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## Exploring the Causes of Child Labour and its adverse Implications on Children's Education

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**Abstract:** *This study looks at the various reasons why child work occurs as well as how it affects kids' schooling. Using a thorough literature analysis, the study explores the cultural, social, and economic aspects that contribute to the continued use of child labor across the world. It examines how cultural norms, poverty, and a lack of educational opportunities contribute to the continuation of this phenomena. This study Examined the detrimental effects on kids' education, such as decreased academic achievement, restricted access to educational materials, and higher dropout rates. The study also looks at possible legislative changes and intervention strategies to lessen child labor and protect kids' right to an education. This research is to educate methods for the prevention and elimination of child labor by illuminating the linked challenges and creating an environment that is favorable to children's holistic development..*

### Keyword:

Academic Performance,  
Dropout Rates,  
Societal Norms,  
Child Labor,  
Education, Poverty.

### Introduction

A serious problem that has existed for centuries and still has an impact on millions of children's lives globally is child labor. This social problem has a significant influence on children's education and is motivated by a wide range of intricate. one of the most important and intricate elements causing child labor worldwide is poverty. Families that endure poverty must deal with a harsh reality in which getting food, housing, and medical care becomes a daily battle. The money these families from their kids may be

the difference .Children provide an extra source of cash in such desperate situations, which makes child labor an appealing yet upsetting remedy for financial difficulties. Young people who work in low-paying occupations support their family financially by putting food on the table and paying for necessities. They frequently accept professions that are dangerous and physically taxing, jeopardizing their health and educational opportunities in the process.

The lack of access to basic necessities exacerbates the association between poverty and

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child labor. In disadvantaged neighborhoods, conditions including inadequate housing, hunger, and restricted access to healthcare are prevalent. Children are forced into the workforce by these difficult living conditions since their income is essential to the family's survival. It is difficult to think about the long-term effects of denying children of an education when one is constantly fighting to meet one's basic requirements. (Kramer, 2021) This cycle of child labor and poverty has far-reaching effects. Children miss out on educational opportunities that might potentially break the cycle of poverty because they are unable to overcome the urgent necessities of survival. Their unrealized potential feeds an underdevelopment cycle that impacts not just the people but also their communities and society as a whole. In order to address child labor caused by poverty, families must be lifted out of their financial difficulties and given access to high-quality education, which will provide them with a route to a safer and more prosperous future. (World Bank, [2023](#))

### Background of the Study

Children encounter a major obstacle to their education in many parts of the world since they cannot easily attend high-quality schools. This problem is especially noticeable in locations with low economic status, as poverty frequently makes matters worse. Poverty remains a stubborn fact of life even in rich countries like Canada. In particular, the poverty of our children has been a continuing concern (Campaign [2000](#)). The lack of accessible and reasonably priced schools in these areas poses a serious challenge to families forced to make difficult decisions about the futures of their children. First of all, kids have to make the difficult and lengthy trek to schools because there aren't many of them close to their homes. In addition to being physically exhausting, these lengthy travels take up valuable time that could be used to make a living. Parents frequently believe that the dangers of these

travels—like possible wage loss or safety issues—outweigh the advantages of schooling.

Second, even in cases where schools are open, the caliber of instruction they provide may be lacking. The efficacy of education can be hampered by overcrowded classrooms, inadequate or out-of-date learning materials, and poorly prepared teachers. Families who see these flaws may lose faith in the notion of spending money on their kids' education and instead choose to put their kids' education behind them in favor of earning a living. Furthermore, families that are struggling financially may find it impossible to afford the costs of school. Books, clothing, school fees, and other related costs can put a burden on already thin finances. In these situations, families could decide that it makes more financial sense to send their kids to work so they can supplement the family income rather of paying for education. (Shukla, [2006](#))

Child labor is still practiced in many regions of the world in large part due to cultural norms. Deeply ingrained societal conventions, cultural practices, and traditions in many communities normalize the concept of young children working. These customs, which are seen as essential to a child's upbringing, frequently entail youngsters helping their family with farming, crafts, or other types of labor. In these kinds of civilizations, it is generally accepted that labor is a better way for kids to acquire vital life skills than formal schooling. It might be difficult to break free from deeply rooted cultural traditions that condone child work. It necessitates bringing attention to the long-term effects child labor has on a kid's development, such as restricted access to high-quality education. In order to change attitudes and views about the relative worth of education and conventional work, advocacy, education, and community involvement initiatives are essential. Furthermore, governments and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) can collaborate to implement programs that help families in making

sure their children have the chance to attend school while honoring cultural customs and requirements, in addition to promoting education. It takes time and tact to change cultural norms, but doing so is crucial to ending child labor and enhancing the opportunities for kids in these communities.

Companies often turn to underage labor because of the financial benefits it provides. In a competitive business landscape, companies worldwide are resorting to a concerning solution to maintain their competitiveness: the utilization of child labor. However, the rights, welfare, and educational opportunities of the children are sacrificed in order to achieve this cost-effectiveness. Employing children can result in lower labor expenses and higher profit margins for companies, which can be a compelling offer. Children are particularly susceptible to exploitation because they lack the ability to negotiate and are generally from low-income families. Children are pushed into low-paying, labor-intensive employment, denied an education, and then caught in a cycle of poverty as a result of this economic exploitation. This hinders not only their personal growth but also the general social and economic inequality in the impacted countries and communities. Essentially, the exploitation of children for financial gain is frequently sustained by economic incentives, making it a widespread and difficult issue to address.

### **Legal Framework of Child Labour**

Child labor presents a multifaceted issue with profound social implications, legal, and financial ramifications. It is important to investigate the root causes of this issue and how it affects children's education from a legal perspective in order to tackle it successfully. Child labor is still a problem that affects the entire world, and solving it requires a diversified strategy. International conventions and treaties form the foundation of this initiative. Conventions No. 182 and No. 138,

respectively, target the worst types of child labor and set minimum working age norms, and are provided by the International Labour Organization (Neal, 2019). as a crucial legal framework. In addition, it is the responsibility of every country to establish and implement its own rules and regulations concerning child labor, which include minimum working ages and suitable working conditions for minors. Laws requiring education up to a specific age are essential in highlighting the close relationship between education and the avoidance of child labor. To address the underlying causes of child labor, anti-discrimination legislation, gender equality, and social safety net policies are essential. Strong legislative frameworks that prohibit forced labor and child trafficking are also essential. It is crucial that impacted children and their families have access to legal remedies in order to guarantee the protection of their rights and welfare. All things considered, combating child labor legally entails a whole range of actions intended to safeguard children's rights and welfare and encourage their access to high-quality education, highlighting the necessity for both domestic and international collaboration in this endeavor.

Laws requiring compulsory schooling are also a vital component of the campaign to end child labor. There are laws in many countries requiring compulsory education, which states that kids have to go to school until a specific age. Enforcing these regulations becomes an essential tactic to provide kids access to school and deter them from working while they're young. In order to ensure that companies abide by child labor rules, governments must also do labor inspections and be ready to impose fines for infractions. Child labor exploitation is discouraged by efficient labor inspections and enforcement procedures. (N Frades, 2021) To address the underlying causes of child labor, legislation that seek to abolish discrimination in employment and educational opportunities—including those that advance gender equality—

are also essential. Discriminatory tactics frequently force some kid groups into labor by depriving them of possibilities.

Governments might set up welfare and social safety nets to lessen the financial constraints that compel youngsters to work. Families that are struggling financially can receive help from these legislative measures, which reduces the need for them to send their kids into the labor. Anti-trafficking legislation are essential in the fight against the worst kinds of child labor. These regulations support the fight against two of the most severe kinds of child exploitation that they might face: forced child labor and child trafficking.

Last but not least, it is critical to guarantee that families of child laborers have access to legal remedies. In order to defend their rights, this entails offering assistance through legal aid services and easing their access to the judicial system. Legal remedies must be available in order to hold offenders responsible and give the impacted children compensation. In conclusion, in order to address the complex issue of child labor and its effects on children's education, a comprehensive legal framework that includes international conventions, national legislation, laws requiring compulsory education, labor inspections, anti-discrimination measures, social safety nets, anti-trafficking laws, and access to legal remedies is necessary (Kramer, 2021).

### Global Perspective

Since child labor impacts millions of children globally, it is a complicated subject with global implications. Child labor is common due to a number of interrelated circumstances, and its effects are extensive, especially when it comes to children's education. This article will examine the worldwide causes of child labor and how it affects children's education. Poverty is one of the main factors that lead to child labor. Families frequently lack access to needs including food, housing, and healthcare in many underdeveloped

nations. Consequently, in order to augment the family income, parents are forced to send their kids to work. Children are forced out of school and into various sorts of labor by this economic need, which feeds the cycle of poverty and illiteracy. In addition, the dearth of adult employment alternatives in these areas pushes children to work, further depriving them of an education (Panda, 2021).

A major contributing factor to child labor is insufficient law and enforcement. Children are not shielded from exploitation by lax or nonexistent labor rules in many areas of the world. Due to employers' exploitation of this legal void, minors are forced to labor in dangerous environments with little to no employment security. It is challenging for governments and groups to keep an eye on and enforce child labor regulations, which makes it challenging to successfully tackle the problem. (Okpukpara & Odurukwe, 2004) Child labor is also sustained by cultural and socioeconomic reasons. Some cultures' customs and norms discourage efforts to end child work by normalizing it as a rite of passage. Another cultural aspect is gender discrimination, since girls are disproportionately affected by child work because of established gender preconceptions.

Child work has a significant negative influence on children's schooling. First of all, children who work as youngsters frequently miss school, if they do at all. Children who labor long hours are physically and mentally exhausted, which leaves them with little energy and little time for learning. Their scholastic performance suffers as a result, and their prospects of escaping the cycle of poverty are diminished (Invernizzi, 2016).

Furthermore, children who work as youngsters lose important life skills and information. They have a worse chance of developing critical thinking and problem-solving skills since they lose out on schooling.

Their lack of knowledge not only jeopardizes their chances for a successful future in the workforce, but it also impairs their capacity to make wise decisions and be educated members of their communities.

The effects of child labor on schooling have an international scope that extends beyond the lives of the affected children. It can continue a downward spiral of underdevelopment since a workforce with insufficient education makes a nation less competitive in the world market. In addition, child work can result in a lack of social and economic mobility, which exacerbates inequality and impedes advancement in general. (Invernizzi, 2016) The reasons for child work and how it affects kids' schooling are intricately linked and have broad ramifications. The legal, cultural, and sociological elements that support child labor must be addressed in addition to the economic ones that drive children into the workforce. By doing this, we can contribute to the creation of a society in which every kid has access to a top-notch education and the chance to escape the cycle of poverty and child labor.

### Pakistani Perspective

It's crucial to remember that people may have different opinions and that viewpoints can differ inside any nation. I can, however, give you a rough idea of how child labor is seen in Pakistan. In Pakistan, child labor is a complicated and widespread problem. Although the government has put legislation in place to combat child labor, there have been issues with these policies' efficacy and implementation. A number of variables are frequently mentioned as causes of the high rate of child labor in different industries, such as manufacturing, informal services, and agriculture: poverty, lack of access to high-quality education, and sociocultural issues.

From the viewpoint of Pakistan, it is acknowledged that child labor has a negative impact on children's future opportunities and well-being, and that it is an important issue that

has to be addressed. The government, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and international organizations have all worked to increase public awareness, strengthen laws, and carry out initiatives with the goal of ending child labor. Furthermore, there is an increasing recognition that combating child labor necessitates a multifaceted strategy that addresses socioeconomic disparities, improves educational possibilities, and fosters community participation. Many Pakistanis support a holistic approach that emphasizes not just the enforcement of laws but also the creation of circumstances that enable families to avoid depending on child labor as a means of subsistence. This advocacy comes from both the grassroots and institutional levels of society.

It's critical to acknowledge the range of viewpoints on this matter that exist inside Pakistan. While some may stress the moral need to uphold children's rights and guarantee them access to school, others may see child labor as a pervasive issue connected to financial difficulties. In Pakistan, the conversation on child labor revolves around how to strike a balance between the need to protect the future and well-being of the nation's youth, as well as economic concerns.

### Theoretical framework

This study explain the dependent and independent variables through secondary source Child labour is independent variable and Children education is independent variable.

### Research Objective

- To Examine and comprehend the underlying causes of child work, such as cultural norms, parental employment, lack of access to school, and poverty.
- To examine the obstacles to education that kids in labor encounter, such as the ease of access to educational opportunities, the

standard of instruction, and the things that make kids less likely to attend school.

- To assess how well the current labor laws and regulations are doing at stopping child labor and facilitating access to schooling.
- To investigate how child work affects children's general well-being, socioeconomic standing, and future chances in the long run.

### **Research Question**

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1. What are the primary causes of child labor? [certain nation or area], and how have they changed over time?
2. What effects does child labor have on children's educational performance and long-term prospects in terms of socioeconomic position, physical development?
3. Which policies and intervention techniques have proven successful in reducing child labor and advancing children's education, and how might they be modified to fit the unique circumstances of Islamabad?

### **Statement of Problem**

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There are many facets to the problem of child labor and how it affects children's education, and the effects on people, communities, and societies as a whole are profound. A complicated societal issue that requires immediate attention is created by the close connections between the causes of child work and the consequences it has on children's education. The economic component of the issue is one of its core elements. The main cause of child labor is poverty. For families in low-income situations, sending their kids to work is sometimes required to boost the family income. These kids frequently have to labor long hours and sometimes in dangerous situations,

which hinders their ability to receive an education (Bhargava, 2003). Given this background, child labor contributes to the cycle of poverty since it prevents these kids from receiving an education, which prevents them from developing the information and skills needed for upward mobility. In addition, One of the primary reasons for child labor is insufficient High-quality education access. Many youngsters who work come from underprivileged or rural backgrounds where educational opportunities may be limited, of poor quality, or too far away. Due to a shortage of educational resources, children are forced to work in order to support their urgent requirements, which jeopardizes their chances for a long-term education. Child labor is a serious social and economic issue that endangers the destiny of individual children as well. It restricts a country's ability to flourish economically and socially by depriving it of a workforce that is knowledgeable and talented. A comprehensive strategy that addresses the underlying reasons of child labor, such as poverty and limited access to high-quality education, as well as offers assistance and rehabilitation to impacted children, is needed to address this issue. Protecting children's rights and futures, enhancing their access to high-quality education, and ending the cycle of child labor that feeds poverty and inequality are all important aspects of this issue that require attention at the local, national, and international levels.

### **Significance of the Study**

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Child labor is a complex problem has wide-ranging effects on society as a whole in addition to individual children. The following important elements highlight the significance of this study are it is a problem of fundamental human rights first and foremost. International treaties acknowledge that child work is a major infringement of children's rights. This study explores the barriers that child labor presents to education, emphasizing how urgently the educational system has to change. It emphasizes

how many youngsters have unrealized potential to make valuable contributions to their communities and economy if child labor is not addressed. It also raises awareness of the health and welfare of children who work as workers. The study illustrates the detrimental effects child labor has on children's physical and mental health, highlighting the necessity of extensive support networks and public health campaigns to lessen these kids' suffering. The study's global viewpoint is also essential. Finally, this study explores the complex interactions among cultural, social, and economic elements that sustain child labor. Recognizing that no two situations are the same makes it possible to create interventions and policies that are tailored to the specific environment in which they are implemented. Research on the reasons for child labor and how it affects kids' education is crucial since it may spur change in a variety of areas. It promotes children's rights, strengthens the economy, places a high value on education, improves health and well-being, pushes for international collaboration, and acknowledges the intricate web of social issues that contribute to child labor. It is a vital step toward creating a society where children everywhere live in justice, equity, and prosperity.

## Discussion

Child labor refers to the employment of children in any work that deprives children of their childhood, interferes with their ability to attend regular school, and that is mentally, physically or morally dangerous and harmful. The problem of child labor has moved from a matter of regional and national concern to one of international debate and possible global persuasion and policy intervention. In crafting policy for mitigating this enormous problem of our times, it is important to start with a proper theoretical and empirical understanding of the phenomenon. What gives rise to child labor, and what are its consequences? What interventions might end child labor without hurting children? A well-

meaning but poorly designed policy can exacerbate the poverty in which these laboring children live, even leading to starvation.

Children are the most vulnerable human beings yet are also the hope for humanity's future. The place where we were born and the culture where we grow up make us unique as an individual and allow us to build up our own perceptions towards the world. Regardless of our differences children are tomorrow's future. However, while there are children who have grown up with economic and physical security in some parts of the world, many children, mostly in developing countries, suffer economic, physical and emotional insecurities. A large number of these children must work for their survival often doing things unthinkable in wealthy countries of the world.

Pakistan is a developing country, where most people live below the poverty line. The situation is worsened by low literacy rates, lack of resources, and a rapidly increasing unemployment rate. Such circumstances prevailing in our society push so many children in to the palm of labor. Hence many of them face problems like heavy work, scolding and punishment from instructor, unhygienic workplace and malnutrition which ultimately damage their health and personality. It also affects socialization and proper grooming of the children, but they are bound to face all of this due to poor socioeconomic background of their families.

## Conclusion

Children are the future of nation. A strong nation needs educated, healthy children for progress. Failure to protect kids from labor hinders prosperity. Developed countries show children's important role in nation-building. Poverty and socio-economic status drive parents to involve children in labor. The contribution of the children to the family income is somewhat significant but its adverse effects too noteworthy.

The research shows that most children start working at a very young age, even during their childhood peak. Instead of receiving love, care, and understanding during this time, they are compelled to work outdoors, facing verbal and physical abuse that harms their development. Many kids can't attend school regularly, earning meager wages for long hours of work, causing significant social harm. A majority of respondents suffer injuries like cuts, burns, headaches, pain, fatigue, and flu, impacting their health and well-being. Poverty, low family income, parental death or illness, large family size, and disinterest in education contribute to child labor. Child labor negatively affects children socially, emotionally, physically, and mentally. Children from nuclear families often find work through connections, reflecting family inequalities. Wealthier families usually don't send their children to work, while poorer families do so out of necessity due to poverty, a major driver of child labor. Poverty hinders parents from affording education for their kids.

Many children lack work experience and aspire to receive an education, earning monthly wages they often give to their parents. Child exploitation and child labor in our society is growing fast. There are different socio-economic factors which are responsible for its spreading and prevalence. These factors include poverty, illiteracy, unemployment, lack of family planning, dissatisfaction from education system, absence of social security and many others. It is the sole responsibility of the government to provide rights to children and protect them from all sort of exploitation. A child plays an important role in the future of mankind. The protection of a child from physical and social hazards is a pre-requisite for the proper growth of children in order to make sure the future progress and prosperity of human beings.

Workers often suffer injuries, fatigue, and pain while working, especially those from rural areas who face loneliness and challenges when

moving to urban areas. Despite wanting to pursue education, they are often pressured by their parents to work long hours. Research shows that lower household incomes are associated with higher rates of child labor, indicating that poverty at home plays a significant role. Although factors like parental neglect and power imbalances in households also contribute to child labor, poverty remains a primary driver. Poverty greatly influences parents' attitudes towards their children, underscoring its crucial role in the prevalence of child labor. By addressing poverty, not only can child labor rates be reduced directly, but parents can also focus more on their children's well-being, ultimately leading to a decrease in child labor.

### Recommendation/Suggestion

Child labor should be completely banned. To tackle this problem, the following suggestions are put forward:

- Encourage more organizations to fight against child labor and improve coordination through a jointly planned research strategy. It is important to involve a wide range of stakeholders in this effort, including government agencies, non-profit organizations, and international bodies.
- Start projects to reduce poverty, as poverty is a major cause of child labor. These projects should focus on creating sustainable economic opportunities for families, providing access to education and healthcare, and addressing systemic issues that perpetuate poverty.
- Encourage social values and critical thinking in society to highlight the importance of children as the future of the nation. This can be achieved through educational campaigns, community



- engagement, and policy changes that prioritize the well-being of children.
- Support smaller families to decrease child labor. Family planning initiatives and access to reproductive healthcare can help empower individuals to make informed choices about their family size, ultimately reducing the economic pressure that leads to child labor.
  - Create a community-involved process for planning, monitoring, and evaluating interventions at an early stage. Community participation is essential for the success of any intervention, as local knowledge and perspectives can inform more effective and sustainable solutions.
  - Establish evening schools for working children to receive formal education or gain job-related skills. These schools should be tailored to the needs of working children, providing flexible schedules and relevant curriculum to support their educational and professional development.
  - The Ministry of Education should introduce an evaluation system in schools to decrease dropout rates that lead to child labor. This system should identify at-risk students and provide targeted support to prevent them from leaving school prematurely.
  - Use both electronic and print media to raise awareness and effectively address the issue. Media campaigns can help educate the public about the realities of child labor, mobilize support for anti-child labor initiatives, and hold perpetrators and enablers of child labor accountable.
  - Ministry of labor should establish its country base offices to
    - Monitor the working environment
    - Analyze the working wages relationship
    - For combating child labor community action is a useful device. Nongovernmental organizations' efforts combined with employers and trade unions may help both reducing child labor and improving their working conditions. Above all child labor problems can effectively be resolved if child related initiatives are integrated into social and economic development policies and plans and budget. The issue of child labor is not too difficult to be solved. Only it needs a sincere political and a serious sense of social responsibility on part of all segments of society

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