

## ***Short Communication***

# **Child Labor in Automobile Workshops in District Faisalabad, Pakistan**

SUMAIRA ANWAR, M. ASGHAR CHEEMA AND RUMA YOUSAF

*Department of Rural Sociology, University of Agriculture, Faisalabad-38040, Pakistan*

## **ABSTRACT**

This study was carried out in Faisalabad (Pakistan) with an objective to find out the social and economic causes of child labor at automobile workshops. The data was collected through interviews from 150 conveniently selected children. In this paper, the causes of child labor have been identified and measures to reduce this curse have been suggested.

**Key Words:** Child labor; Automobile workshop; Pakistan

## **INTRODUCTION**

Children are among the most neglected segments of world citizenry. About 45% of the children under age of five in developing countries are living in absolute poverty. The protection of most vulnerable and particularly growing minds and bodies of young children is both a moral imperative and a practical precondition for sustained economic and social progress.

Child labor is still very much a part of every underdeveloped country. Innocent children can be seen working in motor workshops or collecting waste paper from amongst the big mounds of trash. Child labor has assumed epidemic proportion in Pakistan. The statistics are unreliable, but the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP) last year estimated the number of Pakistani working children to be "realistically in the range of 11-12 million".

The objectives of this study were to, i) identify the social and economic causes of child of labor, ii) find the aspiration of working children, iii) pin point the main problems of working children, iv) suggest measures to reduce the child labor in Pakistan.

## **METHODOLOGY**

Present study is a sociological study of child labor with special reference to children working in automobile workshops of Faisalabad District. The universe selected for the present study was district Faisalabad including: automobile workshops located on Satyana Road, Jhang Road and Sammandri Road. A sample refers to small

representation of the universe. For study purpose, 150 respondents (children) were conveniently selected from different auto-mobile workshops.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

Majority (69.3%) of the respondents working in automobile workshops fell in the age group of 8 to 12 years and 30.7% were 13-18 years old. The data in the It was found that 34.7% of the respondents were doing labor due to poverty and 21.3% to support their large families, 15% due to death of their parents and 28.7% because of their own will. The data show that the majority of the children have been working on the ground of poverty and death of parents. As far as will of work by the respondents, 54% did labor willfully, while 46% did unwillingly their work. The data on future plan of the respondents indicated that 29.3% wanted to study in their future, while 37.3% wanted to start their own business, and 33.3% wanted to go abroad to make their future successful.

## **REFERENCES CONSULTED**

- Akhlaque, A., 1990. "Hope on the way", Daily The Nation, 16 March, 1990  
Jonathan S., 1996. Child Labor in Pakistan. The Atlantic Monthly, February, 1996  
Silvers, S., 2003. Child labor in Pakistan. The Atlantic Monthly/Digital Edition, 08 July, 2003

(Received 01 November 2003; Accepted 20 December 2003)