



Socioeconomic and Parental Determinants of Child Labor in Automobile Workshops

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ARTICLE INFO	ABSTRACT
<p>Article History: Received: February 18, 2025 Revised: March 14, 2025 Accepted: March 17, 2025 Available Online: March 19, 2025</p> <hr/> <p>Keywords: Descriptive Statistics, Child Labor, Demography, Socio-Economic Factors, Poverty</p> <hr/> <p>Corresponding Author: Moeeba Rind Email: moeeba21229@abasyn.edu.pk</p>	<p>Beyond poverty, demographic, socioeconomic, and parental factors also have an impact on child labor. It is a multifaceted problem that differs depending on the culture and setting. The relationship between child labor and exploitation is not always clear-cut; rather than making generalizations, more in-depth research is needed to pinpoint the underlying causes and put specific solutions in place. This study focuses on the study of child labor working in automobile workshops. This study used the primary data, descriptive statistics, mean percentage, bar chart and pie chart were used to investigate the child labor working in automobile workshop. This study found that parent behavior, level of parent education, poor economic condition, lack of parentage, family monthly income, number of working person in a family factors have statistically significant effect on child labor. The respondents are not studying due to bad economic condition and other respondents are not studying due to lack of interest. Also concluded that most of the respondents are live with their parents and other respondents are live with their co-workers. Many respondent's mothers are illiterate and some respondent's mothers are literate means mothers were middle educated that is why the child labor is increasing day by day.</p>



Introduction

The problem of child labor remains a pressing problem in much of the world today. It means that child labor is a worldwide phenomenon. According to the encyclopedia of social sciences defines child labor as "when the business of wage earning or of participation in self or of family supports

conflict directly or indirectly with the business of growth and education, the result is child labor. The developing countries including Pakistan have been facing the crisis of child labor. The rate of population growth and population age structure of any country is essentially conducive to condition for massive and wide spread of child labor. The issue of child labor is a long standing problem in the country and increasingly rapidly child labor in Pakistan is mostly in employed informal sector, which is generally defined by the size of its establishment the size of workshop. The young boys associated with these small machine shops, automobile workshops and other business a mostly working for the purpose of learning some skills or to support the income of family. Generally, the parents are of the view that it is necessary for them to learn skill of a profession which will be eventually enabling them to earn bread and butter for a responsible living. This is because they do not for see any future elsewhere due to ever increasing unemployment or under employment in Pakistan. Children participate fully in every activity of the informal sector like workshop, small scale industries, leather work, carpet weaving center cheap hotels, garages, domestic servants etc. In addition, many children are self-employed hawking cheap goods, shining shoes or collecting waste material.

Literature Review

Beyond poverty, demographic, socioeconomic, and parental factors also have an impact on child labor. It is a multifaceted problem that differs depending on the culture and setting. The relationship between child labor and exploitation is not always clear-cut; rather than making generalizations, more in-depth research is needed to pinpoint the underlying causes and put specific solutions in place. Child labor is a significant concern in the media, academia, and professions [1]. Investigation is necessary into the worldwide problem of child labor. Through a variety of activities, children support home economies, frequently at the price of their growth, education, and general well-being [2]. According to the International Labour Organization (ILO), child labor is detrimental to all children under the age of 18, whether they are working or living at home. Many elements, including race, climate, societal conventions, economic situations, educational systems, and legal frameworks, influence what constitutes a "child." Whether child labor has a beneficial or negative effect depends on the child's age, the surroundings, and the working conditions [3].

The idea that paid and unpaid child labor are different is a prevalent one. However, the ILO claims that while child labor is illegal under international labor standards, it entails economic activity that does not cause physical or mental hardship. 90% of the world's juvenile labor force is found in Asia and Africa, the most economically active region in the world. Unfavorable circumstances are faced by over 60% of child laborers worldwide. Nigeria employs 12 million youngsters, compared to 44 million in India [4]. The 1973 constitution of Pakistan forbids minors under the age of 14 from engaging in dangerous work. 40 million economically engaged children between the ages of 5 and 14 were identified in a 1996 nationwide study conducted by the ILO and the Federal Bureau of Statistics; 27% of these children were females and 73% were boys [5]. According to the poll, the majority of child laborers are employed in agriculture; 46% of them put in more than 35 hours a week at their jobs, and 33% never went to school [6]. Low socioeconomic position, a poor educational system, ignorant household heads, and big family sizes are some of the main causes of child labor in Pakistan [7]. Political unrest and economic challenges make the problem worse by causing many kids to drop out of school in order to meet their fundamental requirements. The abilities and potential of a country's youth determine its destiny. Poverty is the main cause of high school dropout rates and child labor in emerging nations. Lack of interest in education, unemployment, low economic position, illiteracy, and big family size were all recognized as major contributing factors in Panigrahi's study conducted in rural Orissa, India [8]. According to Emerson and Knabb, child work is frequently a custom that has been carried down through the

centuries [9]. Strict anti-child labor regulations and legislation requiring compulsory education, they warned, may unintentionally exacerbate poverty and wealth inequality and hence encourage child labor [10]. According to Ahmad's study in Aligarh, which was based on 360 samples, the majority of working children's parents were unemployed or had unstable jobs; the main causes of child labor were poverty (25%), parental pressure (17%), lack of interest in school (15%), family support (11%), and being the only provider (6%) Siddiqi's study in Lahore associated child labor with large families, with 40% of the population living below the poverty line; and Ali's study in Swabi, which included 225 respondents, found that 37% of working children had parents in unstable jobs, 70% worked because of low family income, and half had parents making less than PKR 4,000 per month [11-13].

Objectives of the study

1. To know the socio-economic status of the working children in automobile workshops.
2. To study the causes of child labor working in automobile workshops.
3. To study the working condition of child labor in automobile workshops.

Research Methodology

Descriptive Statistics

Descriptive statistics summarize and organize data to provide a clear understanding of its key characteristics. This includes measures such as central tendency, dispersion, and distribution [24-29].

Mean

The mean, also known as the arithmetic average, is a commonly used measure of central tendency. It is calculated by summing all values in a dataset and dividing the total by the number of observations. The formula for the mean is as follows:

$$\bar{X} = \frac{\sum x}{n}$$

Where “n” denoted the number observation and “ $\sum x$ ” denoted the total of samples.

Percentage Distribution

Percentage distribution helps in understanding the proportion of different categories within a dataset. It is obtained by multiplying the relative frequency of a category by 100. The resulting percentage values provide insights into the distribution of data across various groups.

Bar Chart

A bar chart is a graphical representation used to compare categorical data. It consists of bars of equal width, with their heights or lengths proportional to the numerical values they represent. This visual tool helps in effectively analyzing and interpreting data trends.

Results and Discussions

This study used the primary data through questionnaire method the data consists of 26 variables this study used the descriptive statistics for the purposes percent and mean and their pie-chart.

Table 4.1: Age and Nationality

Age	Frequency	Nationality	
		Pakistan	Afghanistan
5 - 7	----	----	-----
8 - 10	7 (17%)	6 (85%)	1(14%)
11 – 13	12(30%)	11(92%)	1(8%)
14 – 16	16(40%)	16(100%)	-----
17 – 18	5(12%)	2(40%)	3(60%)
Total	40(100%)	35(88%)	5(12%)

The table 4.1 shows about the age and nationality of the respondents. According to the table, 7 being (17%) were from the age group of (8—10), 12 being (30%) were from the age group of (11—13), 16 being (40%) were from the age group of (14—16), while remaining 5 being (12%) were from the age group of (17—18). The table further shows that 35 being (88%) were Pakistani while remaining 5 being (12%) were Afghani [14].

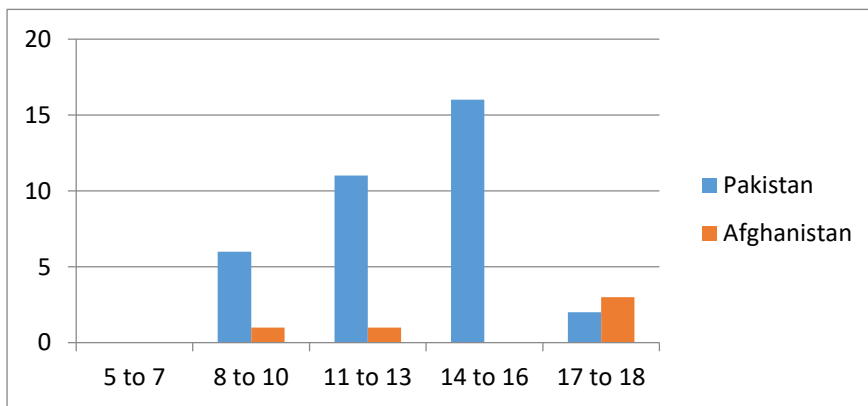


Figure 4.1: Age And Nationality

Table 4.2: Age and Area of Dwelling

Age	Frequency	Area of Dwelling		
		Urban	Rural	Total
5 – 7	-----	-----	-----	-----
8 – 10	7 (17%)	5 (71%)	2(28%)	7 (17%)
11 – 13	12(30%)	3 (25%)	9(75%)	12(30%)
14 – 16	16(40%)	7(44%)	9(56%)	16(40%)
17 – 18	5(12%)	3(60%)	2(40%)	5(12%)
Total	40(100%)	18(45%)	22(55%)	40(100%)

The table 4.2 shows about the age and area of dwelling of the respondents. According to the table, 7 being (17%) were from the age group of (8—10), 2 being (30%) were from the age group of (11—13), 16 being (40%) were from the age group of (14—16), while remaining 5 being (12%) were from the age group of (17—18). The table further shows that 18 being (45%) were from urban area while remaining 22 being (55%) were from rural area [15].

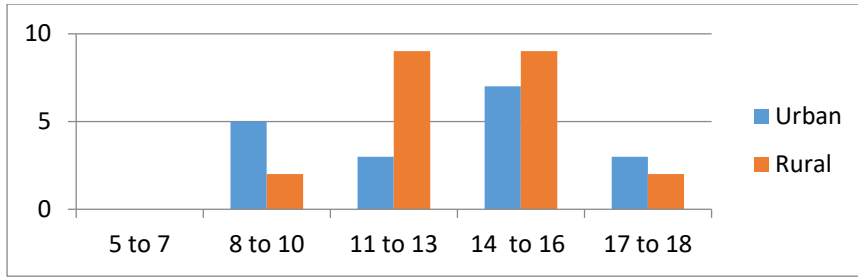


Figure 4.2: Age and Area of Dwelling

Table 4.3: Education Status and Level of Education

Educational Status	Frequency	If educated level of education				Total
		Primary	Middle	Matric	Other	
Literate	20(100%)	20(100%)	-----	-----	-----	20
Illiterate	20(100%)	-----	-----	-----	-----	20
Total	40(100%)	20(100%)	-----	-----	-----	40

The table 3 shows about the education status and level of education of the respondents [28-29]. According to the table, 20 being (50%) were literate, while remaining 20 being (50%) were illiterate. The table further shows that among literate all the respondents were primary educated.

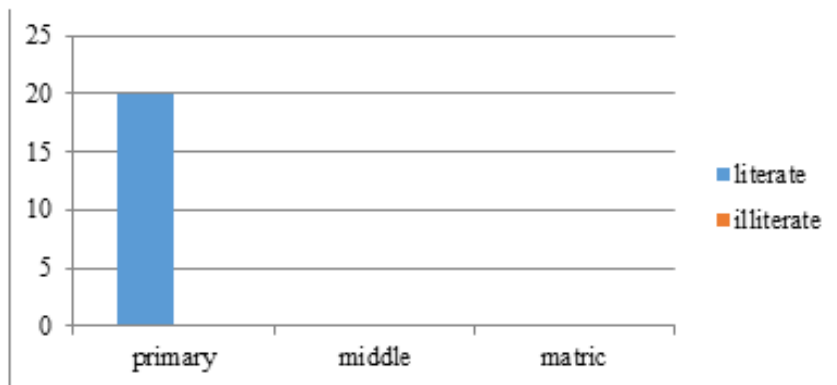


Figure 4.3: Education Status and Level of Education

Table 4.4: Studies of Respondents

Still studying	Frequency	If no then why			
		A	B	C	D
Yes	1(2%)	-----	-----	-----	-----
No	39(97%)	27(69%)	-----	12(31%)	-----
Total	40(100%)	-----	-----	-----	-----

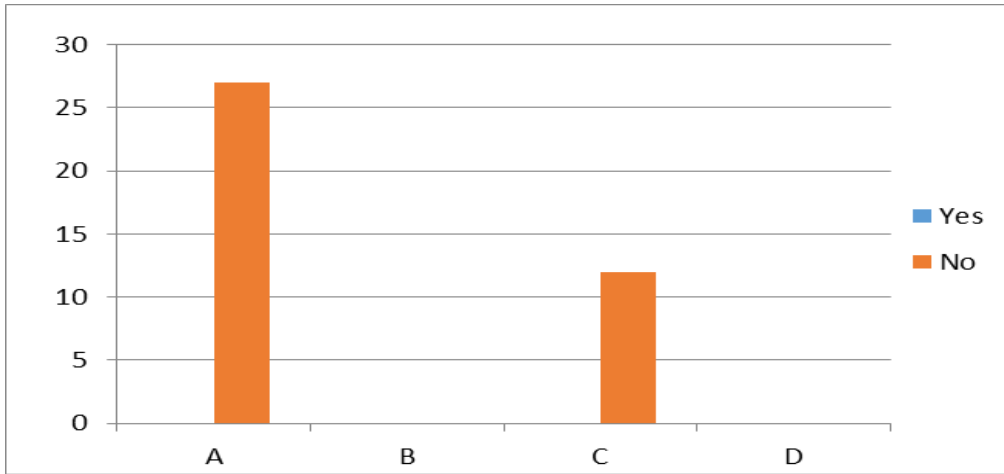


Figure 4.4: Studies of Respondents

Table 4.5: Parents Status and Living Status of Respondents

Parents status	Frequency	Female	Male	If present with whom you live			
				Parents	Relative	Coworker	Total
Alive	40(100%)	40(100%)	40(100%)	39(97%)	-----	1(2%)	40(100%)
Dead	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total	40(100%)	40(100%)	40(100%)	39(97%)	-----	1(2%)	40(100%)

The table 4.5: shows about the parent’s status and living status of the respondents. According to the table, 40 being (100%) respondent’s parents were alive. The table further shows that 39 being (97%) were living with parents while remaining 1 being (2%) were living with co-workers [24-27].

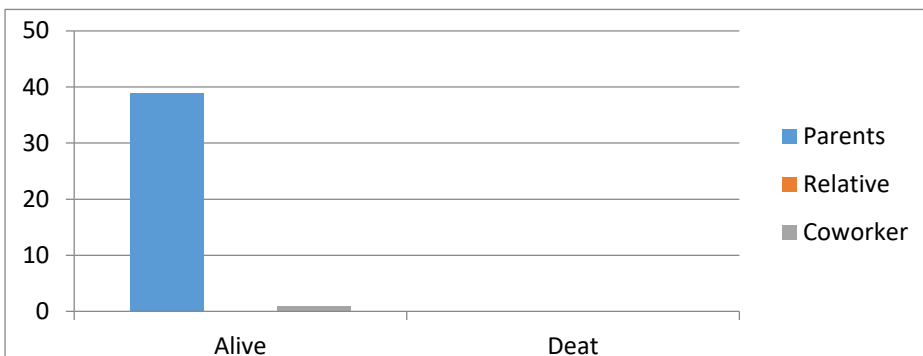


Figure 4.5: Parents Status and Living Status of Respondents

Table 4.6: Parents Educational Status

Level of parents education	Illiterate	Literate	If literate level of education				
			Primary	Middle	Matric	Other	Total
Father	35(87%)	5(12%)	2(40%)	3(60%)	-----	-----	40(100%)
Mother	38(95%)	2(5%)	2(5%)	-----	-----	-----	40(100%)

The table 4.6: shows about the parent’s educational status of the respondents. According to the table, 35 being (87%) fathers were illiterate, while remaining 5 being (12%) were literate. The

table further shows that among 5 literate, 2 being (40%) were primary educated, while remaining 3 being (60%) were middle educated. The table further shows that 38 being (95%) mothers were illiterate, while remaining 2 being (5%) were literate among literate mother.

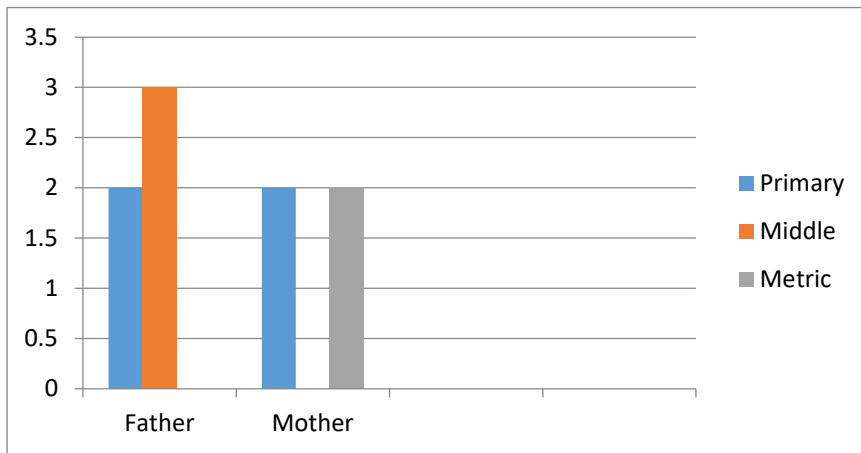


Figure 4.6: Parents Educational Status

Table 4.7: Number of Working Persons

Number of working persons	Frequency	Percentage
1-3	30	75%
4-6	9	22%
7-9	1	2%
10-12	----	----
Total	40	100%

The table 4.7: shows about the number of working persons of the respondent’s family. According to the table, 30 being (75%) respondents were having (1-3) working persons in their family, 9 being (22%) respondents were having (4-6) working persons in their family, while remaining, 1 being (2%) respondents were having (7-9) working persons in their family [18-20].

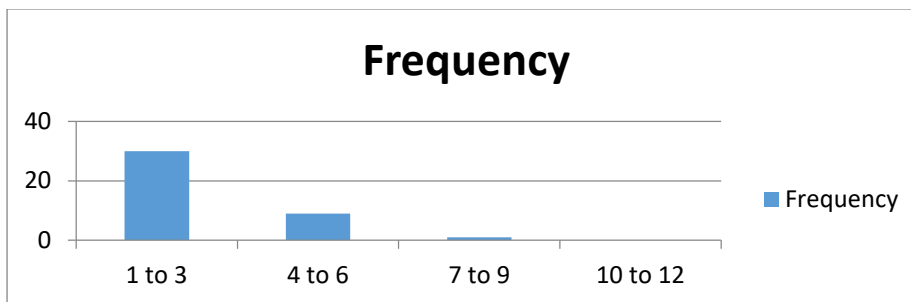


Figure 4.7: Number of Working Persons

Table 4.8: Family Monthly Income

Family monthly income	Frequency	Percentage
Up to 2000	3	7%
2001 – 4000	12	30%
4001 – 6000	12	30%
Above 6000	13	32%
Total	40	100%

The table 4.8: shows about the monthly income of the respondent’s family. According to the table 3 being (7%) families were having their monthly income up to 2000, 12 being (30%) families in each case having their monthly income 2001- 4000 and 4001 – 6000, while remaining 13 being (32%) families were having their monthly income above 6000.

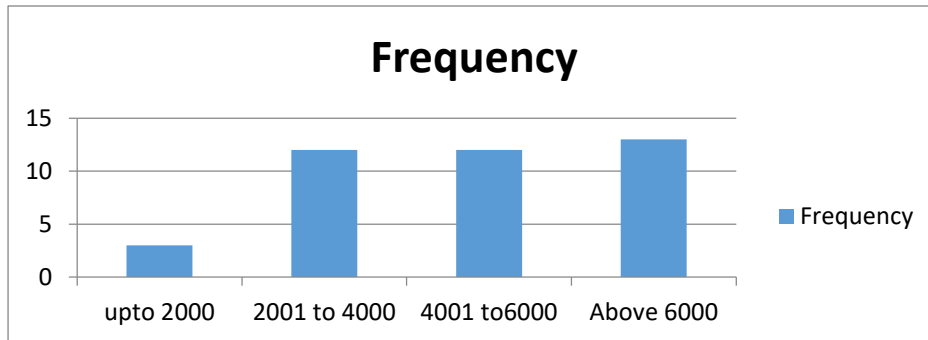


Figure 4.8: Family Monthly Income

Table 4.9: Number of Dependents of the Respondents Family

Number of dependents	Frequency	Percentage
1- 3	1	2%
4- 6	4	10%
7- 9	22	55%
10- 12	13	32%
Total	40	100%

The table 4.9: shows about the number of dependents of the respondents family. According to the table, 1 being (2%) respondents were having (1-3) dependents, 4 being (10%) respondents were having (4-6) dependents, 22 being (55%) respondents were having (7-9) dependents, while remaining 13 being (32%) respondents were having (10 - 12) dependents.

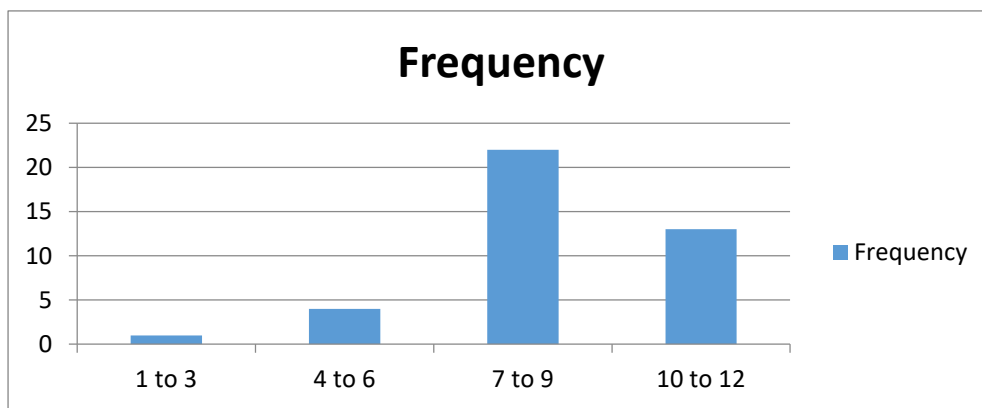


Figure 4.9: Number of Dependents of the Respondents Family

Table 4.10: Parents Occupation

Parents occupation	Not working	Working	If working then in which capacity		
			Employed	Self employed	Total
Father	3(7%)	37(92%)	14(37%)	23(63%)	40(100%)
Mother	40(100%)	-----	-----	-----	40(100%)

The table 4.10: shows parents occupation of the respondents. According to the table, 3 being (7%) fathers was not working, while remaining 37 being (92%) were working, among them 14 being (37%) were employed and 23 being (63%) were self-employed. The table further shows that 40 being (100%) mothers were not working.

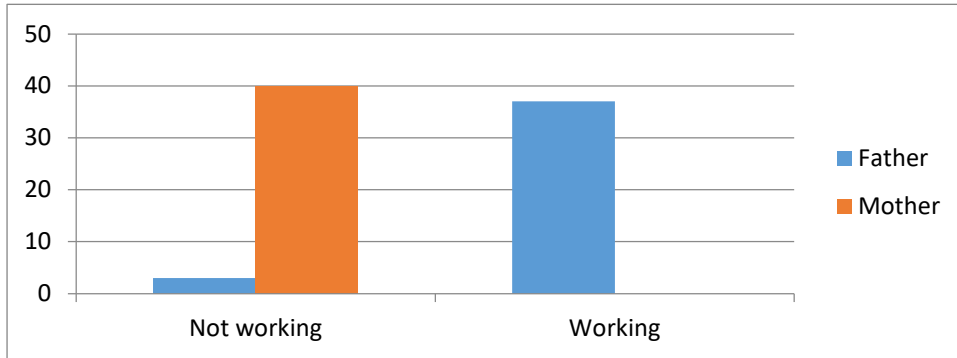


Figure 4.10: Parent Occupation

Table 4.11: Cause of Doing this Job and on Who's Initiative

Cause of doing this job	Frequency	On who's initiative you are working				Total
		Parents	Friends	Own desire	Other	
Poverty	27(67%)	21(78%)	2(8%)	2(8%)	2(8%)	27(67%)
Lack of interest in education	13(32%)	6(46%)	2(15%)	5(38%)	-----	16(46%)
Lack of good technical education	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Any other	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total	40(100%)	27(67%)	4(10%)	7(17%)	2(8%)	40(100%)

The table 4.11: shows about the cause of doing this job and on whose initiative. According to the table, 27 being (67%) were doing this job due to poverty, while remaining 13 being (32%) were doing due to lack of interest in education. The table further shows that 27 being (67%) were doing this job on parents initiative, 4 being (10%) were doing on friends initiative, 7 being (17%) were doing this job on their own desire, while remaining 2 being (8%) were doing on others initiative.

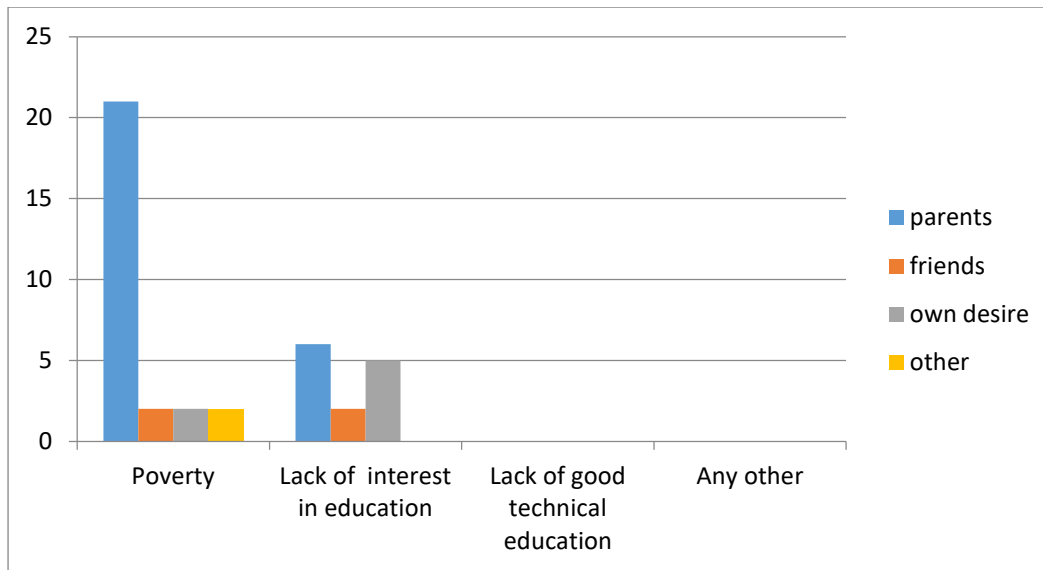


Figure 4.11: Cause of Doing This Job and on Who's Initiative

Table 4.12: Over Work

Do you get over time for work	Frequency	If yes are you paid for that		
		Yes	No	Total
Yes	3(7%)	1(33%)	2(66%)	3(75%)
No	37(92%)	----	-----	-----
Total	40(100%)	1(33%)	2(66%)	3(75%)

The table 4.12: shows about over work of the respondents. According to the table, 3 being (7%) were get over time for work, while remaining 37 being (92%) were not get over time for work. The table further shows that among those respondents who get over time for work, 1 being (33%) were paid for over time, while remaining 2 being (66%) were not paid for over time [16-18].

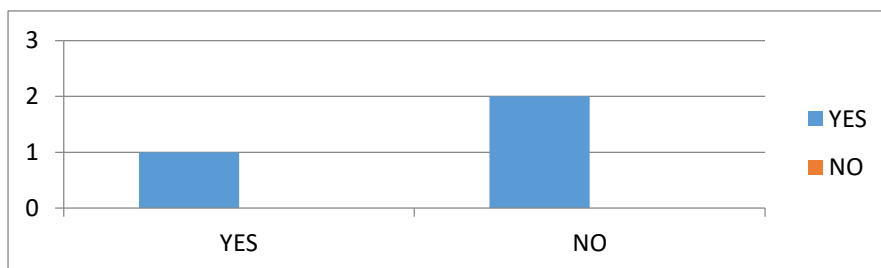


Figure 4.12: Over Work

Table 4.13: Weekly Rest and on time payment

Are you given weekly rest	Frequency	Are you paid on time		
		Yes	No	Total
Yes	39(97%)	1(2%)	39(97%)	40(100%)
No	1(2%)	-----	----	-----
Total	40(100%)	1(2%)	39(97%)	40(100%)

The table 4.13: shows about weekly rest and on time payment of the respondents. According to the table, 39 being (97%) were given weekly rest, while remaining 1 being (2%) was not get weekly rest. The table further shows that 39 being (97%) were not paid on time, while remaining 1 being (2%) was paid on time.

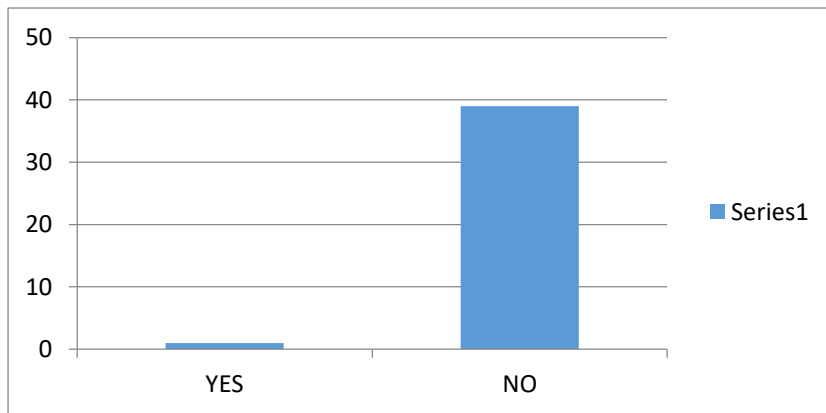


Figure 4.13: Weekly Rest and on Time Payment

Table 4.14: Pocket Money

Do you keep some money as pocket money	Frequency	If yes then how much			Total
		Up to 500	501 - 1000	Above 1000	
Yes	27(67%)	27(100%)	----	----	27(100%)
No	13(32%)	-----	----	----	-----
Total	40(100%)	27(100%)	----	----	27(100%)

The table 4.14: shows pocket money of the respondents. According to the table, 27 being (67%) keeps some income as pocket money, while remaining 13 being (32%) were not keep pocket money. The table further shows that 27 being (100%) were keep pocket money up to 500 [19-23].

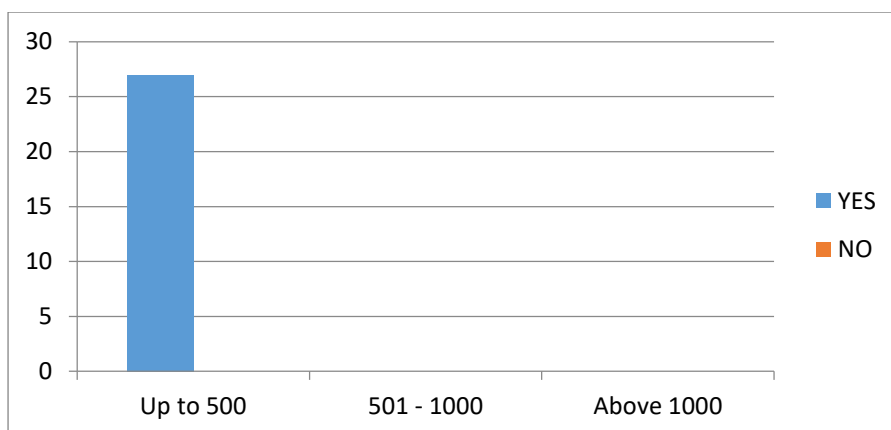


Figure 4.14: Pocket Money

Conclusion

The focus of the study is based on the child labor in Peshawar. We used questionnaire method to conclude our results. We concluded from our research that there is 88% Pakistani and 12%

Afghani in Peshawar. Also concluded that majority of the respondents 45% are from the urban area and another 55% are from the rural area. The education level is not good in these area, all literate respondents are only primary educated. The respondents are not studying due to bad economic condition and other respondents are not studying due to lack of interest. Also concluded that most of the respondents are live with their parents and other respondents are live with the co-workers. Many respondent mothers are illiterate and some respondent mothers are literate means mothers were middle educated that is why the child labor is increasing day by day. Majority of the respondent parents have low income and above from 6000 which is very low that is why parents force their child to work. Majority of the respondent are not dependent and depend on work because their parents are less educated and depends on work. Other respondents do job because of poverty and lack of education. Majority of the respondent were weekly rest and were not paid over time. Also concluded that majority of the respondents are keep income as a pocket money.

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