

**FAMILY LIFE AND THE SOCIAL EXCLUSION OF CHILDREN INVOLVED IN
LABOUR IN DISTRICT DIR LOWER, KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA**

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ABSTRACT

This research was mainly concerned with the role of family life in the social inclusion of children engaged in labour in District Dir Lower. Through purposive sampling method a sample size of 210 respondents, comprising of working children in Auto workshop under the age of 18 years were selected from the study universe comprising seven tehsil's of district Dir lower. The collected data was interpreted and presented at Uni-variate, Bi-variate levels. Chi-square test was used to draw association between dependent variable (Family Life) and independent variable (Social Inclusion) at Bi-variate. The study found a significant association with the social inclusion of children involved in labour. Similarly, the statements regarding independent variable "Family Life" and dependent variable "Social exclusion" of children involved in labour were also tested through chi-square. Results showed a highly significant ($P=0.000$) association of satisfaction from family income. Highly significant ($P=0.000$) association of positive behavior of parents with the family members. Similarly, significant ($P=0.000$) association of negative behavior of siblings at home, a significant ($P=0.000$) association of availability of educational facilities. Furthermore, a significant ($P=0.000$) association of availability of better housing. Likely, a highly significant ($P=0.000$) association of availability of hygienic food and significant ($P=0.001$) association of availability of better clothing with social inclusion of children involved in labour.

Keywords: Family life, Working Children, Social Exclusion, Child Labour

INTRODUCTION

Parents in the developed nations make full use of their children's ability, making them economic assets, while in the developing countries parents are making no use of their children's ability, that's why children in developing countries are regarded as burden on their parents. The ILO (1996) report states that it is the basic right of each and every child to receive health services and a life free from maltreatment, but presently thousands of children are the victims of emotional, sexual, physical and economic abuse. Children maltreatment is one of the major global problems which badly effect the social and physical development of children. Child labour is one of the common abuses which seriously affect the health and personality of working children throughout their life and is regarded as serious violation of child and human rights.

The United Nations estimated that there exist 150 million working children in the world in the age group of 3-18 years, while the number of these children is increasing day by day. Proper housing is not available to 40% of these working children to support their families, 60 % of these children are working in the streets; they are living in very difficult circumstances and are out of school (Worldwide Resource Library, 2009). Due to life style, nutrition, worse detection of disease, children with low socio-economic status have worse health because of the absence of economic resources to avail better health facilities (Currie, 2003). Health of the child is badly affected by hard work in hazardous condition in early age (Marmot, 1999). Illiteracy, low school attendance and low enrolment play an important role to engage children in economic activities (Hasan & Debnath, 2000).

Health problems are common in children working in automobile industry, among the leading problems included dental caries, skin conditions (scabies), intestinal parasitism, injuries and old bone fractures, and malnutrition. Dental caries were most frequent among 12 year olds. 11 of the boys and none of the girls had dental caries. Children 12-13 years old were more likely to be malnourished than children 14-15. Urine analysis showed that boys were more likely to have blood in the urine while girls were more likely to have protein in the urine these health problems are getting worse because the children can not avail health facilities at their door steps, because their family income is not allowing him to do so (Ensign, 2004). Child labour has also large numbers of physiological effects on child health. Physical, mental development and physiological wellbeing are also affected by child labour. Physical and mental development of the child needs energy to grow and this energy needs to come from a

healthy and balanced diet, but unfortunately balance diet is not available to child labourer at work shops (Kielland & Tovo, 2006). Alonzo and Edillon (2002) found that majority 53 percent of the child workers were not attending school. About 80 percent of the children attend school in the age of 5-12 years but this drop to 60 percent by age 13 and to 22 percent by age 17.

Hygienic food is very much necessary for physical as well as mental development but unfortunately working children facing the problem of non-availability of nutritious food which result lack of energy. This is because the job children do is too hard as compared to their calories intake. Diet of working children is inadequate to their calories consumption, poor in proteins and carbohydrates and can interchange the energy loss of the children. Large number of these working children would not take breakfast until about ten in the morning and often they have both breakfast and lunch in the mining site, where hygienic conditions are dangerous and food contamination is highly probable (Torimiro, 2009). In Calcutta (India) working children major need is food and 90% of working children were found undernourished (Ghosh, 1992).

School play an important role in the socialization of a child but child workers getting less chance for schooling due to low family income (Ensign, 2004). Children working very hard in a very hot weather or extreme temperature, these children in very young age carried heavy loads bare footed in very miserable working conditions. Majority of these children support their sisters and brothers and their shoulders are too small to bear such a heavy load. But due to family economic conditions, large size of the family and absence of earning members with in the family these working children have to do this (Sethi, 1997). Roy and Devi (2008) conducted a comprehensive study in Jawahar Institute Rural Health Center (J.I.R.H.C) sample size of the study was 750 children involved in labour. The focus of the study was to study children from class 6th to 10th, 444 urban and 306 rural child workers were contacted for data collection. Findings of the study revealed that 32.5% of children went to work after or before their schooling time, 78.6% of the children argued that they visited a health facility in the past one year, due to low family income 80.8% children in urban area were involved in labour, 87.2% of children were of viewed that they are scolded by their employer for working slowly and 62.8% were beaten due to other work related reasons. Finding of the study revealed that family in debt, presence of a handicapped member within the family, drugs user in the family or over crowded families, relationships with siblings or parents and

uneducated parents were the main causes of child labour. In Africa children working in agriculture sector pointed out high rate of injuries during work, unhygienic living conditions, substandard housing, and poor access to clean drinking water, unhygienic food, poor sanitation and low wages for a very hard work (Manda et al, 2003). The issue child labour is increasing day by day and calls for the immediate attention of the research scholars. The current study was conducted in district Dir Lower, of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, focusing to highlight the various health problems faced by children working in the labour market.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To explore the association between family income and availability of educational facilities and the social exclusion of children involved in labour
2. To explore the association between parents' behavior and social exclusion of children involved in labour
3. To investigate the problems faced by children involved in labour in the work place

METHODS AND PROCEDURES

The present research study was carried out in District Dir lower Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Pakistan with the sole objective to investigate the role of family life in the social inclusion of children who are involved in labour. A sample size of 210 respondents was purposively selected. A comprehensive tool of data collection (written Questionnaire of three scales) was designed by incorporating dependent variable (Family Life) and independent variables (Social Inclusion). For obtaining significant results in the questionnaire the concept were measured through various statements on a three scales strongly agree, undecided and strongly disagree. In this regard to measure changes in an individual responses and obtaining the desired degree of responses, dependent variable of the study was indexed. To obtain the layout of the data both thematic and independent variables were also assessed through frequency and their respective percentage distribution. Chi-square test statistics were used to establish the association between dependent and independent variables and the same was determined with the help of using bi-variate analysis procedures, to reveal the direction of the responses. To establish spurious or no spurious association between the two variables, multivariate analyses were carried out.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**UNI-VARIATE ANALYSIS**

S. No.	Questions	Strongly Agree	Undecided	Strongly Disagree	Total
1	Satisfaction from family income	57 (27.14%)	41 (19.52%)	112 (53.33%)	210 (99.99%)
2	Behavior of parents with family members is positive	86 (40.95%)	23 (10.95%)	101 (48.09%)	210 (99.99%)
3	Behavior of siblings is negative	107 (50.95%)	39 (18.57%)	64 (30.47%)	210 (99.99%)
4	Availability of educational facilities	66 (31.42%)	40 (19.04%)	104 (49.52%)	210 (99.99%)
5	Availability of better housing	66 (31.42%)	40 (19.04%)	104 (49.52%)	210 (99.99%)
6	Availability of hygienic food	63 (30.00%)	40 (19.04%)	107 (50.95%)	210 (99.99%)
7	Availability of better clothing	64 (30.47%)	41 (19.52%)	105 (50.00%)	210 (99.99%)
Total		509 (34.62%)	264 (17.95%)	697 (47.41%)	1470 (99.99%)

Results showed that 27.14 % of the respondents were satisfied from their family income, 19.52 % were undecided about their satisfaction from their family income and majority 53.33 % of the respondents were unsatisfied from their family income. It could be the result that majority of the families of working children are poor and these children are sent to work to

earn extra money for their families. The results of the study are in consonance with Khan (1991) revealed that main causes of engaging children in labour are low income and death of father, most of the children had to start work because they were the only source of income that helps in running the family matters. Similarly, Khair (2005) concluded that poverty is the main cause of child labour in Bangladesh and more than 30 percent of the child workers are doing hazardous work due to low family income. Many families are unable to fulfill the basic needs of life of their family members, which enforce them to engage their children in risky jobs in early age. They don't consider education as real life necessity.

Similarly, 40.95 % of the respondents were found strongly agreed with the statement that the behavior of parents with family members is positive, 10.95 % were found undecided about the notion while majority 48.09 % were of the view that behavior of parents with family members is negative. It could be the reason that the demands of these children are unbearable for their parents that is why the behavior of parents remains negative. Similarly, Currie (2003) found that working children who belongs to households having different socio economic position are unable to overcome their health problems. Child workers with low socioeconomic status have worse health conditions due to their life style, nutrition, worse detection of disease, etc. Furthermore, the relationships of these working children with family members were not positive; as they considered that their parents are responsible for the fulfillments of their basic needs. And they think that the behavior of parents with family members is the main cause of this negative relationship'

Furthermore, majority 50.95 % of the respondents were strongly agreed with statement that the behavior of siblings is negative, 18.57 % were undecided that either the behavior with siblings is negative or positive and 30.47 % of the respondents strongly discarded the statement. It may be the reason that due to low income and economic resources the siblings are engaged in different activities which may cause negative relationships between the siblings. According to De, Vries et al. (2001) who concluded that majority of working children felt that they have no or less time for recreation and to play with their sibling or to share their feelings with them, which creates distance in relationships which cause negative behavior among the siblings. This negative behavior has both psychological and emotional effects on child labourers.

Similarly, results showed that 31.42 % of the respondents were strongly agreed with statement about the availability of educational facilities, 19.04 % were undecided about the statement while majority 49.52 % of the respondents were strongly disagreed about the availability of educational facilities. It may be the results due to low income the families cannot provide education opportunities to their children and thus these children are engaged in hazardous labour. Findings of the present study are in line with Robson (2004) concluded that child labour has negative affect the educational outcomes of the children, but these effects vary by the gender of the child. Castle and Nyland (2002) also argued that lower school attendance in the region of Africa particularly in rural Nigeria were observed, it has also been noticed that there were no clean drinking water available at work place due to which these working children were suffering from so many illnesses.

Moreover, results suggested that 31.42 % of the respondents were strongly agreed with that better housing is available to them, 19.04 % were undecided about the statement while majority 49.52 % of the respondents were found strongly disagreed with the statement. It may be the reason that these children are engaged in hazardous and life threatening conditions for longer hours at work place and they have no or less time to enjoy proper housing facility both at home and workplace. The results of the study are in consonance with Anyanwu (1993) who argued that child workers in Africa in agriculture sector have a high occurrence of injuries, inferior living conditions resulting from substandard housing, poor access to clean water and hygienic food, poor sanitation and low wages.

Moreover, results revealed that 30.00 % of the respondents strongly agreed with statement about availability of hygienic food, 19.00 % were undecided that either hygienic food is available to them or not and majority 50.95 % of the respondents were strongly disagree about the availability of hygienic food. It may be the reason that due to lack of financial resources parents are unable to provide hygienic food to their children at home. It may also be the reason that at workplace the employer for the sack of economic benefits providing nominal food to these working children. That is why hygienic food is not available to these working children. Findings of the study are in consonance with Goldin and Katz, (2003) who found that in some part of the world working children do not have sufficient food,

clothing and shelter and even water for bathing due to which working children suffer from physical as well as physiological development.

Furthermore, 30.47 % of the respondents viewed that better clothing is available to them, 19.52 % were undecided either better clothing is available to them or not and majority 50.00 % of the respondents stated that better clothing is not available to them. It may due to the financial position of the family parents are unable to provide better clothing to their children at home. Results of the study are in line with Fallon and Tzannatos (1998) who found during his study that living, food and clothing conditions of the working children are uneven particularly in the developing countries.

BI-VARIATE ANALYSIS

Family life of children involved in labour.	Responses	Social inclusion of children involved in labour			Total	Statistics
		Strongly Agree	Undecided	Strongly Disagree		
Satisfaction from family income	Strongly Agree	5 (8.77%)	9 (15.78%)	43 (75.43%)	57 (99.99%)	$\chi^2 = 23.027$ P= .000
	Undecided	13 (31.70%)	1 (2.43%)	27 (65.85%)	41 (99.99%)	
	Strongly Disagree	40 (35.71%)	22 (19.64%)	50 (44.64%)	112 (99.99%)	
Behaviour of parents with	Strongly Agree	34 (39.53%)	12 (13.95%)	40 (46.51%)	86 (99.99%)	
	Undecided	8	7	8	23	

the family members is positive		(34.78%)	(30.43%)	(34.78%)	(99.99%)	$\chi^2 = 23.027$ P= .000
	Strongly Disagree	37 (36.63%)	13 (12.87%)	51 (50.49%)	101 (99.99%)	
Behaviour of siblings is negative at home.	Strongly Agree	38 (35.51%)	21 (19.62%)	48 (44.85%)	107 (99.99%)	$\chi^2 = 17.913$ P= .001
	Undecided	11 (28.20%)	1 (2.56%)	27 (69.23%)	39 (99.99%)	
	Strongly Disagree	9 (14.06%)	10 (15.62%)	45 (70.31%)	64 (99.99%)	
Availability of educational facilities	Strongly Agree	8 (12.12%)	10 (15.15%)	48 (72.72%)	66 (99.99%)	$\chi^2 = 20.676$ P= .000
	Undecided	13 (32.50%)	1 (2.50%)	26 (65.00%)	40 (99.99%)	
	Strongly Disagree	37 (35.57%)	21 (20.19%)	46 (44.23%)	104 (99.99%)	
Availability of better housing.	Strongly Agree	9 (13.63%)	9 (13.63%)	48 (72.72%)	66 (99.99%)	
	Undecided	12 (30.00%)	1 (2.50%)	27 (67.50%)	40 (99.99%)	

	Strongly Disagree	37 (35.57%)	22 (21.15%)	45 (43.26%)	104 (99.99%)	$\chi^2 = 20.957$ P= .000
Availability of hygienic food.	Strongly Agree	7 (11.11%)	10 (15.87%)	46 (73.01%)	63 (99.99%)	$\chi^2 = 20.639$ P=.000
	Undecided	13 (32.50%)	1 (2.50%)	26 (65.00%)	40 (99.99%)	
	Strongly Disagree	38 (35.51%)	21 (19.62%)	48 (44.85%)	107 (99.99%)	
Availability of better clothing.	Strongly Agree	9 (14.06%)	9 (14.06%)	46 (71.87%)	64 (99.99%)	$\chi^2 = 18.704$ P= .001
	Undecided	13 (31.70%)	1 (2.43%)	27 (65.85%)	41 (99.99%)	
	Strongly Disagree	36 (34.28%)	22 (20.95%)	47 (44.76%)	105 (99.99%)	

The Results revealed association between two variables i.e. dependent variable “Social Inclusion” and independent variable “Family Life” of children who are involved in labour. These results indicated a highly significant association (P=0.000) between satisfaction from family income and social inclusion of children who are involved in labour. From the results we can deduce that working children who satisfied from their family income are having more opportunities of social inclusion. Findings of the present study is in consonance with the findings of Castle and Nyland (2002) which revealed that richer families as compare to poor families send their children to work places where the working conditions are comparatively

good. Similar results were also given by Cartwright and Kimberly (1999) who revealed that families with economic resources engaged their children in activities where the basic facilities of health, food and clothing are available and these children availing the facilities of recreation and rest during working hours more as compare to children who belong to low income families.

Furthermore, a highly significant association ($P=0.000$) found between positive behavior of parents with the family members and social inclusion of children who are involved in labour. The results indicated that positive behavior of parents with in the family situation provide opportunities to children to participate in societal activities, education and other basic rights as compare to those working children who are having parents with negative behavior with his family members. The results of the study are in consonance with Marmot(1999) revealed that children needs proper socialization, positive behavior of parents with in the family in early age, but most of the working children are not getting proper socialization and faces harsh attitude of parents with in the family, which badly disturb the social position of children in the society.

Likely, a significant association ($P=0.001$) observed between negative behavior of siblings at home and social inclusion of children who are involved in labour. Results of the present study are in consonance with Assefa (2000) who found that one of the most non-physical impacts of child labour is the psychological work hazards. Child labourers compare themselves with the non-working children, which cause feeling low self-esteem, most of these children suffers from lack of economic and social support and they are living separately from their family and parents. Furthermore, these working children are away from family and siblings having less opportunities to share their feelings and sentiments with family members that's why these children deprive themselves from their chances to develop the basic skills of life that may needed in future as adults member of the society.

Similarly, a highly significant association ($P=0.000$) explored between availability of educational facilities and social inclusion of children who are involved in labour. These findings are in line with the study of Deb, Parta and Furio, Rosati (2002) who concluded that work places where educational facilities are available to the workers will try to participate in developmental and societal activities due the awareness provided by education as compare to illiterate or working children with little education. They will also compel their employer for the provision of basic facilities i.e. recreational facilities and rest hours at work place. Similar

findings were also produced by ILO (2004) Report which concluding that in developed countries of the world working children are enjoying both the educational and recreational facilities at work places.

Likewise, significant association ($P=0.00$) extracted between availability of better housing and social inclusion of children involved in labour. From these results we can conclude that significant association remain between availability of better housing and social inclusion of children involved in labour. The findings of the present study are in line with ILO (2004) Report which showed that in developed countries of the world working children are enjoying the facilities of better housing as well as the facilities of recreation , clean drinking water , food, health and other basic facilities at work places. Naseem, and Iqbal, Farooqui. (1991) research further concluded that in less developed countries of the world the basic rights of children are violated by their employers and children working in very difficult conditions with very low or no wages have no facilities of education, housing, health, recreation and food at work places which are having long lasting impact on the social inclusion of these children.

Moreover, a highly significant association (0.000) found between availability of hygienic food and social inclusion of children who are involved in labour. Findings of present research is similar with the findings of Fallon and Tzannatos (1998) which revealed that majority of working children are the product of poverty, most of these children involved in labour due poor economic conditions of the family they have no proper housing, clothing and hygienic food and they consider parents responsible for the non-availability of these facilities and due to which they are not participating in family or social affairs. Goldin and Parson (1989) also found similar results in his research on social inclusion and relationship of working children with their parents.

Furthermore, a significant association (0.001) was found between availability of better clothing and social inclusion of children. Results of the study are also in line with ILO (1999) Report concluded that in the developed countries of the world children are mainly engaged in part time jobs with aim to increase their job related skills or working in work places where all the basic facilities of hygienic food, clean drinking water, recreation, health and social inclusion are available to them. Similar research was conducted by Power and Kenny (2011), which concluded that in Bhutan due to restriction on child labour now the

majority of working children are availing the facilities of proper food, clothing and health at work places and children are partly participate in developmental activities.

CONCLUSION

This research concluded that significant association remain between family life in the social inclusion of children involved in labour in District Dir lower, which is a complex issue intertwined with society, culture and economy. The exact nature of this association can differ between countries significantly. If child labor continues at the current rate, the risks of social inclusion can be higher in future. A clear understanding of child labor is essential for designing appropriate interventions to address this issue without further delay. Although ILO and other international and national organizations have shown keen interest and involvement in this issue, the need is still great. Struggles on international and national levels should seek to identify and address the root causes of social inclusion of children involved in labour and address this issue through most of their on-going and new programs to effectively combat the social exclusion of working children in Pakistan and makes these children part of family, community or society .

RECOMMENDATIONS

Every Pakistani should take responsibility for developing effective and sustainable strategies to eradicate the harmful aspects of social inclusion of children who are involved in labour. The International Labour Organization and other international should consequently support the good local forces that strive for the improvement and welfare of children who are engaged in labour. Child labour plays a different social and economic role in different societies and among different ethnic groups in Pakistan and deprived these children from education, family life, recreation etc. Therefore, child cantered participatory research and project planning can play critical role to include these children in societal and developmental activities and to provide these children decision making power at family as well as at society level. And income generation program for poor family should be started at micro level, education should be free of cost and job oriented and parents should be motivated and mobilizes regarding the basic rights of children.

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