition was significant at 5 percent probability level. It depicted that with unit increase affirmative working condition results in 0.142 units increase in child labor. Resultantly it was drawn from results that superior working condition acts as push factor for increasing child labor (Basu, 2005; Grimsrud, 1998, and Dayolu, and Meltem. 2006).

CONCLUSIONS

It is concluded that lack of attention given by the Government is a serious issue of child labor. It is arising day by day at a larger scope and have fostered grim consequences on the society. Ample wage prevailing in markets to magnetize child labor was stand-in as a push factor for escalating child labor. Larger family size fabricates a cage for getting in child labor. Low parent’s income was scrutinized the detrimental factor for mounting the puddle of child labor. It was pragmatic as the working clause favorers for health and work it escorts to swell in child labor and permanence in working verdict of

children at work. It is strongly suggested that awareness regarding the importance of education of the children should be disseminated especially among the vulnerable groups of the society.

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