



Muhammad Rashid Shabbir¹, Amnan Javaid², Rimsha Falak³, Hafiz Muhammad Ubaidullah⁴

Abstract

This study aims to illuminate the significant and transformative impact of the 2016 Child Labour Ordinance on child labour use and employment at brick kilns in Punjab, Pakistan. By identifying various socio-economic factors as potential determinants of child labour use, we can understand the profound changes brought about by this ordinance. This study stands out with its unique descriptive approach, employing descriptive statistics such as averages and differences of means, as well as t-statistics and opportunity costs, to estimate empirical results and assess the effectiveness of the 2016 Child Labour Ordinance. In conclusion, this study has successfully illuminated the positive impact of the 2016 Child Labour Ordinance on child labour use and employment at brick kilns in Punjab, Pakistan. By identifying various socio-economic factors as potential determinants of child labour use, we have effectively demonstrated the transformative power of this ordinance. The study's findings underscore the urgent need for government intervention to provide financial support at the primary level. Despite their interest in education, many children need more resources, leading them to sacrifice their educational aspirations. By ensuring financial support, we can make education accessible to all children, regardless of economic circumstances. Committed voluntary organizations should be involved at the district level regarding the issue of child Labour.

Keywords: Child labour, brick kilns, Education, Faisalabad, Pakistan

1. Introduction

Child labour is one of the most challenging global issues in many parts of the world, especially in developing and underdeveloped countries. Child labour is perceived differently in different parts of the world. Amongst several definitions, one is defined by the ILO (2013): "Child Labour is often defined as work that deprives children of their childhood, their potential, and their dignity, and that is harmful to their physical and mental development." Undoubtedly, child labour has far-reaching consequences, which ultimately lead to underdevelopment. It is believed that no country can progress without devising policies to overcome child labour. Although many developing countries are concerned and are devoting efforts to eliminating the menace of child Labour, the rate of child Labour is very high in different developing countries, including Pakistan (Valticos, 2013). minimum age Ordinance and, specifically, universal standards requiring such ordinance that diminishing child Labour. Policymakers have talked about this inquiry for the most part in the more extensive setting of whether a market failure caused the government intercession to ban child labour (; Basu and Van, 1998; Ranjan, 1999, 2001; Dessy, 2000; Baland and Robinson, 2000; Dessy and Pallage, 2001, 2005;).

Globally, around 215 million children (less than 15 years old) are either compelled to work to earn for their families or to support themselves and despite working for extended hours, they need to be treated better. They are deprived of the fundamental necessities of life (ILO, 2014). The causes of child Labour are a topic of frequent discussion and debate. There is no social vacuum where child Labour occurs. However, social and familial links, cultural and social variables, dependency ratio, obligations and demands, the type and standard of formal education, and the options and choices accessible are all entwined with it. The kids who participated in this research made life-changing decisions, and the seriousness of those choices demonstrated their maturity. The fact that these kids exercised agency in different ways and within substantial structural limitations contributed to the global failure of child Labour laws. Honoring these kids' agency and considering their choices when creating policies is imperative.

Globally, many organizations and associations have attempted to overcome child Labour, either launching campaigns against this issue or helping make laws to curb child Labour. Many organizations have suggested that this menace can be controlled by improving access to education and awareness. On the other hand, parents cannot pay for their children's education individually. Though several nations have passed legislation on the minimum working age, all developing countries will still need to find a solution to this problem. Although one child worldwide is employed by the ILO (Bacolod & Ranjan, 2008), policies do not address child Labour in the cleaning, catering, or on the farms of one's ancestors. Three essential types of crafts are those crafted by children, such as working in the work market to acquire cash, volunteering at farms, and working in a family unit environment without compensation (Hazarika & Bedi, 2003).

Children occasionally Labour to ensure their own and their families' survival. Children in underdeveloped nations support family salaries despite receiving inadequate compensation. Numerous studies conducted at a macro level demonstrate that children from low-income homes are immediately valuable economically and that many of these children are forced into the workforce due to their parents' poverty. Income households currently experience financial difficulties that make it harder for them to pay for schooling and cause them to be shortsighted by not making investments in long-term future returns. (Dreze & Kingman, 1999).

The empirical literature on child labour is significantly more extensive. The main issue of child labour strategies recognized tended to the problems of low income and poverty. The low wage has been related to child labour (Stith et al., 2009). The components through which destitution or low wages may build child labour incorporate expanded parental worry because of seen hardships (Gershoff et al., 2007; Mistry et al., 2002; Slack et al., 2004; Yeung et al., 2002), an expanded number of negative lifetimes (Gershoff et al., 2007), or given poverty' consequences for parents' psychological wellness and associations with accomplices (Yeung et al., 2002). Strategies identified with the convergence of poverty were likewise proposed. Concentrated neighborhood destitution is

¹ Corresponding Author, Institute of Agriculture and Resources Economics, University of Agriculture Faisalabad, Pakistan, rashideco5@gmail.com

² PhD Scholar, Economics Department, Government College University Faisalabad, Pakistan, amnanjavaid30@gmail.com

³ National Business School, The University of Faisalabad, Pakistan, rimshafalak456@gmail.com

⁴ Institute of Agriculture and Resources Economics, University of Agriculture Faisalabad, Pakistan, hafizgee13@gmail.com

reliably connected with higher rates of child Labour (Coulton et al., 2007; Freisthler et al., 2006). Community inconvenience may be caused by child labour through its consequences for parental sadness (Mair et al., 2008), social capital (Zolotor & Runyan, 2006), readiness to depend on neighbours for children's minds (Garbarino & Sherman, 1980) or different rations (Ernst, 2001), prolonged societal problems conveying nearly nonexistence of social controls on practices (Freisthler et al., 2006), or weakened admittance to money and formal assistance.

In Pakistan, child labour has continued to develop in several manifestations. According to the Bureau of Statistics Labour force study conducted in 2012-2013, roughly 4.4 percent of children between the ages of 10 and 15 became part of an active country's Labour force.

Our national laws state that no child under 14 should work in a factory, mine, brick kiln, or any other hazardous job that interferes with their physical, intellectual, or moral development or affects their health and education. It is also examined that the number of children working in this age group has grown. It was 4.29% in 2010-2011, indicating a stunning increase in the trend period of one year. Researchers contended that the estimated numbers are lower than the actual ones since a sizable portion of children—particularly those employed in the unregulated illicit sector—remain uncounted and undiscovered by surveys. The illegal unofficial industry accounts for 80-91 per cent of the total child labour (GOP, 2015).

The Punjab government just announced the Brick Kilns Child Labour Ordinance of 2016. By giving students a monthly compensation of Rs. 1000 and parents an annual stipend of Rs. 2000 for their children's entrance, this regulation aims to deter child labour. The government issued an ordinance mandating the brick kilns' permanent closure. On violation, kiln owners will be awarded a 5-lakh fine and six months imprisonment (GOPb, 2016). The primary purpose of this research is to check the effectiveness of the brick kiln child labour ordinance.

1.1. Objectives

- To research children's involvement in the brick industry.
- To comprehend the socioeconomic circumstances surrounding child labour in the brick kiln sector.
- To investigate the issue of child labour in the brick industry and come up with a fix

2. Data and Research Methodology

This study was designed to study the impact of the Brick Kilns Ordinance 2016 on child labour in Punjab, Pakistan. The target population and delimitation of research were the children who work at brick kilns in one of the districts of the Punjab province, i.e., Faisalabad. A detailed interview schedule was developed for data collection from the respondents—a comprehensive sketch of how the research has taken place. Research design usually consisted of data collection techniques and mechanisms, the research tools used, and the anticipated resources for exploring collected data. It enables a researcher to draw a causal relationship and valid presumptions among variables under investigation. The present study dealt with inferential designs.

2.1. Search strategy

Organised research was conducted to support the literature review by following systematic steps. Primary searches relied on the key variables “brick industry, brick ordinance, child labour ordinance, child education, exploitative labour, hazardous labour, child work, scholarship of the child, importance education of the child labour in Pakistan.”

2.2. Inclusion/exclusion criteria

During the survey, the following criteria were considered: 1) the target population of this research comprised of children less than 15 years of age who were working at brick kilns in Faisalabad; 2) the respondents should be interviewed through face-to-face contact; 3) data was collected from the children's parents, brick kilns owners, and ordinance implementer.

Broad investigation criteria were used for this assessment to comprehend negotiations focusing on children working at brick kilns thoroughly. In this geographical setting, Brick Kilns Child Labour Ordinance 2016 was accessed. While this approach may constrain a combination of findings, it is trusted that this survey will shape an establishment for future negotiations in this field. Even though strategy and enactment are critical mediation approaches, this survey concentrated specifically on ordinary mediations that help to understand children working at brick kilns.

2.3. Data collection and survey strategy

The purposive sampling technique was used to collect data because a researcher wants to investigate the research's specific features, characteristics, and functions. The results of this type of sampling technique represent the whole population. Prejudice and preconceptions within purposive sampling led the researcher to consider the accuracy and consistency of the data. A personal interview method was used to collect data from respondents working at brick kilns. The questionnaire consisted of open-ended and close-ended questions. The sample size for this research consisted of 300 respondents, which included 150 beneficiaries of this ordinance and 150 non-beneficiaries. Beneficiaries included those children who received a stipend of Rs. 1000 from the government, and non-beneficiaries included those children who did not/were not receiving any support from the government.

2.4. Hypothesis

A comparison of means was applied to compare the following different hypotheses:

H_0 = Ordinance implementation has no impact on children's working hours

H_1 = Ordinance implementation has decreased children's working hours

H_0 = Ordinance implementation does not affect earning members

H_1 = Ordinance implementation has an impact on earning members

H_0 = ordinance does not affect monthly income

H_1 = Ordinance implementation increased/decreased the monthly income

H_0 = ordinance implementation did not develop an educational interest in working children

H_1 = Ordinance implementation develops the educational interest in working children

1. $H_0: \mu_{EI-B} = \mu_{EI-NB}$

$H_1: \mu_{EI-B} \neq \mu_{EI-NB}$

- II. $H_0: \mu_{NEM-B} = \mu_{NEM-NB}$
 $H_0: \mu_{NEM-B} \neq \mu_{NEM-NB}$
- III. $H_0: \mu_{MY-B} = \mu_{MY-NB}$
 $H_0: \mu_{MY-B} \neq \mu_{MY-NB}$
- IV. $H_0: \mu_{WH-B} = \mu_{WH-NB}$
 $H_0: \mu_{WH-B} \neq \mu_{WH-NB}$

EI = Education interest
 NEM = Number of earning member
 MY = Monthly income
 WH = working hours

3. Results and Discussion

Table 1 presents the econometric results from analyzing the primary data collected about brick kilns' child Labour ordinance 2016. It describes the results on.....

In detail, the brick kilns child labour ordinance effectiveness hypothesis and socioeconomic factors affecting the decision to employ child labour are tested. Moreover, the monitoring of the Brick Kilns Child Labour Ordinance 2016 was further investigated due to its importance to the overall reliability of this ordinance.

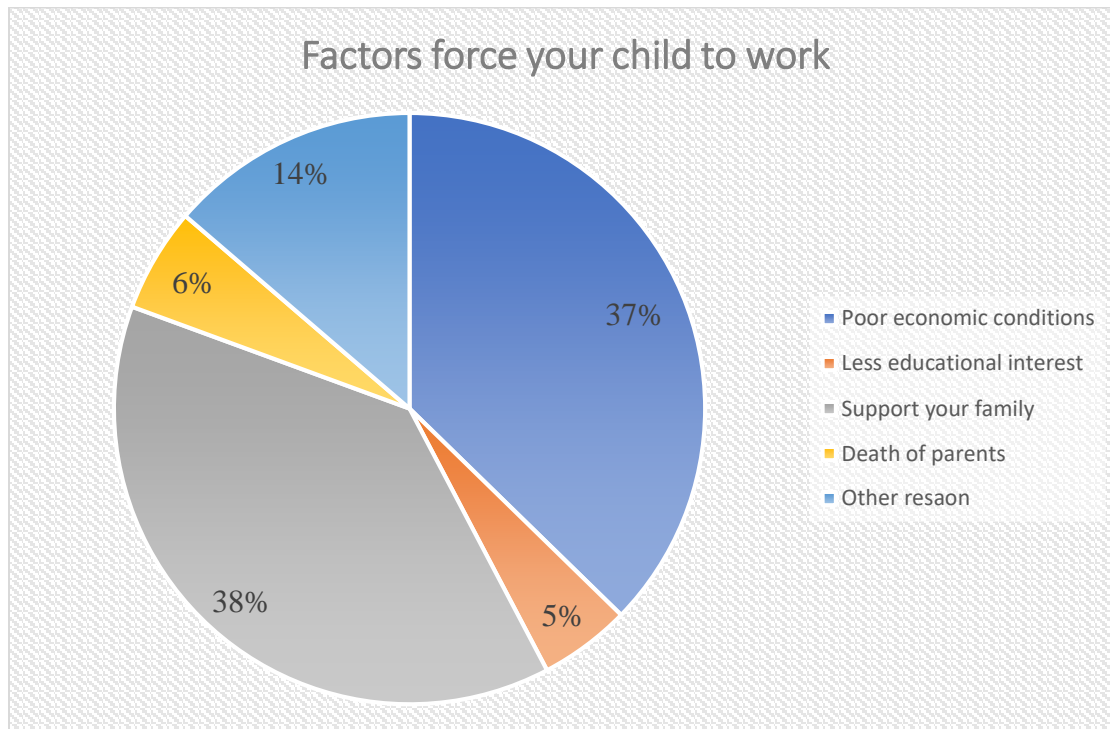


Figure 1 Percentage of the respondents concerning factors that force your children to work.

Figure 1 reveals factors which affect child labour. A majority of the respondents (about 37%) are forced to work due to the poor economic condition of their family, which supports the argument that child labour is not only a consequence but also a cause of poverty (Rosati & Rossi, 2003). Only 5% of children were engaged in child labour, showing their lack of interest in education. Children that showed no interest in education were only 5 per cent because everybody wanted leisure compared to work. While 38.3% percent of the children are forced to work due to the wish to support their family, there may be more fulfillment of basic felicities. The results also show that children work to support their families (Dreze & Kingman, 1999). 5.7% percent of the respondents worked and were deprived of their childhood due to the death of their parents, which is compelled to work to fulfill basic needs like food, clothes, shelter, etc. 13.7 % of their respondents were working due to some other reason.

Table 1 depicts non-beneficiaries averages and the brick-kiln child labour policy beneficiaries. The results indicated that values decreased after getting the stipend because of this financial support, and the number of working children at brick kilns decreased. Many children were enrolled in schools to get an education. Working hours, the number of earning members, and monthly income also declined, representing the policy effective regarding children's leaving brick kilns preferences. Moreover, children's overall health improved because of the decreased number of working children at brick kilns. The above table showed that most variables were significant at a 5 % significance level because the p-value was less than 0.05. Some variables, such as family size, number of earning members, and monthly income, were insignificant because the p-value is more significant than 0.05. In short, Overall results support the policy effectiveness hypothesis.

Table 1: Comparison of mean beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries of brick kilns Child Labour Ordinance

Key Variables	Mean of non-beneficiaries (N = 150)	Mean beneficiaries (N = 150)	t-value	p-value
Family size	7.620 (2.2575)	7.680 (2.2505)	-.851	.396 ^{NS}
No. of the earning member	2.880 (1.3606)	2.773 (1.3667)	.496	.620 ^{NS}
Monthly income	25980 (16473.0693)	24365.333 (13128.4362)	.314	.754 ^{NS}
Working hours per day	1.440 (2.2295)	2.460 (1.6694)	2.616	.009 ^{**}
The educational interest of the children	.880 (.3261)	.987 (.1151)	-3.77 8	.000 ^{***}

Table 2: Opportunity Cost

	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
Total benefit before ordinance	150	1500	10500	3960	2504
Opportunity cost after ordinance	150	-12500	14400	7095	3504

The above table indicates the opportunity for the beneficiaries of the Brick Kilns Child Labour Ordinance 2016. Before the ordinance's implementation, children received the benefit of a maximum of 10500 Rs and a minimum of 1500 Rs per month, and their mean value was 3690 Rs. After implementing the ordinance, children received a stipend from the government, a maximum of 14400 and a minimum of -12500; the mean value is 7094. The children received more money than the ordinances after implementation. The people prefer to enroll the children in school rather than brickwork. Opportunity cost showed that the people received more money than the previous ordinance, which indicates that the overall beneficiaries benefited from the ordinance. Table 4 shows the difference in views of children, brick kiln owners, and the ordinance implementer about child labour before and after the ordinance's implementation.

4. Conclusion

This paper evaluates the effectiveness of the child labour brick kilns ordinance 2016. This study is descriptive, and descriptive statistics and t-statistics were employed. It is observed that the Child Labour Brick Kilns Ordinance has a significant effect on reducing child labour. Another observed fact indicated that poor economic conditions and family status are the most important factors of child labour. Many children were forced to work at brick kilns to support their families in meeting their necessities. It was observed that after the implementation of the Brick Kilns child labour ordinance, the working hours of children and the number of earning members decreased because of the stipend received by the Government of Punjab under this ordinance. School enrollment ratio and children's health improved under the age of 14 years. It was also observed that many brick kiln owners refused the children to work at brick kilns to save themselves from punishment under this ordinance. T-statistics showed most variables' significance (effectiveness), showing the ordinance's effectiveness.

4.1. Causes for Child Labour

1. Lack of resources
2. inadequate education
3. Economic ambiguities
5. Employment (or lack of employment)
6. Most people who live in rural areas are landless
7. Weak regulations policy
8. Insufficient social consciousness

4.2. Steps by Government

Considering that child labour directly impacts the economy, the author contends that the government and every member of society must endeavour to outlaw it altogether. If any economy prospers in the future, today's kids need a solid education, a supportive environment, and the possibility of success.

4.3. Suggestions

Childhood is an essential stage of human development. Every society's future depends on its children's current situation. Child labour is used chiefly in the informal sector, where many children do hazardous work in various industries.

- Regarding the issue of child labour, district-level engagement from dedicated voluntary organizations is required.
- A national survey will determine child Labour's prevalence, distribution, and conditions in organized and unorganized sectors.
- To take prompt, decisive action to outlaw and eradicate child labour, as well as to provide for the recovery and social integration of the children who have been saved.

Table 3: Differences among the views about child labour ordinance

Factor	Child views (N = 300)	Brick kiln owner views (N = 70)	Policy implementer views (N = 20)
Factors affecting child labour before the ordinance	Poverty is the main factor (35%)	Wishing to earn more (39%)	Lack of education interest and forced to work as brick owner due to push (70%)
Factors affecting child labour after the ordinance	The stipend is not enough to meet educational expenditures (70%)	Financial support by the government to enroll in schools (30%)	Financial support by the government to enroll in schools (70%)
Who is forced to work before the ordinance	Parents and brick owners are forced to work (21%)	Parents force to work (35%)	Owner of brick kilns and parents forced to work (42%)
Who is forced to work after the ordinance	Enforcement to work reduced to some extent (67%)	No enforcement (90%)	After ordinance enforcement, work was reduced to some extent due to punishment. (70%)
The educational interest of children before the ordinance	Child interested, but parents are not interested in education (35%)	no interest in the education of the child (70%)	Interested in education (61%)
The educational interest of children after the ordinance	Both Children and parents interested in getting an education (80%)	Many children are interested in education due to the ordinance (64%)	School enrollment increased after awarding the stipend (81%)
Self-satisfaction with the work before the ordinance	Children are not satisfied with work (40%)	Children are happy with work (63%)	Children are not happy with work, but parents are satisfied (78%)
Self-satisfaction with the work after the ordinance	Not preferred to work due to ordinance (49%)	Not preferred to work due to ordinance (65%)	Not preferred to work due to ordinance (80%)
School Enrollment of the Children Before Ordinance	Most children not enrolled in school (85%)	No enrolled in educational institutions (70%)	No one enrolled in educational institutions except some children (68%)
Enrollment in educational Institutions after the ordinance	Many children Enrolled in schools (80%)	Many children enrolled in schools (90%)	About 80 per cent and 20 per cent need to be enrolled in schools due to brick kiln migration. (80%)
Working hours before the ordinance	Averages Working hours 7 hours per day (50%)	Average two hours, one hour in the morning and one in the evening (30%)	Average 7 hours per day (60%)
Working hours after the ordinance	After the ordinance, working hours were reduced to 2 hours per day (81%)	After the ordinance, children were not worked (90%)	After the ordinance, child labour is reduced (80%)

References

- Bacolod, M. P., & Ranjan, P. (2008). Why children work, attend school, or stay idle: the roles of ability and household wealth. *Economic Development and Cultural Change*, 56(4), 791-828.
- Baland, J.-M., & Robinson, J. A. (2000). Is child labour inefficient? *Journal of Political Economy*, 108(4), 663-679.
- Basu, K., & Van, P. H. (1998). The economics of child labour. *American Economic Review*, 88(3), 412-427.
- Coulton, C. J., Crampton, D. S., Irwin, M., Spilsbury, J. C., & Korbin, J. E. (2007). How neighborhoods influence child maltreatment: A review of the literature and alternative pathways. *Child Abuse & Neglect*, p. 31, 1117-1142.
- Dessy, S. E. (2000). A defense of compulsive measures against child Labour. *Journal of Development Economics*, 62(1), 261-275.

- Dessy, S. E., & Pallage, S. (2001). Child labour and coordination failures. *Journal of Development Economics*, 65(2), 469–476.
- Dessy, S. E., & Pallage, S. (2005). A theory of the worst forms of child labour. *Economic Journal*, 115(1), 68–87.
- Dreze, J. & Kingman, G. (1999). “School Participation In Rural India,” Delhi School of Economics And University Of Oxford (Mimeo).
- Ernst, J. S. (2001). Community-level factors and child maltreatment in a suburban county. *Social Work Research*, 25, 133–142.
- Freisthler, B., Merritt, D. H., & LaScala, E. A. (2006). Understanding the ecology of child maltreatment: A review of the literature and directions for future research. *Child Maltreatment*, 11, 263–280.
- Gershoff, E. T., Aber, J. L., Raver, C. C., & Lennon, M. C. (2007). Income is not enough: Incorporating material hardship into models of income associations with parenting and child development. *Child Development*, 78, 70–95.
- GOP. 2015. Economic survey of Pakistan. 2014- 2015, Ministry of Finance, Islamabad, Government of Pakistan.
- GOPb. (2016). Punjab prohibits child labour under the brick kilns ordinance: Punjab Gazette, Government of Punjab Lahore, Pakistan.
- Hazarika, G. and A. Bedi.2003. Schooling costs and child work in rural Pakistan. *The Journal of Development Studies*, 39(5), 29-64.
- ILO. 2013. Child labour. International Labour organisation. SPARC publication, Islamabad, Pakistan.
- ILO. 2014. Child labour. International Labour organization. SPARC publication, Islamabad, Pakistan.
- Mair, C., Diez Roux, A. V., & Galea, S. (2008). Are neighborhood characteristics associated with depressive symptoms? A review of the evidence. *Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health*, 62, 940–946.
- Mistry, R. S., Vandewater, E. A., Huston, A. C., & McLoyd, V. C. (2002). Economic well-being and children’s social adjustment: The role of family process in an ethnically diverse low-income sample. *Child Development*, 73, 935–951.
- Ranjan, P. (1999). An economic analysis of child Labour. *Economics Letters*, 64(1), 99–105.
- Ranjan, P. (2001). Credit constraints and the phenomenon of child Labour. *Journal of Development Economics*, 64(1), 81–102.
- Rosati, F. C., & Rossi, M. (2003). Children's working hours and school enrollment: Evidence from Pakistan and Nicaragua. *World Bank Economic Review*, 17(2), 283.
- Slack, K. S., Holl, J. L., McDaniel, M., Yoo, J., & Bolger, K. (2004). Understanding the risks of child neglect: An exploration of poverty and parenting characteristics. *Child Maltreatment*, 9, 395–408.
- Stith, S. M., Lui, T., Davies, C., Boykin, E. L., Alder, M. C., Harris, J. M., Som, A., McPherson, M., & Dees, J. E. (2009). Risk factors in child maltreatment. A meta-analytic review of the literature. *Aggression and Violent Behavior*, 14, 13–29.
- Valticos, N. 2013. International labour law. Springer science and business media.
- Yeung, W. J., Linver, M. R., & Brooks-Gunn, J. (2002). How money matters for young children’s development: Parental investment and family processes. *Child Development*, 73, 1861–1879.
- Zolotor, A. J., & Runyan, D. K. (2006). Social capital, family violence, and neglect. *Pediatrics*, 117, e1124–e1131.