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Exploring the Socio-Economic Causes of Child Labor in Automobile Workshop in District Multan Punjab

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Abstract

Child labor is deeply rooted and extremely extensive in Pakistan. The problem of Child Labour in District Multan is quite high and abnormal. Various studies have shown that the large number of children in different age group has been employed in various shops, like Cycle repair workshop, Cars work shop, Motor bike work shop, Trucks work shop, mechanical and electrical workshop. Rickshaw workshop and other places. This study explores the socioeconomic determinants of child labor in automobile workshops. The key variables in the present study were child labor and poverty. The researcher used quantitative method for survey research. The current research was conducted in District Multan, Punjab. Therefore, child laborers were selected in the sampling frame equally. Snow ball sampling technique was adopted. A total of 80 respondents were selected from different auto mobile workshops. This study was carried out in District Multan(Pakistan) with an objective to find out the social and economic causes of child labor at automobile workshops. The majority of the children were poor and they had no education or little education. Their parents had little education and were poorly paid jobs, unemployed or deceased. In this paper, the causes of child labor have been identified and measures to reduce this curse have been suggested.

Keywords: Child, Child Labour, socio-economic status, Child Exploitation, automobile workshops, District Multan

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Introduction

More than 12.5 million children are involved in child labor in Pakistan. According to Reuters, "Pakistan's Labour Force Survey, 2014-15 showed that of those children aged between 10 and 14 years active in child labor, 61 percent were boys and 88 percent came from rural areas" (Maria,2017).

The children labor amounts all the children below 18, in dangerous professions or work activities in the labor market or their own household. Child labor positions negative influence in society and play the negative role in the gross development of the country, creating many social problems in the society (Grimsrud 2003; Betcherman et al. 2004). Child labor is a common dilemma throughout the world (Rana,2010). Child labor is especially universal in rural areas where the capacity to impose in smallest amount age requirements for the schooling and work is missing. Millions of poor children work for a variation of reasons. The reasons for working are closely related to the extreme poverty rate, the deficiency of implementation of elementary education laws, the absence of financial resources, and the large families have a very high birthrate (Ahmed, 1991). However, children are not funded properly, they still act as main providers to family income in developing countries. Children are important property and the bright future of a nation (Shujaat,2007). Children are the nation builder of tomorrow who need special love, affection and care to become a skillful youth having the talent to bring a positive change in society (Awan, 2011). The society would provide the chances for their proper physical, social, mental, and moral growth, development and in education. Childhood is the constructive part of human life in society, so they should not do such a dangerous work as it is damaging to their physical or mental growth. Hence, there is a need to identify the vulnerable children and to point out the problems in relation to the Millennium Development Goals (MDG), predominantly poverty eradication, education for all, gender equality and combating HIV/AIDS and creation of a global partnership for the development of the society (Ravinder, 2009).

A private research firm lately reported that 49 percent employable people have no job in Pakistan. Without job parents do not have adequate income to encounter their monthly expenses. Parents have to send their children to work so that they could help in household expenses. At an age when children should be going to school, numerous unlucky young children are forced to work (Salman,2018). The rate of child labour is very high in big cities like Multan, Faisalabad, Rawalpindi, Karachi, Islamabad and Sialkot, because these cities are linked with industrious chain (Zaheer, 2017).

Working of children have to undergo the great struggle but for very little salary. Their work situations are chiefly plain, harsh and often not providing the inspiration for proper physical and mental development. Many of these children lead very lacking lives. However, there are so many problems with the logical explanation of straight away removing child labor to stop such a misappropriation. First, there is no international agreement defining child labor, making it hard to separate cases of abuse, let alone eliminate them. Second, many children may have to work in order to join the school for eliminating child labor may only delay their education.

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List of auto mobile workshop

1- Cycle repair workshop
2- Cars work shop
3- Mechanical and electrical workshop
4- Motor bike work shop
5- Trucks work shop
6- Rickshaw workshop

Statement of the Problem

According to the ILO, child labor is an economic movement lead by a person below the age of 15. The children can be under paid employees, independent tradesman or unpaid family workers. Working children suffer significant growth deficits both mental and physical. The problem of child labor is a burning question in Pakistan and as well as in the world. The fast rate of increase of child labor in Pakistan has attracted the attention of conscious citizens as well as and legislators (Moe, 1997).

Child labor problem in Pakistan is linked with the level of education, children are the future Doctors and engineers of the nation. Education is the backbone of the children but they don`t get education and a large number of children both in rural and urban areas are growing up without an atmosphere congenial to their physical, mental, moral and social development. Similarly, it is also linked with the amount of poverty and different customs of work in the country. In some families' children must help their family income either by working within family or at the farm or by taking up a job outside the family. Due to poverty and certain other factors many children are dragged into labor force at the earlier stage of their personal growth. It can be explained as the use of human abilities and resources for one's personal benefits. Exploited labor is always covered by the illegal settings like, the home-based industries, auto workshops and domestic attached duties etc. Children are the most exploited segment of our society. They are exploited and their basic human rights are given very reluctantly. Such kind of illegal conditions raise their problems, and major problems of these children are health problem and exploitation such as sexual exploitation, physical exploitation, psychological exploitation etc. Excepting that children working in auto workshops consider negligible category group because of their work condition. The socio-economic background of a child's family determines the range of potential options, and the extent of opportunities for the development of a child's capacity. It all depends upon the resources of the family and it is the family's social and economic position that determines whether the children would be sent to school or to an auto workshop as a wage earner. It is a matter of common observation that the children working in auto workshops are subjected to cruel treatment in spite of the continued existence of the rules regarding the employment of children. So, in this situation they give priority to children work as compare to children education, the number of child labor cases is increased at various places in this regard. The concern over this resulted in a ban form western countries on those made in Pakistan goods in which child labor has been used, the example of this child labor work is sports good like Pakistani Footballs were rejected in world cup 2010. Keeping in opinion the above-mentioned situation, the present study was planned to examine socio-economic and other factors which force children to work in auto workshops

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(Ray, 2000). The following are the objectives of the study formulated by the researcher keeping in mind the scope and sensitivity of the research.

Objectives of the Study

- To identify the different causes of child labor in Multan
- To explore the socio-economic measures of the child labor
- To suggest some measures and recommendations

Significance of the Study

The basic purpose of the present study was to highlight the child labor in Automobile workshops of Multan. As child labor was increasing rapidly day by day, particularly in the rural areas, so the present study intends at pointing the problems of child labor. The study led to elaborate the socio-economic circumstances of children. The child labor working condition was pathetic and the study made more illustration of the real situation. The study further clarified the compulsion of the children being employed in the auto workshop as a labor.

The current study will be the pioneer study about the children working in workshops of Muslim Multan. Before the current research, there was no sociological study available on the child labor of this particular area. The current study will help the other researchers and academicians to know about the problems of the child working in automobile workshops. This will also give a proper insight about the behavior of the people with these children and the impact of child labor on the education and socio-economic conditions. Most of the researches on child labor focused on one aspect of the child labor, but the present study will provide a holistic picture of the child labor in the area. It will address many aspects of the child labor and its consequent implications for their families. The study will serve as a useful addition to the current literature on the child labor issue and will also help other researchers to enrich their research on such topics.

Assumption:

Socioeconomic determents make the mind of the parents that instead of transfer their children to school, it will be more beneficial for them to send their children for labor. Because it will save their time and they will also get expert, which can earn themselves and help them. Socioeconomic aspects are most several in child labors. The majority of the respondents were forced by their parents to work for the increasing of their financial position. It was further observed that poverty is the major responsible aspect for child labor chased by the few other factors like lack of the interest in education, large family sizes and uncontrollable societal behavior in society. The Societies with high birth rates are often ones where prevalence of child labor is very high. Household structure has an irrelevant consequence on child labor contribution in Pakistan. Family structure determines the importance of taking into thought the activities of siblings. The number of siblings not enrolled in school shows to be an important control variable in at least one specification of the empirical model. However, more research is needed on the interactions between siblings, their activities and their age structure. An effort which must be made to find resources of taking

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into account the “life cycle effects” of one ‘s siblings on their schooling performance and labor force activity.

Child labor is a serious social problem of Pakistan. If a child is not properly socialized then he or she will not be able to as a literate and confident citizen of the country. early in the morning when the school children wear their school uniform and go to school so the child labor who cannot afford the school expenses due to their financial problems, poverty is also the main cause that children forces for working.

Theoretical Framework

The theoretical framework is supposed to help the reader make reasonable sense of the relationships of the variables and factors that have been deemed relevant/important to the problem. It provides relationships between all the variables so the reader can understand the theorized relationships between them. A theoretical framework is a gathering of connected concepts, like a theory but not necessarily so well worked-out. A theoretical framework guides your research, determining what things you will measure, and what statistical relationships you will look for.

Theoretical frameworks are also important in exploratory studies, where you really don't know much about what is going on, and are trying to learn more. There are two reasons why theoretical frameworks are important here. First, no matter how little you think you know about a topic, and how unbiased you think you are, it is impossible for a human being not to have predetermined concepts, even if they are of a very general nature. For example, some people essentially believe that people are basically lazy and undependable, and you have kept your reasons about you to avoid being conned. These fundamental beliefs about human nature effect how you look at things when doing research. In this sense, you are always being directed by a theoretical framework, but you don't know about it. Not knowing what your real framework is can be a problem. The framework tends to guide what you notice in an organization, and what you don't notice. In other words, you don't even notice things that are not appropriate for your framework. We can never completely get around this problem, but we can decrease the problem significantly by simply making our understood framework obvious. Once it is explicit, we can intentionally consider other frameworks.

Hypothesis testing

Hypothesis 1

The income of child labor supports the household expenses of a family.

Null Hypothesis Ho: There is no relationship between child labors income and income supports household expenses.

Alternative Hypothesis H1: There is relationship between child labors income and income supports household expenses.

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Conceptualization and Operationalization

Conceptualization

Conceptualization refers to the process of defining and clarifying the concepts and variables that are being used in research work. In this process, research topic is divided into variables which are further explained and defined in the light of existing knowledge obtained from encyclopedias and book. A variable or concept may have contexts; therefore, it is necessary to specify the nearest meaning of variable or concept that is being used in research work. The conceptualization of research concepts is as follow child labor and poverty.

Child Labor

According to Basu, Kaushik, and Van, Pham Hoang, in "The Economics of Child Labor" (June 1998): 412–27 altogether highlights a new dimension in conceptualizing Child labor. According to "The Economics of Child Labor" Child labor is facet of poverty. According to International Encyclopedia of the Social Sciences (2008) pp.167 child labor is work done by persons under age eighteen or younger, depending on applicable national law that is unsafe for them for being rude, exploitive, harmful, or otherwise different to their best benefit, International Encyclopedia of the Social Sciences vehemently defines such as. According to "Children in the International Political Economy" (1995) pp 45-55, child labor is children's working in conditions that are extremely abusive and manipulative.

Poverty

According to the Encyclopedia Britannica 2014 pp.432, Poverty is a state of one who lacks a usual or socially adequate amount of money or material property. It exists when people lack the means to fulfill their basic needs. Encyclopedia Britannica highlights a new dimension in conceptualizing poverty. According to Iceland and Ritzier in Blackwell encyclopedia of sociology (2007) pp.3587-89 poverty generally refers to material lack, it is a complex experience for those who are stressed to get by. It can certainly involve economic hardship, such as complexity in paying food bills or living in housing in severe disorder. Encyclopedia of sociology vehemently defines such as.

Operationalization:

Operationalization refers to determine the variables in the respective tool for data collection for data collection. In the present study the variables are operationalized the questionnaire as under.

Child Labor

Child labor is something which take away childhood from children, their potential and their self-esteem, and that is unsafe for physical and mental development. The variable was asked in the questionnaire as

To what extent your siblings are doing child labor?

To what extent child labor is sufficient to support household expenses?

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Poverty

Poverty is something in which someone is unable to provide material needs due to lack of resources. The variable was asked in the questionnaire as

To what an extent your family is facing poverty?

To what an extent you are working for eradication poverty?

Methodology

Present study is a sociological study of child labor with special reference to children working in automobile workshops of Multan District. The universe selected for the present study was district Multan including: automobile workshops located on Jannat TownShah Ruke Alam. A sample refers to small representation of the universe. For study purpose, 120 respondents (children) were conveniently selected from different auto–mobile workshops.

Major Findings

Table 1: Distribution of respondents age

Category	Frequency	Percent
less than 5 years	13	16.25
6 to 9 years	29	36.25
10 to 12 years	22	27.5
13 to 17	16	35.8
Total	80	100

Table 2: Distribution income of Respondents

Categories	Frequency	Percent
less than 1000	9	11.5
1001 to 1500	27	33.75
1501 to 2000	11	13.75
2001 to 2500	21	26
2501 and above	12	15
Total	80	100.0

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Table 3: Distribution respondents Education

Categories	Frequency	Percent
Illiterate	49	61.25
Primary	23	28.75
Middle	8	10.0
Total	80	100.0

Table 4: Distribution of respondents Working Hours

Categories	Frequency	Percent
10-12	54	67.5
13-15	23	28.75
16-18	3	3.75
Total	80	100.0

Table 5: Distribution of respondents Working for the eradication of poverty

Categories	Frequency	Percent
To great extent	59	73.75
To some extent	17	21.25
Not at all	4	5.0
Total	80	100

Table 6: Family knowledge about children labor

Categories	Frequency	Percent
To great extent	53	66.25
To some extent	23	28.75
Not at all	4	5
Total	80	100

The table 1 indicates the age of child laborer in Multan. Relatively, majority of the respondents in the age interval of 6-9 were almost 36 percent. Only around 16 percent of the respondents were in the age group of less than 5 years. Table show that large a very large number of child laborer from the 6-9 years are working in auto mobile workshops.

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The table 2 indicates the income of child laborer in Multan. Relatively, majority of the respondent's income is in the interval of 1001-1500 which is about 33.75 percent. As table show that only 11.5 percent children are working less than 1000. The reason behind they were belong from poor family and their parents cannot afford to send their children for education. Their family demands them to earn because they need it to run their daily food expenses.

The table 3 shows the respondent's education of child labor in Multan. Table show that almost 61 percent children were illiterate and only 10 percent children were got middle education.

The 4 shows that how many hours children are working at different workshops. About 67 percent children are working 10-12 hours and lowest percentage was 2.75, and they were working for 16-18 hours.

The table 5 shows that mostly children were working due to of poverty. Approximately 73 percent children were working to great extent and only 5 percent children were working for their own choice.

The table 6 shows that children parents were know that their children were working in workshops. Almost 66 percent children know that their children were working and only 5 percent children do know about their children of working at workshops.

Conclusion

Child labour is a big problem of Pakistan. It is not only exit in Pakistan but also almost all Asian countries and even in America and Europe. This study concludes that the main cause behind child labour in district Multan is poverty.

Poverty is endemic in this society. The main reason of child labor may be poverty and large family size. To cope this situation this is important for the state to help out these children. As it is hard to educate all the member of the society in under developed countries like Pakistan, but serious steps and measures are to be taken, then the day would no longer be far away when there will be less chance of child labor in the country.

Another key factor is ignorance about the right of the children by their families and the children themselves, usually unawareness prevails everywhere and even some times among educated people. In our societies important number of people have little/no information about social issues. This unawareness finally leads to alarming situation.

Recommendations

The socio-economic difference in the society resulting from uneven and unjust functioning of the economy, should be stopped. Government should make special provisions in the laws to safeguard the circumstances in which child workers have to work with maximum wage level, while working hours, special benefits and other benefits must be ensured. The suggestions are given below.

- State should organize a complain to aware the parents about bad effects of child labor.
- Electronic and print media should also help state to participate and deliver campaign to overcome child labor.

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- The community member should support these types of children who cannot afford their expenses and help them to getting education.
- Labor laws about child labor should be enforced.
- Employment chances such as handicraft, carpentry, small-scale industries & other income generating activities must be created to provide the people sensible income sources for the purpose of eliminating the problem of child labor.
- Labor unions may also be involved in fight against child labor.
- Poverty is the main reasons of child labor in Multan. Government should launch a program for these children to help financially and support them in getting education.

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