

GLOBALIZATION IS A BLESSING OR CURSE FOR THE CHILD LABOR: A CASE STUDY OF PAKISTAN

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Abstract:

The prevalence of child labor is one of the most serious issues confronting the entire world, particularly developing countries like Pakistan. Child labor is frequently required due to financial constraints on the part of the parents. As a result of the rapid population growth, the primary causes of child labor are widespread unemployment and underemployment among the adult impoverished population. A variety of factors contribute to child labor, including large, low-income households that frequently lack access to educational resources, parental illiteracy and ignorance of the value of education and the effects of labor on their children's health. However, as time has passed, a global recognition of the gravity of the problem has emerged. Additionally, the Pakistani constitution pledged to uphold and advance welfare concerns over economic ones. In order to provide us with information on the issue and recommendations for solutions, the Pakistani government has established a number of committees and commissions, some of which are focused especially on the subject of child labor. Modern governments need to have comprehensive and practical policies regarding child labor and child development.

Keywords: Globalization, Child Labor

1. Introduction

Any child not attending school is working as a child. Therefore, any child who is not enrolled in school falls under the definition of child labor, regardless of whether the child works for pay or not,



for the family of another person, or in a hazardous or non-hazardous job (Zhang et al., 2019). Child labor also includes employment for a day wage or on a contract basis. According to the 1948 Factories Act, "anyone under the age of fourteen is to be regarded as a child." Thus, "child labor" refers to any physical labor performed by a kid under the age of 14 in either the organized or unorganized sectors, whether done voluntarily or under constraint (Zhang et al., 2019).

Child labor has become a "harsh reality" on a global scale. Due to poverty, many parents in the country's current state of development are forced to send their children to work to supplement their income and the income derived from child labor, which is insufficient but necessary to support the family (Ahmad, Masood, Gul, Sadiq, & Ansari, 2021). This leads to the "harsh reality" of child labor. This is the child labor "poverty" argument. Though its scope varies from nation to nation, the issue is present in practically every nation on earth. The prevalence of child work is significant in many Third World nations, despite the scarcity of trustworthy data (Radfar, Asgharzadeh, Quesada, & Filip, 2018)

It is very difficult to draw concrete results of the relationship between child labor and globalization because of the fact that there is no serious research work done relating to this relationship (AHMAD et al., 2023). It is clear from the study of different sectors (Glass Bangles, Carpet, Manufacturing of Surgical Instruments, Soccer Balls, Leather Tanneries, Child Trafficking Industries and Debt bondage) that under the era of globalization it becomes very difficult for the perpetrators to use and exploit children as laborers. Due to globalization different international agencies like UN agencies, international NGOs, development agencies, foreign governments and big donors including Asian Development Bank and World Bank all are taking interest in the reduction of child labor in different ways (AHMAD et al., 2023). Many other international organizations like UNICEF, ILO and Save the Children are taking an active part by working on this issue with federal and provincial departments, employee associations, unions and NGOs (Ahmad, Arshad, & Anwer).

2. Literature Review

2.1. Globalization

Globalization is defined as the process of interaction and integration among people, businesses, and governments from various countries (Chiu, Gries, Torelli, & Cheng, 2011). Globalization involves the movement of technologies, goods, services, cultural forms, ideas, and people around the world. It accelerates the transnational exchange of ideas, languages, and popular cultures (AHMAD et al., 2023). It also promotes the infiltration of capitalist values, neoliberal economic ideas, and instrumental rationality into traditional communities (Leung, Qiu, & Chiu, 2014). Despite being a popular research topic in the social sciences, globalization has received little attention in psychology (Marsella, 2012). Nonetheless, recent globalization psychological research encourage psychologists to use a naturalistic perspective on human behavior and an integrated approach to individual, institutional, and social transformation (Diaz & Zirkel, 2012; Prilleltensky, 2012). These research efforts have also influenced certain psychologists to adopt a poly culturalism approach to



culture, which sees societies as interconnected structures instead of autonomous, static units (Morris, Chiu, & Liu, 2015).

Globalization is a multifaceted concept that encompasses numerous issues (Prilleltensky, 2012). How do laypeople categories and assess these issues? In the United States, Taiwan, Hong Kong, and Mainland China, ethnographic research has found 26 items that are strongly linked with globalization. The World Trade Organization, McDonald's, the United Nations, Facebook the Olympics, global warming, and other items are among them. (AHMAD et al., 2023). People in these four regions categories these items into five groups: (1) worldwide consumer brands; (2) technological advances; (3) individuals movement; (4) emergencies; and (5) global trade and regulatory agencies (Yang et al., 2011). Individuals from every region assessed the most globalization-related objects as having a greater positive impact on competence than comfort (Yang et al., 2011). While asked to evaluate the effect of each of these things on the community as a whole along the two primary elements related to social understanding: ability and comfort (Fiske, Cuddy, Glick, & Xu, 2018). In accordance to a prevalent folk theory of social evolution, as a society advances from a traditional community to an advanced one, its people become more skilled while becoming less dependable and friendly (Kashima et al., 2009).

2.2. Child Labor

Child labor is referred to as work that hinders children of their infancy, respect, and interest, whereas being negative to their mental and physical development. Child labor creates problem in a number of ways, including health and physical integrity of the effected children, downward pressure on adult wages and welfare (Arat, 2002). Globalization's impact on child labor has started to flash both academic and public debate, and has become a passionate issue because it brings together organized labor concerned with protecting jobs, and people afraid about exploitation of children on ethical and moral grounds (Basu, 1999). To remain competitive in the international market, the myth that child labor is essential is unfounded. Although the prevalence of child labor is not the reason to attract the foreign direct investment nor it creates competitive advantage to the developing countries but it hampers its human development by producing unskilled labor force. Under the era of globalization there is a great role of human rights activism and media to reduce child labor (AHMAD et al., 2023).

Research in Vietnam at Dartmouth College also supported the hypothesis that globalization is the reason to reduce child labor. This research was about the impact of rice prices on the rate of child labor. The result of this research suggested that as a result of trade liberalization, rice price of Vietnam was increased by 30 percent between 1993 and 1998 and child labor rate was reduced by 9-percentage-point (Emerson, Ponczek, & Souza, 2017). In this case less child labor is associated with greater market integration. In recent times child labor has received more consideration due to the wide spread global awareness campaigns. Carpet and football industries together with the child trafficking are particularly some evident examples of international media projection. With the awareness of child labor in the western countries, even consumers are taking part to eliminate it by



rejecting the products produced by the involvement of child labor. It is visible in the case of the hand-woven carpet industry (Emerson et al., 2017). Consumers of the west campaign against acquiring of carpets woven by child labor. These campaigns successfully shortened their sales and exerting intense pressure on producers. These producers are determined to abolish child labor due to the threat of loss of their export markets (Radfar et al., 2018).

2.2.1. Ways in which Globalization can affect Child Labor

There are two main ways that globalization might impact child labor. First off, in developing nations, globalization might make it easier for low-income households to find work and raise their income. Local markets are altered by globalization, perhaps leading to an increase or decrease in child labor. Second, globalization has led to a greater degree of developed countries' influence over the internal policies of developing nations (AHMAD et al., 2023). The value or demand for the exports of developing nations, as well as foreign investment inflows, may drive up earnings and employment in these nations. When a nation opens up to the outside world, foreign investment frequently—though not always—enters the market, increasing demand for local labor and driving up wages (Basu & Tzannatos, 2003). Furthermore, a lot of developing nations have comparative advantages in agriculture, and unrestricted trade may raise export prices in accordance with global standards. In this sense, these agricultural export sectors' employment and salaries may increase as a result of integration into global markets (Bhalotra & Tzannatos, 2003).

The labor markets of emerging countries may see a rise in child labor due to the changes brought about by globalization. A rise in the opportunities and income available to children may lead to a demand for child labor. Children may be pushed to take over part of the job that their parents did around the house if parents have more earning opportunities. This could have an indirect effect on the kind of work that parents perform (Dinopoulos & Zhao, 2007).

Alternatively, if earning opportunities increase as a result of globalization, child labor might be reduced. If children labor because of poverty, then it is because they cannot afford to pay for their education or to support themselves through employment (Emerson et al., 2017). Some kids may be able to go to school and quit their jobs when a child's income rises as a result of globalization. Parents who choose to send their children to school rather than work may find it advantageous if their income increases. It is possible to replace the money that the children once made with the parents' higher salary. Globalization can assist parents in underdeveloped nations in reducing child labor without requiring foreign assistance, as it can boost earning options for parents (AHMAD et al., 2023).

2.2.2. The world's review of Child Labor

According to International Labor Organization more than 246 million children are working as child laborers. More than 73 million children have age below than 10 years. No country is secure; the developed countries also add more than 2.5 million child laborers. In each year 22000 children die



in work related accidents (Simmons Jr, 2007). Largest number of working children below the age of 14 years is present in Asia-pacific that is approximately 127 million. In sub-Saharan Africa nearly one third of children having age of 14 years or below are child laborers (Simmons Jr, 2007). Formal sector without regulatory or legal protection absorbs the largest number of child laborers: forestry, fishing, agriculture and hunting absorb 70 percent; restaurants and hotels, retail and wholesale swallows 8 percent; manufacturing partner the crime with 8 percent; personal and social service, such as domestic work and community adds 7 percent. Debt bondage, slavery, trafficking, prostitution and other illegal activities adds 8.4 million children worldwide. More than 1.2 million of these children are victim of trafficking (Simmons Jr, 2007).

2.3. Review of Child Labor in Pakistan

According to International Labor Organization statistics 2002, 16% of children having 7 to 14 years of age are child laborers (Mundial, 2004). Majority of the child laborers are working in agriculture, most of the remaining are working in informal non-agricultural activities such as family business or street vending. Children also work in a variety of dangerous sectors, such as coal mining, leather goods tanner's, deep sea fishing, the manufacture of surgical instruments, the manufacture of glass bangles, and the manufacture of bricks (Naseem, 2010). Carpet production and mining, agriculture, and brick making sectors of Pakistan are still having bonded child labor. However, the misuse of children in drug trades and sex is not properly addressed (Dinopoulos & Zhao, 2007).

For child trafficking Pakistan remains as a destination country by providing source and transit for this victims (Naseem, 2010). Girls from Central Asia, Bangladesh, Nepal, Afghanistan, Iran, and Burma are particularly vulnerable to trafficking into Pakistan for bonded labor and sexual exploitation (Kozyr, 2004). Child trafficked from Bangladesh mostly work in sweatshops and manufacturing in Pakistan (Taran & Chammartin, 2002). To serve as a camel jockeys the boys from Pakistan are still continue to be trafficked to Gulf countries however the number is reduced to a great extent due to the severe enforcement efforts done by alarmed governments in both regions (Azam, 2009).

The Ministry of Education developed universal elementary schooling as a goal in the National Education Policy from 1998 to 2000. The gross primary enrollment rate in 2001-2002 was 72 percent. The boys' enrolment was 83 percent and for girls it was 61 percent. However, in the same year the net primary enrollment rate was 42 percent where the girls' net enrollment rate was 38 percent and for boys it was 46 percent (Sajid & Khan, 2016). These ratios are based on formally registered students in primary school therefore may not represent the actual school attendance. Recent statistics for primary school attendance are not available for Pakistan. Unfortunately, some children who attend school are not able to read and write (Yang et al., 2011). The recent government of Pakistan had made elementary and even secondary education compulsory (Naseem, 2010). From 2002 to onwards respective provincial governments announced the provision of free textbooks to the students of Punjab, Sindh, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (I. U. Rehman, Ahmad, Fetuu, & Yusuf, 2021).



Attempts were made for vocational training, technical education and universal primary education, and provision of new programs for child laborers but these are not up to the mark to gain significant success specifically in achieving universal primary education goals (K. U. Rehman, Balooch, & Mustafa, 2015).

2.4. Laws Relating to Child Labor

Under the employment of children act 1991, working of children in processes and occupations posing hazards to their health or dangerous is not allowed. According to the law work day for child is comprised of 7 hours consisting 1-hour break after 3 hours and the work timing should be between 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. There is no permission of overtime and one off day per week is necessary. Employers are required to maintain a register of employment for child labor (van der Zalm, 2008). In the 1995 employment of children rules, the details of health and safety in a child's working environment is given (van der Zalm, 2008). The violations of these laws can result prison up to one year or a fine of 20000 rupees.

Forced labor is not allowed under the constitution of Pakistan and it supplements by the Bonded Labor System Act 1992. The aim of this act was the abolition of bonded labor and cancelation of the remaining debts (Nazar, Raza, Rehman, & Rasmish, 2022). The violation of this act can result 2 to 5 years' prison and fine up to 50,000 rupees (Basu, 1999). The Government of Pakistan passed the Prevention and Control of Human Trafficking and Smuggling Ordinance, which assigns strict penalties for groups or individuals who are involved in trafficking or profiting from such activities (Emerson et al., 2017). Many laws exist but there is a serious problem with the implementations of these laws which creates a huge gap between practice and paper work (Edmonds, 2007).

2.5. Efforts of International Organizational and Government to Combat Child Labor

To combat child labor, the Pakistani government has implemented a National Policy and Implementation Plan. The primary goal of this plan is to eliminate the worst forms of child labor immediately and to achieve a child labor-free environment. Education is being used as an alternative to prevent children from entering the labor market (Ul-Haq, Khanum, & Raza Cheema, 2020). To promote schooling and evacuate children from the job market, The National Commission for Child Welfare and Development is in the position of overseeing the National Project on Child Labor Rehabilitation (Khan, Khan, & Sattar, 2010). 87 informal education centers are operating under Pakistan Bait-ul-mal for providing education to children across the country (Mansuri, 2006). The organization is also providing school uniforms, nutritious meals, free books and a stipend to 5 lac girls in 26 poorest districts of Pakistan. These organizations help in removal of children from dangerous work environment and provide them primary and elementary education, technical training, and stipends to attract children towards education (Iram & Fatima, 2008).



The government of Pakistan is also a partner of the ILO's International Program on the Elimination of Child Labor (ILO-IPEC) targeting rehabilitation and removal of child labor in six identified sectors of Pakistan. These sectors include surgical instruments manufacturing, deep sea fishing/sea food processing, tanneries, coal mining, scavenging, and glass bangle making (Hafeez & Hussain, 2019). For prevention, withdrawal and rehabilitation of child laborers International Labor Organization is supporting many active projects in Pakistan (Ahmed, 2012). Elimination of child labor in football stitching and carpet weaving has been the main focus of these programs (Ahmed, 2012). Many International Labor Organization action plans are working against child labor and helped to coordinate the efforts of different stake holders, including NGOs, government organizations, employers' bodies, trade unions, and other interested bodies (Hafeez & Hussain, 2019). With the cooperation of the government of Pakistan, United States Department of Labor (DOL) funded 5 million USD in 2001-2002 for the purpose of elimination of children of Punjab from hazardous labor and provision of education and training services (Hafeez & Hussain, 2019). The almost same project was again funded by United States Department of Labor (DOP) in 2005 to "Mitigate Child Labor through Education in Pakistan" in FATA, Baluchistan and NWFP.

For the improvement of education specifically among children of age 5-14 years' programs in Punjab includes, free of cost textbooks up to grade 5, recruitment of 16000 primary and secondary level school teachers, stipends to girls, and the establishment of monitoring teams at district levels. 56 vocational training centers are administered by The Central Zakat Council which not only provide monthly stipend to children for attendance but also bonus of 5000 rupees on completion of course (Latif, Ali, & Zafar, 2018). The World Bank is also providing extensive support to the government of Pakistan to amplify its eligibility for fast track financing for education. For the encouragement of the girls' education the Sind province and Southern Punjab are receiving funds from Asian Development Bank (Latif et al., 2018).

For determining that these all international organizations mentioned above and their efforts are actually reducing the child labor in Pakistan by attracting the school age children towards schools, the data of Child Labor and Children out of school from World Bank's Development Indicators and International Labor Organization. Data relating to children out of school is available from 2002 to 2012 and the data of Child Labor of Pakistan is available for only 3 years including 2002, 2008 and 2011. Because of the unavailability of data of child labor for all the years starting from 2002 to 2012. The data of children out of school was collected and it is established from the literature that the child labor participation rate and primary school non-attendance rate are positively related (Cigno, Rosati, & Guarcello, 2002). So, if the number of children out of school is decreasing from 2002 to onwards then we can say the child labor is also decreasing. Here the out of school children means the number of school age children not enrolled in primary or secondary school and child labor means children in employment, total (percentage of children ages 7-14).

It is clear from the table that the number of children out of school is continuously decreasing from 2002 to 2012. In 2002, 8.80 million school age children were not enrolled in any primary or

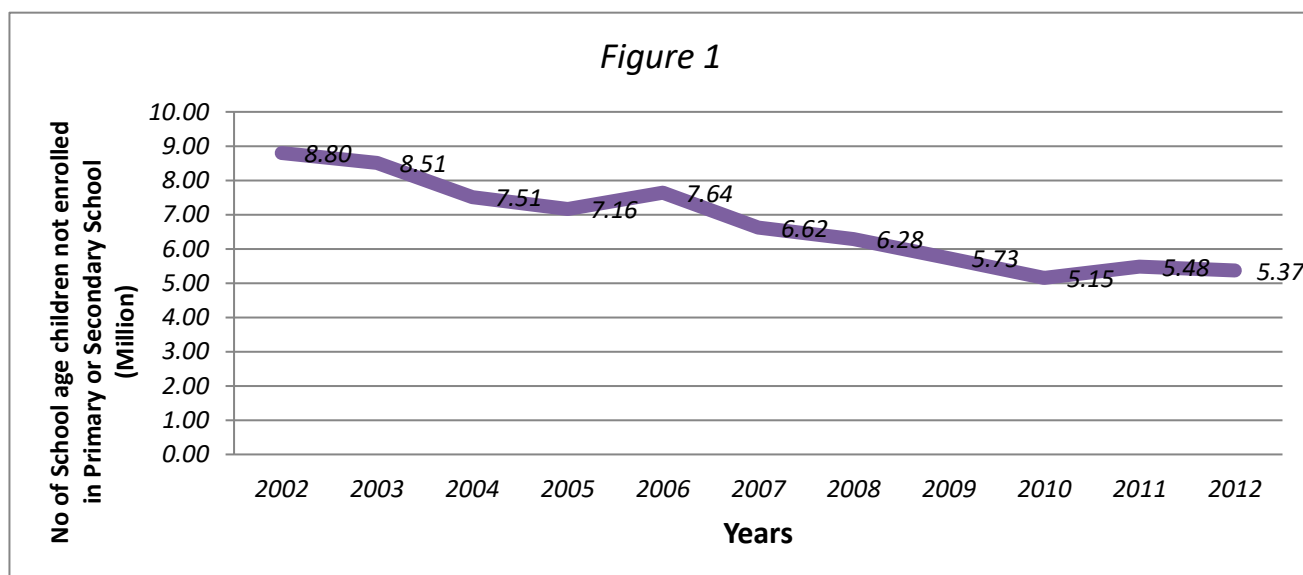


secondary school and in 2012 this figure decreased to 5.37 million. The figure below is also showing continuous decreasing trend in the number of school age children not enrolled in primary or secondary school. So we can conclude that with the decrease in the number of school age children not enrolled in school the child labor is also decrease because there is positive relationship among them (Cigno et al., 2002).

Table 1

Years	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
No of School age children not enrolled in Primary or Secondary School (Million)	8.80	8.51	7.51	7.16	7.64	6.62	6.28	5.73	5.15	5.48	5.37

Source: World Bank’s Development Indicators



Source: World Bank’s Development Indicators

The data of child labor is also showing a decreasing trend from 2002 to 2011. The direct data of child labor of Pakistan is not available for all the years because of no serious and comprehensive research is done in this regard and due to a large informal sector. But the available data of 3 years shows that in 2002 child labor was 16 percent (% of children ages 7-14) and in 2011 it was 13 percent so child labor is reducing by 3 percent from 2002 to 2011.

Table 2

Years	2002	2008	2011
Children in employment, total (% of children ages 7-14)	16	15.9	13

Source: World Bank’s Development Indicators



3. Methodology

Content analysis is performed in this research project to pinpoint particular themes, topics, and terms within the previously published literature. For identifying and measuring the relationships between specific concepts, this method is helpful. The sources of data for this methodology could include open-ended questions, interviews, field notes, and any language used for communication, including novels, newspapers, essays, and historical documents. Conceptual and relational analysis are the two types of content analysis.


The conceptual analysis explains where and how frequently concepts appear in a text. Relational analysis, on the other hand, encourages conceptual analysis by examining the relationships between concepts in a text. Relational analysis was used in this study to determine how concepts in a text related to one another. Before the text was condensed into patterns and categories, relational analysis was used to identify the type of analysis. Finally, the relationship between concepts was investigated (Lindgren, Lundman, & Graneheim, 2020).


4. Conclusion

Attempts have been made by the government of Pakistan, in collaboration with many international organizations, for vocational training, technical education, and universal primary education, as well as the provision of new programs for child labors, but these have not been successful because hundreds of thousands of children remain out of school and working as child labors. Almost all major projects to save society from this evil are foreign funded, but these cannot reach the large population involved in child labor. The National Policy and Action Plan to Combat Child Labor was approved in 2000 with the goal of completely eliminating child labor, but it has yet to be fully implemented. There should be no disconnect between words and actions. To accomplish this, both preventive and corrective measures should be used. Preventive measures should aim to reduce supply at the source through quality education and awareness campaigns. Concurrently, corrective strategies should include efficient monitoring for the systematic elimination of child labor, effective implementation of established laws to prevent recruitment, and appropriate policy reforms.

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