

FACTS AND FACTORS ABOUT THE DESTINY OF WORKING AND ESCAPED CHILDREN IN PUNJAB (PAKISTAN)

G. R. PASHA, MUNAWAR IQBAL and SHAHZAD KASHIF FAROOQ*

Abstract. In recent years, the phenomenon of child labour has attracted the worldwide attention. Mostly it has affected the developing countries both politically and economically. The ever-rising menace of child labour has created numerous problems in Pakistan. A comprehensive survey has been conducted in Punjab (Pakistan) to unfold the causes and reasons/circumstances behind child labour. In the province of Punjab, Lahore, Multan and Rahim Yar Khan have remained the focus of our research. During the research, such facts and figures have been collected which have never been explored in the preceding works. This paper contains extensive work over the causes and the future of an escaped child. In this regard a diagram has been worked out to trace the future of escaped child. Furthermore, such figures have been collected to relate child labour and its association or disassociation with different attributes. The work concluded poverty as the root cause of child labour. In the end, some remedial measures have also been suggested to cope with the situation.

I. INTRODUCTION AND REVIEW

The phenomenon of engaging a child below 15, to some profession rather than sending to school, is called child labour. Such a child is paid much less as compared to an adult worker, while his remunerations are received by his parents, guardians or by his masters.

The United States Department of Labour (USA, 1957) defined child labour as “The employment of boys and girls when they are too young to hire for work or when they are employed at jobs unsuitable or unsafe for the children of their age or under conditions inimical to their health or welfare. It

*The authors are, respectively, Professor and Chairman, Department of Statistics, Bahauddin Zakariya University, Multan; Assistant Professor, Institute of Statistics, University of the Punjab, Lahore; and Graduate Student at the Department of Statistics, Bahauddin Zakariya University, Multan (Pakistan).

is an employment that robs children of their rightful heritage of charms for healthy development, full educational opportunities and necessary play time.”

The innocent children who should be at schools or at playgrounds are found engaged in hard physical activities in order to earn the livelihoods of their families.

In Pakistan, child labour is present in a number of forms. Salehgi (1993) has categorized child labour into the following three forms as:

1. Non-exploitative child labour,
2. Hired child labour, and
3. Bound, compelled or forced child labour.

Child labour all over the world has increased rapidly in the recent years. The exact information about the child labour is vague. However, various agencies have tried to put forth an estimate of reality. In 1979 (ILO, 1988), the International Labour Organization (ILO), estimated that the total number of working children around the globe is 52 million. In 1983, this estimate was considered false and ILO mentioned the new figure of 100 million. A comprehensive report of the UN Sub-Commission (UNICEF, 1995) suggested that 145 million children in the age group 10-14 years were working in the world. According to ILO's World Labour Report 1994, about 200 million underage people are working but the UNICEF report (UNICEF, 1991) indicates that 160 million is the correct figure. According to ILO Report 1994 about Pakistan, this estimate was 2 to 3 million children. Recently Zafar (2000) mentioned that in Pakistan more than 4 million children of age group 5 to 15 years are engaged in child labour.

Like most of the developing countries of the world, a large number of children are usually seen working on the places like tea stalls, auto-mobile workshops, brick kilns, weaving industry, power looms and as domestic servants-cum-trash pickers in Pakistan. In other forms of labour, they are also seen begging which they may have to make for their masters. As legislative measures, Government of Pakistan is trying to curb this evil. Still there is a large number of children working on the sites like those mentioned before. According to Zafar (2000), in Pakistan during last 5 years more than 0.2 million children escaped from their homes.

Hussain (1988) studied the relationships existing between economic growth, poverty and child labour. He mentioned that a child has to work for many hours daily in exchange of few coins per month.

Raja (1983) has studied 50 children in various auto workshops. Following are his main findings:

1. 70% of these children work for 9 to 10 hours daily.
2. 76% of these working children belong to illiterate families.

In UNICEF Report (1990) it is mentioned that 20% of children do not go to schools in the developing world.

Anwar and Naeem (1986) analyzed the child labour situation in rural Punjab and found that the innocent children were bound to work under inimical conditions. Most of them don't go to schools and have to perform hard labour to meet the basic needs.

Khan (1982) conducted a survey of 100 children working in a variety of fields in Lahore, Gujranwala and Sialkot and found that major causes of child labour were poverty, family tradition, fight for survival and lack of any other choice. She found that the average age of those working children was 11 years who work to meet the day-to-day needs of their parents and other family members.

Hafeez (1988), for Karachi and villages near Karachi, found that poverty and parentage authorities are the main causes for child labour in those areas. She found that the life for the adult members of such families is very low. She says that compelled child labour is most frequent in those areas.

Ali and Hamid (1999) considered child labour as a function of poverty, parent's education, family tradition, family size, education expenditure and wages of adult labour. They mentioned the distribution of female child labour according to monthly income of mother, monthly income of father, education of mother, education of father, starting age of work, job of mother, number of sisters, number of brothers, monthly payments etc. In their view the reason for increasing child labour is not as simple as it appears to be and they suggested that education is the best antidote against child labour.

II. MAIN DETERMINANTS FOR CHILD LABOUR

In Pakistan, in addition to the major causes discussed in introduction, we found that poverty, lack of education, addicted fathers, migration, working mothers and profession of fathers are main determinants for child labour.

Also in our view child labour may be categorized to the nature of job. We have thus established the five categories in this respect:

- A Domestic servants.

- B The children who are working in the carpet industry. (Moderate type of labour)
- C The children who work in heavy workshops, *i.e.* Lathe etc. (Tough labour)
- D The children who work on the shops as salesmen, *i.e.* canteens, general stores etc.
- E The children who are working in the workshops using light machine tools, *i.e.* tailoring, embroidery etc. (Light labour)

In our research 17.07% children lie in category A, 9.27% in category B, 25.37% in category C, 20.98% in category D and 27.31% in category E.

Among various social evils, posing serious threat to the developing countries, poverty is the dominant one. In Pakistan, it has risen swiftly in the passed decades. According to an ILO's (2000) policy draft, the poverty in Pakistan has risen to 35% in 1998-99 from 18% in 1984-85. Poverty works as a double edge weapon on the poor parents who, on the one hand, change their perception about their love ones as a burden and send them to work rather than to schools and, on the other hand, working as a domestic servant is considered the most appropriate place for such children, where they will have food, clothing and shelter in addition to their wages. Such employment of young kids becomes constant source of income for the parents who never think without it even in their whole life. Due to his small age and less domestic responsibilities the child usually pays more concentration to his work, learns and becomes mature in his profession soon. It favours the employer by saving his money and time.

Lack of awareness and illiteracy are the major causes among parents who avoid sending their kids to schools. It has been observed that 61.31% of the working children are from illiterate families. In addition to this, our education system, being expensive and purposeless, can also be accused for the rising level of child labour in our country.

Our neighbouring country, Afghanistan, is the largest narcotic producing country of the world. Due to this narcotic abuse is on the rise in Pakistan. According to a UN survey report (2000), Pakistan is the largest heroin user of the world. 1.5 million people out of 140 million of the total population are heroin addicts while another 2 million are opium and hashish addicts. At the end of Afghan war the use of narcotics has increased in Pakistan to a large extent. The parents send their children at work so that they might provide money for their intoxication and household expenditures. We found in our survey that 7.54% children who do labour are from addict fathers.

Another factor that makes significant contribution to child labour is migration. In most cases, people are forced to migrate to big cities, due to lack of work opportunities in their hometowns. This is mainly because of two reasons. Firstly, there is usually less economic growth in villages and small towns as compared to cities. Secondly, they migrate again because of lack of awareness of family planning. So the population of small towns increases to such an extent that even if there is some economic growth, the population growth over-shadows it, thus increasing the unemployment rate and decreasing per capita income. Consequently, the residents are forced to migrate. Once a family member migrates, a chain migration process starts, which increases the urban population in the long-run, thus decreasing per capita income and increasing the unemployment rate in cities. The families become poorer and poorer and this forces parents to send their children to work.

Family tradition also exploits the innocent children. If father happens to be a worker under some category of labour, his kids are likely to follow the same track.

Working mothers, too, contribute to the child labour activity. In our survey 28.97% children are from working mothers.

If a child happened to be born in the poor family, ultimately he/she has to work otherwise there is the way to steal, to beg or to leave the parent's home in search of basic human needs. For this last option he/she offers himself/herself to work by his/her own willing for a wage, which can be sufficient to fulfill his/her needs relatively better as he/she was availing at his/her home before escaping. Escape of a child from home may bear the following reasons:

1. Peevishness of the parents.
2. Behaviour of the teachers at schools.
3. Company of other children.
4. Attractions beyond the home.

Generally the meager salaries of fathers provide insufficient basic human needs to their families. This invokes anger and frustration among the family members, which ultimately turn the attitude of the fathers harsh and severe. The children have to face the harshness of their fathers from two sources, *i.e.* one directly and the other through the mother because mother also has to face the angry husband and thus she compensates her anger to children. As a result, the child prefers to leave the house of his parents in

search of physical and mental comfort. After leaving the house, the child faces various problems including food, clothing and shelter. He has a number of options in his mind such as work, steal, beg, die, etc. All these options are bound to worsen the future of the children particularly and the whole generation in general.

Teachers are builders of the nation. Unfortunately in our society the teaching methods are not only useless but harsh too. It has become a preferable practice on the part of the teachers to impart knowledge with strictness and severity. Children are often physically punished for their minor mistakes. This behaviour of teachers makes the atmosphere of the schools unfriendly and unattractive, forcing child to play truant. Such children are never welcomed at their homes so they escape. Contrary to this, it has been observed that female teachers are more popular among the children as compared to the male teachers. According to our survey, 44.39% of the working children face physical as well as mental torture at their working places. On the other hand, the female escaped child faces more humiliation. It is most probable that majority of them is forced to adopt immoral and unethical profession of prostitution making them the defected members of society.

It is psychological phenomenon that environment affects people's behaviour and attitude. Social contacts among children are the fundamental way to transfer behaviour, attitude and habits from one child to the other. Since evil has more power to shift from one person to the other, so such social contacts usually generate negative activities among the children. In some cases the intensity of this negative attitude becomes very high, leaving fatal consequences on the future of the child. In these circumstances, the severity and strictness at home, at school or at the working place plays the role of a catalyst, forcing the child to escape.

It is the human nature that we are inclined more towards what we do not possess. This quality is more frequent in children than in adults. Due to various causes, parents are often unable to fulfill needs of their offspring. Sometimes, parents even snatch the minute but long time savings of the children in case of emergency, leaving the child dejected and frustrated. Such circumstances, sometimes, lead the child to escape.

Now, according to our escaped diagram, the escaped child may have various destinations namely working child, thief, beggar or even may die. It makes us to believe that an escaped child has the worst form of future in most of the discussed options. The escaped diagram may further help us if we collect data regarding the tracks. And after analyzing the same data with

the help of probability laws we can exactly locate the destination of an escaped child.

The probability of a specific track of this diagram may be fixed, by some assumptions, like Bay's theorem. Comparison of different tracks may be made and hence the probability of re-establishment or returning to home of any child may be found, thus the useful recommendations may be given with a little alteration in the options.

III. METHODOLOGY

Suppose we have a sequence of normally distributed random variables $Y_1, Y_2, \dots, Y_i, \dots, Y_n$, with mean and variance as

$$E(Y) = \mu, \quad V(Y) = \sigma^2$$

These variables may be standardized as

$$Z = \frac{Y_i - \mu}{\sigma}, \quad Z \sim N(0, 1)$$

Let us now construct the statistics χ^2 , which is the summation of the square of above variables, i.e. $\sum Z_i^2$ has the distribution

$$f(\chi^2) = \frac{1}{2^{\frac{n}{2}} \Gamma\left(\frac{n}{2}\right)} \chi^{\frac{n}{2}-2} e^{-\frac{\chi^2}{2}}, \quad 0 \leq \chi^2 < \infty$$

$$= 0, \quad \text{otherwise}$$

Where n is the number of independent random variables that were added.

The Chi-square statistic can be used to test the hypothesis about independence of two variables, each of which is classified into a number of categories or attributes. When the quantitative data may be obtained if we simply note the presence or absence of a qualitative characteristics such as a male or female, tall or short, addicted or not addicted, educated or uneducated, disabled or normal, employed or unemployed, satisfied or dissatisfied etc. are called attributes. The attributes cannot be measured accurately but they can be divided into classes and their numbers in each class can be counted. If the data are divided into two distinct and mutually exclusive classes by a single attribute as, for instance, the population of human beings is divided into males and females, the process is called dichotomy. If A and B appear together in a number of cases, we speak them

as being associated but in statistical usage, they are said to be associated only if they appear together in a large number of cases than is to be expected if they were independent. The data presented in contingency tables can be used to test the hypothesis that the two variables of classification are independent. If this hypothesis is rejected, the two variables of classification are not independent and we say that there is some association between the two attributes. To do so, we need the Chi-square test for the acceptance or rejection of the hypothesis. Let there be the following table showing the data:

Sub-population (factor combinations)	Categories or Response (response combinations)	
	1	2 j
1	n_{11}	$n_{12} \dots n_{1j}$
2	n_{21}	$n_{22} \dots n_{2j}$
.	.	.
.	.	.
.	.	.
i	n_{i1}	$n_{i2} \dots n_{ij}$

Let O_{ij} be the observed cell frequency in the i th row and j th column. The expected cell frequencies for i th row and j th column is calculated as

$$E_{ij} = \frac{(A_i)(B_j)}{n}$$

Where A and B are two attributes. Then $\chi^2 = \sum \sum \left[\frac{(O_{ij} - E_{ij})^2}{E_{ij}} \right]$

Distribution Tables

TABLE 1

Distribution of Child Labour According to Their Monthly Income of Father

No.	Monthly Income (Rs.)	Frequency	Percentage
1	500 – 1000	04	02.01
2	1000 – 1500	17	08.54
3	1500 – 2000	23	11.56
4	2000 – 2500	32	16.08
5	2500 – 3000	22	11.06
6	3000 – 3500	43	21.60

7	3500 – 4000	07	03.52
8	4000 – 4500	08	04.02
9	4500 and over	10	05.03
10	No Income	33	16.58
Total		199	100.0

TABLE 2

Distribution of Child Labour According to Their Monthly Income

No.	Monthly Income (Rs.)	Frequency	Percentage
1	1 – 250	52	25.36
2	250 – 500	62	30.24
3	500 – 750	28	13.66
4	750 – 1000	19	09.27
5	1000 – 1250	14	06.83
6	1250 – 1500	06	02.93
7	1500 – 1750	13	06.34
8	1750 and over	11	05.37
Total		205	100.0

TABLE 3

Distribution of Child Labour According to the Number of Brothers

No.	Number of Brothers	Frequency	Percentage
1	One brother	19	09.27
2	Two brothers	40	19.51
3	Three brothers	51	24.88
4	Four brothers	50	24.39
5	Five brothers	30	14.63
6	Six or more brothers	15	07.32
Total		205	100.0

TABLE 4

Distribution of Child Labour According to the Number of Sisters

No.	Number of Sisters	Frequency	Percentage
1	One sister	09	04.39
2	Two sisters	36	17.56
3	Three sisters	64	31.22
4	Four sisters	51	24.88
5	Five sisters	27	13.17
6	Six sisters	11	05.37
7	More than six sisters	07	03.41
Total		205	100.0

TABLE 5

Distribution of Child Labour According to Their Education Level

No.	Education Level	Frequency	Percentage
1	No class	71	34.63
2	Class one	07	03.41
3	Class two	27	13.17
4	Class three	29	14.15
5	Class four	24	11.71
6	Class five	28	13.66
7	Class six or more	19	09.27
Total		205	100.0

TABLE 6

Distribution of Child Labour According to Their Dresses
at the Time of Interview

Dresses	Number of Children		Total
	5-10 Years	10-15 Years	
Dirty Cloth	26	78	104
Proper Cloth	21	71	92
Good Cloth	02	07	09
Total			205

TABLE 7

Distribution of Child Labour According to Their Addicted Fathers

City	Total Fathers	Frequency	Percentage
Multan	106	13	12.26
Lahore	49	00	00.00
Rahim Yar Khan	44	02	04.55
Punjab*	199	15	07.54

*All three cities, *i.e.* Rahim Yar Khan, Multan and Lahore are assumed to represent all Punjab.

TABLE 8

Distribution of Child Labour According to Their Uneducated Fathers

City	Total Fathers	Frequency	Percentage
Multan	106	75	70.76
Lahore	49	22	44.90
Rahim Yar Khan	44	25	56.82
Punjab	199	122	61.31

TABLE 9

Distribution of Child Labour According to Their Disabled Fathers

City	Total Fathers	Frequency	Percentage
Multan	106	05	4.72
Lahore	49	03	6.12
Rahim Yar Khan	44	00	0.00
Punjab	199	08	4.02

TABLE 10

Distribution of Child Labour According to Their Unemployed Fathers

City	Total Fathers	Frequency	Percentage
Multan	106	24	22.64
Lahore	49	05	10.20
Rahim Yar Khan	44	04	09.09
Punjab	199	33	16.58

TABLE 11
Profession / Categories and Child Labour

City	A	%	B	%	C	%	D	%	E	%
Multan	23	20.91	19	17.27	31	28.18	15	13.64	22	20.00
Lahore	07	14.00	00	00.00	09	18.00	20	40.00	14	28.00
R. Y. Khan	05	11.11	00	00.00	12	26.67	08	17.78	20	44.44
Punjab	35	17.07	19	09.27	52	25.37	43	20.98	56	27.31

TABLE 12
Father's Professions / Categories and Child Labour

City	A	%	B	%	C	%	D	%	E	%
Multan	00	00.00	13	15.85	05	06.10	58	70.73	06	07.32
Lahore	00	00.00	00	00.00	02	04.54	36	81.82	06	13.64
R. Y. Khan	00	00.00	00	00.00	04	10.00	32	80.00	04	10.00
Punjab	00	00.00	13	07.83	11	06.63	126	75.90	16	09.64

TABLE 13
Distribution of Child Labour According to Their Working Mothers

City	Total Mothers	Frequency	Percentage
Multan	107	31	28.97
Lahore	50	17	34.00
Rahim Yar Khan	45	09	20.00
Punjab	202	57	28.22

TABLE 14
Distribution of Child Labour According to Their Working Mothers

City	Total Working Children	Frequency	Percentage
Multan	110	39	35.45
Lahore	50	30	60.00
Rahim Yar Khan	45	22	48.89
Punjab	205	91	44.39

Test of Hypotheses

TABLE 15

Test Hypothesis: The children at work and their addicted fathers are associated

Fathers	Number of Children at Work		Total
	5-10	10-15	
Addicted	01	14	15
Not addicted	48	136	184
Total	49	150	199

*Decision: Accept

$$\chi^2_{(cal)} = 2.8183$$

*We tested all of the hypotheses on 10% level of significance.

TABLE 16

Test Hypothesis: The children at work and their disabled fathers are associated

Fathers	Number of Children at Work		Total
	5-10	10-15	
Disabled	02	06	08
Normal	47	144	191
Total	49	150	199

Decision: Reject

$$\chi^2_{(cal)} = 0.00064$$

TABLE 17

Test Hypothesis: The children at work and their uneducated fathers are associated

Fathers	Number of Children at Work		Total
	5-10	10-15	
Uneducated	24	98	122
Educated	25	52	77
Total	49	150	199

Decision: Accept

$$\chi^2_{(cal)} = 4.1637$$

TABLE 18

Test Hypothesis: The children at work and their unemployed fathers are associated

Fathers	Number of Children at Work		Total
	5-10	10-15	
Unemployed	07	26	33
Employed	42	124	166
Total	49	150	199

Decision: Reject

$$\chi^2_{(cal)} = 0.2479$$

TABLE 19

Test Hypothesis: The children at work and their working mothers are associated

Mothers	Number of Children at Work		Total
	5-10	10-15	
Working	19	38	57
Not working	30	115	145
Total	49	153	202

Decision: Accept

$$\chi^2_{(cal)} = 3.5553$$

TABLE 20

Test Hypothesis: The children at work and children who go to cinema are associated

Cinema	Number of Children at Work		Total
	5-10	10-15	
Go	08	28	36
Don't Go	41	128	169
Total	49	156	205

Decision: Reject

$$\chi^2_{(cal)} = 0.0678$$

TABLE 21

Test Hypothesis: The children at work and children who watch TV are associated

TV	Number of Children at Work		Total
	5-10	10-15	
Watch	30	114	144
Don't Watch	19	42	61
Total	49	156	205

Decision: Reject

$$\chi^2_{(cal)} = 2.5067$$

TABLE 22

Test Hypothesis: The children at work and their brothers who do jobs are associated

Number of other brothers	Number of Children at Work		Total
	5-10	10-15	
Work	75	174	249
Don't Work	169	282	451
Total	244	456	700

Decision: Accept

$$\chi^2_{(cal)} = 3.8187$$

TABLE 23

Test Hypothesis: The children's professions and their father's professions are associated

Children's Profession	Father's Profession					Total
	A	B	C	D	E	
A	00	00	00	22	00	22
B	00	09	00	04	02	15
C	00	01	08	33	01	43
D	00	00	01	36	02	39
E	00	03	02	31	11	47
Total	00	13	11	126	16	166

Decision: Accept

$$\chi^2_{(cal)} = 85.7340$$

A to E are the profession categories as detailed in introduction.

Path Explanation of Escaped Diagram

In this diagram we used three input lines, x , y and z . Each x , y or z can be activated by 1 or 0, '1' means yes (done) and '0' means no (not done).

These input lines are the input to a decoder with eight outputs. The symbolic representations of these outputs be as under:

TABLE 24

W	Work	D	Death
T	Theft	B	Begging
S	Social Evil	Kn	Kidnapping
C	Criminal	Pst	Prosperity

The inputs are presumed values they are linked by different combinations to each output as shown in Table 25 link these:

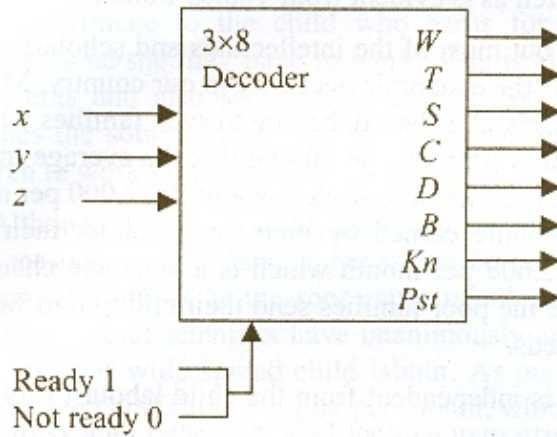
TABLE 25

Inputs			W	T	S	C	D	B	Kn	Pst
x	y	z								
1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1

The outputs are different tracks, which are to be followed by a child when he/she leaves the house. Each of these tracks has sub-tracks again except the death. It is assumed that as soon as a child leaves the house he/she does not reach to the stage of prosperity that is why, it is missing on the 1st step just after leaving the house. Prosperity can be attained at any later stage after working, theft etc.

After the input from x , y , z that is escaping from home the child performs any action of 1st step. If, for example, the action is work, the output '1' from work will invoke the decoder ' W ' through 'OR' gate. From this decoder again through these options x , y , z , there may be 8 options including prosperity but one can occur at a time. Each option is connected to its respective multiple 'OR' gates. Thus '1' from these options when activates

the multiple 'OR' gate, 'x' being the symbol when this multiple 'OR' gate is activated it produces '1' as output which becomes the input for the respective decoder.



IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Our research shows that the working children and their uneducated fathers are associated with each other. This work also shows that the illiteracy and ignorance of the parents cause the problem of child labour. It is observed that 61.31% of the working children are the sons/daughters of uneducated fathers (Table 8).

The illiterate people often engage their children to earn in their early ages. So they don't care for the education. They give priority only to the money, which is evident from Table 2. Table 17 shows that working child's behaviour is closely associated with the education attained by his/her father. Illiterate parents utilize their children as capital goods and exploit their children due to their own ignorance.

The child labour may not be connected to the unemployed fathers only. Although unemployed fathers produce the children who have to work but it is not the only source of child labour, there may be other sources like addiction and peevishness of the parents, etc.

It has also been proved that the children's professions and their fathers' professions are associated with each other (Table 23). This means children adopt the profession of their parents. On their own wake, parents send their children to work as they have also been working. Children themselves also prefer to adopt their parent's tradition of not going to school and thus they have to select their parent's profession. It is widely accepted that if there are

more working hands in a family, that family is relatively more prosperous. Therefore many families prefer to send their children to work rather than to schools. They also violate the normal bounds of the society and rather feel proud of their working children as is evident from Tables 1 and 2.

It is not our perception but most of the intellectuals and scholars would also agree that child labour is the economic necessity in our country. Most of the children, on whom our research is based, belong to such families who are unable to nourish their children properly. We found that the average income of the parents compelling their children to work is about Rs. 2,000 per month and with the addition of income earned by their single child, their total income becomes about Rs. 2,609 per month which is a welcome change in their total income. Therefore the poor families send their children to work in order to fulfill their basic needs.

Disability of the father is independent from the child labour (Table 16). Though disability plus poverty may compel fathers to send their children to work.

Table 15 associates child labour with the drug addition of the fathers. Addicted people are not only idles but also a great financial burden on their families. In such circumstances, children are compelled to work and earn.

Watching television cannot be made responsible for the engagement towards child labour as enunciated in Table 21.

Our work also proves that the child labour is associated with the mothers who themselves do the labour (Table 19). This means that most of the children falling in the category of child labour belong to working women.* This shows that the children falling under the category of child labour belong to poor families. Thus the poverty here seems to be the root cause of child labour. In our work, 28.22% children are from such mothers (Table 13). If the mothers work they may also carry with them their innocent children, so that these children help them in discharge of their duties. Such help may win encouragement for the child, but it becomes the reason for a child to become labourer. Thus the chances of his going to school become obsolete.

Going to cinema don't cause the child labour (Table 20), because most of the children who are doing labour don't visit cinemas.

*Here the women working in different offices or in government organizations who are educated are not included. We have only considered the mothers who really do the labour like washing clothes in some houses, sweeping (not as government job), etc.

This research shows that the working children and their brothers, who also do jobs, are associated with each other (Table 22). This means that if a child happens to do a labour his brother is also likely to adopt the same pattern of working, because at home he/she may feel that the parents give more importance to the child who earns for them. So for winning the sympathies he/she may have to work. This is also the source of income for the parents and also save the expenditure on studies. The working child becomes the source of income for them and hence they happily send their children to work rather than to schools.

Although unemployment, illiteracy, addiction of parents, etc. are the basic reasons of child labour, but it can be connected directly to indirectly with poverty, which is the root cause of all social evils. Similarly a large number of social scientists have unanimously agreed that the poverty is the main cause of wide spread child labour. As our research shows that on the average one child earns Rs. 608 per month, which is a handsome increase in the income of needy parents. No doubt the working children cause the income of their parents to increase but actually it is decay on their resources. The working child may suffer an accident at his working place due to his lack of experience, skill, knowledge and physical ability, which may deprive him any of his limbs. Instead of being the source of income, he may become the burden for the poor family. Thus, if we decrease the poverty we can control other factors of child labour also and hence the child labour may be reduced to a reasonable extent.

V. FINDINGS

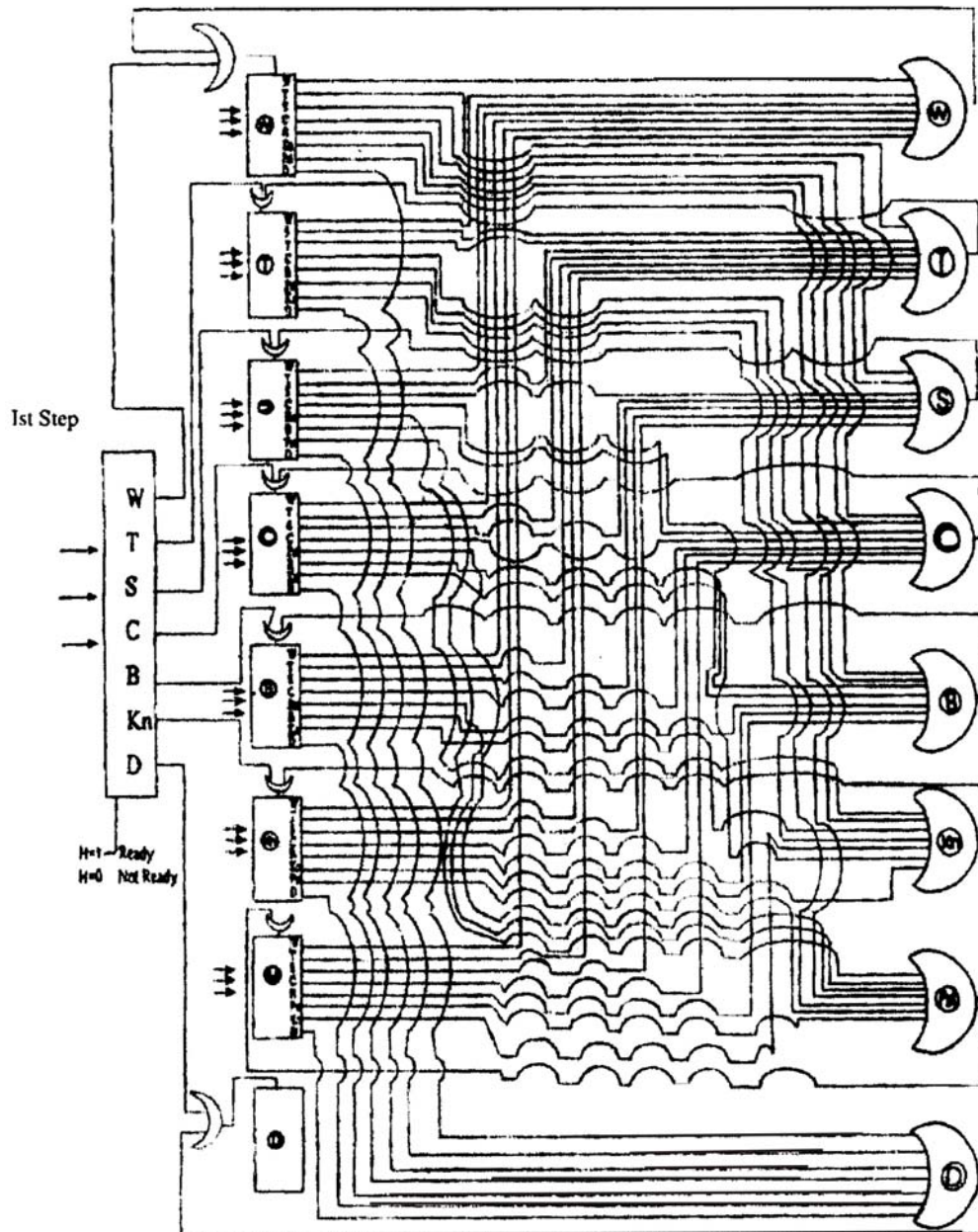
1. Working children are directly associated with the addicted fathers. The following data will help us to support this argument:
 - (i) Fathers of 7.54% children in Punjab are addicted.
 - (ii) Fathers of 12.26% children in Multan are addicted.
 - (iii) Fathers of 4.55% children in Rahim Yar Khan are addicted.
2. Working children are also closely associated with their uneducated fathers. Supporting data:
 - (i) Fathers of 61.31 % working children in Punjab are uneducated.
 - (ii) Fathers of 70.75% working children in Multan are uneducated.
 - (iii) Fathers of 44.90% working children in Lahore are uneducated.

- (iv) Fathers of 56.82% working children in R. Y. Khan are uneducated.
3. Working children are merely associated with their unemployed fathers. Supporting data:
- (i) In Punjab 16.58% working children's fathers are unemployed.
- (ii) In Multan 22.64% working children's fathers are unemployed.
- (iii) In Lahore 10.20% working children's fathers are unemployed.
- (iv) In R. Y. Khan 9.09% working children's fathers are unemployed.
4. Working children are merely associated with their disabled fathers. Supporting data:
- (i) In Punjab fathers of 4.02% working children are disabled.
- (ii) In Multan fathers of 4.72% working children are disabled.
- (iii) In Lahore fathers of 6.12% working children are disabled.
5. Working children are closely associated with their working mothers. Supporting data:
- (i) In-Punjab mothers of 28.22% working children are working.
- (ii) In Multan mothers of 28.97% working children are working.
- (iii) In Lahore mothers of 34.00% working children are working.
- (iv) In R. Y. Khan mothers of 20.00% working children are working.
6. The practice of watching TV does not enhance child labour. The following percentages of children who watch TV do not go for work:
- | | |
|-----------------|--------|
| (i) Punjab | 70.24% |
| (ii) Multan | 70.91% |
| (iii) Lahore | 68.00% |
| (iv) R. Y. Khan | 71.11% |
7. It has been observed that in Punjab the working duration of a child is 10.5 hours daily which is an unfortunate figure. While the situation is more deplorable in Multan, Lahore and Rahim Yar Khan where a child has to work for 11, 10 and 11 hours per day, respectively.

VI. POLICY

1. In order to reduce the child labour and to discourage the escaping of children from their homes, government should take appropriate measures for poor families so that they may send their children to schools. It is also the responsibility of the government to provide maximum assurance to the parents about the security of jobs after completion of education. In this respect, attention should be focused on the establishment of job oriented professional institutions in the localities where majority of the population is poor.
2. It has also been discussed that drug addicted parents never encourage their school going children, rather they force them to work and earn. Therefore, it is advised that strict measures to reduce the drug abuse should be adopted. In addition to the rigorous movement against the drug traffickers, a systematic campaign elaborating the dangerous effects of drug abuse should be launched through the print as well as the electronic media.
3. Working mothers are also responsible for encouraging child labour in our society. The practice of bringing little boys and girls by their mothers to their working place ultimately makes them working children. So to check this menace, necessary legislative measures should be adopted.
4. The government, scholars, intellectuals and concerned non-government organizations should take help from the escaped home diagram in order to introduce practical reforms in the society. The diagram would help in explaining the hazardous consequences of the escaping from homes. Taken into consideration the fable results of this practice, necessary, effective and practical measures are need of the hour.
5. Last but not the least is the lack of awareness among the masses about the importance of education. Therefore, a campaign should be launched at grass root level to make people aware of moral as well as financial aspects of education in one's life.

Escaped Diagram



REFERENCES

- Ali, Karamat and Abdul Hamid (1999), "Major determinants of female child labour in Urban Multan (Punjab, Pakistan)". *Lahore Journal of Economics*, Volume 4, No. 1.
- Anwar, M. and M. Naeem (1986), "Situation of Children in Rural Punjab". Lahore: Department of Sociology, University of the Punjab.
- Hafeez, Sabeeha (1988), *The Changing Pakistan Society*. Karachi: Royal Book Company.
- Hussain, Akmal (1988), *Strategic Issues in Pakistan's Economic Policy*. Lahore: Progressive Publishers.
- ILO (1988), *Situation Analysis of Children and Women in Pakistan*. UNICEF and Pakistan National Institute of Population Studies.
- Khan, Shaheen (1982), "Compelled child labour in Punjab: A case study". Lahore: Punjab Economic Research Institute.
- New York Times*, 20 April 2000, Wednesday Edition, New York.
- "Poverty Spreads", *The Dawn*, 4 May 2000, Karachi.
- Raja, Chand (1983), "Child labour: An explanatory study of fifty children working in auto workshops". Lahore: Department of Social Work, University of the Punjab.
- Salehgi, Yaqub H. (1993), "The issue re-examined". *The Dawn*, 16 October 1993. Karachi (Pakistan).
- UNICEF (1981), *Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities*. New York: UNICEF.
- UNICEF (1990), *Development Goals and Strategies for Children in the 1990s*. New York: UNICEF.
- UNICEF (1995), *Progress of Nations*. New York: UNICEF.
- USA (1957), *The Encyclopaedia Americana*, Volume 6. USA: America Corporation.

Zafar, Rauf (2000), *The Daily Jang*, 16 January 2000. Sunday Magazine, Lahore.