

Child Labor in Dhaka City: A Study on Nature and Consequences



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Child Labor in Dhaka City: A Study on Nature and Consequences

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**Dedicated
to
My Family**

Declaration

I, Roushan Ara Begum declare that the thesis entitled **Child Labor in Dhaka City: A Study on Nature and Consequences** has been prepared and presented by me for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy. The existing material of this thesis is original and it has not been submitted previously. A whole or a part of this dissertation has not been submitted to any institution, diploma, or academic publication for any degree. This dissertation has been submitted to the Institute of Social Welfare and Research, University of Dhaka, for the requirements of the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Social Welfare.

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Regards

ROUSHAN ARA BEGUM

Certificate

It is my pleasure to certify that Roushan Ara Begum bearing registration No: 72/2017-2018 has prepared her Ph.D. dissertation, entitled **Child Labor in Dhaka City: A Study on Nature and Consequences**, under my direct guidance and supervision to be awarded a Doctor of Philosophy degree from the Institute of Social Welfare and Research, University of Dhaka. This is her work. The dissertation or any part of it has not been submitted to any academic institution or organization for any degree or publication.

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Abstract

This study focuses on various concepts and studies associated with child labor, their socioeconomic issues, and global and Bangladesh perspectives. It analyzes the driving factors responsible for child labor in Bangladesh and the world, The various forms and the nature of child labor in Dhaka city, and the consequences on the life and living of child laborers. In addition, the study explores the child laborer's status regarding socio-economic deprivation, which is considered necessary in measuring the well-being of life. The principal objective of the study is to know and understand the overall situation of child laborers in Dhaka city. Considering the maintained objectives, this study has collected data on overall socio-economic conditions, the nature of work, and the consequences of child laborers involved in eight different sectors. These are motor workshop laborers, Laguna transport helpers, vegetable shop assistants, hotel and tea stall laborers, domestic workers, welding factory laborers, load carriers, and garbage collectors. The main variables and concepts of the study are child, child labor, and Dhaka City. The study is conducted in Dhaka, the most important urban center using a mixed-method approach with a questionnaire survey on 240 child laborers and 10 case studies. Moreover, valuable secondary information has been used from the beginning to the end to make the study worthwhile. In addition, it is considered pertinent to incorporate 30 guardians (both father and mother) and 30 employers of child laborers. The study discusses theories of alternative development theory, population geography: (Demographic Transition), vicious circle poverty theory, household behavior theory, and human resource development theory. The research considers domestic child workers who are 6-18 years of age and can provide data for the study. It reveals that most child workers are between 12-14 years of age. The educational status of the child laborers and their parents is deficient though the children's academic level looks better than that of their parents.

The study indicated that most children were interested in attending school. The study explores that, in most cases, children belonging to poor families involve themselves in income-generating activities and try to meet their needs besides contributing economically to their own families. The employers and their parents also mentioned that financial crisis is the most significant force driving children into the workplace.

The study findings indicate that the main reason for migration is poverty. There is no fixed minimum wage structure for child labor. Most child laborers spend their earnings on family and themselves. That is, they are the principal earners of their family. In the study, wages are considered a phenomenon of monthly payment. Child laborers of Dhaka city are found to work for long hours in unhealthy places. They have no weekly holiday and no specific time for work. They live in slums that are in unhygienic conditions and do not fulfill human rights. The child laborers' parents are involved in different jobs, such as day laborers, construction workers, rickshaw/van pullers, vegetable sellers, cleaners, hawkers, domestic workers, transport laborers, and farmers. The study shows that one hundred fifty-three child laborers are associated with different educational institutions. The remaining eighty-seven child laborers were not associated with any institution.

According to the study, child laborers receive medical care in case of illness. A significant percentage of working children consulted local pharmacy salespeople and took prescribed medications. Throughout their illness, their parents paid the bills. Vegetable shop assistants, load carriers, and garbage collectors do not get any festival allowance but get 'Boksis' from people. Other child laborers get a festival allowance from their owners, the quantity of which is scanty. The child laborer gets annual leave for a few days. The owners cut off their wages if they are absent from their work for any reason.

The study shows that a large number of child laborers are abused and the abuse is the most grievous experience by which a child loses its beautiful childhood and faces physical and psychological damage. Children are abused in a variety of ways-verbally, physically, mentally, and sexually. They have also been mistreated by others. They are sometimes tortured by the police and organized crime.

The result also shows that they are abused regularly by the owners. The recreational facilities of the child laborers are minimal. Watching television is the central recreational facility of child laborers. Children are vulnerable to a wide range of problems or hazards, and they suffer biological diseases because of congested, unhygienic working environments. A significant number of child laborers are using drugs out of their curiosity.

According to the study, mental and behavioral issues are more common when children are working. Growing older and leading a lonely, stressful life have the greatest psychological effects. They endure more terrible psychological harm. Many child laborers work hard to fulfill their desires to get better. The study demonstrates that practically all child laborers are unaware of the laws and rights of children. Many guardians are unaware of the legal provisions. On the other hand, employers and guardians have some recommendations for reducing the use of child labor. The majority of employers and guardians agreed that government funding for rehabilitation and child labor prevention programs is crucial. The study made it abundantly evident that, in addition to other factors, poverty is the main cause of child labor. Therefore, the government should play a role in overcoming the child labor issue, and NGOs and civil society should come forward.

However, it can be concluded that children in child labor are at risk of physical and mental harm. Child labor compromises children's education, restricting their rights limiting their future opportunities, and leading to vicious inter-generational cycles of poverty and child labor.

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List of Abbreviations

Acronyms	Elaborations
BANBEIS	Bangladesh Bureau of Educational Information and Statistics
BBS	Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics
BDRC	Bangladesh Development Research Center
BLAST	Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Truss
BNWLA	Bangladesh National Women Lawyers Association
BSA	Bangladesh Shishu Academy
BSAF	Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar Forum
CLS	Child Labor Survey
CRAC, B	Child Rights Advocacy Coalition in Bangladesh
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Children
CTCs	Counter-Trafficking Committees
CWCS	Centre for Women and Children Studies
DCC	Dhaka City Corporation
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
FLSA	Fair Labor Standards Act
GED	General Economics Division
GOB	The Government of Bangladesh
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HSC	Higher Secondary School Certificate
IBGE	Institute of Geography and Statistics
IBSA	India, Brazil, and South Africa

IFRC	International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
ILO	International Labor Organization
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IPEC	International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labor
MICS	Multiple Indicators Cluster Survey
MPD	Minor Psychiatric Disorders
MSVSB	Monitoring the situation of Vital Statistics of Bangladesh
NCLS	National Child Labor Survey
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NPA	National Plan of Action
ODI	Overseas Development Institute
OHCHR	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
PBI	Police Bureau of Investigation
PLA	Platform for Labor Action
PPE	Personal Protective Equipment
PTSD	Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder
RMG	Ready Made Garment
SANEM	South Asian Network on Economic Modeling
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SFYP	Seventh Five-Year Plan
SSC	Secondary School Certificate
STD	Sexually Transmitted Diseases
TBS	The Business Standard
UK	United Kingdom

UN	United Nations
UNCRC	United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
USA	United States of America
USDOL	US Department of Labor
WEO	World Economic Outlook
WFCL	Worst Form of Child Labor
WHO	World Health Organization

Chapter One

This is an introductory chapter of the study paper that includes a background of the study, rationale of the study, an operational definition of the concept related to the study, objectives, and limitations of the study.

Chapter 1: Introduction

1.1 Background of the Study

Child labor is the most discussed issue in the global context. But the child laborers are the section in inhuman, disadvantaged, and undesirable situations. They are the most precious human capital of any country. To uphold children's rights, numerous governmental and non-governmental organizations are working. But unfortunately, child labor remains a serious problem in developing countries. In its most extreme forms, child labor enslaves children, separates them from their families, and exposes them to dangerous conditions and diseases. The number of children in child labor has risen to 160 million worldwide an increase of 8.4 million children in the last four years-with millions more at risk due to the impacts of COVID-19 (International Labour Organization, 2021).

Additional economic shocks and school closures caused by COVID-19 mean that children already in child labor may be working longer hours or under worsening conditions, while many more may be forced into the worst forms of child labor due to job and income losses among vulnerable families. Children in child labor are at risk of physical and mental harm. Child labor compromises children's education, restricting their rights and limiting their future opportunities, and leads to vicious cycle of poverty and child labor. "With school closures in place since March 2020 and poverty levels rising amidst the pandemic, UNICEF is concerned that growing numbers of children are being pushed into child labor. Families are struggling to cope and using every available means to survive (International Labour Organization, 2021). The COVID-19 crisis is likely to push millions more children into child labor (International Labour Organisation, 2021a). According to TBS Report, (2021), child labor is the exploitation of children who are deprived of their childhood by employment that keeps them from going to school or harms their physical, mental, or social development. The nation is deprived of acquiring the advanced knowledge and technological capabilities necessary for economic development and transformation to increase income and improve living conditions. This is because older children are not given the option to pursue higher education. Throughout history, there have been varied degrees of child labor. Many child laborers, who came from lower-class households, were between the ages of 5 to 14 and worked in Western countries and

their colonies throughout the late 19th and early 20th centuries (Bala, 2018). The majority of children work in manufacturing, mining, factories, home-based assembly, and services.

Early industrial economies are fundamentally based on child labor. Childhood in the contemporary sense was not commonly understood in pre-industrial society. As soon as they are competent, children frequently start taking an active role in tasks like child care, hunting, and farming. Children as young as 13 are treated as adults in many civilizations and participate in activities that are reserved for adults. Pre-industrial societies valued children's labor since it was essential for their life and the survival of their community for them to work. Pre-industrial societies were characterized by low productivity and short life expectancy; preventing children from participating in productive work would be more harmful to their welfare and that of their group in the long run. In pre-industrial societies, there was little need for children to attend school. This is especially the case in non-literate societies. In the modern world, child labor is still a significant issue. According to the most recent estimates, about 1 in 10 children worldwide, or 160 million children, were working at the start of 2020, including 63 million girls and 97 million boys. The health, safety, and moral development of 79 million children—nearly half of all those who were engaged in child labor—were directly at risk from the hazardous work (International Labour Organisation, 2022b). In the metropolitan areas of Bangladesh, many child laborers are engaged in the informal sector. The informal sector often lies outside the jurisdiction of government legislation (Ahad et al., 2021). The Child Labor Survey (CLS) Bangladesh 2013 findings reveal that 1.28 million children engaged in hazardous child labor; 1.1 million children work more than 42 hours weekly (International Labour Organisation, 2015). Child labor, however, highly supports its flourishing economy. The following facts about child labor in Bangladesh further examine this human rights violation. a) Currently, 4.3 percent of children (between the ages of 5 and 14) in Bangladesh engage in exploitative work to support their families. b) Eighty-three percent of child laborers work in rural areas. Since resources and jobs are more readily available in the city, children may seek employment in urban areas for low wages. c) Children are especially vulnerable to exploitation and receive minimum compensation for their work. Research by the Overseas Development Institute (ODI) revealed that child laborers worked an average of 64 hours weekly. Furthermore, these children earn less

the \$2 per day. d) The National child labor survey reported 1.3 million child laborers in Bangladesh. The International Labor Organization (ILO) estimates that approximately 5 million children are full-time workers (Thelwell, 2019). Children from low-income and disadvantaged backgrounds in Bangladesh typically drop out of school and work as wage workers. Although parents send their children to work to better their chances of survival, they are not usually aware of the long-term consequences that child labor will have for their own families.

Conscious residents, lawmakers, and legislators have been concerned about the rising amount of child labor in Bangladesh. Children working as garbage collectors, shoeshine boys, rickshaw/van pullers, laundry boys, hotel/mess cooks, child prostitutes, brick/stone crushing, blacksmiths, automobile workshop workers, battery recharging shop workers, welding, printing press, coolies/mintis (porters) at bazaar/launch terminal/railway station/bus terminal, motor transport-helper, bookbinder, hotel/canteen boy, and domestic workers are common in Dhaka. Children who are exposed to hazardous conditions at work may experience terrible impacts that permanently harm their psychological and developmental processes. Physically strenuous work, such as carrying heavy objects or being required to adopt unnatural positions, may permanently affect or impair growing bodies. Children suffer more readily from chemical hazards and radiation than adults and have less disease resistance. Children are also much more vulnerable than adults to physical, sexual, and emotional abuse. They suffer more devastating psychological damage from living and working in an environment where they are denigrated or oppressed. A recent ILO- UNICEF report published on the event of the Global Conference on the Elimination of Child Labor in May 2022 urges that strong social protection systems are necessary for the reduction and eventual elimination of child labor by reducing family poverty risks and vulnerability (International Labour Organisation, 2022a), supporting livelihoods and school enrolment amongst other things, government social protection systems are essential in the fight to eradicate and prevent child labor (The Business Standard, 2023). Children are generally more likely to be engaged in traditional employment than to be considering opportunities. They have no idea where to go or what would be best for their future job. In the aforementioned framework, successful execution of the policy initiative and legal rulings are essential to improve the overall state of children's rights. To create a safer environment for children, it is essential to create effective systems for preventing violence, safeguarding children

from damage and exploitation, reintegrating and rehabilitating children into society, and prosecuting violent offenders. *Child Labor in Dhaka City: A Study on Nature and Consequences* seeks to evaluate the actual landscape of child laborers in Dhaka city, their socioeconomic repercussions, their livelihoods, and hazardous working conditions, and identify to eliminate the hazards of child labor based on the statements of respondents.

1.2 Rational of the Study

Child labor is a matter of deep concern in the academic and practice field in the modern world. Child laborers live in impoverished and underprivileged situations. A child laborer is far away from getting the opportunities for minors to enjoy their childhood by going to school and having a decent attempt to succeed. They are condemned to a life of limited opportunities. It is, therefore, necessary to ensure that every child is protected and not exploited by their employers. It is not just the responsibility of the parents to eliminate child labor but also that of the government and society.

Participation of children in the labor market deprives them of the opportunities to acquire education, skills, and training essential for being equipped in the competitive circumstances of contemporary society. According to Khan (1999), special categories of child laborers are Hazardous child labor, Child workers at night, Domestic workers, and Children in prostitution.

The most common situation in which children are at risk is when they work in hazardous occupational sectors (International Labour Organisation, 1919). It is possible to determine whether children are working in dangerous conditions in urban areas, which would be harmful to their physical and mental development. 27 economic activities were listed by ILO-IPEC and UNICEF, including construction work, welding, rickshaw (tricycle) pulling, rickshaw-van pulling, brick/stone breaking, tempo (three-wheeler transport), bus/truck helper, and so on. The Asian Child Labor Report by UNICEF from 1999 states that around 40 businesses in Bangladesh exploit child labor, frequently in dangerous circumstances and with little regard for health and safety, as well as musculoskeletal and respiratory ailments (UNICEF, 1999). The major harmful factors behind the hazards were exposure to flame, chemical substances, gas, fume, dust, sharp equipment, extreme heat and cold, high probability of accidents, etc.

In Dhaka city, many children work at night. ILO-UNICEF study identified 35 economic activities, including porter, garbage picker, hotel/tea stall boy, vegetable shop assistant, and mobile betel leaf/cigarette/chocolate/fruit/peanut seller. Moreover, child prostitution is a nighttime activity. In Dhaka, it is easy to find child laborers selling flowers from early in the morning till late at night at any significant road crossing.

The majority of the child laborers serving as informal child labor are involved in household work. They are regarded as domestic child laborers. Children from low-income families are often forced to work as domestic helpers because of poverty. They are employed by wealthy, middle-class, and lower-middle-class households (Islam, 2010). Over 300,000 child laborers are thought to be employed as domestic help in the metropolis of Dhaka. Around 81% of them are female. The majority of domestic workers work 16 - 17 hours daily (Islam, 2010).

One of the worst types of child labor is commercial sexual exploitation. And, this sort of labor involves female children who are primarily active in big cities. Children are exploited in drug trafficking and pornographic film production in addition to being sexually abused. A survey of recognized red-light districts in and around the city of Dhaka found that these girls were frequently forced into prostitution due to their acute poverty. It was found that an intermediary sold off about 50% of those girls. Approximately 25% of them voluntarily chose to work in the sex industry, 25% were prostitutes' daughters, and 10% were adoptive children (Islam, 2010).

There is overwhelming evidence that childhood labor comes with serious physical health problems which negatively affect the children's physical development. Long working hours arose their feeling of frustration and inadequacy. Their involvement in risky work resists building their emotional and cognitive skills, and they become withdrawn, introverted, and uncommunicative. Child laborers are typically paid less than adults in all varieties of jobs even though they perform the same work and are forced to work beyond regular working hours. In countries where children are required to labor with hazardous chemicals, long-term health issues like cancer and lung disease are widespread. Every year, children who are pushed into prostitution suffer from high rates of HIV/AIDS and other Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs,) as well as pregnancy, drug addiction, and mental disorders. In Bangladesh

nowadays, child labor is a critical concern. Child labor is growing daily in several different sectors. The activities of child labor in Bangladesh are the main subject of this study. The study investigates the many elements related to child work and focuses on the causes of child labor in Bangladesh. The objectives of the study are to examine the nature and consequences of child labor and provide some final policy statements against child labor in Bangladesh. The study will emphasize and work on some burning issues that are very close to child labor. Parents are still not aware of their children's rights. The findings of the research would play an influential role in increasing awareness of our parents and society regarding child labor and its harmful aspects.

First and foremost, it is our people's responsibility to contribute to society. It might begin at our house. The street children will receive some financial support from us. Those who want to help them should unite together. To create welfare groups, we should speak out against those who are doing this and boycott them. Also, we should inform them of the laws governing offenses like child labor. Again we should increase public awareness of the issue. Governments can also have a significant impact. First, they can enact moral laws against child labor and vigorously enforce them against those who force them into hard labor. Governments should also make sure that children have access to food, shelter, education, and other necessities. The policies needed to arbitrate will be developed with the aid of this research. In the study, the term "child labor" refers to the work of those who are employed between the ages of 6 and 18. So, the dissertation is very much important to analyze the situation of child laborers and their daily lives.

1.3 Definition of the Concepts Related to the Study

1.3.1 Child

A child is defined under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child as any person who is less than the age of eighteen unless the age of majority is reached earlier under national law. (Convention on the Rights of the Child, Article 1. Website of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights of the United Nations (OHCHR). The United Nations. November 20, 1989 (OHCHR, 1989). On January 13, 2015, the original version was archived. taken from 6 November 2020. The constitution of Bangladesh states that males and females under the age of sixteen are

considered children. According to the National Child Policy of 2011, teens under the age of 18 must be treated as children. According to the Children Act of 2013, everyone under the age of 18 (eighteen) is considered a child for this Act. The age of a child is set at sixteen in Bangladesh's factory law, compared to twelve in the Shops and Establishments Act. A child must be under the age of fifteen according to the Mining Law, eighteen according to the Contract Law, and fifteen according to the Child (Labor Registrar) Law. Someone under the age of eighteen is considered a child by Muslim marriage rules (Banglapedia, 2021).

Table 1: Child under various laws of Bangladesh

Sl. No.	Name of laws	Age limit for a child
1.	The Labor Act, 2006	Below 14 years
2.	The mines Act, 1923	Below 15 Years [Until 2005]
3.	Children Act, 2013	Below 18 Years
4.	Child Marriage Prevention Act, 2017	Male: Below 21 Years Female: Below 18 Years
5.	The Contract Act, 1872	Below 18 Years
6.	Pornography Control Act, 2012	Below 16 Years

Source: Age limit for a child under various laws of Bangladesh (Banik, 2012)

1.3.2 Child Labor

A common definition of "child labor" is work that harms children's physical and mental development and deprives them of their childhood, potential, and dignity. It refers to work that: puts children in danger or harms them physically, mentally, socially, or morally; and/or denies them the opportunity to attend school, makes them leave early, or requires them to try to balance school attendance with extremely heavy and lengthy labor. All of these impede their ability to learn (International Labour Organisation, 2023b).

The International Labor Organization's (ILO) Minimum Age Convention 138 states that at age 12, a child is allowed to light work in non-hazardous situations. At age 15, a child is allowed to enter the workforce (International Labour Organisation, 2023a).

According to the ILO, "work that exceeds a minimum number of hours, based on a child's age and the nature of the job," constitutes child labor. Three categories of children who work are also recognized by the ILO: economically active children, child labor, and hazardous work. If a child works for at least an hour each day, seven days a week, outside of school or at home, he/she can be considered financially active. Again, if children are younger than 12 or engaged in hazardous work, they may be considered to be engaged in child labor. Also, If children engage in activities that jeopardize their physical, mental, or developmental health or safety, they are said to be performing hazardous employment (International Labour Organisation, 1973).

Child labor is any activity that has an impact on a child's health or education, according to the United Nations Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF). According to its definition (International Labour Organisation, 2021b), child labor is defined as work that results in the deprivation of childhood activities, exploitation, and abuse.

Employment and economically active children are both defined by the International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labor (IPEC) as "paid and unpaid work in the formal and nonformal sectors of rural and urban areas." Children who labor for their families are not included in this definition (International Labour Organisation, 2022b)

Children aged 5 to 14 who work for one or more hours (per week) in both paid and unpaid settings are regarded as child workers by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics. Even any type of economic activity is regarded as child labor for children older than 10 years old. And these sorts of activities include work inside as well as outside of the home (Ahad et al., 2021).

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), the most widely ratified international human rights agreement in history, states that children have the right to be protected from labor that could be hazardous, interfere with their education, or be detrimental to their physical, mental, spiritual, moral, or social development (United Nations, 2018)

1.3.3 Child Work

Child work is defined as simple tasks carried out by children at home under the careful supervision of their families and in an environment free from exploitation.

Children can learn the roles that will be expected of them as adults by working. It's okay for parents to teach and pass on skills to their children through activities like cooking, cleaning, getting water and firewood, sweeping, washing clothes, and taking care of animals. According to the ILO, children between the ages of 13 and 15 may engage in light employment (for a limited period of time and without endangering their health, safety, or capacity to attend and succeed in school), or children between the ages of 12 and 14 if the minimum age is set at 14. In some cultures, safely helping around the house can be a significant aspect of childhood and is frequently "a normal part of growing up in a rural environment." But, light work shouldn't be done for more than 14 hours per week (ECLT, n.d.)

1.3.4 Hazardous Child Labor

Hazardous child labor is defined as work done by a child in risky or unhealthy circumstances that increase the risk of a child getting hurt, ill, or dead as a result of inadequate safety and health regulations or working conditions. According to ILO Convention No. 182 concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Work, 1999, hazardous child labor is defined as follows:

(d) Work that is likely to have a negative impact on children's health, safety, or morals due to its nature or the conditions in which it is carried out (International Labour Organisation, 1999).

1.3.5 Worst Forms of Child Labor

"The worst forms of child labor" are described in Article 3 of ILO Convention No. 182 as (a) "all forms of slavery or practices that are similar to slavery, such as the sale or trafficking of children, debt bondage and serfdom, or forced or compulsory labor, including the forced or compulsory recruitment of children for use in armed conflict; (b) using, obtaining, or offering a child for prostitution or the production of pornography; (c) using, obtaining, or offering a child for illegal activities, particularly the production and trafficking of drugs as defined by the pertinent international treaties. (d) any work that may put children's health, safety, or morals in danger due to its nature or the circumstances in which it is done (Rights, 2021). By ratifying Convention No. 182, a country commits to act right away to prohibit and eliminate the

worst forms of child labor. Since 1919, the Convention has been ratified at the ILO's fastest pace in history (International Labour Organisation, 1919). Convention No. 182 has been signed by all ILO Member States by 4 August 2020 (Library of the Congress, 2020). This has become the fastest ratified agreement in the UN's 101-year history.

1.3.6 Child Labor Exploitation

Child labor exploitation is the practice of overworking children at the expense of their physical, mental, and moral growth as well as their safety and well-being. It is regarded as a sort of modern slavery. It takes many different forms and often avoids authorities' attention. It is also claimed that human trafficking is a method of child labor exploitation. Here, the children are bought and sold to "owners" and made to work. Some children are threatened or coerced into committing crimes, often by criminal gangs. As a result, they are forcefully engaged in illegal activities including trafficking, drugs, begging, and theft. Drug users frequently start using drugs at a very young age and are more likely to experience physical abuse as a result of their drug usage. Sexual exploitation is one type of labor exploitation in particular. This includes pornography, prostitution, and pornographic entertainment. What is child labor exploitation, according to DeltaNet (2022).

1.3.7 Child Rights

Children have the right to a standard of living, as well as the right to health, education, family life, play, and recreation. They also have the right to be safe from violence and abuse. The requirements of developing children that alter as they become older are covered under children's rights. Children's version of the Child Rights Convention by UNICEF (2022). Children have fundamental rights to participation, education, recreation, health and nutrition, a balanced diet, protection, safe water, and sanitation and hygiene reported by Bruhn et al., (2013).

According to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), every child has the right to a family that will love and care for them, as well as the right to a name and nationality. Every child has a right to appropriate nourishment, a healthy body, a proper education, the opportunity to play and have fun, protection from abuse, exploitation, neglect, violence, and danger, as well as help from the state, according to

the Convention. The fundamental rights to life, liberty, equality before the law, protection from the law, freedom from torture, and restriction on forced labor are all safeguarded by the constitution of Bangladesh. The following are some of the foundational principles of State policy:

Freedom from exploitation (Article 14);

- Ensuring that everyone has access to the necessities of life, such as food, clothing, shelter, education, and medical care; ensuring that everyone has a right to reasonable rest, leisure, and recreation; and ensuring that everyone has a right to social security in the event of unjustified need brought on by unemployment, illness, or disability, or afflicting orphans. (Article 15);
- Establishing a uniform, mass-oriented, and universal system of education and extending free and compulsory education to all children to such stage as may be determined by law (Article 17), raising the level of education and improving public health (Article 18);
- Non-discrimination on the grounds of religion, race, caste, sex, or place of birth (Article 28);
- Equality of opportunity and affirmative action and reservations for children (Article 29);
- Prohibition on forced labor (Article 34) (Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK), 2006)

1.3.8 Dhaka City

Dhaka, the capital city of Bangladesh, is an ancient city with a rich history. Located on the banks of the Buriganga River, Dhaka stretches out its metropolitan area (Dhaka North City Corporation and Dhaka South City Corporation). The responsibility for managing the municipal issues of Dhaka City fell under the former self-governing Dhaka City Corporation (DCC). Several wards were established within the incorporated area. A commissioner is chosen by the residents of each ward. Every five years, a public vote was used to choose the city's mayor.

1.4 Research Objectives

General objective

The general objective of the study is to know and understand the overall situation of the child laborers in Dhaka City.

Specific objectives

The specific objectives of the study are as follows:

- a) To know the demographic and socio-economic conditions of child laborers.
- b) To identify the leading causes of child labor.
- c) To explore the nature of work and consequences of child labor.
- d) To make recommendations and possible suggestions to overcome the problem of child laborers.

1.5 Limitations of the Study

The study is an academic study. Through this study, I have tried to find out the present situation of child labor. During the data collection time, I had some limitations also. The limitations of the present study are briefly mentioned below:

- a) In the study, respondents such as child laborers were interviewed following an interview schedule and guidelines. In the interview session, most child laborers were shown to find it easier and more expected to share their opinions. But sometimes, collecting information from a few child laborers was difficult. They could not spare more time to attend interviews, since they thought answering the questions was a waste of time. They agree that many people like me came to them but there is no improvement in their worse situation. Some employers were also doubtful about the study's objectives and did not let me interview the children working at their place. In some cases, guardians feel uncomfortable answering questions about family history, family income, and family problems. Sometimes they seem to be lying. In this intolerable situation, nor can their information is varied.
- b) To avoid potential prosecution, employers often overstate the ages of child labor. It was impossible to confirm the children's ages because the majority of the child laborers were from the village and their births weren't registered. In view of this, it can be decided to focus on each child laborer's birth certificate in the future.

- c) To conduct a more thorough investigation into children's working lives, a large sample size and an instrument with many scales are required. Interviewing a larger sample would have taken longer because the child laborers were not concentrated in a specific area. Because of these demographic, social, and economic factors, the sample size will need to be increased in the future.
- d) It was difficult to find an equal number of boys and girls. The issue may be addressed in the future when more females will be working as child laborers.
- e) It was difficult to inquire about workplace abuses, working hours, earnings, lunch breaks, etc.
- f) Due to government regulations prohibiting engaging anyone under the age of 18, the owner/employers tended to misrepresent the age of child laborers to avoid potential harassment.
- g) Didn't get enough time to observe some respondents accurately and check whether their given data match their actual situation or not.

But I'm grateful to my supervisor for his valuable guidance. He helped me to overcome my all complications.

Chapter two

Chapter three includes the methodological aspects of this study paper. Good research fully depends on methodology. So, for the study purpose, this chapter includes the research approach, population, sampling, sample, data collection method, processing and analysis of data, as well as ethical considerations of the study.

Chapter 2: Research Methodology

The methodology is very important in any research. This chapter describes the methodology used in this study. Firstly, it focused on the research method which has been used here. Secondly, the research population, the unit of analysis, and the study area are determined. Thirdly, the most important part of a study is that in research sampling is determined. Finally, the instrument of data collection and the technique of the collected data analysis are presented here. Last but not least, research validity and reliability, and ethical consideration of the study are presented here for the acceptance of the study.

2.1 Research Approach

The term "methodology" denotes more than simply the methods that can be used to collect data. It is often necessary to provide an assessment of the theories and concepts that support the methods. In social research, there are two different research approaches: one is qualitative and the other is quantitative.

The main steps in quantitative research consist of constructing concept measurements using theory, hypotheses, and research design. - Choosing a research site or sites, - selecting the respondents for the study, - collecting data, - processing the data, - and - finding- conclusion.

The main steps involved in qualitative research are:

Questions general to research - Deciding on pertinent websites and topics Collecting data and interpretation, as well as conceptual and theoretical work, are required – Conclusion (Bryman, 2001).

The study is based on a mixed method, which emphasizes both qualitative and quantitative approaches. The quantitative data is numerically based. Quantitative data has used a questionnaire survey and qualitative data has used in a case study. The qualitative data is descriptive and interpretation-based.

2.2 Population

All child laborers of the Dhaka metropolitan area are the study population (Both Dhaka city corporation South and North). The location of the study has been selected purposively based on the availability of child laborers.

2.3 Sampling and Sample

The purposive sampling technique has been followed for collecting data from the respondents. Child laborers in different areas of Dhaka city have been selected based on their accessibility. Four wards from Dhaka South City Corporation and four wards from Dhaka North City Corporation are purposively selected. The selected wards under Dhaka South City Corporation are Saidabad bus terminal (load carrier), Motijheel C/A (Hotel and tea stall laborers), Dholaikhal (welding factory laborers), Kamalapur (garbage collectors), and the wards under Dhaka North City Corporation are Gabtoli bus terminal (motor workshop laborers), Karwan Bazar (vegetable shop assistance), Mohammadpur (domestic workers), Farmgate (Laguna transport helpers). As the equal number (30) of respondents from each category, a total of $(8 \times 30) = 240$ child laborers have been selected and interviewed. In addition, 30 employers and 30 guardians of the child laborers are selected purposively through interview to know pertinent information. Guardians and employers are also selected on the chance to meet or based on their availability. Ten case studies have been chosen for in-depth information regarding the assessment of the present condition of child labor, their families, and other relevant issues. For an in-depth understanding of the study, 10 (ten) cases have also been chosen randomly through intensive interviews.

2.4 Data Collection Method

A combination of data collection methods, including a face-to-face interview, in-depth case study, and observation, have been applied to collect the required data for the present study. A schedule of interviews for the survey and a separate guideline for a detailed case study has been used for primary data collection. Secondary data has played a vital role from the beginning to the end in building up a strong knowledge base of resources, and secondary data has been collected from books, research reports, dissertations/theses, journals, articles/features, leaflets, and the internet.

2.5 Processing and Analysis of Data

The collected data have been stored, edited, and classified to understand the actual themes of the respondents' information. Subsequently, collected data have been analyzed and interpreted according to the nature, type, and characteristics. Finally, simple descriptive techniques have been applied to represent the findings. The present study used simple statistical methods like percentages, averages, diagrams, etc., as data analysis techniques. Here ethical principles have been maintained.

2.6 Ethical Consideration of the Study

The researchers must follow ethical practices at all times during every stage of this research. A study's ethical assessment is completely dependent on professional knowledge. The skilled social worker maintained a few ethical guidelines to maintain the social work values that serve as a guide. In doing so, this procedure has been continuing from the very beginning of the research and tries to connect every issue through the collection and analysis of data. Additionally, it is strictly adhered to when writing reports.

The following are some basic aspects of ethical consideration that must be remained when working on a research study:

- Ensure prior permission before data collection
- Maintaining ethical issues during the time of collecting data
- Ethical Issues in data processing
- Ethical Issues at the time of data analyzing
- Strictly maintaining the confidentiality of the data
- Avoiding misinterpretation
- Maintain professionalism in every stage of the study.

In the sector of social research maintaining ethical aspects is mandatory. Interviewers' interest, and acceptance of the interviewer are very important for the further proceeding of any study. Without the consent of the interviewer, it will not be possible to collect any data for continuing any study. The principle of confidentiality is also ensured by the interviewee and the problematic person should be treated as a unique case and the interviewee doesn't compare the client's problem to any other person. Here the social worker applies the principle of acceptance and the principle of

individuality. Not only that, the time of the interview, place, and date all are pre-determined by the consent of the interviewer and the interviewee doesn't force the respondent to any matter even to participate in the research process. Without the respondent's consent, a single word will not be taken in the research work. Respondents willingly provide the data for any study.

Chapter Three

This chapter includes a review of allied kinds of literature that was essential to run out of this study on the right track. This literature also enriches the researcher's consciousness to elaborate the idea of this study paper. This chapter also deals with the related conceptual frameworks concerning the existing knowledge of the theories. Alternative development theory, demographic transition theory, the vicious circle of poverty, human resource development theory (HRD), and household behavior theory are presented in this chapter.

Chapter 3: Literature Review and Theoretical Framework

Literature review shows how far the researchers are concerned about the related literature which is required for the study in the research area. Reviewing related literature is an essential aspect before writing the research proposal. It is assumed that the researcher has theoretical knowledge in his chosen research area. A review of the literature makes the researcher aware of other similar works that have been done already. It also exposes methodologies that the researcher has adopted and that they may use or adapt. The literature review helps for the accurate sagacity about the sources of information that the researcher does not have yet. Moreover, by reviewing the literature overall concepts about the topic have been generated and approaches that the researcher does not know previously. So considering the above fact, some important literature relating to the study topic is presented in this chapter. Literature related to child labor and its effect on several countries like Europe, Asia, America, Africa, and Bangladesh is nicely presented here. And by the help of reviewing such literature, a clear outlook will be exerted on the researcher's mind for growing proper concepts for the study.

3.1 Literature Review

As a vital part of the dissertation, the literature review takes the articles, books, daily newspaper columns, and research reports. Many scholars discuss and analyze different aspects and contexts of child labor and its causes and consequences in their writings. This chapter attempts to review and analyze some recent literature on child labor in order to define the gaps and identify the research questions in relation to the research objectives.

September, J. (2014). conduct a study *Children's rights and child labour: A comparative study of children's rights and child labour legislation in South Africa, Brazil, and India* [University of Cape Town].

Jerome September, (2014) explores that child work should be viewed from the perspective of human rights. In this study, analyzing various legislation and taking account of the daily realities of children in India, South Africa, and Brazil, the author

outlines the progress made to reduce and eradicate the exploitation of children through the elimination of child labor.

These three countries have been chosen because of the challenges they face. As part of the IBSA group, they have committed to work together to advance key international matters, including the issue of human rights and social justice. This dissertation compares childhood in these countries and explores the risk factors that place children and families at risk of utilizing child labor as a source of income. The author argues that child labor is not ideal and, in most cases, not in the child's best interest, nor does it uphold the human rights and dignity of children. According to the ILO, 168 million children globally are involved in child labor (September, 2014). The author quoted that "child labor is rooted in poverty, uncontrolled population growth, social customs, migration, and lack of education facilities can be seen in many developing countries" (Hasnat, 1995). Child labor: A global overview was covered by the author. In his view, child labor refers to any activity that endangers children's mental, physical, social, or moral development and interferes with their ability to learn by denying them the chance to enroll in school, forcing them to leave early, or requiring them to attempt to juggle school attendance with overly demanding work (ILO convention no 182). Additionally, the author covered child work or unarmful child labor. His strength is that it is generally viewed favorably for children and adolescents to participate in employment that doesn't negatively impact their health and personal growth or interfere with their schooling (September, 2014). Positive activities include doing housework around the parents' house, working with family members in a business, or earning pocket money over the summer and on other days off. These kinds of activities, it is believed, support children's growth and the welfare of their families; they provide kids with knowledge and experience, and they get them ready to be contributing adults in society. The author argues that India, Brazil, and South Africa (IBSA) have become instrumental institutions for promoting closer coordination on global issues between three large multicultural and multiracial democracies of Asia, South America, and Africa.

The author discussed the contribution of child labor in IBSA, that is, the role of poverty and the impact of HIV/AIDS as two of the key contributors to child labor, given IBSA content. The author also described the international legislative response

to child labor-related conventions. However, the dissertation does not contain extensive quantitative information. It is descriptive. In Bangladesh, many people suffer from extreme poverty, and many children engage in the worst form of child labor. So, to know the overall situation, quantitative data is necessary. India, Brazil, and South Africa (IBSA) group has recently been held up as a global example for the efforts made by nations to eliminate the worst forms of child labor. The investigator believes that the reviewed knowledge will be extremely helpful to her in conducting the study.

Osment (2014) states that poverty forces low-income families to send their children to work, which results in a significant issue the world is facing right now. Children and their families may suffer from a variety of serious effects as a result of child labor. Although they provide for their families economically, not all of them are paid for their work because many are bonded laborers or slaves. In addition to that, they face many problems which may cause permanent damage to their childhood. This paper critically examined child labor in India and Nigeria and how governments have undertaken various programs to eradicate child labor through different organizations and agencies. This study is based on a comparative case study between two countries. The comparative method is used as the researcher's practical tool for analysis and research. Secondary data is collected through literature, articles, news, and research reports on child labor. The literature review is mainly based on research papers by different scholars and information provided by UNICEF, ILO, and the World Bank regarding International Labor Standards and Human Rights Conventions.

This paper attempts to provide a realistic overview of the child labor situation. The study is limited to examining the nature and extent of child labor between five and fourteen years old. The study found children under the age of fourteen years are still engaged in economic activities in India and Nigeria. These children tend to work more.

Consequently, they are not regular in school. However, besides poverty, there are other causes, such as a lack of schools, regulations and enforcement, corruption, awareness, and rapid population growth. India and Nigeria have implemented policies and programs to eradicate child labor. Organizations on the global challenge of child labor also create various policies and programs.

The study focused on the fight against child labor and the importance of legislation for working children. The author described the two countries, India and Nigeria, and analyzed what policies had already been implemented to tackle child labor. This paper illustrates how India and Nigeria have adopted laws and regulations to eliminate child labor. However, despite all the efforts, child labor and the factors that influence the incidence of child labor continue to be prevalent.

The results from this study explain the reasons that force children to work and poverty. This paper also concludes that governments, societies, and communities should cooperate in a better way with each other to decrease child labor.

In the study, the researcher overlooked specific recommendations based on the study findings. There is no statistical data on selected countries. So, the present study finds such type of statistical data about child labor and its consequences. This paper illustrates how India and Nigeria have adopted laws and regulations to eliminate child labor. However, the researcher believes that the fundamental knowledge of this dissertation will help to understand the effectiveness of the different approaches to child labor.

Rahman et al. (2010) in their paper, provide child labor is a sprouting matter worldwide and remains a widespread problem, particularly in developing countries. The study is a comprehensive analysis of child labor in the agricultural sector based on findings of interviews conducted with 1764 child laborers from 12 unions of 2 thanes under Rajshahi district, Bangladesh. The study aimed to delineate this issue across different socio-economic conditions of child labor. The study also reveals that sex, religion, types of livelihoods, the father's occupation, and distance between the workplace and home of the child laborers are the most influential factors in determining the livelihood of taking up agricultural work. Most children are engaged in household work in rural areas, whereas agricultural work is performed mainly by male children, and household work is performed primarily by female children. To identify the child laborers aged 5–14 years, the researcher first selected three out of four thanas, where more child laborers were found using a pilot survey. Then in each thana, four unions were selected, and, in each union, 150 child laborers' data were collected by interviewing them. This study has identified several socio-economic variables that influence the child in getting into the labor profession, especially in the

agricultural sector in an agriculture-based Bangladesh society. It is clear from the result that the child came into a hazardous job due to poverty and a low level of education. Usually, child agricultural workers frequently work for long hours in scorching heat, haul heavy loads of produce, are exposed to toxic pesticides, and suffer a high rate of injury from sharp knives and other dangerous tools. Their work is grueling and harsh, violating their right to health, education, and protection from hazardous or exploitative labor. A brief overview of the respondents to several key socio-economic conditions 76.4% of respondents come from the age group 11-14 years. There are substantial cross-gender variations in child labor. The most significant percentage of child laborers are male (90.2%). The study shows that most of the respondents are Muslim. Though the highest rate of the respondent's educational qualifications is between classes iv - ix, 62% of respondents live in their own house, whereas 24.9% live in a rented house. There is a substantial variation in occupation. 80.3% of the child laborers were engaged in agricultural work, whereas only 19.7% were in non-agricultural employment.

The author showed that 77.0% of children are engaged in labor due to poverty. Though 58.7% of children have sufficient food for health, 41.3% have not. 70.7% of children work within a distance of 1-5 km between house and workplace, but 29.4% work far from space. In some selected socio-economic variables, it is observed that child labor was higher in males than females. Also, male child labor increases, and female child labor decreases with advancing age, and the difference was statistically significant. This indicates a male-headed Bangladeshi society where females are restricted from working outside as their age increases. The author shows that 77.5% of child laborers got regular payments for work, whereas 22.5% said they did not get recurring payments for their work. In poor setting Bangladeshi society, child labor is always much cheaper than their adult counterpart. In such a situation, older child laborers naturally have a higher income than their younger counterparts. However, the majority of child laborers have no monthly savings.

In the study, the authors analyzed only socio-economic correlates of child labor in rural areas. But there are no apparent aspects of urban areas. For example, what are the ways to remove the hazards of child labor the authors have not mentioned in this research paper? However, the socio-economic correlation is very relevant to the present study. The researcher believes this knowledge will help her understand the nature and consequences of child labor.

Islam, R. (2010) emphasizes the actual landscape of the domestic child workers in Dhaka city, their socio-economic consequences, their livelihoods, and gender segregation, and provides a brief suggestion on how to eliminate hazardous child labor. The study's finding is based on the mixed method in which quantitative and qualitative approaches are considered. Several data collection methods, such as interviewing, observation, and FGD, were employed to capture the situational analysis of the domestic child workers in Dhaka city. Data were obtained from three respondents: domestic child workers, owners and NGO workers, programmers, organizers, and policymakers (Islam, 2010). The research considers children who are 6-18 years of age. It reveals that most of the domestic child workers are between 12-18 years of age, and 14-16 is the highest (32 percent), followed by 16-18 (29 percent) and 12-14 (22 percent). In gender distribution, the highest numbers (88 percent) are female, and only seven percent are married. The highest number of domestic child workers are from the family consisting of 5 to 8 members, and the highest are from 6 (28 percent), followed by 7 (20 percent), 5 (18 percent), and 8 (14 percent). The educational status of domestic child workers and their parents is deficient though the children's academic level looks better than that of their parents. Seventy-four percent of parents and 45 percent of child workers are illiterate. However, 55 percent of domestic child workers are literate, and 50 percent have primary education. The child workers' fathers are involved in different occupations such as day laborers, agricultural laborers, rickshaw pullers, hawkers, helpers, garments workers, fisheries, carpenters, blacksmiths, barbers, domestic workers, mosque Imam, mechanics, gate men, and tailoring. The highest numbers are found in agricultural laborers (27 percent) followed by day laborers 23 percent, rickshaw pullers 15 and hawkers six percent. Nobody's income is more than Tk. 4000 and 28 percent of parents have no monthly payment. The highest numbers (30 percent) of their income are between Tk. 2000- 3000. Significant numbers (32 percent) of domestic child workers are the principal earners of their families.

The causes of domestic child work are manifold and are related to their low socio-economic status. The highest 90 percent of children and 86 percent of owners state that financial crisis is the most important to involve such kind of work. The other causes are the highest number of family members, parents 'sickness, and parents' death. Nearly 74 percent of children mention having to work more than nine hours a

day, and the highest number of children work 9-10 hours. A domestic child worker has to do several items of work daily, which include washing the floor, tide-up and cleaning the room, cooking, cleaning furniture, washing clothes, helping with cooking, child care, dishwashing, boiling water, waste disposing of, shopping from the nearer shop, ironing cloth, cleaning the toilet, bringing a child from school, open gate, and care aged people.

The finding shows that out of 849 children, 328 workers (39 percent) must do a number of these hazardous work every day. In addition, there is some undue work that the children must do, including body messaging of the owners, going shopping, caring for aged people, and sometimes they must bring the owners' children from school. Seventy-nine percent are working monthly contract basis. A significant number of child workers (17 percent) are doing domestic work just to have false hopes from the owners, which include a commitment to their marriage after a certain period, providing better job facilities for them and their family members, providing higher wage in future, solve their family crisis, etc.

The study shows that large numbers of domestic child workers are abused. Sixty-seven percent of children mention abusing at least one type of abuse. Child workers are abused at multiple levels such as physical, mental, sexual, and verbal. The highest number of child workers are verbally abused (95 percent). Seventy-three percent of children state that they are physically abused, and a significant number of children (17 percent) mention that they are sexually abused. Ninety-five percent mention that the owners abuse them. The rest are used by other family members (30 percent) and relatives (one percent). The study confirms that most children have no awareness of their rights. Only two percent mention that they are aware of their rights.

On the other hand, 99 percent of the owners know the child's rights. Fifty-three percent of owners think that domestic child work should be stopped; the rest mention that domestic child labor should not be stopped. The owners have proposed a range of suggestions to stop domestic child work, which include education for all, especially govt. Care, change people's attitudes and mentality, poverty alleviation and rehabilitation, peoples' awareness, adopt a new policy, new law to alleviate child work, help their family, ensure security, especially for a girl, prevention of early marriage, GO- NGO collaboration, raising awareness among parents, financial help, stop dowry, raising awareness about parent's polygamy.

The overall assessment regarding the situation of domestic child workers in Dhaka city found that the problem of domestic child labor is highly complex. There is a wide range of views both nationally and internationally. In this study, there was no clear-cut one-way solution to eliminate hazardous domestic child work in Bangladesh. The author argues every child deserves the right to enjoy a healthy and natural childhood. The researcher will see the nature of different types of child laborers and their consequences in Dhaka city. In this connection, the knowledge of the reviewed paper will help the researcher to conduct the study successfully.

According to Uddin et al. (2009), child laborers have both physical and psychological health issues. More than half of them receive medical care from local healthcare providers without qualifications. The study notes that early employment stunts children's physical, intellectual, and psychological growth, which has a negative effect on their long-term health and earning potential. The main goal of the study is to determine how much suffering both physical and mental results from unsafe child work. Based on this investigation and analysis, the study attempts to: 1) develop a general understanding of the scope and many types of risky child labor in Bangladesh; and 2) identify the key issues associated with physical and mental immaturity.

The study is based on primary data obtained through personal interviews. The purposive random sampling technique was employed for selecting child laborers in risky jobs from the large child labor market areas of Sylhet City. This research has found that many respondents (38.75 percent) were 12 to 14 years old. In addition, most child laborers (70 percent) claimed to have completed their primary schooling, though only 5 percent claimed to have passed the secondary level of education.

The survey found that most (28 percent) of the 10–12-year-old children were bound to work daily between 10-12 hours, 11 percent worked 12-14 hours, and a staggering 22 percent worked 14-16 hours. Nearly half (43 percent) of the 12–14-year-old child laborers worked 10-12 hours, and almost one quarter (23 percent) worked 12-14 hours. The working hours are the longest for 12–14-year-old children, among which 37.5 percent work 12-14 hours and another 25 percent work 14-16 hours daily. This has considerable negative implications for these children's physical and psychological development. The author also shows that 87.5 percent of welding laborers have skin

diseases, while 80 percent of construction workers have eyesight problems. These high ratios among the welding and construction workers reflect the specific environmental risks these children are exposed to in their work. Similarly, over 90 percent of van pullers and rickshaw pushers have breathing problems.

The study provides a comprehensive overview of the situation of child labor in Sylhet city and writes a pen picture of the whole country. The discussion here focuses on child laborers' physical and psychological health effects. The authors argue that childhood labor comes with serious physical health problems that negatively affect the children's physical development, especially as most child laborers come from impoverished families and are nutritionally frail to face the rigors of a hard-working life. Moreover, the physical damage largely depends on the job type and the number of hours worked (Khair 2005).

The study identified only the physical and psychological implications of risky child labor in Sylhet City. Other dimensions were ignored in this study. Therefore, no proper recommendations exist to reduce their (Child Laborer) Physical and psychological problems. Neither the study nor its feature represented a case study. Thus, the researcher believes this knowledge will help the present study about the consequences of child labor in Dhaka city from a broad perspective.

Tariquzzaman, S., & Kaiser, E. (2008) explore how and what factors have contributed to changing the patterns and perspectives of the employment of children over the last 15 years. Based on in-depth research on 120 children and 40 employers of child labor in a Dhaka slum and a rural community in the poor northern district of Nilphamari (Tariquzzaman & Kaiser, 2008), The author argues that three factors were found to have critical influences on how and whether employers recruit children a) the increase in work opportunities, b) the related matter of change in family earnings, and c) education policy. A survey was conducted in 565 households and 600 workplaces in the two areas. The children (boys and girls, aged 6-10 and 11-17 years respectively) who work under employers were selected purposively from various working places. Their guardians and their employers were also identified through the children. Data were gathered from the chosen children, their guardians, employers, localities, and influential people of the society on changes in patterns. Non-participant observation, 18 FGDs, and 100 in-depth interviews were conducted. Data was collected through a

survey of households and all businesses, in-depth interviews, and focus group discussions (FGD). The sample village was chosen purposively from the Nilfamari district, where poverty reduction has been slow over the last one and a half decades.

Overall, the key factors behind changes in how children are employed over the last 15 years have been economic growth, diversification, and rising educational opportunities. There exist pressures on and incentives for households to send their children to school, particularly among the primary school-going age group. This research has found that perspectives on the advantages of child laborers, the economic status of parents, and the advantages and profits of the employers are intertwined. There were no indications of a general change in attitudes toward the employment of children that would suggest a decline in the acceptability of child labor.

There are some limitations in data collection; slum dwellers are non-permanent residents. A small number (19) of children identified during the survey left before data collection started.

The study has demonstrated that children become net producers for the family at quite an early age. Knowing how to extend the family size influenced by child labor is impossible. The whole perspective of the study will help the researcher to conduct the study successfully.

A paper entitled *Child Labor and Economic Growth* by Testy K. Nardos (June 2003), argues that children remain economically active in virtually all economic sectors. This paper examines the relationship between national income and child labor. It includes all productive activities, household or market-oriented, undertaken by a child in a paid or unpaid capacity (Tesfay, 2003).

The study's primary objective was to estimate the effect of economic growth and development as measured by per capita gross domestic product on the incidence of child labor. The author discussed the function of children as financial assets and the nature of children's work at various developmental stages. The author also argued that children are a source of old age security, a source of insurance against the risk of income instability, and children provide a source of labor to their parents. Particularly among rural families, children are economic assets in developing countries. Among

farm families, children maintain their high economic value the greater the abundance of land. In today's advanced industrial economy, industrial development was the major factor in the initial increase in the incidence of child labor.

This study is based on some descriptive statistics of selected countries. The data used in the estimation of the equation. The author analyzed the nature and scope of child labor at different stages of development. The role of children as producer goods in developing country content. The author discussed the role of children at an advanced stage of development using a mathematical formulation of the quality-quantity interaction concerning child demand.

There is no clear indication of this stage's worst form of child labor. However, there are several opportunities for further research. Practical evaluation of child time use is essential. When children are recognized as a producer, it is often perceived as the result of poverty and their weak economic and social position. The whole perspective will help the researcher successfully.

A study conducted by Rahman, M. N., Mistry, S. K., & Hossain, M. I. (2014). Nutritional status of child laborers in Dhaka city of Bangladesh: Findings from a cross-sectional study.

The main objective of the study was to find out the Nutritional Status of Child laborers in Dhaka city of Bangladesh. Nearly 7.9 million children are working in Bangladesh, many of which are in urban areas, particularly Dhaka. Working during childhood impedes the children's growth potential leading to malnutrition. This study aimed to investigate the nutritional status and food intake patterns of child laborers in Dhaka City, Bangladesh. Methodology: The study followed a cross-sectional study design and was conducted among 100 randomly selected child laborers (aged 5-17 years) from an NGO-led school in Dhaka. Anthropometric measurements were taken using standard methods, while socioeconomic status and dietary intake were assessed by interviewing the respondents with a pretested questionnaire. Data were analyzed using SPSS, Epi info, and MS Excel DANS (R) software. Results: Forty-five percent of children were fixed salary earners, and 89% worked to support their families. An anthropometric assessment revealed that 26%, 15%, and 26% of respondents were stunted, wasted, and underweight, respectively. According to BMI for age, 39% of the

children were thinner. Overall, boys and girls fulfilled 52.1% and 60.8% of the calorie requirement and 77.6% and 82.2% of the protein requirement, respectively (M. N. Rahman et al., 2014). Almost all the micronutrient requirements except thiamin and vitamin C were poorly fulfilled. Conclusions: Overall, the nutritional status of the child laborers was below acceptance. Per capita, dietary intake was poor and imbalanced, containing deficient micronutrients leading to malnutrition. Nutrition intervention program needs to be administered especially targeting working children. Adult unemployment and underemployment should be reduced, and parents need to be made aware of the harmful nutritional impact of working in childhood.

From the reviewed study, we have been informed of the causes and consequences of child labor as well as the real picture of them.

3.2 Gap of Literature Review

The above-mentioned kinds of literature are the sum up of the scenario of several patterns of child labor in different countries. This literature focuses on the nature and consequences of child labor. Jerome September, explores that child work should be viewed from the perspective of human rights. Osment, states that poverty forces low-income families to send their children to work, which results in a significant issue the world is facing right now. Rahman et al. in their paper, provide different socio-economic conditions of child labor. Islam, R. emphasizes the actual landscape of the domestic child workers in Dhaka city, their socio-economic consequences, their livelihoods, and gender segregation, and provides a brief suggestion on how to eliminate hazardous child labor. Uddin et al. note that early employment stunts children's physical, intellectual, and psychological growth, which has a negative effect on their long-term health and earning potential. Tariquzzaman, S., & Kaiser, E. explore how and what factors have contributed to changing the patterns and perspectives of the employment of children. Testy K. Nardos, argues that children remain economically active virtually in all economic sectors. This paper examines the relationship between national income and child labor. Rahman, M. N., Mistry, S. K., & Hossain, M. I. deeply focused on the Nutritional Status of Child laborers in Dhaka city of Bangladesh.

The mentioned literature speculates a profound concept of several patterns of child labor and its many faces. Not only that, it generates a web of affluent conceptions which help to work on further study in the future. But all these studies have focused on several patterns of nature and consequences. There have been so many works on the topic of child labor. These studies have focused on the different patterns of children in Bangladesh, However, there are significant gaps in the literature.

- Most of the studies are backdated and, in some cases, it doesn't specifically about the consequences of child labor;
- The published data on the socio-demographic characteristics of child labor in Dhaka is insufficient;
- The living conditions of child laborers in Dhaka—their ability to meet their fundamental needs through paid work—have not received sufficient focus ;
- The reasons for the employment of such a large percentage of child laborers in Dhaka in hazardous occupations need to be explored more;
- The published data regarding the general level of knowledge about child labor law, among child laborers and their employers, in Dhaka is not sufficient.

This study will give an extensive focus on child labor in Dhaka City. The socio-economic, and demographic features and consequences of child labor in Dhaka City have created a profound focus in this study which has not been done in any study yet. So, considering the strength, the present study will be helpful for taking further suggestions concerning child laborers. This study tries to find out some influential factors and analyze these factors. As a result, the anti-social behavior of the child laborers and the critical surrounding situations that badly affect children are clearly described in this study which will help the present researcher to narrate and draw suggestions and conclusion for further studies. The findings of this study would also help social planners, administrators, and service-rendering agencies to develop appropriate policies and programmers for children's welfare.

This study tries to show an in-depth analysis of child labor due to various environmental and societal reasons. One thing is that the study has been done in the Dhaka Metropolitan area. As a result, it gives emphasis on the several aspects of city areas of child laborers.

So, the present study will also be helpful for further comparison of the consequences of child labor in rural areas.

Review of literature enhances the quality of research, in which the researcher reads different types of books, journals, articles, and reports. After reviewing the literature the researcher finds out what types of study, he/she will operate. Related literature makes to ease the path of a researcher. Reviewing literature helps to understand the inner worth of the existing topic by avoiding the duplication of the study topics. From the above discussion, it is clear that, reviewing the literature the researcher tries to find out the research gap. This research emphasizes the socio-psychological and economic issues of child laborers, and belonging to the capital city of Dhaka. Many opportunities and basic rights of the children are being disrupted, and this fact is not upheld in any previous study. So, considering these several facts, the above-related literature and the following documents have provided immense knowledge regarding this topic which helps to continue the research work successfully.

3.3 Theoretical Framework (Theories related to the present study)

A theoretical framework is one of the most influential parts of research. The researcher analyzes the approaches and related conceptual frameworks for connecting the existing knowledge with the theories. The frame of relevant concepts helps to support the theories with the research topic. The key concepts and the hypotheses of research are formulated by explaining the structure of relevant theories. Doing so, in every study, to select methodologies and proper objectives determination of a theoretical framework is mandatory. And, this chapter focuses on some basic theories and conceptual frameworks relevant to children's development and its many faces. Not only that, but the conceptual framework has also emphasized the effectiveness and applications of such approaches to child labor.

In achieving the study objectives, some theoretical framework guided the study to conceptualize the study problem. These theories include the Alternative Development theory, Demographic Transition Theory, Vicious Circle of Poverty Theory, Household Behavior Theory, and Human Resource Development Theory. From the theories of five, I have taken some essential aspects that may be applied in Bangladesh in the context of the child labor situation and its consequences.

3.3.1 Alternative Development Theory

On a global, national, or even regional level, Alternative development entails improving the conditions of life and livelihood for the majority who are excluded (Friedmann, 1992). Alternative Development must be seen as a process that seeks the empowerment of households and their members through their involvement in social and politically relevant actions. This approach acknowledges the existence of people with low incomes and their rightful claims as human beings. Alternative Development strategies can work against poverty as well as child labor in Bangladesh. There is an urgent need to develop a strategy to break the poverty circle where child laborers are trapped; they are born and brought up in poverty. According to this Alternative Development Theory, all arrangements should be made to acknowledge the existence of the poor and their rightful claims as human beings with a firm political commitment to a fundamental change in the condition of people with low incomes.

I have studied this theory to conceptualize the child labor situation in Bangladesh. By this theory, I have got the elements of the situational environment that may create causes of child labor. By studying the theory, the conceptual ground of my study has expressed a concrete shape of different aspects of Bangladesh. My study shows that low economic growth, unequal income, and asset distribution, unemployment and underemployment, rapid population increase, inadequate human resource development, and natural disasters are the main causes of poverty in Bangladesh. Child laborers of Dhaka city come from low-income families, those who are to eke out an existence below the poverty line. Some child laborers have no house or family; they are floating. Every moment of their daily life, they fight against poverty for a better life, but the result is getting more complicated daily. The Bangladesh government's current policy for poverty alleviation, the Poor Reduction Strategy (PRS), emphasizes the strategy holistically. With a strong political commitment,

Alternative Development Theory pushes for an arrangement to acknowledge the reality of people with low incomes and their fundamental claims as human beings. The Poverty Reduction Strategy and the National Child Labor Elimination Policy are alternative approaches to GOB's sustainable development programs. Children who work earn money and help their families meet their financial obligations. The social and economic position of child laborers and their families is also addressed by NGO projects to end this form of child labor. Child laborers and their families will receive financial aid through a stipend for non-formal education and access to micro-finance for their families. Child labor has been helped by non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Due to these factors, this alternative development theory is useful in Bangladesh for implementing people-managed development strategies to reduce poverty and child labor. The Alternative Development Theory focuses on poverty to understand the underlying factors that lead to child labor.

3.3.2 Demographic Transition Theory

The concept of the model of demographic transition was first proposed by W.S. Thompson, but it wasn't until 1945 that F.W. Notestein came up with the earliest explanation of it (Notestein, 1982). The transition model assumes that nations experience a predetermined number of stages in their development, each of which varies from nation to nation. High birth and mortality rates are prevalent during the initial stages of population increase. Death rates fall as the number of births in countries rises, increasing population.

There is a slowdown in population growth during the third phase as birth rates fall. There is a low rate of natural growth or even a fall if death rates surpass those of births in the fourth stage since low birth and death rates are present. The most common criticism of this paradigm is that it assumes that all countries will go through the transition similarly. Until the 1990s, this model did not account for the fact that many developing countries would appear to be stuck in a cycle of poverty. People with decreasing birth rates cannot move through the second stage of the plan because of a lack of economic and social transformation (Eriksson & Fellman, 2004).

A demographic shift from high fertility and high mortality to low fertility and low mortality has been recorded in nearly all Asian countries or is now occurring. Asia's

infant mortality rate has decreased by more than two-thirds, from 175 deaths per 1,000 births in 1950 to 52 deaths per 1,000 births in 1995. When it comes to total deaths per 1,000 people (World Bank, 2021), there has been a similar decrease. In Asia, however, the pace and pattern of population growth have not been the same. Early and rapid increases in life expectancy and substantial declines in newborn mortality rates have occurred throughout East Asia. As a result, South Asia has the most incredible fertility in the region, a stark contrast to the rest of the region. Bangladesh is a contentious issue in this region. In Bangladesh, the population program has undergone five phases, each with a distinct focus, strategy, and end aim.

Whatever the future holds for the country's population, the reality remains that Bangladesh's workforce is 16.6%, made up of people aged 5 to 14. For children to thrive, their basic needs must be met. In contrast, the 6.5 million child laborers have access to life's necessities. However, child laborers are in the opposite position to those who should receive and consume products and services. They need a better environment but are cut off from the rest of civilization. Children are compelled to enter the workforce by the demands of their families and the economic hardships they encounter. Several forces are competing to keep children out of school. As a result of Bangladesh's terrible economic and environmental conditions, children are an enormous burden on the nation. The underprivileged child laborers are not to blame for this. It is the duty of the entire community. Dhaka city is particularly hard hit by these conditions, which force the city's poorest youngsters into the workforce. Children are not given an unfair advantage in this transition. The epidemiologic transition model instructs us to consider the large number of children who are forced to work. It is imperative to do something for their well-being while formulating appropriate national and global policies.

3.3.3 Vicious Circle of Poverty Theory

The Vicious Circle of Poverty Theory was explained by Professor Ragnar Nurkse (Shamim, 2022). The vicious circle of poverty implies that poverty is the cause of poverty. It says that a low income level will lead to lower savings and investment; the low investment will lead to low productivity, again leading to low income. If a person starts working before age 18, she/he will be classified as poor or extremely poor as adults. That is characterized as the "Vicious Circle of Poverty." Child labor plays a

crucial role in generating poverty. If young children work in hazardous sectors, they are likely exposed to physical or mental risks. They would not be able to attend school education since they would not be able to participate in school education since they would be working. With a lower level of education, they tend to have lower incomes, which might force them to work instead of school. They would not be able to attend school education since they would not be able to participate in school education since they would be working. With a lower level of education, they tend to have lower incomes, which might force them to work instead of school. As a result of poverty, parents may be forced to send their children out to work when they are young so that they will also become poor adults in the future. If the children are deprived of education, they are bound to remain poor for the whole of their lives.

In my study, I've explored the factors involved in issues like child labor, past poverty, the primary education system, hazardous work, etc. In the context of Bangladesh, this theory is the one that is most practical.

3.3.4 Household Behavior Theory

According to the theory of household behavior, impoverished people's behavior is what causes them to have low incomes. The general approach is that illiteracy and lack of education lead to poverty. Families of child laborers deprive future generations of opportunity by failing to respect education and viewing it as an unnecessary investment. Even if the jobs their children work at do not provide enough income to help the family get rid of poverty. Rather, the parents continuously look for quick money. The case studies show that child laborers constantly borrow money from one another or even become engaged in criminal activities to make ends meet because they cannot afford to pay their basic living expenses with their wages. According to this theory, my study shows that the availability of child labor is very responsive to changes in home characteristics, particularly in terms of living standards.

3.3.5 HRD (Human Resource Development) Theory

HRD (Human Resource Development) theory was first introduced by Leonard Nadler in 1969 (Kareem, 2019). Human resource development recognized that Human resources development through education, better health, and family welfare contribute to poverty alleviation. Human development leads to the realization of human rights,

economic, social, cultural, civil, and political. The key indicators of HRD are education, life expectancy, income, health, children's health, food & nutrition, sanitation, and female literacy & maternal mortality. Human development leads to realizing human rights economic, social, cultural, civil, and political. Besides human rights, human development is concerned with collective well-being, equity, and sustainability. Individual and collective well-being is intertwined, and human development requires strong social cohesion and equitable distribution of the benefits of progress to avoid tension between the two. Therefore, it should be the best investment in human development studies. There may be different ideas on this issue, but for the child, laborers' education may be the best human potential. So, we need practical efforts and proper strategies and practices to make child laborers potential human resources (Kareem, 2019).

This Human resource development theory helps me to know the actual situation and to draw appropriate policies and programs for this study. We cannot stop child labor in a short period. It is a hard reality of life, especially in Dhaka city. HRD will emphasize potential human resources, especially education facilities for child laborers.

In this backdrop, this conceptual framework gave me some new dimensions to design and finalize the questionnaire and interview guides to the objectives of my study and to think about how to know the actual health, living, and working conditions of laborers, and to consider how to eliminate or at least to minimize the high cost regarding the child laborers' physical, social, emotional and spiritual development. To make up the conceptual framework of the study - under Medical Geography, only the health and nutritional status of the working children are emphasized. Similarly, the theory of Demographic Transition is helpful in discussing the issue of the increasing number of child laborers and its negative impact on society. Alternative Development theory is centered on poverty, to know the root cause of child labor. Time Geography will focus on time and is helpful in analyzing the consequences of coexistence in the time and space of working children. The vicious cycle of poverty refers to how all of these variables feed off of one another. HRD will emphasize potential human resources, especially education facilities for child laborers.

According to this theory, I have tried to find out the curse of poverty, unfavorable environmental conditions of a child laborer, lack of educational resources, social and economic backwardness, traditional views towards child labor, discrimination between boys and girls, the demand of child labor by the employer, etc.

3.4 Relevance of Literature Review and Theoretical Framework with the Present Study

As an inevitable part of the dissertation, the study's literature review is done by taking the articles, books, daily newspaper columns, and research reports collected from home and overseas sources, and chapters of the book and newspaper versions. So, the related literature is reviewed, giving the importance of the research problem, theories, and conceptual overview and fulfilling the knowledge gap of research questions.

According to the reviewed literature, my research objectives can easily find out and try to investigate the socioeconomic, demographic, and living conditions of child labor, nature of work, working environment, consequences of child labor, causes of child labor, and how to eliminate child labor. These concepts are related to the study to make a clear conceptual atmosphere to the objectives. By reviewing the literature, focused on human rights and social justice, various legislation, the reduction and eradication of the exploitation of children is the crucial objective of my study. Reviewing the literature has also covered the case study analysis, which is focused on my research. Some significant socio-economic variables that are sex, religion, types of livelihoods, parents' occupation, etc., have been identified, which will be helpful for data collection. Reviewing the literature has clarified the actual landscape of the child laborers in Dhaka city, their socio-economic consequences, livelihoods, working patterns, abuse, family patterns, educational status, etc. According to the study, it will be very much helpful to identify the consequences of child labor. The reviewed article also identified health and nutritional situation, poverty circle, supporting laws and policies, and international efforts. On the other hand, the study was guided by multiple techniques for required data collection. Finally, it is helpful according to the demand of the study at the field level and to gather the necessary data and concepts as well as functional dimensions to fill up the study objectives.

The study's literature review and theoretical framework assessed the grounds of research problems. According to the study objectives, the relevant literature testified theories to get elements of conducting a survey in a proper guideline. The theoretical framework of the study has introduced five theories: Alternative development theory, demographic transition theory, the vicious circle of poverty theory, household behavior theory, and human resource development theory. The features of the mentioned theories would be testified according to the demand of the study at the field level and to gather the required data and practicing concepts as well as functional dimensions to fill up the study objectives.

From the theories of five, I have taken some important aspects applied in Bangladesh since poverty is the main cause of child labor. Alternative development theory is centered on poverty, the root cause of child labor. Alternative development must be seen as a process that seeks the empowerment of households and their individual members through their involvement in social and politically relevant actions. This approach acknowledges the existence of the poor and their rightful claims as human beings. Alternative development is centered on people and the environment rather than production and profits. Although Bangladesh bans child labor, the regulations have proved unenforceable. Alternative development theory is helpful in taking people-managed development strategies against poverty as well as child labor in Bangladesh. There is an urgent need to develop a strategy to break the poverty circle where child laborers are trapped, they are born and brought up in poverty. For a real change in the condition of the poor, according to this alternative development theory, all arrangements should be made to acknowledge the existence of the poor and their rightful claims as human beings with a firm political commitment. So, this is a more complete approach to development.

A detailed description of the dimensions, contextual aspects, and structure of the approach to family and family conditions relevant to child labor has been presented in the conceptual framework.

Chapter Four

The chapter deals with the present situation of child labor in Bangladesh perspective. This chapter also provides an effective discussion of the various ways of child labor in Dhaka city and the leading causes of child labor from a socio-economic perspective.

Chapter 4: Child Labor: Bangladesh

Context

4.1 Present Situation of Child Labor in Bangladesh

Children who work as children run the danger of experiencing physical and mental harm. Child labor puts children's educational opportunities in jeopardy, violates their rights, lowers their chances for the future, and starts a generation-long cycle of poverty and child labor. Child labor, economically active children, and hazardous employment are the three categories into which the ILO divides children who are employed (International Labour Organization, 2021).

Economically active children

They are categorized as economically active if they are involved in work outside of school or at home for at least one hour once every seven days.

Child labor

They are under the age of 12 or performing hazardous work.

Hazardous work

If the children are involved in activities that may harm their physical, mental, or developmental health or safety. The end of child labor: within reach (PDF). Geneva International Labor Organization 2006 (International Labour Office, 2006).

Table 2: Key statistics of Bangladesh child labor (2015)

Characteristics	
Population aged 5-17 years old	39,652,284
Working children	3,450,369
Child labor	1,698,894
Hazardous child labor	1,280,195
Child domestic workers (CLS 2015:103)	115,658

Source: BBS, 2015. Child Labor Survey, Multiple Indicators Cluster Survey (Central Monitoring Committee on Child Labour, 2020).

According to the CLS 2013, approximately 56% of children engaged in child labor were boys. The MICS (Multiple Indicators Cluster Survey) also shows that male and female child labor affected 9% and 5% of children aged 5-17 in 2018 (International Labour Organisation, 2015). Female child labor is generally underestimated as girls are more involved in hidden work (domestic work). In 2013, of the total children engaged in child labor, 68% were in rural areas: (1.15 million). In urban Bangladesh, 1 out of 8 children was estimated to be child laborers (including city corporation slums, non-slums, and other municipalities). The multiple indicators cluster survey (MICS) indicates that in 2018, 6.8% of children aged 5-17% were engaged in child labor. Among children involved in child labor, 29% attended school in 2013. The CLS shows that school attendance decreases as involvement in work increases 63% of children engaged in child labor in 2013 were not attending school, and 8.4% never attended school.

Overview of children’s work by sector and activity Agriculture:

Farming, including harvesting and processing crops, raising poultry, grazing cattle, gathering honey, and harvesting tea leaves (Assessment of the Situation of Children and Women in the Tea Gardens of Bangladesh). Fishing and drying fish (U.S. Department of State, 2015. “Bangladesh,” Country Reports on Human Rights Practices). Harvesting and processing shrimp (Solidarity Center, 2012. The Plight of Shrimp-Processing Workers of Southwestern Bangladesh). (USAID, 2012).

Industry

Quarrying and mining, including salt. Internationally Recognized Core Labor Standards in Bangladesh). Producing garments, jute textiles, leather, footwear, and imitation jewelry (Pearshouse, 2012). Crammed into squalid factories to make clothes. Daily Mail. Human Rights Watch, 2012 (Pearshouse, 2012). The export-oriented production of garments is free of child labor, but the local garments producing small setups use child labor. Manufacturing bricks, glass, hand-rolled cigarettes (bidis), matches, soap, steel furniture, aluminum, plastic, and melamine products. Shipbreaking, the employer’s association claims to be child-labor-free Carpentry, welding, and construction.

Services

Domestic work is not usually recognized as hazardous work in Bangladesh. Working in transportation, pulling rickshaws, and street work, including garbage picking, recycling, vending, begging, and pottering. Working in hotels, restaurants, bakeries, and retail shops, repairing automobiles.

Categorical worst forms of child labor

Forced labor is used in the brick-making process and for fish drying. Forced begging using in illicit activities, such as the sale of drugs. Commercial sexual exploitation, which occasionally results from human trafficking and/or forced domestic labor Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor (Bureau of International Labor Affairs, 2021). Evidence of this activity is limited, and/or the extent of the problem is unknown. Determined by national law or regulation as hazardous and, as such, relevant to Article 3(d) of ILO Convention 182. Child labor is understood as the worst form of child labor per se under Article 3(a)–(c) of ILO C. 182) (International Labour Office, 1999a).

A government order issued on 13 March 2013 identifies 38 processes/activities hazardous for children. In 2012, the Tripartite Coordinating Committee recommended 36 processes/activities. Still, later the Ministry of Labor and Employment revised it to include two additional sectors based on comments received from various ministries. The hazardous jobs for child laborers are as follows:

1. Manufacturing of Aluminum products
2. Automobile Workshops
3. Battery Recharging
4. Manufacturing of Bidi and Cigarette
5. Brick or Stone breaking
6. Engineering Machine including lathe machine
7. Manufacturing of glass and glass products
8. Manufacturing of Matches
9. Manufacturing of plastic or rubber products
10. Salt refining
11. Manufacturing of soap or detergent
12. Steel furniture or car or metal furniture painting
13. Tanning and dressing of leather
14. Welding works or gas worker mechanic
15. Dyeing or bleaching of textiles
16. Shipbreaking
17. Manufacturing of leather footwear
18. Vulcanizing
19. Metal Works
20. Manufacturing of GI Sheet products or limestone or chalk products
21. Rectifying or blending or spirit with alcohol
22. Manufacturing of Jarda and Quivam
23. Manufacturing of pesticides
24. Iron and steel foundry and casting of iron and steel

25. Fireworks 26. Manufacturing of jewelry and imitation ornaments or bangles factory or goldsmith 27. Truck or Tempo or Bus Helper 28. Stainless steel mill, cutlery 29. Bobbin factory 30. Weaving worker 31. Electric Mechanic 32. Biscuit Factory or Bakery 33. Ceramic factory 34. Construction 35. Chemical factory 36. Butcher 37. Blacksmith 38. Handling of goods in the ports and ships (International Labor Organization, "Compendium of hazardous child labor lists and related legislation for Bangladesh" by International Labour Office (2014).

Table 3: Working children engaged by sex and area in Bangladesh

Age 5-17	Male	Female	Total
Rural	1564849	903678	2468527
Urban	326543	229822	556365
City Corporation	211436	214042	425477

Source: International Labour Organisation, (2015)

Child labor is damaging and violates children's rights as it hinders the harmonious emotional, physiological, and psychological growth of the child retarding the full fruition of his productive and creative talents.

In Bangladesh, children are found to work under a myriad of exploitive conditions and are deprived in most cases of what they need and deserve (Siddiqui, 2003). In an urban context, children are found to work under a myriad of exploitive conditions due to the exigency of circumstances (Taher, 2006). Most of these children are deprived of their socioeconomic rights (Kanbargi, 1991). These children are deprived of reasonable or fixed wages corresponding to the quantum of their work. Additionally, holiday or vacation days are virtually non-existent for these children.

In the rural context of Bangladesh, children are engaged in a wide variety of work. Those who do not go to school are expected to work. For significantly less money than adults, they neither have access to health facilities, nor are entitled to vacations or holidays, and work in harsh and extreme conditions (Sheikh, 2013). Poverty is undoubtedly the most significant single force driving children into the workplace. Income from a child's work is considered crucial for his/her survival or that of the household.

Table 4: National poverty level of Bangladesh

Duration	Percentage
The poverty rate for 2016	24.3
The extreme poverty rate for 2016	12.9

Source: Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, (2016)

During COVID-19, as poverty rises, schools close, and the availability of social services decreases, more children are pushed into the workforce. The COVID-19 pandemic has negatively impacted the most vulnerable children's lives, hope, and future. The closure of schools and reduction of family income expose many children to the risk of child labor and commercial sexual exploitation. Even when classes restart, some parents are no longer able to afford to send their children to school.

As a result, more children could be forced into exploitative and hazardous jobs. Gender inequalities may grow more acute, with girls particularly vulnerable to exploitation in agriculture and domestic work. School closures, isolation from friends and support networks, economic stress, service disruptions, pregnancy, and parental deaths due to the pandemic put the most vulnerable girls at increased risk of child marriage. As schools remain closed, girls are likelier to drop out of education and not return. Job losses and increased economic insecurity may also force families to marry their daughters off to ease financial burdens.

4.2 Child Labor in Dhaka City

Dhaka is the capital and largest city of Bangladesh and is located in the geographic center of the country with its colorful history and rich cultural traditions. With a population of 21.1 million people in the urban area and 10.3 million in the city, Dhaka is one of the most densely populated cities in the world, with 47,400 people per square kilometer (Population Stat, 2022)

Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) was the former that was entrusted with the task of running the municipal affairs of Dhaka City (“Dhaka City Corporation,” 2023). The incorporated area was divided into several wards. Each ward has an elected ward commissioner. The mayor of the city used to be elected by popular vote every five years. The corporation was dissolved by the Local Government (City Corporation)

Amendment Bill 2011 on 29 November (bdnews24.com, 2011), passed in the parliament of Bangladesh, and formally ceased to exist on 1 December 2011, following the president’s approval (“Dhaka City Corporation,” 2023) making way for a Dhaka North and a Dhaka South city corporation. Dhaka North City Corporation consists of 54 wards, and Dhaka South City Corporation consists of 75 wards (“Dhaka City Corporation,” 2023).

Table 5: Child population (5-17 years) by age group in Dhaka division

Division	Age group				Total
	5	6-11	12-13	14-17	
Dhaka	1051398	6074405	2198410	4033697	13357910

Source: International Labour Organisation (2015)

The people who are coming to Dhaka are so poor that they can't provide education for their children, and they are sending them to earn money. Many children are engaged in various types of economic activities in Dhaka instead of attending school. Dhaka is full of hazardous child labor. Children are working in tea stalls, small industries, pulling rickshaws, or as street hawkers- these are the typical pictures of Dhaka city. In Dhaka, child labor is rampant, both in the formal and informal sectors, such as shops, restaurants, motor garages, transports, construction sites, domestic work, etc. The children who are paid generally get a much lower salary than adults, even if they do the same job and work an equal number of hours per day. Working children usually contribute a significant proportion to the family income. Those who are not paid do not depend on their family for their food. A large number of children include different types of activities. Those places are unhealthy, harmful, dangerous, and hazardous for the child and human beings. But still, they are working there for their food and living.

Child labor in Dhaka city includes a lot of work such as in poultry firms, collecting rubbish, cleaning roads, household chores, clay modeling, small stores, service-oriented sectors (Bus, Hospital, Offices, Hotels, etc.), factories (Brick kilns, silver cooking pot factory, brick crushing factory, plastic pretext factory, metal factory, etc.) and other places are used as a prostitute. Sometimes children become criminals through this process; children are also involved in different illegal activities like selling drugs.

Child labor is a kind of problem which is already inherited in our society. Total suppression of this problem seems impossible within a decade or so. But taking some measures can at least minimize the risk level of their life in some respect. Eradication of poverty can uproot the problem of child labor.

Bangladesh is obliged under national and international law to protect and promote the rights and interests of children. Awareness among the people, society, and education can minimize this problem. At the age when these children should be attending school, they are involved in the struggle for survival. They take on the responsibilities of the family at an early age. They join any type of work without thinking for the sake of living.

In labor law, no child labor will be allowed in the city, but in the Dhaka City Corporation area, child labor is strictly mentioned for many purposes. Children collect rubbish and garbage from the rubbish dumps, residential areas, and the road. These children do not enjoy their rights, and they don't get the real child life which is a fall of fun and enjoyment. It's a painful scenario for Dhaka city and the whole country.

In Dhaka city, children beg around the street. However, girls are used as prostitutes, sometimes children become criminals through this process; children are also involved in illegal activities like selling drugs.

4.3 Main Causes of Child Labor

Child laborers are required to work full-time at an early age, putting their education at risk while also preventing their full social and psychological development and undermining their sense of dignity and self-worth. They also work for excessive hours, under stressful physical, social, or psychological conditions, on the streets with little pay, and with too much responsibility. The Economic Effects of Child Labor, Galli, (2001) found that in the short term, higher household income is the most visible economic benefit of child labor at the family level. All researchers and practitioners agree that poverty is the primary factor influencing the availability of child labor and that child labor greatly raises the family's ability to support itself and its members. In these situations, child labor is necessary for the family, whether it be in hazardous or non-hazardous work, in the formal or informal economy, or even in paid or unpaid household work. In order to relieve their parents of household duties and free them up to pursue paid employment, children (particularly females) frequently participate in family activities that are not paid.

According to a new assessment from the International Labor Organization (ILO) and UNICEF, there are now 160 million children working as children globally, an increase of 8.4 million additional children at risk due to the effects of COVID-19. Additional economic shocks and school closings brought on by COVID-19 mean that many more children may be forced into the worst forms of child labor as a result of employment and income losses among vulnerable families, while those already engaged in child labor may work longer hours or in worse conditions (International Labour Organization, 2021).

Boys are more likely than females of all ages to be involved in child labor. Compared to 7.8% of all girls, 11.2 percent of all boys work as children. The gender disparity in the incidence of household chores among boys and girls aged 5 to 14 is almost cut in half when the definition of child labor is extended to encompass tasks that take 21 hours or more per week (International Labour Organisation, 2021a)

Push and pull variables can be identified from a socioeconomic perspective. Children are forced to work at early ages due to many factors including poverty, elders who are unemployed, a large number of family members, natural disasters, a lack of parental education, ignorance, the death of parents, broken families, cheap labor, a lack of special care for disadvantage group, urbanization, etc., which encourage the phenomenon of child labor. Despite the fact that these factors frequently interact and thereby increase the likelihood of turning a child into a child laborer. There is various reason for child labor in our country. Some causes of global child labor are similar but differ from country to country. Violating laws regarding child labor is a way to increase child labor in any developing country.

Amongst various causes of child labor, many parents secure advances from landlords or employers and repay the loans in terms of their child labor. The leading causes of child labor are as follows:

The curse of poverty

Child labor is a flagrant violation of a child's fundamental rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Extreme poverty, which forces parents to get their children involved in work for additional income to cover daily expenses, is a primary cause of child labor. Living in poor households, these children are deprived of their essential

needs – food, shelter, medical care, sanitation facilities, and drinking water. With an average wage of less than \$ 5 a day, parents are forced to send their children to work to have additional financial support for family income (Aljazeera, 2020)

Poverty is linked to several other variables, such as low literacy and numeracy rates, a lack of decent employment options, natural calamities and climate change, disputes, and mass migration. Poverty and child labor are inextricably linked; if we don't address one, we won't be able to address the other, where the head of the family is disabled due to illness, or death, which affects the family's financial status.

The intersection of the COVID-19 pandemic with child labor globally offers substantial cause for concern. In 2020, the pandemic increased the number of children in income-poor households by an estimated 142 million, adding to the 582 million children already in poverty in 2019 (Raihan et al., 2022). School closers during lockdown add to the risks, especially for children in vulnerable situations, as they are even more likely to work when going to school is not a vital option. When children leave school and enter paid employment, it can be very difficult for them to resume their education.

Orphan

Commonly, an orphan is a child who has lost both parents to death. However, children without parents or other close family members frequently lack support. They must therefore work to survive.

Urbanization

Urbanization is one of the main factors that contribute to child labor. A massive expansion of factories was the result. Children were employed by and worked with by employers. Children are given more labor and pay less for it as a result.

Low wages for children

Unquestionably, poverty is the main factor forcing children into the workplace. It is believed that a child's earnings are essential to either his or her survival or the survival of the household (International Labour Office, n.d.-a).

Low wages for children are one of the main reasons for attracting children to work, whereas employers attract children to the labor market because they gain the lowest wages. Children are unable to identify the appropriate wages for their work. Child workers receive a salary equivalent to half that of adults, resulting in increased demand for hiring them. In the case of child labor, there is less chance for theft, greed, or misappropriation of money. With the development of globalization, privatization, and consumerist culture, the need for cheap labor and its linkage with the economic conditions of low-income families have encouraged child labor. The urban economy has generated more economic prospects than the rural economy. Employers usually wanted to employ child workers because of their low salaries, accept longer work hours, and work under poor conditions. In domestic service, children are measured as safe and psychologically feel more comfortable living in a family (M. M. Rahman et al., 1999). On the other hand, domestic child work is unseen, and occasionally, involuntary child labor is hard to classify. It happens hidden behind locked doors and regularly goes unseen and unreached (Banu et al., 1998)

Norms and traditions of family

Child labor can be considered a component of social and familial patterns that have an impact on how children get involved in the workplace, either favorably or unfavorably. Children assist their families with tasks in some cultures, such as working in a store or a family business like a farm. Many families, however, feel that a successful life is not in their future and that the primary means of their income and survival is the age-old custom of labor. Small business people also waste their children's lives in the greediness of perpetuating their family trade with lower production costs. On the other hand, some families also believe that working from childhood onwards will make their children more diligent and worldly-wise in terms of future life. They believe that early employment will give rise to their children's personal development, making it easier for them to plan their lives.

Social inequality is one of the crucial causes of child labor in Bangladesh. Wikipedia, (2022) finds that social disparities based on gender, ethnicity, age, class, and caste influence which children work, their kinds of work, and their working conditions. Perceptions of what constitutes childhood vary widely between cultures, and full-time work may be considered the most appropriate activity for a poor, low caste, or minority child. Likewise, girls may be expected to work while their brothers attend school. People's perception and attitude toward the girl children is that they should do some house works. Many people think girls could not be considered complete women without learning skills about such kinds of work.

Large family size

Low-income families have a more significant number of children. So, it becomes challenging for them to survive on the income of only one family member, which is also quite less. When a family is comprised of four or five children, they are more likely to send their children into the labor market. Most children's fathers work as daily laborers on a farm or off-farm at the local level, and their mothers are housewives. Parents sent their elder children to work. Initially, these children take part in household chores and then accompany their family in farming or petty trading or supported sharecropping, and finally, they become employed as full-time child laborers.

Gender discrimination

Gender discrimination and child labor are closely related. Several instances of girls being denied education can be seen in our society. Girls who are considered as being weaker than boys are denied access to education and school. Girls and their parents are often found working in working families. According to Kumar, (2013), non-preference leads to a gender difference in child labor, with female children working more than male children.

Female child workers work for longer hours than male child workers. However, much of their (girls) work remains undervalued because it is unpaid and confined to the domestic sphere. A female child often spends less time on average in paid market work than a male child. In contrast, they are mainly responsible for water and fuel collection, food preparation, household chores, childcare, and care of the sick and elderly.

Children who are male or female are affected by child labor in different ways, and parents' decisions are frequently influenced by broader social norms about the various roles they should perform in the family and society. Male child employees are more likely to work in hazardous work like construction, whereas female child workers are considerably more likely to handle home duties. Often, female child laborers are taken out of school before male child workers (Save the Children, n.d.). According to The United Nations Children's Fund, (2003), "Girls often start working at an earlier age than boys, especially in the rural areas where most working children are found." As a result of adherence to traditional gender roles, many girls find themselves caught in various child labor activities.

Societal Perception of child labor

Child labor is significantly influenced by society's perception of it. Parents' and employers' exploitation of children in adult work is a result of a lack of community awareness and concern about the effects of child labor. Child work has also been associated with society, according to a study. Children become the only option for families in nations whose tradition restricts women's labor to domestic duties if their parents pass away or become incapacitated.

Addiction, disease, or disability

In many families, due to alcohol addiction, disease, or disability, there is no earning, and the child's wages are the sole means of the family's sustenance. Population growth is also increasing unemployment, which harms child labor prevention. So, instead of sending their children to school, to make improvements to the family home, their parents are willing to send them to work. Many parents in our society fear that if their children spend their time idly, they may get involved in anti-social activities. For this reason, they try to find an occupation for their children and keep them away from idleness and vagrancy.

Lack of social protection

Disaster is described as "a sudden calamity that seriously impairs the operation of a community or society and results in losses of life, property, and economic or environmental resources that exceed the capacity of the community or society to cope with such losses." Natural disasters such as cyclones and floods, land erosion, etc., devastate much of Bangladesh every year. This further increases the pressure on low-income families and leads to many new children entering the labor force (IFRC) (Kumar, 2013).

Children are considerably more likely to need to work after emergencies to support themselves and their families. Many children, if not more, are now believed to have been orphaned by cyclone Sidr, which devastated large parts of Bangladesh's southwestern coast on 15 November, killing more than 3000 people and rendering millions more homeless. So, for any natural disasters, children must need protection, social assistance, and rehabilitation.

Inequality

Inequality is like an epidemic for a country that destroys a country's development not only for a generation but also for an extended period. Sociologists see society as a stratification system that is based on a hierarchy of power (the ability to direct someone else's behavior), privilege (honor and respect), and prestige (income, wealth, and property), which leads to patterns of social inequality (Glaser et al., 1968). It is tied to race, gender, and class, with whites, males, those with higher education levels, and those with higher income levels sitting at the top of the hierarchy. There are many types of inequalities, such as power, wealth, poverty, income, social class, education, occupation, gender, race and ethnicity, age, and even region on a local and global level.

Parents' low education

Parents' low education is one of the major factors in sending their children to income-generation activities. Because of a lack of education, the parents understand neither what child labor is nor what its effects are: as such, they very often encourage children and, in some cases, put pressure on them to work instead of going to school, though they do not require work. In this regard, we keep in mind that all the child laborers obtained the support of their mothers, whose educational level is only up to literacy or basic schooling. A UNICEF survey of selected countries in Latin America, the Caribbean, South Asia, and Sub-Saharan Africa finds that, on average, children with uneducated mothers are at least twice as likely to be out of primary school as children whose mothers attended primary school (UNICEF, 2023a). Besides the above reasons, Parents frequently let their children work as supplemental income for their families.

Child marriage

Child marriage is indirectly associated with child labor. Nowadays, there is some support from the government for schooling, which is mostly for girls' education. But poor parents marry their daughters off before the age of eighteen. Parents should not depend on their daughters' income, so there is a reluctance to invest in daughters and a lack of prospective grooms once they age. Therefore, poor parents feel social pressure to marry their daughters to low-skilled grooms.

In South Asian countries like Bangladesh, many girl children marry early and enter into unpaid work in their in-law's houses.

Child marriage results in underage girls taking responsibility for all household chores. Female children also, become pregnant at an early age which has negative health implications. Children born in low-income families have below the minimum nutritional dietary intake, low-weight babies, malnutrition in early childhood, with no proper childcare.

Corruption

Corruption is one of the main reasons for abusing resources; wherever there is poverty, there is also corruption (Murphy, 2008). Also Karim et al., (2022) studies reveal that “Corruption exacerbates poverty and inequality, undermines human development and stability, encourages and sustains conflict, violates human rights, and erodes the democratic functioning of countries.”

In many cases, due to family dysfunction such as the death of parents, parents’ polygamy, the violence of the family, etc. Many children had already dropped out of school when they had only completed a few years of schooling. They forget what they have learned in school. They are mainly involved with physical labor.

So, from the above discussion, it can be realized that child labor exists in every society. In Bangladesh, children are facing hazardous work mostly for poverty. We may draw our concluding remark by saying that, children are the most precious gift for our own, society as well as for our country also. So, it is our prior duty to take proper concern of every matter of children so that we can easily ensure a better and worthy environment for every child in the future.

Chapter Five

This chapter deals with the present situation of child labor from a global perspective that is, Child Labor in Asia, Europe, America (North and South), Africa, and Australia.

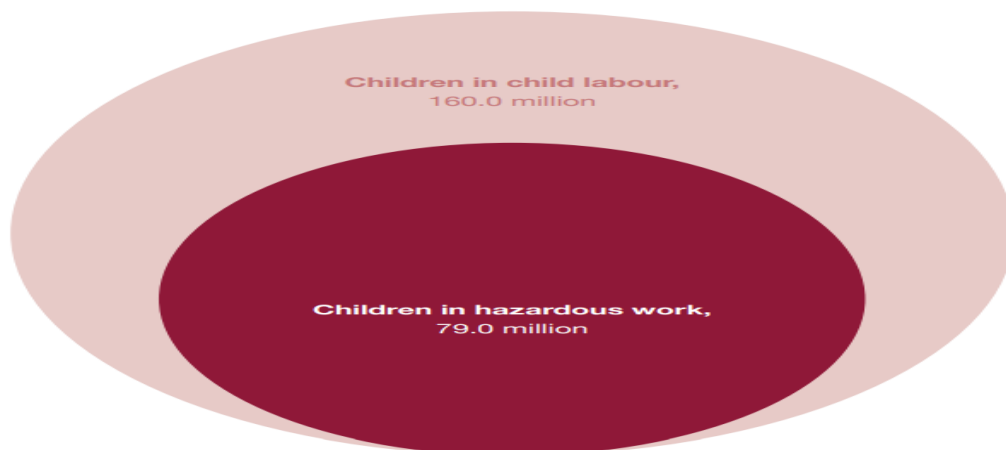
Chapter 5: Child Labor: Global Context

5.1 Child Labor: Global Context

A new global commitment to eliminate child labor is included in the Sustainable Development Goals. The Sustainable Development Goal target 8.7 specifically calls on the wider global community to take immediate and effective action to eradicate forced labor, end modern slavery and human trafficking, secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labor, including the recruitment and use of child soldiers, and end child labor in all its forms by 2025. The latest global estimates indicate that the number of children in child labor has risen to 160 million worldwide – an increase of 8.4 million children in the last four years. In addition, Sixty-three million girls and 97 million boys were in child labor globally at the beginning of 2020, accounting for almost 1 in 10 of all children worldwide. The percentage of children between the ages of 5 and 17 who are engaged in hazardous labor, which is work that could endanger their health, safety, or morals. Worldwide, 160 million children are engaged in child labor; 79 million are performing hazardous work.

(United Nations, 2020).

Figure 1: Number of children aged 5 to 17 years in child labor and hazardous work.



Source: International Labour Organisation & UNICEF, (2021)

According to the 2021 Global Estimates, there are 27.6 million people in forced labor on any given day, 3.5 people for every thousand people in the world. Women and girls make up 11.8 million of this total. More than 3.3 million of all those in forced labor are children (International Labour Organization (ILO) et al., 2022).

During the beginning of the industrial revolution, children were forced to work around family farms, in factories, tending crops, or preparing food. They used to work in industries, and their work conditions were very dangerous and often deadly. At that time, the industry preferred children to work because children provided cheap labor and more malleable workers (Basu, 1999). In 1833 and 1844, the first legislation came to ban child labor. It implied that children should not work, and the idea was to remove all children from labor which interfered with school. However, many children continued to be involved in child labor which was prohibited by law (Bhat, 2011).

All children and young people worldwide are protected by laws that give them rights to things like education safety, a voice in the decisions taken concerning them, and space and time to play. However, for tens of millions of children worldwide, those basic rights are at risk because they have to work (Global Dimension, n.d.).

Child laborers work to earn money or spend most of their time on household chores, from collecting water to looking after siblings. And all these activities harm their school work, play with friends, or even attend school. UNICEF's definition of a child laborer measures children who have been economically active for an hour or more each week or have done over 28 hours of 'household chores,' and there are different measures for older children. It's estimated that 168 million children are involved worldwide. Nearly 10 million children are trapped in modern-day slavery, forced to work in people's homes, businesses, or on the street without being paid. They are often separated from their families with no means of returning home. They are also used to doing illegal or dangerous jobs, such as working in mines, the drug trade, and prostitution.

The 2021 International Labor Organization report indicates that 3.3 million children are in situations of forced labor on any given day, accounting for about 12 percent of all those in forced labor. The forced labor of children constitutes one component of child labor, which the international community through target 8.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals – has committed to end by 2025. There are concerns that the risk of forced labor among children has been made worse during the COVID-19 pandemic. An estimated 10.4 million children, for example, have lost at least one parent to the pandemic, out of which 7 million have become orphans, leaving them vulnerable to abuse in contexts where child support systems are inadequate. The

COVID-19 crisis is likely to push millions more children into child labor. Without mitigation measures, the number of children in child labor could rise from 160 million in 2020 to 168.9 million by the end of 2022.

(Vision, 2022).

5.2 Child Labor in Asia

Asia-Pacific is home to more working children than any other region globally; an estimated 122 million children aged 5-14 years are compelled to work for their survival (International Labour Office, n.d.-b). Millions are not enrolled in school at all. Research by the ILO's International Programme for the Elimination of Child Labor (IPEC) has found working children in several economic sectors, including domestic labor, seafood processing, garment and footwear factories, mining and quarrying, pyrotechnics, rag-picking and scavenging, rubber and sugar-cane plantations, entertainment and other services.

In Asia, many child laborers work as household help, working in farming and fishing industries, as providers of sex services, brick kilns, construction sites, and increasingly in the drug trade, as street beggars, vendors, and workers in small-scale or home-based industries.

UNICEF estimates that about one million children are forced into the sex trade in Asia every year. The exploitation of children in the commercial sex trade is supported by increased trafficking activity in the region by organized syndicates. In South Asia, Bangladeshi children are trafficked for prostitution and forced and bonded labor. Having household help is historically embedded in middle- and upper-class families in almost all Asian countries. So, many children from low-income families are engaged in this work, some as young as eight. They have long working hours, with minimal opportunity for rest. They are exposed to hazards while doing heavy household work. And most of them are victims of verbal, physical, and sexual abuse. Agricultural technology is the next big thing happening in South Asia the child labor hotspot that employs most of its teenage workers in farms and allied sectors (UCA News, 2021).

India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, and Nepal have child labor populations of 5.8 million, 5 million, 3.4 million, and 2 million, respectively, a survey by the International Labor Organization (ILO) found in 2020 of the 250 million children engaged in child labor

in the world, 70 percent, or some 170 million, are working in the agriculture sector. Child labor in agriculture in South Asia goes beyond the economic status of parents. More than 87 percent of these destitute workers hailing from lower castes tend crops, herd cattle, go for errands, and perform other tasks for their masters. Ethnicity, socio-economic status and gender, migration, poverty, limited work opportunities, and social norms force children to work in the agriculture sector in South Asia. They have never been to school as their long working hours frequently make schooling impossible. It is reported that more than 50 million are out of school in South Asia (UCA News, 2021).

The pandemic has seriously affected the children and increased child labor. The loss of employment due to the COVID-19 pandemic mainly occurred in the informal sector. India and Bangladesh have large, informal sectors. The loss of livelihoods, particularly for migrants, combined with school closures, increased child labor in these countries.

The pandemic, which began in early 2020, resulted in temporary school closures, a reduction in migration, a decrease in employment opportunities, and a rise in poverty. Naturally, child labor worldwide increased as low-income families struggled to survive. During the pandemic, some Asian countries were forced to work in the pornography and sex video industry (UCA News, 2022).

The largest global estimates indicate that the number of children in child labor has risen to 160 million worldwide, an increase of 8.4 million in the last four years. Sixty-three million girls and 97 million boys were in child labor globally at the beginning of 2020, accounting for almost 1 to 10 of all children worldwide. Economic shocks and school closures caused by COVID-19 mean that children already in child labor may be working longer hours or under worsening conditions, while many more may be forced into the worst forms of child labor due to job and income losses among vulnerable families. The report warned that globally 9 million additional children are at risk of being pushed into child labor by the end of 2022 because of the pandemic (International Labour Organisation, 2021a).

Bangladesh and India have concentrations of child labor, where children often work in highly exploitative conditions. During the lockdown, COVID-19 had long-lasting adverse economic effects on households and their children. The loss of livelihoods, particularly due to migration, combined with school closures, had increased school dropout and child labor. According to conservative estimates, there are 16.7 million (5–17-year-old) children in child labor in South Asia, and of these, 10.3 million are in the 5–14-year range. Young, 5–11-year-old children comprise about one-fifth of all child laborers in South Asia .(Kakar, 2020).

According to Kakar, (2020), child labor for the 5-17 years age range is the highest in India (5.8 million), followed by Bangladesh (5.0 million), Pakistan (3.4 million), and Nepal (2.0 million).

5.3 Child Labor in Europe

Many observers thought that child labor was a thing of the past in Europe. However, there are strong indicators that child labor remains a serious problem and that it might grow in the wake of the economic crisis. Over 250 million children between the ages of 5 and 14 work (International Labour Office, 1999b), according to the International Labor Organization, making child labor a common issue in developing nations. 29 percent of Georgian children aged 7 to 14 are employed, according to a UN study. 19% of the population lives in Albania. The Russian Federation's government estimates that there may be up to 1 million minors working there. A June 2013 research in Italy found that 5.2% of children under the age of 16 are working.

Many of the children working across Europe have extremely hazardous occupations in agriculture, construction, small factories, or on the street. This has been reported, for example, in Albania, Bulgaria, Moldova, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, Turkey, and Ukraine. Agriculture may involve using dangerous machinery and tools, carrying heavy loads, and applying harmful pesticides. Working in the streets leaves children vulnerable to abuse and exploitation.

Child labor is very common in the tobacco industry in Bulgaria, with some children working up to 10 hours a day. In Moldova, reports indicate that school directors, farms, and agricultural cooperatives have signed contracts requiring students to help harvest.

Other countries at risk are those badly affected by austerity measures: Cyprus, Greece, Italy, and Portugal. Many children reportedly work for long hours in the United Kingdom (Council of Europe, 2013).

5.4 Child Labor in America (North and South America)

International Labour Office, (2021) found that 8.2 million children between the ages of 5-17 are engaged in child labor in Latin America and the Caribbean. Most of these children are male adolescents, with 33% being girls. Under Colombian law, children under 15 are not allowed to work, and no children can be employed in a hazardous job that poses a risk to health or life. About 850,000 children in Colombia are estimated to be working and not attending school (Global Citizen, 2018)

While Latin America has made great strides to eliminate child labor, around 5.7 million children across the region continue to labor, many in dangerous unpaid work akin to modern slavery. Most child laborers work in agriculture, but sectors identified as high-risk for abuse include mining, domestic labor, fireworks manufacturing, and fishing. Paraguay, Mexico, and Brazil are three countries in Latin America where child slavery persists.

In Mexico, nearly 8.4 percent of children work in some form, mostly in agriculture or maquiladoras for export assembly plants. They work in highly precarious conditions, working more than 48 hours a week, receiving a wage of between 29 and 40 dollars per week. They work genuinely in human-overheated spaces. According to a study conducted in 2017 by Brazil's Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE), 1.8 million children between the ages of 5 and 17 are employed there. Economists Flavia Vinhaes and Joaquin Cortez say child labor does not always constitute slavery. Still, among Brazilian children aged 5 to 13, 74% of them received no remuneration for their work. Out of the 796,293 children living in Colombia, 56% living in rural areas and 44% living in urban areas are involved in child labor (Freedom United, 2018).

With 12.5 million young workers, Latin America now has fewer child laborers than regions such as Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, and the Middle East, the U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL) estimates (O'Boyle, 2014).

In Latin America and the Caribbean, 10.5 million girls and boys are engaged in child labor. 7.3% of children aged 5 to 17 are currently working. Children who work are likelier to fail at school because absenteeism and fatigue interfere with their performance. Two-thirds of adolescents between 12 and 17 are involved in hazardous work. Children are often found working in unpaid family work. 67% of child domestic workers are girls, and many of them are in hazardous working conditions.

(5 facts about child labor in Latin America and the Caribbean (Monti, 2021).

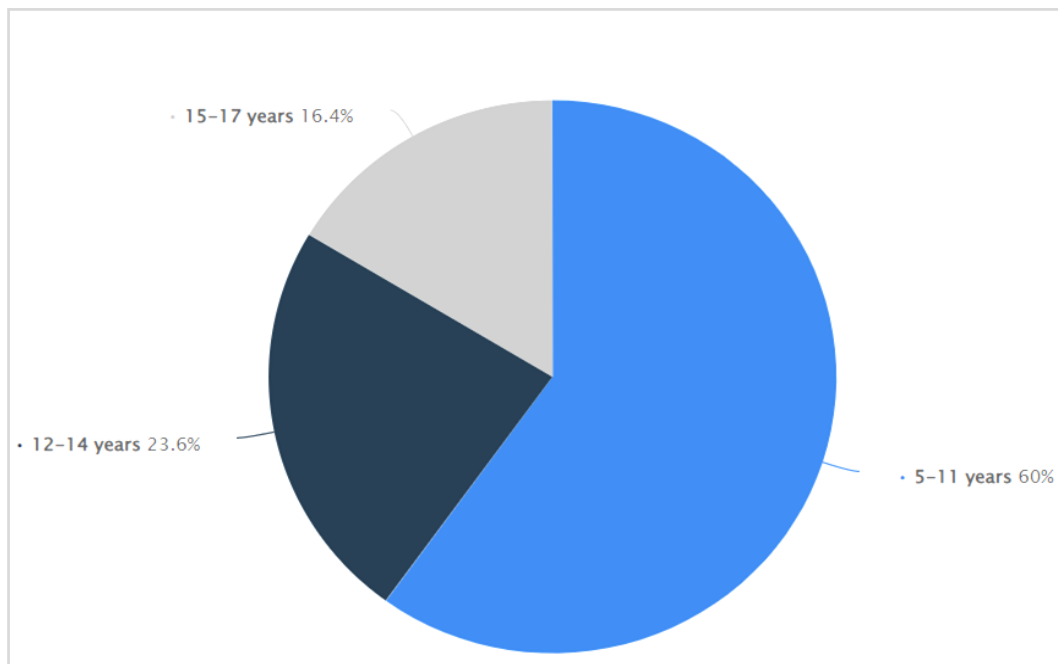
According to calculations made by the Department of Labor and based on estimates from the Association of Agricultural Worker Opportunity Programs, there are approximately 500,000 child agricultural workers in the US. Many of these children start working as young as 8, and 72-hour work weeks (more than 10 hours per day) are not uncommon. The United States Fair Labor Standards Act (1938) prohibits those under the age of 14 from working in most industries, restricts hours to no more than three on a school day until 16, and prohibits hazardous work until 18 for most industries (AFT, n.d.).

5.5 Child Labor in Africa

According to UNICEF, (2023b), child work affects almost one in four children in the world's poorest nations, with Sub-Saharan Africa having the highest rate (29%) of child laborers. In 2017, four African nations (Mali, Benin, Chad, and Guinea-Bissau) witnessed over 50 percent of children aged 5-14 working (UNICEF, 2023b). Africa has the highest percentage of children aged 5-17 employed as child laborers, and over 65 million (Statista, 2023). Children working at a young age has been a consistent theme throughout Africa. Many children began working in the home to help their parents run the family farm. Agbu, (2009) Children in Africa today are often forced into exploitative labor due to family debt and other financial factors, leading to ongoing poverty (Agbu, 2009).

Most of the children participating in child labor in Sub-Saharan Africa were aged 5-11 years in 2020. According to estimates, 60 percent of children in labor belong to this age group. Overall, there were more than 86.60 million children in child labor in the region as of the same year, including 3.5 million children engaged in hazardous work (Statista, 2023).

Figure 2: Distribution of children aged 5-17 years in child labor in sub-Saharan Africa as of 2020 by age group.



Source: (Statista, 2023)

Child soldiers, underage gold miners, street vendors, and cocoa plantation workers: After years of decline in child labor, the COVID-19 pandemic has pushed many African children back to work.

According to Schwikowski, (2022) in Deutsche Welle documents report focused on population growth, recurring crises, extreme poverty, and inadequate social protection measures have led to an additional 17 million girls and boys engaging in child labor in Sub-Saharan Africa over the past four years (2012-2016). Africa has the highest number of working children. 41% of children on the continent, or more than 92 million works, and an average of more than 30% of children between the ages of 10 and 14 are agricultural workers. A situation caused by poverty, limited access to basic social services, natural disasters, and poor governance. On the continent, about 120,000 children under 18 are child soldiers or sex slaves. The African Union indicates parents' death, extreme poverty, and poor governance. Source: Africa: 41% of children are economically active. Unfortunately, the COVID-19 crisis has increased economic insecurity, disrupted the supply chain, and seriously slowed manufacturing. With roughly 85 percent of employment in Africa in the informal

economy, there is an expected increase in child labor due to the closure of schools, the significant loss of parents' income during the pandemic, the absence of essential social protection, and increasing poverty. When children are trapped in slavery, forced labor, and trafficking; forced to participate in armed conflict: used for prostitution, pornography illicit activities; or in hazardous work, they must act urgently to protect their rights and restore their childhood.

African countries must address this informally, extend social protection to all, improve legal enforcement mechanisms, increase access to free, basic, quality education, and strengthen social dialogue.

5.6 Child Labor in Australia

In Australia, child labor has been shown to increase adult unemployment and depress national wages. Using child labor means that workers are not being invested in or paid fairly, creating a society of adults whose skills and capacities have not been developed as much as they should have been.

Many products Australians love, such as coffee, chocolate, and others, might have been created through child labor. In many cases, children plant the cotton used to make the clothes, or even harvest coffee. Working in the home was part of daily life for most children who were in institutional care in the twentieth century. For many people in 'care,' this work took the form of demanding physical labor for no payment and at the expense of their schooling or vocational training. In many submissions to the forgotten Australians, children who were boarded out or placed in foster care were also required to work in private homes. As the employment of children became more widely seen as exploitative and unacceptable. (World Vision, n.d.).

Much of the evidence provided harrowing descriptions of small children undertaking adult tasks, clearing land, building, and looking after livestock while at the same time trying to participate in the little education that was offered. The unpaid hungry, fearful labor force was relentlessly driven from dawn to dusk in a dangerous work environment where the accident risk was a reality (Find & Connect Web Resource Project, n.d.)

Australian law prohibits child labor, at least in the sense that it is practiced abroad. Children should not be forced to work for long hours for a pittance when they should be out playing in the fresh air, getting an education, and exploring their worlds. The history of child labor in America is long and, in some cases, unsavory. Still, child labor remains a challenge that Bolivia believes it can tackle with legislation that recognizes and regulates the issue. In the world's poorest countries, slightly more than one in five children are engaged in work potentially harmful to their health.

Figure 3: Percentage of aged 5-17 years engaged in child labor at the time of the survey by region

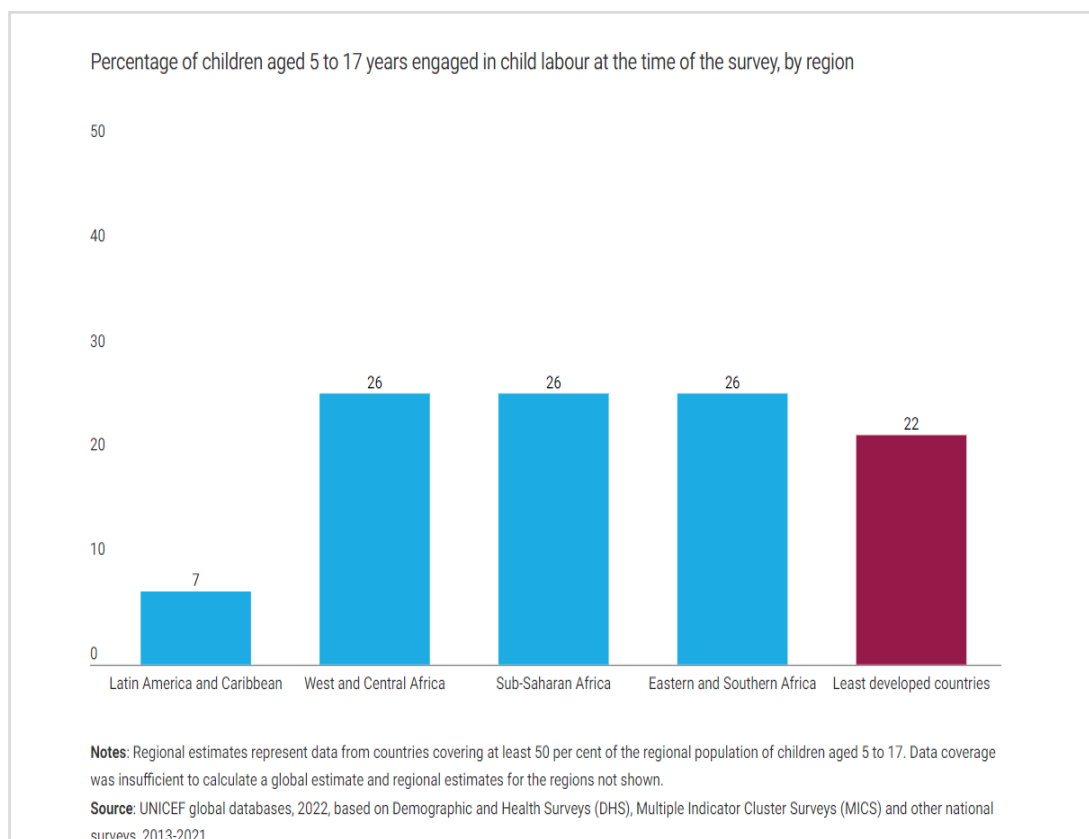
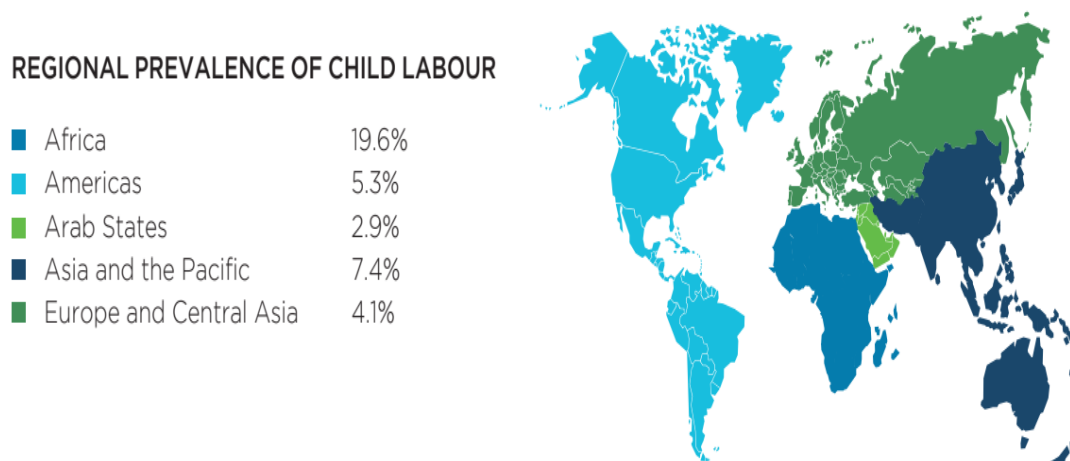


Figure 4: Regional prevalence of child labor



Source: International Labour Office, (2021)

According to the report, child labor decreased by 38% from 246 million in 2000 to 152 million in 2016 (“International Year for the Elimination of Child Labor,” (International Labour Organisation, 2022a). However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, children in child labor increased by 9 million (“Child labor rises to 160 million the first increase in two decades” (International Labour Organisation, 2021a).

Table 6: Number the percentage of children aged 5 to 17 years in child labor and hazardous work in 2016 and 2020

	Child labor	Child labor (%)	Children in hazardous work	Children in hazardous work (%)
Ages 5-11	89,300,000	9.7	25,900,000	2.8
Ages 12-14	35,600,000	9.3	18,100,000	4.8
Ages 15-17	35,000,000	9.5	35,000,000	9.5
Boys (2016)	87,500,000	10.7	44,800,000	5.5
Girls (2016)	64,100,000	8.4	27,800,000	3.6
World Total (2016)	151,600,000	9.6	72,500,000	4.6
Boys (2020)	97,000,000	11.2	52,200,000	5.8
Girls (2020)	62,900,000	7.8	28,800,000	3.6
World Total (2020)	160,000,000	9.6	79,000,000	4.7

Source: International Labour Office, (2021)

Chapter Six

A child's life might become complicated by child labor in a number of different ways. They face major behavioral, emotional, physical, and psychological problems. The consequences of child labor are discussed in chapter five. (Eight different sectors)

Chapter 6: Consequences of Child Labor

Consequences of Child Labor (Eight different sectors)

The causes of child labor are poverty, unstable income, social injustice, the lack of public services, and political will (Tobin, 2011). Children may be driven into work due to many family factors. Most often, child labor occurs when families face financial challenges, unemployment of elders, many family members, sudden caregiver illness, job loss, lack of parental education, death of parents, natural disaster, broken family, cheap labor, urbanization, etc. According to (UNICEF, 2022), 63 million girls and 97 million boys were subjected to child labor globally at the beginning of 2020, with 9 million additional children at risk due to the impact of COVID-19.

The International Labor Organization (ILO)'s UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) addresses the issue of child labor. Developing countries in Africa, South America, Asia, and the Middle East continue to have a higher prevalence of child labor than places in Europe, North America, and Australia, where laws against child labor were promptly implemented (UNICEF, 2022). The development of children's skills and experience, as well as their ability to contribute to society as adults, is thought to be positively impacted by their involvement in activities such as helping their parents around the house, helping them at work, and earning pocket money during school breaks. Child labor is cheap. If the head of the family is sick, the child can work and bring in income. Child labor, however, highly supports its flourishing economy. Children are needed to provide for their struggle for survival and that of their group. Low-income families support their children to earn money. Work can provide specific skills and knowledge. When children successfully participate in the work activities around them, they take pride in what they do. Children worldwide routinely engage in unpaid work that is not harmful to them. However, they are classified as child laborers when they are too young to work or are involved in hazardous activities that may compromise their physical, mental, social, or educational development (UNICEF, 2023b).

Child labor can create many different problems in the life of a child. He/she suffers significant psychological, mental, physical, emotional, and behavioral difficulties. It remains a major issue in developing nations. In its most extreme forms, child labor entails enslavement, family separation, and exposure to dangerous conditions and diseases. Nearly half of the seventy-nine million children who work as children do so in hazardous labor that puts their health, safety, and moral development at risk (International Labour Office, 2021).

Child labor remains a persistent problem in the world today. The COVID-19 crisis has pushed millions more children into child labor. One hundred sixty million children are engaged in child labor; 79 million perform hazardous work (International Labour Office, 2021).

In the metropolitan areas of Bangladesh, many child laborers are engaged in the formal sector. However, the informal sector often lies outside the jurisdiction of government legislation (Ahad et al., 2021)

The findings of a child labor survey of 2013 reveal 1.28 million children engaged in hazardous child labor; 1.1 million children work more than 42 hours weekly (Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, 2017)

Child labor is cheaper than adult labor and an excellent opportunity for employers to employ in any work. Unfortunately, children who fall victim to child labor suffer major physical, mental, and psychological issues. Working long hours with heavy and dangerous equipment, lack of nutritious food, lack of access to education and recreation, regular verbal and physical abuse and exploitation at their workplace and sometimes by their family, and chronic injury hinder their physical and psychological growth (Uddin et al., 2009).

Most child laborers work in hazardous conditions, such as direct contact with pesticides, chemicals, dust, and carcinogenic agents in agriculture mines, quarrying, and manufacturing. Children who work as miners are forced to use their hands and tools to collect raw materials. Mining can permanently damage a growing child's bones and muscles. Other hazardous conditions increase the risks of developing bronchial complaints, cancers, and other life-threatening diseases. Children involved in industries like garbage recycling and waste management work in an unprotected

environment and consequently are exposed to many dangerous materials such as broken glass, rotten food, sharps, and others that can cause severe and permanent health consequences. Some children work in exploitative conditions and are vulnerable to sexual abuse (International Labour Office, 1999a). Children engage in dangerous work that includes welding, carpentry, rickshaw pulling, and automobile repair (K. M. Rahman et al., 2010).

Children are also involved in steel furniture, jute, glass, footwear, leather, textiles, salt, soap, matches, bricks, and cigarettes. They work in hotels and restaurants and face long working hours and potential abuse. (Zaman, S. et al.) Children are also found working on the streets, garbage picking, vending, begging, and pottering (Hossain & Urmee, 2010)

They are exploited in the commercial sex industry, and some are trafficked internally and face sexual exploitation (Martin, 2006). Making glass is challenging and dangerous work, especially without modern technologies. Intense heat is used during the glass-making process to melt the glass. When the boys are at work, they are exposed to heat, exhaustion, eye trouble, cuts, and burns.

Boys and girls, often living on the streets, are exploited in illicit activities, including smuggling and trading arms and drugs. Mondal, (2008) investigates the factors that influence the health complications of child laborers. They found that i) an increase in working hours increased the likelihood of health complications, ii) children working in more hazardous sectors face more health problems than those working in comparatively less hazardous sectors, and iii) children who enter work at an early age face more health complications than those entering work at an older age.

In South Asian countries like Bangladesh, many girls' children are married off early and enter unpaid work in their in-law's houses. Girls working in the garments sector and as domestic workers faced significant insecurity within their living spaces. Children working in distant places could not return to their homes daily. Hence, they had to live in their workplaces. Inadequate drinking water, living in unhygienic spaces with no clean beds, insufficient aeration, and natural lights were standard features of the living conditions of child laborers. In addition, these accommodations harbored many people of different ages with diseases and habits like smoking. Girls working in

the garments sector as domestic workers faced significant insecurity within their living spaces. Big accidents, like fire and building collapse, occurred in the RMG factories. Rana Plaza, a nine-story multiplex building, collapsed in Saver, Dhaka, on 24 April 2013. This deadliest accidental structural failure in modern human history has taken away a total of 1,135 lives of workers (Roundtables, 2023). Thousands of injured were rescued. Dropping out of school is associated with child labor, so it is likely that child laborers would have lower literacy rates. They dropped out of formal schools and could not continue their education and jobs. Sometimes children and their parents have no interest in education and think education is not a real-life necessity. In most cases, parents with deficient literacy skills are likely to have more children than those with higher levels of education. Consequently, parents cannot continue with their children's education and (sometimes unwillingly) must send their children to earn at a very early age Afros, (2015)

A child forced to work misses many of the good things associated with childhood. Child labor leads to a loss of quality childhood as children will be deprived of the opportunity to enjoy the extraordinary experiences of being young. Child labor is not only disfavoring general physical growth but also leads to defects and ailments. Different types of labor have different kinds of ill effects.

Eight categories of child laborers have been analyzed in this study: Laguna transport helpers, load carriers, waste collectors,' hotel/tea stall laborers, vegetable shop assistants, motor workshop laborers, child domestic workers, and laborers in welding factories.

Welding factory labor and its consequences among children

Welding activities are mainly concentrated in urban areas. These activities include repairing/manufacturing steel furniture, automobiles, and metallic products (steel furniture, doors, windows, etc.). Welding is a hazardous type of work and more dangerous for a child worker. A child meets different kinds of injuries/accidents at any time during work. In addition, they don't wear any protection during their work. Using welding machines (the machine which is used to unit two pieces of metals by melting with heat and then applying pressure), has common long-term health effects which include heart disease and pulmonary infections, burn injuries, headaches, back

pain from heavy lifting, lung and throat cancer, stomach problems, kidney disease, effects on the ear, effects on the eye and vision, effects on the skin, effects on the nervous system, effects on the musculoskeletal system, effects on the kidney, effects on reproduction, and effects on the cardiovascular system.

Children working in the welding sector suffer from psychological immaturity. Long working hours arouse their feeling of frustration and inadequacy. They become withdrawn, introverted, and uncommunicable. They are also deprived of the special care that would be required for the psychological effects.

Child load career and its consequences

In my study, load carriers carry loads from the bazaar, launch, and bus terminal. A load carrier generally takes passengers and removes the travel burden of passengers. They earn their livelihood by carrying the baggage of others in the railway station, ferry ghat, bus terminal, bazaar, shops, etc. They are low-wage laborers and engage primarily in unskilled hard labor. Children who work as daily laborers for loading goods could not work a whole day. They often suffer from sickness, fever, waterborne disease, headache, body aches, and pain in the knee, muscles, and other joints. Load carriers suffer from any work-related injury. The nature of the injury is mostly cuts/wounds and back pain due to the heavy load. They are often exploited and abused. As they involve hard labor, it takes a toll on their bodies. To relieve their tired and sore bodies and to escape from their misery, many turn to smoke, opium, and gambling (Vyas et al., 2011).

Using children as a carrier on their heads violates children's rights and is detrimental to their expected physical and mental growth. They suffer from different mental problems. As a result, the number of drug addicts' children and social crime is increasing daily in the city.

Physical problems negatively affect the child's psychology and may lead to isolation and feelings of powerlessness, depression, anxiety, loss of concentration, low self-esteem, regressive behavior, and sleep disturbances. Their emotional and moral development is negatively impacted by restricted social interaction, long hours of work, heavy responsibilities, and a lack of social support. Various psychological problems may occur when children are subjected to work situations deprived of intellectual and emotional stimuli. The most damaging form of deprivation can seriously affect the child's personality development.

Garbage collectors as a child laborer and its consequences

Garbage is stuff that we throw away. The seven most common types of garbage are:

1. Liquid or solid household waste:

This can be called ‘municipal waste’ or ‘black bag waste’ and is the general household rubbish we all have. It can be both liquid or solid.

Example of household waste: Household waste can include kitchen scraps, packing, cleaning waste, and liquids such as cooking fats, wastewater, cleaning liquids, or grease.

2. Hazardous waste:

The federal government usually regulates hazardous waste which includes some of the more dangerous chemicals one can expect in a typical home. It may be flammable, toxic, corrosive, and reactive.

Examples of hazardous waste are pharmaceuticals, anything that contains mercury, solvents, some paints, aerosol cans, pool chemicals, batteries, gasoline, and more classified hazardous waste.

3. Medical/clinical waste:

Pharmaceutical waste that is produced by health care centers, clinics, hospitals, vets, and specialist health clinics may also be found in the home and should be disposed of responsibly, even if it is not marked hazardous.

Example of medical waste: Medical waste can include bandages, needles, single-use medical devices, packaging, samples, and PPE such as gloves, gowns, and masks.

4. Electrical waste (E-waste):

E-waste is generated from electrical devices of all shapes and sizes. These may contain toxic metals like lead, mercury, cadmium, and brominated flame retardants, all harmful to humans and the environment.

Examples of Electrical waste: Electrical waste generally refers to a wide range of electrical devices, including computer and computer parts, printers, DVD and music players, TVs, telephones, vacuum cleaners, etc.

5. Recyclable waste:

Recyclable waste refers to items and materials that can be converted into reusable materials. They are commonly found in household recycling bins. Examples of recyclable waste: The most common types of recyclable household waste include paper, cardboard, beverage and food containers, metal, and glass.

6. Construction & demolition debris:

This is usually bulky and weighty material generated during construction projects. Examples of construction waste: construction waste may include ceiling tiles, bathroom tiles, plumbing fixtures, carpeting, insulation, timber frames, plaster, concrete, bricks, skirting, and fill dirt.

7. Green waste:

This is comprised of food and landscaping waste, which break down naturally under the right conditions. Examples of Green Waste: green waste includes grass, weed clippings, tree limbs, and branches, waste from vegetable produce, bread, and grains, as well as paper products (Steve's Rubbish Removals, 2014).

A garbage collector's job is to take people's garbage away. Child labor in the garbage collecting sector is the nastiest kind of child labor. The children in this field face multiple problems that seriously affect their health, physical and occupational injuries, and psychological and emotional health. Getting involved in this kind of job, poor children think they have easy access to livelihood opportunities. They collect household waste, dispose of it in bins, and open waste heaps. Thus, they contribute financially to their families and survival (Cointreau, 2006). However, due to the types of work, musculoskeletal disorders were pervasive among children as they were involved in carrying heavy loads, climbing stairs regularly, and working in odd postures.

Injuries are prevalent among child waste workers as they tend to work without any protective equipment. Occupational injuries include cuts (from sharp objects like metals and glass), accidents (road accidents during collection or transportation of wastes or work accidents during handling of garbage), scratches (from sharp or edgeless objects), bites (dog bites and snake bites during work, insect bites), muscle and ligament sprains (while carrying waste loads), wounds, bruises, contact with poisonous weeds, exposure to chemical fumes airborne dust.

Children engaging in waste management correspond to various physical sufferings and diseases. Different types of health problems are fever, fatigue, dizziness, arthritis (joint pain), back pain, bone fracture skin disease, cough dyspnea (shortness of breath), abdominal pain, eye infection, diarrhea growth retardation, itching, anemia, goiter, headache, tuberculosis, respiratory problem, gastrointestinal and stomach problem, weakness oral infection, acidity vomiting, ear infection, loss of hearing, etc. In addition, children are affected by physical violence, including beating, physical torture, and punishment to work in the waste sector. They are also affected by physical acts of violence, along with sexual violence.

Due to socio-economic conditions and the nature of their work, waste collectors are the most badly affected psychologically. These psychological problems and sufferings include stress, depression, and anxiety, etc. Lower quality of life which is typical in them increases hopelessness.

Children's mental health is harmed in many different ways by the waste sector. For example, one study in Bangladesh reported that about 68.0% of child waste workers faced developmental/mental retardation (Alam et al., 2021). Minor Psychiatric Disorder (MPD) encompasses common and minor psychiatric issues such as depression and anxiety. Girls were more affected by MPD than boys, according to 53.1 versus 39.8% (Bala, 2018).

Hotel/tea-stall labor and its consequences

In developing countries, many children migrate to the capital city for better opportunities and facilities. Many children migrate from rural to urban areas hoping for a good job but are engaged in hotels and tea stalls as workers.

Children work in hotels and tea stalls cooking, assisting with cooking, cleaning tables and floors, washing plates, and glasses, serving meals, washing table clothes, etc. Most workers in this field must work more than 12 hours. Their salaries are not fixed. They are paid accordingly by their bosses. If a child laborer makes a mistake in terms of using appropriate words while talking to the customers or breaking glass while washing the dishes, the employer punishes his/her with physical or verbal abuse and deducts the cost from the child's wages.

Employers do not value the working capacity of a child; instead, they demand more. As a result, children become victims of physical, mental, and economic exploitation – denied payment, given extensive working hours, without breaks, and receiving no education or health support. They work in crowded places, unclean and poorly ventilated spaces, and face dominating behavior of customers as well. Due to the extensive workload, they are deprived of going home in time. Their boss does not provide leave and rest facilities, which they should get as their working rule. They also face dangers when using sharp knives with their tiny hands. No written employment agreements between employer and employee when children engage in hotel and tea stalls. As a result, the boss or owner of the hotel/tea stall treats the children as per his own will. In these sectors, child laborers frequently suffer from headaches, fever, typhoid, physical weakness, chest aches, problems in the ear, and throat, and many others. Lack of a balanced diet, lack of rest, and hard work beyond their physical capacity are the common causes of their illness and their negligence, such as not bathing or washing clothes.

Girls suffer more from sexual harassment and disrespect. The girls are verbally abused and ill-treated the most. The employers, the local people, drivers, and people addicted to drinking also abuse these innocent girls.

Children don't have time to play with their friends because of their extended work hours. Additionally, it appears that children are kept apart from their families in such occupations. As a result, sometimes they are exposed to drugs, adult behavior, loss of a safe upbringing and childhood, and loneliness and stress.

Child vegetable shop assistant and its consequences

A vegetable shop is a type of building or structure created and designed in various colors, materials, shapes, sizes, and styles with accurately specific vegetables. Karwan Bazar is the central point in Dhaka where all the vegetables produced converge from all over the country and then are redistributed from there.

A greengrocer is a person who owns or operates a shop selling vegetables. The term may also be used to refer to a shop selling primarily produce. It is used predominantly in the UK (United Kingdom) and Australia. In the USA (United States of America), the terms 'produce store' or 'produce shop' are used (Rasmussen et al., 1943).

Vegetable shop assistant's responsibilities include welcoming customers, delivering exceptional sales services for improved customer satisfaction, interacting with customers, and identifying their needs and preferences. In addition, they check each vegetable item to ensure its good condition and that vegetables are appropriately cleaned (Wikipedia, 2023b).

Children face many problems at this work, such as muscle pain and orthopedic injuries. In addition, carrying heavy materials over long distances may be associated with muscular/skeletal issues. The children labor from nine to ten hours a day, seven days a week, on average. They are often harassed while working, and physical and psychological abuse have long-term consequences that deprive their childhood and future. They suffer physical abuse involving punishment and emotional maltreatment such as blaming, verbal attacks, bad remarks, etc.

Motor workshop labor and its consequences for child laborers

Motor workshop means premises used for the general repair and servicing of light motor vehicles, including auto-electrical repairs, the fitting, and sale of fitting motor spares and accessories, auto valet services, and storage. It may also include an office, storeroom, display, and sale of vehicles or towing down motor vehicles.

This type of child worker has a higher risk of occupational health hazards than those of workers in other occupations. Long working hours and load lifting increase the risk of occupational illness and injuries among them. They are exposed to physical hazards (ultraviolet and thermal radiation, hot environments, and noise), chemical hazards (dust, fumes, and dangerous chemicals), and ergonomic hazards (strenuous work postures, improperly designed tools). (Vyas et al., 2011).

Children working in a motor workshop work in uncomfortable postures such as bending very frequently, which could affect their musculoskeletal development (Yadav & Sengupta, 2009). Machines, tools, seats, workbenches, and personal protective equipment (PPE) are not designed for children. Children using these machines and tools designed for adults may develop musculoskeletal disorders and work-related injuries (International Labour Office, 1997). Physical strain, especially when combined with repetitive movement, on growing children can cause injury, lifelong deformation in bones and joints, and disabilities (S, 2017).

Nargis et al., (2015) found a high percentage of smoking and frequent drug abuse among these working children. As a result, they suffer from physical exhaustion. Deduction from salary and physical and verbal violence are employers' most common attitudes toward work mistakes.

Domestic work of children and its consequences

Child domestic work can be defined as the engagement of a child under eighteen and household tasks performed in the household of a third person regardless of the number of wages. Work is usually undertaken by children under the legal minimum working age. The law typically lays down different minimum salaries for different types of work. (e.g., regular full-time, light, and hazardous or potentially harmful work).

Child domestic work is invisible as the children work inside the house. Household responsibilities for child domestic workers often include cleaning, cooking, and caring tasks similar to those of other domestic workers. Many domestic tasks can be hazardous for child domestic workers, such as ironing cloth, using sharp kitchen utensils, washing heavy fabric, boiling water, working in monotonous jobs in awkward positions for long hours, caring for a sick person, going to shop by crossing the road, operating motor for pumping water. The CLS estimates 115,658 child domestic workers in 2013, of which 91% were female and from all age groups: there were 951 child domestic workers in the age group 5 years (all of them female) and 21,359 6-11 (91% female); and 75,985 in the age group 14-17 (90% female). Global estimates suggest that approximately 17.2 million children work as domestic workers, of whom over half (11.2 million) are aged between 5 to 14 years, and 67% are girls (Pocock & Zimmerman, 2019).

Having unspecified working hours may mean that child domestic workers must remain available 24 hours daily. Seven days per week, which can cause sleep deprivation and exhaustion. Malnutrition sickness, water-borne diseases, skin disease, anemia, gastrointestinal tract infections, back pain, vitamin deficiencies, respiratory problems, and workplace injury/illness are the common factors of child domestic workers.

There are numerous accounts worldwide of severe forms of abuse, including extreme physical violence (Thi et al., 2021). Physical victimization and child workers of which beating is the common nature of the physical assault. Male and female child domestic

workers suffer from the mental consequences of physical violence, such as body swelling/bleeding, bruising, pulling hair, slapping, and being hurt and unable to work for several days(International Labour Office, 2006). Child domestic workers are physically assaulted by their employer's wives and are not allowed to meet their parents.

Child domestic workers appear to be at higher risk of being emotionally abused. Verbal abuse is treated as a form of emotional violence. If it is continuous and severe, it negatively affects an individual's emotional state (Yun et al., 2019). Emotional abuse, including shouting or cursing, corporal punishment, rebuke, deprivation of food, etc. They are often depressed and fearful (Anda et al., 2010).

Perceived verbal abuse that damages brain development is associated with diverse personality and behavioral disorders and produces long-lasting consequences (Yun et al., 2019). During a child's years of social development, verbal abuse, such as repeated insults, criticisms, or threats, a child is likely to have effects that are lost into adulthood.

Childhood experience as a domestic worker was a risk factor for sexual violence Child domestic workers felt sexually insecure by males in the household and other males visiting the home. Females generally dominate the domestic work sector and are at a higher risk of experiencing sexual violence than males. (Gilbert et al., 2018). Child domestic workers who had experienced violence suffered from depression, fear, insecurity, suspicion, worthlessness, anger, apathy and, insomnia, psychiatric disorders.

Child laguna transport helpers and the consequences of their work

Due to the increasing urbanization process, child labor in the transportation sector has emerged as a major social challenge. Children working in the transportation sector are found in all vehicles- trucks, buses, mini-buses, and Laguna throughout the country, particularly in Dhaka city. Children are involved in this sector due to both push and pull factors. The pull refers to the increasing urbanization and consumerism that has attracted (a better life) many children to urban areas. There is a constant flow of children, mainly boys, into this sector. Because they can earn good money, they want to be drivers. Working at this transport, the employers take care of food and shelter

even if that means sleeping inside the vehicle. In this transportation industry, helping out with the operation of public or private transportation services for payment, in-kind labor, or as an opportunity is regarded as child labor. For example, children work in laguna to collect passengers' fares and give signals about the traffic situation while on the road.

Laguna helpers work for long days sharing their lives with the drivers and might often sleep at the depots where Laguna is stored. Vast amounts of money pass through their hands each day, but in the end, most have little to show for their monthly work on the Laguna. Their lifestyle and living arrangements expose them to risk for health problems and sexual and physical abuse and encourage high-risk behaviors, sexual and physical abuse. Traffic police often beat Laguna helpers because they do not understand the traffic signals and rules when entering this work.

While at work, these children are deprived of their fundamental rights and exposed to a highly hazardous situation. They are prone to accidents and one exposed to highly polluted environments. This situation not only hampers their healthy growth but also results in many chronic health problems. Sometimes they smoke, consume alcohol, and do harder drugs.

The working conditions for children are frequently horrible and dangerous. Daily rights violations occur against them. The dignity and morals of a child are violated by sexual exploitation. Due to the fact that they must commute to work from where their parents live, they are separated from them. It might feel nearly like slavery when children are required to work without being fed and for low compensation. Physical, emotional, and sexual abuse frequently targets these children.

Psychological consequences of child laborers

Early childhood employment impedes children's physical, intellectual, and emotional development, which has adverse effects on their long-term health and potential for employment. Risky child labor causes physical and mental discomfort. Long working hours negatively affect these children's physical and psychological development. It arouses their feeling of frustration and inadequacy. Children in risky job fields cannot build their natural psycho-social health. Their involvement in difficult work resists building their emotional and cognitive skills, and they become withdrawn, introverted, and uncommunicative.

Harmful/hazardous child work which is boring or repetitive for children, can undermine their self-worth and hamper their opportunities for developing cognitive and social skills; it can even lead to anxiety, depression, hopelessness, shame, guilt, loss of confidence, antisocial behavior, resentment, and generally poor psychological health. Workload and workplace can lead to high levels of distress, fatigue, exhaustion, and stress-related illness in children.

Poor or abusive work relationships can lead to stress for children in child labor; they often experience high emotional neglect, maltreatment, bullying, and physical and sexual violence. In addition, job insecurity, poor pay, and uncertainty can have a detrimental impact on a person's psychological well-being and mental health.

Conflicting demands of work and responsibilities at home have a significant impact on children. Child workers may face even greater risks when the work is excessive, exploitative, or abusive, as they are denied their primary source of emotional security, socialization, and learning UK Government (Home Office), 2020) and Larmar et al., (2017).

One fundamental reason that pushes children to work is the low socioeconomic condition of their families. Often, their work ends up unpaid and is compensated for only by their boarding and lodging. Child labor creates many physical hazards to child health, but the most devastating effect is psychological. Psychological abuse tremendously affects self-concept, personal goals, and relationships with others and seriously damages emotional well-being. Sexually- abused children are more likely to experience offensive emotional outcomes such as symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and suicide (JPMS Medical Blogs, 2016).

Rude behavior such as loud yelling, coarse attitude, inattention, harsh criticism, and denigration of a child's personality make psychological problems Neglected children may experience delays in physical and psychological development, be victims of childhood labor, suffer from different types of health problems later in life, and suffer from some types of chronic head, abdominal pelvic, or muscular pain with no identifiable reasons (Kk, n.d.)

Child labor is a social and moral problem that constantly damages society. It has numerous consequences, but the psychological impact is the most long-term problem and needs attention on an emergency basis.

Chapter Seven

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) states that every child has the right to thrive and live in freedom. The government of Bangladesh, as well as social groups, non-governmental organizations, international and human rights organizations, and children's rights organizations, has already taken some required initiatives. This chapter deals with Child Rights in Bangladesh from an International Perspective (Child-related issues)

Chapter 7: Child Rights in Bangladesh and International Perspective (Child-related issues)

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) states that every child has the right to thrive and live in freedom.

The Factories Act of 1965 prohibits the employment of children under the age of 14 in any workplace (The Factories Act, 1965, 1965), in contrast to the Employment of Children Act of 1938, which prohibits employing children under the age of 12. A statute that went into effect in 2006 states that the employment age under several laws ranges from 14 to 18 (Live, 1938). An individual under the age of 18 is a child, as defined by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). Another child legislation of 1974 said that a person is considered a child if he/she is under 16 (Ministry of Law, 1974). The Anti-Women and Children's Oppression (Amendment) Act of 2003 states that a person is considered a minor if they are under 16 (Women, 2003).

The rights of every child to an education, a place to live, food, wealth, health care, clean water, sanitation, participation, and protection are generally accepted. However, due to violations of human rights, children's rights are not adequately protected in Bangladesh. As a result, most of the younger workers in the fields make money to support their families or live a decent life. Discrimination, a lack of social consciousness, poverty, and illiteracy prevent all children from obtaining their rights.

The government of Bangladesh, as well as social groups, non-governmental organizations, international and human rights organizations, and children's rights organizations, have already taken some required initiatives. The procedures include ensuring good health care, improving rural people's educational qualifications to reduce child labor, providing allowances to disadvantaged families, and developing food and education programs, among others. Children in Bangladesh are vulnerable to being tortured, raped, killed, kidnapped, trafficked, sexually abused, deprived, and exploited.

Very recently Police Bureau of Investigation (PBI) arrested Abir Ali for his alleged involvement in kidnapping and murder. The girls were abducted in November 2022 for ransom. Ali strangled the girl to death, and later he chopped her into six pieces

after taking her to a residence on Akmol Ali Road in the city of Chottogram. He dumped the body wrapped in two bags at a beach in the city's Kattli area (UNB Report, 2022)

World Vision, (2018) has conducted a baseline survey in 22 districts: 84% of children are reported to have been abused mentally, while 46% are physically abused in their workplaces. Furthermore, children who suffered from abuse reported that in many cases (52%), employers are the perpetrators, followed by friends (29%) and colleagues (28%).

Child labor is a significant threat to child rights in Bangladesh. The proportion and number of children aged 5-17 years engaged in child labor, by sex and age, indicates SDG, sustainable development goals; therefore, it needs undivided attention.

Children's rights are regularly violated in various ways due to a lack of proper implementation and the absence of institutional accountability. In this regard, a long delay in delivering exemplary punishment to perpetrators is the reason. In addition, the lack of systematic monitoring mechanisms for the implementation process has enlarged the scope for further violations. Therefore, MOWCA considering the situation of children in the country, has principally agreed to and National Commission on the Rights of the Child and formed a committee to review the draft act) (MOWCA, 2023).

The violation of child rights is an ordinary matter in Bangladesh. The children have fundamental rights to education, a balanced diet, health and nutrition, protection, participation, recreation, safe water, sanitation, and hygiene. But unfortunately, most of the children of Bangladesh are deprived of these fundamental rights.

Convention on the Rights of the Child

7.1 Children's Rights Protection in Bangladesh

The Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) is universal as almost every country signed the way except the USA, and Children Act, 2013 is such an act in Bangladesh where the main and only subject matter of the action is a child (International Labour Office, 2013; OHCHR, 1989). All human beings under the age of 18 (eighteen) are regarded as children, according to both the CRC and the Children Act (UNICEF,

2022). To prevent and address violence, exploitation, and abuse against children, including trafficking, child labor, and damaging traditional practices like female genital mutilation and child marriage, According to UNICEF, this is known as "child protection." The child protection initiatives of UNICEF specifically target children who are most at risk for these abuses, such as those who are abandoned by their parents, are in legal trouble, or are involved in armed conflict. Violations of the child's right to protection occur in every country. They are massive, under-recognized, and under-reported barriers to child survival and development and human rights violations. Children subjected to violence, exploitation, abuse, and neglect are at risk of death, poor physical and mental health, HIV/AIDS infection, educational problems, displacement, homelessness, vagrancy, and poor parenting skills later in life (UNICEF, 2006).

The four "General Principles" that the Committee on the Rights of the Child identified serve as the foundation for the UNCRC. These principles offer a framework for interpreting and putting into practice all of the rights stated in the UNCRC, and they should be reflected in all pertinent policies and practices (Save the Children UK, 2007).

The number of children in a nation is a major factor in determining its future development. Consequently, children are a nation's most valuable resource. The attempts to raise children as deserving members of the nation's population should involve everyone. The nation's leaders of tomorrow will be its children. In order to help the country achieve prosperity, effective enforcement of children's rights is essential. Children have the right to all fundamental freedoms and protections from acts and inactions that violate their human dignity and freedom as individuals and as members of communities. However human rights norms have proven inadequate to meet children's special needs of survival, protection, development, and participation in shaping their future. Children are valuable property for any nation. Children's rights are therefore one of the most crucial issues for a nation. A child's needs require security and rights the following day when they mature into fulfilled persons.

After the creation of the League of Nations, children's rights have become a global issue in modern times. The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) enshrines children's needs and provides a number of children's rights that safeguard

those needs. However, the convention made several ideological contributions to children's rights, and under its aegis, a child becomes a complete person with all of the rights and privileges that come with being a human. The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) was signed by Bangladesh, one of the first few countries, and it has now started to be implemented (Library of the Congress, 2020). To protect children's safety, welfare, and development, the government has resolved to formulate and execute a national policy on children in accordance with the guiding principles of the UNCRC and the constitution. The four fundamental aspects of a child's life that are covered by their rights are their right to survive, their right to develop, their right to be safe from harm, and their right to participate.

There are many different ways to define children's rights, including in terms of civil, cultural, economic, social, and political rights. However, rights typically fall into one of two categories: those that support treating children as legally independent individuals and those that demand that society protect children from abuse committed against them as a result of their dependency. These have been referred to as the rights to protection and empowerment.

Children's rights might be significant in Bangladesh. The government is given guidance in the constitutions on how to create child-friendly laws. The issue of children's rights in Bangladesh has a global context. The League of Nations' fifth session adopted the Declaration of Children's Rights in 1924 (Humanium, 1924), marking the first time that children's rights were recognized in a global agreement. The 1959 Declaration of the Child's Rights, which sought to give children a number of advantages, safeguards, and priority, came after the 1924 Declaration (Humanium, 1959). In 1959, the rights were granted. Later, in the Worldwide Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights established by the UN General Assembly in 1966, statements were repeated (Richard, 2016).

The Convention on the Rights of the Child was adopted in 1989. Bangladesh is a signatory to the convention (Council of Europe, 1990). Bangladesh, however, has expressed reservations about Articles 21 and 14(1) of the CRC. The reservation on Article 21, which deals with the adoption of a child, has been expressed explicitly because Muslim law does not recognize the practice of adoption (OHCHR, 1989). Apart from this, Bangladesh no longer encourages inter-country adoption, a widespread practice that helped relocate the WAR BABIES in the war of independence.

Public opinion was against inter-country adoption, both on religious and ethical grounds. It soon became evident that babies were sold in the name of adoption in many cases. The following reservation made by Bangladesh was regarding a child's right to freedom of thought, conscience, and religion. While the state recognizes such rights of a child, the prevailing social belief is that a child, being immature and in complexities of the issue in question, can hardly make a voluntary choice of its own. In these circumstances, a child is likely to act under pressure and influence, which is not conducive to normal, natural, and healthy growth.

Handicapped children and their rights

It is stated that people with disabilities "have the same fundamental rights as their fellow citizens of the same age, which implies first and foremost the right to enjoy a decent life, as normal and full as possible."

The problems of handicapped children and persons have not been properly understood. There are social and psychological problems for handicapped children, and their understanding would help and help protect their rights. A handicapped child is just like other normal children, except that he suffers from a particular handicap. He can perform all the functions a normal child is expected to do. If not properly taken care of, trained, and rehabilitated to earn an independent living, a handicapped child would grow up as a handicapped person and remain a burden on society. They have always been a subject of pity and have been living on others' charity. Therefore, society must help the handicapped child develop his latent potential so that he can grow up as an independent self-earning individual and live with respect and dignity like other normal human beings. It is now recognized that a handicapped child has a right to live and enjoy life like other human beings. The international community has enacted a series of instruments and human rights declarations to protect their right to life and living. The leading international instruments addressing the disabled are The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), The Declaration on the Rights of the Mentally Retarded (Nations, 1948), the Declaration of Rights of the Disabled (1975), and The Principles for Protection of Persons with Mental Illness and The Improvement of Mental Health Care are all examples of international treaties that address civil and political rights as well as economic, social, and cultural rights. All the rights listed in this declaration shall apply to disabled people (Nations, 1948).

These rights must be provided to all people with disabilities irrespective of their race, gender, sex, language, religion, political or other opinions, national or social origin, state of health, birth, or any other circumstance affecting either the disabled person or his or her family. Disabled people have the same fundamental rights as everyone else. As their peers who are of the same age, which implies in the first place the right to lead a decent life that is as typical and fulfilling as possible. "They have a right to measures that will help them become as independent as possible." They have the right to find and keep a job, to engage in a worthwhile, lucrative occupation, and to join unions, based on their ability. Disabled people must be safeguarded from all forms of exploitation, laws, and treatments that are unfair, harsh, or demeaning.

Protection of child rights in Bangladesh

Bangladesh is one of the world's most overpopulated countries. It has a minimal card and all other kinds of resources. Most families in Bangladesh live below the line of poverty. So, their children must work for a long time, but their wages are minimal. Most of them do not go to school.

Bangladesh must protect children's rights under national law and several international human rights instruments. Furthermore, the constitution guarantees judicially enforceable fundamental rights to all citizens, including children, and ensures affirmative action for children.

Bangladesh has both constitutional provisions and other legal enactments that seek to ensure and protect children's rights and welfare. The government, with UNICEF, has taken steps to school all the children and to decrease child labor and other child abuse (Mohajan, 2014).

Children's rights and welfare are sought to be guaranteed and protected by both constitutional provisions and other legal enactments in Bangladesh. Constitution is the source of all facilities for our children for their physical, mental, intellectual, and social development.

7.2 Children's Rights in the Constitution of Bangladesh

A fundamental right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness is guaranteed to all Bangladeshi citizens regardless of nationality, religion, children, or gender. Laws and enforcement agencies ensure that everyone can use their constitutional rights without restriction. It is important to note that various regulations are designed to safeguard children from child labor in addition to constitutional responsibilities.

It is enshrined in the Bangladeshi Constitution that the state has a responsibility to provide for the basic requirements of children. Provisions for the benefit of children have been set as follows (Taher, 2006).

Article 14: Emancipation of peasants and workers:

The state must liberate the laboring masses, peasants, workers, and the underprivileged segments of society from all forms of exploitation and oppression.

Article 15: Provision of necessities:

The state must ensure that its population has a better standard of living through organized economic growth, a rise in productive forces, and an increase in the economic and cultural quality of life. Food, clothes, shelter, education, and health care are all examples of fundamental human needs that the government should cover. Equally important is the right to work, which entails the right to be paid a fair price for work of an acceptable amount and quality. Rest, recreation, and time off are all included in this right.

Article 17: Free and compulsory education

To achieve the stated goal, the state must use effective measures to provide universal primary education for all children up to the point at which they are legally obligated to do so. Linking education to societal requirements and generating citizens who are well-trained and motivated to meet those demands eliminates illiteracy as soon as the law permits.

Article 18: Public health and morality:

The state must prioritize boosting the nutritional level of the population and improving public health as one of its key responsibilities. It must do so by taking effective steps to combat harmful substances like alcohol, as well as other intoxicating beverages and drugs. In addition, the state must take action to prevent brothels and gambling.

Article 28: Discrimination on the grounds of religion etc.

- (1) Religion, ethnicity, caste, gender, sexual orientation, or place of one's birth are not grounds for state discrimination.
- (2) Women and men should have equal rights in every aspect of public and state life.
- (3) If a person has a disability because of a disability-related issue, like a mental or physical illness, he/she will not be turned away from public entertainment or schools because of that.
- (4) None of the clauses in this article, however, prevents the state from passing special laws that are beneficial to women, children, or the advancement of any other underprivileged group of citizens.

Article-34: Prohibition of forced labor

- (1) All forms of forced labor are forbidden, and anybody caught in violation will be prosecuted.
- (2) Compulsory labor will not be affected by this article.
- (3) By a person who is imprisoned as a result of his/her illegal behavior;
or
- (4) It is legally mandated for the benefit of the general public.
- (5) The following articles are important to the basic requirements and demands of children, their privileges as human beings, mandatory education for all children, and other rights essential for the full development of children. Despite Bangladesh's constitution pledging to safeguard and care for children, implementation remains a problem.

7.3 National Children Policy 2011

A nation's foundation is its future generations. In order to create a happy, wealthy, and Golden Bangladesh, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the Father of the Nation, has embarked on a number of measures for the general development of children. All inhabitants of Bangladesh, including children, are guaranteed their fundamental rights under the People's Republic of Bangladesh Constitution. The Children Act of 1974

was passed to guarantee the rights and general protection of children. To update this piece of legislation to reflect multidimensional growth, steps have already been initiated (Ministry of Law, 1974). Bangladesh was among the nations that ratified and signed the 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) in 1990. In 1994, the National Child Policy was created (Council of Europe, 1990; Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, 2011). Poverty has been the main obstacle to ensure children's rights. The Government has undertaken different action plans and programs to ensure facilities and amenities like the alleviation of poverty, nutrition, health care services, safe shelter, and sewerage for the larger segment of the children. Different programs are in operation to ensure the rehabilitation of the destitute and uprooted children, mitigation of child labor in phases, prohibition of exploiting children for political purposes, and appropriate opportunities for education and recreation for the physical and mental development of the children.

Child labor shall be eliminated in all phases. The following necessary steps shall be taken in light of the National Child Labor Alleviation Policy 2010 to mitigate child labor (Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, 2011):

A congenial workplace environment for the sake of sound physical and mental health of the working children must be ensured. In these cases, it shall be ensured that the child is not engaged in an unsocial, disgraceful, and risky job. The daily working hours and breaks between work at specific times must be ensured. The arrangement for the education and recreation of the children must be ensured after the working hours are over. The owner/owners or employing authority must arrange for necessary medical care and meet with the family when any child worker has experienced an accident or feel sick. It must be made sure that the children working in any household or engaged in any other household job have the arrangement to see his/her parents or family members at least once a month.

As children are engaged in household jobs, they are employed as whole-time workers and, therefore, the owner or head of the household shall arrange his/her education, food, and lodge and recreation. He/she should not be made to perform any risky job. It must be made sure that the children employed in various establishments are not victimized by any kind of physical, mental, or sexual assault.

The parents of the working child/children should be involved in an income-generating activity to bring the children out of the poverty cycle.

The working children should be given scholarships and stipends to bring them back to school. Awareness should be raised among parents and the general population about the harmful effects of child labor.

Short-, mid-, and long-term planning, implementation strategy, and program must be undertaken to mitigate child labor. Children should be encouraged to take part in various family activities.

7.4 Law Related to Child Rights Protection in Bangladesh

Children's Rights refer to the status of children in Bangladesh. Bangladesh has both constitutional provisions and other legal enactments that seek to ensure and protect children's rights and welfare.

The question of the rights of children in Bangladesh has an international setting. The Declaration of the Rights of the Child, 1924, was adopted by the Fifth Assembly of the League of Nations (Buck, 2005), where the rights of the child were first mentioned in an international document. The 1924 Declaration was followed by the Declaration of the Rights of the Child in 1959, which aimed at granting children a series of benefits, protections, and priorities. The International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights, ratified by the UN General Assembly in 1966, later reiterated the rights promised in the 1959 Declaration (Humanium, 1959).

Public opinion was against inter-country adoption, both on religious and ethical grounds. It soon became evident that, in many cases, babies were sold in the name of adoption. The next reservation made by Bangladesh concerns a child's right to freedom of thought, conscience, and religion. While the state recognizes such rights of a child, the prevailing social belief is that a child, being immature and incapable of dealing with the complexities of the issues in question, is hardly in a position to make a voluntary choice of its own in this regard. In these circumstances, a child is likely to act under pressure and influence, neither of which is conducive to normal, natural, and healthy growth.

Ministry of Law, GOB, (1972) has provisions relevant to children's rights in its directive principles of state policy [Articles 15, 17, and 25(1)], the fundamental rights [Articles 27, 28(1)(2)(3)(4), 31, 32, and 39(1)(2)], and the power of judicial review' [Articles 26(1)(2)]. Articles 27, 28, and 31 of the Constitution lay down the general principles regarding the protection of children from all forms of discrimination. According to these articles of the Constitution, the law must treat all citizens equally and without prejudice since they have an equal right to protection under the law.

There isn't a single legislation in Bangladesh that covers all of the additional laws pertaining to the protection and well-being of children; rather, they are dispersed throughout a number of laws and regulations, including:

1. According to Sections 82 and 83 of the Penal Code of 1860, a person is only considered to have full criminal responsibility after he/she has reached the age of 12 because anyone younger than that is not considered to have reached a level of maturity that would allow him/her to comprehend the nature and repercussions of their actions (Ministry of Law, 1860). According to Section 90, a person's consent that is given before the age of 12 is not considered consent in the legal sense of the word. However, in the case of marital intercourse, the offense of rape will not be treated as a crime committed if the wife is above 13 years of age. The kidnapping of a male under 14 years and a female of fewer than 16 years from lawful guardianship is an offense under section 361. The kidnapping or abduction of a person under 10 is also an offense under section 364A.
2. The Divorce Act of 1869, which applies to Christians in Bangladesh, deals with minor children's custody, maintenance, and education while their parents are engaged in lawsuits for separation, divorce, or nullity (Ministry of Law, 1869).
3. The Contract Act of 1872 regards a minor as incompetent to enter into contracts. A minor's contract is void under section 11 of the Act. However, the guardian of a minor can enter into a contract of sale on behalf of the minor, either out of legal necessity or for the benefit of the estate (Ministry of Law, 1872).
4. The Guardians and Wards Act of 1890 empowers a designated court to appoint a guardian of the minor's person, property, or both. The court, however, has to be satisfied that it is for the welfare of the minor and, in the circumstances, cannot appoint anyone as a guardian against the will of the minor (Ministry of Law, 1890).

5. The Criminal Procedure Code, 1898 directs, through a designated court, a person having sufficient means who is neglecting or refusing to maintain his wife or child (whether legitimate or illegitimate) to provide a monthly allowance for their maintenance. In addition, section 562 of the Code empowers the court to release certain first-convicted offenders under the age of 21 on probation for good conduct instead of sentencing them to imprisonment (Ministry of Law, 1898).
6. The Mines Act of 1923 prohibits the employment of a person below 15 years of age in any mine. However, the Act provides regulations for the employment of a person above the age of 15 and below the age of 17 (Ministry of Law, 1923).
7. The Child Marriage Restraint Act of 1929 (amended in 1984) prohibits marriage between a male under 21 and a female under 18 years of age and punishes parents and guardians involved in child marriages (Ministry of Law, 1929).
8. The Partnership Act of 1932 under section 30 provides that a minor cannot be a partner in a firm, but s/he may, with the consent of all partners for the time being, be admitted to the benefits of a partnership (Ministry of Law, 1932).
9. A female under the age of 18 may not be forced into prostitution, according to the Suppression of Immoral Traffic Act of 1933. Anyone who has the girl's custody or is in charge of her is subject to punishment for aiding and abetting. Any female who is employed as a prostitute before the age of 10 is to be regarded as the victim of willful intent and is, therefore, exempt from any criminal charges (Ministry of Law, 1933).
10. The Children (Pledging of Labor) Act of 1933 penalizes the parent or guardian if they agree to pledge a child's labor or if they hire a child whose labor has been pledged (International Labour Office, 1933).
11. The Employment of Children Act of 1938 prohibits the employment of children in any occupation in specified industries like transport or the selling of goods within the limits of any port. Employers contravening the provisions of this Act are liable to be punished (International Labour Office, 1955).
12. The Dissolution of Muslim Marriages Act of 1939 gives certain rights to a minor girl who got married to repudiate the marriage before attaining the age of eighteen years, provided that the marriage has not been consummated (Ministry of Law, 1939).

13. The Maternity Benefit Act of 1939 directs employers to provide maternity benefits to women workers and to regulate their employment for some time before and after childbirth (Ministry of Law, 1953).

14. The Vagrancy Act of 1943 regulates powers conferred on various authorities to arrest and incarcerate people who are unemployed and homeless and who live on the earnings of others through begging. For this Act, a child is a person under 14 years of age (Ministry of Law, 1943).

15. The Maternity Benefit (Tea Estate) Act of 1950 forbids women from working in tea estates or factories during a specific time period before and after childbirth and provides maternity benefits during that time (Yasmin, 2022).

16. The Minimum Wages Ordinance, 1961, provides for the payment of minimum wages to all workers, including juveniles, and prohibits employers from paying juveniles (below the age of 18 years) less than the minimum rates fixed by the Board set up under this Act. Any infringement is met with punishment (The Minimum Wages Ordinance 1961, 196 C.E.).

17. The Shops and Establishment Act of 1965 prohibits the employment of children below the age of 12 years in shops and commercial establishments. The Act also regulates the working hours of persons below the age of 18 years (International Labour Office, 1970).

18. The Factories Act of 1965 prohibits the employment of young persons below the age of 14 years in hazardous occupations and lays down regulations for a secure and healthy working environment for a child or adolescent. The Act also provides creche facilities for children under six years of age whose mothers are workers in a factory (The Factories Act, 1965, 1965).

19. The Children's Act of 1974 and the Children's Rules of 1976 are intended to protect the child's best interests during all kinds of legal processes. They require the court to regard the child's age and character and other related factors before passing any order under the Act. The Act provides for separate juvenile courts and forbids the joint trial of an adult and a child offender even where the offense has been jointly committed. The Act lays down measures for the care and protection of destitute and neglected children, including children under the supervision of parents/guardians who habitually neglect, abuse, or ill-treat them (Ministry of Law, 1974; Riyasad, 2019).

20. According to the 1976 Bangladesh Shishu Academy Ordinance (Ordinance No. LXXIV of 1976): By virtue of the Ordinance for the Promotion of Cultural, Scientific, and Recreational Programs for Children and Related Subjects, the Bangladesh Shishu Academy was established (Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Division, 1976).

21. The Family Court Ordinance, 1985: According to this ordinance, only the new Family Court in the state can hear, try, and decide any lawsuit concerning or originating from divorce or separation, dwelling rights, restitution of conjugal rights, maintenance, and children's care and custody (Ministry of Law, 1985).

22. Universal Salt Iodination Legislation Act, 1989: The Act prohibits importing and selling non-iodized salt for human consumption to control iodine deficiency disorders (UNICEF, 2021).

23. Primary Education (Compulsory) Act, 1990: This Act introduces compulsory primary education for all children of 6 to 11 years of age (Primary Education (Compulsory) Act, 1990, 1990).

24. Breast Milk Substitutes (Regulation of Marketing) Ordinance, 1992: The ordinance regulates the advertisement of breast milk substitutes on television and radio. This also requires companies importing and marketing milk products to register and follow the international code (Ministry of Law, 1984).

25. Oppression of Women and Children (Special Enactment) Act, 1995: Subjugation of women and children is punishable by death under this legislation. Bail cannot be granted to those accused of terrible crimes against women and children under this provision. Section 8 of this Act punishes life imprisonment and a fine for trafficking and related offenses. Absconding with women or children so that you can have sex with them is punishable by up to 10 years in prison, with a mandatory minimum of seven years (Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment, 1995).

“In Bangladesh, legal measures concerning the protection of children have had their beginning during the British period. Theoretically, these laws sound nice, but they are almost ineffective in practice. Due to socio-economic conditions and prevailing political situation of the country as well as the lack of strict enforcement, these laws have been almost rendered to legal literature” (Taher, 2006).

7.5 The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Impact in Bangladesh:

According to international conventions, children have a right to be protected from harassment, injury, abuse, and neglect. At the same time, they are in the care of their parents or anyone acting on their behalf. This includes both physical and mental forms, and sexual abuse is expressly addressed. A duty to protect children against sexual abuse in whatever form is spelled out in Article 34 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (for example, by using them as prostitutes). When children are sexually exploited, the act supports taking action to prevent them from doing it on their own.

Other freedoms, such as the right to an education and the right to recreation, will be jeopardized if these rights are not upheld (Article 31). Child victims of abuse and other cruel, degrading, or degrading treatment are protected by Article 37 of the Convention. The signed and ratified state must take steps to support the child's rehabilitation and social reintegration if the child has been physically or psychologically harmed because of mistreatment, maltreatment, or torture (Article 39). The CRC was approved in September 1991 by the "Govt. of Bangladesh" (GOB). As a member of the UNCRC, Bangladesh is dedicated to enhancing the lives of its children. Since 1991, the Bangladesh government has run many different programs for children's well-being. Most of these programs have made a lot of progress major article of CRC ensures the interest of children is, shortly as follows (OHCHR, 1989):

Who is called (*Article-1*)

The convention made several important decisions, one of which was to establish a standard minimum age for children. According to the existing custom, a child is defined as a person under the age of eighteen who has not yet attained the age of majority under local law.

Non-Discrimination (*Article-2*)

According to the Convention, all children are entitled to the same rights under their legal guardianship without experiencing any form of discrimination, regardless of their ethnic or racial background, language, religion, political beliefs, other opinions, national or ethnic origin, property, disability, birth, or other status, or that of their parents or constitutionally protected guardians.

Best Interests of Child (*Article-3*)

The welfare of children is the first focus of the Convention. According to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, "the child's rights shall be the paramount consideration in all acts," when it comes to children. Children have rights, according to a treaty known as the treaty, but it also instructs governments to uphold those rights.

Bangladesh as a signatory to the International Convention: Bangladesh is a signatory to the (International Labour Office, n.d.-c):

- ILO Worst Forms of Child Labor Convention (No. 182);
- ILO Forced Labor Convention (No. 29);
- ILO Abolition of Forced Labor Convention (No. 105);
- UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).
- Early Marriage and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)

The right to protection of a child is defined as any person who is less than the age of eighteen unless a majority age is reached earlier under the child's applicable law. The child has the right to protection from all exploitation that jeopardizes any part of their welfare (Arends-Kuenning & Amin, 2000). Freedom from discrimination on the basis of any factor, including gender, religion, ethnicity, socioeconomic rank, or birth. The freedom to voice one's any kind of physical or mental abuse, maltreatment, or exploitation, including sexual abuse, while under the parental or guardian's care. The right to health, including the availability of health services and defense against harmful traditional practices, and an equal opportunity education. The child has the right to protection from all exploitation that jeopardizes any part of their welfare (Arends-Kuenning & Amin, 2000) Although the principle of non-discrimination, as envisaged in the CRC, is also embedded in the fundamental rights set out in the Bangladesh Constitution (Taher, 2006).

7.6 The Children Act 2013

Bangladesh has enacted new legislation to benefit its estimated 70 million children, repealing the Children Act of 1974. The preamble to the Children Act, 2013 (henceforth referred to as 'the Act'), officially known as "Shishu Ain, 2013", states that it has been enacted to implement the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. The Act received the assent of the President and was published in the

official Gazette on 20 June 2013. A subsequent Gazette notification dated 18 August 2013 made the Act effective from 21 August 2013. It also includes some provisions that appear to have been incorporated in response to directions of the Supreme Court as well as the requirements of other international instruments, such as the Beijing Rules (Ali, 2013).

The law defines a child as anyone up to the age of 18 years (Section 4). Law, ethics, morality, and values form an integral part of society. Their combination is required for the protection and justice of the children. The consciousness is reflected in the international legal instruments as well as in the Constitution of Bangladesh to protect children against neglect, cruelty, and exploitation and to provide equal development opportunities. As per the international instruments, children's rights are the right to be treated with dignity, the right to life, the right to be presumed innocent, prohibition of torture and ill-treatment of children. Accordingly, the government of Bangladesh has enacted a new legal framework with the commencement of the Children Act 2013, replacing the Old Children Act 1974 to create a more effective justice for the children's best interest. Bangladesh has separate children's laws that are applicable to establish different types of care and protection services for the offender's children. The Children Act provides safeguards for the protection of children who come to contact with it as victims, witnesses, and offenders and focuses on a specialized system with a child's dignity, age, gender, incapacities, maturity, and so on. The concerned ministries are drafting different laws on victim-witness protection, children's rules, and children's policies for further activation of the justice system. It requires to be here that after the ratification of the UNCRC 1989, the laws regarding children's justice were not consolidated in Bangladesh. Most children are deprived of proper protection of their rights under the laws, and usually, they receive the same treatment as adults in criminal justice proceedings. Consequently, children lost their childhood as they suffered adversely in the criminal justice system. Major Changes of the Law: In Bangladesh, the Act 2013 defines a child as anyone up to the age of 18 years, while the age of children was 16 years in the Act 1974, and previously only for age disparity with international norms children did not get access to fair justice (Ministry of Law, 1974). As per international instruments, children are entitled to the exclusive rights to get Justice based on their age and maturity in essential circumstances and needs. However, the Act 2013 introduces a new provision

regarding children's age, specialized children courts, certified correctional institutions, probation service, diversion, and alternative sentencing. Bangladesh introduced the right-based approach through the Act 2013 for the protection and well-being of children. The law prohibits arresting children under the age of 9 years. If any child above age nine is arrested, the use of handcuff and ropes are completely forbidden by the law. Moreover, the law covers many aspects of children's vulnerability in detention stages, such as the new provisions regarding the child affairs police officer who maintains separate treatment of the offender children. It prescribes the duties of the police officer, such as contacting the probation officer, informing parents and family members, and exploring appropriate diversion programs for justice-involved children upon instruction from the children's court. Three juvenile courts were established under the Act 1974 in Bangladesh, but the Act 2013 requires that at least one children's court be established in each district headquarters and metropolitan area, which has the exclusive jurisdiction to deal with juvenile delinquent children (International Labour Office, 2013). The law strictly prohibits joint trials, and the trial shall be completed within 360 days from the day of the child's first appearance before the court. Another angle of institutional service in the country, the Act 2013 provides more comprehensive outlines for the establishment of certification and operational producers of child development centers as correctional institutions. The three correctional centers and the juvenile court have been established under the Act 1974 (Ministry of Law, 1974). Later, the Act 2013 prescribes establishing and maintaining a necessary number of child development centers or certified institutions for male and female children. Additionally, the Act 2013 elaborately focuses on the provision of a probation officer with the appointment, responsibilities, and duties for ensuring probation service in the center; as per the law, a probation officer has important responsibilities at the time of arrest, trial, and field inquiry of the children. The officer prepares and preserves a separate file for each detained child to follow the procedure for alternative care. To extend well-being services, the Act 2013 includes the provision of a child welfare board for monitoring the child development centers and certified institutes. The law prescribes the board's appointments, roles, and activities in detail. The main responsibilities of the board are to supervise and evaluate the activities of child development centers, provide guidelines for rehabilitation and reintegration, and review the development and implementation of all programs related to offender children. The offenders. The children's court has the responsibility for

assessing and determining the age of the board, with the probation officer responsible for finding suitable alternative care and ensuring the children's best interest. The national level board is only entitled to provide guidance and instruction. Other district and city-level boards can enforce the supervisory power, which would play an important role in reducing delinquency. Regarding the punishment of children, the Act 2013 moderated the punishment system of the offender children in line with international conventions in Bangladesh (International Labour Office, 2013). As per the law, children shall not be sentenced to death or imprisonment for life. The penalty duration for the children would not exceed the maximum period; rather, children can be detained in child development centers instead of jail until they are 18. The law strongly forbids to detain children with adults in prison 18. So, the law allowing the imprisonment of children for extreme cases is uniform with international standards (Ali, 2013). The concepts of diversion and any types of alternative measures were not recognized in the 1974 Act, so the Act 2013 introduced the provision for a diversion program, family conferencing, restorative justice, and alternative dispute resolution (International Labour Office, 2013; Ministry of Law, 1974). The Department of Social Service is mandated to design and implement diversion programs and cannot be used as a legal document in court proceedings. Both probation and police officers are assigned to take the necessary steps to arrange this program for the reformation of the detained children.

On 3rd September 2018, the cabinet approved a draft of the Bangladesh Labor (Amendment) Act, 2018, incorporating suggestions and advice provided by the international community to make the law more worker-friendly (League, 2018).

The Labor Act was originally passed in the year 2006, consolidating all relevant laws, and then radically amended in 2013. In 2015, the parliament introduced labor Rules to supplement the Act. The new amendment reportedly brings changes to 41 sections out of 354 sections of the Act (Bala, 2018). This is about a law banning child labor in the country with provisions for stringent punishment of offenders.

The proposed "Bangladesh Labor (Amendment) Act" 2018 stipulates that anybody who engages in child labor will be fined 5,000 TK (Department of Inspection for Factories and Establishments, 2018). Under the existing law, a child can be employed for light work on the condition that it would not harm his health and his education

would not be hampered. The draft seeks a total ban on child labor in factories. At the same time, the law prohibits the engagement of children and physically challenged persons in any risky job (Bhuiyan, 2018).

7.7 Draft National Plan of Action to Eliminate Child Labor (2020-2025)

Prepared by: Central Monitoring Committee on Child Labor, 30th November 2020.

The Seventh Five Year Plan (SFYP) 2016-2020, under its inclusion strategy, addresses child labor and calls for effective measures to reduce child labor and eliminate the WFCL. It commits to formulate a policy for children in the formal sector focusing on those caught up in the WFCL. Street children are to be assisted through a multi-stakeholder coordinated approach for protection from abuse and effective rehabilitation and development. The SFYP commits to promoting access to working children to learning opportunities in formal and non-formal facilities, especially for vulnerable households. The SFYP recognizes that, despite the impressive progress made in the legal and policy framework, the changes in child labor and other harmful attitudes and norms have been slow. The reasons for this include the lack of enforcement capacity for these laws and the lack of public awareness. The plan notes the government must persist in its efforts to empower children by scaling up awareness campaigns to ensure these laws so that they become common knowledge to all and that every household is sensitized. The SFYP, however, largely depends on the National Plan of Action for Implementing the National Child Labor Elimination Policy 2010, which has not progressed much in meeting its ten objectives (Central Monitoring Committee on Child Labour, 2020).

The National Plan of Action on Implementation of the SDGs has been adopted by the Ministry of Planning with the participation of all the relevant ministries, including MoLE. The MoLE had identified projects/programs up to 2020 to meet the SDG goal

- a) Implementation of eradication of hazardous child labor in Bangladesh;
- b) Hazardous sector list-wise database;
- c) Stocktaking of the interventions;
- d) Strengthening DIFE and Divisional, District and Upazilla level committees and making them functional;
- e) Reviewing the current NPA and develop a short-term NPA for 2021 and mid-term up to 2025;
- f) Developing an effective coordination mechanism.

MoLE has also identified actions beyond the SFYP (2021-2030). 1) Introducing a registration system for the domestic work sector for monitoring purposes; 2) Increasing manpower in the DIFE; 3) Creating a complaint management cell within the ministry and departments; 4) Designing effective awareness programs and initiating outreach activities targeting major stakeholders; 5) Undertaking measures to promote CSR activities; 6) Scaling-up the successful parts of the SFYP; 7) Introducing safety net programs for the vulnerable families; 8) Enacting domestic work protection law; 9) Developing a regulatory framework for informal sector; 10) Preparing for ratification of ILO Convention 138 and others. The National Plan of Action on Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking 2018-2022 addresses the concern of child trafficking, including forced child labor. It recognizes special provisions and protections needed for children both vulnerable to and victims of trafficking, but it does not have specific interventions for all aspects of prevention, protection, prosecution, and integration-related strategic objectives of the NPA (Ministry of Home Affairs, n.d.). It has, however, promoted child participation in the partnership cluster by including child representatives in the Counter-Trafficking Committees (CTCs). NPA (2020-2025): A Strategic Overview Based on the analysis of the context and the experience of implementation of the previous NPA (2012-2016), The current NPA identifies the relevance of the strategic objectives adopted by the previous NPA. At the same time, the current NPA identifies the actions relevant to address child labor within the SDG implementation strategy of GoB. The present NPA is based on two key strategic components. 1. The Actions Built within the SDG Implementation Strategy of GOB 2. The SDG plus Actions to eliminate child labor.

Within the SDG implementation strategy, there are five strategic clusters of interventions that are relevant to addressing child labor. The current NPA 2020-2025, therefore, builds around these objectives.

Objective – 1. Reducing vulnerability to child labor

This involves the following outputs: Output:

- Raising general awareness amongst parents, the community, and civil society about child labor (to promote community resistance).
- Motivation and financial support/stipend to children of poor households at rural and urban centers with special schooling facilities.

- Supporting the households of vulnerable children for economic empowerment.
- Motivation for the employers to explore new/ alternative technology and sources of labor.
- Institutional capacity building to monitor and address child labor from the central to the union level.

Objectives – 2. Withdrawing children from hazardous and worst forms of child labor

This involves the following outputs:

- Reviewing and updating the list of hazardous child labor.
- Identification and referral guidelines adopted.
- Economic and social support to the children withdrawn from work with priority to children.
- Shelter for children without parental care.
- Supporting the households of the withdrawn children for economic empowerment.

The strategic guidelines have evolved through a series of multi-stakeholder consultations.

Objective -3. Increased capacity to protect children at the workplace

This involves the following outputs:

- Strengthening institutions to monitor child labor- including in the informal sector. Strengthening enforcement of legal and protection provisions.
- Access of child labor to education, skills, and economic support for healthy development.
- Code of conduct and protection protocol for children in the informal sector adopted and made public.

The SDG actions to eliminate child labor as per the suggestions of the consultations, in harmony with the SDG milestones, the current NPA has adopted two primary targets. Firstly, to eliminate the worst form of child labor (WFCL) by 2021. Secondly, to eliminate all forms of child labor by 2025. The NPA is hence aligned with the SDG implementation plan of the Government of Bangladesh (GoB). The following matrix presents the interlinkages of the NPA strategic objections and their outputs with the SDG targets.

The SDG plus actions to eliminate child labor. There were nine strategic areas of interventions built within the NPA 2012-2016. A brief list of the key outputs under each of the nine strategic areas of intervention is as follows:

Strategic area and outputs

1. Policy Implementation and Institutional Development

1.1 Reviewing and Updating the NPA and the list of Hazardous Child Labor

1.2 Policies related to child labor elimination are implemented, monitored, and evaluated

1.3 Institutional capacity of concerned institutions strengthened to implement NPA effectively.

2. Education

2.1 Accessible educational facilities and opportunities for working children and poor children are ensured.

2.2 Access to Technical and Vocational education and training programs for working adolescents and their parents is provided.

2.3 Children are socially empowered through training and social networks.

3. Health and Nutrition

3.1 Ensuring access to health and nutrition education for all households with working children or those at risk of sending children for labor.

3.2 Opportunities created to ensure access to health services.

4. Social Awareness Raising and Motivation

4.1 Children, parents, employers, trade unions, civil society, and concerned state officials are critically aware of the harmful effects of child labor and motivated to demonstrate positive attitudes and behavioral patterns toward the elimination of child labor.

4.2 Community-based mechanisms to prevent child labor are established and strengthened.

5. Legislation and Enforcement

5.1 Existing laws and rules related to child labor issues (in both formal and informal sectors).

5.2 Child labor-related laws and rules are enforced.

5.3 Inspection and monitoring of child labor in the informal sector and agricultural sector are strengthened.

6. Employment and labor market

6.1 Employment opportunities created and access to labor markets ensured for adolescents who are trained and eligible for work as per legal provision.

6.2 Small scale income generating enterprises created through the effective involvement of vocationally trained adolescents of their families.

7. Prevention of Child Labor and Safety of Children Engaged in Labor

7.1 Employment opportunities created for adults and parents of extremely poor and working children.

7.2 Children aged below 14 years are prevented from engaging in child labor and kept in school.

7.3 Working adolescents aged 14 to less than 18 years and protected from hazardous work.

7.4 Children protected from trafficking and sexual exploitation.

8. Research and training

8.1 Information on hazardous and worst forms of child labor (WFCL) is updated to support the NPA's effective implementation.

8.2 Managerial and operational capacities of concerned stakeholders in addressing child labor are enhanced.

The current NPA 2020-2022 finds these areas of intervention still relevant. It identifies a set of actions that are still relevant within these clusters and builds additional (SDG plus) actions NCLWC proposes a few more actions. These actions have been included in the planning matrix of the current NPA. These need to be addressed in the future by reforming the SDG implementation strategy and in the upcoming 8th Five-Year Plan of the country. The NPA also includes an outline of a strategy to address child labor during and in the post-COVID-19 phase (Central Monitoring Committee on Child Labour, 2020).

Basic principles of the NPA

Keeping in mind the National Child Labor Elimination Policy of Bangladesh, the NPA 2021-2025 is based on the following guiding principles-

No discrimination against anyone based on sex, religion, caste, education, political ideology, and wealth;

Government responsibility and ownership;

Justice for the victims of human trafficking;

- Protection of the best interests of the child victims and respect for the human dignity of all during the rehabilitation, rescue, and criminal justice processes (protection of victims from re-victimization /harassment);

- Civil Society Participation (or PPP: public-private partnership);

- Participation of the local-level people and local government institutions;

- Interdisciplinary coordination or cross-section responsibilities shared amongst government agencies per se and between the government agencies, IOs, and NGOs;
- Conformity with other relevant policies of the Government;

The NPA on the elimination of child labor is mainstreamed within the key development plans of the government, primarily harmonized with the Action Plan of Ministries /Divisions by targets in the implementation of SDGs aligning with the 7th Five Year Plan and Beyond prepared by General Economics Division (GED), (Making Growth Works for the Poor), Bangladesh Planning Commission, Ministry of Planning, GoB, June 2018.

Among others, the NPA implementation process will be paying special attention to children affected by natural calamities, integrating indigenous and physically and mentally challenged children into the mainstream society, holding a Priority to hazardous child labor and sectors with export potentialities, carrying a dual focus on both sectors and geography-based priorities and address gender needs of girls and boys. In addition to the currently listed Hazardous Child Labor, the current NPA shall set priority on six additional manifestations of child labor, namely; Domestic Child Worker, Child labor in the dry fish sector; Street based work of children, Stone collection, carrying and crushing (Brick production, stone collection, brick and stone carrying and breaking); Child Labor in Informal/Local Tailoring and Clothing sectors and Children working in garbage picking and waste disposal (collection, carrying, sorting and waste disposal/management)

Users' guidelines for NPA 2020-2025

The NPA 2020-2025 is meant to be a guide for everyone involved in actions to eliminate child labor in Bangladesh, especially for those government agencies and other stakeholders who are given specific responsibilities to implement the activities outlined above. The NPA outlines the most important steps to be taken and issues to be considered in setting up effective structures, legislative or judicial, against child labor and procedures for the results-based monitoring, review, and evaluation of the present Action Plan. The NPA has laid out directives on the responsibilities of different actors. The NPA 2020-2025 addresses both the formal and informal sectors of engagement in child labor. It also addresses the WFCL (both the Hazardous Child Labor and Unconditional Worst Form of Child Labor and Child Labor in general. It builds its concepts on the Labor Act (2006) and relevant ILO conventions (Ahad et

al., 2021; UNICEF, 2006). The operational part of the current NPA is summarized and reflected in the Planning Matrix. It needs to be noted that the largest proportion of the project and project propositions are adopted from the Action Plan of Ministries/Divisions by targets in the implementation of SDGs aligning with the 7th Five Year Plan and Beyond. While any government agency or any other implementing partner should mainly consider the task allocated to it as per the Action Plan shown in the matrix, it should first read the above thematic part of the NPA. Also, there are notes about how to use the Matrix of the plan of action itself, which should also be strictly adhered to. Some actions need to be implemented in addition to the actions mentioned in the SDG implementation strategy paper of the government. These SDG-plus actions are critical to the fulfillment of the commitment of the government to the elimination of child labor. Each of the ministries involved in the implementation of the NPA, along with all such GOs and NGOs, needs to keep track of their responsibilities defined in the NPA 2020-2025- during the annual planning and budgeting exercise. There is also a guideline on actions during and in the post-covid-19 pandemic to address child labor in the last part of this document. The actions are indicative and relevant agencies are invited to carry these in coordination with MoLE.

Context of COVID-19 and Child Labor Global pandemic of COVID-19 has led to an economic disaster alongside a health disaster. The World Economic Outlook (WEO) Report of the IMF predicts global economic growth at 1.7 percentage points for 2020 and 0.2 percentage points for 2021 (IMF, 2023). The IMF earlier had projected global economic growth at 3.3% in 2020 and 3.4% in 2021. The slowing down of the global economy has devastating implications for migrants and migration-prone economies such as Bangladesh. A World Bank report titled "South Asia Economic Focus", forecasts a grim picture for Bangladesh's economy. According to the report, Bangladesh's gross domestic product growth would fall from 8.15 percent to just 2 – 3 percent in the current fiscal year. According to the South Asian Network on Economic Modeling (SANEM), Bangladesh's poverty rate may double to 40.9% from that before the onset of the pandemic (Raihan et al., 2022). This would mean more households in poverty and greater vulnerability of children to child labor. According to a study titled "COVID-19: Bangladesh Multi-Sectoral Anticipatory Impact and Needs Analysis" by the Need Assessment Working Group in late April 2020, children are exposed to multiple health and socio-economic shocks of COVID-19. The survey reveals (Relief, 2023):-

- 49% indicated that women and children couldn't have to access health and nutrition services.
- 60% indicated no regular communication from schools about learning continuity. 42% had not heard of any remote-based education activities, while 59% of households had school-going children.
- Poor children especially don't have access to TV/online-based learning. The number of out-of-school children may increase.

The Emerging Strategic Concerns

There is a need for a comprehensive assessment of the situation of the children in child labor during COVID-19 and probable implications in the post-COVID situation. At the same time, steps are essential in addressing emergency concerns of child labor during COVID-19 (as the pandemic spreads). This would, among others, involve addressing the protection concerns of marginalized children, including child labor. During COVID-19, along with their parents, many of the child laborers are not working. If adult unemployment increases, children may face greater pressure to work during post COVID-19 phase. In some sectors, children may lose work, while in some other sectors, they may be engaged in a higher proportion. Once a child is pushed out of the labor market, the incident does not necessarily mean a welfare gain; unless a safety net is created to support the child and the related household. Within these complications, the development goals and timeline of SDG and NPA for the elimination of child labor may need to be readjusted. Within this pandemic, the study of the Need Assessment Working Group identifies the following Child Protection Priorities -

- Children should be provided with safe, child-friendly hygiene promotion activities.
- Case Management: At the community level
- Child Helpline 1098: Upscale support to Child Helpline (Child Helpline, n.d.)
- Strengthening CP referral pathways to include remote case management.

Providing psychosocial support for children and adolescents and strengthening social other studies and findings of consultations during COVID-19 have identified some gaps in the Emergency Response regarding child labor and other marginalized groups of children. Firstly, in the absence of PPE coupled with inadequate measures for social distancing and safety, the existing NGO and GO services (including drop-in-centers, night shelters, and skill development programs) came to a halt. While the

closure of schools did not mean protection for the children living on the street or at shelters and for children at work. Secondly, the children in child labor were not given income protection, health care access, special safety net, safe shelter/quarantine space, or family reunion assistance during general leave (lockdown of the economy). This heightened their livelihood crisis. Thirdly, there are structural Gaps in Child Protection in general. In Bangladesh, while around 40 percent population comprises children, in the total social safety-net budget, only 15 percent is spent on child protection. With the existing allocation, less than 40 percent of the child population can be covered. With the increase of poverty-induced marginalization of children due to COVID-19, this allocation will suffer from greater inadequacy.

Concerns over COVID-19 are also pertinent to achieving the SDG commitments, which include supporting the development of vaccines and medications for diseases that primarily affect developing countries, including those that are communicable and non-communicable, and ensuring access to affordable, essential medicines and vaccines under the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement (World Health Organization, 2005). Public health, which affirms the right of developing nations to make full use of the flexibilities in the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights regarding the protection of public health, and, in particular, provides access to medicines for all, which calls to achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential healthcare services, and access to safe, effective, quality, and affordable essential medicines. The situation of the children during COVID-19 and in the post-COVID-19 phase needs to be closely monitored and addressed. This may involve a wide range of activities that can come within the purview of short-term and long-term development planning and have an impact on the goal of eliminating child labor in the country.

7.8 Role of Government and Non-Government Organizations

Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar Forum (BSAF)

Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar (Child Rights) Forum is an apex body of 235 NGOs of Bangladesh working in the child rights sector. Its representative and national status gives it a greater reach to draw attention to issues concerning the rights and well-being of children at national, regional, and international levels, and for Bangladesh, Shishu Adhikar Forum advocates a Child-Friendly world. It works as a networking

entity. It brings together and assists child rights organizations in pursuing common goals. It helps synthesize the viewpoints of member organizations and works to mobilize material and human resources to take child rights programs to scale. It provides collective leadership in program matters to member organizations but does not engage itself in service delivery. It works with lawmakers and decision-makers to bring positive changes in national laws and policies relating to children. It runs a vigorous campaign at a macro level to make civil society aware of the provisions of CRC and play a proactive role in promoting and upholding these rights. It also provides guidelines and assistance to member organizations to empowerment carry out awareness-creating and community activities at their respective levels (Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar Forum, n.d.).

Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar Forum has engaged in networking and social mobilization at home and Southeast Asia Region and established linkages with relevant government organizations.

Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar Forum is working on improving the networking and advocacy mechanism and establishing a Child Rights Information Resource Center to create and maintain an updated child rights database and related information. The center will provide periodical updates to member organizations and be accessible to Researchers, academics, donors, UN Agencies, and others.

Bangladesh Shishu Academy (BSA)

Bangladesh Shishu Academy was established in 1976. It has branches in all 64 districts and one sub-district under each of the six Divisions of Bangladesh. The main activity of the Shishu Academy revolves around developing the creativity and potential of the children. In 1994 the Government of Bangladesh declared the National Children Policy to preserve the children's rights, interests, and welfare. The National Council for Children, headed by the Minister of the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, is responsible for guiding and formulating overall policies and implementing the National Children Policy (Wikipedia, 2023a).

Centre for Women and Children Studies (CWCS)

CWCS introduced a pilot project in 1998 aimed at sensitizing the police and other members of the community on women's and children's rights as human rights, advocating "pro-women and child-friendly policing" at the community level. CWCS

has organized several training programs on women's and children's rights as well as interactive workshops. It has also organized awareness-raising workshops on women's and children's rights for officers from different police departments and stations throughout Bangladesh (DevelopmentAid, 2023).

CWCS organized orientation sessions on child rights at 389 police stations of 54 districts from May 2003 to March 2004 by giving a set of five posters to the police containing messages on child rights issues, namely the security of children, child labor, violence against children, child trafficking, and youth offenders. These CWCS initiatives were highlighted as a significant breakthrough in the interim report written by Ofelia Calcetas-Santos, Special Reporter of the Commission on Human Rights on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution, and Child Pornography.

Bangladesh National Women Lawyers Association (BNWLA)

BNWLA has a program to ensure the rights of children. Under this program, there is a social protection group for the community children to protect them from any kind of violence. Every target area has a social protection center where a lawyer regularly sits for instant help.

The objective of such interventions is to develop a child-centered community. Moreover, BNWLA has been rescuing children from different police stations in the country. Thereafter, it tries to trace out their parents and place them back in parental care. If any child is found traceless, BNWLA provides the necessary training for rehabilitation. To combat violence against women and children, BNWLA established a shelter home in 1993 named 'Proshanti' to provide safe custody to rescued women and children. The shelter home is also a part of the objective of BNWLA to improve the state of children's rights in Bangladesh.

Moreover, the legal Aid Cell of BNWLA addresses free-of-cost services to the legal problems of the abused and violated, destitute, and vulnerable women and children, and provides support to help them establish their legal rights in society either by defending their cases in different courts in the country or other ways. The Training Cell of BNWLA organizes training programs for law enforcement agencies, government functionaries, and NGOs dealing with issues relating to violence against women and children.

Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Truss (BLAST)

BLAST has been working since 1994 for distressed people who do not have access to justice in our country's context. BLAST has different cells and activities to provide appropriate legal support for these people. The juvenile cell of BLAST is one such cell working for those children who are below 18 years. The juvenile cell of BLAST is working all over Bangladesh through the 19-unit offices of BLAST and the local partner NGOs (BLAST, 2022).

7.9 Protection of Child Rights from an International Perspective

Today, all international legal standards for children's rights are viewed as having their roots in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The rights of children are also covered by a number of international agreements and regulations. This includes the 1923 Declaration of the Rights of the Child, which was developed in 1919 in London, England, by Eglantyne Jebb and her sister Dorothy Buxton (Woven Teaching, 2023). It was endorsed by the League of Nations and adopted by the United Nations in 1946. The Convention on the Rights of the Child was subsequently built upon this foundation. It constitutes a common reference against which progress in meeting human rights standards for children can be assessed and results compared. Governments are required to comply with the Convention's standards by updating their laws, policies, and practices in order to do so; to make the standards a reality for all children; and to refrain from taking any actions that might make it impossible for children to enjoy their rights or violate them. Governments are obligated to report on their progress toward achieving all rights on a regular basis to a committee of independent experts. Certain relevant articles on the protection of the child rights

Article 14:

1. The freedom of expression, conscience, and religion for children shall be respected by State Parties.
2. States Parties are required to respect the rights and duties of parents and, if applicable, legal guardians, who must help their wards exercise their rights in a way that takes into account their changing capacities.

3. The right to publicly express one's religion or beliefs may only be curtailed to the degree mandated by law and required to uphold public morals, health, safety, or other constitutional rights and freedoms.

Article 19:

1. While children are in the care of their parents, legal guardians, or other caregivers, States Parties are required to take all necessary statutory, administrative, social, and educational measures to protect them from all types of physical or mental abuse, neglect, or maltreatment, as well as from maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse.

2. In addition to other forms of prevention, these preventative measures should include effective procedures for the establishment of social programmers to provide the necessary support for the child and those who have care of the child, as well as for the identification, reporting, referral, investigation, treatment, and follow-up of cases of child maltreatment as previously described, and, as necessary, for judicial involvement.

Article 24:

1. States Parties recognize that children have a right to the best facilities for the treatment of disease and restoration of health, as well as the enjoyment of the greatest quality of health that is reasonably possible. Every child has the right to access the health care services outlined in the current Convention and other international human rights or humanitarian agreements to which the aforementioned States are Parties, and State's Parties should work to ensure that this right is not violated.

2. To this end, States Parties shall provide, as they consider appropriate, cooperation in any efforts made by the United Nations and other competent intergovernmental organizations or non-governmental organizations working in tandem with the United Nations to protect and assist such a child as well as to track down the parents or other family members of any refugee child in order to obtain the information required for the child's reunification with his or her family. When parents or other family members cannot be located, the child must be given the same protection under the current Convention as any other child who is temporarily or permanently separated from his or her family's environment.

3. States Parties will have to work fully to implement this right and will have to take the necessary steps, including:

- a) To reduce infant and child mortality;
- b) To ensure that all children receive essential medical care and assistance, with a focus on the growth of basic healthcare;
- (c) To combat illness and malnutrition, including within the framework of primary healthcare, by, among other things, applying readily available technology and by providing enough wholesome food and clean water, while taking into account the risks and dangers of environmental pollution;
- (d) To ensure that mothers receive the proper prenatal and postnatal health care;
- (e) To ensure that all societal groups, particularly parents and children, are informed, have access to education, and are supported in using fundamental knowledge of child health and nutrition, the benefits of breastfeeding, hygiene, and environmental sanitation, and the prevention of accidents;
- (f) To develop services and education in family planning, parenting advice, and preventative healthcare.

4. State parties shall take all reasonable and suitable steps to end any customs that are harmful to children's health.

5. State Parties commit to foster and encourage international collaboration in order to gradually achieve the full fulfillment of the right acknowledged in the present article. The concerns of developing nations should be given special consideration in this regard.

States parties agree to safeguard minors from all forms of sexual exploitation and abuse, as stated in Article 34. States Parties are expressly obligated to take all necessary national, bilateral, and international actions to prevent:

- (a) A child should not be pressured or enticed into engaging in any illegal sexual conduct.
- b) Children should not be used for prostitution or other illegal sexual activities.
- c) Children should not be used in pornographic activities or goods.

As stated in Article 36 Parties must safeguard kids from any forms of exploitation that are detrimental to any part of their wellbeing.

Article 37 (a) No child shall be subjected to torture or any other kind of punishment or treatment that is cruel, inhuman, or humiliating. No individual under the age of 18 may receive the death penalty or a life sentence without the possibility of parole;

(b) No child may be arbitrarily or unlawfully detained in prison. Unless absolutely essential and for the shortest time possible, children must be legitimately detained, arrested, or imprisoned;

(c) All children whose freedom is denied must be treated with humanity, respect for their inherent dignity as people, and attention to their developmental needs. Any child who is denied their freedom must be kept apart from adults unless it is deemed to be in the child's best interest to do otherwise; however, they have the right to communicate with their family through visits and correspondence, except in rare cases;

(d) Every child who is denied their freedom has the right to prompt access to legal and other appropriate assistance, the right to contest the legitimacy of the deprivation of their liberty before a court; and the right to receive appropriate medical care.

Article 39: States parties are required to take all necessary measures to support the psychological and physical recovery, as well as the social reintegration, of children who have experienced any form of abuse, neglect, exploitation, or torture, as well as any other cruel, inhumane, or degrading treatment or punishment, including those brought on by armed conflict. During the child's recovery and reintegration process, the child's health, self-respect, and dignity must be encouraged.

UNICEF in Bangladesh

UNICEF is the leading international body for the government of Bangladesh, helping to protect 'child rights and related programs (UNICEF, 2022). Over the years, UNICEF has been very active in attempting to uplift the conditions of the children in Bangladesh. Especially during the last ten years, their efforts in aid of children in conflict with the law are remarkably visible.

UNICEF had participated in the inter-ministerial committee and is presently a member of NTF. Through such participation and membership, UNICEF has been supporting the government's initiatives to uplift the conditions of children's rights in Bangladesh.

According to the Children Act of 1974, a 'child' means a person under the age of sixteen years. The definition of 'child' offered by the Children Act of 1974 is inconsistent with international standards. Since under the domestic law of Bangladesh, a majority is not attained earlier, fixing 16 years as the age limit of childhood is contrary to the CRC. This non-compliance with international standards leaves children above 16 but below 18 out of the protection of the children's justice system and makes them subjected to adult trial (Ministry of Law, 1974).

The UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, in its concluding observations on the initial report of Bangladesh submitted under Article 44 of the CRC, recommended: "legal reform be pursued in connection with the lack of adequate protection for children aged 16-18". In 1997 the government made a reference to the Law Commission for an opinion as to whether the age of a 'child' as defined in the Children Act, 1974 can be raised to 18 years from 16 years. The Law Commission, in its unanimous decision, answered the reference in the positive. Nevertheless, any progress to that effect is yet to be made. Even among South Asian countries, Afghanistan, Bhutan, India, Maldives, and Pakistan extend juvenile justice protections to all children under the age of 18 (Ministry of Law, 1974).

Bangladesh is one of the world's most densely populated countries, placing pressure on land and other resources. Many families in Bangladesh live in extreme poverty, and consequently, their children must work for long hours for very low wages instead of going to school. For this reason, the Government takes various policies to bring these children to school. For example, if a child goes to school, he or she will get crops from the Government.

The Government was generally responsive to children's rights and welfare. Many of these efforts were supplemented by local and foreign NGOs, and these joint efforts allowed the country to make significant progress in improving health and education. However, slightly more than one-half of all children were chronically malnourished; there are laws in Bangladesh that children between 6 and 10 years of age must attend school through the tenth grade. Primary education is free and compulsory. According to Education Ministry statistics, 97% of school-age children were enrolled in primary schools during the year. The government invested in incentives for female education by providing free education for girls up to grade 12 and implementing a stipend system from grades 6 through 12. Boys enjoyed a free education through the tenth grade.

As a member state of CRC, Bangladesh has to maintain all the laws relating to child rights. And the country should take proper steps to comply with the provision of CRC. Child rights protection efforts in Bangladesh should address, and remedy conditions that make children vulnerable to recruitment by armed groups, including poverty, discrimination, the use of child labor, and exposure to abuse, including sexual abuse, child trafficking, etc. Particular attention should include programs for the protection of child rights. Poverty in Bangladesh pressures the young child to work, often at the expiration of education. According to the International Labor Organization (ILO), there are 21.6 million working children in South Asia. In Bangladesh, the estimated number of working children is 7.9 million out of 35 million, of whom almost 60% are male; the Government should take steps to decrease this number and provide them with food, shelter, and education (Justice, n.d.)

Chapter Eight

Both qualitative and quantitative findings are presented in chapter seven. This chapter deals mainly with the demographic and socio-economic background of child laborers and the views of guardians and employers about child laborers and also includes summing up the study.

Chapter 8: Findings of the Study

8.1 Quantitative Findings of the Study

The research domain has included child laborers, their guardians, and employers in this study. Therefore, the information gathered at the field level has been organized in accordance with its nature and presented using a narrative approach that incorporates techniques like quotation, diagram, conceptual framework, analytical focus, and text analysis in accordance with the presentation's classification into various categories.

Demographic and socio-economic background of child laborers Age structure and gender distribution.

The research considers children who are 6-18 years of age and able to provide data have been considered for the study. ILO Convention 182 (Article 2) defines children as all people under the age of 18. Children under 5 (Five) years old are engaged in work without formal evidence. However, official statistics do not include children in that age group. National statistics, therefore, treat those aged between 5 and 17 years old as the universe from which child labor is drawn (Shahjahan et al., 2016) . Child labor, as referred to by the NCLS, consists of all children under 18 years of age who are economically active. According to the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, (2017), a child laborer is a child between 5-11 years of age working for any period in a non-hazard job. Children aged 12-17, including those working more than 42 hours a week in a non-hazardous job, are defined as child laborers. The national child labor survey 2013 estimated that there are 3.45 million working children in Bangladesh aged between 5-17 years, of which 0.57 million are in urban areas, and 0.43 are in city corporation areas (Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, 2017).

Age and sex structure

Table 7: Distribution of child laborers based on age and sex (N=240)

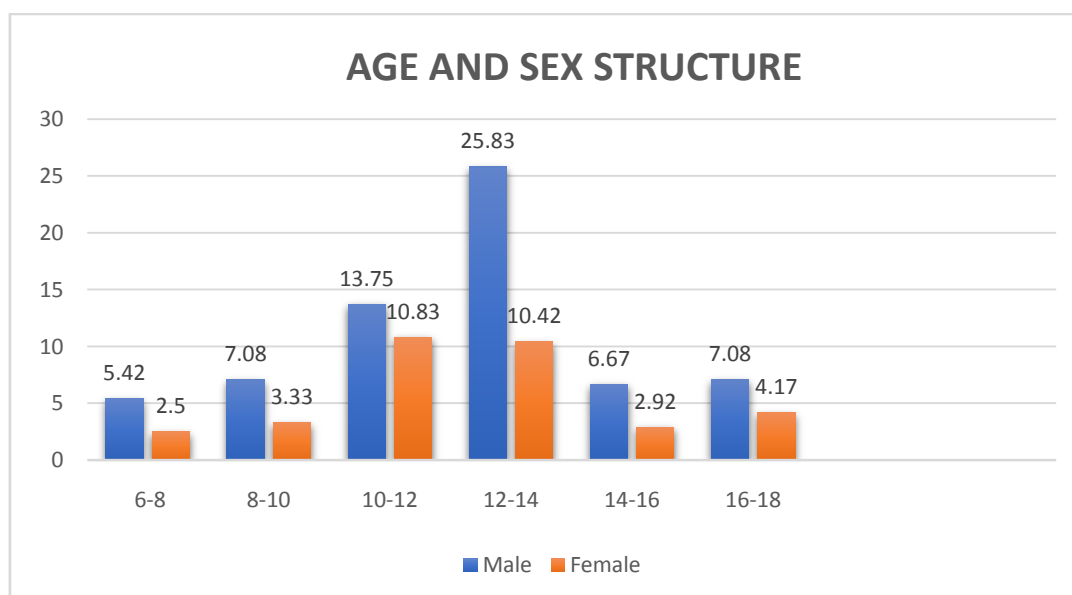
Age (In year)	Sex Status		Total
	Male	Female	
6-8	13 (5.42)	6 (2.5)	19 (7.92)
8-10	17 (7.08)	8 3.33	25 (10.42)
10-12	33 (13.75)	26 (10.83)	59 (24.58)
12-14	62 (25.83)	25 (10.42)	87 (36.25)
14-16	16 (6.67)	7 (2.92)	23 (9.58)
16-18	17 (7.08)	10 (4.17)	27 (11.25)
Total	158 (65.83)	82 (34.17)	240 (100.00)

Mean age = 12.26

The findings indicate that the average age of child laborers is 12.26 years, and the majority of them (36.25 percent) are between the ages of 12 and 14 while the smallest age group (7.92 percent) consists of children between the ages of 6 and 8. In gender distribution 34.17 percent are female, and 65.83 percent are male. As gender inequality grows, child labor increases. For instance, due to their biological characteristics and social acceptance, men are more frequently involved in child labor than women. (Haszelinna binti Abang Ali & Arabsheibani, 2016). Data state that there are load carriers, garbage collectors, vegetable shop assistants, hotel and tea stall laborers, domestic workers, welding factory laborers, motor workshop laborers, and laguna transport helpers in Dhaka city. Load carriers and garbage collectors are mostly self-employed and frequently visible. Hotel and tea stall laborers, vegetable shop assistants, motor workshop laborers, lagena transport helpers, welding factory laborers, and domestic workers are not found here and there.

The data are also shown in a graphical presentation.

Figure 5: Distribution of child laborers based on age and sex



Education

Children's right to education is a fundamental one. Poor parents do not encourage their children to attend school, despite Bangladesh's declaration of a program for universal education, and the educational condition is not satisfactory. Occasionally, students who enroll depart the schools they have been attending.

The initial stage of a child's education is primary school, which might prepare them for later careers as children. As a result, primary education is a fundamental need for all children. The basic education of children is ensured by enrollment in primary school, and it also provides access to the nation's human resources.

Table 8: Number of students by type of education 2018 (Secondary Source)

Type of Institution	Student
Primary	17251350
Secondary	10330695
Madrasah	2453364

Source: Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, (2019)

Table 9: Literacy rate of the population (Secondary Source)

7-14 Years	2018
Both sex	73.2
Male	75.2
Female	71.2

Source: Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, (2019)

Table 10: Distribution of child Laborers by education and Sex (N=240)

Education	Sex		Total
	Male	Female	
Illiterate	22 (9.17)	18 (7.5)	42 (17.50)
Literacy knowledge (went to school but dropped out)	36 (15)	28 (11.67)	62 (25.83)
No formal education but can read Arabic	26 (10.83)	19 (7.92)	45 (18.75)
Primary Level (class I-V)	60 (25)	15 (6.25)	75 (31.25)
Above primary (class VI-VIII)	14 (5.83)	2 (.83)	16 (6.67)
Total	158 (65.83)	82 (34.17)	240 (100.0)

The findings of child laborers by education and sex show that most female laborers have no educational background. The scenario is different from the male child laborers. According to Khan, (2001) survey, studied 38.3 percent of child laborers are not in school. The present study shows that the education level of 17.50 percent child laborers are illiterate. 25.83 percent of child laborers (15 percent male and 11.67 percent female) went to school but dropped out due to unfavorable circumstances. 18.75 percent (10.83 percent male and 7.92 percent female) have no formal education. Only 31.25 percent of child laborers completed between classes one to five. A small number of (6.67 percent) child laborers have completed above primary (six to eight) education. Most of the children expressed their interest in attending school.

The data are also shown in a graphical presentation.

Figure 6: Distribution of child laborers by education and sex

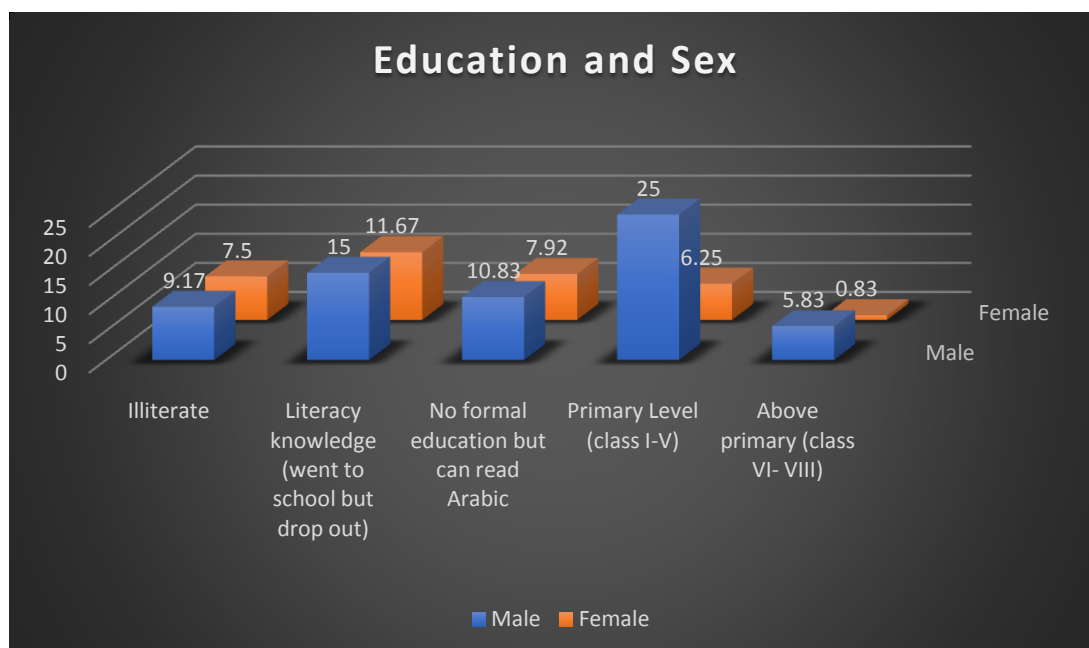


Table 11: Distribution of child laborers by types of attended school/madrassa (N= 240)

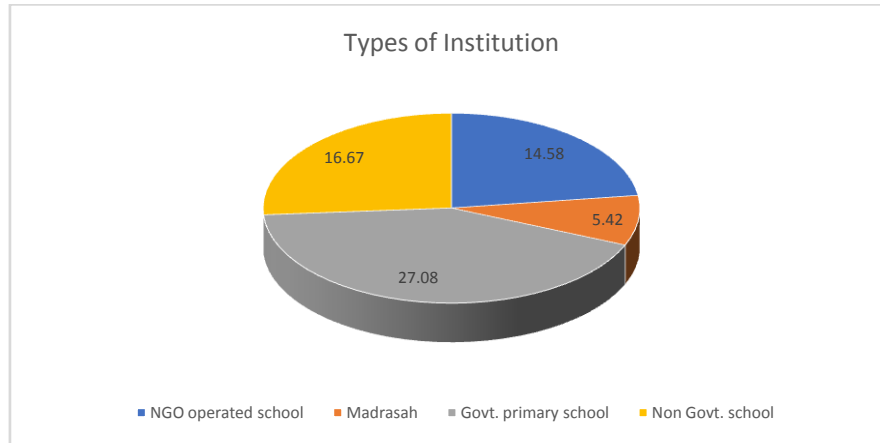
Types of institution	Number of child laborers	Percentage
NGO operated school	35	14.58
Madrassa	13	5.42
Govt. primary school	65	27.08
Non-Govt. school	40	16.67

According to data in Table 11, there were 240 respondents in total. Nonetheless, 153 child workers are connected to various educational institutions. The remaining 87 child laborers were without any institutional connections. Despite having no official education, they can read Arabic with the help of the family.

The data also show that the highest 27.08 percent of child laborers attended Govt. Primary School. 16.67 percent attended non-government schools, 14.58 percent NGO-operated schools, and 5.42 percent of child laborers were associated with Madrassa.

The data are also shown in a graphical presentation.

Figure 7: Distribution of child laborers by types of attended school/madrassa



Since 2002, the Bangladesh government has offered stipends to children in primary school. Subsidizing school costs alleviates the financial burden of education on low-income families, providing additional incentives for their children to stay in school rather than work. The government has also implemented the female secondary stipend program, partially funded by the World Bank, to provide wages for 1.5 million girls nationwide. Girls attending school in rural areas are also eligible for free tuition and textbooks (Thelwell, 2019). Since the beginning of the academic session, the government has been distributing free pre-primary and secondary-level textbooks since 2010.

In Bangladesh, the government wants every one of its inhabitants to receive basic education and has distributed more than 320 million schoolbooks to 40.4 million children as part of an initiative to eradicate illiteracy in the nation. This initiative is known as the "Textbook Festival." Children in Bangladesh should be given free books to eradicate illiteracy (Corraya, 2015).

The Government of Bangladesh (GOB) declared that all educational institutions would be shut down beginning on March 17, 2020, as a result of the COVID-19 epidemic. Schools returned on September 12, 2021, after an eighteen-month closure. To maintain learning continuity throughout the closure, the GOB swiftly set up a remote learning system with courses broadcast on television and radio, e-content uploaded, and live classes conducted by teachers online.

Despite these measures, there is a significant chance that learning will be lost substantially and the dropout rate will rise, especially in rural and remote areas. School closure confirms a significant decline in children's foundational skills and knowledge, from 11 to 54 percent (UNICEF, 2022).

Table 12: Survey indicator (MICS related) (Secondary Source)

Indicators	Description	2021			2019		
		Total	Urban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural
Dropout rate (DOR)	Percentage of children of (DOR) (a) Planning school-age children who were enrolled in school in 2020 but no longer attended school (dropped out) in 2021	(a) 3.1	(a) 3.4	(a) 3.1	(a) 2.3	(a) 2.1	(a) 2.4
	(b) Lower secondary school-age children who were enrolled in school in 2020 but no longer attended school (dropped out) in 2021	(b) 5.0	(b) 3.4	(b) 5.5	(b) 3.8	(b) 2.6	(b) 4.2
	(c) Upper secondary school-age children who were enrolled in school in 2020 but no longer attended school (dropped out in 2021)	(c) 7.1	(c) 6.6	(c) 7.1	(c) 9.7	(c) 8.6	(c) 10.0

Source: Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics & United Nations Children’s Fund, (2023)

Reasons to become child laborers

Children are most often involved in child labor because their parents or guardians consider it ‘normal’ for children to work and sometimes for children’s survival and that of their families. Some of the root causes are that more children are particularly vulnerable to child labor. The study identified many reasons for selling labor by children in Dhaka city. Data is presented in table 13.

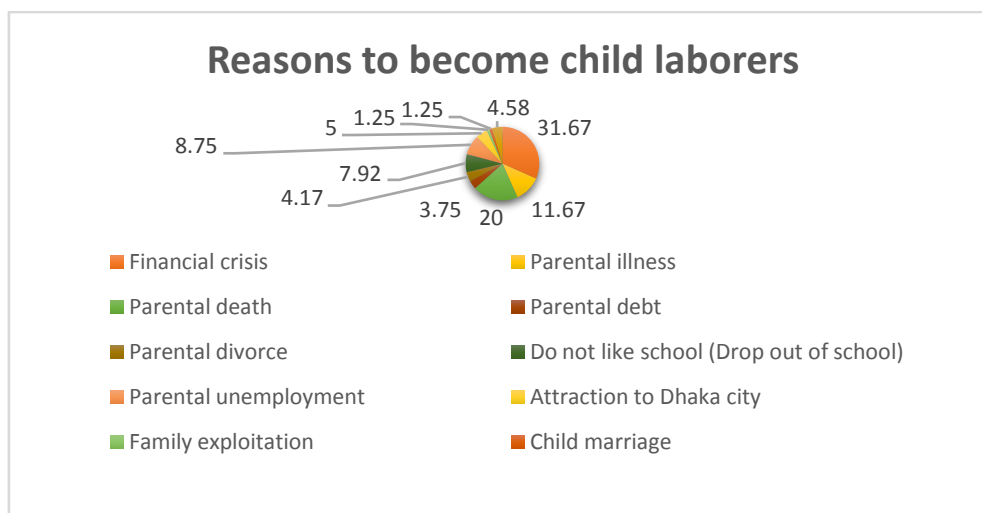
**Table 13: Reasons to become child laborers (push and pull factors)
(N = 240)**

Reasons	Number of child laborers	Percentage
Financial crisis	76	31.67
Parental illness	28	11.67
Parental death	48	20
Parental debt	9	3.75
Parental divorce	10	4.17
Do not like school (Drop out of school)	19	7.92
Parental unemployment	21	8.75
Attraction to Dhaka city	12	5
Family exploitation	3	1.25
Child marriage	3	1.25
Natural calamity	11	4.58
Total	240	100.0

It shows that the causes of child labor are manifold, and are related to their low socioeconomic status. The financial crisis (31.67 percent) is one of the reasons that leads to children becoming child laborers. This is because a child's earnings are seen as being essential to their existence and the survival of their families. The other factors are parental illness (11.67 percent), parental death (20 percent), parental debt (3.75 percent), parental divorce (4.17 percent), school dropout (7.92 percent), parental unemployment (8.75 percent), the attraction of Dhaka city (5 percent), family exploitation (1.25 percent), child marriage (1.25 percent) and natural calamity (4.58 percent).

The data are also shown in a graphical presentation.

Figure 8: Reasons to become child laborers (push and pull factors)(N=240)



Migration status

A person under the age of 18 who moves to a different administrative territory, either inside or outside of the national boundaries, is said to be migration. Migration can be triggered by economic factors (e.g., unemployment in rural areas, poverty), cultural factors (e.g., gender discrimination, history of migration, conflict, the threat of marriage at an early age), personal characteristics (e.g., peer pressure, domestic violence, HIV/AIDS) and external factors (e.g., climate change, natural disasters, seasonal flooding)

Studies have shown that girls are much more likely to migrate internally. At the same time, boys tend to migrate internationally (IPEC, van de Glind, H.: Migration and Child Labor – Exploring child migrant vulnerabilities and those of children left behind, Geneva, ILO, 2010, P. 5). Children who migrate without their parents are especially vulnerable to exploitation, coercion, deception, and violence. They often experience maltreatment - including suffering from isolation, violence, substandard working conditions, non-payment of wages, unfair work practices in terms of hours of work, rest periods, and overtime, and the threat of being reported to the authorities (ILO-IPEC Interregional Workshop on Child Domestic Labour and Trade Unions, 2006).

Table 14: Distribution of child laborers by migration status (N=240)

Migration status	Number of child laborers	Percentage
Migrant	173	72.08
Non-migrant	67	27.91
Total	240	100.0

My studies show that 72.08 percent of child laborers migrated to Dhaka for work (table 14).

The data are also shown in a graphical presentation.

Figure 9: Distribution of child laborers by migration status

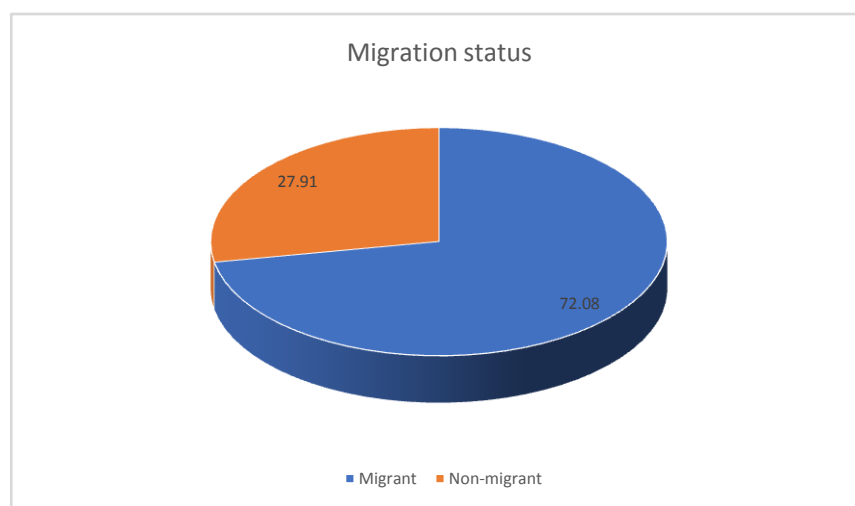


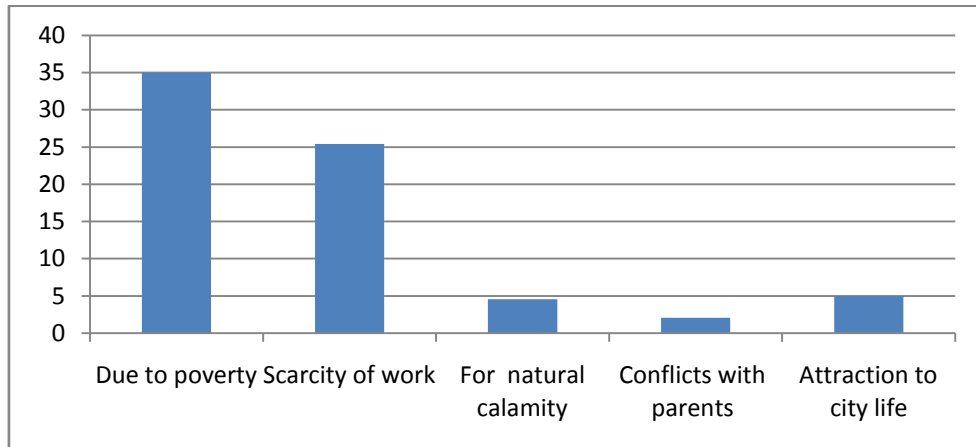
Table 15: Distribution of migrated child laborers by reasons (Push and pull factors) (N=240)

Reasons of migration	Number of child laborers	Percentage
Due to poverty	84	35
Scarcity of work	61	25.41
For natural calamity	11	4.58
Conflicts with parents (Stepmother)	05	2.08
Attraction to city life	12	5

As regards reasons for migration, table 15 shows that attraction to the city and scarcity of work are the pull factors. In contrast, poverty, natural calamity, and conflicts with parents are among the push factors for migration. The highest 35 percent of child laborers came to Dhaka due to poverty, 25.41 percent for the scarcity of work, 4.48 percent due to natural calamities, 2.08 percent came due to conflicts with their parents, and the rest 5 percent of child laborers migrated because of attraction to city life.

The overwhelming majority (68.35 percent), according to a survey (Taher, 2006), are migrant child workers. Poor urban children labor far more frequently than poor rural children, according to a different study (Ali, 2013). The data are also shown in a graphical presentation.

Figure 10: Distribution of migrated child Laborers by reasons (Push and pull factors) N=240)



Nature of employment

Table 16: Distribution of child laborers (both sexes) by Nature of employment (N=240)

Types of employment	Sex		Total
	Male	Female	
Motor workshop worker	30 (12.50)	- -	30 (12.50)
Regular transport helpers	30 (12.50)	- -	30 (12.50)
Vegetable Shop assistant	23 (9.58)	7 (2.92)	30 (12.50)
Hotel and tea stall laborers	19 (7.92)	11 (4.58)	30 (12.50)
Domestic workers	- -	30 (12.50)	30 (12.50)
Welding factory laborers	30 (12.50)	- -	30 (12.50)
Load carriers	30 (12.50)	- -	30 (12.50)
Garbage collectors	6 (2.50)	24 (10)	30 (12.50)
Total	168 (70)	72 (30)	240 (100.0)

This survey was conducted among child laborers involved in different types of occupations. The table shows that in hotels and tea stalls, there are 7.92 percent of male child laborers and 4.58 percent of female child laborers. There are 9.58 percent male and 2.92 percent female vegetable shop assistants who can be considered as children. Female child workers are mainly involved in domestic work. However, male garbage collectors are 2.50 percent, and females are 10 percent. Other types of employment are shown in table 16.

Monthly income and working hours

Table 17: Distribution of child laborers by their monthly income and working hours

Monthly income (In taka)	Working hours				Total
	6-8	8-10	10-12	12+	
500 and less	5 (2.08)	4 (1.67)	4 (1.67)	- -	13 (5.42)
500-1000	3 (1.25)	17 (7.08)	5 (2.08)	- -	25 (10.42)
1000-1500	1 (0.42)	23 (9.58)	56 (23.33)	1 (0.42)	81 (33.75)
1500-2000	- -	17 (7.08)	26 (10.83)	17 (7.08)	60 (25)
2000-2500	- -	14 (5.83)	- -	2 (0.83)	16 (6.66)
2500-3000	- -	- -	- -	31 (12.92)	31 (12.92)
3000-3500	- -	- -	- -	4 (1.67)	4 (1.67)
Work only food and accommodation	10 (4.17)	- -	- -	- -	10 (4.17)
Total	19 (7.91)	75 (31.25)	91 (37.91)	55 (22.91)	240 (100.0)
Mean (Mean wage excluding those who work only food and accommodation) in tk.	527.78	1383.33	1321.43	2687.5	1576.01

Wages serve as the main incentive for child labor. Wages may be paid on a daily, weekly, or monthly basis. There is no fixed minimum wage structure for child labor. Consequently, a child faces severe deprivation in wages. In this study, wages have been taken into consideration as a phenomenon of payment monthly. It can be

observed from the data in table 17 that 5.42 percent of child laborers earn the lowest monthly income which is less than within 500 Tk. only. And they receive on average an amount of TK. 527.78. On the other hand, the highest monthly income range remained between 3000-3500 TK. receive on an average TK. 2687.5 only as their monthly wage. Data show that child laborers have insufficient wages to meet minimum basic needs such as nutritious food and health care services. The average wage of child workers is TK. 1576.01.

Household Members

Table 18: Distribution of household members of child laborers

(N=240)

Household size	Number of child laborers	Percentage
2-3	3	1.25
4-5	25	10.42
6-7	23	9.58
8-9	189	78.75
Total	240	100.0

Average Household size = 7.82

According to Table 18, which provides information on household size, the majority of child laborers are employed in households with 8 to 9 persons (78.75 percent), whereas households with 2-3 members had the lowest percentage of child laborers (1.25 percent).

Figure 11: Distribution of household members of child laborers

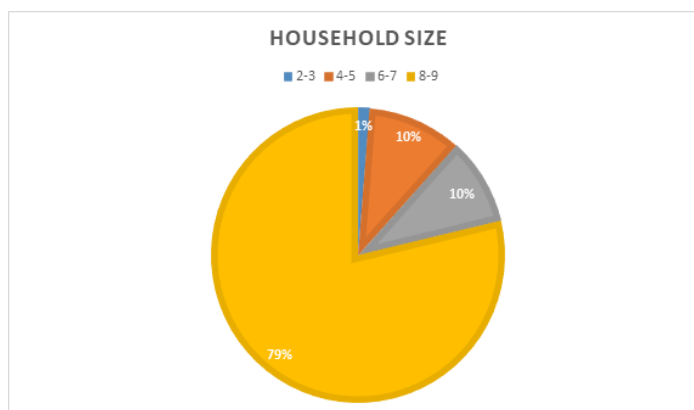


Table 19: Distribution of child laborers from the sources of persons to get the job (N=240)

Sources of persons	Number of child laborers	Percentage
Self-initiative	68	28.33
Through parents	87	36.25
Relatives	23	9.58
Neighbor	9	3.75
With the help of friends	12	5
Directly by employers	41	17.08

Children start working to support themselves financially as well as their families. It is indicated that if necessary, a child can obtain employment. In table 19, it is shown how the working children made their work available. But so far, finding a job in the labor market of Bangladesh is not so easy. " Self-initiative" was the answer given by 28.33 percent. The majority 36.25 percent depended on parental assistance to secure employment. 9.58 percent of children who are employed did so with the assistance of their relatives. According to research, friends assist 5 percent of children to get employment. Employers are sometimes very active in looking for children to work with them (17.08 percent).

Table 20: Distribution of child laborers by person(s) with staying (N=240)

Person(s) with staying	Number of children	Percentage
Only With fathers	20	8.33
Only With mothers	73	30.42
With parents	122	50.83
With Relatives	19	7.92
Alone	6	2.5
Total	240	100.0

The research finding shows that of the majority of child laborers 50.83 percent live with their parents, while 30.42 percent, 8.33 percent, 7.92 percent, and 2.5 percent live with only their mothers, only fathers, relatives, and live alone respectively. Children live alone at the roadside/bus, launch terminal/railway station. They miss affection from their families. There are few members and their living is very miserable though

Figure 12: Distribution of child laborers by person(s) with staying (N=240)

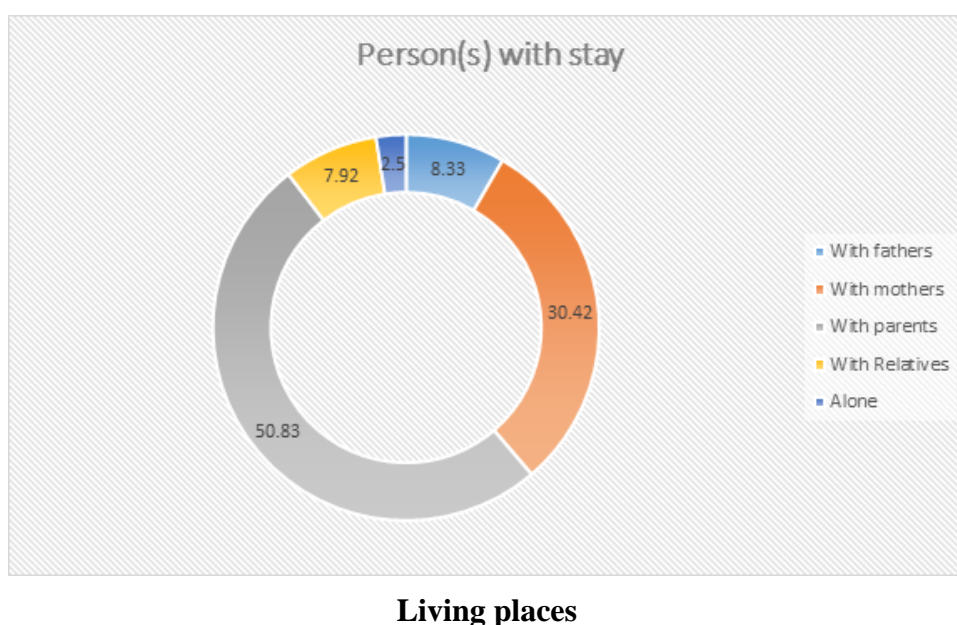


Table 21: Living place of the child laborers (N=240)

living place	Number of child laborers	Percentage
Slum	114	47.5
Rented and shared with others	50	20.83
Neither rented nor built and owned Relatives	24	10
Workplace and owner house (Including domestic workers)	46	19.17
Alone (No selected place to stay that is roadside/bus-lunch terminal/ railway station)	6	2.50
Total	240	100.0

Table 21 shows that nearly half of the child laborers (47.5 percent) live in slums. They occupy unhygienic living areas. And the remaining 20.83 percent either live in the rented houses or in a place shared by others. According to the survey, 10 percent of child laborers live in a tin shed and brick-walled relative's home. Including domestic workers (19.17 percent) live in an owner's house. 2.50 percent have no residential address. They only live there temporarily, and they alternate between sleeping by the roadside and living at bus terminals, launch terminals, and railway stations.

Figure 13: Living place of the child laborers (N=240)



Marital status

Table 22: Marital status of child laborers (N=240)

Marital Status	Number of Child laborers	Percentage
Unmarried	223	92.92
Married	13	5.42
Divorce	4	1.66
Total	240	100.0

According to the information provided, 5.42 percent of child laborers are married, while 92.92 percent of them are not. Children who work as slaves have a divorce rate of 1.66 percent. They were found separated and divorced because their husbands got married somewhere else. All of the divorced child laborers are girls and most of the married child laborers are girls too.

Length of work

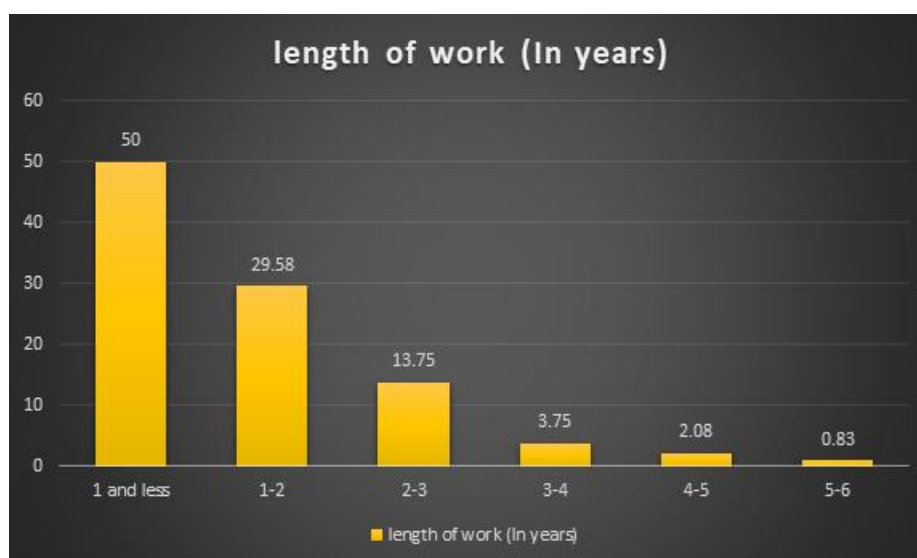
Table 23: Distribution of child laborers by the period of work (N=240)

Length of work (In years)	Number of child laborers	Percentage
One and less	120	50
1-2	71	29.58
2-3	33	13.75
3-4	9	3.75
4-5	5	2.08
5-6	2	0.83
Total	240	100.0

The average length of work=1.26 years

Data presented in table 23 indicate that the working period of the children varies from less than one year to six years. Most children work for less than one year (50 percent). 29.58 percent of them work for between one and two years. Five to six years is the shortest period of employment (0.83percent)

Figure 14: Distribution of child laborers by the period of work



Health status

Health is the state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being and free from sickness. Hence, good health is one of the most important measures of human resource development. Today's children are supposed to be tomorrow's leaders. Every child has the right to proper care and appropriate treatment. According to Khan (2001), about 64% of children in Dhaka City received treatment from a dispensary/medicine shop, meaning they took medicine without consulting a doctor. (Khan, 2001)

Table 24: Distribution of child laborers by treatment (N=240)

Treatment from	Number of child laborers	Percentage
Government hospital	39	16.25
Dispensary/ Pharmacy	79	32.92
Homeopathy	21	8.75
Private Doctor	5	2.08
Kabiraj	50	20.83
Do not care about illness	46	19.17
Total	240	100.0

Table 24 indicates that the child laborers receive medical attention when ill. More than one quarter (32.92 percent) of the working children consulted the salesmen of local pharmacies and took medicine as suggested by them. 16.25 percent go to the government hospital for treatment. It should be mentioned that there are some government hospitals, including a children's hospital in Dhaka City, where they can get proper treatment. But they cannot avail themselves of these opportunities due to their financial constraints and ignorance. If they reach the hospital, they get a free prescription, but they do not get the entire medicine free of cost. They might therefore continue to be untreated or only partially treated as a result (Khan, 2001). Homeopathy, which is preferred by some children because of its low cost, was used to treat about 8.75 percent of child laborers. Only a minority (2.08 percent) sought treatment from a private physician, with the employer covering the costs of care while

ill. Children who work as laborers come from very low-income, illiterate households; they are superstitious and believe that *kabiraj* treatment is quite dependable. Almost 20.83 percent visit Kabrij, and 19.17 percent of child laborers don't care if they get sick. They are unwell all day long at work.

Finger 15: Distribution of child laborers by treatment.

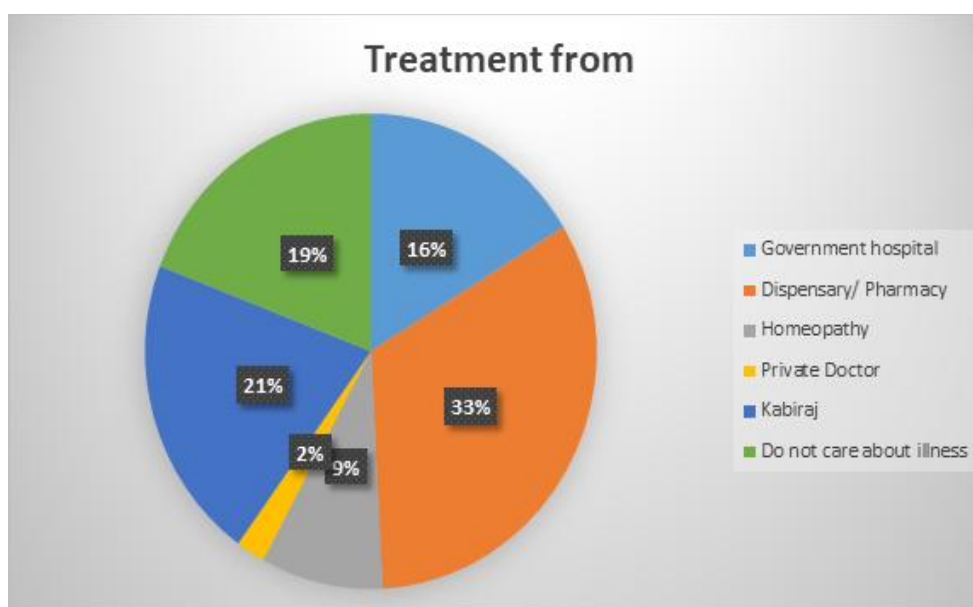


Table 25: Distribution of child laborers by the bearing of their expenses during sickness (N=240)

Bearing expenses during the sickness period	Number of child laborers	Percentage
Parents	166	69.17
Employers/Owners	29	12.08
Him/Herself	45	18.75
Total	240	100.0

The results (table 25) show that the parents/guardians paid for expenses while ill (69.17 percent). Child laborers paid 18.75 percent of their expenses while employers/owners covered 12.08 percent. So, their parents are also the main source for bearing the expenses of the child laborers' treatment period.

Festival allowance

Workers in factories and other establishments that receive payment for a particular religious festival are known as festival allowance recipients.

Festival allowance

Table 26: Festival allowance of child laborers (N=240)

Opinions	Festival Allowance	Number of child laborers	Percentage
Child laborers	Yes	133	55.41
	No	17	7.08

Table 26 reveals that there were 150 participants in this study. Because load carriers, garbage collectors, and vegetable shop assistants all receive daily pay. They usually work from one place to another. But, occasionally they obtain "Boksis" from individuals. Other child laborers get a festival allowance from their owners. But it is a minimal amount 55.41 percent of children mention that they got this allowance, but 7.08 percent say that they didn't get any festival allowance. Table 27 reveals that 54.58 percent of children mentioned getting in between 500-1000 TK. only. Most of the respondents get a festival allowance from their employers. But the amount is not sufficient for them.

Table 27: Amount of festival allowance of the child laborers (N=240)

Amount (In taka)	Number of child laborers	Percentage
500-1000	131	54.58
1000-1500	15	6.25
1500-2000	3	1.25
2000-2500	1	0.41

Annual leave

Both employees and employers need to be aware of the legal provisions governing leave and holidays. However, child labor is prohibited by law and is not supported by the law. Child laborers are not issued appointment letters. According to the survey, child laborers do not receive the necessary amount of annual leave. They occasionally take time off for illness, religious holidays, etc.

Table 28: Annual leave of child laborer (N=240)

Opinion	Number of child laborers	Percentage
Yes	140	58.33
No	10	4.16

Table 28, "Annual Leave of Child Laborers," shows that 58.33 percent of them receive a few days worth of annual leave; only 4.16 percent claim they don't. The owner withdraws their pay if they fail to show up for work. Here the number of child laborers is 150; because 03 sectors (load carriers, garbage collectors, and vegetable shop assistants) of child laborers are not included here.

Abusive and Abusers

Child laborers are considered informal laborers, and no laws can apply to employers. So, employers can easily exploit child laborers without facing legal action. However, child laborers are often subjected to torture in many ways in society by their employers.

Table 29: Types of abuse (N=240)*

Types of abuse	Number of child laborers	Percentage
Physical	101	42.08
Mental	98	40.83
Sexual	23	9.58
Verbal	87	36.25

*Multiple answers

Child abuse is a silent epidemic. Children are consistently becoming easy victims of all sorts of abuses. The study findings show (table 29) that many child laborers are abused. The children are abused in various ways, such as physical abuse, mental abuse, sexual abuse, and verbal abuse. In addition, most child laborers are being abused by one more type of abuse. The table found that child laborers are being physically abused by 42.08 percent, mentally abused by 40.83 percent, sexually abused by 9.58 percent, and verbally abused by 36.25 percent.

Figure 16: Types of abuse

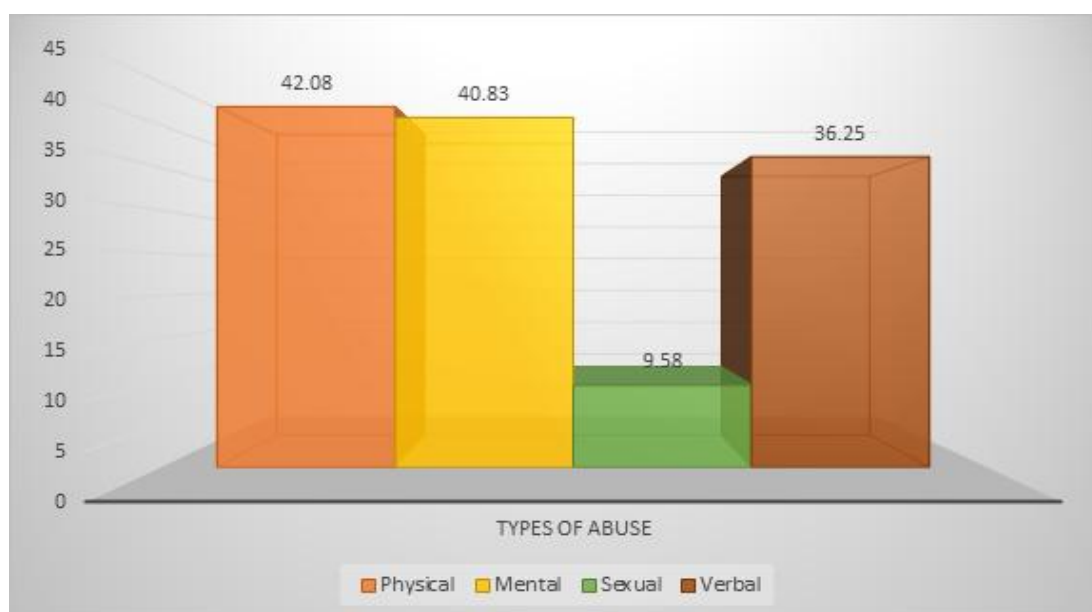


Table 30: Frequency of abusing (N=240)

Abuse	Number of child laborers	Percentage
Very few	10	4.17
Few	17	7.08
Often	63	26.25
Regularly	150	62.50
Total	240	100.0

Table 30 reveals that the highest percentage of child laborers, 62.50 percent, state that they were regularly abused, followed by 26.25 percent who say they were abused frequently, 7.08 percent say they were abused a few times, and 4.17 percent who say they were abused quite a few times.

Figure 17: Frequency of abusing

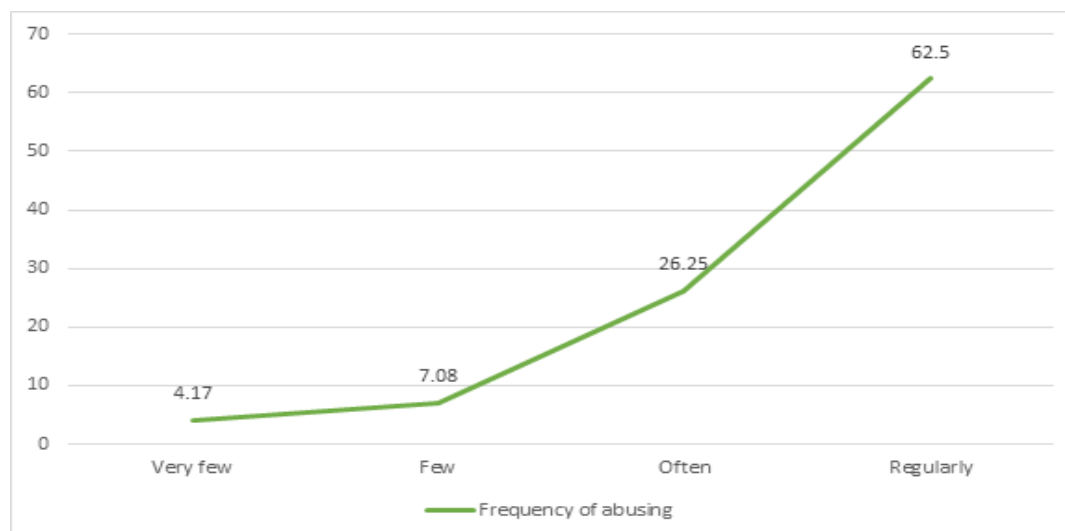
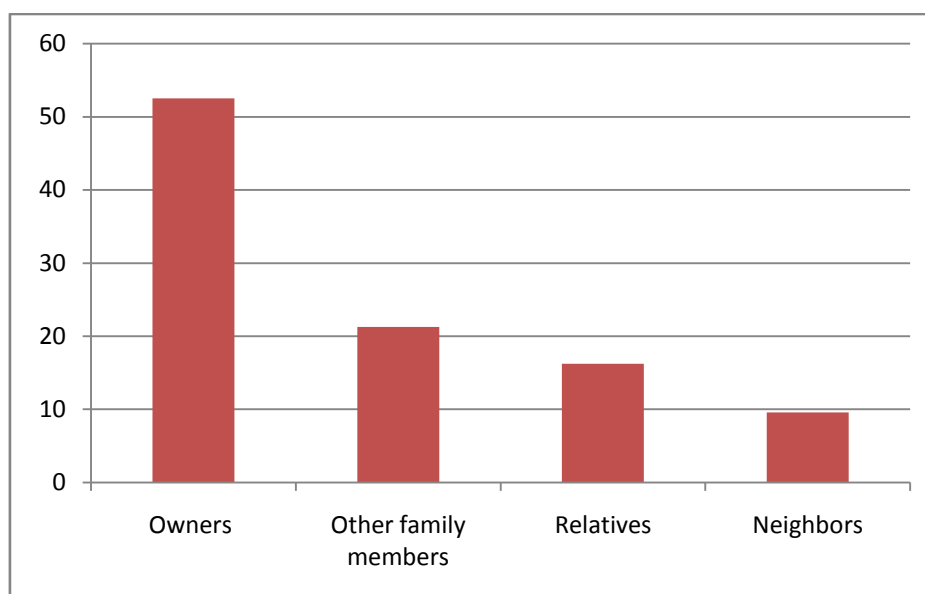


Table 31: Distribution of child laborers by abusers (N=240)

Abusers	Number of children	Percentage
Owners	126	52.50
Other family members	52	21.27
Relatives	39	16.25
Neighbors	23	9.58
Total	240	100.0

Table 31 shows that 52.50 percent of child laborers say their owners abuse them. Other family members abuse the rest of the children (21.27 percent). Relatives (16.25 percent), and Neighbours (9.58 percent) abuse them.

Figure 18: Distribution of child laborers by abusers



So, from the above discussion, it can be realized that child abuse or maltreatment exists in every society whether it is civilized or uncivilized. Child abuse may form in a variety of ways like physical, mental verbal, sexual, and mental, etc. In recent days, besides such types of abuse, children also face mental illness, carrier of drug or alcohol problems, or sometimes experience imprisonment or witnessing domestic violence amongst intimate partners. In Bangladesh, Children face hazardous behavior mostly due to poverty. In that respect, we may draw our concluding remark by saying that, children are the most precious gifts for our own, society as well as for our country also. So it is our prior duty to emphasize every matter of children so that we can easily ensure a better and worthy environment for every child in the future.

Recreation

Recreation is a fundamental right of children. So, every child needs recreation. Therefore, the employer or owner must provide the opportunity of a break of at least 30 minutes to one hour for the child laborers after the stipulated working hour, i.e., five hours (Ministry of Labour and Employment, 2010).

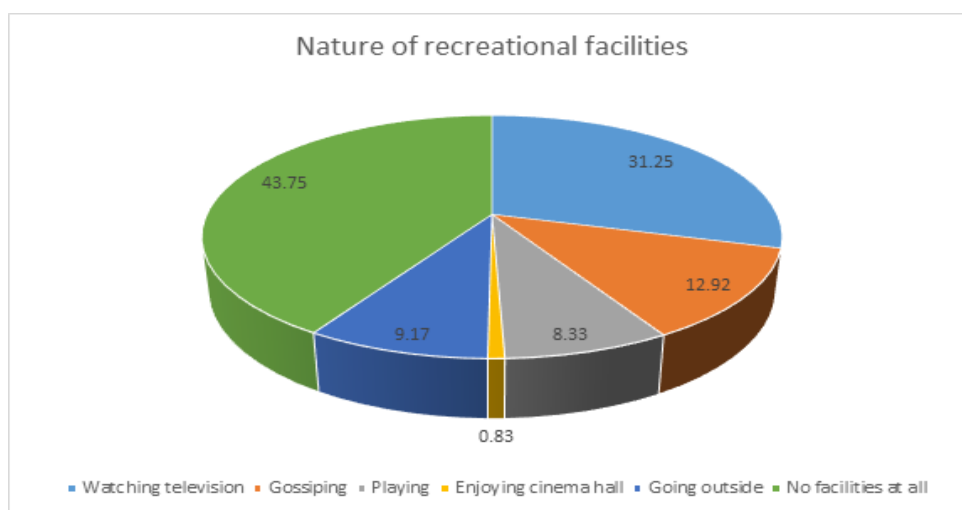
Table 32: Distribution of child laborers by the nature of recreational facilities (N=240) *

Nature of recreational facilities	Number of children	Percentage
Watching television	75	31.25
Gossiping	31	12.92
Playing	20	8.33
Enjoying cinema hall	2	0.83
Going outside	22	9.17
No facilities at all	105	43.75

* Multiple answers

The study's table 32 demonstrates how limited the child laborers' recreational opportunities are. 43.75 percent feel they have no access to any sort of recreational facilities. The leisure facilities are disregarded by employers. 31.25 percent feel very well about watching television, and 12.92 percent of child laborers say they feel good enough to enjoy gossiping with their friends. The attraction to watching movies is diminished because only 0.83 percent of people do so. Only 8.33 percent of respondents stated they play when they have time. 9.17 percent of child laborers stated that they frequently walk outside to relax. From these findings, it is understood that child laborers are very much attracted to watching television. But they are less interested in outdoor recreational facilities that are playing on the ground, swimming running, and so on.

Figure 19: Distribution of child laborers by the nature of recreational facilities (N=240)



Hazardous work

Table 33: Hazardous work done by the child laborers (N=240) *

Hazardous Work	Number of child laborers	Percentage
Repairing steel furniture	35	14.58
Works in extreme heat	65	27.08
Carrying heavy load	24	10
Collecting Wastage	30	12.5
Using sharp knives	60	25
Cooking	45	18.75
Long working hours	238	99.17
Chemical hazards	66	27.50
Iron Clothes	40	16.67
Boiling water	40	16.67
Wash heavy clothes	40	16.67

*Multiple answers

The surveyed child laborers make a long list of hazardous works, which are given in table 33. Among the hazardous works, the long working hours is the highest (99.17 percent) according to the opinions of child laborers.

Child laborers have demonstrated their ability to perform other hazardous jobs. These children are required to perform various tasks that they think to be dangerous and excessive. 27.08 percent work in sweltering heat, 14.58 percent repair steel furniture, 10 percent carry heavy loads, 12.5 percent collect waste, 18.75 percent cook, 27.5 percent handle chemicals that are hazardous, and 16.67 percent wash heavy clothes in boiling water and 16.67 percent iron clothes. The findings reveal that child laborers are involved in hard work, that is not suitable for their health.

Figure 20: Hazardous work done by the child laborers

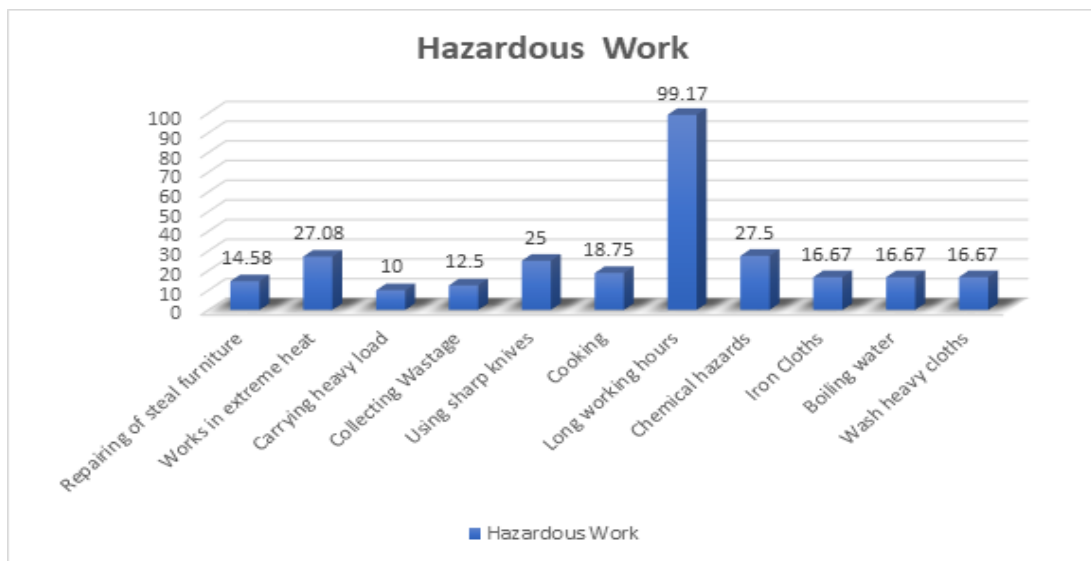


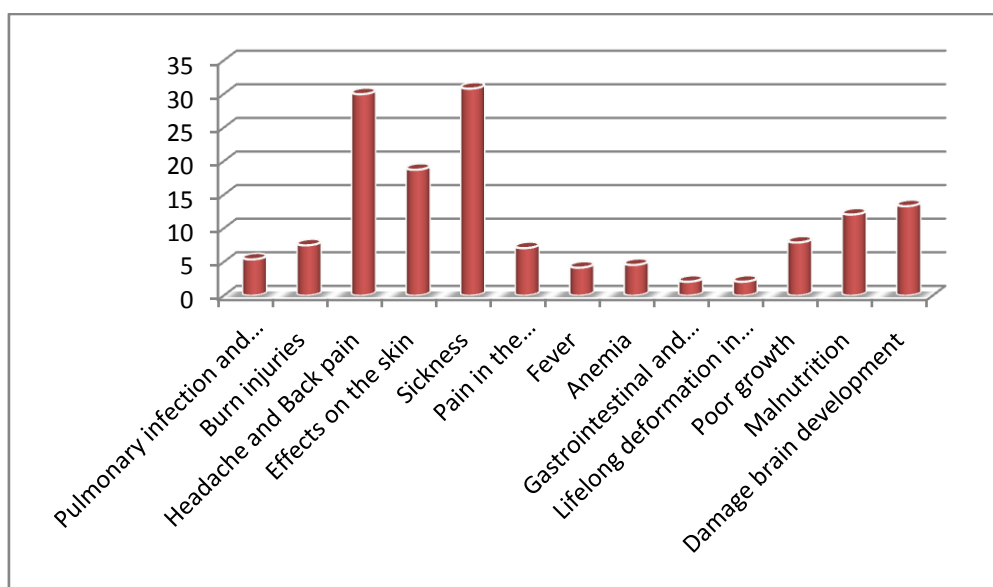
Table 34: Diseases behind hazardous work * (N=240)

Diseases	Number of child laborers	Percentage
Pulmonary infection and heart disease	13	5.41
Burn injuries	18	7.5
Headache and Back pain	72	30
Effects on the skin	45	18.75
Sickness	74	30.83
Pain in the knee, muscles, and other joints	17	7.08
Fever	10	4.17
Anemia	11	4.58
Gastrointestinal and stomach problems	5	2.08
Lifelong deformation in bones and joints and disabilities	5	2.08
Poor growth	19	7.92
Malnutrition	29	12.08
Damage brain development	32	13.33

*Multiple answers

Children engaged in work are exposed to various hazards that can seriously damage their health. The study indicates (table 34) that biological diseases are a result of child laborers' exposure to crowded, unclean workplaces and numerous dangerous works. pulmonary infection and heart disease 5.41 percent, burn injuries 7.5 percent, headache, and back pain 30 percent, effects on the skin 18.75 percent, sickness 30.83 percent, pain in the knees, muscles, and other joints 7.08 percent, fever 4.17 percent, anemia 4.58 percent, gastrointestinal and stomach problems 2.08 percent, lifelong deformation of the bones and joints, and disabilities 2.08 percent, poor growth 7.92 percent, malnutrition 12.08 percent, damage brain development 13.33 percent are among the diseases.

Figure 21: Diseases behind hazardous work



Crime and child labor

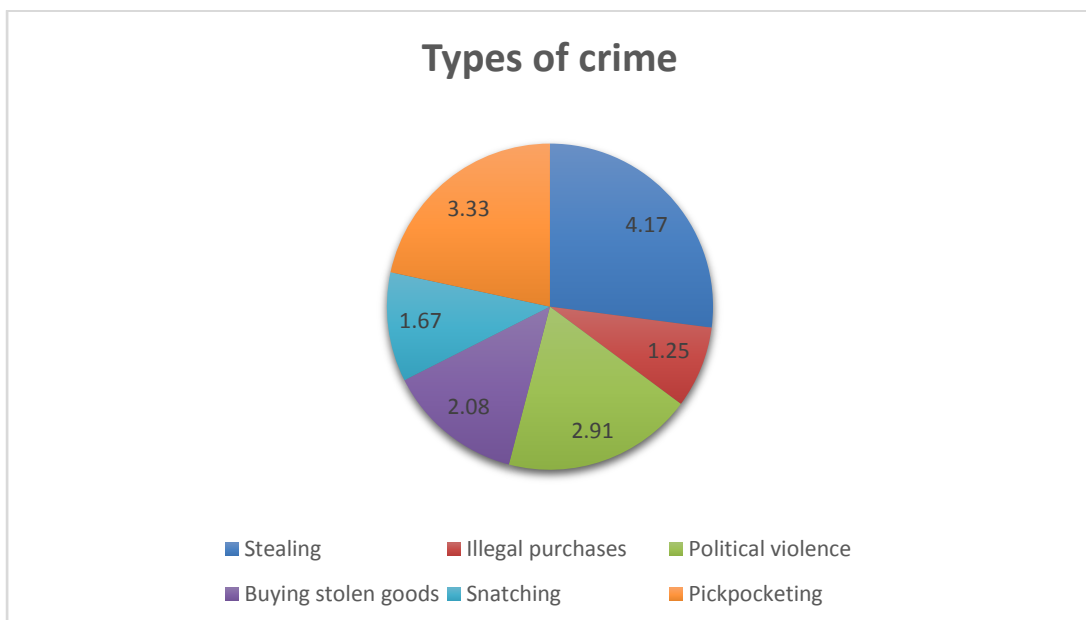
Table 35: Distribution of child laborers' involvement with the crime (N=240)

Types of crime	Number of child laborers	Percentage
Stealing	10	4.17
Illegal purchases	3	1.25
Political violence	7	2.91
Buying stolen goods	5	2.08
Snatching	4	1.67
Pickpocketing	8	3.33

The study reveals that the highest percentage of child laborers (4.17 percent) are engaged in one of the most frequent crimes: stealing. They might go after easily discardable and frequently cheap products. Perhaps no one will suspect or report this crime. Pickpocketing is a type of larceny that entails taking cash or other valuables out of the person's pocket or the pocket of a victim without the victim being aware of the theft at the time. A pickpocket is a thief who operates in this manner. A serious

crime that affects 3.33 percent of child laborers is pickpocketing. Several criminal activities include child laborers, Political violence (2.91 percent), buying stolen goods (2.08 percent), Snatching (1.67 percent), and (1.25 percent) being engaged in illegal purchases such as buying cigarettes or alcohol are the top three crimes. Drug use is a part of their lives. Young people are occasionally targeted by child laborers (particularly load carriers and garbage collectors) to use a drug distributor who transports illegal substances between various locations.

Figure 22: Distribution of child laborers' involvement with the crime



Drug addiction and child labor

Drug addiction has a direct impact on children's health and social-behavioral issues as well as the economic and social components of society in the nation. When child laborers can get money, they abuse it by purchasing addictive substances like phensedyl and pethidine with their earnings. For girl child laborers, the situation is a little bit different. They also use drugs. Sexual harassment is one of the key reasons to use the drug for female child laborers.

Table 36: Distribution of reasons for using drugs by child laborers (N=240)

Causes of using the drug	Sex		Total
	Male	Female	
Curiosity	6 (2.50)	- -	6 (2.50)
Influence by the peer group	2 (0.83)	- -	2 (0.83)
Depression	2 (0.83)	- -	2 (0.83)
Physical and sexual abuse	1 (0.42)	1 (0.42)	2 (0.83)
Lack of family involvement	1 (0.42)	- -	1 (0.42)
Low self-esteem	1 (0.42)	- -	1 (0.42)

According to Table 36, individuals who use drugs have a variety of reasons for doing so. 2.50 percent of children are drug users, according to his curiosity. The percentage of drug use is 0.83, which is influenced by peer pressure. 0.83 percent for depression. The remaining percentage is due to lack of family involvement (0.42 percent), low self-esteem 0.42 percent, and physical and sexual abuse (0.83 percent). The female child laborer is abused physically and sexually by her owner. So they became frustrated and decided to use the drug.

Figure 23: Distribution of reasons for using drugs by the child laborers

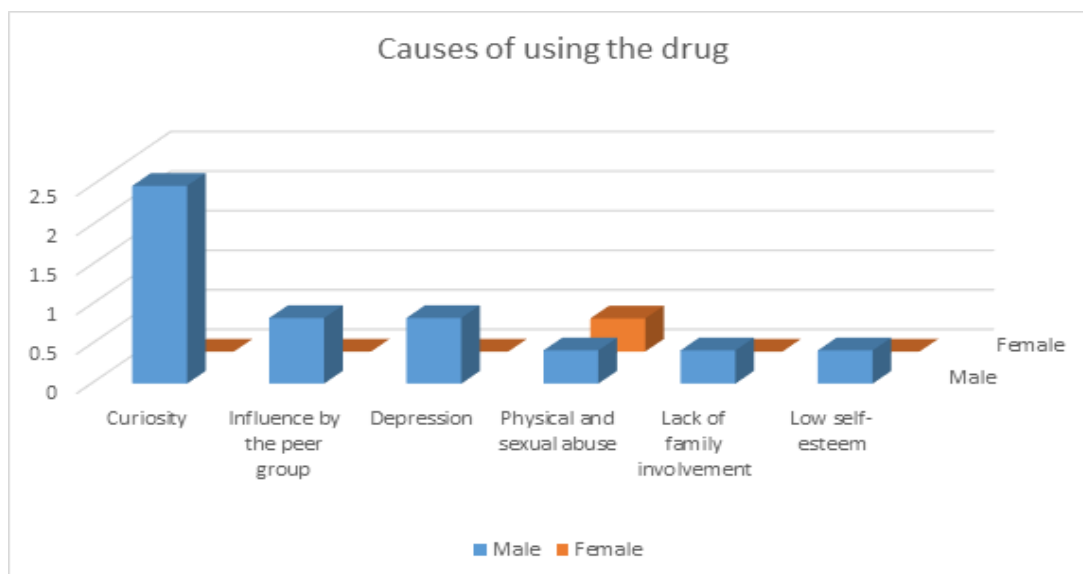


Table 37: Distribution of child laborers by the problem at work (N=240) *

Problem	Number of child laborers	Percentage
Long time work/unfavorable working hours	238	99.16
Crowded working place	106	44.17
Physical punishment by employers (without any cause or a little cause)	101	42.08
No reward	40	16.67
Low wages	71	29.58

*Multiple answers

Table 37 reveals that various issues faced by child laborers are identified. 99.16 percent of respondents claimed they had to work all day. They are fatigued as a result, and their seeking is poor. Another issue that contributes to the opinion of child laborers is that the workplace is unhygienic as well as overcrowding (44.17). Some

children get frequent headaches and ear issues. 42.08 percent received physical punishment for no reason or for a very minor reason, which is extremely offensive to them. 29.58 percent and 16.67 percent, respectively, claimed their wages to be very low and without any reward.

Table 38: Distribution of child laborer's expenditure by their income (N=240) *

Income expenditure	Number of child laborers	Percentage
Help family	62	25.83
Own living expenses	29	12.08
Help family and him/herself	151	62.92
Others*	13	5.42

* Multiple answers

* Others means own savings, occasionally expenses for friends, landing to others, etc.

The study reports that child laborers spend their earnings (62.92 percent) on their families and themselves. 25.83 percent of respondents said they support their family with all of their money. 12.08 percent of that income is spent for living expenses, savings, and occasionally expenses for friends, landing to others. They claimed they could make a minor financial gain. So, due to poverty child laborers mostly help their families with their earnings.

Psychological effects of child laborers

Child laborers cannot gain proper psychological development. Those who work in hazardous work are becoming more and more frustrated and insufficient. They may become psychologically immature and develop abnormal psychological issues if they work in hazardous work for an extended period of time. Due to their lack of access to all avenues for mental development, individuals are unable to expand on their natural psychological development. They lack access to opportunities for participation in recreational activities (Mohajan, 2014). Psychological effects are common to grow lonely and stressful life. It is important to note that child laborers suffer more devastating psychological damage. The impact of child labor on psychological health can be long-lasting and devastating to the children's future.

Table 39: Psychological effects of child laborers(N=240) *

Psychological effects	Number of child laborers	Percentage
Frustration and Depression	32	13.33
Anxiety	31	12.92
Lonely and stressful	65	27.08
Loss of a safe upbringing childhood	58	24.16
Drug abuse	14	5.83
Worthlessness anger	12	5
Mental discomfort	33	13.75
Introvert and uncommunicable	30	12.5
Hopelessness	18	7.5

* Multiple answers

According to the study's findings (Table 39), there is a higher prevalence of mental and behavioral disorders among children who work. The largest 27.08 percent said the negative psychological impacts of a lonely and stressful life are growing. It is crucial to remember that child employees experience more severe psychological harm. The impact of child labor on psychological health can be long-lasting and devastating to the future of the children's involvement.

Figure 24: Psychological effects of child laborers

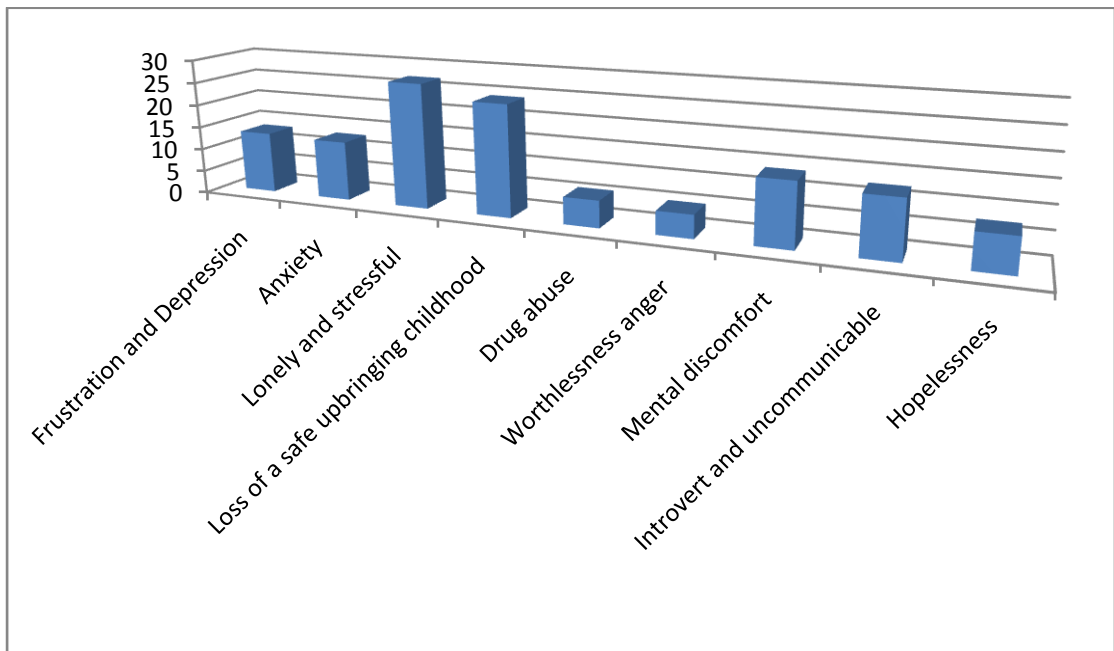
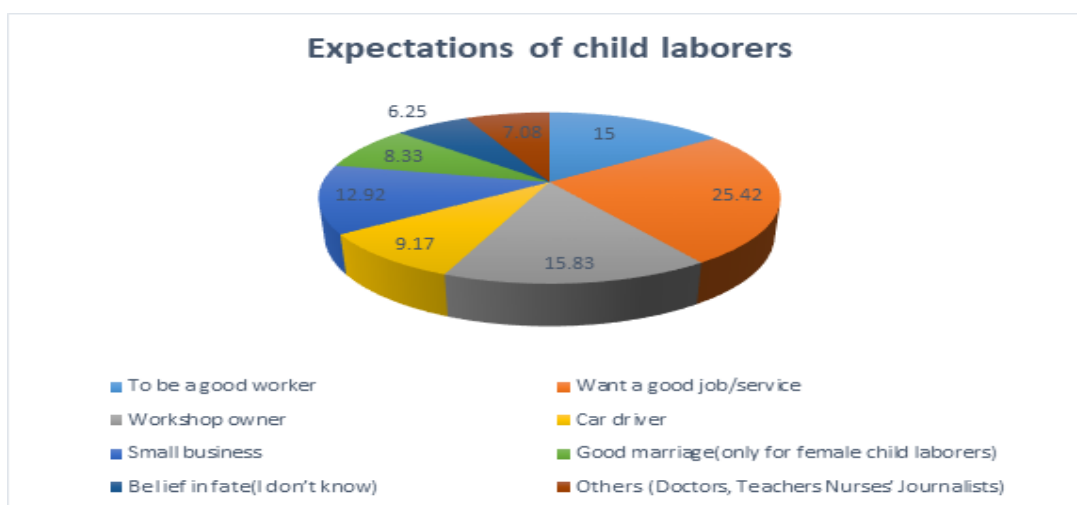


Table 40: Future job plan of child laborers (N=240)

Expectation	Number of child laborers	Percentage
To be a good worker	36	15
Want a good job/service	61	25.42
Workshop owner	38	15.83
Car driver	22	9.17
Small business	31	12.92
Good marriage (only for girl child laborers)	20	8.33
Belief in fate (don't know)	15	6.25
Others (Doctor, Teacher, Nurse, Journalist)	17	7.08
Total	240	100.0

When asking them about their "aim in life," most of them (25.42 percent) want a good job and wish to improve their current situation. 15.83 percent of child laborers want to operate a workshop, 15 percent want to be good workers, the remaining child laborers want to run a small business (12.92 percent), and 8.33 percent of female child laborers believe that if they had a good marriage, they wouldn't need to work. 7.08 percent expect to become a doctor, teacher, journalist, or nurse, and 6.25 percent believe in fate (They don't know).

Figure 25: Future job plan of child laborers



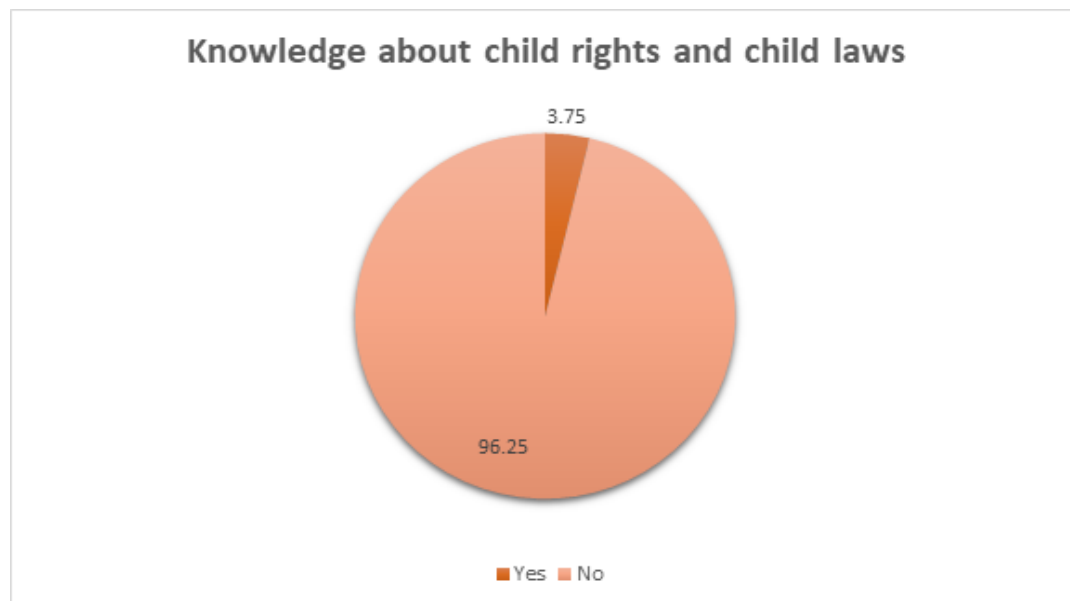
Child rights and child laws

Table 41: Distribution of child laborers by knowledge about child rights and child laws (N=240)

Knowledge about child rights and child laws	Number of child laborers	Percentage
Yes	9	3.75
No	231	96.25
Total	240	100.0

Most of the child laborers of Bangladesh in Dhaka city are deprived of fundamental rights. Poverty, ignorance, a lack of social awareness, and discrimination all contribute to the violation of children's rights. Many children are deprived of food, shelter, adequate sanitation, and education. The findings of the study (table 41) show that just a small percentage of child laborers (3.75 percent) are aware of child rights and child legislation. The majority of child laborers (96.25 percent) are unaware of both child laws and child rights. The findings also revealed that knowledge about child rights is very much related to the level of education (table 10). So, It is a very clear idea that the laborers are mostly illiterate and unaware of the laws and social issues.

Figure 26: Distribution of child laborers by knowledge about child rights and child laws (N=240)



Views of guardians concerning child labor

The child labor issue is one of the world's significant concerns today. Many families rely on the income generated by their children for survival. So, child labor is often highly valued (Khan, 2001).

The respondents (child laborers) were chosen based on their availability in the specific spots or the likelihood that they would fulfill the study objectives. Also, it was thought important to include guardians. Information for the study was gathered by interviewing certain key people. They are guardians (Father and Mother). The sample size was 30 guardians of child laborers, comprising 11 fathers and 19 mothers. Both closed-ended and open-ended questions were included in the total of 15 (fifteen) questions. They were interviewed at their place of employment or residence. It focused on legal provisions, children's contributions to the family, and their opinions regarding child labor. It covered general information on the demographic characteristics of the guardians, their children's health and education, and in-depth information on the job schedule, income, health facilities, and job satisfaction.

Table 42: Occupational status of the child laborer's guardians (father/mother) (N=240)

Occupation	Father		Mother		Total	Percentage
	Number of Father	Percentage	Number of Mother	Percentage		
Day laborer	25	10.42	8	3.33	33	13.75
Construction worker	30	12.50	11	4.58	41	17.08
Rickshaw/ Van puller	29	12.08	-	-	29	12.08
Vegetable seller	25	10.42	12	5	37	15.41
Cleaner	11	4.58	7	2.92	18	7.5
Hawker	10	4.17	-	-	10	4.16
Domestic Worker	-	-	89	37.08	89	37.08
Transport laborer	27	11.25	-	-	27	11.25
Farmer	16	6.67	-	-	16	6.66
Unemployed	27	11.25	15	6.25	42	17.5

The study involves 240 children who work as child laborers. However, the total number of their parents (father and mother) does not match since both partners occasionally engage in different occupations. The study discovered that some child laborers' parents had passed away, that some are no longer cohabitating because of domestic violence, and that some are divorced. The results also indicate that many parents of child laborers are not employed in any capacity. Day laborers, construction workers, rickshaw/van pullers, vegetable sellers, cleaners, hawkers, domestic workers, transport laborers, and farmers are among their various occupations. Construction workers represent the highest percentage (12.50 percent) of the respondents' fathers' occupations, and a little portion of the hawker (4.17 percent).

Compared to the father's occupation, the mother's has less variety within the occupational category. In terms of mothers, domestic workers have the highest rate (37.08 percent) while cleaners have the lowest rate (2.92 percent).

Table 43: Age and sex of the guardians of child laborers (N=30)

Age (In year)	Sex Status		Total
	Male	Female	
25-30	1 (3.33)	2 (6.67)	3 (10)
30-40	2 (6.67)	4 (13.33)	6 (20)
40-45	2 (6.67)	7 (23.33)	9 (30)
45-50	4 (13.33)	3 (10)	7 (23.33)
50-55	1 (3.33)	1 (3.33)	2 (6.67)
55-60	1 (3.33)	2 (6.67)	3 (10)
Total	11 (36.66)	19 (63.33)	30 (100.0)

The survey shows that the guardians of both categories of male and female. The majority of guardians of child laborers (23.33 percent), are between the ages of 40 and 45. In gender distribution, 36.66 percent are male, and 63.33 percent are female guardians. This means that the guardians are quite mature for their age.

Table 44: Distribution of guardians by education and sex (N=30)

Education	Sex		Total
	Father	Mother	
Illiterate	4 (13.333)	14 (46.67)	18 (60)
Can only write his/her name	3 (10)	4 (13.33)	7 (23.33)
Primary Level	3 (10)	1 (3.33)	4 (13.33)
Above primary (class VI-VIII)	1 (3.33)	- -	1 (3.33)
Total	11 (36.66)	19 (63.33)	30 (100.0)

The parental education level of child laborers is remarkably low. Parents are ultimately responsible for their children's education, and my research clearly shows that the majority of households with child laborers have no formal education. Table 43 provides information and it unravels that out of a total of 60 percent of Illiterate guardians, 23.33 percent mention they can only write their name. 13.33 percent studied up to the primary level. 3.33 percent studied above primary level that is from six to eight class. Most families with child laborers don't provide them with an education. A UNICEF survey of selected countries in Latin America, the Caribbean, South Asia, and Sub-Saharan Africa finds that average children with uneducated mothers are, at last, more likely to be out of primary school than children whose mothers attended primary school (UNICEF, 2022).

Table 45: Distribution of guardians by reasons behind the employment of child laborers (N=30)

Reasons	Parents	
	Number of child laborers	Percentage
Financial Problem	13	43.33
No one else to earn in the family	3	10
To help the family's income	4	13.33
Separation/Divorce of parents	3	10
Parental death (father/mother)	5	16.67
Influenced by the peer group	2	6.67
Total	30	100.0

To find out the causes behind child labor, guardians indicate some logical opinions. They mention, there are a number of push factors, pull factors, and interactive factors behind child labor. 43.33 percent indicate that financial problem is the main cause of involvement in child labor. 10 percent indicate the absence of earning member in the family, 13.33 percent indicate helping in family income, 10 percent indicate separation/divorce of parents, 16.67 percent due to death of parents, and 6.67 percent of children prefer work instead of school, that's why they influenced by peer group. The study revealed that when the push factors are very strong and prevailing in a family for a long period, it becomes difficult for the child as well as for the family to escape child labor.

Table 46: Distribution of guardians of child laborers by information about child rights and child laws (N=30)

Information about child rights and child laws	Number of guardians	Percentage
Yes	9	30
No	21	70
Total	30	100.0

There are a good number of policies and laws that have covered the rights of children, especially for the working children of the country. The study shows that 70 percent of guardians have no information about Child Rights and Child Laws. Without proper knowledge about rights, nobody can claim it. So we can realize that the guardians of child laborers are not aware of the prohibition of child labor and prohibitory laws in Bangladesh. A few of the guardians of both sexes are aware of legislation prohibiting child labor in Bangladesh. This means that almost all the guardians irrespective of age and sex are totally in the dark about any prohibition or prohibitory legislations that are in force in the country.

Table 47: Suggestions for alleviation of child laborers (guardian’s opinion) *(N=30)

Suggestions	Number of Guardians	Percentage
Provide work for the adult of the family	11	36.67
Financial support from the Government	27	90
Education is compulsory for all children	26	86.67
Raising awareness among parents	19	63.33

*Multiple answers

Table 47 shows that the guardians have suggestions to decrease child labor. The level of education of the guardians is insufficient to identify any issue with child labor. A good number of guardians, however, warn that child labor hampers physical development, mental development, and leads to behavioral deviations. Child labor also results in the loss of a bright future. 90 percent of guardians suggest managing government funding. 86.67 percent supported making education mandatory for all children. Other guardians (36.67 percent) suggested giving the family's adult members a specific task and 63.33 percent mentioned increasing parental awareness. Guardians have visualized some problems that might come with working children. So, these suggestions might help formulate a policy or plan to deal with child labor.

Views of employers concerning child labor

Table 48: Age and sex of the employers of child laborers (N=30)

Age (In Year)	Sex Status		Total
	Male	Female	
25-30	1 (3.33)	1 (3.33)	2 (6.67)
30-35	2 (6.67)	1 (3.33)	3 (10)
35-40	9 (30)	3 (10)	12 (40)
40-45	8 (26.67)	2 (6.67)	10 (33.33)
45-50	2 (6.67)	1 (6.67)	3 (10)
Total	22 (73.33)	8 (26.67)	30 (100.0)

Only 26.67 percent of the employers in the study are female, while the majority of child labor employers, or 73.33 percent, are male. The sample size consisted of 30 employers who engaged children as labor. There are fifteen questions in all. Open-ended questions are not always used in accordance with other interview schedules that are chosen. They have instead been described and their points of view analyzed. The age group of 35 to 40 years old has the highest percentage of employers of children (40 percent) in the employment.

Table 49: Distribution of employers by education and sex (N=30)

Education	Sex		Total
	Male	Female	
Class eight to ten	4 (13.33)	2 (6.66)	6 (20)
SSC	6 (20)	3 (10)	9 (30)
HSC	6 (20)	1 (3.33)	7 (23.33)
Graduation	3 (10)	1 (3.33)	4 (13.33)
Masters	3 (10)	1 (3.33)	4 (13.33)
Total	22 (73.33)	8 (26.67)	30 (100.0)

According to the findings, the top 30 percent of employers have achieved SSC certification. HSC completion rates are 23.33 percent. 13.33 percent have fulfilled all the criteria to graduate. 20 percent of employers have educational requirements between class eight to ten, and 13.33 percent have master's degrees.

Table 50: Distribution of employers by reasons behind the employment of child laborers (N=30)

Reasons	Employers	
	Number of child laborers	Percentage
Financial crisis	10	33.33
Cheap labor/ Low salary	7	23.33
More alternatives in work	2	6.67
Fulltime availability for domestic work	4	13.33
Easily Handling	7	23.33
Total	30	100.0

Table 50 shows the findings of the employers' perspectives on the employment of child laborers. Employers state that the financial crisis is undoubtedly the main factor forcing children into the workplace at rates as high as 33.33 percent. Employers are taking advantage of poverty and cheap labor. 23.33 percent indicates that they employ child laborers for the minimum cost of employment. They are the cheapest labor in the market. 6.67 percent mention that child laborers can do more alternative work. A child domestic worker has to do many items of work daily. This is a general tendency among the owners that they always give less time span for their domestic child workers. 13.33 percent of state, domestic child workers as full-time workers. Easy handling seems to be another vital reason. 23.33 percent mention that child laborers are more attentive in work, obedient, easily punishable, etc.

So the above data clearly indicate that poverty or economic hardship is the most dominating factor to choose child labor.

Table 51: Distribution of employers of child laborers by information about child rights legal provisions (N=30)

Information about the legal provision	Number of employers	Percentage
Yes	22	73.33
No	08	26.67
Total	30	100.0

Education enhances the extent of awareness. It is found in table 49 that the employers of child laborers are from class eight to Masters level. This means the majority (73.33 percent) of employers are aware of child rights legal provisions. But the tendency of employers is always hiding the facts because they are exploiting cheap labor. 26.67 percent mention they have no idea about child rights legal provisions.

Table 52: Suggestions for alleviation of child laborers (employers' opinion) *(N=30)

Suggestion	Number of employers	Percentage
Awareness among parents	10	33.33
GO- NGO Collaboration	9	30
Poverty alleviation and Rehabilitation	18	60
Financial support from the government	4	13.33

*Multiple answers

According to table 52, 60 percent of employers recommended poverty eradication and rehabilitation, 33.33 percent emphasized awareness among parents, 30 percent mentioned GO-NGO collaboration, and 13.33 percent said the government should provide financial support.

8.2 Qualitative Study Findings

Qualitative research involves analyzing and interpreting texts, interviews, and observations to discover meaningful patterns descriptive of a particular phenomenon to understand concepts, opinions, or experiences. As a result, it creates direct intervention in cases in real-life situations. An important aspect of the case study method is that it enables the respondents to understand the researcher to the problems accurately by observing the case problem directly. A face-to-face conversation can create the opportunity to unravel different types of problems, issues, and relationships. Child labor, particularly in its worst forms, harms children's health and general welfare; looking at the reality of the lives of working children reveals both the dangers for children and the potential negative consequences of child labor in the development process. Working long hours with heavy and dangerous equipment, lack of nutritional food, lack of access to education and recreation, regular verbal and physical abuse and exploitation at their workplace and sometimes by their family, and chronic injury hinder their physical and Psychological Growth. Uddin et al. (2009). Therefore, 10 (ten) cases were selected for depth analysis using the case study method. The 10 (ten) respondents of child laborers are asked to trace out their personal and occupational background as well as their present position regarding age, education, occupational status, wage, working hours, physical and emotional condition, attitude, and feelings toward jobs, living conditions, housing, and environment. Among the 10 (ten) respondents, three are working as domestic workers, and among the rest of the seven, three are load carriers from the bazaar, launch, and bus terminal, two are garbage collectors, one is a motor workshop laborer, and another is a welding factory laborer. Before data collection, each child laborer had been informed about the objective, and while having their consent they were assured that data would be kept confidential and used only for academic purposes.

Case Study – 1

Md. Habib Mollah, a 14-year-old child laborer, has worked as a hotel boy in Mohammadpur, Dhaka, for the last three years. He is the child of Jaheda Khatun and Shah Ali. Their permanent address is Vill: East Gobindapur, Post: Goalvaor Bazar, Thana: Faridganj, District: Chandpur, although their current address is Rayer Bazar, Tally Office Road. When he was nine years old, his father passed away suddenly. His mother became physically disabled as a consequence of this traumatic incident. As the family's eldest son, he is forced to start a life that is painful for him because it is extremely doubtful. He has a sister and two brothers.

Generally, he works very hard from dawn to dusk. But his age does not suit this type of cumbersome job. He becomes compelled to perform this job because improving his risked plight makes him do so. Habib commenced this toilsome job when he was 11 years old due to the dire consequences of poverty in his family.

After making a colloquy with him, I understand they are very downtrodden. They do not get basic needs because there is a lack of earning members in their disadvantaged situation, which makes them bound to do any task. So, whether it is nefarious or humanitarian, without getting any native task, he got himself joined as a hotel boy. Here he is a meal supplier.

Habib said that *his employer is not a good human being*. He also said, *“I must remain present here early in the morning, within 6 a.m., and return to my home after 8 p.m.”* He works 13-14 hours daily and cannot sleep properly every day. Habib gets 5-6 hours of sleep, which is not enough for him.

His living place is not safe because of many criminal activities in the area, like theft, robbery, etc. His mother is too much sick. In this situation, Habib faces a lot of problems in an environmental situation as extreme poverty. His salary is only 1300 BDT a month. The employer of this hotel does not pay him regularly. He (the employer) gave him two meals a day and some clothes occasionally. When he feels sick or suffers from any disease, the employer does not provide medical treatment for him. Habib said, *“A few days ago, I suffered from a fever, and my employer did not relieve me of the workload.”* He also said, *“I wanted to attend school but couldn't*

afford it. So, I must work.” He also said with sorrow, “Although he works as a meal supplier, he cannot eat food anytime when hungry. Sometimes I am exploited and harassed, which puts me under psychological and emotional pressure.”

As a hotel boy, Habib affords to help his family, even if it is a small bit. His poor support is very helpful to his low-income family. To be able to help his family, he finds self-contentment.

Case Study – 2

Amina Begum is a 15-year-old girl. She is the child of Jorina Begum and Abdul Owahab. Their permanent address is Hobiganj district, in Mathabpur Upazila, division of Sylhet. Amina is employed as a domestic worker at a six-storied building on Moneswar Road in the Jigatola area. Her father, mother, two younger brothers, and two younger sisters make up her family of seven. The family's eldest daughter is Amina. Her father doesn't read or write. He is in his mid-40s. He works as a day worker and earns Tk. 2000 each month. The mother of Amina was 35 (thirty-five) years old. She works as a domestic servant nearby to their house and is also illiterate. She earns 1200 Tk a month. They live in a modest, muddy-floored tin shed. There is not enough natural light or ventilation in the cramped room. Her family will not feel comfortable in the room's atmosphere. Only a bed, a table, a chair, an almirah, and a wooden box are there. No electricity is available. The bathroom is not hygienic. They can, however, access a deep tube well for water. Her father cannot work every day since he is physically ill. The extreme poverty and tensions between her mother and father in this case caused a lot of trouble for her family.

Amina's cousin Rupa lives in Dhaka as a domestic helper. So Jorina Begum (Amina's mother) decided that Amina would go to Dhaka to work as a domestic helper to supplement his family income. Now she has been living in the house on Moneswar Road in Jigatola, Dhaka. Amina is very sensible and emotional about her parents. She started going to school when she was at their village home and read up to class seven. But after coming to Dhaka, she did not get any opportunity to attend school to continue her studies. She said, *“I get Tk. 2000 a month as salary. I have to work for about 12 hours a day. I have too much hard work and feel so tired at night. My mother told me that we didn't have enough money to send us to school even though I*

really wanted to go to school. When kids wear their new school uniforms, I love seeing them and wish to go to school with them”. There are five members in the owner's house. The owner has three daughters. Amina does not have any educational facilities here. Sometimes she wanted to watch television in the house, but the owner scolded her for this. Amina takes food three times a day. Usually, she eats fruit, vegetables, and a small piece of roasted egg in the morning. In her midday meal (lunch), she eats rice, fish, and dal and sometimes takes meat. At night Amina eats rice and vegetables and sometimes drinks milk.. Her owner provides *kantha* and one pillow. She sleeps in the kitchen. Amina cannot sleep properly every day. She gets 4 to 5 hours of sleep which is not enough for her. So, she feels tired all day long. Her female owner tortures her both physically and mentally for silly mistakes. Of this, Amina feels sad. One month ago, she suffered a fever. The owner provided napa tablets for treatment. But she did not relieve herself of the workload. She does not know the laws protecting child laborers in our country. Amina sends her entire salary to her parents in order to support her family. Sometimes, she wishes she could finish her education and do a better job.

Case Study – 3

Setu (15) works as a domestic helper in a multi-storied building in Mirpur that is near Government Bangla College. Her mother, Hamida Khatun, works as a housekeeper, while her father, Hafizur Rahman, is a day laborer. Khadija is the older sister of Setu. She wedded her spouse 03 (three) years ago, and both of them lived in the Chandpur Puran Bazar area. Joy (8 years old) and Jahid (6 years old), two of Setu's younger brothers, read in classes two and one, respectively. Borogram, Muktagacha Upazila, Fulpur, Mymensingh is Setu's permanent address. When Setu was around 9 years old, she went to Dhaka with her parents. She was so little that she had no memory of anything. Now they live in Kamrangirchar slum, a slum area of Dhaka city. Setu was a student of class one at a government primary school. But her school was too far from her home.

On the other hand, her father's income is insufficient for her family's expenditure. So, her parents decided that Setu should leave school. After coming to Dhaka, she has been involved in work to earn money. Poverty has pushed his parents to make a decision. Setu first came to Shafina Begum's (owner) house as a 09-year-old child,

and she has been living in the house for six years at a stretch. Setu said, *“I never felt like a servant in this family. ‘Khalamma’ (Shafina Begum) treats me as a family member. I do the household work. As ‘Khalamma’ does not have any daughter of her own, she showers me with affection”*. Setu gets a salary of Tk. 1800 per month. After completing all the work, she goes to bed. Her living space and bedding conditions, the air and lighting systems, are healthy. She has a separate toilet and a bathroom. Setu eats eggs, fish, milk, and other delicious food regularly. She wears a colorful dress like salwar kamij. She likes to wear saree. Sometimes she suffers from allergies and is frequently attacked by a cold fever. Now of sickness, the owner (Shafina Begum) takes care of her very much. She (the owner) provides medicine and nutritious food in such a situation. Whenever she gets time, she watches television. Now she has no interest in education. She wants to gossip with the same age. But her owner (Shafina Begum) does not like it. She does not know the laws to protect child laborers in our country. Setu has a dream. When she saves a large amount of money, she will buy land near her village home. Now, she is delighted with helping her parents.

Case Study - 4

Fatema is 11 (eleven) years old and is working as a domestic helper in a house at Mohammadpur. She comes from a low-income family in Dowotkhandi, Companyganj, Comilla. Her family members are a brother (9), sister (7), and mother. Her father died 2 (two) years ago in a road accident. She is the eldest in her family, so she comes to work to maintain her family and expenses for her brother and sister's studies. I met with Fatema and knew his struggling life. When I saw her, she was very much worried about herself. I told her and knew about her physical condition. The physical and psychological conditions were not well. She gets Tk. 1500 per month only. Her poor earning is not enough to maintain family members. Fatema said, *“I must work from 6 a.m. to near about 11.30 p.m. the night. I must open the gate of the house and wash and clean the toilet. I sweep the floors, dust the furniture, clean the garbage, wash clothes, help to cook.”* She also said, *“I must do many items hard work, and I feel so tired at night. If I make any mistake, Auntie beats me sometimes. She also said the owner tortures her both physically and psychologically.”*

Fatema's mother is illiterate. She is suffering from many diseases. So she cannot earn money. Fatema is very sensible and emotional about her family. Before coming to Dhaka, she started going to school. But now she doesn't get any opportunity to continue her study. Fatema said emotionally, "*I want to return to my home. I always think of my mother*". She is worried about her life. Since she is afraid if something wrong might happen. And in that situation who would care for her family?

She tried to enhance her willingness to fight against the situation and tried her best to survive. However, she is mentally upset about her family and her future. Fatema does not get any time to watch TV. She works all day long. So, she often got tired and sick. Now, Fatema thinks her earning is a blessing for the family. She is also happy to be able to contribute to her family. Fatema has no huge ambitions in her life. I noted some problems with Fatema, such as physical weakness, panic, tension, fatigue, etc.

Case Study – 5

Masum Billah is 15 years old and works in a motor workshop as an assistant at Mohammadpur. He comes from Kurigram at Halukhari because of a financial crisis. His family members are two brothers and one sister, and his mother. Masum's father died 03 (three) years ago in a road accident. As he is the elder of his brother and sister, he must come to work to maintain his family and expenses of his brother and sister. Masum has worked in a workshop for around 02 (two) years, and his monthly income is Tk. 3500/-. He must work about 10 (ten) hours per day, but the facilities are not good. The environment of the place is unfavorable for working; that is very congested unhealthy, and unhygienic. He is mentally upset about his family and his future. He doesn't get much medical treatment here. In this working environment, he faces different problems, such as smoking and sound pollution. Masum is also curious about cultural functions and activities like many other children. But what is disheartening is that he does not get an opportunity to enjoy cultural functions or participate in a game. His employer is very rigid in involving him in any recreational activities.

The economic condition of Masum's family is not so good. His income is Tk. 3500, and his mother's income is Tk. 4000 as a domestic helper. The total earnings of the family is Tk. 7500. Including house rent, family maintenance, and other family expenses, this amount is not enough.

Masum and his family live in a tin-shed room at Bosila (Mohammadpur area). His physical and social condition is not so good. Sometimes some uncertain sickness occurs, and he feels unhappy. Frequently he suffers from some skin diseases. But his employer doesn't give any support. Masum likes to study. Before coming here, he completed his studies in class seven. He has a dream to be a teacher. But like other disadvantaged children, his dream has been demolished daily with hard labor and discrimination. Masum gives the total salary to his mother. Sometimes, he helps his younger brother to buy goods for daily living.

Masum's job in the motor workshop is a blessing for his family. He is also happy to be able to contribute to his family. He said he wants to save a good amount of money for his family. To be able to help his family, he finds self-contentment.

Despite all the above plight conditions in his life, Masum looks optimistic about his life. He nurtures hope in his mind that his younger brother will be well educated in the future and their misery will end.

Case Study - 6

The life of Jamal, a garbage collector, is tragic. He is 13 years old at the moment. His mother is Saleha Begum, and his father is Md. Muslauddin. At the age of 5 (five), his mother passed away. After 3 (three) months later, Jamal's father married again. His stepmother tortured them. He has two sisters, both living in a village with his uncle. Jamal's uncle is not a rich man. He has a small tea stall and a low land. Here he harvests paddy. His family consists of five members. One day he slapped Jamal for a little matter. Day-long work and different tasks in the tea stall and land harvesting hampered his physical and mental condition. From this perspective, he decided to come to Dhaka City one day. In the beginning, he stayed at the Kamalapur railway station. Jamal described that morning in which he gathered with three teenagers near a tea stall and ate bread and banana. In the meantime, they talked to themselves, that they must work for a living. Each teenager is from a single-parent family and has been deprived of any kind of formal education. They are too unskilled to do any other job. In this situation, they decided to collect garbage. Jamal goes to markets, streets, open dump areas, or any other place to collect waste. After collecting garbage, he sells the collected items to specific contractors. The involvement of the children in garbage collection badly influences the children's health and mental condition. In this work,

Jamal was also exploited, harassed, abused, and faced psychological and emotional pressure. He mentioned that *“I do not know much about education. Anyone in my family does not get education.”* The lack of financial support or poverty is termed as the main reason for not getting an education. He further shared that his parents were not educated and did not know about education. They only focus on the work. Jamal said, *“In summer, it is difficult to work around midday, and in winter, it is hard to work early in the morning. I am working on payment, but I received a very small amount at the end. At 8 a.m. I start collecting the waste and must finish it by around 4-5 p.m. Sometimes I can eat lunch but most of the time not. Suppose, I cannot finish collecting the waste by 5 p.m., in that case, I am not able to pick out recyclable materials from the garbage”.* Jamal also said, *“I scavenge with my bare hands for all sorts of recyclable material such as paper, plastic, metal, glass and collect them to sell in recycling factories. I get 55 to 70 Tk. daily.”*

According to the Bangladesh Labor Foundation (BLF), an estimated 100,000 waste pickers work in Dhaka alone, mostly women and children (Chandan, 2019).

Jamal said, *“I have freedom in this work. Though income is low, I am okay with the work and don't bother about health and safety facilities, don't care about job security.”*

Case Study – 7

Garbage collector Nasima (13) is the daughter of Sagor Mia and Rebeka Sultana. Their permanent address is Haluaghat, Mymensingh. Nowadays, she has lived with her parents in a rented slum in Mirpur, Dhaka, for 4 (Four) years. They migrated to Dhaka due to unemployment. Nasima is the eldest daughter of her family. Her father is a rickshaw puller but not regular. As he is often sick, he does not work all day long. Nasima's mother is a housewife because of her two children, aged 3 (three) and 1 (one) year, respectively. She has been fighting poverty. His father's income is not enough for their family. Nasima's parents are illiterate. Nasima could not attend any school. At an early age, she had an interest in education. Due to poverty or lack of financial support, it's not possible for her. But now, if she gets an opportunity to study, she will not accept it. Now she has lost interest in education. She said it was not time to study. Her housing environment is not good. The air and lighting systems are insufficient. The toilet facility is very unclean. Her clothes are filthy. Nasima is

suffering from a variety of skin diseases in her unhealthy environment. Besides respiratory problems, breathlessness, growth retardation, physical violence, and sometimes she faces sexual violence also.

Nasima does not want to continue this work because of numerous occupational hazards and difficulties in collecting garbage. Nasima explains in sorrow that *“one day blood started flowing from his forearm, which was punctured by a broken glass in a garbage bag. The deep cut pierced a vein and required three stitches. Then I take off my work for two weeks. She also said, “It is one of the most hazardous works.”* She collects garbage from about 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. So she takes food from floating hotels as it is cheap. She eats eggs every day. However, she cannot take fish and meat regularly. She has no fixed leisure. When she gets time, she watches television in her neighbor's room.

To deal with the extreme nature of the weather in summer, she takes some rest under a shadow place, and in winter, she tries to delay the starting time of her work. Nasima has no awareness of child rights and laws. Now she is searching for another work because Nasima wants proper financial help for her parents.

Case Study – 8

Asif (15) is involved in carrying loads on his head at Karwan Bazar in Dhaka for about 3 (three) years to meet the daily expenses of their poverty-stricken family requirements. Asif, the eldest son among five children of Md. Abu Baker and Latifa Begum. He earns Tk. 170-200 daily, on average, after selling his physical labor. He said, *“I have to carry kitchen market goods from wholesalers to retail shops or from retailers to consumers level from early morning to afternoon.”*

Asif's residence is at Munsikaidi village in Matlab thana of Chandpur District. His father, Md. Abu Baker is 39 years old. He works in a rice mill. His mother, Latifa Begum, is a housewife. Asif is the eldest among five brothers and sisters. The names of Asif's other brothers and sisters are Tareq (12 years), Shathy (10 years), Sagar (9 years), and Babul (6 years).

His father's income had run Asif's family before he started working. His father is a laborer in a rice mill, who earns Tk. 2000-2300 per month. He could not support his seven members family because of his poor remuneration. So they had to live hand to mouth.

Moreover, Asif's father had to be occasionally out of his work. Under these circumstances, Asif started to work as a laborer at the Chandpur launch terminal. But very few people let him carry their goods and luggage due to his extreme tender age. Besides, it was also strenuous for him. Asif became mentally upset. Similarly, he became physically sick. Then a distant uncle of Asif took him to Dhaka city and engaged as a load carrier. Asif can afford to send a good amount of money to his home.

Asif is of average physical growth and build. But he is slightly underweight, perhaps owing to malnutrition. He does not have any history of physical illness other than epilepsy, which attacks him often. He is modestly dressed and neat and clean.

Caring loads on the head is more dangerous, especially towards their physical and mental growth, than any other risky job. A section of rich people use the children to carry their purchased goods moving from one shop to another. Some of the owners take their goods to their residents through the children. Narrating his harrowing experience, Asif said, *"When I express my pains in carrying the overloaded 'dhaki' (Basket), some owners physically assault me or hurt abusive language. Sometimes, the owners remain reluctant to pay full money according to their verbal agreement."*

Asif does not like his work. He looks unfortunate and depressed. As reported, he very often weeps for his family. He does not like city life, where he feels suffocated. Asif does not get any opportunity to play or watch TV.

Asif's family ties are very strong. He always remembers the family and remains sad for them. His parents also miss him in the village. For this purpose, his mental distress increased a lot. As Asif didn't like the work, he was inclined to get another better work. He does not want to work as a load carrier. If he could manage enough money, he would open a poultry firm in his native village with the help of others.

There are many laws on child labor. But these are not properly implemented. Asif does not know about the law.

Observing and taking Asif is a typical scene in our society. So, Government. and the organization should take appropriate activities and be sympathetic to them.

Case Study - 9

Badal (14) is a load carrier at the Sadarghat launch terminal. He was born in Noakhali. His father is a day laborer. His name is Md. Haras Mia who lives from hand to mouth. The mother of Badal (Jamila Khatun) sometimes labors in the neighboring house lord of Mr. Aminur Ahamed to contribute something to bearing up her poverty-stricken family. He is given a proposal to send Badal to Dhaka to do work. Haras Mia and Jamila Khatun, the poor parents of Badal, accepted this proposal. Badal is also glad and pleased to hear the news of going to Dhaka. This way, Badal reached Dhaka for the first time, accompanied by Mr. Aminur Ahmed. He started his life as a load carrier. Badal's parents are illiterate. So, there was possibly no means to exchange messages among them. So Badal parents could get news of Badal through Mr. Aminur Ahmed's family.

During the study period, Badal has not been suffering from any visible disease. However, when Badal observes the many attractive things in the shops and market, he becomes unhappy because he cannot buy these. Thus, he was a bit disappointed with the question of his payment.

Badal works for 10 hours approximately a day. His family is so poor that they depend on Badal's income. He is staying in a rented room near the Sadarghat launch terminal. Here five other child laborers live together. These rented accommodations are in the slum area. Most of them are from extended families and have an average family size of 6/7 persons. They usually have families broken because of divorce, marital conflicts, parents' alcoholic addiction, and the death of their parents.

Badal doesn't obtain fringe benefits or allowances like a bonus, uniform, or other benefits. Long working hours make him arouse his feelings of frustration and inadequacy. Badal's involvement in risky work resists eventually building his emotional and cognitive skills, and he becomes withdrawn, introverted, and uncommunicative. Continuous walking, standing, and lifting heavy weights impede Badal to grow naturally.

Badal is not interested in working, but poverty compels him to work. His father is not able to bear his livelihood with his low income. As a result, he is losing his appropriate time by working as a load carrier without any plan.

In this way, he lost his bright future from the very beginning. Badal said, *“I work for 10 hours daily with an average monthly income of Tk. 1700. I dropped out of school to help my parents. I contribute financially to the family’s food, siblings’ education, and clothes. Sometimes I am physically and mentally abused and harassed while I am working. Traffic police often beat me.”* Badal also expressed that *“since my childhood, I have dreamt of driving a bus, but due to my family’s economic situation, I have to satisfy myself by working as a load carrier.”*

Case Study – 10

Samim was born in Patuakhali at Banati Bazar. He is 13 years old. His family is poor. His father had two marriages. Samim's mother has two sons. Samim was one of them. After that, he had a stepbrother.

In this condition, Samim was usually unlucky. His financial situation is not well off, and he has no mental peace. His father is affected by a bronchitis patient. Now his father's condition is not favorable to support life and to bear family maintenance. So, he had to come to Dhaka City without completing his high school studies. He reads only up to class six. Then he came to Dhaka to bear family maintenance and future support, for a good life. He must work in a welding shop for about 12-13 hours daily, but the facilities are not good. Samim works in a crowded and dirty room. There is not enough ventilation and an electric fan in his workplace. Sometimes he faces continuous scolding, even physical punishment such as slapping to hang the ear, etc., by the older worker and employers for his silly mistakes. The environment of the workplace is unfavorable for working. Sometimes sudden accidents impact his physical condition. He is always mentally upset about his family and his future. He doesn't get much medical treatment here. Here he also lacks facilities for his entertainment. Here there is no security for him. When I saw him, he was very much anxious about himself.

I talked to him and came to know about his physical, psychological, environmental, and economic conditions are not well.

Samim lives with workmates in a tin shed room, and social conditions are not friendly. He has no good relationships with the members of society. He said he wanted to save a good amount of money for his family. The economic condition of Sumon was not so good. His monthly income is not enough for his family's maintenance and expenses. Sumon is very worried about his life since he is afraid if something wrong might happen. and if so, who would take care of his family?

Since childhood, he has been experiencing a lot of deprivation and discrimination. But, he said, *“At the time of joining, my employer confirmed to me that he would bear all the treatment costs during my sickness. Once upon a time, I felt in a strong fever, and he (employer) gave me some money for treatment, but in the end, he (employer) took back his money from my job salary”*.

Like many other children, Samim also has a curiosity about games. But what is disheartening is that he does not get the opportunity to participate in the game. Instead, he gets little time to spend with his friends.

Samim can help his family as a welding worker, even if it is a tiny bit. But, of course, his poor support does not help his poor parents much. But to be able to help his family, he finds self-contentment.

From the above-mentioned cases, it has been clear that children in Dhaka city belong to impoverished families. Due to poor economic family structure, the children involve themselves in income-generating activities, and most of the time such children are involved in hazardous work and extreme work pressure. Face several abused behaviors (physical torture, verbal abuse, psychological pressure) sometimes. In the case study, most child laborers claim that they have been severely physically and psychologically abused by their family members several times.

The in-depth study of the ten cases has described the socioeconomic and psychological condition, and other life issues in detail. As a result, it helps to understand the case properly and find out their problems. The mentioned cases help us to analyze the cases and find out the proper child laborer scenario in Bangladesh perspective.

8.3 Comparison between Qualitative and Quantitative Study Findings

Quantitative approaches rely on numerical or measurable data. On the other hand, qualitative approaches rely on personal documents that illustrate in detail how people think or respond within society. The children reported that their jobs were less rewarding and more troublesome. Both qualitative and quantitative evidence confirm that child labor is very harmful to their physical and mental development. The study findings revealed that many child laborers are unsatisfied with their jobs. In the case study, respondents said they must do a lot of hard work. Both qualitative and quantitative evidence show that the abuse of child labor is very common. The children are abused at multiple levels, such as –mental abuse, physical abuse, verbal abuse, etc. Both qualitative and quantitative data confirm that Child laborers are not getting education. They drop out of school due to unfavorable circumstances. It is observed in my study that a significant number of both male and female child laborers are underweight and malnourished. They have no weekly vacation and no fixed time for work. The case study and the survey findings show that no specific hours or tasks are allocated to child domestic workers in domestic work. They do what their employers ask them to, at any time of day or night. Every child needs recreation. However, the case study and survey findings indicate that the recreational activities of child laborers are extremely limited. The financial crisis is the most important reason to get involved in work of child laborers. Most of the child laborers of Bangladesh in Dhaka city are deprived of these basic rights. Children are deprived of their rights due to poverty, ignorance, lack of social consciousness, and discrimination. Many children are deprived of food, shelter, adequate sanitation, information, and education. The study finding indicates that a few child laborers have some knowledge about child rights and child laws, respectively. Most child laborers do not know child rights and child laws, respectively. The case study and survey findings also confirm that child laborers, their employers, and their guardians are not aware of children's rights. A qualitative approach is a process of naturalistic inquiry that seeks an in-depth understanding of social phenomena. The purpose of quantitative approaches is to generate knowledge and understanding about the social world. Statistically, only long-term observation of a significant sample of child laborers can resolve this conflict in the data and tell us what is happening to most child laborers in Dhaka city. The case studies are slightly long-term and confirmed by researcher observation, so perhaps they deserve more weight than the survey data.

8.4 Key Findings (Quantitative and Qualitative)

Quantitative Key Findings

According to UNICEF, (2022), child labor deprives children of a normal childhood.

(i) Children who are engaged in work unsuitable for their capacities as children or in work that may jeopardize their health, education, or moral development and whose age is below 14 years. Children who practice and engage in economic activities on a part or full-time basis. (ii) The practice deprives children of their childhood and is harmful to their physical and mental development, and (iii) Child laborers constitute a group of working children who are either too young to work or are engaged in hazardous activities – that is, work that is potentially harmful to their physical, social, psychological, or educational development.

The study focuses on various concepts and studies associated with child labor. It attempts to assess the actual scenery of child laborers in Dhaka city and their socio-economic issues. The multiple forms of child labor and the health hazards they are faced with. Various causes of child labor like the curse of poverty, lack of educational resources, social and economic backwardness, addiction, diseases, the lure of cheap labor, family tradition, and discrimination between boys and girls. Consequences of child labor such as general child injuries and abuses like cuts, burns and fractures, tiredness and dizziness, excessive fears, and nightmares. Sexual abuse, particularly sexual exploitation of girls by adults, rape, prostitution, early and unwanted pregnancy, abortion, sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) and HIV/AIDS, drugs, and alcoholism. Physical abuse involves corporal punishment and emotional maltreatment, such as blaming, belittling, verbal attacks, and bad remarks. Emotional neglect, such as the deprivation of family love and affection, results in loneliness and hopelessness. Physical neglect, like lack of adequate provision of food, clothing, shelter, and medical treatment. Lack of schooling results in missing educational qualifications and higher skills; they perpetuate their life in poverty.

The study findings are based on the mixed method, both qualitative and quantitative approaches, and several data collection methods, such as interviewing and observation. A purposive sampling technique has been followed for collecting data from the respondents (child laborers) who have been selected from four wards from Dhaka South City Corporation and four wards from Dhaka North City Corporation. A

total of 240 child laborers have been selected and interviewed. In addition, 30 (thirty) employers and 30 (thirty) guardians of the respondent child laborers have been selected for interview to know pertinent information. Finally, 10 (ten) cases have also been chosen randomly out of this total sample for an in-depth case study.

The research considers children 6-18 years of age and can provide data for the study. It reveals that the average of child laborers is 12.26 years, and most child laborers (36.25 percent) belong to the 12-14 age group.

The findings show that most female child laborers have no primary level (class I-V) of educational background. The scenario is different from the male child laborers. 153 (one hundred fifty-three) child laborers are associated with different educational institutions. These are NGO-operated schools, madrasas, Govt. primary schools, and non-Govt. schools.

The highest, 31.67 percent of child laborers, 33.33 percent of employers, and 43.33 percent of guardians state that financial crisis/poverty is the most important reason to become a child laborer.

The findings show that 72.08 percent of child laborers migrated to Dhaka city for work. Regarding reasons for migration, the highest, 35 percent, mentioned that the main reason for migration is poverty.

The data reveals that children categorized their work into 08 (eight) categories. The study shows that 70 percent are male child laborers and 30 percent are female child laborers. 5.42 percent of child laborers are the lowest earners whose earning remains within 500 Tk. only. And they receive on an average an amount of Tk. 527.78. The highest range of monthly income remained between 3000-3500 Tk. and they receive an average of Tk. 2687.5 only as their monthly income. The average income of child workers is Tk. 1576.01. The average household size is 7.82.

Children come to the labor market to earn a living for their families and themselves. As children come to a labor market due to extreme poverty, parents send their children to the market. The highest, 36.25 percent, got their job with the help of parents.

A significant portion (47.5 percent) of child laborers live in slums. They live in unhygienic conditions. 2.50 percent have no address at all. Child laborers' fathers and mothers are involved in diverse occupations, most of which are related to physical labor. It covers day laborers, construction workers, rickshaws / van-pullers, domestic workers, transport laborers, and farmers. The highest numbers are domestic workers (female) (37.08 percent) followed by construction workers at 12.50 percent (male) and 4.58 percent (female), rickshaw/van pullers at 12.08 percent, transport laborers at 11.25 percent, day laborers (male) at 10.42 percent and female 3.33 percent, vegetable seller 10.42 percent (male) and 5 percent (female), cleaner 4.58 percent (male) and 2.92 percent (female), hawker 4.17 percent (male) and farmer 6.67 percent (male). A significant 11.25 percent (male) and 6.25 percent are unemployed. The job experience of the child laborers is the shorter period. The highest 50 percent are working at the present job for one year or less than one year. They frequently move from one work to another. It is found that during sickness, the highest 32.92 percent of child laborers consulted the salesmen of local pharmacies and took medicine suggested by them. As child laborers come from very poor and uneducated families, they are superstitious and consider treatment from '*Kabiraj*' very reliable. 19.17 percent do not care about illness. They work all day with sickness. During sickness, the parents bear the expenses (69.17 percent).

The study shows that vegetable shop assistants, load carriers, and garbage collectors are paid on a daily basis. So, the festival allowance does not apply to them. Most of the respondents get a festival allowance from their employers. But the amount is not sufficient for them. 54.58 percent of child laborers mention getting in between 500-1000 Tk. only. 58.33 percent of child laborers get annual leave for some days. But if they are absent from their work for any reason, the owners cut off their wages.

Many child laborers are abused. The study findings show that many child laborers are abused such as physically, mentally, verbally, and sexually abuse. Most of the child laborers are being abused by one more type of abuse. The highest number of child laborers is physically abused (42.08 percent). 40.83 percent of child laborers state that they are mentally abused. 36.25 percent verbally and 9.58 percent mention that they are sexually abused. 62.50 percent state that they are regularly abused and mention that they are abused (52.50 percent) by the owners.

It is found that the recreational facilities of the child laborers are minimal. Employers ignore it. Watching television is the foremost recreational facility of child laborers, representing 31.25 percent. The rest of the facilities are gossiping, going outside, playing, and enjoying the cinema. 43.75 percent do not get any kind of recreational facility at all.

Child laborers must do several hazardous works every day. There are some undue works that they must do. The hazardous work such as repairing steel furniture, working in extreme heat, carrying a heavy load, collecting waste, using sharp knives, cooking, long working hours, chemical hazards, ironing clothes, boiling water, washing heavy clothes, etc. Child laborers suffered biological diseases because of congested, unhygienic working environments and many hazardous works. The diseases are pulmonary infection and heart disease, burn injuries, headache, and back pain, effects on the skin, sickness, pain in the knee, muscles, and other joints, fever, anemia, gastrointestinal and stomach problems, lifelong deformation in bones and joints, and disabilities and poor growth.

Children involved with criminal gangs are engaged in arms and drug trading in Bangladesh. The study shows that the highest number of 4.17 child laborers are involved in one of the most common crimes i.e. stealing. Others are engaged in illegal purchases (1.25 percent), political violence (2.91 percent), buying stolen goods (2.08 percent), snatching (1.67 percent), and pickpocketing (3.33 percent).

Drug abuse directly affects children's physical and social behavioral problems and affects the country's economic and social aspects of society. They can earn money and go outside with their friends. So, they misused their money to buy any kind of drug. The highest number of drug users among children (2.50 percent) is their curiosity. The percentage of drug use is 0.83, which is influenced by peer pressure and child laborers. 0.83 percent for depression. The remaining percentage is due to lack of family involvement (0.42 percent), low self-esteem (0.42 percent), and physical and sexual abuse (0.83 percent). Female child laborers are abused physically and sexually by their owners. So they became frustrated and decided to use the drug.

The study findings show, and it is important to note, that child laborers suffer more devastating psychological damage. Although the study found that child labor is associated with a higher prevalence of mental and behavioral disorders, the psychological effects of child laborers have been identified in table 39.

Child laborers wish to improve their present condition. They expect to be good workers (15 percent), good job/service (25.42 percent) laborers, workshop owners (15.83 percent), car drivers (9.17 percent), owners of small businesses (12.92 percent), good married people (8.33 percent), believers in fate (6.25 percent), doctors, teachers, nurses, journalists (7.08 percent), etc.

The educational status of their guardians is very low. Most families of child laborers are out of education. The academic status of the employers is not so good. The highest 30 percent of employers have passed the SSC level.

The study confirms that most child laborers and guardians are unaware of their rights. On the other hand, 73.33 percent of the owners know the children's rights. The guardians have proposed a range of suggestions for alleviating child labor, including providing work for the adult of the family, financial support from the government, education compulsory for all children, and raising awareness among parents. The highest number of owners (60 percent) suggests that poverty alleviation and rehabilitation are more effective in alleviating child laborers. 30 (thirty) percent proposed that GO-NGO collaboration is more effective in helping child labor. 33.33 percent proposed that special government care for this group is helpful, and 13.33 percent mentioned financial support from the government is helpful for the alleviation of child labor.

Key findings of the case study (Quantitative)

As a result of this research, when children from poor and disadvantaged households are exposed to violence, they are more likely to leave their families and enter the labor market. The following are the findings from the case studies.

The occupation of the family members is not well-established because child laborers come from poor families. The majority of people are dependent on their families for support. There are many people without jobs. Family members are involved in a variety of occupations, including day laborers, farmers, rickshaw pullers, domestic workers, factory workers, etc. The majority of the female members aren't participating in any activities. Most of the mothers of children are housewives.

According to the case studies, the majority of the family members who engage in child labor are illiterate. A few individuals can only sign their names. From this, it may be stated that they are only trying to survive. As they are illiterate, they have a lower consciousness level, which leads them to want to marry their female children at an early age and give less attention to their education.

The majority of children who work as laborers have only completed their primary education. Some children have not yet gotten any educational facilities. Most of the children have expressed a deep eagerness to study, but it is their bad luck that when they were in the home they did not get educational support. Jamal mentioned that *“I do not know much about education. Anyone in my family does not get an education.”*

Because of the family's inability to pay for educational expenses, the majority of children state that their families choose work over school. There are a lot of real costs associated with primary schooling, even though it is free and required in state-run schools in Bangladesh. This includes no school fees, no textbook costs, and monthly rice rations for some target populations. Many schools charge fees for things like exams, admission, excursion food, and other specific local costs instead of tuition. Of course, there are expenses for supplies such as notebooks, pens, school bags, etc. that are not provided by the government. The majority of child workers said that child labor is a primary reason for poverty.

According to the study findings, child laborers work between 13 and 16 hours per day. Children reported that they worked almost 14 hours a day, Habib said, *“I must remain present here early in the morning, within 6 a.m., and return to my home after 8 p.m.* The children's monthly income is less than TK 2,000 but their monthly expenses exceeded TK 2,000, resulting in a constant financial crisis and inadequate living standards. The girls who are engaged in household activities earn 1500-2000 per month. Amina Begum said, *“I get Tk. 2000 a month as salary. I have to work for about 12 hours a day. I have too much hard work and feel so tired at night.* This amount is not sufficient for them to run appropriately.

Child laborers spend the majority of their earnings on buying food. Some spend their money on buying clothes, daily necessities, etc. They had to give a large amount of money to the family. Badal said, *“ I contribute financially to the family's food, siblings' education, and clothes”.*

Due to the unpleasant working circumstances for children and the low quality of their diets, their health rapidly declines, and their difficult situation gets worse by the fact that they lack access to health care. They engage in an exaggerated scenario to make a living, offering hard labor for a meager wage that doesn't buy enough food for the day. Due to their socioeconomic circumstances, children are harassed by elders who beat them, rob them, and sexually assault them (for instance, child laborers who work in launch terminals are frequently beaten up by senior porters, police, and other people, and have their money snatched).

The case study found that children who work had worse nutrition and ill health than those who are at home and at the workplace. Some variables, like age and gender, may occasionally have an impact on this. Skin infections, a common occurrence, can also result from unsanitary conditions. Child laborers are in danger of acquiring infectious diseases such as chicken pox, malaria, tuberculosis (TB), diarrhea, and hepatitis when those conditions are widespread. Samim said, *“At the time of joining, my employer confirmed to me that he would bear all the treatment costs during my sickness. Once upon a time, I fell in a strong fever, and he (employer) gave me some money for treatment, but in the end, he (employer) took back his money from my job salary”*.

In their daily lives, child laborers deal with a multitude of difficulties. The majority of child laborers in this analysis suffered from physical abuse. Fatema said, *“If I make any mistakes, Aunty beats me sometimes. She also said the owner tortures her both physically and psychologically.”*

They have been badly treated by other people. They are tortured by police or criminal groups. Children can be at risk for a variety of issues or dangers. The following are examples of problem types: violence, social rejection, police arrests, thefts of savings, health issues, and incapacity to manage. being unattached, etc. At different moments in time, they have fallen victim to various groups. They lacked access to food, clothing, shelter, leisure activities, educational opportunities, etc. They are out of love and affection for the family members. In a nutshell, they have experienced a harsh reality at such an early age.

The case study shows that child laborers know nothing about their rights. They are in low-paying, low-skilled jobs with no education or skills.

Chapter Nine

The recommendations in this chapter are based on the study findings. Providing our civil society with a few effective recommendations will be helpful. A better standard of living for child laborers is ensured and maintained by legal professionals, policymakers, GOs, and NGOs.

Chapter 9: Recommendations and Conclusion

9.1 Recommendations

Due to factors including rising population, widespread poverty, loss of land, inheritance laws, dissolution of families, etc., child labor continues to rise at an alarming rate. Child laborers engage in different hazards as they harm children's physical and mental health and deprive them of access to education, recreation, and other facilities for healthy growth. The working environment is unhealthy for the child laborers' proper physical and mental development. Children cannot attend schools as they are engaged in agriculture, household work, and domestic help. We are alarmed at the growing trend of child abuse in Bangladesh. Children in Bangladesh continue to be subjected to all forms of abuse. The common forms of abuse are physical, sexual, and psychological torture by the employer, non-payment of wages, payment of low wages, employment in a hazardous occupation, and unlimited working hours. Most of their parents are not well off, and the family depends in part on the children's income. So, for this reason, children are forced into various occupations. They have no other alternative as their parents cannot send them to school. The working child has always been deprived of his/her civil rights and has always been kept away from the knowledge of his/her rights. At a time when they should be acquiring the skills and knowledge to become good citizens, children are being exploited as mere commodities and cheap labor. They are robbed of their childhood. Dangerous and worst forms of child labor can directly impact the child's physical, intellectual, and mental health. Carrying heavy weight can cause a lot of damage to a child's health; the child may even get physically deformed or permanently crippled for life.

Sometimes heavy loads can cause severe muscle and skeletal injury among children. Sometimes some of them even lose their hands or organs in various industries because of hand-handling sharp tools. Child domestic workers are most commonly at risk of different forms of corporal punishment by their employers. Corporal punishment is defined as the infliction of punishment on the body. It can be used to describe various punishments, such as beating, hitting, spanking, hair pulling, swatting, and caning. In its most mild form, physical pain is administered without causing any injury. At its

most extreme, however, corporal punishment leaves noticeable marks and scars on internal injuries that are not always visible but potentially life-threatening. Child domestic workers are also victims of various types of physical and psychological abuse. In households, the child is much more alone, isolated, and far from any kind of support. From the study findings and observation-based experience in the study area, it can be mentioned that child laborers are the victims of exploitation. Their work and working situations are quite inhuman and hazardous, which are also detrimental to their growth and development. More recently, the Multiple Indicators Cluster Survey (MICS) indicates that in 2018, 6.18 percent of children aged 5-17 were engaged in child labor. According to the CLS 2013, approximately 56 percent of children involved in child labor were boys. The MICS data also show that male and female child labor respectively affected 9 percent and 5 percent of children aged 5-17 in 2018. However, it is worth noting that female child labor is generally underestimated, as girls are more involved in remote(domestic) work. In 2013, of the total children engaged in child labor, 68 percent were in rural areas. In urban areas of Bangladesh, 1 out of 8 children are estimated to be child laborers (Including City Corporation slums, non-slums, and other municipalities). The CLS (Child Labor Force Survey) shows that school attendance decreases as involvement in labor increases. 63(sixty-three) percent of children engaged in child labor in 2013 were not attending school, and 8.4 percent never attended school. (ILO Baseline Survey. 2006, pp: 9-11). In the context of the present situation, child - labor is extremely complex because of the laborers, vulnerable socio-economic Conditions, lack of initiatives, and the global and national debates about solving the problem. Based on field-level findings and the literature review, several recommendation details are suggested:

- First, we have to create an opportunity to identify the reasons why and how the child gets involved in child labor.
- Enforce the law of birth registration.
- Establish a monitoring mechanism, where child rights are violated.
- Awareness at all levels regarding the elimination of all forms of child labor should be carried out diligently and regularly through holding seminars, workshops, and rallies and disseminating research-based information on the status of child rights in Bangladesh.

- Accessible educational facilities and opportunities for working as well as children should be ensured in schools but not in a traditional form. Learning through earning should be the focus for special schools for working children where food (mid-day meal) or tiffin, dress, and stipends will be provided. The school hours will be fixed by the working time of the child laborers.
- A child's fundamental rights must be protected by improving their socio-economic condition, providing extensive primary and vocational education for disadvantaged children, and raising community awareness. The government should take necessary steps through non-governmental organizations in the urban area. Although child labor is prohibited in all cases, the tragic picture of child labor can be seen when one leaves the house. Particularly in hotels, motels, launches, buses, brick kilns, stone quarries, garages, aluminum factories, mills, homes, sweets and biscuit factories, the tobacco industry, leather industry, tea industry, and any other heavy industry, the accurate picture of child labor is found.
- It is seen that many owners have to pay more, so they do not employ adults. However, because of working with children, these owners need to be punished.
- Child laborers, their guardians, and employers are unaware of child laws and rules related to child labor issues (In both formal and informal sectors). Therefore, the government should promote awareness of child labor issues nationwide with the help of NGOs (Non-Governmental Organizations), ILO (International Labor Organization), IPES (International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labor), UNICEF (United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization) and media, both in the general Community and in the workplace. In addition, child rights and necessity laws related to drama should be telecast.
- The health and nutritional status of child laborers is neglected. A good health policy can overcome the situation by taking necessary steps, for example, access to safe drinking water, hygienic sanitation at home and work, balanced

food including milk and egg, and ensuring immunization programs and accessible treatment facilities for child laborers in every hospital. Access to health, nutrition, and education should be ensured for all households with child laborers.

- Parents, employers, mass people, civil society, and concerned state officials are aware of the harmful consequences of child labor. So, they can be motivated to demonstrate positive attitudes and behavioral patterns toward eliminating child labor. Information, review, and updating the list of hazardous and worst forms of child labor could effectively spread awareness among society. In addition, they carry out survey work on child laborers in various workplaces. If it so happens, the real picture of the child laborers will be seen accurately.
- Children's rights and child oppression affairs should be introduced in the National Curriculum so that children can be conscious of their fundamental rights from childhood.
- Most of the child laborers belong to the needy family. Because of that, children are easily involving themselves in income-generating activities. Such activities impede the afflux of Government policy and programs. So eradicating poverty is the first and foremost duty of the Government.
- Most people still do not have access to the light of literacy. People continue to believe in numerous social taboo tales and stay superstitious as a consequence. To eliminate such prejudices, civil society may play an effective and responsible role.
- Social organizations should put efforts in favor of social movements against a few social disorders (such as drug dealers, forced labor, forced child prostitution, and forced begging).
- Political parties involved in the nation should take a leading position in the fight against child labor because of their extensive networks.

- A Rehabilitation program should be implemented properly for the children who are vulnerable and have no shelter and food.
- Programs for basic rights like primary education, food, health care, and clothing should be ensured for abused children. Not only that to set up a strong monitoring system for ensuring such rights and achieving the effectiveness of such programs should be taken as a priority.
- The provision of child rights would be implemented and followed by every family and society.
- Organizations concerned with children's rights and justice can be sensitized to pay attention to the vulnerable situation relating to the children who are the sufferers of their parental separation.
- To identify children who stopped going to school and are now working as laborers, school administrations should collaborate with community-based organizations and municipal authorities. These children should then be returned to school right away.
- Conditional cash payments are given to parents as rewards for increasing their children's school attendance and helping them stay interested in their education. Conditional payment programs can lessen family financial strain, which can end poverty.
- To eradicate inhumane child labor, we must change our mentality and consider the children of others as our own children.

9.2 Conclusion

The use of children as laborers is illegal, yet it has long been common in Bangladesh. To save and secure the bright future of many new generations as well as the future of the nation, it must be prohibited as one of the severe social challenges faced by Bangladesh. Future leaders of the country will come from the children, so parents, in particular, should educate and look after them with great attention. They should be given full time to enjoy their childhood and study in school. And it is possible only when we protect them from child labor. Education is the birthright of every child. Childhood is their learning and growing period during which they should not be involved in any type of job. Therefore, they should be kept entirely away from child labor.

In today's world, about one-tenth of children under the age of 15 are engaged in various occupations. They grow up and survive in extreme poverty and deprivation. They are excluded from any opportunity for education and skill development for a better life, and these may be dreams in their life.

In fact, children are compelled to engage with engaging themselves in injuries and dangerous work modes due to poverty. Poverty makes them helpless and distressed in society. Society cannot accept them as potential citizens and treat them as a marginal segment of the state. Therefore, they must struggle with life. Their struggle begins with working; the consequences are miseries and badly negative. It is observed that due to a lack of proper execution of government rules and laws, they are engaging themselves in risky and harmful jobs as well and they do not get their legal rights and support.

We have not yet been able to stop child labor or risky child labor. This is sad for us. Poverty, illiteracy, unawareness, and weakness of law enforcement are pushing up child labor. Again, for the cheap labor of children, some dishonest people lure children into risky labor with various temptations.

As a result, they remain poor and live under the lowest standard of conditions in society. Finally, they are surrounded by the vicious cycle of poverty, which leads to lifetime poverty. It is unfortunate but true that child labor has not stopped in our country to date. On the contrary, child labor seems to rise despite various laws, initiatives, and arrangements.

Children work in hotels, restaurants, factories, brickfields, garages, rickshaws, and workshops. Child labor is rising due to economic hardship and the vicious cycle of poverty. In the pursuit of livelihood, tender-hearted children are faced with a complex reality at the very beginning of their lives. But at the age when books, notebooks, and pens are supposed to be in their hands, they pick up the tools of hard work. The number of impoverished people is increasing due to the growing population. To provide a handful of food for the family and to change the economic situation, the young children have to join various risky occupations.

In order to protect children's physical and mental development, child labor must be properly ended through the application of the law. Children from extremely poor families are being deprived of universal education or compulsory primary education. Parents of these children send their children to work in search of food. Child labor is a chronic tool of social exploitation. Various organizations at home and abroad, including the government and UNICEF, work uncompromisingly to prevent child labor. However, child labor, abuse, exploitation, etc., cannot be stopped.

Child labor is no longer seen as a minor problem, but rather as a crucial component of national and international efforts to promote economic and social development. It is gradually increasing. We cannot eliminate child labor; poverty is the most crucial factor pushing children into work.

Child labor, as it is today, cannot be eliminated from Bangladesh in the foreseeable future, and keeping the shocking truth in mind. We shall have to invest our entire energy resources in pursuit of a targeted goal. In other words, we all have to try to highlight fundamental issues about children's survival, protection, development, and participation. Without these, we shall not be able to ensure their rights and help them develop as proper citizens of our country.

At the same time, to help the four rights cluster in view, four rules have to be observed: no discrimination, best interest of the child, respect for the children's opinions, and participation of the children.

Child labor is such a major chronic economic issue in Bangladesh that it cannot be stopped simply by legislation but can be eliminated. The government should play a role in overcoming the child labor issue, and civil society should come forward. UNICEF says in a new report that the COVID-19 pandemic has pushed millions more children into child labor, and the post-pandemic realities could increase child labor for the first time in 20 years. According to the report, ' COVID-19 and Child Labor: A Crisis, a Time of Action', child labor has declined by 94 million since 2000, but this achievement is now at risk (Santomauro et al., 2021).

In the meantime, the report said that working children might have to work longer hours or in a worse environment. More and more of these children may be forced to engage in hazardous labor, which seriously threatens their health and safety. Many will be forced to engage in child labor without assistance due to the decline in family income due to the pandemic. Social security is essential in times of crisis, as it helps the most vulnerable. Comprehensive policies on education, social protection, justice, the labor market, and international humanitarian and labor rights can make a big difference in addressing child labor concerns. As a result of COVID-19, poverty will increase, and child labor will increase because families will try their best to survive.

The purpose of this study is to explain the situation of child laborers in Dhaka city. It has focused on a number of situations and problems that may help future study on those child laborers in Dhaka city. It has also highlighted the requirement for a broader conceptualization of children in such situations. The study findings also indicate the necessity for further research on issues associated with the prevalence of child labor in Dhaka city. The study is conducted in some specific areas of the city of Dhaka. So any further study on child labor in any other parts of areas of Bangladesh is possible. A significant portion of people have a pedantic approach to child laborers. Additionally, this study has already examined a number of nefarious circumstances of child laborers. As a result, it helps to develop common people's mentality toward working children. On the basis of the findings, research on the circumstances behind child laborers' concerns about human rights and the detection of such rights violations can be conducted.

The in-depth analysis of the psycho-social and economic condition of the child laborers can also help social workers, psychologists, and human rights workers to provide a sustainable service program for such children. For further research, a standardized attitude scale can also be used to assess social views towards child laborers, including those of the general population, families, peers at school, relatives, and guardians. The total situation of child laborers in our society, including their issues, social values towards them, family circumstances, social and environmental attitudes, rights, and prejudice against them, has been studied and examined in this study. The study's findings will give the child laborers new perspectives that will help to improve their socio-economic consequences and secure their future well-being.

References

Annex I: Interview schedule

Annex II: Dhaka City Map

**Annex III: Conventions on the Rights
of the Child**

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Annex-I

Interview Schedule

Questionnaire no. 1 for Child Labor

Child Labor in Dhaka City: A Study on Nature and Consequences

(The following Questionnaire is part of a survey being conducted in connection with a Ph.D. thesis on the above-stated topic at the Department of Social Welfare, University of Dhaka. Every information shall be treated as confidential)

Thanks for your cooperation.

Name of Interviewer: -----

Date of Interview: -----

A. Assessment of the personal, family, demographic, and socio-economic information

1. Name: -----

2. Age: -----

3. Father's name :

4. Mother's name :

5. Gender: Male-----Female-----

6. Present address: -----

7. Permanent address: Village -----Post office -----

Thana -----District -----

8. Religion: -----

9. Education : Illiterate Dropout from school Primary (Class I–V) Above Primary (VI–VIII) Secondary Others (to be specified) --

10. What type of institutions?

NGO operated school Govt. primary school

Non-govt. school

Others (to be specified) -----

11. Marital Status :

Married Unmarried Divorced

Others (to be specified) -----

12. (a) Parents' Education: ----- (b) Occupation----- (c) Monthly income: ----- (d) Total family member: -----

13. Family Information:

Sl	Name	Age	Gender	With respondents relationship	Education	Occupation	Monthly Income

B. Living, Livelihood & Working place

14. Are your parents alive?

Both alive Father alive only Mother alive only **Non-alive**

15. With whom do you live?

Alone With father With mother With brother With sister With relatives With co-workers With employer With friends With others (to be specified) -----

16. Place of Birth: Dhaka Outside Dhaka

17. If not Dhaka, what is the reason for your migration decision

In search of work Poverty natural calamity Others (to be specified) -----

18. What is the reason for becoming a child laborer?

Financial crisis Parental illness Parental death Attraction to Dhaka Natural calamity Others (to be specified) -----

19. Who helps to get the job?

Self-initiative Through parents Relatives Neighbors Directly by employers Others (to be specified) -----

20. Place of living:

Slum Rented Rented and shared Relatives' house
 Working place Bus terminal Launch terminal
Railway station Others (to be specified) -----

21. Condition of the house:

Kacha Bamboo Tin-shed Others (to be specified) --

22. Whether your house is provided with electricity or not:

Yes No

23. Types of work:

Motor workshop laborer Domestic worker
Laguna transport-helper Vegetable shop assistant Hotel and tea stall
assistant Welding factory laborer Load carrier
Garbage collector

24. What is your employment status?

Others (to be specified) -----

25. Duration of work:

2-3 hours 3-4 hours 4-5 hours 5-6 hours 6-7 hours 7-8 hours
 8-9 hours 9-10 hours 10 and above

26. What is the starting time of work?

7 am. 8 a.m. 9 am Others (to be specified) -----

27. What is the closing time of your work?

6 pm. 7 pm. 8 pm. 9 pm.+ (to be specified) -----

28. Working days in a week:

7 days 6 days 5 days Other (to be specified) -----

29. Length of work:

Less than 1 year 1-2 years 2-3 years 3-4 years 4-5 years
5-6 years 6-7 years 7-8 years 8-9 years 9-10 years 10
and above

30. Monthly income (in taka):

500&less 500-1000 1000-1500 1500-2000 2000-2500
 2500-3000 3000-3500 Others (to be specified) -----

31. Mode of payment:

Weekly basis Monthly basis Food & lodging only Others
(to be specified) -----

32. Increase in salary in last year:

Yes No

33. If it increases, how much money: -----

34. How do you spend your income?

For own food and lodging To help the family (whole amount) To help the family and self-expenditure Others (to be specified)

35. How much money are you giving to your family per month?

<Tk. 100 Tk. 200 Tk.300 Tk. 400

Others (to be specified) -----

36. Do you have any savings?

Yes No

37. If yes, how much per month -----

38. Is your income enough for food, shelter, and clothing?

Yes No

39. If no, how can you manage -----

40. Are you getting any facilities from your employer other than wages?

Yes No

41. If yes, what type of facility/facilities? -----

42. Do you get any annual leave? [OB]

Yes No

43. If yes, how many days in the week/month/year

44. Do you have any festival allowance?

Yes No

45. If yes, how much? (in taka)

500-1000 1000-1500 1500-2000 2000-2500 Others (to

be specified) -----

46. Any penalty if absent:

Yes No

47. Are you satisfied with your job?

No satisfied at all Moderately satisfied Satisfied Highly satisfied

48. What type of problems are you facing?

Long working hour No recreation No medical facility

Punishment for minor mistake No reward

Others (to be specified) -----

C. Information on child labor abuse

49. Have you been abused by anyone?

Yes No

50. If yes, what kind of abuse have you been subjected to?

Physical Mental Sexual Verbal

51. Who are the abusers?

Owners Family members of owners Relatives Neighbor's

Others (to be specified) -----

52. Frequency of abuse:

Regularly Often Few

Very few

D. About Health & Welfare at home, at working place

53. How many meals do you have every day?

Breakfast Lunch Dinner Others (to be

specified) -----

54. Amount of food: Very sufficient Sufficient Not sufficient

55. Clothing condition:

Very good Good Average Bad Very bad

56. What is the source of water at home?

WASA'S water supply Tube well Others (to be specified) -----

57. What sorts of toilet facilities do you usually use?

Sanitary latrine kacha latrine Public toilet

58. Recreational facilities enjoyed:

Very regularly Often No facilities

59. What is your main source of recreation?

No facility Gossiping Watching TV Going outside Playing

Others (to be specified) -----

60. What facilities do you get in your work during sickness?

No facilities Leave without pay Live with pay

Medical charge Doctor's charge Others (to be specified) -----

61. Where do you go to treatment?

Govt. Hospital Dispensary/ Pharmacy Homeopathy Private doctor

Others (to be specified) -----

62. Who will bear the expenses during sickness or injury?

Himself Parents Employer

Friends Others (to be specified) -----

64. Has any hazardous work been done by you?

Yes No

67. What types of works? -----68.

Have you suffered any diseases from hazardous work?

Yes No

69. What type of diseases? -----

70. Do you want to go to school leaving this work?

Yes No

71. If yes, why -----

72. What is the aim of your life? -----

73. Are you involved with the crime?

Yes No

74. If yes, what type of crime? -----

75. Do you take the drug? Yes No

76. If yes, what kind of drugs do you take? -----

77. How have you been taking drugs? -----

Who was the first to start intoxication? -----

E. Information on social awareness of child laborers

78. Have you heard anything about rights and laws related to child labor?

Yes No

80. Do you have any opinion on how to stop child labor?-----

Thanks for co-operation

Researcher's Signature

Annex I: Questionnaire no. 2 for Guardians/parents of Child Labors

(The following Questionnaire is part of a survey being conducted in connection with a Ph.D. thesis on the above-stated topic at the Department of Social Welfare, University of Dhaka)

Thanks for co-operation

Name of Interviewer: -----

Date of Interview: -----

General Information

1. Age (In year)
20-25 26-30 31-35 36-40 41-45
46-50 51-55 55+
2. Education
Illiterate Only read and write Primary (I- V)
Below secondary (VI-VIII) Secondary
Others (to be specified)
3. Religion
Muslim Hindu Christian Buddhist
4. Monthly Income (in taka)
<1500 1501-2500 2501-3500 3501-4500
4501-5000 5000> Others (to be specified)
5. Reasons for sending the child to work instead of school
Due to poverty For extra family income
Find no alternative to work Others (to be specified)
6. How much (%) contribution your family income through your child per month?
<10% 20% 30% Others (to be specified)
7. Do you think that this work is harmful to your children's health?
Yes No

8. How is child labor harmful (correct one or more to be ticked)
- Bad impact on health Loss in promising future
- Affects physical growth Development as an illiterate citizen
- No respect in society Others (to be specified)
9. Do you have any information about the legal child labor provisions in Bangladesh?
- Yes No
10. What is your expectation from the government/society to stop child labor
- Poverty alleviation Financial support from the government
- Contribution of school and work Food for education
- Others (to be specified) -----

Thank you

8. What is your idea about legislation on child labor (detail explanation) ?----

9. Are you worried about child laborers' health and nutrition problems? What facilities are available here for child laborers regarding sickness, recreation, working environment, etc.?

10. What should be the future (short/long term) plan or program to deal with child laborers? Please give your preferential order -----

Please give the number (1-5)

- Poverty alleviation
- Financial support from the Government
- Combination of school and work
- Food and education
- Enactment and enforcement of laws

Thank you

Annex-II



Annex-III

CONVENTIONS ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

Preamble

The States Parties to the present Convention, Recognize that the foundation of freedom, justice, and peace in the world is the recognition of the inherent dignity and the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family, in accordance with the principles enshrined in the United Nations Charter,

Considering that the people of the United Nations have reiterated their belief in fundamental human rights, the dignity, and the worth of every human being in the Charter and have vowed to advance social progress, higher standards of living, and more freedom,

Recognizing that everyone has the right to all of the freedoms and rights outlined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenants on Human Rights, without distinction of any kind, including race, color, sex, language, religion, political opinion, national or social origin, property, birth, or another status,

Remembering that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that children have a right to special attention and support,

Convinced that the family, as the fundamental group of society and the natural environment for the growth and well-being of all its members and particularly children, should be afforded the necessary protection and assistance so that it can fully assume its responsibilities within the community,

Recognizing that a child should grow up in a family, in a happy, loving, and understanding environment, for the full and harmonious development of his or her personality,

Considering that the child should be raised in accordance with the ideals declared in the United Nations Charter, particularly in the spirit of peace, dignity, tolerance, freedom, equality, and solidarity, and that the kid should be fully prepared to live an independent life in society,

Bearing in mind that the Geneva Declaration of the Rights of the Child from 1924 and the Declaration of the Rights of the Child adopted by the General Assembly on November 20, 1959, both stated the need to provide extra protection for children, and that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (particularly articles 23 and 24), Specifically in article 10 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights, as well as in the statutes and pertinent documents of specialized agencies and international organizations concerned with children's welfare,

Bearing in mind that the Declaration of the Rights of the Child states that "the child, because of his physical and mental immaturity, needs special safeguards and care, including appropriate legal protection, before as well as after birth."

Recalling the provisions of the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice (The Beijing Rules), the Declaration on the Protection of Women and Children in Emergency and Armed Conflict, and the Declaration on Social and Legal Principles relating to the Protection and Welfare of Children, with Special Reference to Foster Placement and Adoption Nationally and Internationally, and Recognizing that children are vulnerable everywhere in the world, Taking due account of the importance of the traditions and cultural values of each people for the protection and harmonious development of the child, Recognizing the importance of international cooperation for improving the living conditions of children in every country, in particular in developing countries,

PART I

Article 1

A child means every person under the age of eighteen for the purposes of the present Convention unless the majority age is reached earlier under the child's applicable law.

Article 2

1. "States Parties shall respect and ensure the rights set forth in the present Convention to every child within their jurisdiction without discrimination of any kind, irrespective of the child's or his or her parent's or legal guardian's race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinions, national, ethnic or social origin, property, disability, birth or another status."

2. States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to ensure that the child is protected against all forms of discrimination or punishment based on the status, activities, expressed opinions, or beliefs of the child's parents, legal guardians, or family members.

Article 3

1. The child's best interests must come first in all decisions involving children, whether they are made by judicial systems, administrative agencies, or legislative bodies that are public or private.

2. States Parties commit to providing children with the protection and care necessary for their wellbeing, while also respecting their parental rights and responsibilities and those of other people who are legally obligated to look after them. To this end, they must implement all necessary legislative and administrative measures.

3. States Parties shall ensure that the institutions, services, and facilities responsible for the care or protection of children shall conform with the standards established by competent authorities, particularly in the areas of safety, health, the number and suitability of their staff, as well as competent supervision.

Article 4

States Parties must take all necessary judicial, executive, and other actions to put the rights outlined in the current Convention into practice. States Parties must take action in support of economic, social, and cultural rights to the fullest degree possible given their resources and, if necessary, within the framework of international cooperation.

Article 5

States Parties are required to respect the rights, responsibilities, and obligations of parents, or, as appropriate, the members of the extended family or community as provided for by local custom, legal guardians, or other persons legally responsible for the child, to provide appropriate direction and guidance in the exercise by the child of the rights recognized in the present Convention in a manner consistent with the development of the child's capacities.

Article 6

1. States Parties recognize the inalienable right to life of every child.
2. To the greatest extent practicable, States Parties shall ensure the child's survival and development.

Article 7

1. The child must be registered as soon as possible after birth and has the legal right to a name, the ability to become a citizen, and, to the greatest extent feasible, the ability to know and be cared for by his or her parents.
2. In particular where the child would otherwise be stateless, States Parties shall see to it that these rights are implemented in line with their domestic legal systems and their duties under the pertinent international agreements in this area.

Article 8

1. States Parties undertake to uphold a child's legal right to maintain their identity, including their nationality, name, and familial ties, free from wrongful interference.
2. When a child's identity is unlawfully stripped of all or some of its components, States Parties are required to offer the child the necessary aid and protection in order to quickly restore that identity.

Article 9

- (1). States the parties shall ensure that a child is not taken away from his or her parents against their will unless competent authorities subject to court review determine that such a separation is required for the child's best interests in accordance with the applicable law and regulations. A decision on the child's home may be required in a specific circumstance, such as one in which the parents have abused or neglected the child or in which the parents are cohabitating.
2. All interested parties must be given the chance to participate in and express their opinions in any processes conducted in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 1 of the present article.

3. States the right of a child to regularly maintain personal relationships and direct contact with both parents after they are divorced or separated from one another must be respected by all parties unless doing so would be detrimental to the kid's interests.

4. Where such separation is the result of a State Party's action, such as the arrest, imprisonment, exile, deportation, or death of one or both parents or of the child (including a death resulting from any cause while the person is in the State's custody), that State Party shall, upon request, give the parents, the child, or, if appropriate, another member of the family, the necessary information regarding the whereabouts of the absent member(s) of the family. States Parties must also make sure that making such a request will not in and of itself have any negative effects on the person(s) in concerned.

Article 10

1. In accordance with Article 9, paragraph 1, States Parties are required to treat requests by a child or his or her parents to enter or leave a State Party for the purpose of family reunification positively, humanely, and quickly. States Parties must further ensure that making such a request has no negative repercussions for the applicants and the people in their families.

2. A child whose parents reside in different States shall have the right to maintain on a regular basis, save in exceptional circumstances, personal relations and direct contacts with both parents. Towards that end and in accordance with the obligation of States Parties under Article 9, paragraph 1, States Parties shall respect the right of the child and his or her parents to leave any country, including their own, and to enter their own country. The right to leave any country shall be subject only to such restrictions as are prescribed by law and which are necessary to protect the national security, public order (*ordre public*), public health or morals or the rights and freedoms of others and are consistent with the other rights recognized in the present Convention.

Article 11

1. States Parties are required to take action against the unauthorized exportation and importation of children.

2. To achieve this, the States Parties shall encourage the signing of new bilateral or multilateral agreements or the enlargement of existing ones.

Article 12

1. States Parties should guarantee the child who is able to form his or her own opinions the freedom to express those opinions in all areas affecting the child, with the child's opinions given fair consideration in accordance with the child's age and maturity.
2. For this purpose, the child shall, in particular, be provided the opportunity to be heard in any judicial and administrative proceedings affecting the child, either directly or through a representative or an appropriate body, in a manner consistent with the procedural rules of national law.

Article 13

1. The child should have the right to freedom of expression, which includes the freedom to inquire about, receive, and transmit knowledge and ideas of any sort, without regard to boundaries, whether orally, in writing or in print, through art, or through any other medium of the child's choosing.
2. This right may be subject to limitations on how it is exercised, but those limitations must only be those required by law:
 - (a) For consideration of others' rights or reputations; or
 - (b) For the protection of public health, morals, public order (ordre public), national security, or any of these.

Article 14

1. States Parties shall respect the right of the child to freedom of thought, conscience, and religion.
2. States Parties shall respect the rights and duties of the parents and, when applicable, legal guardians to provide direction to the child in the exercise of his or her right in a manner consistent with the evolving capacities of the child.
3. Freedom to manifest one's religion or beliefs may be subject only to such limitations as are prescribed by law and are necessary to protect public safety, order, health or morals, or the fundamental rights and freedoms of others.

Article 15

1. States Parties recognize that children have the right to peaceful assembly and association.
2. No restrictions may be imposed on the exercise of these rights other than those required by law and necessary for maintaining public order (*ordre public*), protecting the public's health or morals, or defending the rights and freedoms of others in a democratic society.

Article 16

1. No child should be the subject of arbitrary or unlawful interference with his or her family, home, or correspondence, or of unlawful attacks on his or her honor and reputation.
2. The child is entitled to legal protection from such infringements or assaults.

Article 17

States Parties recognize the important function that the media plays in society and are required to make sure that children have access to information and materials from a variety of national and international sources, particularly those that are geared toward enhancing their social, spiritual, and moral well-being as well as their physical and mental health.

To do this, States Parties shall:

- (a) Promote the dissemination of information and materials through the media that are socially and culturally beneficial to children in line with the spirit of article 29;
 - (b) Promote international collaboration in the creation, exchange, and dissemination of such information and materials from a variety of cultural, national, and international sources;
 - (c) Encourage the production and publication of children's literature;
 - (d) Encourage the necessity for the mass media to pay special attention to the language requirements of indigenous or minority children;
- Encourage the creation of suitable rules to safeguard children from information and materials that could harm their well-being while keeping in mind the provisions of Articles 13 and 18.

Article 18

1. States parties must make every effort to uphold the idea that both parents share responsibility for the child's upbringing and development. The major duty for the child's upbringing and development is with the parents or, in some cases, the legal guardians. Their primary focus will be on the child's best interests.
2. States Parties shall provide parents and legal guardians with reasonable assistance in carrying out their child-rearing responsibilities and shall ensure the development of institutions, facilities, and services for the care of children in order to safeguard and promote the rights outlined in the present Convention.
3. States Parties are required to take all necessary steps to guarantee that children of working parents are entitled to use child care services and facilities for which they are qualified.

Article 19

1. States Parties shall take all necessary legislative, administrative, social, and educational measures to protect the child from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse, while in the care of parent(s), legal guardian(s), or any other person with the child's care.
2. Such protective measures should, as necessary, include effective procedures for the creation of social programs to offer the child and those responsible for caring for him or her the support they need, as well as other means of prevention and identification, reporting, referral, investigation, treatment, and follow-up of the types of child maltreatment previously described, and, as necessary, judicial involvement.

Article 20

1. A child who is temporarily or permanently separated from his or her family or who cannot stay there in the child's best interests is entitled to special protection and help from the State.
2. In accordance with their national legislation, States Parties shall provide alternative care for such a child.

3. Such care may entail, among other things, adoption, kafala under Islamic law, foster placement, or, if necessary, placement in appropriate facilities for the care of children. Due consideration must be given to a child's ethnic, religious, cultural, and linguistic background as well as the need of continuity in their upbringing while coming up with solutions.

Article 21

The best interests of the child must always take precedence, and the parties who acknowledge and/or approve the adoption procedure must:

(a) Ensure that the adoption of a child is only approved by competent authorities who, in accordance with applicable law and procedures and based on all relevant and reliable information, determine that the adoption is permissible due to the child's status regarding parents, relatives, and legal guardians; and, if necessary, that the parties involved have given their informed consent to the adoption based on any necessary counseling;

(b) Acknowledge that international adoption may be a viable choice for a child's care if the child's country of origin is unable to provide adequate foster or adoptive care or other forms of care;

(c) Assure that the child involved in an international adoption receives protections and guidelines that are comparable to those that apply to domestic adoptions;

(d) Take all necessary precautions to prevent anyone associated with international adoption from receiving inappropriate financial gain;

(e) Promote, as necessary, the goals of this article by signing bilateral or multilateral agreements, and endeavor to ensure that the child is placed abroad by competent authorities or organs within the confines of these agreements.

Article 22

1. States Parties shall take appropriate measures to ensure that a child who is seeking refugee status or who is considered a refugee in accordance with applicable international or domestic law and procedures shall, whether unaccompanied or

accompanied by his or her parents or by any other person, receive appropriate protection and humanitarian assistance in the enjoyment of the applicable rights set forth in the present Convention and in other international human rights or humanitarian instruments to which the said States are Parties.

2. To achieve this purpose, States Parties shall provide, as they consider appropriate, cooperation in any efforts made by the United Nations and other capable intergovernmental organizations or non-governmental organizations working in cooperation with the United Nations to protect and assist such a child as well as to track down the parents or other family members of any refugee child in order to obtain the information required for the child's reunification with his or her family. When parents or other family members cannot be located, the child must be given the same protection under the current Convention as any other child who is either permanently or temporarily separated from his or her family setting.

Article 23

(1). State The parties recognize that a child with a mental or physical disability should live a full and respectable life in circumstances that uphold the dignity, encourage self-reliance, and enable the child to actively participate in the community.

2. States Parties acknowledge the right of the disabled child to special care and shall encourage and ensure the extension, subject to resources available, to the eligible child and those in charge of their care of assistance for which an application is made and which is appropriate to the child's condition and to the circumstances of the parents or other caregivers.

3. In recognizing the unique needs of a disabled child, assistance extended pursuant to paragraph 2 of the present article shall be free of charge, whenever possible, taking into account the financial resources of the parents or other individuals providing care for the child, and shall be intended to ensure that the disabled child has effective access to and receives education, training, health care services, rehabilitation services, preparation for employment, and recreation.

4. States Parties shall encourage the exchange of pertinent information in the areas of preventive health care and the medical, psychological, and functional treatment of children with disabilities, including the dissemination and access to information

regarding methods of rehabilitation, education, and vocational services, in the spirit of international cooperation, with the goal of enabling States Parties to enhance their capacities and skills and to broaden their experience in t The concerns of developing nations should be given special consideration in this regard.

Article 24

1. States Parties recognize that children have a right to the best possible quality of health as well as access to facilities for medical care and wellness restoration. States Parties shall work to ensure that no child's right to access such health care services is violated.

States 2. The parties must work to fully execute this right, and they must, in particular, take the following actions:

- a) To reduce infant and child mortality;
- b) To ensure that all children receive essential medical care and assistance, with a focus on the growth of basic healthcare;
- (c) To combat disease and malnutrition, taking into account the risks and hazards of environmental pollution while focusing on the primary mission of appropriate nutritious foods and clean drinking water;
- (d) To ensure that mothers receive appropriate prenatal and postpartum care;
- (e) To make sure that everyone in society, especially parents and children, is informed, has access to education, and is encouraged to use basic knowledge of child health and nutrition, the benefits of breastfeeding, hygiene, environmental sanitation, and accident prevention;
- (f) To develop family planning information and services, parenting advice, and preventative health care.

3. States Parties are required to take all necessary steps to end customary practices that are harmful to children's health.

4. In order to gradually achieve the full fulfillment of the right established in the present article, States Parties agree to foster and promote international collaboration. The concerns of developing nations should be given special consideration in this regard.

Article 25

States Parties acknowledge the right of a child who has been placed by the competent authorities for the purpose of care, protection, or treatment for his or her physical or mental health to a periodic review of the treatment provided to the child and all other circumstances relevant to his or her placement.

Article 26:

1. States Parties shall acknowledge that every child has a constitutional right to social security benefits, including social insurance, and they shall take the necessary steps to ensure that this right is fully realized in line with their respective national laws.

2. Benefits should be granted, as appropriate, taking into account the child's resources, his or her circumstances, and those who are in charge of providing for their upkeep, as well as any other factors pertinent to a benefits application made by or on behalf of a child.

Article 27:

"States Parties recognize that every child has the right to a standard of living that is suited to his or her physical, mental, spiritual, moral, and social growth."

2. The parent(s) or other person in charge of the child has the primary obligation to ensure, to the best of their abilities and financial ability, the living circumstances essential for the development of the child.

3. States Parties shall, within their means and in accordance with national conditions, take appropriate measures to help parents and other individuals with parental responsibilities carry out this right. They shall also, as necessary, offer material assistance and support programs, particularly with regard to housing, clothing, and nutrition.

4. States Parties shall take all necessary steps to ensure the collection of child support from the parents or other individuals who bear financial responsibility for the child, both domestically and internationally. States Parties are required to encourage the completion of international agreements as well as the making of other suitable arrangements, particularly when the person responsible for the child's finances resides in a country other than the one where the child resides.

Article 28

1. States parties acknowledge the child's right to education, and in order to fulfill this right gradually and on the basis of equal opportunity, they shall, in particular: (a) Make primary education compulsory and available for free to all;

(b) Encourage the development of various secondary education options, including general and vocational education, make them available and accessible to every child, and take appropriate measures like the introduction of free education and offering financial assistance in case of need;

c) Provide all children with access to educational and career information and counseling;

d) Make such information and guidance available and accessible to them;

e) Take steps to promote regular attendance at school and decrease dropout rates.

2. States Parties are required to take all necessary steps to guarantee that school punishment is used in a way that respects the child's human dignity and is in compliance with the current Convention.

3. States Parties shall encourage and promote international cooperation in educational matters, especially with a view to assisting in the eradication of ignorance and illiteracy globally and facilitating access to scientific and technical knowledge as well as contemporary teaching techniques. In this regard, a particular account shall be taken of the needs of developing countries.

Article 29

1. States Parties concur that a child's education must focus on the following:

- (a) the development of the child's personality, talents, and mental and physical abilities to their fullest potential;
- (b) the development of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms as well as for the principles enshrined in the United Nations Charter;
- (c) the development of respect for the child's parents, his or her own cultural identity, language, and values, as well as for the national values;
- (d) The development of respect for the environment;
- (e) The preparation of the child for responsible life in a free society, in the spirit of understanding, peace, tolerance, equality of sexes, and friendship among all peoples, ethnic, national, and religious groups, and persons of indigenous origin.

2. No part of this article or article 28 may be interpreted in a way that restricts the freedom of individuals or groups to found and run educational institutions, provided that the principle outlined in this article's paragraph 1 is always followed and that the education provided in such institutions complies with any applicable minimum standards.

Article 30

In those States where there are ethnic, religious, or linguistic minorities or people of indigenous origin, a child who belongs to such a minority or who is indigenous shall not be denied the right to enjoy his or her own culture, to profess and practice his or her own religion, or to use his or her own language in community with other members of his or her group.

Article 31:

States parties acknowledge that children have the right to leisure and relaxation, to play and participate in recreational activities appropriate to their age, and to freely engage in cultural life and the arts.

2. States Parties shall respect and promote the right of the child to participate fully in cultural and artistic life and shall encourage the provision of appropriate and equal opportunities for cultural, artistic, recreational, and leisure activities.

Article 32

1. States Parties recognize the child's right to be protected from economic exploitation and from engaging in any employment that could be dangerous, interfere with their education, or be detrimental to their health or overall physical, mental, spiritual, or moral growth.

2. To ensure the application of the present article, States Parties shall take legislative, administrative, social, and educational measures. States Parties shall, in particular, take the following actions to achieve this goal in accordance with the pertinent provisions of other international instruments:

To ensure the proper regulation of the hours and conditions of employment,

- (a) provide a minimum age or ages for admission to employment;
- (b) provide suitable penalties or other sanctions; and
- (c) provide a minimum age or age for entry to employment.

Article 33

States Parties shall take all appropriate measures, including legislative, administrative, social, and educational ones, to protect children from the use of illegal narcotics and psychotropic substances as defined in the pertinent international treaties and to prevent the use of kids in the production and trafficking of such drugs.

Article 34

States Parties agree to safeguard children against sexual exploitation and abuse of any kind. In order to achieve these goals, States Parties shall take all necessary domestic, international, and multilateral actions, including those that are necessary to prevent:

- (a) the coercive or inducement of a child to engage in any unlawful sexual activity;
- (b) the exploitation of children in prostitution or other unlawful sexual practices;
- (c) The exploitation of kids in pornographic activities and products.

Article 35

States Parties are required to take all necessary domestic, international, and multilateral steps to stop the kidnapping, sale, and trafficking of children for any reason or in any way.

Article 36

States Parties are required to protect children from all such forms of exploitation that are harmful to any facets of their welfare.

Article 37

States Parties shall ensure that:

- a) No child shall be subjected to torture or other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment, Crimes committed by those under the age of eighteen should not be punishable by the death penalty or life in prison without the chance of parole;
- (b) No child's liberty shall be taken from him or her in an arbitrary or unlawful manner. If a child is to be arrested, detained, or imprisoned, it must be done so legally, only as a last resort, and only for the shortest time possible;
- (c) Every child who is denied their liberty must be treated with humanity, respect for their intrinsic worth, and consideration for their developmental needs. In particular, any child robbed of their liberty must be kept apart from adults until it is deemed to be in the child's best interest to do otherwise, and they must have the right to stay in touch with their family through letters and visits, barring extraordinary situations;
- (d) Every child deprived of their liberty has the right to prompt access to legal and other appropriate assistance, the right to challenge the legality of the deprivation of their liberty in front of a court or other competent, independent, and impartial authority, and the right to a prompt decision on any such action.

Article 38

1. States Parties commit to upholding the standards of international humanitarian law that apply to them in armed conflicts that affect children.
2. States Parties shall take all reasonable steps to prevent people under the age of fifteen from taking an active part in hostilities.
3. States Parties are prohibited from enlisting anyone younger than the age of fifteen in their armed forces. States Parties shall make an effort to give preference to the oldest candidates when hiring among those who have reached the age of fifteen but have not yet turned eighteen.
4. States Parties shall take all reasonable steps to ensure the protection and care of children who are affected by an armed conflict in line with their obligations under international humanitarian law to safeguard the civilian population in armed conflicts.

Article 39

States Parties are required to take all reasonable steps to aid in the physical and mental healing as well as the social reintegration of children who have experienced any kind of abuse, neglect, exploitation, torture, or other cruel, inhumane, or humiliating treatment or punishment, or who have been involved in armed conflict. The environment in which the child's healing and reintegration take place must promote the child's well-being, self-respect, and dignity.

Article 40

1. States Parties acknowledge the right of every child who is suspected of, charged with, or found to have violated the penal code to be treated in a way that upholds his or her sense of dignity and worth, fosters respect for other people's fundamental freedoms and human rights, and takes into account the child's age as well as the need to encourage the child's reintegration and assumption of a positive role in society.
2. In order to achieve this, and taking into account the pertinent provisions of international agreements, States Parties shall in particular make sure that:

(a) No child shall be alleged to have violated the penal code, be charged with such violation, or be found guilty of such violation because of any conduct or omissions that, at the time they were performed, were not banned by domestic or international law;

(b) All children who are claimed to have violated the law or who are accused of doing so at least have the following protections:

(i) Legally, everyone is assumed to be innocent until proven guilty;

(ii) To receive prompt, direct information regarding the accusations made against them, as well as, if necessary, through their parents or other legal representatives, and to get legal or other suitable support in organizing and presenting their defense;

(iii) To have the issue decided quickly by a competent, impartial, and independent authority or judicial body, in the presence of legal counsel or other appropriate assistance, and, unless it is deemed not to be in the child's best interest, specifically taking into account the child's age or circumstance, his or her parents or legal guardians;

(iv) The right not to be coerced into testifying or confessing guilt; the right not to have hostile witnesses cross-examined; and the right to have witnesses testify in his or her favor on an equal basis.

(v) To request a higher competent, impartial, and law-abiding authority or judicial body examine this judgment and any sanctions imposed as a result, if it is determined that a violation of the penal law has occurred;

(vi) To receive the free services of an interpreter if the child is unable to understand or speak the language being used;

(vii) To have their privacy upheld in its entirety during the entire process.

3. States Parties shall work to encourage the creation of laws, policies, authorities, and institutions that are expressly relevant to children who are being investigated, charged, or found to have violated the law, including in particular:

(a) Establishing a minimum age below which children are assumed to lack the mental capacity to violate the penal code;

(b) When appropriate and desirable, ways for handling such children without turning to legal action, as long as legal protections and human rights are adequately upheld. To make sure that children are dealt with in a way that is appropriate to their well-being and proportionates to both their circumstances and the offense, a range of dispositions, including care, guidance, and supervision orders; counseling; probation; foster care; education and vocational training programs; and other alternatives to institutional care, shall be available.

Article 41

Nothing in the present Convention shall alter any provisions that may be found in (a) a State party's law or

(b) international law that is applicable to that State and is more relevant to the fulfillment of children's rights.

PART II

Article 42

States Parties undertake to use suitable and proactive methods to ensure that both adults and children are aware of the Convention's guiding principles and provisions.

Article 43

1. A Committee on the Rights of the Child shall be constituted, which shall carry out the functions hereby given, for the purpose of assessing the progress made by States Parties in realizing the commitments undertaken in the present Convention.

2. The Committee will be made up of 18 professionals with excellent moral character and proven expertise in the subject matter of this Convention.^{1/} The members of the Committee shall be elected by States Parties from among their nationals and shall serve in their individual capacities, taking into account both a fair geographic distribution and the major legal systems.

3. A list of candidates proposed by States Parties should be used to elect the members of the Committee by secret ballot. Each State Party is permitted to select one of its own citizens.
4. The first election for the Committee must take place no later than six months after the current Convention enters into force, and afterward elections must be held every two years. The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall send a letter to States Parties inviting them to submit their nominees within two months at least four months before the date of each election. The Secretary-General will then compile a list of all the people who have been nominated, listing them in alphabetical order and the State Parties that have made the nominations, and will deliver it to the States Parties to the current Convention.
5. The Secretary-General shall call gatherings of States Parties at the UN headquarters where the elections will take place. The members of the Committee are chosen at those meetings, where a quorum of two-thirds of the States Parties must be present in order for voting to take place, and are determined by who receives the most votes and an absolute majority of the votes cast by the representatives of the States Parties in attendance.
6. The members of the Committee will be chosen at large for a four-year term. If they are nominated again, they will be eligible for election. Five of the members elected at the first election will have their terms expire at the end of two years; the Chairman of the meeting will choose the names of these five members by lot immediately following the first election.
7. The State Party that nominated the member shall appoint another expert from among its nationals to serve for the remaining term, subject to the approval of the Committee, in the event that the member dies, resigns, or declares that for any other reason, he or she can no longer perform the duties of the Committee.
8. The Committee will create its own set of operating guidelines.
9. The Committee will choose its officers for a two-year term.

10. The Committee's meetings will often take place at the UN's headquarters or another convenient location chosen by the Committee. The Committee will typically meet once a year. Subject to the approval of the General Assembly, a meeting of the States Parties to the current Convention shall establish and, if necessary, review the length of the Committee meetings.

11. In order for the Committee to fulfill its duties under the current Convention, the Secretary-General of the United Nations must provide the personnel and resources.

12. With the General Assembly's consent, and under the terms and conditions that the Assembly may choose, the members of the Committee formed under the present Convention may receive remuneration from United Nations funds.

Article 44

1. States Parties undertake to report to the Committee on the Committee through the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the steps they have taken to implement the rights established herein as well as the advancement of the enjoyment of those rights.

(a) For the State Party in question, no later than two years after the Convention enters into force;

(b) Thereafter, once every five years.

2. Factors and problems that, if any, have an impact on how well the present Convention's requirements are being met must be disclosed in reports submitted in accordance with the present article. The information in reports must also be sufficient to give the Committee a thorough picture of how the Convention is being applied in the relevant nation.

3. A State Party who has already supplied the Committee with a thorough initial report is exempt from having to do so again in subsequent reports submitted in accordance with paragraph 1(b) of the present article repeat basic information previously provided.

4. The Committee has the right to ask States Parties for additional data related to the Convention's implementation.

5. Every two years, the Committee must report on its work to the General Assembly via the Economic and Social Council.

6. States Parties must make their reports widely accessible to the general public in their own nations.

Article 45

To stimulate international cooperation in the area covered by the Convention and to promote the efficient implementation of the Convention:

(a) The specialized agencies, the UN Children's Fund, and other UN bodies are all entitled to representation when the implementation of present Convention provisions that come under their purview is being discussed. The Committee may ask the UN Children's Fund, the specialized agencies, and such qualified organizations as it deems necessary to offer professional advice on the application of the Convention in areas that fall under the purview of their respective missions. The Committee may request reports on the Convention's implementation in areas that fall under the purview of the specialized agencies, the United Nations Children's Fund, and other United Nations bodies;

(b) The Committee shall transmit, as it may deem necessary, any reports from States Parties that contain a request for or indicate a need for technical advice or assistance, along with the Committee's observations and suggestions, if any, on these requests or indications, to the specialized agencies, the United Nations Children's Fund, and other competent bodies;

(c) The Committee may advise the General Assembly to ask the Secretary-General to carry out research on its behalf regarding particular child rights-related matters;

(d) The Committee may offer suggestions and broad recommendations in light of the data obtained in accordance with paragraphs 44 and 45 of the current Convention. These basic proposals and recommendations must be forwarded to any State Party in question and reported to the basic Assembly along with any comments, if any, from States Parties.

PART III

Article 46

The present Convention is available for all States to sign.

Article 47

The current Convention may be ratified. Ratification documents must be submitted to the UN Secretary-General for deposit.

Article 48

The current Convention is still available for ratification by any State. The Secretary-General of the United Nations will receive the instruments of accession.

Article 49

1. The twentieth ratification or accession instrument shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the day the present Convention enters into force.
2. The Convention enters into force thirty days after each State deposits its instrument of ratification or accession, provided such deposit occurs after the deposit of the twentieth instrument of ratification or accession.

Article 50

1. Any State Party is free to suggest a modification and submit it to the UN Secretary-General. The Secretary-General will next send the proposed amendment to the States Parties, asking them to indicate whether they support holding a conference of States Parties to discuss and vote on the proposals. The Secretary-General shall call the conference under the auspices of the United Nations if, within four months of the date of such communication, at least one-third of the States Parties support it. Any amendment that receives the support of the majority of the States Parties in attendance and participating in the conference is sent to the General Assembly for approval.
2. After being ratified by two-thirds of the States Parties and the General Assembly of the United Nations, a modification adopted in accordance with paragraph 1 of this article will come into effect.

3. When an amendment comes into effect, it will only apply to the States Parties that have accepted it; all other States Parties will continue to be bound by the terms of the current Convention and any earlier modifications they have accepted.

Article 51

1. The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall receive and communicate to all States the text of reservations made by States at the time of ratification or accession.

2. No reservation may be made that contradicts the intention and goals of the current Convention.

3. Reservations may be canceled at any time by notifying the UN Secretary-General, who will thereafter inform all States, in a communication. Upon receipt by the Secretary-General, such notification shall take effect.

Article 52

A State Party may notify the UN Secretary-General in writing that it is rejecting the current Convention. The denunciation takes effect a year after the Secretary-General receives the notification.

Article 53

The current Convention designates the Secretary-General of the United Nations as its depositary.

Article 54

The current Convention's original copy, of which the texts in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, and Spanish are all equally authentic, should be deposited with the UN Secretary-General. The undersigned plenipotentiaries have signed the present Convention in their capacity as lawfully authorized representatives of their respective governments.

1/ In its resolution 50/155 on December 21, 1995, the General Assembly authorized changing the word "ten" to the word "eighteen" in Article 43, paragraph 2, of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The amendment became effective on November 18, 2002, after being approved by 128 out of 191 States parties, or 2/3 of the States parties.