

## Importance of Child Labor for the Survival of the Family

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### Abstract:

*In this paper, we will talk about child labor, as it is one of the principle issues going up against what's to come for child of poor families in advancing nations. In their valuable junior age, they are continuously included in different manifestations of works and consequently stay out of school. Such children's future comes to be at stake and in this manner are behind whatever remains of the school going children of all races. Despite the fact that tyke work has been in presence since time out of the brain, however, later worldwide patterns are battling to kill it. Tyke work is seen as a human rights violation as it influences a kid physically because of enjoying diligent work while he is not physically fit for it. Besides, it has mental and mental outcomes which are noticeable in his conduct for whatever is left of his existence. Such youngsters have a strain, stress issues and additionally of low self-regard. Around the reason for child labor neediness remains at the outset. While to some broaden youngster work is because of absence of access to schools, broken families, social practices of tyke work, absence of significance of training and the status of the national economy yet the larger part of family units send their children to gain because of destitution. In families of amazing neediness tyke works are the fundamental earners and sustainers of family without whom their there is an enormous address on their survival. In the civil argument*

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*of tyke work, it is imperative to rightly comprehend the underlying causes with a specific end goal to address the issue successfully. An attempt has been made to find out degree of family dependency on child's income and its correlation with the family's survival. The main objectives were to find out whether child labor is important for survival of the family, their share in the monthly income of household, and the probability if they could quit the labor.*

**Key words:** Child labor, family, human rights, work, education, household economy, earners and sustainers.

## **Introduction**

Every individual has a right to develop his personality & build his future by having access to education. Child labor is one of the main issues confronting the future of children of poor households in developing countries. At their precious young age, they are being involved in various forms of labors and thus remain out of school. Such children's future becomes at stake and thus are behind the rest of the school going kids in all races. Though child labor has been in existence since time out of mind, however, recent global trends are struggling to eradicate it. Child labor is seen as a human rights violation as it affects a child physically due to indulging in hard work while he is not physically fit for it. Furthermore, it has mental and psychological consequences which are visible in his behavior for the rest of his life. Such children have anxiety, stress problems and also of low self-esteem. Among the causes of child labor, poverty stands at first. While to some extent child labor is due to lack of access to schools, broken families, cultural practices of child labor, lack of importance of education and the status of the national economy but the majority of households send their children to earn due to poverty.

In households in extreme poverty, child labors are the main earners and sustainers of family without whom there is a big question on their survival. In the debate of child labor, it is

important to correctly understand the underlying causes in order to address the issue effectively. Outlying child labor is important in the legislative side, but that alone can't tackle it. Without providing alternate income source to poor households that completely rely on child labor, banning child labor can destroy their only source of Providence This paper will explore the extent of share of child labor in the household income and also whether the family's survival rate will decrease if the children quit working and began to go to school?

International labor organization is the main organization working for the eradication of child labor globally. They define child labor as, "Work that deprives children of their childhood, their potential and their dignity, and that is harmful to physical and mental development" (ILO, 2012). Though child labor is in existence since time out of mind, but presently as per the figures of UNICEF 2004 Report there are 246 million Child Labors globally in which 91% exists in the developing world. (UNICEF, 2004). Child labor is a serious issue as it is a violation of fundamental rights of children as child labor exploits and obstructs a child from developing his personality through access to education. (Murshed, 2001). It is abusive as it involves a child in tough hard works in his young age, at one hand barring him from education and on the other hand, affecting his physical and mental development. (UNICEF, 2004). The Consequences of child labor are not restricted to physical and mental development, but it even leads to serious behavior problems leading to low level of self-esteem, anxiety and harmful emotional effects (Martin, 2013).

Researchers have shown that there exist various reasons (Martin, 2013) which led a child into labor; however, poverty is common among all those researches to be the primary reason of child labor (Basu, 1999). Furthermore, in families which are in absolute poverty, earnings from child labors are extremely essential for their survival and, without the contributions of the child labor in family income there are high chances of their

starvation (Kar & GuhaKhashnobis 2005). Besides poverty, lack of access to schools is another reason it (ILO 2004) among the secondary reasons informal economy of a country and cultural practices are also causes of Child Labor (Edmonds, 2005). In order to address child labor effectively it is important to understand its underlying causes and only then it can be eradicated. As poverty is the main cause of child labor, it is important to consider the consequences for families in extreme poverty by straightforward outlying child labor (Murshed, 2001). This study will examine whether there exists a truth in asserting that forbidding child labor can lead to minimizing the survival rate of poverty ridden households or not as stated by (Kar & GuhaKhashnobis, 2005). Once such consequences are kept in consideration, then multi-pronged solutions can be designed where by child labors can be reduced without pushing the households in further poverty. Interventions must be based in such a way to compensate the family for the loss of income from their labored child (Sing & Zammitt, 2003).

## **Research Methodology**

Miskeenabad Kachi Abadi near Sector I 10 Islamabad is the locale of our study. Almost all of the people living there are Pashto is speaking from KP, Fata and Afghanistan. Some have been living there since the migration of 1980 Russian War while some were also coming there due to the floods in 2008. Besides this some families also migrated to this area to seek a better livelihood. People are having mud houses and since its illegal occupation on government land so they are at the mercy of the Capital Development Authority. People living there are living in extreme poverty and despite having some schools at a distance, a lot of families were found to have child labors as their major income generators. Primary data have been collected from the aforementioned locale. Sample size of 10 was

selected randomly. Sample only contains Male respondents and because of the nature of the study no female was interviewed.

Data was collected through an open ended questionnaire and is attached at the end. No help from any Key Informant was sought due to the edge of speaking the same language and belonging to the same Pashtun tribe as the residents of Miskeen Abad. For this reason the community was open in answering all questions without any hesitation. The collected data are being represented in tables and the findings are concluded, based on simple interpretation of data and taking simple percentages.

## **Results and Discussions**

Entry into the field was easy due to having same ethnicity as that of the people residing there. Along with this, having same language was edge due to which all the respondents were very open to answer all kinds of questions without hesitation and without doubting our motive. Despite poverty, they did not compromise on their values of hospitality as they were exemplary hospitable.

**Table 1: Detail of Structure of Family and Earning Members**

Family Number	Members in Household	Earning members	Earning members below age 15 (out of school)	Adult earning members
1	7	2	2	0
2	8	2	1	1
3	12	3	2	1
4	10	2	2	0
5	13	4	2	2
6	16	4	3	1
7	25	4	3	1
8	16	3	2	1
9	15	3	3	0
10	13	3	2	0
Average	13.5	2.9	2.2	0.7

Above table gives details of the structure of family income. It shows the total number of family members. Furthermore the total number of earning members is also mentioned. Due to illiteracy and poverty each household had many children and some families were nuclear while the majority were joint families. Joint families and many children in such poor households are social and economic assets. It was important to segregate the earning members so they are divided into adult and child labors. The majority of households had 2 or more child labors and one or less adult earning members. This shows that for every adult earning member there exist a double number of child labors earners. How much a child contributes to total family income is discussed in the next table, but one of the significant finding here is that if the child labors quit working than it means the family will be deprived from total or most of their income earners.

**Table 2: Earnings Detail**

Number of Households	Total Earning	Earning from Adult	Earning from child labors	Share of child labor
1	12000	0	12000	100%
2	13000	9000	4000	30%
3	20000	10000	10000	50%
4	15000	0	15000	100%
5	20000	12000	8000	40%
6	25000	10000	15000	60%
7	35000	12000	23000	65%
8	25000	13000	12000	48%
9	20000	0	20000	100%
10	15000	0	15000	100%

Major reason of child labor is poverty and it has been reiterated in our results as well. The above table shows there were 40% families which were totally dependent on their child labor's income. 30% Families were majorly dependent on the child labors income and rest of their minor income share was fulfilled by adult earners. 10% percent family fulfilled their income half of the adult earners and half were contributed by the child

labors. Only 20 % families' major share of income came from their adult earners.

**Table 3: Total Average**

<b>Number of Family</b>	<b>Total Earning</b>	<b>Total Ault Contribution</b>	<b>Total Child Labor Contribution</b>	<b>Total Child Labor Share</b>
10	200.000	66000	134000	70%

The above table is a summary of Table Number 2. The averages show interesting findings about our study. Results show that 70% of the total income of a household comes from child labors and only 30% is contributed by the adult. A family's survival is questionable if 70% of their income is deducted while each of the family had on average 13 members as per table number 1. These statistics enforce our research questions that if child labors quit working apart from 70% of their income source will be halted and further income for the expenses of the school will also be needed. It can be easily concluded that if 70% of the income which is from child labor is removed then the family will cease to survive on the remaining 30% income. All of the respondents claimed that despite the fact that the major income source from child labors they are still living in extreme poverty due to rising inflation & unemployment. Stats of consequences upon their family if child labor stopped working can be concluded from the next table number 4.

**Table 4: Effect on Income if Child Labor Quits Working**

<b>If the Child Quits Labor</b>	<b>Percentage of Responses</b>
Good Positive Effect	0 %
No Effect	10 %
Worst Negative Effect	90 %

Data on table number 1, 2 & 3 shows that child labors are the major source of income for their family and in their absence it will be impossible for the family to survive which despite the

child labor are living from hand to mouth poverty. Despite that, we separately asked the families about the consequences if the child labors quit working and begin going to school. One of the families which were comparatively having only one child labor said that if their only child labor quits working the consequences will be hard but they can manage it. This was because of their small household size and better job (Taxi driving) of their adult earner. However, 90% of the respondent considered the scenario in which, if the child labors quits working as disastrous for their family survival. One of the children was extremely upset as his donkey died the day of our entry as it was carrying a heavy load from one part of the market to another. Even the death of his donkey was a big economic shock to his family, if he himself stops working it will be even bigger economic disaster for his family.

**Table 5: Ability of the Parents to Send their Children to School**

Ability to Support the Child Going to School	Percentage of Responses
Yes	10%
No	90%

Child labor is considered as children`s fundamental rights violation as they spend their precious time of study in working that affects them in diverse ways. We already discussed a scenario in which, if the income of child labors is deducted from the total income. Since education requires expenses as well, so it was important to ask the families if they will be able to afford the children`s education expenses. Its answer is already present in table number 4 however, in response to this question, 90% of the respondents` answers were in negative, i.e. they cannot support their children`s education expenses, keeping in consideration the 70% deduction in their income source if children quit working.

## **Conclusion**

Child labor is a serious issue that must be eradicated. The children that remain in child labor lag behind in the competition. A country like Pakistan where it is difficult to work, such wondering children can be easy prey to the prevailing militant groups. Not for this reason, but our first priority must be on the human rights group that all children must be provided with good quality education and child labor must be abandoned. In order to address this issue effectively it is important to understand its deep rooted causes. As discussed at the start that poverty is the primary main reason of child labor. Our study has also shown that extend of the contribution of child labors in household income. Based on the findings of our study in short sighted policy to ban child labor without providing an alternate source of income to the household can make survival of poverty ridden households dependent on child labor impossible. To address solutions is beyond the scope of our study, but it be concluded that the pragmatic solution will be one which will address child labor issues along with addressing the reduction in share of income that will be caused by outlaying child labor. In the absence of this alternative source of income to such households banning child labors will directly amount to their starvation and question of survival.

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