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Article:	Child Labor and Health: Issues, Attitude, Behaviors, and Causes
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ABSTRACT

Child labour is a major issue, especially in developing nations. According to statistics, approximately 90% of child labour occurrences occur in Africa and Asia. The main factor causing children to engage in child labour is clearly poverty. These kids frequently labour to support their families financially and play a big part in keeping their homes afloat. However, they frequently work for cheap pay and receive pitiful salaries. They are forced to forego their schooling since they are starting to work so early. Additionally, these kids suffer from serious exploitation and are frequently made to work for excessively limited pay. These children's general development is hampered by the exceedingly hazardous and risky working circumstances they undergo. They are compelled to labour in unfriendly conditions with little consideration for their social, physical, or mental health. Many youngsters live completely isolated from any kind of social assistance and may experience abuse and violence. Using qualitative research approaches including text analysis and library research, this study tries to investigate ways to end child labour without endangering children's futures and compromising their life.

Keywords: Child Labour, Behaviour, Attitude, Causes, Hazardous Work and Working Children

Introduction:

For many years, child labour has been a serious problem throughout the world, and it is frequently associated with inequalities in gender, poverty, and access to education (Parker, 1997). It's crucial to remember that not all types of employment done by kids fall under the category of child labour. It is typically regarded as good when young kids or teenagers work on projects that don't harm their health or education (Hilowitz, 2004). This term includes a variety of jobs that are bad for kids' mental, physical, social, or moral health as well as jobs that prevent them from getting an education. During the industrial revolution, child labour received much scientific interest. Research done in the UK highlighted the negative effects kids working in industries have, which prompted lawmakers to pass laws banning child labour in 1802 (Humphries, 2013). Many nations recognized the health dangers linked with child labour and took action after the UK. The ILO has established a clear employment age in 1973 as a minimum hiring age for employing children and it was considered as a first big action (Dahlén, 2005). The International Labour Organization (ILO) and other international organizations working to end child labour attempted to do so, however the objectives established to do so were not successful. The Millennium Development Goals, which 191 nations endorsed in 2005 with the intention of completing them by 2015, includes child labour as an objective. (Sachs & McArthur, 2005). According to the analysis of Griggs (2013), the Sustainable Development Goals did indeed mention child labour. By 2030, it is specifically desired to end child labour.

Despite a stated drop between 1995 and 2000, child labour is still a major issue on a worldwide scale. 150 million youngsters under the age of 14 were reportedly working throughout the globe in 2016 according to estimates. These kids frequently labour in conditions that rob them of a happy upbringing and put their health and wellbeing in danger (UNICEF, 2016). A majority of youngsters working are between the ages of 11 and 14, but there are also a sizable proportion, 60 million, between the ages of 5 and 11. Facts regarding the issue lack globally, therefore exact statistics are not available but the available results identify that 96% child labourers are engaged in labour work in many regions of world, especially in Asia, Africa and Latin America. These areas are most affected by child labour internationally (Parker, 1997). Child labour and detrimental health consequences are linked in a number of ways, according to research on the subject. For instance, Parker's research discovered a link between child labour and certain exposures, including silica in industrial settings, and a higher risk of HIV infection in children who engage in prostitution. Furthermore, poverty and maternal illiteracy are frequently associated with child labour. As a result, kids who work are more likely to experience malnutrition, which makes them more susceptible to getting sick. A meta-analysis on the topic was published in 2007 (Roggero et al., 2007). However, experts have noted that when compared to the general population, child labour is linked to greater rates of mortality and illness. However, they haven't given any

specifics on how child labour affects certain outcomes (Hughes et al., 2017). The goal of this systematic review is to offer a thorough assessment of the available information on the particular effects of child labour on both physical and mental health. (Trattner, 1970). Fact sheet shows that with increase in literacy rate, financial stability and effective legislation the child labour has decreased but the problem is still not resolved in many parts of the world, especially in the developing countries. Children get involved in work with family in family business or in factories etc. Poverty is seen as the main cause of child labour and the child labour practices supports its continuation (Hagemann F, Mehran F, Hammouya M, Hossain R, Ritualo 2002). Millions of children are engaged in the most harmful types of child labour, such as prostitution, pornography, human trafficking, domestic work, slavery, and domestic work. Surprisingly, more than 8 million kids are forced into servitude under these abusive circumstances. Tragically, nearly 20,000 youngsters lose their lives to workplace accidents each year. The survey also finds that Africa is home to about one-third of all children working in the world, underscoring the substantial prevalence of child labour in the continent (Miller, 2010).

Developing nations have made immense efforts to reduce child labour like India and Pakistan. But in fact, 56.4% of children in India between the ages of 5 and 14 are still working in agriculture, compared to 33.1% who are employed in a variety of businesses (Bureau of International Labor Affairs, 2015). According to “Convention on the Rights of the Child was originally ratified by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in 1989” child labour is unethical in any sense i.e. morally or even socially. Now the children are considered as human beings having rights and now they are not seen as a possession of their parents only. Child labour is a work which deprives the children from having a normal life and endangers their health also. Their opportunity to seek a happy and prosperous life is denied and even their right to education is denied. It hampers their autonomous life, justice and their health is compromised and with that their privacy is also breached (Koocher & Keith-Spiegel, 1990). Their utility increases when they appeared to be the only bread earners of their families and they have no other choice. They work voluntarily as their family's survival is based on their income. Since child labour breaches their privacy thus it makes child labour immoral and unethical. Sometimes they are forced to work by their parents and during work they face hazardous working conditions and several other challenges (Bureau of International Labor Affairs, 2015).

More than 90% children are employed as child labourers in developing nations and around 211 million children are incorporated into child labour, for instance, 61% in Africa, 17% Latin America, and 22% in Asia (Cdc.gov. Atlanta, Georgia 2014). A huge number of girl child labourers are found working as domestic workers at a very young age (Invernizzi & Williams, 2013). Krolkowski highlighted that children of any faith or religion are seen equally working as child

labourers (Krolikowski, 2014). These children lack a healthy living style and they fail to reach a potential growth. The MDGs in 2021 announced that we need to work on women's empowerment, poverty reduction, and education and also on child labour. MDGs took it as a challenge to abolish child labour and to combat poverty (Haines et al., 2007). Basu argues that children involved in child labour lack in access to healthy life, and their survival chances fades away (Basu & Tzannatos, 2003).

Review Literature

Child labour is referred to as hiring children under the legal age of working in formal or informal sector is called child labour. In western countries like North America, Australia and New Zealand have established criteria of hiring children in work i.e. a child must be of 14 years of age as per "Fair Labour Standards Act of 1938" and they must continue their education and work should be done after school hours. Because their employment and the working circumstances are governed by few, if any, laws. Family poverty and a lack of schools make restrictive regulations unworkable.

When large-scale manufacturing started it lead to exploit children in mining sector and also in the industries. A campaign was started in 18th century in UK and the first rule was passed in the year 1802, but it was not successful due to poor implementation. In the "Factor Act 1833" inspection system was also established. With the first worldwide employment Conference held in Berlin in 1890, coordinated worldwide measures to control child employment were launched. Similar conferences and other international actions were held after that, even if a consensus on standards could not be obtained at the time. In 1900, in Basel, "International Association for work Legislation was founded in Basel, Switzerland" encouraged the inclusion of child work prohibitions in labour laws globally. Similarly in 1960, ILO introduced legislations to protect child labourers. The "worst forms" of child employment are those that negatively impair a child's natural development, and the ILO's present objectives include identifying and resolving these situations. "The International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC), a new division of the ILO, was established in 1992. IPEC works to end child labour by removing children from dangerous working environments through programmes and it runs across the globe" (Britannica, 2023). The elimination of child work was one of the main objectives set by the International work Organization (ILO) upon its establishment in 1919. The ILO has historically relied on the development and oversight of labour standards that incorporate the idea of a minimum age for entrance to employment or labour as its main weapon for achieving the objective of the effective prohibition of child labour. Additionally, the idea that minimum age requirements should be connected to education has been a part of the ILO's legacy of developing standards in this area since 1919. According to "Convention No. 138", the minimum age for entrance to employment cannot be lower than the age at

which obligatory schooling is completed. The ILO's ratification of Convention No. 182 in 1999 solidified the international agreement to end child employment. Without straying from the overriding objective of the effective prohibition of child labour, as stated in Convention No. 138", it gave a much-needed emphasis. The idea of the worst forms also aids in prioritizing issues and serves as a starting point for addressing the general issue of child employment. The idea aids in drawing attention to both the effects of labour on children and the job that they do. Child labour that is proscribed under international law falls into three categories:

- The unequivocally worst types of child labour
- Child labour hampers child's education right
- Hazardous work (UN.org)

In reality, the pace of progress had already started to slow by 2012. The percentage of the child labourers is working decreased by three percent points between 2008 and 2012. Between 2012 and 2016, there was not a significant decrease. However, these universal numbers mask regional variations. Poverty is a major factor in child labour, which explains the increase in child labour. The number of children working on the continent has surpassed that of the rest of the globe.

The Covid-19 made matters worse since it caused schools to close and as a result increased poverty. Such recommendations seem a bit improbable in light of the strains that many African governments were under throughout the outbreak (economist, 2021). Around 100,000 child labourers were engaged in textile in 1900, whereas in 1904, more than 20,000 children under age 12 were engaged in various work typologies (Rosenberg, 2013). The chieftain at the beginning of the 20th century may have been astonished by the ubiquitous presence of labouring children, but this sight was usual in the United States at the time, as several authors on the issue have noted, "Children have always worked." During the time of the Industrial Revolution and the 1930s, they worked in a broad range of vocations (Hindman, 2016). Later on in 18th century parents started to send their children on work to earn income for the family (Viviana, 1994). England allowed for the employment of children using public funds in 1575 in order to "accustom them to labour" and "afford a prophylactic against vagrants and paupers"(Walter, 1970). Despite the fact that children in the post-Civil War United States worked in a range of professions, the legal basis that permitted parental authority remained stable. Both domestically and overseas, parents have long been allowed to benefit from their children's potential for productivity. A child was a father's property, according to English lawyer William Blackstone from the 18th century and he could use his children to generate family income (Rosenberg, 2013). The way the legal system handled a kid's unfortunate death and the reparations parents could be eligible to receive provide insight into how highly the child was regarded. (Zelizer, 1994).

According to the Pakistan Labour Force Survey 2017–18, 13.7% of children between the ages of 10 and 17 worked as children. About 5.4% of them were engaged in 1 hazardous form of child work. The ongoing Child Labour Survey in the provinces and territories will produce data on child labour at the provincial level that may inform and promote the enhancement of the frameworks for law and policy. The “ILO Conventions on the Worst Forms of Child employment, No. 182, (1999), the Minimum Age for Employment, No. 138 (1973), and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, (1989)”, have all been ratified by Pakistan. The National Labour Protection Framework (NLPF) has also been updated to include the eradication of child employment. SDG 8.7, which mandates that UN members “Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers by 2025,” is one that Pakistan has signed. According to the Employment of Children Act of 1991, children are not allowed to work in any hazardous jobs, establishments, or procedures unless they are done as part of a family company or in a government-approved (training) school. In Baluchistan 2, which has not yet passed the necessary legislation, federal laws apply. Children aged 5 to 16 now get free and mandatory education thanks to the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's adoption of the “Child Labour Policy (2018) and associated legislation including the Prohibition of Employment of Children Act (2015) and the Free Compulsory Primary and Secondary Education Act (2017).

The Punjab Restriction on Employment of Children Act (2016) sets 15 as the minimum age for employment in any type of establishment and restricts the employment of adolescents (over 15 and under 18 years old) in any hazardous work. The Punjab Prohibition of Child Labour at Brick Kilns Act (2016) prohibits the employment of children (under the age of 14 years) at brick kilns. The Punjab bound Labour System (Abolition) Amendment Act of 2018” stiffened punishments for hiring bound employees and improved protections for those who become victims of this practise, especially minors. The Punjab Domestic Workers Act (2019) establishes a minimum age of 15 years for domestic labour and permits “light work” or part-time employment for anyone beyond the age of 15 but under the age of 18. An activity that has no detrimental effects on a person's health, security, or education is referred to as light work. The legal minimum age for domestic labour is 18 years old. “The Prohibition of Employment of Children Act, which was passed in Sindh and Gilgit Baltistan in 2017 and 2019, respectively, sets the minimum age for employment at 14 years old and the minimum age for hazardous job at 18. The Prevention of Trafficking in Persons Act of 2018 was passed by the federal government, and anti-trafficking divisions of the Federal Investigation Agency and a Child Helpline were established”. “Provincial Child Protection Units take custody of street children and children at danger and look after their needs for food, counseling, health care, education, and amusement”. The ARC Project works towards achieving Sustainable Development Goal Target 8.7 by assisting in the

abolition of child employment, especially in its harshest forms, across Asia. To abolish child labour certain steps should be adopted:

1. Knowledge based solutions for eradicating child labour
2. Making sure to follow international agreements on child labour
3. Creating and making appropriate strategies to abolish child labour

Theoretical Background

Child employment is frequently seen as a kind of child abuse, and the general consensus in high-income nations seems to be the result of shrewd business people looking for cheap labour and heartless parents engages their kids to raise family income. The two most prevalent "worst forms" of child employment are domestic workers and child porters. There are two primary categories of child porters: short-distance porters who work in marketplaces and bus stops in cities, and long-distance labours who labour in rural areas. According to the ILO, long-distance labour often continue to live and work with their families, but short-distance labours frequently leave their homes in search of employment.

In some industries, bonded labour is thought to be a serious problem. The goal of the Pakistani Bonded Labour Liberation Front is to eradicate bonded labour. They list a number of industries where bonded labour is common, including brick kilns, carpet manufacturing, agriculture, fisheries, stone/brick crushing, shoe manufacturing, power looms, and garbage sorting. They believe that just the carpet sector is responsible for the bonding of 500,000 kids. Around Pakistan's 8.3 million child labourers work outside their homes thus the exact ratio cannot be determined from the statistics at hand. According to the Bonded Labour Liberation Front, there are eight million child slaves in Pakistan. Considerably while it might be challenging to locate bonded labour, finding trafficked minors and child sex workers is considerably more challenging. According to UNICEF (2001), children make up 30% of all sex workers in the Mekong sub region, which includes Vietnam, Thailand, Cambodia, and Laos. It is difficult to get estimates on the size of the issue in Vietnam. There is no proof of child trafficking in Vietnam outside of the 253 incidents of child trafficking that were prosecuted between 1991 and 1999.

Methodology

The study aims to explore the main causes of child labour in Pakistani context. Therefore, the researcher has opted qualitative research by using content analysis and library research technique to highlight the actual scenario of child labour in Pakistan and also in the global context. This way an understanding can be developed by using authentic research material of the existing facts and interpretive data. The data was collected based on social and economic attributes, child's personality, parent's behaviours and household setup along with the age, education,

family income and size of the family. Qualitative research method is used due to its nature i.e. observing and exploring the research problem in detail as it is a complex issue, which needs to be understood clearly. In this method of research knowledge is gained in such a way that every person can understand the issue clearly and can have a very clear picture of the issue.

Conclusion

The definition of child work in academic and public policy literature is not universally agreed upon. As a result, this study takes a variety of child-friendly activities into account. Child labour is often divided into two groups. Work done in a household farm or business is considered market work, as is labour done for pay. Labour done to produce commodities and services that are often not exchanged outside of the family is considered household labour. Care giving, food production, and other housework are included. Household work is typically not taken into account in studies of the availability of child labour, although this absence might result in extremely false findings. This study examines data on child labour supply from nationally representative household researches to examine why and how children work. As a result, this study's focus is on understanding components of the supply of child labour that are significant to the general populace and does not go into great detail about the relatively uncommon, most dangerous kinds of child exploitation.

A common definition of child labour given by authors and some politicians in underdeveloped nations is labour that harms children's well-being and development to meet their potential growth. With such a subjective definition, it is difficult to comprehend child labour, because it is never certain how any activity involving children will affect their growth and welfare. The current study adheres to the prevailing norm in economics research by defining child labour as the economic activities in which children take part. It includes the kinds of activities that children frequently engage in across the globe.

The goal of this study is to comprehend that why the kids work. This is due to the fact that kids may be especially susceptible during some activities. Fortunately, only a small percentage of kids are engaged in these "worst forms of child labour." Even though involvement in harmful or dangerous forms of employment is uncommon, children who engage in the worst types of child labour nevertheless demand special care. Economic development may not always result in a reduction in child employment in the near term, but technical advancement and economic growth often hold substantial promise for the long-term eradication of child labour. The challenge for the family is to balance between the work and education. It is feasible, but not required, for child labour to rise if growth and development increase the return to child labour without increasing the return to education. Independent of the actions of the children, growth and development may increase household income. In that instance, even if market wages rise, the

household's value of kid's earnings may drop (due to declining marginal utility of spending). However, it would seem rational for a nation going through a boom phase to ensure that some of the increased economic resources go towards enhancing the right of a child to get education.

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