

## **Child Labor: at Kuratoli Bazar**

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# Child Labour: at Kuratoli Bazar

## Abstract

According to the International Labor Organization (ILO), over five million children under 18 years of age are involved in some kind of laborious employment in Bangladesh. UNICEF asserts that 93 percent of child laborers work in the informal sector, and the enforcement of labor laws is impossible to be made. At Kuratoli Bazar, there are many child laborers who are working day and night against our Bangladeshi law.

The topic is about the summary of the impacts and effects of child labor on physical and mental health. The purpose of the report is to find out the effect of child labor on their social norms, mental effects, physical effects, social effects etc. because of the dangerous environment.

According to our observation, most child laborers are illiterate or dropped out from school. There is no proper food for them. Most of the children have mental trauma and physical difficulties. They do not even have social norms or culture. Many of them are engaged in unethical work and sometimes their parents don't even care.

This study contains several bad effects and impacts on the child laborers at Kuratoli Bazar.

**Key words:** child labor, physical and mental health, dangerous environment, effects

## Introduction

The term 'Child Labour' is a curse for our nation. ILO stated, *"poverty is the main cause of child labor in agriculture."* When a country wants to develop, the term Child labor pushes the country backward. It is a form of preindustrial economics. Children often begin to work with adults in many activities such as hunting, farming, industrial work etc. Most of the child labor is surviving with a lack of fundamental rights like education, proper food etc. They are one of the most neglected people in society. Child labor has been an important global issue with educational opportunities.

Bangladesh also experienced a high incidence of child labor. According to the child labor survey of Bangladesh (1995-96), the child labor force is 6.58 million out of the 34.45 million children in the age of 5-14 years. 19% of the total child population is working as laborers. Statistics on child labor in Bangladesh shows that the vast majority of working children are employed in agricultural and domestic service.

"One day, I along with my friends were passing through Kuratoli Bazar. Suddenly we noticed a boy who was pulling a loaded van. He was too young to pull the van. We immediately went to him and asked why he was pulling that. He answered, "Because of hunger." So, this was the time we understood how helpless these poor children were!

Poverty is the main cause of child labour. Being victims of poverty, helplessness, they are forced to take various steps against their will to survive. Child labor can cause severe physical and emotional suffering, and perhaps even death. Slavery and other forms of financial or sexual abuse may occur, and in almost every instance, it prevents children the opportunity for education and medical attention, limiting their basic rights and ruining their futures. As per social norms, 7 out of 10 child laborers don't have the minimum courtesy to talk with the general people, some of them also use slang and misuse words towards the elders.

This report shows the effects on child labor because of their difficult life styles. This describes the characteristics of the survey of child labor and its effects with mental health in Bangladesh. We end on the concluding note which shows the result of our study.

P.S: We had limited reach. We couldn't reach to all the child labor at Kuratoli Bazar. But, we physically met and talked with some children who work around Kuratoli Bazar. On this basis, we assumed their general problems and effects.

### **Literature Review**

Child labour can affect a child in many ways. Long hours of work can affect a child's mental health, physical health, social development and general wellbeing. Children who constantly work long hours and study tend to have more negative attitudes towards education. (i) Among the child labour most of them suffer from physical pain. Some suffer from breathing problems, skin disease, eyesight problems, psychological problems. (ii)

“I cannot sleep or eat regularly and that leads to other health problems. I feel weak,” “When I work in front of the kiln, my eyes burn, I feel pain in my chest and I cough a lot,”

One boy aged 16, stated in the report, while describing the processing of a difficult work which involves heating them in a kiln. (iii)

The CRC defines a child as a person under the age of 18. So, children are in need of special care and protection. The CRC asserts that children should be able to enjoy the highest standard of health.

According to Article 32 UN CRC, “Children have the right to be protected from economic exploitation and from work that could be harmful for them. Next to that, children that are working are often not going to school, which violates their right to education.” (iv)

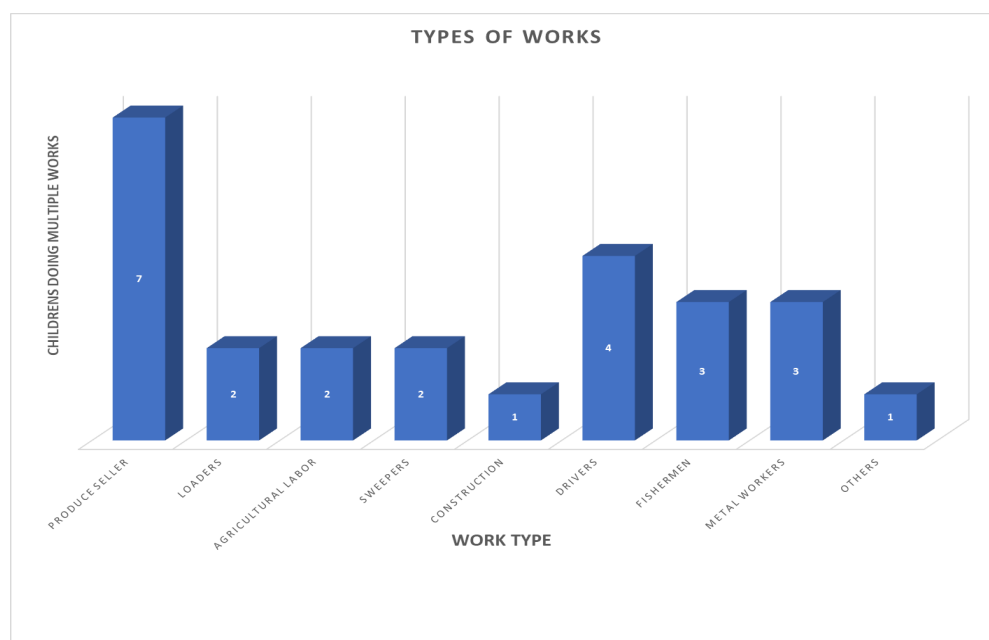
## Methodology

This research article focuses on the effects of child labour, which can be physical effects, mental effects, medical service insufficiency etc etc. We talked with some random child labour at Kuratoli Bazar on 30 November to 4 December, 2022. But we choose effective responses of 14 children.

My group mates and I asked those children some random questions such as their name, age, education, work place, why they work, about their parents etc. As we focus on the effect, then we modify those questions according to our needs. We took surveys manually, so we had to calculate our collected information manually.

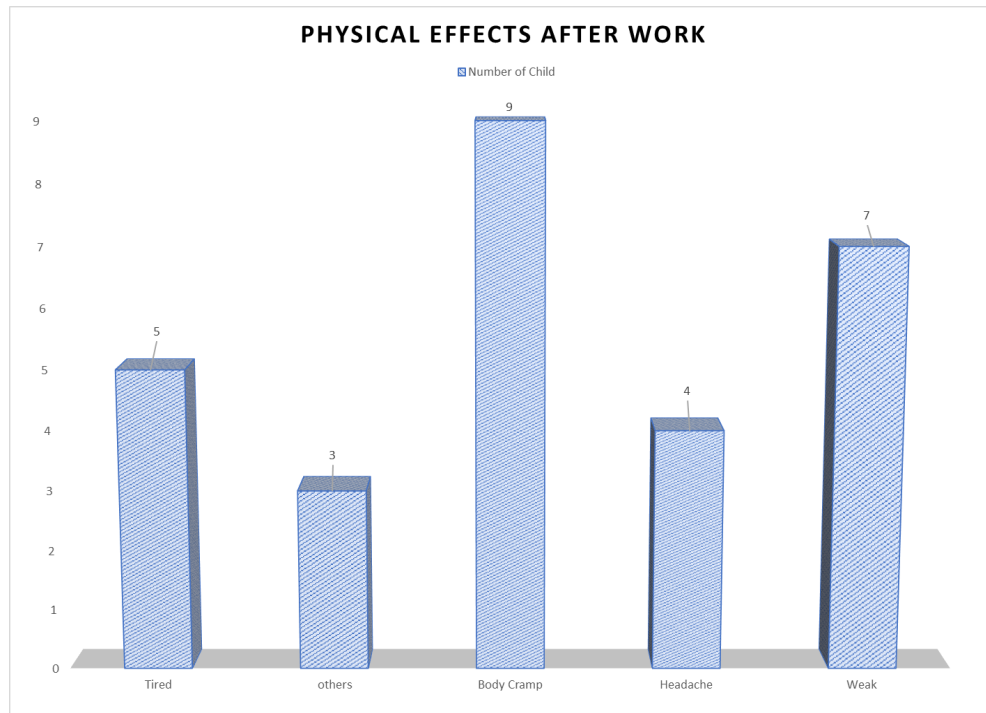
In the bar graph, we represent information which has multiple answers. That's why in terms of counting these are more than 14. In the pie-chart, we represent information which has only one answer. We calculate these in percentages. We also differentiate the types of workers, so that we can find out the effects in terms of the work they do.

## Findings

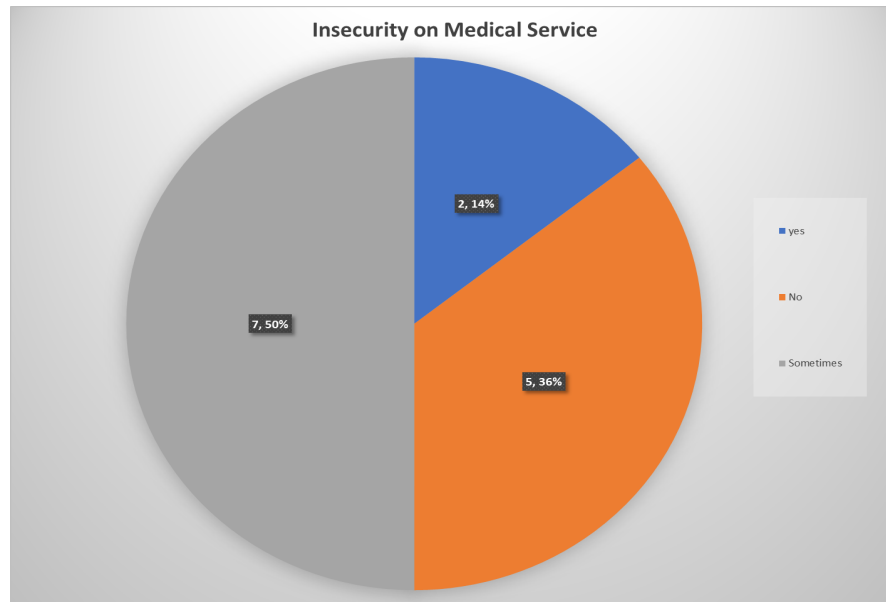


This bar graph shows the types of works that the child labour basically do at Koratoli Bazar. Based on our research we found 9 types of workers. There are produce sellers, loaders, agriculture labor, sweepers, construction workers, drivers, fishermen, metal workers and others. From our research, we found some childrens are working as multiple workers. In the bar graph the highest rate of workers is produce sellers which is 7 children among 14, and the least amount of children respectively works in construction and

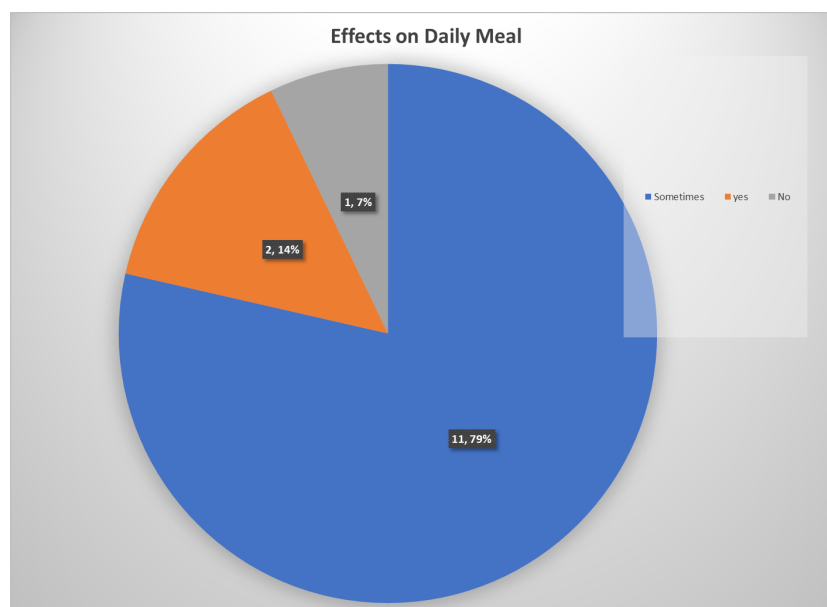
others. The second highest worker is a van driver. After that, we can see about 3 children work as fishermen and metal workers. Lastly, 2 children work as loaders, as well as sweeper and agriculture labor.



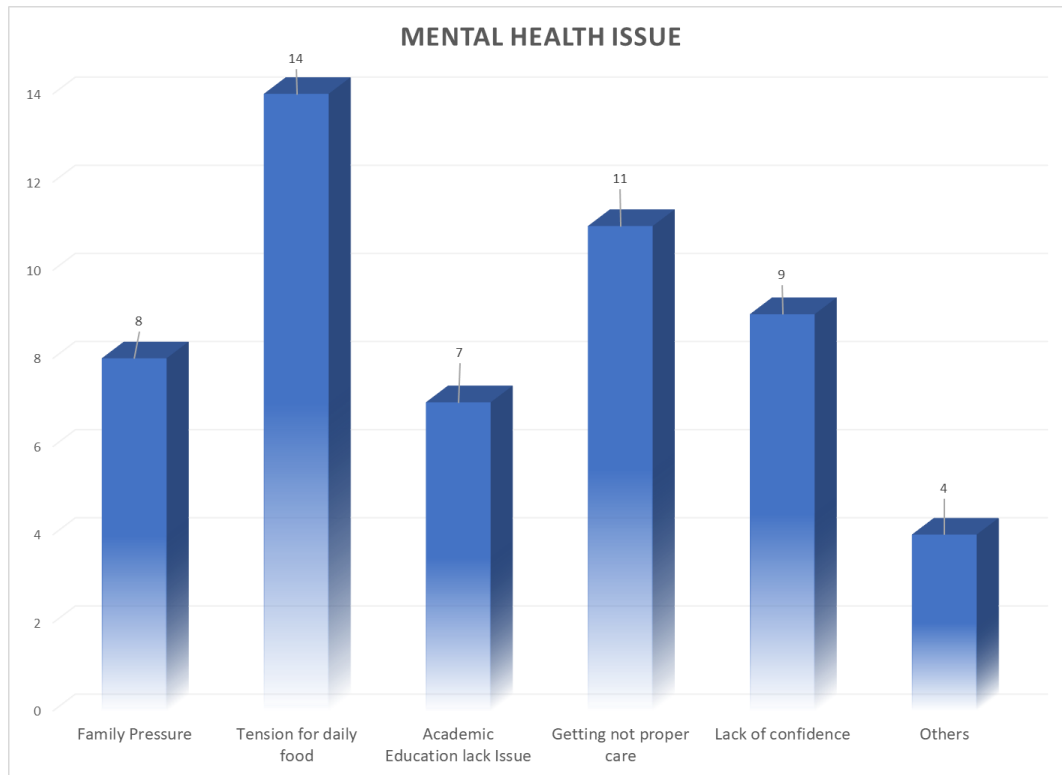
This bar graph describes the physical effects on child labour after work. It shows that 9 out of 14 children suffer from body cramps which is the highest in number. We also can see that 4 children suffer from headaches, 5 children stay tired, 7 children stay weak after work and 3 children suffer from other problems. Here, one child may have multiple problems.



This pie-chart shows child labour's thinking in terms of getting medical services. Here, 5.36% of children think that they will not get any medical attention if they get sick. Only 7.50% of children think they may get medical service sometimes. But only 2.14% of children only think that they will get medical assurance.



This pie-chart shows the effect on daily meals they consume which is those child labour's basic needs. From the graph we can see that 1.7% of children don't get proper meals everyday. On the other hand, only 2.14% of children get proper meals. But 11.79% of children get proper meals sometimes.



From the bar graph, we can see different types of mental health problem among the child labor. We can see that 14 out of 14 childrens are suffering from daily food problem and this is also the biggest complication for a child labor. The tension for daily food is the highest number of mental health issues in our graph. The second maximum number is not getting proper medical care which is about 11 children out of 14. Then respectively lack of confidence which is 9, family pressure is 8, academic educational lack issue is 7 children and 4 children are suffering from others mental health issues.

## Discussion

In our research, our focus was in effect of child labour. But we know that one problem is interconnected to another problem. So in our research we added which types of work child laborers usually do at Kuratoli Bazar and bad effects-impacts because of their hard work, and their opinion on which type of effects they may face.

From the findings part we can see child laborers are facing many problems in day to day life. Some of the problems are very serious for a child to lead their life properly. Most of the time these problems affect very badly in a children's life. Majority number of the children are suffering from lack of proper food which affects their health, proper growth and prosperity. They do not get enough time to go school and for this reason they have no academic education, that is why they don't know about general etiquette and manners sometimes. They also suffer from tiredness, body cramp, headache and many types of health issues



because of hard work and lack of proper and healthy meals at the same time. Sometimes they have family pressure, lack of confidence, and also ignorance from the people of society. These things affect very trashily on their mind and also on their behavior, which creates a bad impact on their mentality.

Sometimes they get sick. But according to our research we find out that because of poverty they don't get proper treatment and face various problems on their health and sometimes it becomes the worst.

From our research and survey data, we analyze that the child labour at Kuratoli Bazar are suffering from several problems and as a result, these problems effect their life from every angle, weather it is mental issue, or physical complications, or social neglation etc etc. These things hamper their normal life so badly and also ruin their precious childhood.

## **Conclusion**

The purpose of this report is to bring forward the effects of child labor at Kuratoli bazar, by collecting data's from the child laborers themselves. Analyzing the data we came to a conclusion that they are going through a very harsh time and if they continue to do all this hard work at this age their future will not be as bright as their potential. But they deserve a better and healthier childhood. Now it is our duty and responsibility to create awareness in our society so that we can direct them to the right path for their future.

## **Recommendation**

- Free school improvement for child laborers
  - Most of the child labor don't go to school because it costs bit of fortune. All though there are schools that provide free education to the under-privilage. There are not many around Kuratoli Bazar.
- Awaring child laborers about free schools
  - Making them aware about free education dedicated towards them and encouraging them to get admitted or help them getting admitted.
- Explaining to them the importance of education
  - Explain to them the minimum importance of education for themselves and for their near future, and talk about it to their parents.
- Influence other people to come forward.
  - Only a few of us cannot reduce this problem and resolve it. Every one of us should step up and do at least their bare minimum towards this problem, whether encouraging them or helping them to overcome this curse.

## Reference

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- (iv) [https://www.thekidsrightschangemakers.org/en/your-rights/child-labour?gclid=Cj0KCQiA-JacBhC0ARIsAixybyNG3KeUxsGAV67-xSvK5pMs3bIRvJ0yvChXUusdCqfwVXzR2L4CoV0aAj\\_wEALw\\_wcB](https://www.thekidsrightschangemakers.org/en/your-rights/child-labour?gclid=Cj0KCQiA-JacBhC0ARIsAixybyNG3KeUxsGAV67-xSvK5pMs3bIRvJ0yvChXUusdCqfwVXzR2L4CoV0aAj_wEALw_wcB)