

# FREQUENCY OF DETERMINANTS OF CHILD LABOUR IN MOTOR CAR WORKSHOPS OF SOUTHERN PUNJAB

Asia Aziz,<sup>1</sup> Aslam Mahmood Malik,<sup>2</sup> Samina Badar<sup>1</sup>

## ABSTRACT

**Background:** Child labour effects health of a child in many ways. **Objective:** To find out the frequency of determinants of child labour in children working in the motor car workshops at Bahawalpur. **Methodology:** Study Design: Cross sectional study. Setting: The study was carried out at motor car workshops Bahawalpur, Southern Punjab. Duration: 26<sup>th</sup> April to 23<sup>rd</sup> August, 2014. A sample of 60 children working at motor car workshop was taken by simple random sampling technique. The data was collected through a pre designed questionnaire. The information was collected about education of the parents, family size, economic status of the parents, parents income. The data was entered and analyzed by using SPSS version 15. **Results:** The study showed that majority of the children were illiterate (51.6%), most of them (85% ) were living with their parents. Majority (58.34%) of the children in child labour were found to be coming from large families, (5-7 number). In majority of cases parents income was less than 2000 rupees per month. **Conclusion:** Our study revealed that most of the children working as child labour belonged from poor, socio economic strata of society, were illiterate, belonged from large families and were not attending school. **Key Words:** Child labour, Socio economic strata, Illiteracy.

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## INTRODUCTION

Child labor is broadly defined as any form of economic activity by a child for at least one hour per week and / or domestic chores for at least seven hours per week and/ or school labor for at least 5 hours per week.<sup>1</sup> Child labor” refers to the work that is mentally, physically, socially, and morally, dangerous, and harmful to the children and interferes with their schooling. In 1973, the ILO passed a convention establishing 15 as the minimum work age for most sectors while permitting light work from age 13, provided that such work was unlikely to harm child's health, morals and safety or prejudice his school attendance.<sup>2</sup> There is increasing evidence indicating that the labor participation of children have decreasing across the world.<sup>3</sup> UNICEF estimates that around 150 million children aged 5-14 in developing countries, about 16 percent of all children in this age group are involved in child labour.<sup>4</sup> More detailed regional and historical evidence, however, seems to suggest that economic growth has led to increasing child labour participation.<sup>4</sup> There is evidence that child labour increased in those families where the father's wages were also increasing, one must conclude that children worked where there were opportunities for such employment.<sup>5,6</sup> The purpose of present study was to measure frequency of the

determinants of child labour among children working in motor car workshops of Bahawal Pur, Southern Punjab.

## METHODOLOGY

This cross-sectional study was conducted from 26<sup>th</sup> April to 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2014 among children working in motor car workshops at Ahmed Pur East Road Bahawalpur.

Study population consisted of 182 children from 30 workshops, out of which 1/3 children (60 children) were chosen for the interview by simple random sampling.

The information was collected through a pre-designed questionnaire after taking their consent. The questionnaire included variable on age, education of child and his father, type of family residence and father income. Data so obtained was analyzed frequency calculated & presented in tables by using SPSS version 15.

## RESULTS

All of the study subjects were male, and majority (76.6%) were of age  $\geq 12$  years. (Table I). Among these children 51.06% were illiterate, 43% were primary, 5% middle and 1.6% were continuing their studies.

Most (85%) of children were living with their parents. Majority of the children (63%) were from

1. Community Medicine Department, Quaid-e-Azam Medical College, Bahawalpur, University of Health Sciences Lahore, Pakistan.

2. Gynae & Obstetrics Department, Quaid-e-Azam Medical College, Bahawalpur, University of Health Sciences Lahore, Pakistan.

### Correspondence:

Dr. Asia Aziz, Assistant Professor of Community Medicine, Quaid-e-Azam Medical College, Bahawalpur.

E-mail: drasiaaziz1973@gmail.com

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nuclear family, 30% from extended and 6.6% from polygamous families. The number of family members of 58.34% of the children were 5-7 and in 30% 8-10. The parents of 91.33% children were alive. The fathers of 58.3% of the children were labourers, and of 20% were farmers.

**Table I: Characteristics of children doing child labour (n=60)**

| Characteristics                        | Number | %      |
|--|--------|--------|
| 6-7                                    | 1      | 1.67%  |
| 8-9                                    | 9      | 15.00% |
| 10-11                                  | 4      | 6.66%  |
| 12-13                                  | 21     | 35.00% |
| 15-15                                  | 25     | 41.67% |
| <b>Education Level of the Child</b>    |        |        |
| Illiterate                             | 31     | 51.66% |
| Primary                                | 26     | 43.34% |
| Middle                                 | 3      | 5.00%  |
| Matric                                 | 0      | 0%     |
| <b>Whether or not Attending School</b> |        |        |
| Yes                                    | 1      | 1.66%  |
| No                                     | 59     | 98.34% |
| <b>Residential status of the child</b> |        |        |
| With family                            | 51     | 85%    |
| Outside family                         | 9      | 15%    |
| <b>Type of Family</b>                  |        |        |
| Polygamous                             | 4      | 6.67%  |
| Extended                               | 18     | 30.00% |
| Nuclear                                | 38     | 63.33% |
| <b>Number of Family Members</b>        |        |        |
| <5                                     | 2      | 3.33%  |
| 5-7                                    | 35     | 58.34% |
| 8-10                                   | 18     | 30.00% |
| >10                                    | 5      | 8.33%  |
| <b>Living Status of Parents</b>        |        |        |
| Both Dead                              | 0      | 0%     |
| One Alive                              | 5      | 8.67%  |
| Both Alive                             | 55     | 91.33% |
| <b>Occupation of Father</b>            |        |        |
| Unemployed                             | 6      | 10.00% |
| Labourer                               | 35     | 58.34% |
| Farmer                                 | 12     | 20.00% |
| Employed                               | 7      | 11.66% |
| <b>Monthly Income of Father</b>        |        |        |
| <2000                                  | 24     | 40.00% |
| 2000-3000                              | 21     | 35.00% |
| 3000-5000                              | 9      | 15.00% |
| >5000                                  | 6      | 10.00% |
| <b>Father's Education</b>              |        |        |
| Illiterate                             | 31     | 52%    |
| Primary                                | 26     | 43%    |
| Middle                                 | 3      | 5%     |

Among total children, 40% of the fathers of the children has their monthly income less than 2000 rupees, 35% has monthly income up to 3000 rupees. Among total, 40% of the parents were illiterate and 30% were heaving primary education.

## DISCUSSION

Our study of 60 child labourers revealed that majority (83.2%) of the children in our study were in age group 10-15 years and all of them were males,(51.6%)of children were illiterate, (43.34%) were with primary education and (5%) with education of middle school. According to our, study most of the children has number of family members from 5-7(58.3%) and (63.3%) were from nuclear family. Similar findings were observed by Malik S, Biswa B and Mitra SPat Kolkata.<sup>5</sup> According to that study (92%) of children belonged to 10-15 years and were males,(60.7%) were illiterate, (33.3%) has received some form of primary education, (6%) has gone up to middle school, (59%) were found with the family members of 5-7 and (85.3%) of child workers had originated from nuclear family. Our study results are similar to the results of study carried out by ILO'S International Programme on Elimination of child labour (IPEC).<sup>6</sup> According to that study, 64% children were illiterate and the percentage of school going children was 11.8% with the remainder being dropouts at various levels of their primary education. The percentage of school going children was slightly higher as compared to our results (1.6%).<sup>6</sup> This difference may be contributed to our sample size.

According to our study, most of the children has number of family members from 5-7(58.3%) which was similar to the study carried by FBS,<sup>7</sup> according to which the average household number was 7.7 and in most cases (84%) both parents were alive,<sup>4</sup> which again corresponds to our study results, in which 91.6% children reported that both of their parent were alive. According to ILO, IPEC percentage of both healthy parents was 90.2%<sup>6</sup> and in our study it was 95%.

In our study results, average monthly income of father was found to be very low i.e < Rs.2000 in most of the cases. The results matched with the results of the study carried by AKIDA.<sup>8</sup> Management Consultants about child labour in carpet industry in Punjab in which the average monthly income of the father was less than Rs 2000 in 52.1% of the cases, and also matched with the results of the study carried out in Nigeria where the indication of the poverty

levels in country with the resulting dependence of parents of added income from working children.<sup>9</sup> These results also have resemblance with study conducted in Pondicherry in which (85.2%) of children said that they worked due to low income of their family.<sup>10</sup> In our study, 43% of the fathers were illiterate and 30% had completed their primary education. According to survey of ILO,IPEC the percentage of illiterate fathers was 50% and 34.8% had completed their primary education.<sup>7</sup> Our study results were similar to a child labour survey which was carried out by Saeed A. Awan of Directorate of Labour Welfare, Govt. of the Punjab in which 86% were of the age group 10-15 years.<sup>11</sup> In this study majority of the sample children were males. These differences may be due to low literacy rates of Pakistan.

## CONCLUSION

Illiteracy, low socio-economic status and large family, were the most frequent factors on the part of parents that lead the parents to force their children to join child labour.

### Conflict of interest

The authors have declared no conflict of interest.

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