



## Original Article

# A Study on Types of Work and Wages in Relation to Age of Child Labor at Rajshahi City

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### Abstract

The study was conducted at Rajshahi city and 180 child workers were selected randomly from different working places such as hotel and restaurant, motor garage, general shops, poultry farm, domestic house, private clinics and private diagnostic centers from January 2009 to March 2009. The study revealed certain variables such as gender, educational level, types of works and wages per month including duration of work of the child workers in relation to their age and the study showed that male were highest in age group 5-9 years and female were highest in age group 13-17 years. The educational level of the respondents was poor in general and in the age group 5-17 years 128 (45.7%) could not read or write at all. The maximum children 44 (15.7%) and 41 (14.6%) respondents were engaged in private diagnostic center and private clinics respectively. The findings could be due to more prevalence of domestic labor at Rajshahi and more prevalence of hotel, private clinics and private diagnostic centers at Rajshahi. Monthly wages of the study respondents was very poor. The study revealed that 54 (19.3%) respondents did not get any wage and they worked for food only. 188 (67.1%) and 38 (13.6%) respondents had wage <500 and in between 500-1000 taka only. The study showed that significant number of children that 238 (85%) had worked more than 8 hours in a day.

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### Introduction

Child labor covers all economic activities carried out by children regardless of their occupational status. It has probably being in existence almost as long as the history of mankind. Economic activity is a broad concept that encompasses most productive activities of children it includes both work that is permissible under the International Labor Organization's (ILO) conventions and that which is not. Child labor is prevalent worldwide, occurring both in developing and developed countries. Bangladesh, situated in South Asia, is a

unitary and an independent country since 1971. It is a country of 1,47,570 km<sup>2</sup> and around 149 millions people with one of the world's mostly densely populated nations. a child labor is a enormous problem in Bangladesh, with around 5.4-7.9 millions, about one fifth, of all Bangladeshi children aged 5-14 years being classified as child workers (UNICEF, 2008).

The study will reveal certain variables such as gender, educational level, types of works and wages per month including duration of work of the child workers in relation to age of the children.

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## Material and Methods

Different working places of children aged 5 to 17 years were selected randomly. The study period was from January 2009 to March 2009. Total 280 children were selected on random basis from different working places and data were collected by interview through the scheduled questionnaires and also through observation.

## Results

The study showed that out of 280 respondents 194 (69.3%) and 86 (30.7%) respondents were male and female respectively, of them 70 (36.1% male and 20 (23.3%) female were of age group 5-9 years. 68 (35%) male and 22 (25.6%) male and female children was of age group 9-13 years, while 56 (28.9%) male and 86 (30.7%) female was of age group 13-17 years (Table I). Male were highest in age group 5-9 years and female were highest in age group 13-17 years. The present study showed that 128 (45.7%) 132 (47.1%), 20 (7.1%) respondents had no education, (primary and secondary level of education.) In the age group 5-9 years 51 (56.7%), 39 (43.3%) could not read and write. 36 (40.0%), 50 (55.6%), 4 (4.4%) respondents of age group 9-13 had no education (primary level and secondary level of education.) 41 (41.0%), 43 (43.0%), 16 (16.0%) respondents of age group 13-17 years had no education, primary level and secondary level of education (Table II). The educational level of the responders

was poor in general and in the age group 5-17 years, 128 (45.7%) could not read or write at all. The study showed that 66 (23.6%) and 50 (17.9%) respondents were engaged in domestic labor and restaurant respectively. 44 (15.7%) and 41 (14.6%) respondents were engaged in private diagnostic center and private clinics respectively. It was found in the study that 21 (7.5%) respondents were motor helper, 19 (6.8%) and 19 (6.8%) respondents worked in garej and general shops and 12 (4.3%), 8 (2.9%) worked in poultry farm and was rickshaw puller respectively (Table III). 66 (23.6%) and 50 (17.9%) respondents were engaged in domestic labor and restaurant respectively. The maximum children 44 (15.7%) and 41 (14.6%) respondents were engaged in private diagnostic center and private clinics respectively. The findings could be due to more due to prevalence of domestic labor at Rajshahi and more prevalence of hotel, private clinics and private diagnostic centers at Rajshahi. Monthly wages of the study respondents was very poor. The study revealed that 54 (19.3%) respondents did not get any wage and they worked for food only. 188 (67.1%) and 38 (13.6%) respondents had wage <500 and in between 500-1000 taka only (Table IV). The study showed that significant number of children that 238 (85%) had worked more than 8 hours and only 15% respondents had worked up to 1 hour in a day (Table V).

**Table I.** Age and gender distribution of the respondents

Age group (in years)	Gender of the respondents				N	%
	Male	%	Female	%		
5-9	70	36.1	20	23.3	90	32.1
9-13	68	35.1	22	25.6	90	32.1
13-17	56	28.9	44	51.2	100	35.7
Total	194	69.3	86	30.7	280	100.0

**Table II.** Age group and Educational level of the respondents

Age group (in years)	Educational level of the respondents							
	None	%	Primary	%	Secondary	%	Total	%
5-9	51	56.7	39	43.3	0	0	90	100.0
9-13	36	40.0	50	55.6	4	4.4	90	100.0
13-17	41	41.0	43	43.0	16	16.0	100	100.0
Total	128	45.7	132	47.1	20	7.1	280	100.0



**Table III.** Age group and type of works done by the respondents

Age group (in years)	Type of works done by the respondents								Total %	
	Hotels & restaurant %	Motor Helper %	General Shops %	Poultry Farms %	rickshaw puller %	Domes Labor %	private clinic %	private Diag Cent %		
5-9	0	0	100.0	7	0	45	11	8	90	
	0	47.4	0	52.6	7.8	0	50.0	12.2	8.9	100.0
9-13	20	3	0	4	0	4	10	27	22	90
	40.0	3.3	0	21.1	0	4.4%	11.1	30.0	24.4	100.0
13-17	30	7	21	5	5	4	11	3	14	100
	60.0	15.8	100.0	26.3	5.0	4.0	11.0	3.0	14.0	100.0
<b>Total</b>	50	19	21	19	12	8	66	41	44	280
	17.9	6.8	7.5	6.87	4.3	2.9	23.6	14.6%	15.7	100.0

**Table IV.** Age group and wages of the respondents

Age group (in years)	Wages of the respondents				Total %		
	None %	<500 %	500-1000 %	Total %			
5-9	54	60.0	36	40.0	0	90	100.0
9-13	0	0	90	100.0	0	90	100.0
13-17	0	0	62	62.0	38	100	100.0
<b>Total</b>	54	19.3	188	67.1	38	280	100.0

**Table V.** Age group (in years) and duration of work of the respondents

Age group (in years)	duration of work				Total %	
	up to 8 hours %	> 8 hours %	Total %	%		
5-9	0	0	90	37.8	90	32.1
9-13	18	42.9	72	30.3	90	32.1
13-17	24	57.1	76	31.9	100	35.7
<b>Total</b>	42	15.0	238	85.0	280	100.0

**Discussion**

According to present study out of 280 respondents 194 (69.3%) and 86 (30.7%) respondents were male and female respectively. Male were highest in age group 5-9 years and female were highest in age group 13-17 years. Proportionately the higher representation of boys and increased representation of girls in the study is attractive to conjecture that the finding reflects gender bias in upbringing aimed at preparing the boys as well as girls for traditional roles of small scale economic trades to boost family economy. The increased number boys and girls in this study may also be speculated that both in Bangladesh society is more amenable and responsive to parental control and as such are assigned economic tasks more often. The present study considered the role of children in economic tasks within the family enterprise and in and around the home.

The present study showed that 128 (45.7%), 132 (47.1%), 20 (7.1%) respondents and no education (primary and secondary level of education.) In the age group 5-9 years 51 (56.7%), 39 (43.3%) could not read or write. 36 (40.0%), 50 (55.6%), 4 (4.4%) respondents of age group 9-13 had no education (primary level and secondary level of education.) 41 (41.0%), 43 (43.0%), 16 (16.0%) respondents of age group 13-17 years had no education. (primary level and secondary level of education.) The educational level of the respondents was poor in general and in the age group 5-17 years 128 (45.7%) could not read or write at all. These findings could be due to poor educational level of the parents of children and poor socio-economic class as observed in other studies.



The study showed that 66 (23.6%) and 50 (17.9%) respondents were engaged in domestic labor and restaurant respectively. 44 (15.6%) and 41(14.6%) respondents were engaged in private diagnostic center and private clinics respectively. It was found in the study that 21(7.5%) respondents were motor helper. 19(6.8%) and 19(6.8%) respondents worked in *garej* and general shops and 12(4.3%), 8(2.9%) worked in poultry farm and was rickshaw puller respectively. 66(23.6%) and 50(17.9%) respondents were engaged in domestic labour and restaurant. The maximum children 44(15.7%) and 41(14.6%) respondents were engaged in private diagnostic center and private clinic respectively. These findings could be due to increased prevalence of domestic labour at Rajshahi and due to increased number of hotels and restaurant, private clinics, private diagnostic centers at Rajshahi.

Monthly wages of the study respondents was very poor. The study revealed that 54(19.3%) respondents did not get any wage and they worked for food only. 188(67.1%) and 38(13.6%) respondents had wage <500 and in between 500-1000 taka only. The study showed that significant number of children that 238 (85%) had worked more than 8 Hours and only 15% respondent's had worked up to 8 hours in a day. These findings could be due to poor socio economic condition of Bangladesh. In article 15 (b) of the constitution of the people's Republic of Bangladesh employment guaranteed at a reasonable wage but it is absent in this study. And the present study showed that 85% workers work more than 8 hours that violates any service rules of the people's Republic of Bangladesh.

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