



Early Age Education And Child Labour In Pakistan

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ABSTRACT

The data was collected from three major districts of KP, Pakistan. This article has analyzed the factors of child labour in these districts. Research found that the birth order of the child has significant role with the decision of child's schooling and its need as a labour. Study found that there is gender discrimination in the society and culture for schooling. Surprisingly it was found by the researchers that the female headed families were more tilted towards the education of children as compare to male headed families. During research it was confirmed that the first academy of the child is the mother's lap, if she is educated then it has a positive impact on the schooling of child as compare to the education of father. The factor wealth proved that it is associated with education but the size of family is associated with child labour. Urban area students were going to school in greater ratio as compare to rural areas.

Introduction

A number of studies and research works on early age education and child labour has been done by different institutions, researchers and NGO's since 1947 but day by day the factors and reasons are changing so new researchers found many new factors and they came up with new results and suggestions. Many of previous studies showed mixed results. Some studies focused on economic conditions, age of child, size of family, the facilities in that specific area and etc.

The limit dividing adulthood and childhood is not well established (Grootaert, & Kanbur, 1995) but it varies from society to society and culture to culture. Not every work done by a child is child labour (Ray, 2000), helping parents in home, fire wood collecting, schooling, animal grazing for a limited time, water carrying for home only, earning pocket money after school hours or working with dad to learn the techniques of their family business is not child labour (Myers, 1999). The child labour is that work which diverts a child from education, childhood and dignity. The work which is mentally, physically, morally or socially harmful for a child is included in child labour. Any use of child in armed conflict, force labour, separation from family, slavery, debt bondage, pornography or usage for trafficking of drugs are worst forms of child labour (Van de Glind, & Kooijmans, 2008). The person will be considered as child if he/she is under 14 years of age in KPK and Sind while 15 in Punjab, Baluchistan and in Islamabad (Achakzai, 2011). In case of hazardous work minimum age for an adult is 18 years in KPK, Punjab and Sind. Any hard line cannot be drawn for the limit of age in case of child labour because different people in different parts of the world have different perceptions and different definitions based on the society and activities (Kearney & Gearhart, 2004). For easy understanding child work and child labour are two different terms and these can be defined as all those works which improves the skills of a child without affecting the health, education and childhood of a kid are child works which are good for a child and vice versa. If we will not have a decent childhood definitely we will not have decent adult in a factory or at work place. There are a number of laws and definitions all over the world and in international organizations but it is accepted by all that before reaching the age of 14 a kid is a child by all definitions (Akhunzada, Ullah, & Khan, 2016), International Labour Organization tried many times to bring all the member countries on a single number to decide the age of a child in number of days or years but complete consensus was not made yet. International world day against child labour is 15th of June in every year (Smolin, 1998).

Poverty and child labour are interconnected, the founder of today's economy "The Adam Smith" saw the "Education and Skill" the capital of the nation (Mazhar, 2008), according to him knowledge, skill and attitude are acquired human capabilities which can increase production. Knowledge got through informal or formal education, skills or experience leads to higher earning capacities of the workers which can break the trap of poverty in future. Child labour is an attempt to bring the income of future in present (Donnelly, 1997). Persistent poverty brings child labour. Child labour is caused by inflation, price hikes, population growth, labour intensive technologies, loss of jobs or loss of life of bread earner (Ghayur, 1996). UNESCO suggested investing of at least 4% of GDP on education but underdeveloped countries are not able to spare this much huge sum of money for education. The facilities at schools are limited so, schools don't have attraction

for children as well as for parents as low standards of education are not able to produce a competitive child in future to earn for him/herself and also for parents (Myers, 1999).

According to Neil Kearney (2001) who remained General Secretary of international textile, leather and garments workers foundation, 20 million children are working in Pakistan and half of them are in bonded labour. Defective educational system and poverty are basic components which are producing child labour otherwise how parents especially a mother can send her child to a factory instead of school. Globalization made the implementation of law more difficult because now children are working from home with the logins of their parents. According to a study the only 57.4% of rural population and 42.6% of urban population are school going kids (Mazhar, 2008).

Objectives of the study

The main objective of this research study is to analyze and find the factors behind child labour and to find the hurdles which are easy to remove in the way of early age education for both males and females. Separately to analyze the mind of the parents that why are they sending and not sending their child to work, school, work-then-school and school-then-work on the basis of different parameters which will be defined in the study on-wards.

Methodology

In many research studies the definition of child according to law is different but this research is going to consider a male/female as a child of the age between 4 years and 16 years. After precise observations and studies it was found by the researchers that below from the age of 4 years it's a baby and after the age of 16 a child is surely a grown-up adult. Even the law of Pakistan permits the marriage of a child at the age of 16 so after 16 years of age a child is grown up adult. After deciding the age group, following techniques have been used.

Data collection tools and size of sampling

Malakand, Dera Ismail Khan and Mansehra districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in Pakistan were purposely selected by the researchers. All the classes of the society have been considered in the research work. Total three hundred families have been included in the research, one hundred from each district. In interviews cum survey the above mentioned classes of the children were studied as dependent variables along with some independent variables like; gender of child, birth order of the child, age of child, siblings, head of family, gender of head of family, education of head of family, income, expenditure and if any other need of the society associated with these factors.

Literature Review

“Luxury” and “Substitution” both hypotheses are key hypothesis for the study of child labour and child schooling in a specific area, Ray (2000) presented in his research work that both hypothesis are not correct in the case of Pakistan. After a detailed survey, interviews and comparison of the results he found that income and related issue don't have negative effects of children's work input but increase in the wages of female and increase in the employment chances of male can reduce the child labour in Pakistan. He also found that the involvement of children in labour in early ages in Pakistan is due to his father's unemployment or death and also his/her mother's very low wages at work places. He further added that the overall environment of Pakistani society is a male member of home is always a bread earner so many children started to work in early ages to feed his sisters and family.

Ever first available data on child labour from the age of 0 to 14 based on micro data child labour force reveals that the female workers are increasing day by day as compare to male workers with comparison to previous years because of demand in house maids and handmade embroidery works. Child labour is mainly engaged in industries, agriculture and services (Jehfri & Raishad, 1997) in rural and urban areas of Pakistan. An average of more than 35 hours of work is being taken by children in Pakistan as child labour is cheap and out of reach of law enforcement agencies.

The empirical analysis of incidence of child labour in Pakistan and factors influencing the supply and demand chain showed that the demand is basically linked with the wage of adult labour, rate of unemployment, informal and agricultural sector in some specific area (Fatima, 2017). In the presence of formal and informal sectors the analysis was made on the basis of supply and demand side factors. The methodology adopted by researcher was pseudo-panel approach proposed by Deaton. The laws for child labour, how to control the child labour in future and rehabilitation of children recovered by the government were discussed for better understanding.

A descriptive survey study in Peshawar automobile market on the children of age of 6-15 years found that majority of those boys didn't have any education or little education (Khan, Hameed, & Afridi. 2007). It was surprising that some of boys started to work in car workshops at the age of 5 years with no payments. Over 400 workshops were analysed through a detailed questionnaire which showed that these children were paid >700 Rupees per month in the year of 2005. Mostly the fathers of the children were died, uneducated or less paid by their employers. 41% of the boys were engaged in mechanical works which were dangerous and heavy. Data obtained about the health of children was eye opener as the symptoms of Watery eyes 31%, chronic cough 29% and diarrhea 22% were found.

For the elimination of child labour in Pakistan the first thing is the immediate implementation of laws against child labour in Pakistan. Cheap and quality education is right of a child and it should be easily available to all children at nearest points which can reduce child labor and can also increase the literacy rate of the country. Low economic status of the poor family should be increased by any way by the government as it is another major cause of child labour. The thinking of parents should be changed through media and lectures that education never means a government job as the jobless graduates are the dreadful examples for those parents who are sending their children at work places instead of schools. Economic incentive should be offered by government to the families where the bread earner is no more (Khalid & Shehnaz, 2004).

The conventional argument about child labour force in Pakistan is the possibility of an easy access to quality schools to reduce the participation of children in work places. It was argument that the reduction in school costs will increase the attendance of children in schools (Hazarika & Bedi, 2003). Comprehensive study, several interviews and survey proved that the costs of schools are positively related with the child labour in Pakistan in rural Pakistan.

In the bigger cities of Pakistan the situation of child labour is worst, the bigger cities should have less child labour contributions as the educational and employment facilities to their parents are more than any far flung area in Pakistan but ground realities showed that there is no difference among villages and cities in this case. Karachi the thickly populated city of Pakistan is evidence of child labour, a study (Zaidi, Javed & Khan, 2013) about the health of children working in Karachi found respiratory illness, generalized pain and fever along with drugs and sexual abuse. Among all reason the poverty was basic reason of child labour. After detailed discussion with their parents and an effort of rehabilitation demanded evening schools and skill based education enters, which will ensure better income in future after attaining the age of 18 years.

Rural areas of Pakistan cannot properly framed in a study as access to the children is hardly possible, parents are not allowing easily to talk with them, specially the girls working from home through her fathers are hard to access. Despite of many compulsions 14094 children were added in a study to find the reason of their work in early age i.e. 5-14 years. According to Burki, Fasih & Din (1998) Age, gender, mother's education, employment of father and number of siblings were the top five agents which compelled the children of Punjab to work. Surprisingly it was found that in many cases the father of the children was educated but he was not in the favor of education of the child as he was saying that after getting education I am working in hotel, workshop or any other similar place

then why my child should study? He should start work in early age to get better understanding of work and money also.

The world's largest soccer ball manufacturing industrial city of Sialkot witnessed a number of groups get their work done by children. To draft a compressive report for institutional reforms on child labour Khan, Munir & Willmott (2007) found that due to increased opportunities of job many workers from other parts of the Pakistan migrated to Sialkot along with their families who engaged all the members of their family in factory to have good payment and also to avoid the residential problem in big city. Work conditions, payments and health level were studied and it was found that along with poverty and illiteracy living place is another reason of child labour as factories were offering accommodation to workers only.

In South Punjab of Pakistan also have child labour incidences due to family responsibilities, costly private education, low standard of governmental education and practically no law restrictions from government side. The basic reason is again the same but in South of Punjab the children working in workshops found quite satisfied with their work. Parents made their minds to work happily (Edmonds, 2003). It's a nature of child to demand the toys which he/she sees in the hands of other child similarly the children working in workshops showed desire for books, bags and uniform to go to school with clean hands and happy face while the children in Punjab is this much deprived that they are not even asking for education? They are happy with work? Rehabilitation of these kinds of children needs years.

Education is positively associated with child schooling and negatively associated with child labour. Male children is more likely to go to huge work places and the environment for females is not suitable so in spite of sitting in home girls are sent to some places to learn embroidery work, sewing of clothes, making of small toys and making of food items to send on different stores or bakeries. Among the parents the education of mother is more important as compare to father.

Child labour is not a standard labour as they are not skilled, strong or experienced (Anker, 2000), on economic point of view child labour seems to be a cheap labour but practically it's not cheap but its costly labour because small hands cannot do bigger jobs, there are chances of breakage the goods. The children are not that much responsible as on the absence of boss they will work with zeal and zest. For the same job as compare to adult more number of children are required so more space to sit, more space to live, more food to feed them and more machines to work are required. The consideration of child labour is cheap labour is false in mostly cases at large level.

In comparison with other countries with higher GDP child labor at the age of 13 or 14 years is not bad (Boje & Khan, 2009) because 2-3 hours of work for those student who are already getting technical education at 10th standard or after it. Working with father or uncle in a shop for limited hours in friendly environment increases the level of understanding (Hussain-Khaliq, 2004). Blood relatives can teach you with concern as that child is future of those relatives. Working with doctor mother in clinic for some hours at the age of 13-14 Or 15 is quite ok and cannot be considered as child labour.

Why do children work? A common but not undisputed perception is that a child work is due to a compulsion, sometime poverty and sometimes illiteracy of parents. Question is that if small children are working for home, will poverty be eliminated? Comparing this situation with any other family whose children worked for many years will give the verified results. Gali, (2001) raised many questions about the income of children and impact on the family. After many analysis, results and evidences he proved that due to child labour the chances of development in that family were reduced and they made them self unable to get highly paid job or anything similar to this.

In Pakistan, child labour is not only punishable and prohibited by law but it is also discouraged by providing a free and compulsory education along with books, uniform and in some areas pocket money, self-respect and social welfare. To save the future of country associated with children the time to time passed acts and laws should be revised. The punishments, fines and exact definitions of prohibited works for children should be revised and published (Ali, Bhatti and Dayan, 2021). A set of revised laws and set of all restricted works or limit of age clearly mentioned in documents can reduce child labour in Pakistan. Through media and newspapers the publication of laws can fear the violators.

DISCUSSIONS AND RESULTS

Order of Birth of Child

During research in all three districts it was found that except few cases the birth order of child don't have any positive or negative effect on the education of child. In a family when parents decided that our children will go to school then all of the children went to school subject to the availability of male and female schools. It was noticed in district Mansehra that when the gape among the children is more than 15 years then the elder son or daughter was also involved in decision making which affected positively in the favour of schooling of child. It was also found that when first child is educated properly then the next siblings were helped by the elder brother or sister and in the case of elder sister parents accepted that she has performed the duty of teacher for the Youngers even when she was also under 15 years of age. Order of child in majority of cases was not as much important

for the child labour or early schooling of the child. After research work on the basis of birth order researchers found that its uncountable for any family to have choice of male or female baby so they are not giving it any importance that our first baby will get education others will not but only one thing was found that the behaviour of first child is also affective for the future of remaining children of the family. In some cases the elder child also affected the education of cousins and neighbours.

The order of child has no effect of only school category, no effect on only work category but it affected on work after school category. Often it was found that the elder child was given small responsibilities of the family but in almost all the cases these things could never be considered as child labour. In some families who were financially weak all the children were sent for work after school when they achieved reasonable height and weight with the age but the research found that it was not associated with the order of birth.

Gender of child really matters

All the three districts are huge districts so the topography and culture along with language were not even all over the districts but in all the cases and in every district the gender of child really made the difference during research. The availability of female schools in rural areas, availability of female teachers, the security of female child, the availability of jobs for girls, the caring attitude of girls and sensitive nature of female child are some leading factors of genders discrimination in these districts. As the girls are more concerned with the older parents and homes so they are left for taking care of parents and homes and on the other hand boys are careless as compare to girls so they are sent for jobs and earning sometimes out city and even sometimes out country.

When discussing the categories of the children it was found during research work that the gender of child only differentiates the nature of responsibilities of the child only. If she is a girl then she will help the mother in the home or kitchen and if he is a male child then he will be sent to help his father and in the case of died father the male will act like father and will try to do his job up-to some level. If a family is providing only education to a male child then similarly female child will also be free after school but when there is a question of work after school then help-like labour will be taken by the both genders. Talking about only work case the boys are more likely to be considered for earning after work in different workshops but the girls don't have this much opportunities. In these districts only few schools are providing education in second time but those students are not working in the morning, the reason of evening schooling is the overloaded classes in the morning sessions.

Age of child

Age of child is important factor in some areas. After consulting with the families and analyzing the enrolment in schools it was found that hardly any child came to school after wasting its early years of schooling as by missing early classes it's difficult to start study later. It is a separate long discussion that why children are leaving the schools in the early age, there are different reasons like, facilities in schools, transportation, attitude of administration of school, attitude of teacher, response of parents, ability of child, funds being used by school, environment of school, books, uniform, affordability of parents and many more. In this research it was found that in rural areas the children are sent to school at the age of 5-7 years of age but in urban areas the child of age of 4 years is ideal for play group in private schools but with fewer ratios. As for as the age of child is concerned with the education and labour it is crystal clear that the families which cannot run the domestic affairs they are taking the children out of schools and sending them to workshops secondly the attitude of children is concerned if one out five children of a father or mother is not concentrating on education then they are not caring about that only child but all other four are not forced by the parents to leave the education. the age really matters but negatively for early age education in these districts. As for as the cases of only school are concerned then it was found that with the increase of age the chances of child labour has been increased in all the three districts. In some cases parents said that they were never in the favor of education due to many reasons but they sent them to school because too much small children cannot work for them so to consume those early years of children they used the schools only as stepping stone or day care. On the other hand in some schools of cities it was seen that the dull son or daughter of rich family spent many years in the same class but parents tried and tried again as they were never in the favour of leaving the school without completing it.

Grade or class of a child

Early age schooling and child labour are connected with the grade or class of that child because as for as the age of child is increasing the grades or class of the child is also increased so the requirements of the child could also be increased. The education in all the districts in governmental institutions was free along with books but dress was not free in any district as the provincial administration was same in all three districts. The needs of the family setting aside, the educational needs of a child are always increasing with the grades or classes. In research it was found that with the increased age of child the burden on parents was increased which ultimately resulted that some children worked to meet the expenses. Only work was also suffered with the increase in age as growing child means increasing the wages of that child which also means more work with efficiency. Only study case was also suffered that in district Mansehra it was seen that elder brother or sister

were given the responsibility of youngers and also they were supposed to do odd jobs of the home but in some cases they were burdened and parents were considering it as responsibility. A father was taking his child with him on shop of phtostate to teach him the techniques of business but it was his time of games and enjoyment so it should be considered as child labour too.

Where the head of family was a female due to death of father or any other reason it was seen that the mothers tried to meet the expenses, they were not happy to leave the female child at home due to insecurity so they took her with herself on work. the presence of a female at work place with mom is also torture for child as she needs free life style after school for peace. So keeping in view these special cases and also the routine cases showed that with the increased grades the chances of child labour were increased. The age can never be stopped as its on gong process so law should be made that each and every child will have to study up to 10th grade and all the expenses will be paid by the government as basic education is right of every child of Pakistan. Every New Year in the life of child increased the probability of child labour 4.2% till 8th grade but in female it was 7.1% and those females were engaged in house care.

Effect of family head

In KP, Pakistan it's difficult to accept a female as a family head but in some cases the domestic conditions compelled the female to run the family on its own. In this research when interview and surveys were conducted it was found that where there are family heads are educated they have more love for education but when it was analyzed more precisely it was found that when the education level of male and female head is same even then the female heads are more tilted towards education of child in early age as compare to work of child. (Dang & Rogers., 2008). claimed in his research that female headed families have tendency towards work in children in Bolivia, On the other hand, Canagarajah and Coulombe (1998) found that female headed families have tendencies toward education and schools in the country of Ghana but in Pakistan in this research it was found that the results of rural and urban areas were different. Mostly urban areas are tilted towards the education of child even after the age of 18 they always tried to help their child to complete its education upto graduation if the child is serious towards the education. in urban areas the concept of work with education is awesome that hardly can be counted as child labour as studies revealed that the students of 7th and 8th classes went to markets on their own will and by setting a stall of bangles in the Eid season earned enough for their shoes and clothes without the demand of their parents but it was seen only in male headed families and their could be many reasons for this.

Male headed families are 5% above the female headed families in the case of permission to work in early age. Only 1.5 children were allowed to take care of home instead of school in female headed families as compare to male headed families. It was also noticed that the earning of female headed families was less than male headed families in many cases but the ration of permission to work was lower, may be due to insecurity if her child a female is hesitant to allow.

Effect of employment status of head of family

It was already established truth that each and every person wants that a child should be educated but factors affected the thought of some people who did not care about the education; one of those basic factors is the employment of head of family. When the head of family is happy with the job and can easily meet the expenses it was rarely found that the children of that family are working for wages. The healthy income of head of family has positive effect on the education of child. If both the mother and father are earners then those families were with high income. When the head of family is well-off then there are 4.4% more chances and probability.

Per capita income

Per capita income was not part of questionnaire or interview as it is not based on the replies of the interviewee but it's the domain of the government. it will be increased due to the governmental policies and surly it will be decreased due to be international impacts and internal policies of the administration of the Pakistan. But the focus of this research was the early education and child labour so these are directly related to the per capital income of the state. Duering research it was found that the school going children were mostly from small families but the large families were suffering with the shortage of money. On the other hand it was also found that when the income of the state is lower, then the facilities in school are minimum which meant the there is no charm for the students in school. We have to make the school as fun place for the student at lower level. First of all we have to develop the habit in children that they should come to school on routine basis.

It was found that if single person is added in the family of average life style then the likelihood of schooling in reduced to 5.7%, the likelihood of wirk is increased 2.1. The increase in family increased the probability of work after school at 2.2%. Similarly for the girl with the increase of additional member it was seen that probability has been increased wih 7.4% of home care work.

CONCLUSION

After detailed analysis of various documents and facts through interviews and surveys it can easily be derived that the as a whole the school going child in Pakistan is late or delayed. The participation of the children is decreased with the increase in age every time. The gender gap is in the favor of boys as a whole due to various reasons which have been discussed above. As compare to girls there are more chances that the boys will go to paid work after school. Availability of schools and facilities at schools are also the reasons of child labour. The education of father and mother is also influential in early education of child. It was found that the gender of the head of family was also important in the case of child labour. Per capital income played also an important role in the case of early education and child labour. Child labour comes from the families of lower income. The children from female headed families were more likely to go to school. The school going children were belonging from small families but the home caring children were found in large families. Large family sizes increased the probability of child labour.

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