



Child Labour Efforts Success or Failure and their Implications for a Country Like Pakistan

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Vol. V, No. IV (Fall 2020)

Pages: 98 – 107

DOI: 10.31703/gesr.2020(V-IV).11

Abstract: *Child labor existence dates back to the history of mankind; it took various forms and instances over the twitch of time. The worst-hit are the African peninsula and underdeveloped countries of the world, especially South Asia. At the micro-level, Pakistan, India, Iran, Bangladesh are the worst affected. The government of these countries have taken certain initiatives since the malice of child labor is associated with multiple factors, so the success rate is not satisfactory to the level aspired. These initiatives have been taken up in collaboration with ILO, UNESCO, UNICEF, OECD, which managed to develop the bodies at provincial and further lower levers but want of coordination lack of zeal and capacity didn't make the projects a real success. A project in the name of Combating Abusive Child Labour II has been taken up to know the success or otherwise of it. It is a qualitative study based on reports and documentary analysis.*

Key Words: Child Labor, Initiatives, Collaboration, Implications, Efforts.

Introduction

The child is defined as a person who has not crossed the age of fourteen. S/He deals in his/her life the kind of work that involves physical, social, mental labor exhaustive and detrimental for their physical growth and behavioral development. Since the nature of labor varies, so the definition expresses the context, internationally the most authenticated definition of labor is that of which, first of all, identifies different categories of working children under the caption of children in employment: though they are paid or otherwise. Child labor is normally found to be in the lower age group bracket because of being the child of a broken family, not attended to by the parents, because of being an income generator for the family, because of being the first offspring of the family and finally not keeping good company. In certain professions like carpet weaving, brick making, fishing, children are treated as an asset of the family; they are sold much earlier than their appropriate age for the advance. These children are normally found to be under obligation to work in the hazardous environment; got the third category; hazardous may be understood as the work or environment which threatens the children safety and security while they are at work. They have to work to the optimum without the consideration of culture and climate of the organization, hot and cold, length of working hours because it is allied with breadwinning ([Heather CongdonFors, 2012](#)).

The child, in general, is considered as the “future citizen” and “Father of man”. The younger generation of a nation is considered as human capital because of being trained and groomed to earn more than the untrained older population. Countries opt for the provision of the best possible facilities for youth to be more competitive and functional than ancestors. The facilities may include nutrition, clothing and physical activity alongside education. This becomes possible on becoming successful in changing the attitude of the masses towards the acquisition of education as a top priority. Change of attitude involves very many things; discard early marriages, not to take the child as a money-making

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machine, respecting the inborn talent and calibre and foremost is to equip the youth with the courage and potential to combat cut-throat competition. Cognitive behaviour modification is the procedures based on both behavioural and cognitive learning principles for changing your own attitude and behaviour by using self-talk, discussion and self-instruction ([Shukla, 2014](#)). Addressing the quality concerns, UNESCO pointed to the fact that quality and determining of quality rests with the consumer; it is not supervision but repeated visits to grey areas for redressal at the formative stage, alongside the health of learner as well the knowledge imparting institution. In our country, because of being underdeveloped, we are confronted with a wide array of problems inclusive of large families, excessive low-income strata, treating male and female offshoots differently; this factor sometimes make the people enter into starvation. A more shocking concept is that education should pave the way for induction into government jobs rather than going for self-sufficiency and self-efficacy. The contents being taught at all levels are ideal and dry, which do not attract the readers. The reason for it is that the curriculum remains dormant for a longer period, in brief, remain unattended for want to revamp. Planning in Pakistan goes astray as the population explosion is drastically speedy; when the phase of implementation starts, it goes out of the match with the prevailing circumstances. Parents' attitude and breadwinning cause force the children to work and support their families in such odd conditions. In this process of becoming a promising future of nation and family in terms of financial support, child misses his childhood and this obligation for survival take away his innocence as well ([Defila, DiGiulio & Schweizer, 2017](#)).

It is decisive that the bread earning campaign compels the family and child to enter into mal-practices though those may put them into continuous stressing situations. The parents sell their children well ahead of their birth at the expense of a meagre amount. This petty amount binds the children and families to work places and owners for generations to come. This practice is very common in carpet industry and other cottage industries as well. This practice of taking advance for labour in days to come is known as peshgi, and obligations imposed there on the family and child is known as Bonded Labour. No doubt bonded labour follows certain rules, but because of illiteracy of the labour class, these are expressed otherwise. Bonded labour may be put into words as the practice of working of children below 14 years, to collect the amount as agreed upon by the owner and child, to pay back the debit after the stipulated period of time. The debit for which the child has to work is the amount of money which a child has taken himself or his parents or relatives has borrowed from the owner in order to meet up their daily needs ([Tomich, 2017](#)).

Bonded child labour is a form of slavery that restricts liberty, sovereignty and confines personal growth of individuals, and makes them susceptible to harsh work environment and strips their basic rights. Debt servitude is also used for bonded labour; it is not commonly practiced in the labour circles but has entangled in it a lot of people all around the world. It comes to practice when a person engaged in labour could not repay the peshgi it comes into force and the defaulter labour becomes enslaved. These bonded labour, fall prey to such occasions most frequently but they don't feel scared of and the owners find themselves inclined to go with such occasions to reiterate employers advance cash payment known as "Peshgi" in Pakistan and it is the money exclusive of and other than salary which they are earning already (Punjab Prohibition of Child Labour at Brick Kilns Act 2016) (Omokhodian & Uchendu, 2010).

The concept of child labour is deep rooted and found in practice since the history of mankind. In old times, children were taught different socializing activities and equipped with expertise and tricks, enabling them to enter adulthood. In earlier times, child labour was not that much a social menace as it was a common practice to be grown like this and become acceptable to society. As barter system and apprenticeship were in place buton becoming more civilized and modern especially in British occupied India, for want of mass production of goods low-cost labourers were employed and children were preferred because of low-wage, better and easy compatibility with the environment, least exposure to the dark sides of the business as well as lesser awareness of their basic rights (Malik, 2016).

We inherited the practice of child labour of pre-Independence of India, though the government undertook legislative measures to curb child labour. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights came up in 1948, where in basic human rights and needs of children for proper progression and growth in their

age group. Article 24 of the Constitution of Pakistan debar the children below the age of 14 inductions into factories, mines, and other hazardous employments. Article 21A and Article 45 gives an assurance to impart free and compulsory education to all children between the age groups of 6 and 14. The Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act 1986, proscribed children below the age of 14, to be employed as child labour in hazardous occupations. India came up in 2009 with the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act (RTE). More freshly, the Child Labour Prohibition and Regulation Amendment Act (2016) could win the connivance of Parliament, expresses with concern that “the engagement of children in all occupations and of adolescents in hazardous occupations and processes stands prohibited”. Adolescents are understood as the people under 18 years, and children under 14. The Act also inflicts an inflexible penalty on the one employing or permitting adolescents to work. On the other hand, child labour has now entered into alarming proportions. According to an intelligent guess, India provides one-third of Asia’s child labour which tantamount to one-fourth of the world’s child labor ([Barak, 2016](#)). In Pakistan, the right to education has been reiterated vide clause 25A of the Constitution of Pakistan. Enactment to the prohibition of child labor has been supported by the legal framework, but the implementation of the same comes across numerous lacunas ([Khan, Westwood & Boje, 2010](#)).

The malice of child labor refrains child labor to pursue an education at the schools near their living area. The government of Punjab and donor agencies and NGOs have added a variety of incentives like fee waiver, free books and sketches, and free uniform, but these did not work well because of the reasons yet to be explored. This grave situation shakes the social scenario and hits the world of schooling through school dropout, and minimum flow through the system. Otherwise, they have to manage both school and heavy work load simultaneously, which becomes a difficult task for youngsters (OECD, 2019).

Labour can be explained as the work that adds to the financial gain. Child labour may be understood as the engagement of children in any kind of activity that sweeps away children’s childhood, deprives them of schooling, curbs their potential, and snubs their self-esteem, which is injurious to their mental and physical health (Maul, 2012).

With reference to ILO reports of 2013, the third-largest annual production of 100 billion baked clay bricks is credited to Pakistan. The production of bricks kiln put us on the ebb to estimate the number of workers, which tantamount to around 10 lacs out of which one third may comprise children below 18 years of age. In addition, according to the rough estimate, there are six million Labour children working in Pakistan (Lyon & Khan, 2015) {Extracted from Abbas Ali, Waqas Ali & Faiza Abbas, 2017}. There is a need to know what stands the repercussions of this out of schools children ratio.

Statement of the Problem

The government has taken a variety of measures in the name of litigation, enactment and initiative, but the best-planned efforts could not achieve the target. The only thing is to ask those persons who remained involved in the effectuation of the government efforts why those could not be a success. Keeping in view the intent, the study has been kept focused on exploring the “Child labour curbing efforts success or failure and their implications for a country like Pakistan.”

Objectives

- To study the projects combating child labour.
- To develop the mechanism, ensuring the implementation of rules/ policies of government regarding the elimination of bonded child labour.

Delimitations of the Study

- Sole reliance remained on government documents.
- No interview could be conducted with relevant and related persons.

Review of Related Literature

Laws and Regulations

The eighteenth amendment was made in 2010, encompassing the worst forms of child labour addressing strategies; all the authority about child safety and persisting labour problems were made the responsibility of provincial administration in terms of the exercise of authority and constitutional commitments. Till the time provincial governments amend, replace or redesign and promulgate new laws and strategies, National Laws would remain in place. (Majeed & Kiran, 2019). It is pertinent to mention that the Child Employment Act 1991 debar children under 14 years of age for employment in any department, business organization or hazardous occupation. This rule equally applies to road construction and the transportation sector. According to the legitimating act of 2002, twenty-nine departments and thirty-four processes could be declared as dangerous localities and barred professions. These jobs include engineering products, manufacturing, insecticides & pesticides, carpets, fish and glass industry, working on railway stations and harbors, fireworks, explosive and harmful mass production (11,13). Unfortunately, working at houses and brick kiln manufacturing is not included in the hazardous work wherein child labour enormously exist; furthermore, the list fails to protect the age group 15 to 17 from dangerous or harmful work (Badjagbo, & Sauvé, 2012). The stakeholders, administration and management, regrettably did follow the child protection laws for the safety of child labourers, whatever exist. Punjab Province has deployed all the laws pertaining to children employment though those have been borrowed from federal regulations. The other four provinces are on the way to opt for new legislation, which could not be finalized due to the general consensus of provincial authorities. Apparently, newly formulated laws will replace child employment below 14 years of age as well as menacing & life-threatening restriction for children younger than 18 years. There is a dire need to be exceptionally vigilant as the prevailing laws are still susceptible to the nastiest forms of child labour exposure. Forced child labour and human capital marketing are forbidden in the law but stand operative on occasions. It may be added here that, bonded Labour System Abolition Act (BLSA) of 1992 exterminate the accountability of bonded labour in order to remunerate their debit and free property tied to this debt (Khan, 2010).

Law and Child Labor

The policy curbing child labor exists, but the lack of putting it into practice is not the way it is deemed fit; hence stands responsible for child labor. This becomes evident with variation in lower age restraints in many kinds of employment. The International Labor Office has observed that children work long hours and are paid the least of all laborers. In India, the Child Labor (Prohibition and Regulation) Act 1986 and Rules express that no child shall be working or permitted to work in any of the occupations given in Part A of the Schedule or in any workshop wherein any of the processes are performed in Part B of the Schedule. For the purpose of child labour, "child" is considered as a person who is below the 14th year of age. The Act makes illegal employment of children in selected specified hazardous occupations and processes and demands normalization of the working conditions in others. The list of perilous livelihoods and processes is more and more being expanded on the recommendation of the Child Labor Technical Advisory Committee framed under the Act.

Combating Abusive Child Labour II

The venture has added to the end of the most exceedingly terrible types of kid work by the Pakistani government. The undertaking began on April 1, 2008, and went on until April 30, 2013. The European Community is an advancement accomplice (CE).

Undertaking Background

With the monetary help of the European Union (EU), the Pakistan Office of the International Program for the Elimination of Child Labor of the ILO executed the "Battling Child Labor Abuse II" project. The venture was actualized in close collaboration with the Pakistani government as per 2008-16 National

Time Limit Framework Plan (NTFP), which is essential for the National Policy and Action Plan to Combat Child Labor (NPPA-CL).

The task's mediation measures are intended to empower the usage of the International Labor Organization's Convention No. 182 against the most noticeably awful types of kid work and No. 138 concerning the base age for business. The two shows were chosen by the Pakistani government. Accordingly, the task has assumed a significant part in killing kid work in Pakistan, particularly its most noticeably terrible structures. The plan of the undertaking incorporates two essential premises. To begin with, it will grassroots affect all areas, instead of embracing a particular sectoral approach, covering every single hazardous area and occupations dictated by public enactment. Second, the venture will wager on the prompt departure and counteraction of kids taking an interest in the most exceedingly awful types of work. On the off chance that different enterprises are excluded from the public danger list, they will pick an essential profession of staged departure, anticipation and recovery.

Project Intervention Logic

The task means to reinforce the Pakistani government's endeavours to take out the most noticeably awful types of kid work. The arrangement follows a three-pronged methodology. The initial segment alludes to kids working in the neighbourhood. The youngsters who work there are recognized, particularly the individuals who are occupied with the most noticeably terrible types of work, and they are given elective freedoms for schooling and professional preparing, while their families are associated with the social wellbeing net-connected together, credit suppliers and clinical administrations. The subsequent part is to reinforce the limit of locale, commonplace and governments by putting kid work issues on the plan, and eventually by improving arranging and administration capacities and dispersing the exercises gained from the undertaking to different areas. The third segment advances the development of a unique information base to illuminate strategies and bring issues to light to guarantee that an empowering climate is made to help endeavors to handle kid work. Deliberately talking, the venture intends to work at the locale, commonplace and public levels to fortify institutional limit; improve the information base; and build up a model at the grassroots level in chosen regions to show how to successfully address the issue at the region level Child work in the financial area. These three segments fortify and uphold one another, while the framework building system fortifies and keeps up direct intercession. Improving the information base and understanding will help standard youngster work issues into significant public strategies and programs and tackle them in the long haul. It is normal that the reinforced institutional instruments will assume the main part in the general duty and ideal usage of the "Public Policy and Action Plan to Combat Child Labor", which will assist Pakistan with accomplishing the ILO's worldwide objective of wiping out the very most exceedingly awful types of kid work by 2016.

Progress made so Far

Key steps taken so far to combat the worst forms of child labour under this project were as follows:

- An arranging controlling board was set up at the government level to organize arranging exercises in the nation ([Richter, Daelmans, Lombardi, Heymann, Boo, Behrman & Bhutta, 2017](#));
- The Federal Child Labor Unit was set up in the Ministry of Human Resources Development to give guidance to the commonplace governments and arrange the execution of the detailing duties of the Child Labor Convention endorsed by the International Labor Organization;
- The Provincial Child Labor Coordination Committee (PCC-CL) was set up in four territories (Baluchistan, KPK, Punjab and Sindh) to give strategic guidance on youngster work issues ([Razzaq, Chaudhry, Tabassum & Kanwal, 2017](#));
- Established common youngster work units in four territories to screen the usage of the commonplace kid work disposal plan;
- Through the help of gear and materials and preparing in all viewpoints identified with kid work, the institutional and specialized capacities of these offices have been improved;

- Assistance has been given to all commonplace work divisions to survey laws identified with the work of kids and cause these laws to consent to global shows/norms (Children, 8(15), 22)
- Provided help to the Pakistan Employers' Federation to raise its individuals' attention to youngster work and prepare businesses at the regional level to consent to the set of principles for recruiting kids as a way to limit kids from taking part in risky occupations;
- Support the Pakistan Workers' Federation to bring issues to light of kid work among its individuals and arrange them in working environments in the casual area to keep kids from taking part in hazardous occupations;
- Improved the capacity of the Center for Working Conditions and Environment (CIWCE) to react to the word related security and wellbeing chances looked at by youthful specialists (15-17 years of age), and made working environment models in different offices to give a protected climate. The climate where they master and seek after different expert abilities ([Healy & Thomas, 2020](#));
- Conducted word related wellbeing and security concentrates in 10 dangerous offices (counting rock, side of the road workshops, eateries, cloth picking, cotton planting, jujube planting, and so forth) in two pilot zones, Sukkur and Sahiwal, and they recognized the primary Psychosocial risk for youthful laborers (Tular, Brewer, Amik, Owen, Macht, Pompeii & Evanov, 2010);
- Conducted pattern overviews on the most exceedingly terrible types of youngster work in Sukkur and Sahiwal;
- Established the District Child Labor Coordination Committee (DCC-CL) in Sukkur and Sahiwal to give program-level exhortation and screen progress at the regional level;
- By consolidating youngster work issues into their provincial wellbeing and instruction plans and plans, the two area governments (Sukkur and Sahiwal) have fortified their capacity to manage the most noticeably awful types of kid work.
- The print and electronic media have been prepared to raise public attention to the issue of youngster work and campaigned to make a move against crooks;
- Through a uniquely planned activity plan, the limit of two non-administrative associations has been grown, in particular, the National Rural Support Program and the Punjab Rural Support Program, to tentatively address the most exceedingly awful types of youngster work in the Sukkur and Sahiwal areas;
- These NGOs give non-formal instruction, proficiency and abilities preparing to around 6,500 youngsters who are occupied with or are in danger of the most exceedingly terrible types of kid work, with the point of liberating them from perilous circumstances and shielding them from risk. Their families have likewise gotten pay to uphold so kids with disabilities/handicaps can get standard training ([Aftab, Kamal & Irfan, 2020](#));
- Because limit building activities are taken at the common level, the Punjab Provincial Government dispatched a five-year task to recreate the ILO mediations in the other four districts (Zhang, Jerum, Laye & Chawal). The Punjab government has assigned 180 million US dollars for the task;
- The KPK government likewise dispatched a comparable arrangement for the Haripur locale, with financial use of Rs. 14 million in the 2012-13 monetary years;
- Furthermore, the Sindh common government has dispatched its own arrangements for the other two districts.

Critiques on Efforts Made

Key steps taken so far to combat worst forms of child labour under this project were as follows:

- The arranging guiding board can be composed with different services to make the undertaking a genuine accomplishment in the country ([De La Brière & Rawlings, 2006](#));
- A system can be created to consistently follow the proper phases of actualizing the confirmed ILO shows on kid work ([Edmonds & Pavcnik \(2006\)](#));

- In the four territories (Baluchistan, KPK, Punjab and Sindh), the Provincial Coordinating Committee for Child Labor (PCC-CL) has been set up, however, it is essential for the areas to execute the suggestions in the proposals to manage youngster work issues in a convenient way ([Khan, Sayeed, Shaikh, Jamal & Kamran, 2013](#));
- Established commonplace kid work units in four territories to screen the execution of the commonplace youngster work end plan;
- Improved the institutional and specialized capacities of these offices through gear and material help and through the arrangement of preparing in different angles identified with kid work ([Britto, Lye, Proulx, Yousafzai, Matthews, Vaivada & MacMillan, 2017](#));
- Help all commonplace work divisions to audit laws identified with the work of youngsters and cause these laws to consent to global shows/guidelines (Lehman, Shah, Khan & Khan, 2019);
- Provided help to the Pakistan Employers' Federation to bring issues to light of youngster work among its individuals and prepare businesses at the area level to conform to the implicit rules for recruiting kids as a methods for limiting kids from taking part in hazardous occupations, 2020);
- Support the Pakistan Workers' Federation to bring issues to light of youngster work among its individuals and coordinate it in work environments in the casual area to keep kids from taking part in perilous occupations ([Bukhari, Rasheed, Nayyer & Babar, 2020](#));
- Improved the capacity of the Center for Working Conditions and Environment (CIWCE) to react to the word related wellbeing and wellbeing chances looked at by youthful specialists (15-17 years of age), and made working environment models in different offices to give a protected climate. The climate where they acquire and create different expert abilities ([Koh, 2010](#));
- Conducted word related wellbeing and security concentrates in 10 unsafe offices (counting rock, side of the road workshops, cafés, cloth picking, cotton planting, jujube planting, and so forth) in the Sukkur and Sahiwal pilot regions, and distinguished the fundamental bodies confronting laborers And psychosocial mischief to youthful specialists;
- Conducted standard overviews on the most noticeably awful types of kid work in Sukkur and Sahiwal;
- Established the District Child Labor Coordination Committee (DCC-CL) in Sukkur and Sahiwal to give program-level guidance and screen progress at the regional level;
- By joining kid work issues into their local wellbeing and schooling plans and plans, the two area governments (Sukkur and Sahiwal) have fortified their capacity to manage the most exceedingly terrible types of youngster work.
- The print and electronic media have been assembled to raise public consciousness of the issue of kid work and campaigned to make a move against hoodlums;
- Through an extraordinarily planned activity plan, the limit of two non-administrative associations has been grown, in particular, the National Rural Support Program and the Punjab Rural Support Program, to tentatively address the most exceedingly awful types of youngster work in the Sukkur and Sahiwal locales;
- These NGOs give non-formal schooling, education and abilities preparing to roughly 6,500 kids who are occupied with or are in danger of the most noticeably terrible types of kid work, with the point of liberating them from hazardous circumstances and shielding them from the threat. It likewise underpins their families to expand their pay so that resigned or debilitated kids can get standard schooling;
- Because of limit building activities are taken at the common level, the Punjab Provincial Government dispatched a five-year task to reproduce the ILO mediations in the other four areas (Zhang, Jerum, Laye and Chawal) . The public authority of Rupee Punjab has dispensed 180 million US dollars for the undertaking ([Khan, Bigg & Mubbashar, 2011](#));
- The KPK government additionally dispatched a comparative arrangement for the Haripur district, with financial consumption of Rs. 14 million in the 2012-13 financial year;
- Furthermore, the Sindh commonplace government has dispatched its own arrangements for the other two areas.

- Sindh's work strategy, "Sindh and Punjab's Action Plan to Combat Bonded Labor", subtleties how Sindh and Punjab intend to survey their reinforced work laws. It incorporates plans to reinforce the limit of work assessors, increment consciousness of fortified work, improve announcing, and modernize work review information. During the announcing time frame, the review couldn't figure out what measures were taken to actualize these plans ([Latif, Nazar, Shah & Shaikh, 2011](#)).
- Social projects to address kid work. The public authority supported program means to liberate kids from including the most noticeably awful types of youngster work and to expand admittance to instruction for burdened kids. The projects incorporate the National Center for Rehabilitation of Child Labor and the Child Support Program. During the announcing time frame, the investigation couldn't figure out what measures were taken to actualize the arrangement during the revealing time frame ([ShuHong, Zia-ud-Din & Ranjha, 2017](#)).
- Elimination of Child Labor and Bonded Labor (Punjab Province Promoting "Fair Work for Disadvantaged Workers" Comprehensive Project). The arrangement financed by the Punjab region means to give instruction to impeded kids, reestablish reinforced work working in block ovens, advance the combination and coordination of government reactions, fortify enactment, improve the limit of law requirement offices and specialist co-ops, and increment consciousness of these issues. Since the change to the recently chose common gathering board in August 2018, the commonplace government project exercises have been racked.
- ILO's undertaking in Pakistan pointed toward wiping out kid work, including a US\$216,000 project, which reinforces public ability to fortify consistency with International Labor Standards (ILS) and reports to keep up GSP Plus status (2015-2018) and a US\$465,000 youngster work end task to advance respectable work in Pakistan's Stora Enso esteem chain (2015-2018) ([Boateng, 2017](#)).

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