

## Child labor and its effect on Bangladesh Social system

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Date of Submission: 15-09-2020

Date of Acceptance: 26-09-2020

**ABSTRACT:** The issue of child labor is a socio-economic certainty of Bangladesh. This issue is enormous and cannot ignore. This research indicates the child labor increase in an emerging nation similar to Bangladesh and the constructive and unconstructive effects of child labor on the society. Poverty is the foremost cause for children to become child laborers. The child labor problem has become one of the most remarkable issues in expanding countries such as Bangladesh. Thus, a need to identify the exposed children and point out their problems has come into the light. Many Government and non-government organizations have taken several evolution steps to reduce child labor problems from society. This article made an attempt to exist within side the socio-financial state of affairs of child labor in Bangladesh and to discover how child labor can be decreased gradually. Child labor is a burning problem of the day. When the child labor of the age of 5-14 years has engaged in working for pay or profit or without salary in a family, enterprise, or organization, it is called child labor. Day by day, become a serious socio-economic problem in Bangladesh. It is a curse and a satire to our perfection programs. It has measured as exploitative for the prospect of children and country.

**Keywords:** Child labor, Poverty, Education, Hazardous work, and Child Labor Laws.

### I. INTRODUCTION

Generally, the socio-economic development strategy of Bangladesh has become a model for numerous third world countries. Today's Children will be performing as the driving strength of the development strategy for tomorrow. The real accomplishment towards developing our children and making them worthy of a modern and independent nation is not adequate. Bangladesh has

become the partner of many international, regional and consensual declarations with ratifying the "United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child" (UNCRC) and other significant child labor-related conventions of the International Labour Organization (ILO). They said measures and following steps in this regarding along with the sincere effort of the Government, the fruitful tripartite discussion between Government, employers, and workers, controlled to the withdrawal of working children from the Ready-Made Garments (RMG) industry and that the image of Bangladesh was sustained a lot in the general area. At the time, a substantive fraction of children and adolescents in Bangladesh remain involved in hazardous work. Child labor still prevails in agriculture and further informal areas.

The same situation of Child Labour is adverse for a nation like Bangladesh. The world is changing at a faster pace with taking fantastic development of science and technology and with the emergence of prosperity, state initiating substantial changes in social life and remaining values. Sensible policies, rules, and regulations have formulated equivalent to the amendment of existing laws. In the circumstance of social life evolution and benefits, a social consensus is necessary to save the traditional values from decaying and adapting the adjusted amounts to mitigate the demand of time and accommodate the values created in response to historical changes with regard and sympathy. Nowadays, Child labor in Bangladesh has become very critical. In 2018, approximately 48 percent of the population of Bangladesh was children, 48% of the total child population of Bangladesh works as child labor. The quantity is much higher in the case of boys (22%) than in the case of girls (16%). The people, who are very poor and can't be able to their three times of

food and clothes, become enforced to send their kids and children to do some job at the lowest payment of money as a reserve for sending them to the school for education.

At this age, the Child has to suppose to go to school. Instead, they take up a hammer, basket, rickshaw, or van in their hands and remain unfed, half-clad, and bare-footed. A considerable part of children is engaged in agriculture, other engaged fields and fishing, mining and extracting, restaurants and hotels, storage, transportation, business services, and a lot. Most of them are work as home servants.

As most families have low income, their children forced to do manual labor to support their families. Often employers offer low pay for specific jobs that the grownups do not do. Children do such kinds of situations. Lack of knowledge and lack of concern of the parents towards education is another cause for child labor in Bangladesh. Poverty and unemployment of adults cause their children to get to induce in some types of work in the atomic age at a low cost. So, poverty, exploitation, scarcity, and lack of appropriate monitoring of law are the leading causes of child labor.

Today's Children are the prospect of a country. Laws and enforcement against child labor are inadequate, allowing children to be involved in some kind of job. Poverty and lack of schools are the most important reasons for child labor in any developing country all across the world. In effect, they turn out to be a long-standing burden on the nation. The Government should make stricter laws to exterminate of child labor. So, all citizens must effort against child labor and make sure a serene, carefree, and secure the world. NGOs should pitch into these avenues and empower these children to a brighter future.

## II. OBJECTIVES:

This research paper focuses on the activities of Child labor and its effect on Bangladesh's Social system. The study concentrates on the effect of child labor in Bangladesh and examines the diverse factors concerning child labor. Lastly, provide various kinds of policy statements against child labor in Bangladesh. This research will help to originate policies desired to arbitrate.

The essential points of the objectives are

- i. To determine the primary causes of child labor in Bangladesh.
- ii. To know the strength, the advantage, and disadvantages of the relationship between child labor and child education.

## III. METHODOLOGY

This study based on secondary data, primarily through literature review and collects information from a cross-section of people and experts. The data are relatively consistent and reliable, although there are some discrepancies between government and non-government sources. The emphasis has been on qualitative analysis, but some quantitative data have used to supplement the qualitative analysis.

## IV. LITERATURE REVIEW

Child labor can affect a child in many ways. Prolonged, strenuous hours of activity affect a child 's mental health, physical health, social development, and general well-being and often interfere with his/her education. Child labor simultaneously works long hours and study, experience higher levels of negative attitudes towards school, and decreased school attendance and grades, than before working.

Many children implicated in child labor would technically be measured trafficking. Trafficking of children is the act of recruiting, transporting, transferring, harboring, or getting a child for exploitation. "Exploitation includes, at a minimum, the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual abuse, imposed labor or services, slavery or practices related to slavery, servitude, or the exclusion of organs".

Some parents may allow their children to go with a trafficker; because they are usually known and trusted by the victim 's parents and traffickers generally receive them. About the nature of their children's work will be involved in and the destination they would be gone. Laws and the resolution need to be introduced for a child to be considered a victim of human trafficking. Single-handed children are being migrated using unsafe methods to avail of economic opportunities and are genuinely at risk of human trafficking.

### What is child labor?

Child labor is an occupation that exceeds the lowest number of hours, depending on the age of a child and the type of work. Such work is measured harmful to the Child and may eliminate.

- Age 5 to 11 a minimum of one hour of economic work or 28 hours of homework per week.
- Ages 12-14: a minimum of 14 hours of economic work or 28 hours of homework per week.
- Ages 15-17: a minimum of 43 hours of economic or homework per week.

Source: [www.unicef.org/bangladesh/Child\\_labour](http://www.unicef.org/bangladesh/Child_labour)

The word of child labor is frequently defined as work that deprives children of their childhood, their perspective, and dignity, and is harmful to physical and mental development. The worst methods of child labor contain children enslaved, divided from their families, visible to severe hazards and disorders, and left to fend for themselves on the roads of large cities – often at a very initial age. Whether or not specific forms of “work” can be called “child labor” depends on the Child’s age, the variety and hours of work performed, the conditions under which it has completed, and the objectives followed by individual countries. The Child is mentally and physically risky work affects with schooling and long-term change; the worst forms include slavery, trafficking, sexual abuse, and hazardous work that put children at risk of death, injury, or disease.

Child labor can define as work that deprives children of their childhood, potential, and dignity. It is a dangerous work that exceeds realistic hours and interferes with a child’s education. Child laborers have exposed to abuse, and their families often entangled in a cycle of poverty. In cases, children forced to work under threat of violence or death. Children can fall in poor health and get injured—injuries have been as severe as the defeat of body parts. When children are of a proper age for the task, receive suitable pay, and work in safe environments, they can be considered “willing participants in work.” The children can steadiness work with school and play, and they develop the necessary skills to transition into adulthood.

### **The situation of Child Labour in Bangladesh**

In Bangladesh, a considerable number of children face multi-dimensional forms of abuse of human rights. Most of the South Asian countries, child labor, are also prevailing in Bangladesh. When children taught to go to schools with books, papers, pencils, and play with their friends in childhood, several children have to work for their family livelihoods. While a poor father becomes victim to the curse of persistent poverty, he can’t keep his children safe, embraced, and bonded with family by parental care. Besides these, children are also complicated in the considerable load carrying at the market, the job of a porter, begging, rickshaw pulling, pulling of hand carts, etc.

Statistical surveys endorse that it is a common scenario in Bangladesh for a child to work for pay, or to support a family or business. The country of Bangladesh has the most comprehensive

statistical study conducted on this issue so far revealed that in 2013. The most common hazard the working children face at the workplace includes exposure to dust, fumes, noise, or vibration, and the relevant percentage is 16.86%. Being subject to constant shouting and insult from the employer is reported by 17.1% working children, while 2.5% reported sexual abuse with 5.6% among the female working children. There are 0.12% million child domestic workers in the country and 1.27 million are engaged in agriculture. Female working children constitute the more substantial proportion of the child domestic workers, and those who are only five years old include child domestic workers. 7.4 million children aged 5-17 were working children 15 out of which 3.2 million were working under the circumstances defined as child labor.

The study estimates that 3.55 million children aged 7-14 years and 2.8 million children aged 15-17 years were “in work,” a term that enclosed both employments for pay or profit and works in the family business. The study estimates a total of 5.1 million children in child labor. It included more than 1.3 million of 5-11-year-olds engaged in any kind of work. Furthermore, it contained 1.7 million of 12-14 year-olds regularly working for more than 14 hours per week, working for more hours than what could still be measured “light work.”

The estimate of the children population aged 5-17 years, working children; child labor, and hazardous child labor classified by the framework adopted views from Bangladesh Nation child labor Survey 2013 are as below:

### **Push and Pull Factors**

Factors that “push” children out of school consist of poor quality education, lack of relevancy in lessons, language used, physical accessibility issues, and the absence of school in the child’s community. Children who become gang members are often forced into unrelated crime, now and then, to ensure their protection. These crimes may consist of stealing and selling drugs – increasing the risk of exposure and addiction to harmful substances.

The pull factors engage economic and other issues associated with poverty that “pull” the children out of school. Family members often depend on their children to fetch in additional income and thus accept child labor under unavoidable circumstances. Another common reason that pulls the children child labor consists of the non-payment of minimum wages to the parents, high unemployment between adults, the need to

pay off the family debt, and to meet their own survival needs if they are fending for themselves.

In some societies, women have limited a work choice, which leads to a labor shortage in different sectors within those communities. Children are used to filling this labor shortage. There are many household activities where parents may need additional assistance to complete some tasks on time, e.g., seasonal agricultural work. For some families, start working at an early age is a tradition and children are likely to trail the same path as their parents. If the costs associated with education become a burden for a needy family, they may pull their children out of the school. Child education may also not prioritize if there is little evidence of being employed. All these factors result in intergenerational child labor and a prolongation of the poverty child labor cycle.

#### **Causes of Child Labor in Bangladesh**

Child labor in Bangladesh is caused by a wide-ranging of factors that have delicate roots in the country's overall socio-economic situations, including mass poverty, the rapid growth of Population, specifically among the poor children, and lack of right of entry to quality primary education. In rural areas, there are still many parents who believe that general schooling for girls is wrong. There is a lack of awareness about the long-term significance of child labor and easy and unlimited access to the job market because of poor implementation of labor laws and return maximizing causes of employers.

#### **Poverty is the primary reason for child labor.**

Poverty is broadly recognized and recognized as the primary cause of child labor. Poor children and their families may rely upon child labor to progress their chances of attaining necessities. More than one-fourth of the world's people live in excessive poverty, according to (2005) U.N. statistics. The intensified poverty in parts of Africa, Asia, and Latin America causes many children there to become child laborers.

Poverty is the critical factor in Bangladesh, as a result of decades of accelerated economic growth. International institutions have recognized the significant progress in poverty alleviation. "According to the World Bank report, Bangladesh's poverty rate fell 82% 1972 18.5% 2010, 13.8% 2016, 9% 2018", measured the percentage people living worldwide extreme to the poverty line. If poor children enrolled in school, they fail to continue their education for two reasons. First, though the tuition is free, low-income families can't purchase clothes and

supplies. Second, schooling stops the children's earning and reduces the families' total income.

#### **Lack of Education also causes child labor.**

Lack of education remains one of the most impacts of child labor. In 2006, approximately 75 million children were not in school, regulating future opportunities for the children and their societies. A report by the United Nations estimated that achieving universal education for the world's children would cost \$10-30 billion -- about 0.7% - 2.0% of the annual cost of global military spending. Child labor is a deterrent to schooling. The policies directed at eliminating child labor have focused on increasing accessibility to education. Organizations such as the ILO, the United Nations, and UNICEF identify the importance of education in removing poverty and preventing child labor growth rates from developing countries. According to UNICEF, the new National Education Policy requires that children complete school until grade eight and that school must be free.

In a 2010 statistical report, UNICEF measured that around 50% of all working children in Bangladesh do not attend school. Another 6.8% of children between ages 7 and 14 who went to school also engaged in working. Of those that do attend school, school performance is negatively affected when children are in the workforce. In a while, school is free; several children forced to drop out because they do not have the time or resources to attend. For many families, the income produced by their children measured more valuable than an education that needs their Child to stop working. A study conducted by Rahman (1997) found that around 58% of working children listed economic hardship as the reason they did not attend school.

#### **Over Population is another cause in Child labor.**

Bangladesh is a populated country, and the population growth rate is very high. Limited resources and more mouths to feed, children are employed in various forms of work. Due to limited incomes and more mouths to feed, children engaged in multiple types of work.

#### **Illiteracy is causing in Child labor.**

Bangladesh has, according to UNESCO, an adult literacy rate of 72.89%. While the male literacy rate is 75.7%, females are 70.09%, and Bangladesh is the lowest illiteracy rate of 57.7% in the world. In comparison with other neighboring states is number 116<sup>o</sup> in the ranking of literacy rate. The literacy rate has increased in recent years. In a

while, Illiterate parents do not realize the need for proper physical, emotional, and cognitive development. As they are uneducated, they do not understand the importance of education for their children.

#### **Urbanization is the cause of Child labor.**

Out of the child laborers engaged in the workforce, 83% employed in rural areas, and 17% used it in urban areas. The country also ratified the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child. Bangladesh is one of the most densely populated countries in the world. The size of the urban population in Bangladesh is at 53 million. Of them, around 40 percent are children. Rapidly urbanization is the main problem for causes in child labor. The Industrial Revolution has its negative side. Most of the time, MNC's and export industries in the developing world employ child workers, particularly in the garment industry.

#### **Migration is another cause of Child Labor.**

Migration from the more deprived rural areas to the other prosperous rural or urban areas is one of the most excellent essential existence strategies for rural families. The spread of the capitalist system and the acceleration of industrialization inspire people, enduring on subsistence economies, to develop integrated into the gradually expanding urban centrist. Children from rural areas throught to the cities in search of a better life, better prospects, and a better future. Whereas unemployment, poverty, landlessness, river erosion, floods, and other natural disasters act as the push factors, enhanced material circumstances operate as the pull factors.

#### **Hazardous work**

##### **Hazardous work in Bangladesh:**

The new child labor situation in Bangladesh shows no sign that the Government's target of eradicating hazardous child labor from the country will be met by 2021. National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) Bangladesh has always enacted good child labor acts. The latest Act [Children Act 2013] has adopted following the suggestions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child." The newest Act conflicts with the Labor Law, but can be used as an excellent tool to eradicate child labor." Bangladesh's Children Act identifies anyone under the age of 18 as children, and the Labor Law 2006 does not permit any children under the age of 14 years to work. Rights activists say the Government's announcement of eradicating child labor came when the country was positively motivated due to a decrease in the incidence of child labor.

A government order issued on 13 March 2013 classifies 38 processes/activities hazardous for children. In 2012, the Tripartite Coordinating Committee had recommended 36 processes/activities, but later the Ministry of Laboring Employment revised it to include two additional sectors based on comments received from various ministries. The disallowed jobs for child labors are as follow:

1. Manufacturing of Aluminum products
2. Automobile Workshops
3. Battery Recharging
4. Production 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. Production 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. Ship breaking
17. Manufacturing of leather footwear
18. Vulcanizing
19. Metal Works
20. Manufacturing of G.I. Sheet products or limestone or chalk products
21. Rectifying or blending or spirit with alcohol
22. Production of Jarda and Quidam
23. Manufacturing of pesticides
24. Iron and steel foundry and casting of iron and steel
25. Fireworks
26. Construction 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

#### **The Effects of Child Labor**

In Bangladesh, most child laborers work in hazardous situations such as direct contact with pesticides, chemicals, dust, and carcinogenic agents in agriculture, mining and quarrying, and

manufacturing. These increase the risks of emerging bronchial complaints, cancers, and other forms of life-threatening diseases. Child labor might include operating hazardous machinery, heavy lifting, repetitive tasks, and poor posture that increase the chances of musculoskeletal problems in future life. In the same way, children involved in industries like garbage recycling and waste management work in an unsafe environment. Consequently, they are visible to many dangerous materials such as; broken glasses, sharps, rotten food, and others that can cause severe and permanent health consequences.

#### **Legal Protection**

Bangladesh passed the labor act in 2006, known as "Labor Code 2006". This act includes a chapter on child labor. This act outlaws the employment of any child less than 14 years of age, and it also prohibits hazardous forms of child labor for anyone under the age of 18 years. The act, children who are aged 12 years and above, may get involved in "light work" that does not bear the risk of any potential damage to their mental and physical development and does not hamper their education. The law does not provide a reliable enforcement mechanism for the child labor provisions. Additionally, the vast majority of children (93%) work in the informal sector. It is making the enforcement of the relevant legislation challenging.

In the year 2010, the Ministry of Labor and Employment has adopted a National Child Labor Elimination Policy, which provides a plan to eliminate all forms of child labor by 2015. The policy's objectives are: removing child laborers from hazardous jobs, creating more income opportunities for parents of low-income families to reduce their reliance on children's income, offering incentives for working children to attend school, ratifying necessary laws, and improving law enforcement to eliminate child labor. A Child Labor Unit has established as part of this policy, which will have responsibilities, including collecting and disseminating data relating to child labor.

The Labor Code 2006 establishes the minimum age for work at age 14 and the minimum age for hazardous work at age 18. The Labor Code 2006 allows certain exceptions, permitting children ages 12 to 13 to perform light work, but it restricts the kinds of work they can do. It also limits the hours children ages 14 to 18 can work. However, the Labor Code 2006 excludes many sectors of the economy in which children work, including work on small farms, domestic service, and home-based work.

In 2011, a tripartite consultative committee consisting of the Government, employers, and workers, approved a list of hazardous work prohibited for children. The file contains 36 occupations, such as ship breaking, leather manufacturing, construction, and automobile workshops. The list is now waiting for an official notification from the Government.

The Labor Code prohibits parents or guardians from pledging their children's work in exchange for a payment or benefit, and the Penal Code prohibits forced labor. Those who violate the law are subject to penalties, which include imprisonment. The Women and Children's Repression Prevention Act of 2000 (amended in 2003) criminalized the trafficking of children and established strict penalties and fines for violators, but failed to include such penalties for labor trafficking. The Parliament of Bangladesh approved a new national anti-trafficking law, the Human Trafficking Deterrence and Suppression Act 2012, which expands the definition of trafficking to include labor trafficking, covers men and boys and makes trafficking a capital offense with a maximum sentence of the death penalty. The Penal Code and the Suppression of Immoral Traffic Act of 1933 criminalize the prostitution of girls under age 18.

Bangladesh has only voluntary, not compulsory military service. While there is no legislation establishing a minimum age for voluntary military recruitment, each branch has designated its minimum period with the Air Force setting the youngest age 16. However, the Government reported that, in practice, the minimum age to serve in combat is age 18. The lack of a legally binding minimum age for joining the military and engaging in combat leaves children vulnerable to potential exploitation.

While the law establishes that education is free and compulsory in Bangladesh, children are not required to attend school after age 10. Education is free; in practice, the costs of teacher fees, books, and uniforms are prohibitive for many families; therefore, children are not sent to school. Additionally, permitting children to stop attending school at age 10, when they are too young to work legally, makes children particularly vulnerable to the worst forms of child labor.

#### **The procedure and Legal Regime**

##### **The Legal Regime: International Standards on Child Labor**

Concern for children is, in some ways, a twentieth-century sensation, which progressively gained global recognition. The recognition that

children constitute a particular category of human beings that require special devotion has resulted in the adoption by the United Nations of various international legal documents that specifically addressed, among other things, the rights of children. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights 1948 advocated for children's rights to protected from slavery and servitude. They inspired significant activities geared towards raising awareness about children's unique needs and undertaking sustained operations in the area of child rights advocacy. The activists felt the necessity for a rights-based legal document that could be used by child rights lawyers. The Emerged as a result process was the adoption United Nations Convention Rights Child 1989.

U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child 1989  
The Convention on the Rights of the Child, or CRC, as is popularly known, is a comprehensive document covering significant aspects of children's rights. Article 32 of the Convention provides that.

1. States Parties recognize the right of the Child to be protected from economic exploitation and from performing any work that is likely to be hazardous or interfere with the Child's education or harmful to the Child's health or physical, mental, spiritual, moral, or social development.
2. States Parties shall take legislative, administrative, social, and educational measures to ensure the implementation of the present article. To this end, and concerning the relevant provisions of other international instruments, States Parties shall do so in particular:
  - A. Provide for a minimum age or minimum ages for admission to employment;
  - B. Provide for appropriate regulation of the hours and conditions of employment;
  - C. Provide for appropriate penalties or other sanctions to ensure the effective enforcement of the present article.

#### **Child labor laws in Bangladesh Constitutions**

Different laws and regulations were passed by the British relating to children as well as child labor. Bangladesh inherited all those laws and regulations as it was a British society under the Indian Sub-continent. There are some laws, ordinances, and rules to regulate the employment of child laborers for age, working hours, working conditions, economic exploitation, harmful effects of work on growth and development, etc. These Laws relating to child labor in Bangladesh are as follows:

#### **The Employment of Children Act 1938**

This Act endorsed children aged 15 or up to work in the railway industry and transporting goods in port jobs. It also supports children aged 15–17 to work night shifts that may last until the morning under specific stipulations such as resting for 13 consecutive hours, working under someone that is 18 years or older, or serving an apprenticeship. It prohibited children under 12 from working in hazardous industries but did not mention protection for children between the ages of 12–18. The Act also provides that no child below 12 years shall be employed or permitted to work in any workshop. Wherein, any processes like bidi making, carpet making, cement manufacturing, cloth printing, dyeing, weaving, manufacture of matches, explosives, fireworks, soap manufacture, tanning, and mica cutting and splitting, shellac manufacture, and wood clearing, is carried on. The Act contains the provision of punishment for employers permitting or employing children to work.

#### **The Mines Act, 1923 (Act No. IV of 1923):**

According to the Act, 'child' means a person who has not completed 15 years, and 'young person' means a person who has completed 15 but not 17 years of age. Act no child shall appoint a mine or allowed to be present in any part of the tunnel below the ground. Same Act, unless a certificate of fitness granted by the medical practitioner is in the custody of the mine's manager, a young person shall not be employed in any part of the mine. And no such young person is permitted to work in the mine during the period between 7 pm, and 7 am. The Children ( Pledging of labor) Act, 1933 (Act No. XI of 1933): This Act prohibits the pledging of children's employment. In this Act, a child means a person of less than 15 years. An agreement, written or oral, express or implied, whereby the parent or guardian of a child in return for any payment or benefit received by him, undertake to cause or allows, the services of the Child utilized in any employment is void. The Act provides a penalty for parents or guardians to agree to pledge the Child's labor. It also provides for punishment for the persons to make with a parent or guardian an agreement to guarantee the employment of a child and penalty for employing a child whose labor has pledged.

#### **The Factories Act 1965**

The Act prohibited children under 14 from working in or be present in factories. Factories have defined as any place with more than ten

people employed. It also listed various protections for children from hazardous machines and operations. It prohibited any work duration of longer than 5 hours between 7 pm to 7 am. It also states the weight lifting limits for types of workers (male, female, Child).

#### **Shops and Establishment Act 1965**

This Act defined a shop or establishment as a place that employs five or more people. This Act prohibited children under the age of 12 from working in any establishment. It allowed children aged 12–18 to work in establishments but limited the number of work hours to a maximum of 7 hours a day.

#### **The Road Transport Workers Ordinance, 1961 (Act No. XXVIII of 1961):**

According to the Ordinance, no person driver shall employ in any road transport service before attaining 18 years of age and in case of driving a vehicle before reaching 21 years. The Ordinance provides that no worker shall be employed in a car for more than five hours. At a time before he has had an interval for rest of at least half an hour or more than eight hours before he has had at least two ranges like (i) for more than nine hours in a day, and (ii) for more than forty-eight hours in a week. The East Pakistan Domestic Servants' Registration Ordinance, 1961 (E.P. Ordinance No. XLIV of 1961).

This Ordinance has spread to provide the registration of domestic servants. The term 'domestic servant' means every person who renders local services (i.e., services about household affairs) to his employer instead of wages or any other consideration. According to Ordinance, if a person takes employment as a domestic servant, he has to report registration to the officer-in-charge of the police station or any other police officer. The police officer will not be below the rank of an Assistant Sub-Inspector of police and authorized by the officer-in-charge. If a person seeks employment as a domestic servant, he may report to the officer-in-charge or the authorized officer of the area for registration. Name, address, or addresses, a copy of his photograph in duplicate, finger impression, and measurements are requirements for the certification. Inquiries would be conducted by the officer-in-charge of the police station or the authorized officer about the particulars' correctness. After satisfying the accuracy of the facts, the officer-in-charge of the police station or the authorized officer shall issue a registration card containing a photograph. According to the Ordinance, no person shall work as a domestic

servant without a registration card. Violation of the provision is a punishable offense.

#### **The Tea Plantation Labor Ordinance, 1962 (Act No. XXXIX of 1962):**

According to the Ordinance, 'child' means a person who has not completed the age of 15 years, and 'adolescent' means a person who has completed 15 but not 17 years. It also provides that a child of 12 years' age or an adolescent shall not be permitted to work in any plantation unless a certifying surgeon grants a certificate of fitness. Such a fitness certificate shall be valid for 12 months, and it may be renewed. Any contravention of the provisions by an employer shall be a punishable offense liable for imprisonment or fine.

#### **The Constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**

The Constitution of Bangladesh, while guaranteeing the people's fundamental rights, prohibits all forms of forced labor under Article 34. Article 34 lays down that 'all forms of forced labor are prohibited, and any contravention of this provision shall be an offense punishable under the law.'

#### **The Children Act 2013**

The Children Act 2013 retracted the previous Children Act 1974, which was inconsistent with international standards, particularly with the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child 1989. Section 4 of this Act provides contained in any other law for the time being in force; every person shall be deemed to be a child who is below the age of 18 years. Though there is no specific provision prohibiting child labor, it proscribes and punishes some serious offenses against children, including exploiting children (section 80).

#### **National and International Mechanisms Regarding Child Labour**

Now a day child labor is generally discussed issues in Bangladesh. Newspapers and the media always look after these vital issues. Although, the non-government organization also raises its voice against the violation of child rights. Even though there is some deficiency in adopting measures to solve the problem, our constitution protects the issue entirely. Articles-14 and 15 of the law protect the rights of children and the power of social security. Article-17 imposes an obligation upon the state to take adequate measures for free and compulsory education for all children to such stage may be terminated by law under Article-18.



The country is empowered to make special provisions for the benefit of children. Any kind of forbidden work and forced labor is strictly prohibited. It only contains specific articles affecting children. The existing laws of the country regarding child labor also do so. These do not prevent child labor; instead, they provide particular standards for the employment of children. The present domestic laws do not cover children who are engaged in household services, such as in the agricultural sector or domestic help. As a result, it is hard to count the actual rate of child labor and almost impossible to protect them from exploitation through legal procedures.

#### **National Child Labour Elimination Policy 2010**

According to the definition of National Child Labour Elimination Policy 2010, a child's work will be considered child labor, but the term "child labor" should not be used here; instead, he may term as a child engaged in employment. The policy advocates a peaceful world for the children involved with work. It provides a standard framework concerning education, health, working environment, specific working conditions, recreation, treatment, security, and social awareness building to manage and reduce risks of child abuse by employers. Besides, to supervise the child labor-related issues, a specific ministry is required.

#### **Bangladesh Labour Act, 2006**

The most notable law in Bangladesh for regulating child labor is the Bangladesh Labour Act, 2006. Child labor is specially mentioned there in a separate chapter. The present law accurately prohibits the engagement of children and makes a provision for fitness certificates for the adolescent only. But a child, who has completed twelve years of age, may be employed in such light work as not to endanger his health and development or interfere with his education. The hours of work of such Child, where he is school going, shall be so arranged that they do not interfere with his school attendance (as per section 44). However, the Act of 2006 does not provide a reliable enforcement mechanism for the child labor provisions. Additionally, the vast majority of children work in the informal sector, which makes enforcement of the challenge to relevant legislation.

#### **V. CONCLUSION**

All children must have to maintain their healthy and natural childhood rights. However, many children in our country deprived of enjoying

universal freedom. Children of poverty-stricken families have forced to take dangerous work to fulfill their parent's wishes and an uncertain future. To remove these circumstances, the family again to ensure the evacuation of children, the community, and government /non-government should invest efforts and resources to implement a national awareness program regarding child labor. Day by day, become a serious socio-economic problem in Bangladesh. It is a curse and a satire to our perfection programs. It measured as exploitative for the prospect of children and country.

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