

JUVENILE DELINQUENCY IN PUNJAB: THE ROLE OF CHILD LABOUR

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ABSTRACT

Child labor is considered to be serious international crimes of the world and it is still largely present in different forms in the developing and underdeveloped countries of the world. Child labor is the unwilling work which the children do at shops, garages, hotels and other industries and factories in Lahore Pakistan. This thesis has looked at the factors of Child labor in Lahore Pakistan. The present research has examined the consequences and causes of the child Labor. Furthermore, it has looked out juvenile delinquency at length with examine of long term and impact immediate on the society. This research thesis used qualitative research method to conduct this study. The study is designed as case study in which in-depth interviews were used as a tool of data collection. After the interviews the researcher has gathered the data. Coding and generating new themes from the interviews were the main task of the researcher. Thus, this thesis has contributed new knowledge with the existing phenomena and it will open the doors for the future researcher.

Keywords: Child labour, Juvenile delinquency, Inequality, Crime

INTRODUCTION

In Pakistan, child labor and the juvenile delinquency are still present at large. The ration of child labor in Pakistan is very much high. It mostly common in rural areas as well as number of the children working in many workplaces in the cities also (Baert & Verhofstadt, 2015). What even makes the things worse is the criminal law of the country. As a matter of fact and concern, the children should and ought to be treated differently as compared to the grown criminals since their mindsets and the intentions of the crimes are different, but in the Pakistan Penal Code of 1860, the juvenile delinquents are treated all the same which is something quite disturbing (Bell, 2014). Treating a child as a criminal makes him realize the intensity of the crime and the lack of the facilities for rehabilitation make it even harder for the children to forget what they have been through and what they are going through (Bradley, 2012). Once the children who are subjected to the same punishment as a grown man, they will act likewise in the future when they are released (Buchholz, 1981). The best cause is of the teenagers out of school is the youngster working. Pulling in the youngsters into school needs a high change in the framework for changing the brains of the families to picked get ready as a hotspot for their tyke to get achievement in life (De-Motte, 1984). This joins paying special mind to social and money related complexities through social insistence, occupations inclination and access to social affiliations, and managing shocking social measures that keep up tyke work through care raising and sponsorship (Eliot, 1955). They are beaten with bruises all over their bodies, they are tortured with less rest and maximum hours of work, even worse, and they are also used for the sexual gratifications (Ericsson, 2000). Being naive and innocent, they cannot resist the violent physical and mental torture, thus many of them undergo extreme sort of trauma and nostalgic depression (Finnane, 1989). As a

result, they incline toward crimes more likely the sex trade, theft, and drug mafias find them quite suitable for their work (Fourchard, 2011). Since being so much under violence and depression, they also find it the only way to move ahead, thus, giving birth to juvenile delinquency (Froggio, 2007). Similarly, in the work place they face number of problems like sexual harassment and physical torture (Fu, 1992).

Child labor is spread in a massive way in all around the globe where number of child found working in workplace for the purpose to survive (Fuchs, 2007). They strive hard working more than eight hours by getting very low wages (Glanz & Pretorius, 1991). They however suffer both physically as well as mentally (Grayson, 1998). It is also due waves of poverty and lack of education (Grier, 1994). It has been very critical to measure the worth of child labor working in different workplace in Pakistan (Harris, 1994). The reason behind this concept is not only poverty also the responsibility of the parent who also prefer their better work to earn instead of going to schools ("International federation of social workers: International policy on child welfare," 1993). This is also the cause of fewer enrollments mostly in primary schools of the countries (Irving, 1991). As a matter of fact, child labor is not only wasting their talent and putting them in severe inhuman circumstances, but it is a large contributor in making them criminals as well (Junger-Tas, 1992). They are the key to the revival of the society and they are the key to revolutionizing the society (Mennis et al., 2011).

Objectives of the study

1. To examine causes of child labour in Lahore district.
2. To analyze child labour practices in Lahore district.
3. To chalk out aspects of juvenile delinquency in Lahore district.
4. To suggest policy measures to minimize child labor and juvenile delinquency in Lahore district.

Research questions

- Q1: What are the reasons of child labor in society?
Q2: How much children working as labours are responsible for crimes?
Q3: What are the consequences of involvement of juveniles in crimes on society?

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

The Literature review is the data collected from the books and journal articles pertinent to the topic of child labour and the juvenile delinquency (Murphy, Brecht, Huang, & Herbeck, 2012). Furthermore, as the number of children is far greater, the law enforcing agencies along with the government operatives conceive the respective families of the children as solely accountable for neglected care (Nilsson, 2009).

The religious groups along with the religious pressure group parties exercise so much of a great influence that the governments dare not to introduce reforms at the Madressahs level (Nunn, 2017). The curriculum of madressahs ought to be redesigned and all unregistered ones must immediately be shut down. Above all, the sources of funding and patronization must be inquired and properly inspected, only then the coming generations and their children can become a part of the secure society (Obioha, 2009). This is not the end; a colossal portion of the current generation is still captive to this ideology of warfare (Oka, 2009). Madressahs have not ceased to exist, but they are more in number with more radicalization at hand (Olukoya, 1989). As a matter of concern, children are the ones who fall easy victim to their

ideological propaganda, especially, those children who are either run away from their homes or they are engaged in some kind of crime forced child labor (Omoniyi, 2011).

The promises of a better future and safety from drug abuse found a sound appeal and the parents readily reached out to them offering their boys for the movement (Oriol-Granado, Sala-Roca, & Filella Guiu, 2015). The traumatizing experiences meted out to the fresh minor recruits included chained imprisonment in isolation, beaten if the assigned task during the training was not fulfilled and frequently subjected to physical and sexual abuse. (NasrineAbaid, 2014). A country where religion is the instrument of exploitation, the ethnic groups are at each other's throat for domination, where crime is an addiction and deception, child labor added by the juvenile delinquency has proved the latest nail in the coffin of stability, peace, and welfare of the country (Ota, 2019). Insurgency and militancy have hit the country hard, stocks are unstable, the balance of payments is disturbed, insecurity is leading to a flight of investment, bright minds are gunned down and minorities are at a crushing peril (Platt, 2008).

What matters the most is the age sensitivity (Popa, Borrelli, Breda-Popa, & Montomoli, 2018). Childhood age between 6 to 12 is a stage where the children are sensitive to what they see and what they experience. These experiences live side by side their memory for the rest of the life. Misguidance often triggers a backlash in the society as children hit the Pakistani society back thinking that Pakistanis are the friends of culprits and that Pakistanis have abandoned them so they need to be taught a lesson. Precisely, so much deep infiltration of the criminal influence among children is constantly weakening the social foundations which any time in future may steer the whole social structure on a grave peril (Rajabi-Ardeshiri, 2014).

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The researcher selected Lahore and its suburbs as the site for conducting its observation and for conducting the in-depth interviews. Researcher opted for the given site where social processes under study were more prevalent. More importantly, this area was full of garages and hotels which are quite suitable for the nature and aim of the topic. In-depth interview, which is based on the face to face conversation between an interviewer and the respondent. Gaining particular data for a specific issue, there is no better tool for collecting data as compared to the in-depth interviews. The interviews' questions were mostly based on the environment of the garages and hotels where the children work and many other questions were related to the physical violence and abuse the children face at the workplace. Once the data is collected through the qualitative means along the conducting of the in-depth interviews which were eight in number, the next and most important step in the research process was analyzing the given data gained from the books, journals, and especially, the data gained from the interviews. The researcher, interpreted, analyzed and transcribed qualitative data using by thematic analysis technique. In this process, different themes of the research data are used to draw a comparative analysis and in the research process, the data was analyzed thematically to see how the child labor was affecting the criminal tendencies of the children and to what extent it was contributing to the juvenile delinquency. There were total eight interviews in all. The interviews brought forth many loopholes in the justice system of Pakistan and they also explained the incapacity of the rehabilitation centers along the child welfare organizations in collaborating to eliminate child labor and preventing juvenile crimes.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The results and discussion of the study is given as follows:

Poor environment of informal sector and child labor

The conditions under which the children work are extremely abysmal, especially, in the informal sector like the carpet industries, the hotels, the motels, the garages and other factories. The children work over time, more than the standard labor time of eight hours at the international level. The children work under exhaustion and get overburdened. Meanwhile, they also face verbal violence like abusive language and harsh tone of the masters under whom they work. Often there can be found bruises all over the bodies of the children as they undergo beating and severe physical punishment whenever something goes wrong at their hands.

Even in the extreme cases there are burning spots on the hands of the children. How these circumstances are linked with juvenile delinquency is very obvious from the given environment of the informal sector. Children try to escape the extreme burden of the work or to avoid the verbal or physical punishments. In their attempts to escape, they either fall into wrong hands like the mafias where they professionally join hands with criminals or they join certain groups of friends where they gradually incline toward theft and other small crimes in order to eke out a living. In the attempt to survive, many of the children can fall victim to drug addiction or get apprehended.

Once apprehended, on account of the immoral attitude of the police, the children get even worse in crimes ahead. In the worst case scenarios, the children if not got caught can also go deeper into crimes finding the lust and greed for money. Most of the children who go to this path from child labor are either orphans and raised by their relatives, but put to labor, or they have parents, but their parents care less almost do not care for their children.

“Child abuse is the ultimate result of child labor. Children do face domestic violence as well, but most of the cases of children facing physical and mental abuse are those who work under extreme conditions for survival. Urged by the peer pressure and incapacitated by financial constraints, the children tolerate and bear all the pain they receive. Working in the informal sector where there is no check and balance and no legal accountability of how to treat their workers and labors, children face impaired mental, physical and psychological health. Mostly, the children who are beaten badly are not accidental cases, but they are deliberate and intentional.

Torturing children through various means, sometimes for sexual gratification and sometimes for some disobedience can go so extreme that if the children do not get medical attention on time, the consequences can be very serious. Beating with legs and hand are very common. The use of sticks against the bodies of the children is also witnessed in many cases. Nevertheless, even burning and wounding the children to the point of unconsciousness is also becoming an unfortunate part of our society. The mentality of the public is so low that they do not take the time to outside the limits of normal corrective behavior from verbal violence.”

Poverty and child labour

Poverty is widely regarded as the biggest menace and the biggest triggering point for all the crimes pertinent to children. The data and the information gathered in the process of the in-depth interviews glaringly indicate poverty as an overriding force behind child labor and an extremely associated factor behind the juvenile crimes. There have been numerous surveys on the child labor, but the very last survey at the official level with regards to the child labor was conducted back into 1996. In accordance with the given official survey, 3.3 million children were found as child labors among which 27 percent of them were girls and the rest were boys.

In other words, 2.4 million children doing labor were boys and the 0.9 million girls. As a matter of surprise, this is total 7 percent of the entire workforce of the country. The concentration of the children laboring was the highest in Punjab with about one-third of the total child labors were based in Punjab, other side is, number of child labors in Balochistan was the least with around 14000 children found doing labor.

“There is no denying the fact that the poverty is main cause of child labor, but it is the nucleus of all juvenile crimes. Amid growing financial crisis in the country and the financial constraints of the poor families, the children are either forced to do labor which is also a pushing factor toward crimes or the children getting fed up with the parental attitude go astray or run away.”

Lack of sustainable rehabilitation centers and opportunities

There is an absolute lack of caring and rehabilitating centers in Pakistan for orphans and children who have suffered from some sort of trauma. The rehabilitating centers are meant to reshape the mindset of the children in order to enable to readjust with the society with a beginning with more care and responsibility from the society. There is one Child Care Foundation in the country that was established in 1996. A privately owned foundation, it has opened many offices in the major cities of Pakistan aimed at preventing, eliminating and rehabilitating the forms of child labor that are prevalent in the society.

Though its donor agencies are United Nations and Trade unions, however, it has not registered any improvement in the living standards of the children on the ground. It has laid the foundation to a series of non-formal schools that work to promote the awareness among the parents to prevent their children from doing labor. However, it is comprehensively working and mainly concentrating on the families who reside in the urban cities, on the other hand, the actual problem lies with the poor families who live in the rural areas and send their children to other major cities for work while staying behind in the rural areas.

The distances do matter in this regard as they cannot constantly keep an eye on their children and their activities. During work they can face violence and violence can lead them to escape. Escape leads them to mafias, drug addiction or social circles that gradually drag them toward crimes.

“Poverty, hunger and no rehabilitation from the effects of war by the state pushed a number of tribes to join hands with the militants. However, on the other hand, methods of recruiting young soldiers did not remain confined to tribal belt. In order to create a conducive atmosphere for the recruitment and training of children so their parents must not resist, the religion was used as a cover for terrorism. The militant elements diluted religious institutions and in the disguise of madrassahs holders, they formed madrassahs as the recruiting centers.

Kidnapped, runaways or children with some involvement in criminal activities all were enticed for bright future and transferred to madrassahs where they were very tactfully brainwashed. The juvenile criminals are very easy trap for the terrorists to use them. Starting from the child labor, the children under so severe mental torture that they tend to incline toward crimes. In the process of the crimes, they fall into militant hands where they are brainwashed mostly for suicide activities.”

Pakistan Act 2014 about protection

The fact is that the absence of justice system, juveniles often caught for minor crimes are sent for rigorous imprisonment owing to lack of justice and the children under the custody of the police get more seduced to sexual harassment and violence rather than being rehabilitated.

Every year, 153 cases of juveniles being sent for rigorous imprisonments are registered in Punjab, Sindh, and KPK.

This is the absolute fault of the society. Given the deteriorating conditions of the juvenile justice system and the very abusive environment of the prison system of Pakistan, the Parliament of Pakistan in 2014 passed the Pakistan Protection Act, which not mainly, but partly, deals with juvenile crimes as well. In spite of being an assumptive act, it proved even more disastrous for the cause of the child rights activists throughout the country as well as it brought much to censure in the international media as well.

This bill was adopted against the ongoing spate of extremism in the country where the state gave more authorities to the security officials to detain any suspect; there were many clauses relevant to children that were also overridden by the security condition of the state. The section 6 of the given act enhanced the powers of the security authorities to prolong the detention of the suspects that are harbingering extremism or engaged in crimes pertinent to it that can endanger the security and integrity of the state for a period of over three months, 90 days to be more precise. The fact of the matter is that it overrode the Juvenile Justice System Ordinance of 2000 with the enhanced powers of detention. The section 24 of the given Act can detain the children as well.

“In accordance with the JJSO of 2000, any child under age 15 could not be detained or it prohibited the preventive detention of a child under age 15 which was superseded by the Protection of Pakistan Act. Now any child suspected of terrorist activities could be detained and the worst case scenario is that they would be tried under the Anti-Terrorism Courts which is not something just with the children. Treating a child like a terrorist will humiliate the child’s entire family, thus, ruining any chances of rehabilitation of the child to come back to normal life.”

Child Welfare and Development (NCCWD)

The National Commission for Child Welfare and Development (NCCWD) was founded on the 16th of December 1979 mainly aimed at raising the living standard, paying special focus on children. It went effective through the resolution passed by the government of Pakistan on 1st January 1980. Within a single decade, it went through a series of amendments and eventually in 1991 it was adopted in its final shape by the then Ministry of Health and Social Welfare.

“Much to the chagrin of the Pakistani society and nation, this child welfare organization was supposed to be a child friendly institution reporting every injustice to the United Nations, the other pertinent welfare organizations or to the government of Pakistan, however, it has failed to garner much support and strengthen in its activities and its motto. One of its main goals was to put children at the center of the development making them the key to the future of the nation, to recognize their individuality and give them a respectable identity, give value to their existence and role in the society. In these attempts, it would work to prevent the exploitation, excessive abuse and violence against children, but it has failed to register any improvement in the ground situation and child labor remains a menace and a triggering point for juvenile delinquency.”

Relativity of the crimes in the friend circles

Excellent ask for backings the theory that extra affiliations affect the development of issue lead in youth. Formative research dependable records the enormous measure of covariation among sidekick and youth deviation, paying little personality to control for certification impacts. Amusingly, the most in light of present circumstances saw open medications for

reduction youth join imprisonment from standard drill and mix into settings with various mass youth.

Formative research on partner affect prescribes that pined for favorable aftereffects of get-together interventions in masterminding, vivacious prospering, young respect, and gathering programming might be balanced by fuel sidekick impacts in these settings. Given the general flourishing methodology issues raised by these exposures, there is a need to better regard the conditions under which these amino illness impacts are most verbalized concerning mediation foci and setting, the youngster's formative level, and particular structures for managing youth orchestrate in social gatherings. There is a mushroom change of web bistros, which permit even understudies between the ages of 11-18 years to watch porn recordings, which is a hazard to the general masses. The gatekeepers don't appear to perceive any reason why their youngsters are out for such a long time.

“When in doubt it is nonappearance of seeing with respect to Watchmen. They engage little youngsters to watch English and Indian Films and Dramas, which are stacked with undermining scenes. Telephones are being annihilated by understudies and youthful culpable social affairs. The social media and the friend circles that lead the children astray are actually the faults of the parents and their guardians to prevent their children from engaging in social gatherings that are either above their age or injurious to their innocence. The ultimate responsibility falls upon the parents for not taking care of their children.”

Emerging issue of bonded labour

Bonded labor is an international crime and it is universally recognized as a modern form of slavery and servitude. It is the by-product of extreme and abject poverty which goes on from generation to generation, especially, in the modern day Punjab and Sindh provinces of Pakistan. Often the peasant class falls victim to this kind of monstrous exploitation at the hands of the elite landlords and feudal. The families are so poor that they get indebted to heavy loans and get bonded from generation to generation.

As a result, they cannot get their children educated, so their children get bonded to paying the debts. In order to pay the debts, they have to work from dawn to dusk working like beasts suffering not only from exploitation but from torture and severe abuse. The more the inflation grows stronger, the greater the bonded labor goes. The fact of the matter is that the exploitation never ends.

Most of the bonded labors are youth or children who are working to pay the debts of their elders. The elite feudal exploit them so badly that the contracts never end and they always get doubled. The debt instead of being paid doubles with the passage of time, thus, the bonded labors work from generation to generation. When the children grow old, then the contracts renew with their children, so there develops a vicious cycle of exploitation that never ends. The education and awareness system among these communities or these areas is so weak and the fear of the feudal is so dominant that no one dares to report these heinous crimes to the police or the higher government authorities. As a consequence, the children either try to escape and fall in wrong hands while wandering in other cities far from their parents or they continue to suffer as beasts.

The qualitative model of the research was used in order to get the proper results for the topic of child labor and its impact on juvenile delinquency in Pakistan. Qualitative model, its epistemological position, and adoption of an interpretive approach to the gathering of literature pertinent to topic along the in-depth interviews were the main theme of the methodology used for the given research. Once the interviews were conducted, then the

thematic analysis procedure was used to draw better results. Finally, the conclusion along the recommendations was given.

CONCLUSION

Child labor is main and serious problem for Pakistan and developing countries, there is no denying the fact that it has emerged as a potential hindrance to development and maturity of the society. Children who are forced either by their parents on account of the low income to work and make sustenance or the orphans that are forced for labor fall in this category. The fact of the matter is that the Child Labor which is plaguing our country is the embryonic stage for other serious crimes. A child doing labor undergoes different experiences, sexual assault, physical violence and even being bonded. All these experiences and things make a severe impact on the mind of the child who begins to find ways for vengeance or falls into the bad group of friends. This is the birth stage of juvenile delinquency. These crimes tend to be committed at the young age called the teenage. This is the period when the child doing the crime is not a fact of the consequences and the severity of the crime. Most of the children fall into juvenile crimes unintentionally. If a child is an orphan and engages in crimes then the entire society is responsible, but if the child has parents yet he first engages in hard labor and then from that society the child gets into crimes then it is the fault of the parents, friends and the environment where the child works. The child labor has grown to millions across the world and many major cities of Pakistan like Karachi, Quetta and even Islamabad have found many cases of child labor. The working environment of the hotels, garage and other similar working places is so harsh that children often try to escape them and fall into certain groups that tend to attract them toward crimes.

The generation that is supposed to contribute to the national development is being paralyzed by child labor and juvenile delinquency. The fact of matter is that the children who once go in this path are never reborn. They never come out of the gallows of crime and their imprisonment and punishment push them further into crimes. Many juveniles being punished have later on become very big criminals. Guardians and family have dedication to shape character of the young people. At whatever point guards or family don't indicate moral lead or they execute wrongdoing young people or more enthusiastic family in like way get inspiration to get done with something appalling a reprobate direct. The triangle of socio-economic negligence along with social isolation, the rise of criminal elements in the tribal societies and the penetration of terrorists in the society altogether gave birth to child terrorism. This is another phenomenon that is closely associated with the child labor and juvenile delinquency.

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