



Causes and Solutions for Child Labour: A Situational Analysis of Sargodha District

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Abstract

This abstract provides an analysis of the causes and potential solutions for child labour in the Sargodha District. The identified root causes include poverty, limited access to education, and cultural norms that perpetuate the cycle of exploitation. To effectively address this issue, a multi-faceted approach is recommended. This includes implementing poverty alleviation programs to provide financial support to vulnerable families, enhancing access to quality education to ensure children have alternative opportunities, and enforcing labour laws rigorously to protect children from exploitation. Community engagement and awareness-raising campaigns are also crucial to changing societal attitudes towards child labour. By implementing these strategies, Sargodha District can create a safer and more conducive environment for children to thrive, free from the burden of exploitation, and with access to opportunities for holistic development.

Keywords: *child, labour, Causes, Poverty, Lack of education, Weak legislation, Exploitation, Socio-economic factors, Family dynamics*



Introduction:

The issue of child labour in the Sargodha District of Pakistan is a major concern, reflecting larger societal and economic challenges (Sardeshmukh, Sharma, & Golden, 2012). This thesis examines the complex factors driving child labour and offers practical solutions to address this critical issue. By analyzing the socio-economic dynamics, cultural norms, and institutional frameworks unique to the Sargodha District, the research aims to uncover the root causes of child labour practices. Through thorough analysis, this study aims to provide evidence-based insights crucial for policymakers, stakeholders, and advocates to develop targeted interventions and policies. Ultimately, by understanding the complexities of child labour in this specific context, this research aims to contribute to the broader discussion on child rights and welfare, working towards a future where every child in Sargodha District can thrive in a safe and supportive environment.

Significance of the Study

The study "The causes and solutions for child labour: An analysis of Sargodha District" holds great significance as it aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of the factors driving child labour in a specific geographical context. Sargodha District, located in Pakistan, faces challenges related to child labour, and this research aims to uncover the underlying causes and identify viable solutions (ILO, 2020). By analyzing the unique socio-economic, cultural, and educational factors prevalent in Sargodha District, this study can provide valuable insights into the field of child labour research (Biggeri et al., 2016).



Furthermore, the findings of this study can have practical implications for policymakers, NGOs, and community organizations working to eradicate child labour. By understanding the root causes specific to Sargodha District, stakeholders can design targeted interventions that address the local context effectively (Nieuwenhuys, 2016). This research can also serve as a basis for future studies on child labour, both in Pakistan and globally, providing a framework for understanding the complex interplay of factors that lead to child labour (Anker, 2018). Overall, this study has the potential to make a significant contribution to the field of child labour research and to inform policy and practice aimed at combating child labour in Sargodha District and beyond.

Objectives of the Study:

1. To identify the economic causes of child labour in Sargodha District.
2. To identify the social and cultural factors of child labour.
3. To contribute to the ground-level understanding of child labour and its effects on society, and inform policy and advocacy efforts to combat child labour in Sargodha.

Research questions:

Child labour:

Child labour is the employment of children in work that deprives them of their childhood, interrupts their ability to attend school, and is harmful to their mental, physical, social, or moral well-being. This includes hazardous work, work that interferes with education, or work that is detrimental to health and development.



Causes of child labour:

The underlying factors leading to child labour can vary widely and may include poverty, lack of access to education, cultural attitudes, lack of enforcement of child labour laws, displacement due to conflict or natural disasters, and societal demand for cheap labour.

Solution for child labour:

Strategies, policies, and interventions to address and eliminate child labour may involve legislative measures, educational initiatives, social welfare programs, economic empowerment of families, enforcement of child protection laws, awareness campaigns, and community mobilization efforts.

Analysis of Sargodha district:

Analyzing the specific context of Sargodha District in relation to child labour entails examining demographic factors, economic conditions, educational infrastructure, cultural norms, government policies and initiatives, prevalence and types of child labour, and existing efforts to combat child labour within the district.

Background of the study:

Child labour remains a persistent global issue with profound implications for the well-being and development of children, their families, and society at large. Despite progress, millions of children worldwide continue to be subjected to exploitative and hazardous forms of labour, depriving them of their fundamental rights and opportunities for a better future. In the context of Pakistan and specifically the Sargodha District, child labour is



a complex and multifaceted challenge intertwined with socioeconomic, cultural, and institutional factors. Understanding the causes and consequences of child labour in Sargodha District is crucial for formulating effective interventions and policies. Conducting a comprehensive analysis of the local context, including demographic trends, economic conditions, educational infrastructure, and existing legal and institutional frameworks, is essential. This study aims to shed light on the root causes of child labour and identify viable solutions to mitigate its prevalence and impact through empirical research and data-driven insights.

Statement of the problem and justification:

In Pakistan, child labour is a widespread issue, with an estimated 12.5 million children aged between five and fourteen engaged in some form of economic activity. This not only violates human rights but also poses a severe threat to the physical, emotional, and psychological well-being of children. The problem is deeply rooted in Pakistan's socio-economic system, characterized by poverty, illiteracy, and lack of awareness about children's rights. This article will delve into the issue of child labour in Sargodha, exploring its causes and consequences. It will also examine the measures taken by the Pakistani government and other organizations to address this problem.

Consequences of child labour in Sargodha:

The causes of child labour in Sargodha are multifaceted and interconnected. Poverty is the primary factor driving children to work, as many families cannot afford to send their children to school. Additionally,



the lack of access to education in Pakistan has led to an estimated 22.8 million children being out of school, leaving them with limited opportunities to acquire skills and knowledge. Cultural norms also play a role, as some areas expect children to contribute to the family's income from a young age, perpetuating the cycle of poverty and child labour.

The consequences of child labour in Sargodha are profound, with children being deprived of their basic rights, including education, health care, and a safe environment. They are also vulnerable to physical and emotional abuse, exploitation, and hazardous working conditions.

Child labour has long-term effects on children's physical and mental health. Children who work in hazardous industries such as mining, agriculture, and manufacturing are exposed to toxic substances and dangerous machinery, leading to injuries, illness, and even death. They are also at risk of developing chronic diseases such as lung cancer and respiratory illnesses. Child labour negatively impacts children's education, as working children are often forced to drop out of school or miss classes, hindering their academic progress. This lack of education limits their employment opportunities and perpetuates the cycle of poverty.

Govt and NGOs effort to combat child labour:

The Pakistani government has taken several measures to combat child labour. In 2017, the government launched the National Action Plan for the Elimination of Child Labor, which aims to eradicate child labour by 2025. The plan includes measures such as strengthening labour laws,



increasing penalties for violators, and providing education and vocational training for children.

The government has also implemented the Bonded Labor System (Abolition) Act of 1992, which prohibits bonded labour and provides legal protection for workers. The law has helped to reduce bonded labour in some areas, but its enforcement remains weak in many parts of the country. Several NGOs and international organizations are also working to combat child labour in Pakistan. The International Labor Organization (ILO) has launched several initiatives to address child labour, including the South Asia Sub-Regional Program to Combat Child Labor and the Global Action Program on Child Labor.

Other organizations, such as the Society for the Protection of the Rights of the Child (SPARC), the Child Rights Movement (CRM), and the Pakistan Institute of Labor Education and Research (PILER), are working to raise awareness about child labour and provide education and support to working children and their families.

Conclusion

In conclusion, this study contributes to our understanding of the complex phenomenon of child labour in Sargodha District. Our findings highlight the interplay of economic, social, and legal factors, underscoring the need for comprehensive and coordinated efforts to address this persistent challenge. Moving forward, future research should continue to explore innovative approaches to combatting child labour and promoting the rights and well-being of children in vulnerable communities.