

ANALYSIS OF VIOLATION OF CHILD RIGHTS IN CARPET INDUSTRIES OF SINDH WITH ESPECIAL FOCUS ON DISTRICT THARPARKER

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Abstract. *Child labor as defined by ILO & UNICEF is doing any kind of labor paid or unpaid by children of age up to 15 years old, which deprives a child from getting education. Large numbers of underdeveloped and less developed countries of world are faced with this social evil and Pakistan is one of them. Children are engaged in various types of works, but this paper only focuses the child labor in carpet industry of District Tharparker, Sindh. From sociological point of view situation is analyzed and important recommendations are forwarded to eradicate child labor from Sindh, Pakistan. Main purpose of this study is to analyze child labor situation in District Tharparker, Sindh, to analyze the working conditions of children working in carpet industry and socio-economic causes behind the child labor. Study also attempts to find out valuable remedies to tackle this issue. Achieve the purpose of this study comprehensive review of literature is performed by using keywords child labor, violation of human rights, international and national organizations working to eliminate child labor, and carpet industry in Sindh. Primary data is collected by interview schedule from children and parents of children engaged in child labor in carpet industry of Tharparker, Sindh. Results indicated that large numbers of children work in carpet industry of Tharparker district of Sindh. Working conditions are hazardous, affects the health and causes various health problems like body pain, hand injuries and eye sight loss. Children could not join school due to carpet weaving work. Therefore, it is concluded that child rights are violated in all of their forms in carpet weaving industry of district Tharparker.*

Keywords: Child Labor, Carpet Industry, National & International Organizations Working for Protection of Child rights, Health Problems, Education.

Situation Analysis

UNICEF¹ Defines a child as a person below the age of 18 years, but age of child may vary country to country according to their legislation. In Pakistan constitution age for child work is fixed 14 years. According to ILO² minimum age convention 1973 (138) age for a child to enter in work force must be 15 years and above not less than 15 years. Child labor is that social evil which exploits the life and career of an individual and deprives a country from developed human resources. Education is very important to human resources development and child labor not only deprives children from getting education but also affects the health of child. Not all kind work is labor, child labor in that kind work done by children under the age of 14, which interfere in their education and badly affects health of child. Pakistan is unfortunately at 6th number out of ten countries of world where child labor exists in excess (Report ILO, 2014). Pakistan's 4.4% active labor force constitutes children of age group 10 years (Pakistan Labor Force Survey 2012-13).

Carpet of Carpet industry of district Tharparker³ is very famous for its uniqueness, it is exported worldwide. Carpet industry is workplace where more number of children is hired than a mature adult. In District Tharparker TRDP⁴ and other organization are working to eradicate child labor but still a large percentage of children is engaged in carpet industry.

Laws & Conventions of Child Rights

- Convention of Child Rights in Article No. 32 states: “*Children must be protected from work which is harmful to their health and development, nor must such work interfere with their education*”.
- Convention on child rights fixed minimum age limit to enter in work force.
- Fixed working hours

¹ UNICEF, United Nations Child Education fund is organization working on child rights, www.unicef.org

² ILO is International Labor Organization and UNO organ, www.ilo.org

³ District Tharparker is one of the districts of Sindh province of Pakistan.

⁴ TRDP is Non-governmental organization, Thardeep Rural Development Program,

- Appropriate working environment
- Fix penalties to ensure the implementation of Article 32 of convention.
- In Pakistani Constitution, Article 11 (3) it is stated that “*No child below the age of 14 years shall be engaged in any factory or mine or any other hazardous employment*”.
- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Article 24(1) “*Every child shall have, without any discrimination as to race, color, sex, language, religion, national or social origin, property or birth, the right to such measures of protection as are required by his status as a minor, on the part of his family, society and the State*”.

Ban on child labor and laws, legislatures and conventions may not be the single solution to the problem. Socio- economic causes and consequences should be investigated empirically to eradicate child labor from society.

Present paper examines the child labor situation, working environment and socio-economic causes behind child labor in Tharparker district.

Objective of the Study:

Main purpose of this study is to analyze child labor situation in District Tharparker, Sindh, to analyze the working conditions of children working in carpet industry and socio-economic causes behind the child labor. Study also attempts to find out valuable remedies to tackle this issue.

Review of Literature

In a report issued by Human Rights Commission of Pakistan, 2014, it is stated that in Pakistan 11 to 12 million children are doing child labor and 3 children of primary school out of 10 were not going to school. This report also reveals the facts that budget allocation and expenditure on education sector is not enough, it is 2% of total GDP. Pakistan stands at 180th number out of 220 countries of the world in literacy rate but stands in top ten countries of the world in child labor practice out of 197 countries.

Economic conditions are found major cause of child labor. Children earn Rs 2001-2500 per month in Samples area of Ali Wahan of District Sukkur. Purposive sampling was adopted, and girls were interviewed to reveal the socio-economic causes of child labor. Research forwarded the facts that poverty was main reason behind carpet weaving of girl child, 84% girls confirmed that. Carpet weaving is hazardous work for children, children face various health problems but majority of respondents that is 78% respondents

faced physical injuries. Poverty push factor in child labor and main reason of illiteracy, 80% of respondents wanted to get education but due to economic conditions they go for carpet weaving work. (Avais, Wassan, & Ms.Erum, 2014)

In carpet industry of Tharparker large number of children is employed on work of carpet weaving than adult man and women. Environment in which they perform work of carpet weaving is hazardous for the health of children, carpet weaving takes much time and children are paid very less amount for that kind of work. (Kumar & Mal, 2013)

According to a report submitted by ICF international to USDOL⁵, 2012, in Pakistan total number of carpet workers are 105,915. 91.7% of them work in households, 8.3% work in factories. From total carpet workers 13.4% are children. This was a comparative study of India, Nepal and Pakistan and found that in Pakistan 33,413 children was carpet weavers, comparatively Pakistan employed 58.2% of total number children working in carpet industry of all three countries. In Pakistan median age of carpet weavers is 14 years, having large percentage of female workers.

Annual report of TRDP shows that adult literacy program and children education programs were initiated in 18 villages of District Tharparker, majority of enrolled students up to age of 15 were engaged in carpet weaving. In most of cases children were not getting separate pay for their work. TRDP also offers vocational training classes for children, in vocational training program highest percentage of children were learning carpet weaving. For carpet weaving learning 21 centers were established and only six centers were working on embroidery. (Khan, 2009)

Another report by TRDP, 2007, shows that 20% of total child labor exists in carpet weaving industry in Tharparker.

Children working in carpet weaving industries of Punjab, Pakistan enter into work force mainly due to poverty. Study revealed that 71.7% join work for economic needs. Large percentage of workers that is 78.3% suffers from diseases most commonly backache. Investigation found that children were interested in getting education, but economic condition were main hurdle in their way. Carpet weaver children were paid RS 4100-5000 per month.(Kausar, Akhtar, Khan, Safdar, Akhtar, & Nighat, 2005).

⁵ USDOL is United states department of labor,

Research Methodology

Survey is conducted in 14 villages of District Tharparker. Primary data is collected from children working in carpet weaving industry by using interview schedule. 100 samples are taken purposively from 14 villages of two Taluka of District Tharparker, namely Chachro⁶ and Nagarparker⁷. 100 respondents were children working in carpet industry. Data was entered into SPSS for analysis. Simple frequency based tables and diagrams are presented. Secondary sources of data as reports of NGO's, INGO's and official records maintained by government institutions are reviewed. Research and scholarly work available on child labor are comprehensively reviewed.

Results and Findings of Study

Table 1 indicates the gender differences among children working in carpet weaving industry and finds no significant difference. 51% girls and 49% boys were doing child labor in carpet weaving industry in District Tharparker.

Table 1: Gender Differences among Children Working in Carpet Industry

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	Girls	51	51.0
	Boys	49	49.0
	Total	100	100.0

Table 2 presents the frequency trends of age of children working in carpet industry and reveals the facts that no child less than 5 years was employed in carpet weaving, and children between the age group 5-10 years were 53% and 47% between the age group 11-16 years.

Table 2: Age of Carpet Weaver Children

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	5-10	53	53.0
	11-16	47	47.0
	Total	100	100.0

⁶ Chachro is Taluka headquarter of district Tharparker.

⁷ Nagarparker is Taluka headquarter of district Tharparker.

Table 3 indicates the educational level of children working in carpet industry. 38% children were uneducated, 54% respondents/ working children had educational attainment up to primary level and only 8% had secondary education.

Table 3: Educational Level of Children Working in Carpet Industry

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	Uneducated	38	38.0
	Primary Level	54	54.0
	Secondary level	8	8.0
	Total	100	100.0

Table 4 explains the frequency trends of time in hours per day children consume in carpet weaving work. Findings shows that large percentage of children that is 43% sit 3-5 hours daily, 22% sit 0-2 hours, 20% give 6-8 hours and 15% give more than 9 hours to carpet weaving work.

Table 4: Time in Hours Children Sit for Carpet Weaving?

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	0-2	22	22.0
	3-5	43	43.0
	6-8	20	20.0
	9+	15	15.0
	Total	100	100.0

Table 5 indicates that 46% of child weavers get their pay on monthly basis, 40% are paid weekly and 14% fortnightly and no respondent get their pay on daily basis.

Table 5: How you get your pay?

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	Weekly	40	40.0
	Fortnightly	14	14.0
	Monthly	46	46.0
	Total	100	100.0

Table 6 shows the income that children get for carpet weaving, 64% get Rs 50-80 and 36% get Rs 81-111 an average income per day.

Table 6: How much an average income per day you get?

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	50-80	64	64.0
	81-111	36	36
	Total	100	100

Table 7 indicates that majority of respondents that 59.0% are engaged in work to support their family, and 34% are engaged in carpet weaving to pay for loan of their parents.6% avoid going school and 1% non-availability of school.

Table 7: For what reasons you do carpet weaving work?

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	to support family	59	59.0
	to avoid schooling	6	6.0
	non-availability of school	1	1.0
	to pay loan	34	34.0
	Total	100	100.0

Table 8 indicates that children engaged in carpet weaving industry are faced with health concerns, 56% children face body pain, 25% hand injury, 11% have effects on their eye sight and 8% are faced with some kinds of skin diseases.

Table 8: What kind of health affects you get by doing this work?

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	Body Pain	56	56.0
	Hand Injury	25	25.0
	affects eye sight	11	11.0
	skin diseases	8	8.0
	Total	100	100.0

Table 9 indicates that the children working in carpet industry face the problems like, dangerous tools 34%, extreme temperature 20%, improper sitting 11% and insufficient air and light 35%.

Table 9: What kind of environment you have where you do carpet weaving work?

Opinion		Frequency	Percent
Valid	Dangerous tools	34	34.0
	Extreme temperature	20	20.0
	Improper sitting	11	11.0
	Insufficient light/air	35	35.0
	Total	100	100.0

Discussions

Primary and secondary analysis of data brought forward the various facts about violation of child rights in carpet industry of Tharparker District. Study found that children between the age groups 5-10 years and 11-16 years are commonly hired in carpet industry (Reference Table No.2). Children who work in carpet industry are avoiding their schooling, (Reference Table No.3). 38% of children were uneducated and 54% had primary level education, and only 8% could get education up to secondary level. Study investigated the average time in hours of working in carpet industry and found that large percentage of children that is 43% give 3-5 hours daily to carpet weaving work, 22% give up to 2 hours daily, 20 of children give 6-8 hours daily and 15% give more than 9 hours daily to this work (Reference Table No.4). Children working in carpet industry are paid differently for their work 46% of children get their pay on monthly basis, 40% were paid weekly and only 14% were paid fortnightly but none of child get pay on daily basis (Reference Table No.5). Data reveals that 64% of children working in carpet industry have an average income per day Rs 50-80 and 36% of children have income of Rs 81-111 (Reference Table No.6). Study explores that large percentage of children 59% were doing child labor to support their family, and 34% were doing work to pay loan that is taken by their parents in the time need (Reference Table No.7). Study found that in carpet weaving children are faced with different kind of diseases and health problems. Most commonly body pain was investigated in 56% children, hand injury in 25%, eye sight affects in 11% and skin diseases in 8% children (Reference Table No.8). Environment in which children work is also found dangerous and hazardous

for the children working in carpet industry. Children during carpet weaving face various problems such as environmental, use of dangerous tools, improper sitting arrangements and insufficient light and air. Tools which are used in carpet weaving are considered dangerous by 34% of children, 20% children were of the view that extreme temperature has bad effects on health, 11% were uncomfortable with sitting arrangements and large percentage of children that is 35% were of the view that where they do work there is insufficient air and light (Reference Table No.9).

Conclusion

Literature review and opinions of children doing child labor in carpet industries brought forward the facts that child labor in carpet industry of Tharparker is most commonly existing phenomenon. Children between the ages 5 years to 16 years were doing child labor, in the environment which is hazardous for the health of little children, insufficient air and light, extreme temperature. Body Pain and hand injury were common health problems faced by children working in carpet industry. And children working in carpet industries were unable to join schools. Therefore, it is concluded that in carpet industries of district there is an open violation of child rights, right to education, right to health, right to equal pay, right to have good working conditions and fixed working hours and pay are not recognized. Children working in carpet industry were under age.

Recommendations

- Child labor is one of the major social problems of Pakistan and social scientists realize that but still there is dearth of literature available on child labor in carpet weaving industry in Tharparker, Sindh.
- Various NGO's and INGO's reports the problem, but it must be investigated by social scientists from economical and sociological perspective.
- Government must allocate larger amount of its budget on social sector and make effective implementation of all rules and laws formulated to eradicate child labor from Pakistan.
- Minimum wage rate fixed by government is not given to children and working environment is also found hazardous, therefore action should be taken against industrialists.
- Parents and children should be given incentives to give at least secondary education to all children.

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