



THE ASIAN BULLETIN OF GREEN MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULAR ECONOMY

ISSN (online): 2959-0035

<http://abgmce.com/> 10.62019/abgmce.v4i2.97.

ISSN (Print): 2959-0027

Causes of Child Labour in Agriculture in District Tando Allahyar, Sindh, Pakistan within the Framework of the Circular Economy

Hakimzadi Wagan*, Arif Panhwar, Khuda Dost, Mehar ul Nissa Rais, Jumo Khan Bajkani, Abdul Waheed Solangi, Mairaj-Ud-Din

Chronicle

Article history

Received: May 18, 2024

Received in the revised format: June 1, 2024

Accepted: June 3, 2024

Available online: June 5, 2024

Hakimzadi Wagan*, Arif Panhwar, Khuda Dost & Mehar ul Nissa Rais are currently affiliated with Department of Agricultural Economics, Sindh Agriculture University, Tandojam. Sindh Pakistan.

Email: hakimzadi@gmail.com

Email: arifpanhwar2030@gmail.com

Email: kd.khudadost@yahoo.com

Email: meharrais123@gmail.com

Jumo Khan Bajkani is currently affiliated with PARC-SSRI, Tandojam, Sindh, Pakistan.

Email: jumokhanbajkani@gmail.com

Abdul Waheed Solangi is currently affiliated with Department Plant protection SAU Tandojam, Sindh, Pakistan.

Email: solangiwaheed@gmail.com

Mairaj-Ud-Din is currently affiliated with POD Islamabad Olive Commercial Project, Pakistan.

Email: mairaj.dummer@gmail.com

*Corresponding Author:

Keywords: Agriculture, Child labour, Circular Economy, Tando Allahyar.

© 2024 Asian Academy of Business and social science research Ltd Pakistan. All rights reserved

Abstract

Child labour is an agricultural issue. Globally 60 percent of the population ranging from the age of 5 to 17 belong to agriculture sector. Major cause behind child labour is poverty. The present research was conducted to examine socio-economic characteristics of respondents working in agriculture, and for discovering major causes of child labour engaged in agriculture sector. The data were collected from two Talukas (Chamber and Jhando Mari) of District Tando Allahyar, Sindh, Pakistan. Data were gathered through purposive sampling from 100 respondents (Child labour from 5-14 years) including their parents/guardians who were personally interviewed with the help of detailed questionnaire. The results showed that based on age group and educational level 77 % of the child labour were between the age group of 11-14 years and 80 % of the child labour were illiterate while 81% of their parents were illiterate. Child labour was engaged in different activities such as 79% of the children were engaged in cropping, 16 % were involved in livestock and 6% were engaged in fish farming. 24% of the child labour cited poverty as major reason behind their work. 52% of the children worked 7-10 hours. While examining socioeconomic characteristic of the parents of child labour we found that 63% possessed mud-built house and 68% were involved in labour as farmers. Keeping in view our findings it is suggested that government and NGOs should launch many types of programs related to the study such as opening evening school programs and centers in villages to promote education to create awareness where child labour is common. Government should also provide funds and opportunities of earning and employment for the young household family members and pass legislation to ban child labour in agriculture sector.

INTRODUCTION

Child labour, which suggests that any sort of activity which is related to the labour done by children that takes them away from their childhood, pride, ability and influencing their mental and physical development. This definition does not suggest that the work of any sort, whether reward or not, which is completed by children's expenses to child labour. But instead, it concentrates their performed works, which have harmful impact on all characteristics of children's progress. Such sort of activities is associated with this work, a bit like domestic responsibilities and family businesses engaged in household work, also impact on the children's growth is positive. These activities facilitate children to develop their personality and procure or improve their

abilities. For illustration, involving children performed work movement such like that's domestic responsibilities, child minding lawn works are observed to have positive impact on them. They facilitate children to build up abilities a bit like is self-care, charity as well as personal money administration amount (Thevenon and Edmonds, 2019). International Labour Organization (ILO) defines child labour as work that is hazardous to a child's health and development, demands too many hours and/or is performed by children who are too young. Usually, child labour interferes with a child's right to education and to play. Children above minimum age working in family business and earning pocket money are not considered in child labour. According to the International Labour Organization (ILO), child labour is harmful for children as it obstructs their education and future development. The children involved in child labour often faces misbehaving language, injuries and other physical harms. In agriculture sector major reasons for child labour are poverty, low household income, lower standard of education, inefficient agricultural technology, and lower availability of mature labour.

Mainly within the family farm work, livestock, fisheries which are on small scale, some child labour engaged in non-danger activities are often helpful for donating to inter-generational transmission of abilities for children, food and security. These are extremely essential to form a distinction between light responsibilities and do not pose danger for the children and child labour. Work, which affect the necessity of child schooling also destroy the health and personal enhancement which depend upon situation of labour, on-time hours, age of children, injury-involved happening child labour by performing work. Child labour is not always the participation in agriculture sector activities. Applicable work done by children suitable to their respective age groups reduce risks and do not hinder children schooling and on-time constant could also be normal on growing time up in rural natural environments. Upgrade the self-respect and self-confidence, also qualities of labour ability are still noticed in some children engaged in farm activity areas. In many developing countries, child labour is a serious issue, where majority of child labour is being noticed in agricultural sector.

Worldwide, around 60% children within the age group of 5 to 16 years are known to be involved in various agricultural activities including crop cultivation, livestock farming, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture. Overall, the number of boys and girls are ninety-eight million. Among the three dangerous sectors, agriculture ranks 1st in terms of higher risk of accidents, diseases and poor facilities to the children labour. In agriculture sector, child faces more challenges and risk during the age of 5 to 17 years and their ratio reached on 59 percent (ILO, 2010)

“Child labour” is the term which includes some sort of labour work, that takes away to the children of their rights, e.g., Children attend the varsity rights regularly, progress physical and mental with no disturbance. Consists with the UNICEF, “Child labour is that likely to hindered work of child in advancement and education; the minimum number of labours' working hours increased in field is harmful; or consistent with the law of state.. A toddler, whose age is under 18 years, is considered an individual. Consistent with the ILO, indicates some activities of labour within the sort of saddest. It defines the saddest child labour makeup a bit like supplied, trafficking, sexual mistreatment and work, which is harmful, dispute, duty burden, servitude. It is very tough task to assess the counting of children. They work everywhere in the world. In world, there are many state laws required for the children to forbid child labour. Many global level organizations have highlighted unfair practices performed the child

laborers while posing a serious threat to their lives. Everywhere on the planet, variety of children rights are being developed to scale back the amount of the children involved in toddler labour. However, these laws are still not taken in consideration in many parts of the world. There are some activities assumed of that, how could not be dangerous for the children, where situation is it hard for children e.g., child warriors, child forced prostitution; but this sort of active is extremely low. Whether that sort of work or vulnerable or hazards for the children. The condition of the children relies on the activity, and eventually its effect on the children, and therefore contrary to fact, what would children be doing within the absence of that sort of activity (Zaman *et al.* 2014). In Pakistan, the total number of children involved in child labour are 13 million, out of which 5.2 million are working in agriculture. In Sindh province the number of children labouring in various sectors is 4 million. While in agriculture sector, their number is 1.8 million.

Children involved in toddler labour in Hyderabad is around 0.1 million, where agriculture sector involves 4 lacs children working as a labour. The main purpose of this study duration within the relation of child labour is to unravel some factors, which are caused by child labour, and certifying, policy creators and shareholders, for extricating this problem totally. ILO (International Labour Organization) states that, child labour involved in agriculture sector, faces more social and psychological challenges in their life. Hence, these stated factors have repelled them, and deprived from their needs regarding science technology. This study will assist the NGO's and government sector, for overcoming this issue in a relatively positive way. In Pakistan, child labour used as a nasty lawbreaker for a few years. Now currently some positive actions are known in Sindh province within the sort of new law is passed on 26th January 2017.

This law stated that child working within the age of 14 are prevented and made illegal and people working are restricted for 3 hours during a day consistent with the Sindh prohibition employments of children Bill. This law also prevents teenagers from working between the 7 pm to 8 am. According to the survey of labour force in Pakistan 2017-18, the children who work as a toddler labour is 13 million, and 38 percent children performed their activities in agriculture sector and 88 percent belongs to the agricultural areas including boys and girls. Out of these, 71 % boys are engaged as rewarded and unrewarded in agricultural activities. 4 million child labours are involved under the age of 15 in Sindh province (Ibupoto *et al.* 2019). Keeping in view the seriousness of the issue, this study was undertaken in district Tando Allahyar to identify causes of child labour so that this issue can be resolved and suggest policy recommendations. Following are the objectives of this study.

- To study the socioeconomic characteristics of respondents working in agriculture in District Tando Allahyar, Sindh
- To identify major causes of child labour engaged in agriculture sector in District Tando Allahyar, Sindh

LITERATURE REVIEW

Ahmed *et al.* (2020) investigated issues of the child labour in South Asian region. In different remote areas of Pakistan, there was an obvious lack of guidance about child labour, because some adverse situations alarm to economy. People sent to their children with forceful act for working in agriculture sector. The major causes concerning to child labour has been notice as poor economy and maximum ratio of

uneducated peoples, among parents, unemployed, large size of family, landlord, and flexibility in present child labour law. Their study was based upon multi stages sampling techniques. Results revealed that 71.7 percent of respondents were male. 47.2 percent had an age 11-15 years. While 40.6 percent were belonging to joint families, and 50 percent were illiterate. Moreover, results were obtained from the respondents 53.3, 49.4, 46.1, 28.3, 17.2, and 14.4 percent were engaged in field preparation activities. Bai and Wang (2020) observed the effects of child labour concerning to schooling results. They obtained consequence related to impacts under price and economy. The variation regarding child labour was observed through strength of crops and exogenous variations in crop taxes in 1991 Indian trade liberalization. Regarding district changes, he noted that the variation in crop composition revealed alternative impacts of taxes declination for adult as well as child labour intensive crops. Whereas the recession in returns to adult labour possessed negative impacts on economy, which reduced the schooling in the return's child labour enhance schooling by influencing counteract prices. Utilizing back of envelope estimating, they obtained results with regards to returns child, adult labour 0.23 and -0.86.

According to Dumas (2020), studied economically shocked peoples concerned to child labour, mainly when their family members cannot afford house expenditures. Their research demonstrated; labour markets belong to agriculture decline the effects of production shocks on child labour. Utilizing panel data revealed that 1) Child labour certainly arisen with rainfall shock 2) Child labour arisen less, when family members have approach to labour market 3) Market regarding labour appeared more efficient as compared to credit markets smoothing child labour. Bharadwaj *et al.* (2020), explored bans against child labour, policy tools and effects. They checked the results of India's landmark legislation against child labour, by utilizing data from employed servants based on age restrictions. They discovered that after ban, the ratio of children employed increased and reduced the ratio of child wages. Their main objective depends upon variation comparing between same age group sibling, based on eligibility and non-eligibility concern to legal work a) greater role of industries in local markets through targeted ban, including areas where greater ratio of employer and poor families, their outcome revealed that reduction of children to participate in school.

Edmonds and Theoharides (2020) recognized productive assets and efforts of labour to convert into income. The study was carried out by utilizing clustered randomized trial. Their study was focused on effects of components in child labour elimination program. They demonstrated, families depending upon members work to asset. Mostly young labour was present in families, they noted enhancing employed among teenage labour. Particularly non-availability of adult labour to work with asset leads to enhance ratio child labour, which was vulnerable activity. Sasmal and Sasmal (2020) considered problems of child labour in general also in agriculture regarding poverty. Low economic families were sent to their children in forceful manners to work for enhancing family's income.

Certainly, education and schooling of poor children and different welfare impacts for low economic families were revealed useful to reduce the child labour. Their chapter attempted issues regarding macro-perspective and searching various ways to control child labour. Their proposal relied upon the economic development within the country, by sharing low ratio in agriculture GDP. Their findings concerned to reduce the poverty leads to decline the ratio of child labour in agriculture and economic development. Latif *et al.* (2020) investigated socio-economic and political

determinants of child labour. The research was based on qualitative research design, through utilization of depth interviews to search significant aspects which create obstruct to improve the progress of country, Data was recorded by utilizing purposive method, included 30 respondents in the study. Research resulted that Government of Pakistan monitored child labour poorly regarding factors such as less education, need for extra money and lack for poor monitoring. Aransiola and Justus (2020) investigated the evolution of child labour rates in Brazilian states from 2000 to 2014. In one way, they checked reporting of conditional cash transfer transversal program to decline the poverty. Also, they observed to check labour regarding children. They recorded data from national household's sample survey, Ministry of Social Development and Ministry of Labour Employment. Their result uncovered reduced ratio of child labour in rural areas of Brazil, whereas agriculture sector remained major employer for children. They also resulted, that governmental counter measures were distributed into child labour.

According to Ali (2019) examined effects of parent's income, regarding child labour literature demonstrated consequences that people send to their children for working according to circumstances which comes under poverty. Their research mostly focused on single homogenous group of child labour. They debated for heterogeneous group of child labour. Mainly, the results were found presence of heterogeneity in parents caused to send their children for working. For testing hypothesis, they analyzed the impacts of parent's economy concerns to child labour working for different conditions by utilizing data 2010 Egypt National Child Labour Survey results revealed the impacts of parental income on child labour. Children did not possess highly physical and family business to work in non-dangerous jobs. In comparison, greater income of parents reduced the possibility of child labour work in market.

According to Ibupoto *et al.* (2019) explored issues of child labour nationally and internationally. Child labour not only effects on physiological, social, and physical development but also influences the children education. The research was carried out in Hyderabad to find out reasons of child labour in agriculture. The main object of their experiment was to explore the hidden factors associated to child labour and their possibilities to various policy makers and stakeholders for alleviating curse of children in agriculture site of Hyderabad. The data was based on 260 respondents from selected peoples with the help of questionnaire data was estimated through Statistical Software (SPSS). The data was further analyzed through different statistical techniques.

Das and Mukherjee (2019) studied negative effects of the labour in agricultural activities in Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme. The labour has important impacts to induce child labour demand, which was substitute for unskilled adult labour in various agriculture operation on the farm. The research contributed argue by checking three problems 1) Impacts of child labour intensity through seasonality 2) Effects of MGNREGS on child labour intensity 3) Influences on human capital formation through seasonality and MGNREGS.

Acharya (2018) investigated various factors including family type, family income, landholding size, and loan status of family, class category, parent's education and occupation, caste/ethnic, religious background of child labour. In these factors, major reason concerning child labour was low family income. It was also demonstrated that, it had strong relationship between reasons of child labour and

land holding size of family. The result was obtained from chi-square test (41.90) highly significant value at 0.01 probability level, it suggested that landholding size was related with child labour. But parental profession was interrelated with low value ($p=0.47 > 0.05$) Ramos (2018) investigated involvement of child labour in tobacco production and consumption with their health problems. Globally involvement of child labour in tobacco has hazardous impacts on environment. The paper examined human rights relation regarding child labour in tobacco production by researching three countries USA, Kazakhstan, and Malawi. It was checked the effects of child labour in human rights of United States. The ILO (International Labour Organization) formed worse situations for child labour. Whereas ILO stated that safety convention of child labour for working in tobacco production. According to Lakdawala (2018) tested existence of labour market flaws, these family members more liked to employ child in labour. They examined this forecasting by utilizing families and child level panel data from Thailand to separate reasonable effects of family members' loan. They demonstrated model extent with credit entry for family members, in particular wealth categories the consequences indicated that through the avenue inspiring entrepreneurship.

Tang *et al.* (2018) estimated social phenomena of child labour in China. In 2010, children belonging to age group 10-15 years. The ratio was 7.74 percent by working 6.75 hours per day. Their findings showed that mostly children were positively connected with school dropout rate. Comparing the place of location, gender of children was less significant. The educational qualification of families and its connection was negligible. Whereas family's asset per capita and their participation in non-agricultural operations demonstrated negative association with incidence of child labour, a child from family's adults does not show interest in working. Preventing child labour in China revealed significant regional difference. The Child labour incidence was associated with growth level of every region. Adonteng-Kissi (2018) examined parental perception and causes of child labour in rural and urban areas of Ghana. The study based upon qualitative research techniques by using depth interviewers. The data was recorded in two phases, which included urban and rural areas. 60 participants were involved in, govt officials and others were included in NGOs concern to parents and their children involvement. This paper argued that child labour faces various causes such as cultural practices, socialization poverty and absence of machinery in working. The paper further revealed that socio cultural operations of child labour have vital role in farming of rural areas however poverty contributed children involvement in fishing work of urban areas of Ghana.

Adeoye *et al.* (2017) worked on the prevalence of child labour use in the agricultural sector has been widely reported. That study purposes at understanding the dimensions and causes of child labour among rural farm family member in Nigeria. A multi-stage sampling method was used to select 128 rural family members for the study and total of 352 children (5-17years) were interviewed to elicit actual data for the study. Data was collected with the help of questionnaire about child activity relevant socio-economic characteristics. Analytical methods used were measures of central tendency and dispersal, and censored Tobit Regression Model. Findings showed that the average age of children is 10 years, and many of these children's 67.3 percent are reported to be living life with their parents. While 26 percent of children work in paid, and non-family farms. The average weekly employment hours per child was found to be 31.31 which increases with the age of the child. With dissipate to school time, due to farm employment; it was found that rural children in farm household

sacrificed an average of 12.9 hours per week 42.9 percent of school time to busy in farm work. These all identified as factors that impact the prevalence and intensity of child farm labour use. That study concluded that rural infrastructure development and households' economic empowerment initiatives were central to child labour reduction policies. Zeeshan *et al.* (2017) investigated the degree of knowledge of cotton growers on child labour issue, with special reference to decent work of International Labour Organization (ILO) in Pakistan. In that research there 3 groups of farmers were identified among a total of 388 selected cotton cultivators i.e., Growers having high, basic level of awareness, and growers having no awareness of child labour. Growers were also distributed into three groups based on their land holding a) 1-7, >7-20 and >20-50 acres. The data was examined through descriptive statistical technique. Among Group A) 7.5, 88.7 and 3.7 percent of the growers had advance, basic and no awareness, individually. Among category B) 7.2, 88.5 and 4.2 percent growers had developed, basic and no awareness, individually. Among group C) 5.8, 90.2 and 3.9 percent growers had developed, basic and no awareness, individually. Since there were a large proportion of those growers, who had only basic level of awareness on child labour among all the three-land holding group, therefore, there was a need to educate farmers on preventing child labour at their farms to promote sustainable cotton.

Swarnalatha and Anuradha (2016) considered the child labour practice involved in economic activity, which done by the children on daily wage basis. The present study sought to analyze the socio-economic profile of child labour in Chittoor district of Andhra Pradesh. Data was collected from small land holdings in agricultural areas, and Caste System in rural areas is the main cause for child labour. Poor Quality, Illiteracy, Joblessness, Lack of good schools and Growth of informal economy are major causes of child labour in India. The results showed that majority 58 percent of the respondents were involved in Agriculture activity. Nearly 73 percent of the respondents were wage-rewarded workers and semi-experienced. Almost all the respondents were involved in work at an early age to supplement family income. The Policy initiatives taken by Government of India through different programs, NGO's and major National Legislations had a great effect on the condition of child labour and for the protection of children rights and elimination of child labour in India.

According to De Gaetano *et al.* (2016) studied association between family's characteristics of children and affecting factors based on rural context. The land related factor was major. Most of the children were involved in farming operations through maximum heterogeneous conditions. The model for child labour designates that strict association between land related factors and Child Labour in agriculture. Further, their association varied according to land size patterns in various agriculture activities. Zaman *et al.* (2014) identified the problem of child labour is a socio-economic reality of Bangladesh. That problem was huge and cannot be unnoticed. That study showed the child labour raise in a developing country like Bangladesh and the positive and negative impacts of child labour on the society. Lack of money was the main cause for the children being involved in child labour. The child labour has become one of the most conspicuous issues in the developing countries. Therefore, a need to find the helpless children and point out their problems has come into the light. Many governments and non-government organizations have taken some progression steps to reduce child labour crisis from the society that article, to represent the socio-economic situation of child labour in Bangladesh, and to locate the ways in which child labour can be decreased slowly. Ofuoku *et al.* (2014) determined the level of

child labour participation in farmable crop cultivation. In that research, random sampling technique was used to collect a data from respondents with the help of designed interview time schedule and questionnaire. Most farming family member heads were male's 60.61 percent and 65 percent were illiterate, with an average age of 42.28 years. An average family member, size of 11 persons, and average farm area of 1.13 hector. The children involved in all activities, which belong to field preparation. Many 43.33 percent of the children engaged in schooling as well as farming processes. The decision of the farming, household heads to use child labour was affected by all socioeconomic variables. It is suggested that extension agents should educate farming household heads on the consequences of using child labour, especially with respect to chemical application. The concerned agencies need to educate farming family member's heads on the hazards of including child labour in farming at the outlay of school attendance, educational and input emancipation by government should be closely examined.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

This section details methodology and analytical techniques utilized for this research including the sampling procedure as well as the data collection techniques, to analyze and fulfill the objectives, which were collected through primary data approaches.

Study Area and Population

Tando Allahyar is a low-income area. Majority of the population is Muslims and also small number of Hindu community exist which work in agriculture sector in rural areas. In Tando Allahyar district most of the family's economic source was agriculture, livestock rearing, farming, small business and government jobs. Tando Allahyar District, deceits in 680 34' 23" to 680 57' 35" east-longitudes and 250 12' 24" to 250 45' 17" north-latitudes. Tando Allahyar is bounded by the west side of District Mirpur Khas, the population of the district was 837,000 as of census stood 2017 (see figure 1) The total area of District Tando Allahyar is 3,92,403 acres. The district is divided into three Talukas: Chamber, Jhando Mari, Tando Allahyar (City), and there are 19 Union Councils, and 201 Villages.

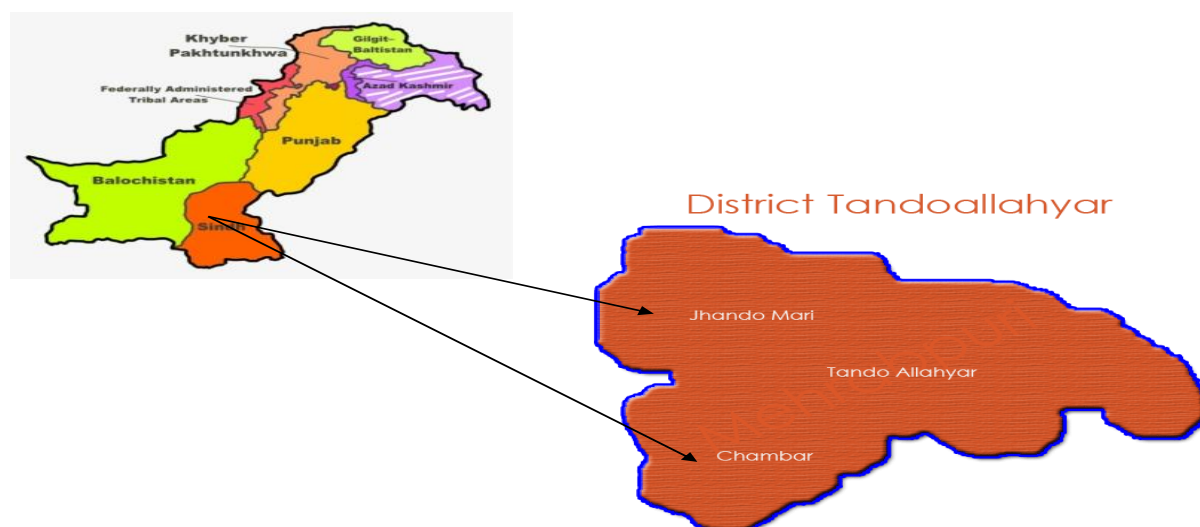


Figure-1.
Map of District Tando Allahyar

Sampling Procedure and Sample Size

During the research, information about age in years, gender, profession, rest time, education, children plus parents, employment hours, employer's abuse, working environment, child labour causes was recorded. Purposive sampling was adopted as units are selected based on the characteristics of the sample. Through direct observation, the environment of the workplaces was evaluated. At first stage, Tando Allahyar district was selected, in second stage two talukas were considered as rural and agriculture areas Chamber and Jhando Mari were selected. Child labour is a working child between 5-14 years age, as per standards set by International Labour Organization (ILO, 2006). Thus, number of 100 respondents, including their parents/guardians was personally interviewed with the help of comprehensive questionnaire. Due to time and resource constraint limited data set of 100 respondents was selected,

Questionnaire Development for Primary Data

Many research articles were reviewed to develop the research questionnaire. A detailed questionnaire was designed, based upon primary data collection, which consisted maximum information for accomplishment of the objectives. The questionnaire comprised of basic information related to socio-economic characteristics such as age, education, gender, family size, household's, health, education, was included in first part. In second part of questionnaire, questions, related to different causes of child labour were examined. The main indicators for research were socio-economic well-being, economic geography and population pressure, economic activities, physical infrastructure, available natural resources, basic amenities etc.

Analytical Measures

Analytical measures were an essential step to convert research data into significant and an adequate form. A tabular data was designed for the presentation of summarized data. Initial data analysis such as descriptive statistics, frequency distribution, and experimental analysis was conducted to complete the tabulation plan with the help of Microsoft excel, and the findings were interpreted in the next chapter.

Arithmetic Mean

Arithmetic mean, or average has also presented the data in the form of tabulation. It is used, to have a whole data represent.

$$\text{Average} = \sum Xn/n$$

Where,

$\sum$ = Total sum,

xn = Variable used in analysis, and

n = Number of Observations

Percentage

To determine a percentage, it is divided the portion of the whole data by the total number and multiplied by 100. Thus, has been used to see the proportion of the required data from its 100th part.

$$\text{Percentage} = (n/\sum n) \times 100$$

n = Number of Observations

$\sum n$ = Total Number

RESULTS

The analysis and interpretation of the data is the most important step in scientific research. Without these steps, the goal of scientific research cannot be generalized and predicted. The generalization and conclusion are based on the characteristics and attitude of the respondents.

Demographic information

Table1.

Distribution of children by age group working in agriculture field

Age Groups	Percentage
5- 10 Years	23
11-14 Years	77
Total	100

Table 1 shows that in research area, the age group of children was distributed in 5-10 years, and 11-14 years. In the age group of 5-10 years, they were 23 percent while in the 11-14 years age group 77 percent of child labour were working in the field of agriculture.

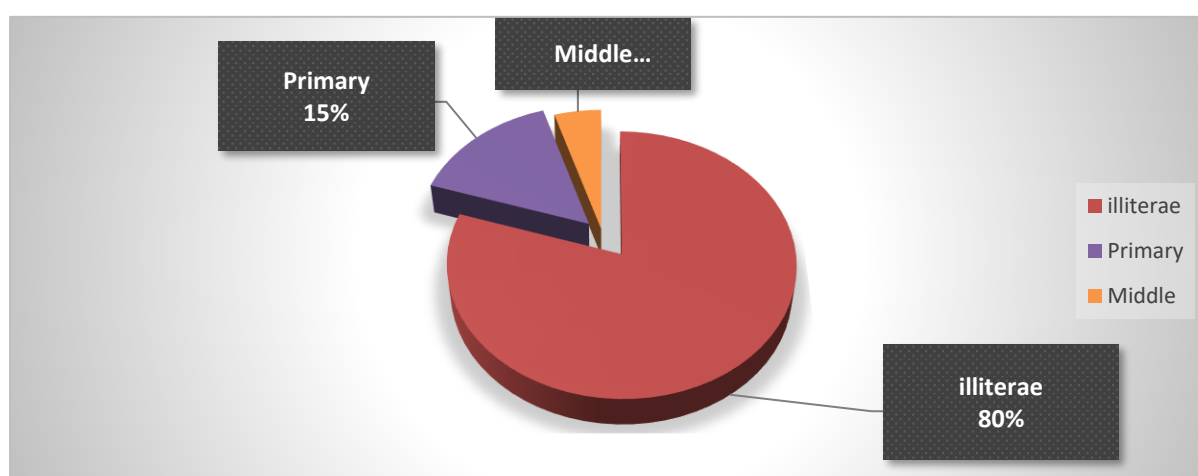


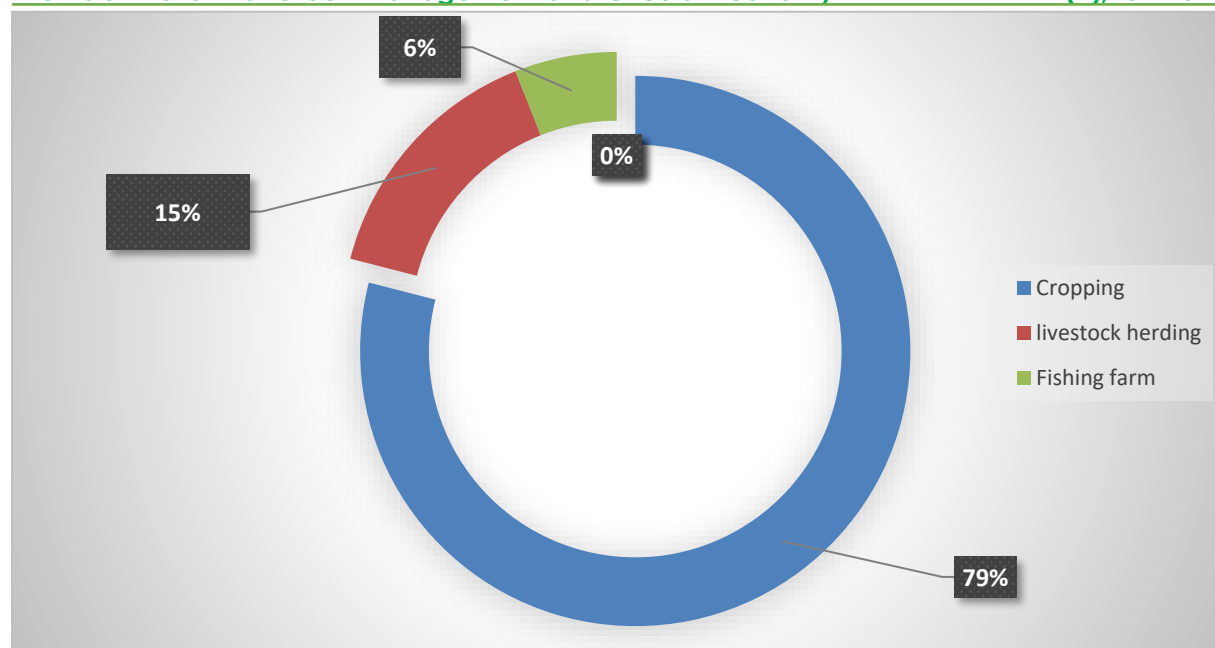
Figure 1.

Distribution of children by attended educational qualification.

Figure-4.1, shows children educational qualification, It shows that majority (80 percent) of children were illiterate in the study area. While 15 percent had completed primary level and only 5 percent had done middle level of education.

Children engaged in cultivation sub-sectors of agriculture

Figure 2 shows that most of child labour is living in rural areas because they did not have any other work in living area, that most of children working in agriculture filed were 79 percent related to this category. In addition, 15 percent of children were busy in livestock activities and 6 percent were in the fish farm.

**Figure-2.**

Distribution of children engaged in cultivation sub-sectors of agriculture:

Causes of child labour engaged in agriculture

Table 2.

Distribution of children major causes of child labour engaged in agriculture:

Main causes	Percentage	N=100
Parents ask for help	24	
Illiterate, following family, majority is non-muslims	16	
Parents forced work	14	
To cover home expenses	12	
Cannot afford school	10	
Non available school	9	
Not nearby school	7	
Non available teachers	5	
Family does not allow, not interested	3	
Total	100	

Table 2. shows various causes which were compelling to the children into the labour in agriculture fields, reasons which were reported the parents of children asked them for help, which were about 24 percent. Where the other reason that, Illiterate, following family work because majority (Non-Muslims) were 16 percent, parents forced for work which were 14 percent, Whereas, to work for covering home expensive were 12 percent cannot afford school expenditure were 10 percent, were non-availability of school 9 percent. The school distance far away from home were reported 7 percent, and non-available of teachers were 5 percent. Not interested, family does not allow in school were 3 percent. That were significant reasons reported in the study area.

Total working hours at workplace

Figure-4.3 details children total time spent at their respective workplace highlighted that majority of the children (52 percent) were found to be working for 7-10 hours per day, followed by 34 percent who work for 4-6 hours, while 8 percent work for 1-3 hours, 6 percent for more than 11 hours mostly on weekends.

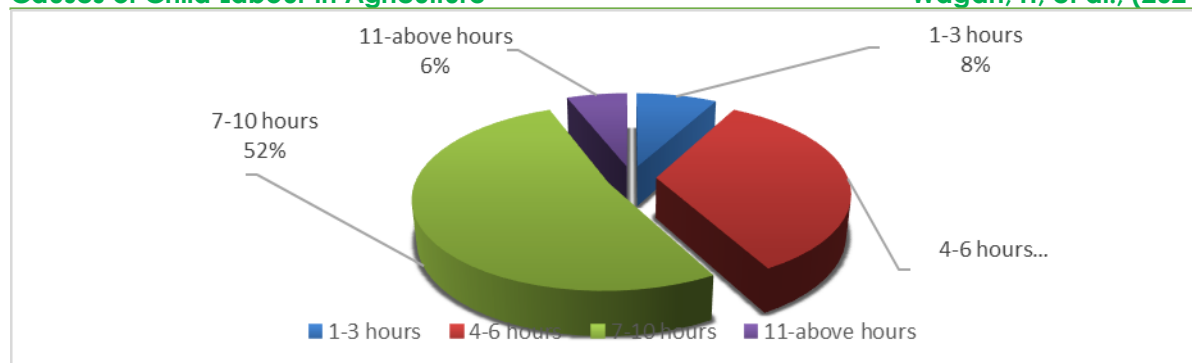


Figure3.
Total working hours at workplace

Child labour punishment at workplace

Table 3.
Child labour punishment at workplace

Punishment workplace	Percentage
No	61
Yes	39
Total	100

Table 3 Present punishment at workplace. Child labour workers reported that 39 percent punished them at the workplace, while 61 percent were not punished in the study area.

Types of punishment for child labourers

Table 4.
Types of punishment for child labourers

Types of punishment	Percentage
Abusive language	41
Deducting of wage, mentally torcher	29
Increasing working hours	23
Beating	7
Total	100

Table-4.4 documents the types of punishment being given to children at workplace are shown in table 4, results showed that the major type of punishment was abusive language/ beating at workplace was 41 percent, where deducting of wage, mentally torture were 29 percent, and increasing working hours were 23 percent, while beating punishment was 7 percent at the place of working area.

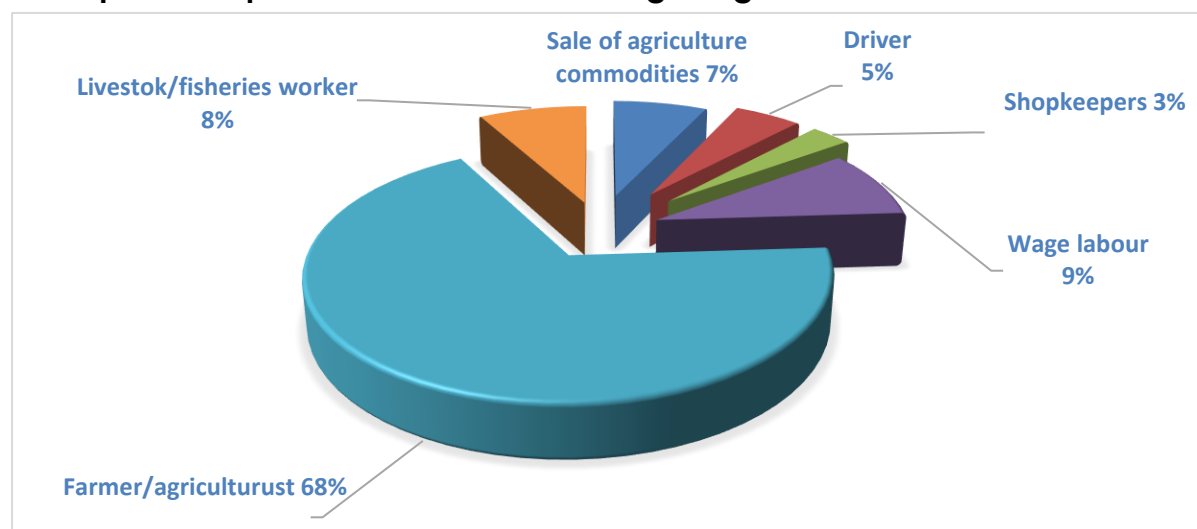
Impact of children work on health

Table 5. details of the various health impact reasons which were affected on children during child labour in agriculture field, where 23 percent was cause of fever, where 20 percent faced stomach problems/diarrheal, skin problems were faced by 19 percent, however eye problems were faced by 17 percent. The occurrence of superficial injuries/open wound were 8 percent, fractures type infection were 6 percent, burns, corrosions, scalds/frostbite were 4 percent while, other some health impact was 3 percent.

Table 5.

Impact of children work on health:

Health impact	Percentage	N=100
Fever	23	
Stomach Problems/diarrheal	20	
Skin Problems	19	
Eye Problems	17	
Superficial Injuries/ Open Wound	8	
Fractures	6	
Burns, corrosions, scalds/frostbite	4	
Other	3	

Occupation of parents of children working in agriculture field**Figure 4.****Occupation of parents of children working in agriculture field**

The parent's profession reflects the socio-economic status of the family member, and his income cycle reflects the stability of the family's profession income and socio-economic status. In the above figure-4.4 designated that, the father's profession strongly affects child labour. During the research study, it was calculated that many parents of child mainly depended on agriculture. Therefore, livestock, wage labour and small businesses were alternative sources of their income. Further results revealed that primary source of income was 68 percent for respondents which were living in the agriculture areas, followed by 9 percent respondents had only daily wages source of income. As an income source, livestock and fisheries were 8 percent, while sales commodities workers were 7 percent, 5 percent respondents were engaged as machine operators and assemblers, 3 percent were involved in service workers and shop.

Parent's educational background Parent's educational background

Figure 5 shows that as level of children parent's educational background improved the prevalence of child labour decline. In families with no parent's education, the highest incidence of child labour was high 81 percent for not receiving formal education, where 7 percent had primary education, 6 percent joined in middle, 5 percent had matric level education and only 1 percent had intermediate level education.

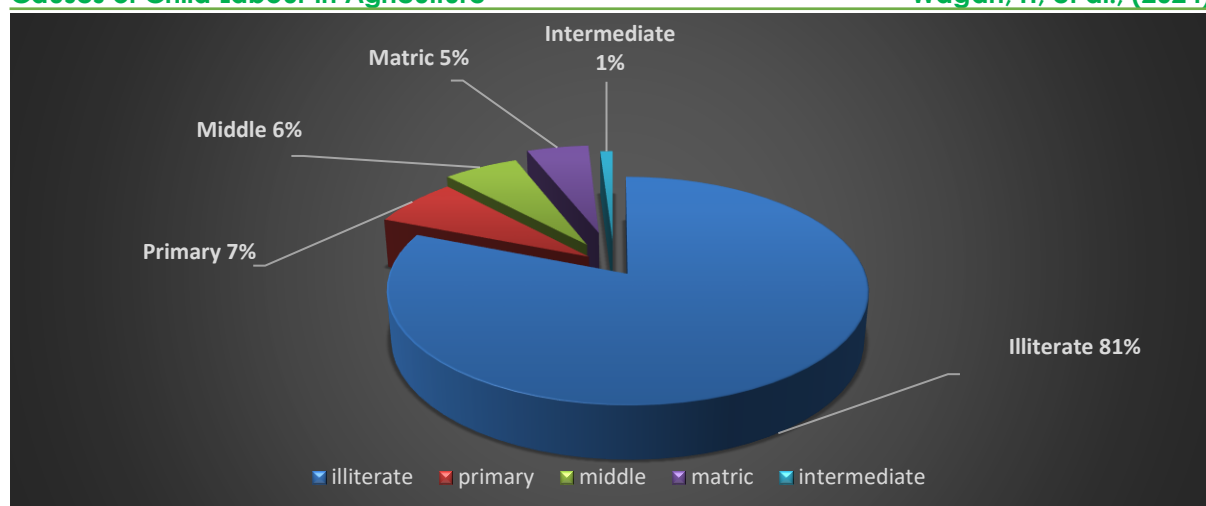


Figure 5.
Parent's educational background

Descriptive statistics of their parents of the children working in agriculture fields

Table 6.

Descriptive statistics of their parents of the children working in agriculture fields.

Particular	Average
Age (average years)	43.3
Family Size (No)	7.6
Male Members (No)	4.5
Female Members (No)	3.1
Family members engaged in farm/labour	7.5

Table 6: shows that average parent age of the children were 43.3 years old, while number size of the house family was 7.6 on average in which involved male and female member, while the male member average was 4.5 where female member average was 3.1 in house. As a result, the family member which was engaged as an employed was 7.5 on an average which were involved in agriculture labour.

Parent's profession and socio-economic status of the family Member

Table 7.

Parent's profession and socio-economic status of the family Member

Particular	Status	Percentage	N=100
House type 100%	Kacha	63	
	Semi Kacha	28	
	Pacca	9	
Source of income 100%	Labour (Farmer)	73	
	Services	19	
	Livestock	8	

Table 7 descriptive status of parent shows that the infrastructure of the household made up of kacha (mud-built) houses was 63 percent in study, where 28 percent were based upon semi kacha, while only 9 percent were in pacca house in study. However, the major income sources of the labour (farmer) which was 37 percent around study, where source of income of services was 19 percent in area of study, while only 8 percent source of income was livestock. Different kinds of income sources of respondents were having in study.

DISCUSSION

Our results relate to larger socioeconomic problems such as poverty and increasing population forces children to work. Large family and unemployment forces parents to send their children for work. According to the demographic characteristics of respondent related to the age group and educational background 77 percent of children, which were working in agriculture as a child labour age between was 11-14 Years while 23 percent were age 5-10 years which were involved in the sector of agriculture. The children educational qualification was 80 percent illiterate in the study area, while 15 percent had completed primary level and only 5 percent had done middle level of education. Our findings are similarly agreed to the findings of Ahmed *et al.* (2020) that child labour prevalent because lack of minimum qualification because of the age of children revealed that often 11-15 years old children were involved in agriculture as a child labour.

Children working in agriculture field was 79 percent related to this category. In addition, 15 percent of children were busy in livestock activities and 6 percent busy in the fish fishing farm. The children into the labour in agriculture fields, reasons which were reported the parents of children asked them for help, which were about 24 percent, where the other reason is Illiteracy, following family work, because majority (non-Muslims) were 16 percent, parents forced to work, which were 14 percent, where to work cover household expenses were 12 percent, the families who cannot afford school expenditures were 10 percent, however non-availability of school made it to 9 percent. The school distance far away from home were reported 7 percent and non-availability of teachers were 5 percent, 3 percent were those who were not interested, and their family does not allow them to be at school. That were the significant reasons were reported in the study area. Ibupoto *et al.* (2019) reported that parents of children being uneducated or considering the education worthless for earning money and improving their standards of life. They did not desire education for their children. Also shows some kinds of performed work in agriculture.

Our results are similar to the findings of Shabbir *et al.*, (2020) they examined the causes of child labour in agriculture in rural Punjab. They identified that poverty and highly illiteracy rate are the major causes of child labour in agriculture in Pakistan Majority of the children's 52 percent were found to work 7-10 hours per day, followed by 34 percent who work 4-6 hours, while 8 percent work for 1-3 hours, and 6 percent of the respondents work for more than 11 hours. Tang *et al.* (2018) showed that child labour participated in positive association with school drop-out rate. Child labour workers punishment rate was recorded 39 percent, at the workplace. While 61 percent were not punished in the study area. Some major types of punishment where abusive language/ beating was 41 percent, whereas deducting of wage and mental torture were 29 percent, and increasing working hours were 23 percent, beating punishment were 7 percent. Our findings are like the findings of Ahmed *et al.* (2020) showed the distribution of the respondents according to punishments they received while working in agriculture as a child labour.

Child labour has negative impact on children health where 23 percent children's health impact caused fever, where 20 percent were stomach problems/diarrheal, skin problems were 19 percent, eye problems were 17 percent. Whereas superficial injuries/open wound were 8 percent, fractures type infection were 6 percent, burns, corrosions, scalds/frostbite were 4 percent while, other some health impact was 3 percent. Our inferences are agreed to Ibupoto *et al.* (2019) child labour strictly effects

on the health of children and that way to the death in initial stage or damage of tissues even some long-lasting viruses which remain, may be extended in their lifetime. The parent's profession reflects the socioeconomic status of the family member, and his income cycle reflects the stability of the family's professional income and socioeconomic status. Source of income of the father's profession strongly affects child labour. 68 percent of respondents, which were living in the agricultural areas, where only 9 percent had only daily wages source of income, livestock and fisheries were 8 percent, while sales commodities workers were 7 percent, 5 percent were engaged as machine operators and assemblers, 3 percent had income from service workers and shop. Ali (2019) examined the effect of parental pay on child labour was minimum with children who worked in non-dangerous jobs. Jobs, that were not extremely physical, or in household firm. Child labour was minimal among children who worked was non-hazardous jobs. Jobs, that were not highly physical, or in family businesses.

Average age of parents of the children were 43.3 years old, while size of the house family was 7.6 on average, However the male family member average was 4.5, where female member average was 3.1 in house. Family member, who was engaged in agriculture labour were 7.5 averages. Household infrastructure was made up of kacha houses was 63 percent in study, thereby 28 percent semi kacha, while only 9 percent were paca. Where income sources of the labour (farmer) were 37 percent in study, where services were 19 percent, while only 8 percent source of income was livestock. Ahmed et al. (2020) showed that the distribution of the parent's guardian profession work in the field. The males often work in the fields, and the females were engaged in the maintenance of livestock and other domestic chores.

CONCLUSION

In our study, we have found that there are various reasons which were compelling children into working as labour force in agriculture fields. It is reported that most of the children were asked by their parents for assistances which were about 24 percent, where the other reason was noted as illiteracy, following family majority is (non-Muslims) work which were 16 percent. Parents forced work was 14 percent. 12 person of the respondents worked for supporting their household expenditures. These were the significant reasons reported in the study area. The average age of parents of the children were 43.3 years old, while size of the house family was 7.6 on average, including male and female members, while the male member average was 4.5, whereas female member average was 3.1 in house. As a result, the family members engaged as an employed were 7.5 on an average, which were involved in agriculture labour. Therefore, the infrastructure of the household was 63 percent made up of kacha (Mud-built) houses as per this study, where 28 percent semi kacha houses, while only 9 percent were pacca house.

Where the major income sources of the labour (farmer) which was 37 percent, where services were 19 percent, while only 8 percent source of income depended upon livestock. Respondents were having different kinds of income sources in study. The parent's profession reflects the socio-economic status of the family members, and his income cycle reflects the stability of the family's profession income and socioeconomic status. During the research study, it was calculated that more of parents of child mainly depended upon agriculture. Therefore, livestock, wage labour and small businesses were alternative sources of their income. Results revealed that primary source of income of 68 percent of respondent which were living in the agriculture

areas, followed by, where only 9 percent respondent had daily wages income source, livestock, and fisheries 8 percent, while sales commodities workers were 7 percent, 5 percent were engaged as machine operators and assemblers, 3 percent had income from service workers and shop. Children spent their time at the place of their respective workplace. Majority of the children's 52 percent were work 7-10 hours per day, followed by 34 percent who worked 4-6 hours, while 8 percent worked for 1-3 hours, 6 percent of respondents worked for more than 11 hours mostly on weekends and in homes. As a level of children parent's educational background in families with no parent's education, the incidence of child labour was high, whereby 81 percent of children parents did not receive formal education, 7 percent had only acquired primary education, 6 percent had studied till middle, 5 percent went to school till their matriculation and only 1 percents make till intermediate level of education. Government and NGOs are finally responsible for preventing child labour in spite of legislation government has to reinforce its regulations. Reducing poverty can bring drastic changes in child labour.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Majority of the respondents were illiterate and 15 percent had completed the primary school level, while only 5 were completed middle education level. Further there was no near availability of school, and non-availability of teachers. Schools are not near to the residence of respondents, but other reasons were no affordability of parents to send their children to schools away from home area. Another reason found was that parents asked their children for help, in other case forced them to work, so that they may cover our home expenses. While in some areas, family not allowed their children to attend school. So thus, it is suggested is that the government should make quick arrangements for launching literacy programs, so that they may benefit from it. As more children literate, it will more effectively decreasing illiteracy ratio. There is high ratio of illiterate children in rural areas of Pakistan. Government and NGOs should also launch effective programs on immediate basis related to the study as evening schooling programs and centers in the village areas of children. Govt should ensure equal rights for lower classes such as Kolhi and bheel.

Child labour were engaged in agriculture activities like livestock, cropping and fish farming on wages while another different sources of income were shops, wage labour and other types of small businesses. Moreover, due to poverty and lower family income up to 63 percent of families were living in kacha (Mud-built) houses. Therefore, it is suggested that government should provide funds and launch an extensive packages and opportunities of earning, employment for the young household family members, which will not only help for constructing pacca houses, but will also prove helpful for their source of income, as they send their children to the schools.

Child labour in agriculture faces different health issues like fever, stomach problems/diarrheal, skin problem, eye problem, Where superficial injuries/open wound, fractures, burns, corrosions, scalds/frostbite, other some health impact. Therefore, it is suggested that government should provide the hospitals and services related to the health issues. Working atmospheres must be improved with better sanitary and clean conditions. It is evident that poverty, lack of education, lack of employment opportunities and support from government are major obstacles in reducing child labour in Pakistan. Proper implementation of regulations, and gathering of all stakeholders on one platform is necessary to determine the nature and duration of hours for working children. Furthermore providing educational

possibilities for these children to break this cycle. Further this study can be extended to longitudinal studies in the future in the same region to see how child labour has evolved overtime in the same region as well as comparative studies can be performed among different regions to dig out possible causes of child labour and recommend possible solutions.

DECLARATIONS

Acknowledgement: We appreciate the generous support from all the supervisors and their different affiliations.

Funding: No funding body in the public, private, or nonprofit sectors provided a particular grant for this research.

Availability of data and material: In the approach, the data sources for the variables are stated.

Authors' contributions: Each author participated equally to the creation of this work.

Conflicts of Interests: The authors declare no conflict of interest.

Consent to Participate: Yes

Consent for publication and Ethical approval: Because this study does not include human or animal data, ethical approval is not required for publication. All authors have given their consent.

REFERENCES

- Acharya, K. R. (2018). Causes of Child Labour in Nepal: an analysis from economic perspective. *Contemporary social sciences*, 78.
- Adeoye, S. O., Agbonlahor, M. U., Ashaolu, O. F., & Ugalahi, U. B. (2017). Analysis of child labour dimensions and causes in rural farm households of Ogun State, Nigeria. *African journal of food, agriculture, nutrition, and development*, 17(3), 12198-12214.
- Adonteng-Kissi, O. (2018). Causes of child labour: perceptions of rural and urban parents in Ghana. *Children and youth services review*, 91, 55-65.
- Ahmad, S., Huifang, W., Akhtar, S., Maqsood, S., & Imran, S. (2020.) An analytical study of child labour in the agriculture sector of the rural areas of central Punjab, Pakistan. *Sri Lanka journal of social sciences*, 43(1), 21-37.
- Ali, F. R. M. (2019). In the same boat, but not equals: the heterogeneous effects of parental income on child labour. *The journal of development studies*, 55(5), 845-858.
- Aransiola, T. J., & Justus, m. (2020.) Evolution of child labour rate in Brazilian states: policy limits and contradictions. *Economia Sociedad*, 29(1), 273-295.
- Bai, J., & Wang, Y. 2020. Returns to work, child labour and schooling: The income vs. Price effects. *Journal of development economics*, 102466.
- Bharadwaj, P., Lakdawala, L. K., & li, N. (2020.) Perverse consequences of well-intentioned regulation: evidence from India's child labour ban. *Journal of the European economic association*, 18(3), 1158-1195.
- Das, S., & Mukherjee, D. (2019). The impact of MGNREGS on child labour and child education: an empirical analysis. *Development in practice*, 29(3), 384-394.
- De Gaetano, M., Caracciolo, F., Cembalo, L., & Carillo, M. R. (2016). Effects of land related factors on child labour in agriculture: evidence from Peru. *Italian review of agricultural economics*, 71(1), 144-154.
- Dessy, E. S., & Pallage, S. (2005). A theory of the worst forms of child labour. *The economic journal*, 115(500), 68-87. doi:10.1111/j.1468-0297.2004.00960.x
- Dumas, C. (2020). Productivity shocks and child labour: The role of credit and agricultural labour markets. *Economic development and cultural change*, 68(3), 763-812.
- Edmonds, E., & Theoharides, C. (2020). The short-term impact of a productive asset transfer in families with child labour: experimental evidence from the Philippines. *Journal of development economics*, 102486.

- Ibupoto, M. H., Mirjat, A. J., Dahar, S. H., & Mahar, S. A. (2019). Child labour in agricultural sector Hyderabad Sindh, Pakistan. *Arts and social sciences journal*, 10, 1.
- ILO (2010). Child labour in agriculture. <https://www.ilo.org/ipecc/areas/Agriculture/lang-en/index.htm>
- International Labour Organization (2000) child labour causes. *J child labouring*.
- Lakdawala, L. 2018. From loans to labour: Access to credit, entrepreneurship, and child labour. *Entrepreneurship, and child labour* (July 10, 2018).
- Latif, A., Ali, S., Awan, A., & Kataria, J. R. 2020. Socio-economic and political determinants of child labour at brick kilns: A case study of district Jhang. *South Asian studies*, 31(1).
- Ofuoku, A. U., Idoge, D. E., & Ovwigho, B. O. (2014). Child labour in agricultural production and socioeconomic variables among arable farming households in Nigeria. *Journal of rural social sciences*, 29(2), 4.
- Ramos, A. K. (2018). Child labour in global tobacco production: A human rights approach to an enduring dilemma. *Health and human rights*, 20(2), 235.
- Sasmal, J., & Sasmal, R. (2020). Economic growth, structural change and decline of child labour in agriculture: A theoretical perspective. In *child labour in the developing world* (pp. 15-34). Palgrave macmillan, Singapore.
- Shabbir Ahmad and Hui-man Wu and Saira Akhtar and Sobia Maqsood and Shakeel Imran. (2020), An analytical study of child labour in the agriculture sector of the rural areas of central Punjab, Pakistan. *Agricultural and Food Sciences, Sociology, Economics*.
- Swarnalatha, K., & Anuradha, R. K. (2016). Causes and consequences of child labour: government initiatives. *International journal of home science*, 2(1), 289-292.
- Tang, C., Zhao, L., & Zhao, Z. (2018). Child labour in China. *China economic review*, 51, 149-166.
- Thévenon, O., & Edmonds, E. (2019). Child labour: Causes, consequences and policies to tackle it.
- Zaman, S., Matin, S., & Kibria, A. M. B. G. (2014). A study on present scenario of child labour in Bangladesh. *IOSR journal of business and management*, 16(6), 25-36.
- Zeeshan, M., Tariq, U., Makhdoom, A. H., Imran, A., Khan, L. A., & UD din, N. (2017). Assessment of farmers' knowledge regarding child labour in agriculture: A case study of cotton growers in district Bahawalpur. *Journal of mountain area research*, 2, 29-36.



2024 by the authors; Asian Academy of Business and social science research Ltd Pakistan. This is an open-access article distributed under the terms and conditions of the Creative Commons Attribution (CC- BY) license (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>).