

## **A Critical Discourse of Child Victimization and Abuses through Labor in Pakistan**

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### **Abstract**

Critical discourse analysis of child victimization focuses on various social determinants that pertain to social, cultural and societal aspects of child labor promotion. Research studies have been analyzed to dig out aspects and facets of victimization in Pakistan. The qualitative examination of these studies bring to the fore that child labor in Pakistan is the outcome of traditional practices including family disorganization, familial conflicts, large population and the traditional economy associated with agriculture. The analyses further reveal that victimization seriously affects children, their families and has long lasting consequences for overall progressive societal growth. The children working in dangerous conditions face long-term physical, intellectual and emotional stress, which is detrimental towards adulthood unemployment and illiteracy in young circles.

### **Keywords**

Victimization, Social, Cultural, Capital, Demand, Supply, Joint Family, Familial Conflict.

### **Introduction**

Based on variation in contexts, multiple discourses have their own approaches towards defining child labor and victimization (Mazhar, 2008, Khan, 2014). There are marked differences in the use of the term child labor due to differences in level of intelligence, prevailing social, cultural and religious circumstances, cultural relativism, prevailing laws and institutional differences, which generally accounts for such apparent gradation and understanding of the concept (Okpukpara & Odurukwe, 2003). Child labor, according to the reports published by International Labor Organization (ILO), is the type of work which deprive children of their childhood, their potential and their dignity; and is harmful to their physical and mental development. The ILO reports (2005 & 2006) conclude that child labor is the work that is mentally, physically, socially, or morally hazardous to children and/or interferes with their schooling by depriving them of the opportunity to attend school, obliging them to leave school prematurely, or requiring them to combine school attendance with an excessively long and heavy workload. Likewise, the International Program for the Elimination of Child Labor (1999 as cited in ILO, 2005) assert that work or situations where children are compelled to work on regular basis to earn a living for themselves and their families and as a result are disadvantaged educationally and socially; where children work in conditions that are exploitative and damaging to their health and to their physical and mental

development; where children are separated from their families, often deprived of educational training opportunities; are forced to lead prematurely adult lives. Besides, as a factor, child labor deprives children of their childhood needs, circumscribes their dignity by endangering their overall social, cultural, economic and religious capabilities (Mazhar, 2008).

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) notes that child labor is hazardous for child health, personality development and education. It is harmful and is a key factor that retards growth that amounts to victimization (CRC, 1989, Art. 32). Philanthropists debate the nature and extent of work that can be conveniently categorized as child labor (Mazhar, 2008). This also makes the situation more complex and poses the question of relativism in consideration (Khan, 2014). The ILO Convention if taken as a standard in the current debate, focus the nature of work and individual characteristics of a child, however (Mazhar, 2008). Child labor would then include children below the age of 12 who are economically active; engaged in more than what is called lighter work; and all children enslaved, forcibly recruited, prostituted, and trafficked to engage in hazardous work (ILO 138, 1973; 182, 1999). Victimization, according to UNESCO (2008), involves recruiting or forcing children below 18 in work for economic (cash/kind) reward on regular basis.

The debate at global level indentify child labor as a cultural and situational need (Basu, 1999). Okafor (2010) opines that in poorer countries where agriculture is the main source of production, children engage in farm activities which allow them to learn about farms, markets, paid-jobs and later on enable them to integrate into the mainstream society. He is of the view that that such kind of learning is the compulsory aspect of life to face the economic challenges in future (Khan, 2014). Therefore, Mazhar (2008) in his analysis of child labor concludes that all forms of child labor need not be included in child labor as some of them are useful and can be categorized as part of informal education and training. Similarly, Ray (2000) is of the view that children found supporting their parents in household chores, in family enterprise or in agriculture may be helpful in nurturing capabilities and learning potentialities in children, which are considered socially valuable qualities.

Thus highlighting the subtle difference between the various manifestations of child labor we come to victimization in the context of child labor which is not a new phenomenon (Mazhar, 2008; UNSECO, 2008; Khan, 2014). It has existed in varied forms tied up to cultural practices and traditions (Basu, 1999; Khan, 2014). Research studies reveal that perhaps the oldest form of victimization of child existed in the form of domestic labor but in recent history such victimization has been noted during industrial revolution. In 1860s, 50% of children in England between the age of 5 and 15 had been forced to work and it was only in 1919 that the issue was

systematically addressed (ILO, 1999). Despite numerous agreements and international endeavors to curb victimization in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, child labor has been on the rise and is worsening particularly in the third world. Research indicates (Basu, 2008; Unesco, 2008; Mazhar, 2008; & Khan, 2014) that the highest number of child laborers exist in Asia-Pacific region. The recent realization of the gravity of the issue in the 1990s is mainly linked to social workers and researchers who link the issue with two main factors i.e. the rising interest in the field of human (child) rights and fair labor standards in the global economy (Fyfe, 2004; ILO, 2006). After 1990s, there has been a dramatic change in the form of awareness and struggle to properly address the issue of child labor and serious attention has been paid by governments, civil society, media and international community (Mazhar, 2008; ILO, 2006).

Analysis of recently published reports on the intricacies of child labor indicate serious concerns with about 317 million children engaged in labor across the globe to find means of survival for themselves or their families (ILO, 2006). According to a study of Fyfe (2004), the largest numbers of children in the world who are out of school are concentrated in Indian subcontinent including India, Pakistan and Bangladesh, which accounts for almost half of all child laborers world-wide. The International Labor Organization (2008) estimates of Child Labor Survey of Pakistan is 3.3 million in 1996 (8.3 percent of the total children) out of 40 million children (in the 5-14 years of age-group) and are economically dependent on their work (active on full time basis in various occupations) in both formal and informal sectors. Similarly, a considerable proportion of working children in 5-14 years age-group (46 per cent) are engaged in work where their working hours are more than the normal hours i.e. 35 hours per week while 13 percent of the working children work for more than 56 hours or more per week.

Child labor victimization studies indicate that the problem exists both in covert and overt forms (Khan, 2014; Naz & Khan, 2014 & Borges, 2014). In countries like Pakistan, Brazil, China, India etc, child labor ranges from making a football to charcoal, fireworks, footwear and diamond work in Coted'Ivoire etc while in sub Saharan Africa according to Psacharopoulos & Woodhall (1997) hawking/street trading evidently, seems to be the most popular form of child labor. Estimates indicate that 20 percent of children between the age of 10 and 14 are involved in child labor and street trading (Mazhar, 2008). As such, children have come to make-up about 17 per cent of Africa's Labor Force. Further, children hawkers involve a wide range of labor in Nigeria and South-East zone where they sell a wide range of cheap articles, edibles and products such as sachet water, plantain chips, bread, biscuits, okpa, ugba, fruits, vegetables, wears, newspapers especially at damaged portions of the roads where motorists and other road-users are constrained to slow

down (Nnaemeka, 2011; UNESCO, 2008). Besides, bondage labor is also a major practice which refers to situations where services are offered in exchange for a loan (Genicot, 2000) and this practice occurs for a child for a mentioned time period. It is estimated that millions of children are tied up to such labor worldwide (Human Rights Watch Asia, 1996). Such children are expected to work as 'house help' (domestic servant), taking care of the house and making sure that the needs of the entire family are met (Mazhar, 2008). They are expected to get up very early in the morning to fetch water from a nearby well, to prepare and serve breakfast and perform all household jobs till late in the evening (Okafor, 2010). Child labor and victimization are thus linked with socio-cultural, economic and other such determinants. The present study intends to analyze these determinants in the light of the research studies and to link it to environment that trigger victimization in the third world particularly Pakistan.

### **Argument and Discourse Analysis of Various Factors (A Generalist Approach):**

The analysis of various discourses on child victimization through labor asserts that it is one of the major concerns for most of the world nations today (Mazhar, 2008, ILO, 2006). Being a multifaceted and multidimensional phenomenon, the issue has got the attention of organizations and the need of eradication has been globally recognized (ILO, 2008). However, the issue itself is rooted deeply in societies where people live below poverty line and people are more vulnerable to child labor and many other forms of work related to children and women (Khan, 2014). Children are more exposed to face the challenges of earning when they try to contribute to household's economy. Such children are at higher risk to get engaged in occupation, work or labor which is more hazardous with regard to their social, cultural and educational growth (Mazhar, 2008).

In most of the societies, child victimization and labor is not formally approved and legalized form of work; however such work is mostly concentrated in the informal sector of the economy. Due to its hidden nature and informal structure, it remains unnoticed and there is no such accurate statistics available to calculate its impact and economic contribution (Nnaemeka, 2011). Studies on the effects of child labor or victimization on children indicate that children who are thrown to child labor in an early age destroy not only their learning potentials and capabilities but also lower down their earning life span and capacities (Khan, 2014). Similarly, Psacharopoulos' (1996) study asserts that working children lose their educational attainment abilities as compared to the non-working children of similar age group, reduce their educational attainment and increase victimization. The grade repetition which is the outcome of excessive child labor is mostly found in children engaged in child labor and such loss is said to be not only a personal loss but also leads to the future loss of national human capital.

Similar and most relevant debate on the impact of child labor as given by Bhargava (2002) indicates that child labor at a crucial formative age and burdened with hard labor deprive children of nutritious food, playtime and education. In this regard, Psacharopoulos and Woodhall (1996) have pointed out towards its detrimental effect on the accumulation of human capital and of course on the subsequent private and social returns. Increase in child labor negatively affects labor market as such laborers saturate the market forces and thus the demand for skilled labor force decreases particularly in poorer economies (Mazhar, 2008). The low wages paid to children is an advantage to the capitalist owners also.

Eradication of child labor is seen by many as a way forward to better education prospects, increased prosperity and upward social mobility for the victimized. This thinking is also at work in the design of Millennium Development Goals (MDG). The same is reflected by UNESCO (2008) which admits eradication of child labor as indispensable for ensuring primary education for all. The same theme is also commonly found in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child 1989 (CRC), The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (Articles 25 & 26), the UN (CRC) 1989, the ILO Worst Forms of Child Labor Convention (C182:1999) and Decent Work Agenda of ILO. Such internationally approved principles recommend doing away with child labor for better education in terms of prosperity and emphasize access to basic education (ILO Convention 182, 138). To Heady (2003), education is a key to improve quality of human life in developing countries and is significant to reduce poverty by increasing employability.

The main reasons of child labor and victimization include poverty, illiteracy, unemployment, cultural reasons, large family size, loss of parents in early age, divorce and broken marriages (Mazhar, 2008; Khan, 2014). Further, the ineffective role of law enforcing agencies, faulty policies and their implementation, lack of proper social security and social safety, and the desire to avail maximum economic benefits encourages child labor (Basu, 1999). As a mother of all social evils, i.e. poverty which gives rise to many social problems is a major contributing factor in motivating people at all levels for hazardous options like child labor. Oloko, (2004) is of the view that poverty is characterized by vulnerability and exposure to risks, low life expectancy and purchasing power, insufficient access to social and economic services. The National Human Development Report (NHDR 2008-9) indicates that poverty is a state of long term deprivation of essential material and non-material attributes of wellbeing which are considered necessary for a decent living.

The situation of child labor in Pakistan with accordance to national laws confirm that no child below 14 years of age should be sent for labor to any factory, mine or places considered to be unsafe for children health, education, physical and

mental growth. However, there has been huge lacuna found in theory and in practice because the existing child labor situation in the country does not correspond with the constitutional provisions (Constitution of Pakistan, 1973 Articles 11,17,18,25 and 37e). The constitution is loud and clear in prohibiting exploitation of any kind against children and their employment below the age of 14 years. Besides, parliamentary acts also voice the grand agenda of eliminating child labor. These acts and legislative provisions include Factories Act 1934, The Mines Act 1923, The Shops and Establishment Ordinance 1969, The Bonded Labor System (Abolition) Act 1992, and The Employment of Children Act 1991. But the problem lies with implementation and the country is plagued by the ineffective laws that have resulted in a rapid increase in the forms and types of child labor from time to time (SPARK, 2012).

The discussion so far made in the above paragraphs declare that the issue of child labor and child victimization is one of the worst form of exploitations of human beings particularly of children which spoils human capital and has complicated consequences for future generation in terms of multiple abuses that causes their victimization (Khan, 2014). According to Jafarey (2002), child labor is an undesirable social evil and its elimination itself is a worthy and pious goal to be achieved while the literary debate and various discourses associate the phenomena of child labor to various and multiple factors. The current discourse has been framed to analyze and establish a link between secondary information with regard to the social and cultural dimensions and factors promoting child labor in most of the regions. The children's victimization is continually moving throughout the globe along the proliferation of numerous physical and psychological abuses.

### **Discourse Analysis of the Various Socio-Cultural Factors behind Child Victimization through Labor**

In the following section, various social, cultural and traditional practices as factors have thoroughly and critically been examined with a view to establish their link with child labor and victimization. Prominent among them include poverty, social norms and values, household structure.

#### **Poverty, Child Labor and Victimization**

Deprivation leads to exclusion that restricts sections of society to farewell in the mainstream. One way of explaining such exclusion can be summed up in the term poverty. According to Khan (2014) and Sen (1999), poverty is a condition that deprives people of living the life they value and have reasons to value it. The World Bank (2001) reflects that poor are suffering from vulnerability in terms of maltreatment and powerlessness in decisional process. Statistical research data indicates a strong link between poverty and the incidence of child labor where

increase in one corresponds with increase in the other. Many researchers agree that children from well-off families remain away from child labor (Edmonds, 2007). It can be said that fair level of family income and support of children decreases child labor in majority of cases. On the contrary, absence of income and support lead to human capital under-utilization thereby increasing poverty amongst the citizenry, social alienation and weak purchasing power among others (HDR, 2010).

Economic development of nations and with the rapid growth of industrialization, there has been a decrease in the ratio of child labor in many countries i.e. the case of China, where a tremendous decrease has been found in the rate of child labor (Nnaemeka, 2011). However, food and economic crises aggravate child labor and cause victimization (NHDR, 2008). Such crises not only have serious implications for the families but also have consequences for child's poverty as well. In recent year, the poverty of the child (deprivations of young people below the age of 18) is a serious challenge towards development and for the development of any nation; child poverty eradication is a major concern (ILO, 2006). Such kind of poverty of the child deprives them from their health, physical and mental well-being and even psychological and emotional development as well (Mazhar, 2008). The non accessibility of children to resources which help in upbringing of the child in terms of health, education, etc and to live a good and safe life are the determinants in this regard (NHDR 2008-2009). Similarly, child poverty can also be linked with parent's economic position and family income generation resources as well. The issue of land distribution, deprivation of family from ancestral assets, agricultural productivity is commonly approved norms in many of the communities that make the parents and children as victims of the poverty as well as child labor. The economic instability of the family and poverty of the children also give rise to many of the social issue i.e. crimes, street wondering, increased unemployment, poor living conditions, high infant mortality rate, low life expectancy, low school attendance, high drop-out rates and most importantly, child Labor (ILO, 2006, Khan, 2014, SPARK, 2012).

The socio-cultural poverty and the normative social structure are regarded crucial determinants that direct and increase child labor (Siddiqi, F. & Harry A. Patrinos, A.H. 1995 & Brown, D.K. 2001, Anker, R. 2000). Poverty can be measured through income per capita (GNI) and gross domestic product per capita (GDP) and thus child labor is associated with such factors (Alectus et al., 2004). Studies and researches have indicated that children of economically strong family background are less attracted towards child labor as compare to poor families (Basu, K. 1999) while the extreme poverty ratio will also contribute in low-quality education, cultural and social acceptance of child labor, and economies reliant on low-productivity (Fares, J. and Dhushyanth R. (2007) while low income level of parents is leading factor in sending children towards labor market (Grootaert, C.& Ravi K. 1995, & Kambhampati, U.S., & Raji R. 2006).

The analysis of child labor is compulsory with respect to the traditions and cultural norms because the social and cultural environment is playing a dominant role in increase or decrease of child labor. In many developing countries, it is a popular notion and socially accepted norm that child labor do not contribute negatively in the development of a child. While it has been observed from secondary sources that working of children in the labor market have valuable contributions towards child growth and professional grooming, making them a responsible citizen (Bachman, S. L., 2000,). Similarly, Anker, (2000) expresses that many changes have been there in the form and structure of child labor due to technological advancements and globalization and still in most of the social and cultural aspects where child work is not treated as hazardous to the child's development.

Besides, such work can be in the child's interest while such labor is the main source to contribute in family's income, making children decision-makers at home and the external social world (Bachman, L. 2000 and Anker, 2000). In many societies, it is a social value that all members shall contribute towards family economy and the role and division of labor favor both children and adults to perform certain tasks (Cristina, 1994 and Naz, 2011). In many of the traditional social structures, children are traditionally treated and are put to labor according to the given environment i.e. in agriculture work, poultry, animal husbandry etc (UNICIF, 2012). Besides, in traditional manner, a male child is best for work outside the house while a female child shall perform role within the domestic domain (Khan, 2012). In a study conducted in Guatemala, the act of child labor is mainly rooted in the traditional values (Najeeb, M. S. Harry A. Patrinos., 2008) and culturally, it is believed that child labor is considered as a form of education through which children are instructed in the work and responsibilities of an adult (Ramírez, Pablo W., Miriam de Celada, Erwin Díaz, and Ada Cáceres, 2000).

Similarly, in many countries, it is a social value and normatively accepted behavior to send a child for plantation of farms, agriculture fields, sowing and reaping in the field or care for herd (Quiroz, L., 2008a, b). Besides, for parents in many societies, sharing working beliefs with children is a cultural duty to keep the children busy and to make them responsible adults (Delap, 2001). Further, in the context of traditions, fear of idleness is another reason why parents are inclined to send their children to work (Quiroz, L., 2008b and Delap, 2001). Thus, the social and cultural norms, traditional social structure with large population, are few of the reasons that allow parents to send their children in the labor market.

### **Traditional Household Structure and Child Victimization through Labor:**

Among the many determinants of child labor in most of the countries; large household size also has association with increasing child labor. Large households'

size which was an important impetus in family productivity, especially in agricultural economy (which needs lot of labor force) has been on decline due to modernity and farm mechanization and small holdings of lands. The many children which were hands of the family some year ago are now becoming a liability in developing countries that is ultimately a leading factor in promoting child labor. In this context, Ayara, N. N. (2002), is of the opinion that parents and extended family members tend to persuade their sons whose wives have either few or only female children or none, to marry more or have children from outside thus an increase in the birth of children finally becomes an easy source of child labor and child work (Basu, K., 1999). Similarly, the large households have thus a common feature for persuading and forcing their children towards engaging in worst form of child labor.

Recent debate over the traditional household structure and child labor included the work of Mazhar, (2008), Khan, (2014) where they have elaborated that large household size and traditional social structure are leading factors in child labor in Third World. The study of Grootaert and Kanbur (1995) has emphasized that there is an association between household's structure and struggle for survival among human beings in various communities. Similarly, household size, relations with parents and economic output of the family has a role in increase or decrease of child labor i.e. Basu and Van (1998), Basu (1999), Basu *et al.* (2000) reflect that the incidences of child labor have been found in association with household size, income and parental relationship whereas more child labor cases have been observed in large and poor families. Similarly, the household size, structure of family and relations with parents provide either increase (in case of worst relations) or decrease (good relations) in ratio of child labor. The study of Boyden (1991) on such relationship shows that the economic viability of the households depends on placing as many members as possible in the labor market. Besides, as far as the level of poverty is concerned Ghayur (1997) is of the opinion that the existence of poverty at the household level is a major factor that pushes a child to work where there is a strong possibility of no recognition of the work performed by a child as well. In the context of Pakistan and Peru, the involvement of children in child labor is more as compared to other countries and their contribution to the household's total income is considerably higher as compare to rest of the nations (Ray, 1999).

In a similar context a study conducted by Baland and Robinson (2000) in which they have developed their own separate model about inequality between families concludes that families having rich economic background do not send their children to work and mostly they provide education to their young children. Literature on the issue of association of household and child labor indicates that the household survival becomes an overwhelming concern when adult male members

of the household become unemployed due to unfavorable labor market conditions, then households are faced with the prospect of sending their children to work (Basu *et al.* 2000). Binder and Scrogin (1999) in their study conclude that child's wages, parents earning capacity, household expenditure and composition of family play an important role in the labor force participation of children. In this regard, the discussion verifies the facts regarding the indicators related to the structural and functional aspects of households that determine the aspects and ratio of child labor in various communities.

With respect to child labor debate in Pakistan, traditional social structure is dominant and the traditional joint family system is in vogue in many parts of the country which is considered as greatest source of social insurance, which provides security not only to old and aged but to women as well as children (Naz, A. 2011, and Naz, et al. 2012). Similarly, this system is preferred for provision of unity, strength and integration of family members bearing common expenses not only for food but for other related household items as well. The research study of Khan (2014) asserts that the existence of joint family is one of the major contributing factors towards child work and child labor because economic support to family is difficult to meet from one person living in extreme poverty. Besides, Naz, et al (2014) reflects that traditional system of dwelling provide more earning hands in family provide more support to family and can strengthen the economy in future. Again, the secondary information also support the existence of joint family and it is noted that the dependence on agriculture economy also necessitates system, as farming requires services of many, so this system is best suited for division of labor in the research community (Khan, 2012 and Naz, 2011). The debate over such factors that the traditional social structure, large household size, agricultural and traditional economy, backwardness of the living area give a logical support to people because accommodation to many siblings and even the elders while no such chance for a person to live and support oneself in isolation (Naz, 2011).

### **Analysis of Family Disorganization and Child Victimization through Labor:**

Studies confirm that family is a permanent and basic social institution that providing care and sustainable socialization to the young generation (Macionis, 1993). Similarly, family organization plays an important role in upbringing and socialization of the young one and trained them towards future career building as well as profession (Corson, D. 1992). Family institution is made on the relationship between husband, wife and their children, while this relation is in a coordinated way provides stability to the next generation and children. However, when there is no such coordination among the family members, the result is broken families and even

divorce (Naz, 2011). The same situation is also the result of family breakdown or marriage or death of one or both parents in many communities resulting to make children responsible for family income and finally contributing towards child labor (Khan, 2011).

Besides many of the factors, family disorganization in the form of familial conflicts and husband wife divorce dominantly pushes children and young family members towards severe form of victimization through child work and child labor. Tharenou, P., Saks, M. and Moore, C. (2007) in their study links the issue of family organization and parental role as an indicator that can better control children from severe child labor while lack of family organization and disputes among parents are maximizing the chances of child labor in third world countries.

Family disorganization is also related with the ratio of divorces occur in society. As human being is a productive resources and the utilization of such resources can contribute in more capital in terms of economic development as well as production of other resources (Mazhar, 2008). Similarly, as for as the issue of child labor as a human capital is concerned, the ILO (2006) estimation shows that around 218 million children (aged 5 to 17) were economically engaged in child labor while in such estimation the children of the broken families are the major concern. In this context, age 5 to 14 children were 191 million while 166 million and 126 million among them are the worst laborer. The demand and supply to the issue is based on the determinants mostly associated with the social, cultural, economic and political nature. Economist's considered children as part of capital or wealth of nations (Goode 1959:147; Kiker 1966:485). To them, human capital includes skill, knowledge, and many other capabilities contributing to production of any society. Besides, increase in human capital depends upon family organization and decrease in conflicts and ratio of divorces as well (Baland and Robinson, 2000). Similarly, Canagarajah and Nielsen (2001) augment that child labor is mostly associated with the risks of family disorganizations and particularly with increase in the ratio of conflicts and divorce. Further, Amin, S, Shakil, M, and Rives, M, Janet (2004) relates the financial crises of many households with family disorganization, low level of productivity and non availability of suitable environment to young ones. In this context, such issues then become the core reasons to make children workable potential earning members of the families (Grimsrud, 2003). Thus a cost and benefit is the issue which is prior in consideration for many of the poor parents and many times the victim of this analysis are children (Jafarey, 2002).

Similarly, with broken families and marriage breakdown or death of one or both parents in many communities, the children are thus made responsible for family income and finally contributing towards child labor. Children become the victims mostly due to the non-availability of social security and safety measures

from any of the party i.e. the parents and other family members as well as community in which they are residing. Similarly, in such a situation the children grow up without such support and care and sometimes may be unfortunate to become victims to accident or sickness like HIV/AIDS. Similarly, the lack of social security, support and safety towards children in their familial and social set-up amount to child labor in most of the developed countries. In relations to many other factors, the recent inflationary trends and prices hike and pressure over families to supports the young one have badly affected the poor families (Naz, et al, 2012), where it has been the major contributing factor in throwing children in child labor in mechanical workshops. Besides, there has been the prevalence of lack of enforcement of laws and implementation of policies particularly legislation failure towards the eradication of child labor, promoting child education and to bring children into the mainstream in accordance with the life standards available to other children.

Aspects and determinants of child labor have been identified by Awan, M. S., Waqas, M. & Aslam, M. A. (2011), who believe that child labor as an issue and monster that not only hampers the growth of human resources but reduces child's educational attainment and personality development. Children are forced to work in the market due to familial dependency and survival creating many problems to both children and even parents. In this context Mahmood, S., Maann, A. A., Tabasam, N. & Niazi, S. K. (2005) are of the opinion that children's entrance to the labor force in an early age is due to various socio-economic and socio-demographic "push and pull factors" including poverty, family size, schooling system and illiteracy of parents. The results in all of the cases are deprivation of children from education, health, psychological development, and human rights in general form.

Another aspect as analyzed from the study is children's disobedience that promptly is produced among many of the children due to family disorganization and even conflicts among parents. Such effects are very much prominent in damaging a very large number of human capitals and are caged towards child labor (Silvers, J. 1996). Similarly, in developing countries, the population increase, poverty of the masses, family disorganization, divorces, family conflicts and disobedience among children are observed as factors producing child abuses and child labor (Baland and Robinson, 2000). Furthermore, such issues then affect the socialization process and even education level of the children making them dependent upon uneven labor force as well as child work (Rosenzweig, M. 1982; Lavy, 1996; Nielsen, 1998 and Grootaert, 1998).

## **Conclusion and Recommendations**

The detailed analysis of various factors contributing to child labor and the subsequent victimization reveal that it is a complex of socio-cultural and economic

determinants that provide breeding ground for this social evil. In order to properly address the issue, many societal arrangements like traditionalism, normative social structure, agricultural economy, joint family system, household size, illiteracy, poverty and familial disorganization need attention before really overcoming the problem and securing the future of a child. Poverty is seen as a major obstacle that paves the way for child labor as it severely restrict chances of education, creates hurdles in family daily expenses, health facilitation, and access to recreation and proper support in other aspects of life. It is also viewed as a contributing factor in child victimization in any work environment by considerably reducing chances of finding means of survival.

The household structure is also noted for its contribution in promoting child labor. People residing in predominantly joint families are observed to be suffering from low income and more consumption that force them to expose their children to earn and feed them. Further, this structure is also observed to be more prone to conflicts and feuds that also reduce chances of economic prosperity. Ripe with land disputes and ownership of means of production, joint families have the potential to encourage child labor. Family disorganization in shape divorce, elopements, broken marriages expose children to work in a very young age and the rest of the job is done by the stone-hearted capitalist who is bent upon exploiting and victimizing them to increase his/her share in the market. Victimization is further aggravated by the law and order situation where less attention is paid to ensure law enforcement to secure the rights of laborers. Lack of education also contributes in maximizing the chances of exploitation and victimization as those victimized really don't know that their rights are jeopardized.

To do away with child victimization through child labor, it is necessary to implement the laws in letter and spirit. It is the responsibility of the state to devise an effective mechanism to check the trespassers. Education for all must be made really working and the law enforcing agencies need to have a record of all children at local level. The state must establish a special force to check the excesses of capitalist owners. It is also desirable to engage social activists at local level to help the government in devising strategies for introducing gradual reforms in the traditional social structure for a more progressive future.

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