

## Child Labour Decreases School Attendance: A Case Study of Patuakhali, Bangladesh

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### Abstract

*The study aims to understand the determinants of child labour that hamper school attendance of the children. The researchers have used realism research philosophy and mixed research methods to accomplish the study. The research methodology refers that primary data is collected by questionnaire survey and interview survey with children from 7 to 14 years old, and four experts about child labour. The findings of the study represent the causes of low school attendance and increase of child labour. The analysis reviews the characteristics of the children's parents and household condition those are forcing children to be child labour instead of having education. The factors of child labour are identified as poor family income, parents' educational status, number of family members, and land of household. Children from 10 to 14 years old are likely to study and work together for supporting their family's household activities and income generation.*

**Keywords:** Child labour, Household, School attendance.

### Background

Social norms and economic realities indicate that child labour is a widely accepted and very common incident in Bangladesh. Many families rely on the income generations by their children for survival, so, child labour is often highly valued. Additionally, employers often prefer to employ children because they can be exploited, and considered to be more compliant and obedient than adults.

While children are forced to work, they are often deprived from their rights to education, leisure and entertainment. They are also exposed to situations that make them vulnerable to trafficking, abuse, violence, and

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exploitation. Millions of children are reported that they do not school, however estimates vary. Children between 5-14 years old, about five million, are economically active. “Child labour” is a narrower concept than “working children”. According to the International Labour Organisation definition (right), there are about 3.2 million child labourers in Bangladesh (BBS, 2003).

Certain groups of children are more likely to work than others, for instance boys comprise about three-quarters of all working children. In slum areas, almost one among five children between 5-14 years old are child labourers, and among them, only 25 percent go to school (BBS and UNICEF, 2007). Rapid urbanisation can encourage children more to move into urban slum areas and be compelled to work. Child employment rates increase with age, but even about 2 percent of five years old children and 3 percent of six years old children are also turning into child labour (UNICEF, ILO and World Bank, 2009).

Child labour is a visible part of everyday life in Bangladesh. Young children serve at roadside tea stalls, and sell products to the passengers on the street. Sometimes, many children work in sectors that are not visible, such as domestic work, which makes monitoring and regulation of working environment more difficult. On average, children work 28 hours a week and earn 222 taka (3.3 USD) a week (BBS, 2003).

Most of the work that children do in Bangladesh are considered as “hazardous”, and put their physical and mental development at risk. The UN Committee on the Rights of the Child expressed concern in 2009 that many Bangladeshi children continue to work in five worst forms of child labour such as welding, auto workshops, road transportation, battery recharging, and tobacco factories (Committee on the Rights of the Child: Bangladesh, 2009). The Committee also raised concerns about the lack of mechanisms to enforce child labour laws or monitor working conditions, and insufficient public awareness about the negative effects of child labour.

## **Introduction**

Child labour is the work that exceeds a minimum number of working hours, depending on the age of a child, and on the type of the work (BBS, 2003). Such work is considered harmful to the child, and should therefore be eliminated. According to BBS (2003) Child labour is:

“At least one hour of economic work or 28 hours of domestic work per week at the ages of 5-11 years”.

“At least 14 hours of economic work or 28 hours of domestic work per week at the ages of 12-14 years”

“At least 43 hours of economic or domestic work per week at the ages of 15-17 years”.

**Table 1:** Key statistics of child labour in Bangladesh

Working children, aged 5-17 years (BBS, 2003)	7.4 million		
Working children, aged 5-14 years (BBS, 2003)	4.7 million		
Child labourers (according to definition, below), aged 5-17 years (BBS, 2003)	3.2 million		
Children engaged in hazardous labour, aged 5-17 years (BBS, 2003)	1.3 million		
Child domestic workers (ILO, 2006)	4,21,000		
Percentage of children (aged 5-14 years) engaged in child labour (2006) (BBS and UNICEF, 2007)	National	Slum	Tribal
	12.8	19.1	17.6

According to BBS (2003), the number of working children in Bangladesh is 4.7 million who are 5 to 14 years old and the number becomes 7.4 million when the age range is between 5 to 17 years old. Child labourers are the people who consider children at work instead of ensuring their childhood and their opportunity to attend school regularly (Liebel, 2007; Gamlin and Pastor, 2009). Total 3.2 million children labourers are found in Bangladesh who are getting benefits by employing children at work. About 1.3 million children are engaged in hazardous labour indicating that children work in risky and vulnerable conditions. The rate of child labour from 5 to 14 years old is high in slum areas showing that 19.1 percent in slum areas, 17.6 percent at tribal areas, and 12.8 percent at national level (BBS and UNICEF, 2007).

The use of child labour at working sector is a major concern for many international organizations such as International Labour Organization (ILO), UNICEF and World Bank (Heady, 2003; Raju, 2005; Kingdon and Theopold, 2006; Gamlin and Pastor, 2009). USA is also encouraged to import clothing products from Bangladesh because clothing industries in this country utilize children at work in low wage rate, and they cannot even argue about their wage (Yeakey and Buck, 2004; Ray and Lancaster, 2005; Liebel, 2007; Khanam and Ross, 2011). Child welfare activities are developing through various initiatives of welfare states where rich countries are combating to develop their policy for child rights assurance (Maitra and Ray, 2002; Reynolds, 2006; Das and Mukharjee, 2007; Khanam, 2008). The policies of these countries about child labour are affecting to reduce the employment opportunity for children through organizational boycotts, which can help to maintain international child labour standards (Orazem and Gunnarsson, 2004; Kingdon and Theopold, 2006). A major concern is raised that child labour cannot be reduced in Bangladesh due to the country's internal socio-economic structure (Arends-Kuemming and Amin, 2004; Salmon, 2005).

The Government of Bangladesh provides statistical data that indicates the incidence of child labour is still high (Salmon, 2005; Khanam, 2006). The findings of Labour Survey of Bangladesh indicate 6.77 million children of

Bangladesh between 10-14 years old become the victims of child labour (Khanam, 2008). The understanding of the determinants of child labour and schooling system in Bangladesh can provide real scenario of this problem, which can be referred as problem statement of this study. The background of this study indicates the analysis of regional characteristics of child labour of a small part of Bangladesh where school attendance of children is decreasing. Child labour forces children to work for maintaining their family demands, economic demands and keeping them away from education (Genicot, 2005; Mukherjee and Sinha, 2009; Khanam and Ross, 2011). The incidence of child labour keeps the children away from education through low school attendance, which is an important issue in Bangladesh as a developing country. But this scenario may not be similar all the time in micro-level analysis.

### **Rationale of the Study**

Child labour is a curse for a society that can decrease the future productivity of human capital of a country because it hinders the growth of education and development (Maitra and Ray, 2002; Kingdon and Theopold, 2006; Liebel, 2007; Rogers and Swinnerton, 2008). In Bangladesh, total 11 percent labour force is coming from child labours who are below 14 years old (Khanam and Ross, 2011; Arends-Kuemming and Amin, 2004). Total 38.9 percent of child labours are 10-14 years old in Bangladesh, engaged in economic activities instead of taking educational facilities (Amin et al, 2004; Khanam, 2008). The rationale of the study urged to analyze the condition of grass-root level of child labour from small area of Bangladesh where garments factories are absent. Garments factories have engagement with child labour mentioned by the findings of different researchers (Amin et al, 2004; Khanam, 2006). Therefore, the condition of child labour in Bangladesh is also visible where garments factories are not located so this scenario has to be analysed to find out the real factors of child labour in Bangladesh. It is important to study the context of child labour in Bangladesh where garments factories are not located and the reasons of child labour are the lack of education and awareness. Child labour is keeping the children away from going to school and forcing them to work even though there are no garments factories at local areas of Bangladesh. Bangladesh passed the Labour Act in 2006, which includes a chapter on child labour. This new law prohibits employment of children less than 14 years of age, as well as prohibiting hazardous forms of child labour for persons under 18 years old. However, children who are 12 years old and above may be engaged in “light work” that does not pose a risk to their mental and physical development and does not interfere with their education. The law does not provide a strong enforcement mechanism for the child labour provisions. Additionally, the vast majority of children (93 percent) work in the informal sector, which

makes enforcement of the relevant legislations challenging. This research gap is referred from previous researchers' findings about child labour context of Bangladesh so the researchers have taken Patuakhali Sadar Upazila of Patuakhali district of Bangladesh as the study area. The study area does not have any garments industries so the actual reasons of child labour at this area can be represented by local factors of child labour such as income, economically unable to bear educational costs, social problems etc. The interest of conducting the study is emerged to show that the financial crisis does not only lead the children to become child labour but also the lack of education and awareness of the parents can be responsible for increasing child labour. The study is significant to analyze child labour context at small part of southern region of Bangladesh. Garments factory and economic cause are not often responsible for child labour but also the lack of education and awareness of the parents occasionally influence child labour. The aim of the study is to analyse the child labour based on decreased school attendance at Patuakhali Sadar Upazila, Bangladesh. The objectives of the study are: (a) To understand the child labour scenario at Patuakhali Sadar Upazila, (b) To represent the reasons of child labour, (c) To analyse the child labour based on decreased school attendance view of children at the study area.

### **Literature Review**

Academic attention and research findings of previous researchers show that the high level of child participation in labour force in Bangladesh brought implementation of Child Labour Deterrence Act in 1995 (Delap, 2001; Maitra and Ray, 2002; Salmon, 2005; Khanam, 2008). A small number of research papers had focused on the scenario of child labour in Bangladesh after the 1990s due to the presence of Child Labour Deterrence Act of 1995 (Ray and Lancaster, 2005; Khanam and Ross, 2011). The determinants of child labour are focused by different research findings through the evaluation of Child Labour Deterrence Act in Bangladesh (Liebel, 2007; Khanam and Ross, 2011). The effectiveness of targeted enrolment of government subsidiary for increasing school attendance is also measured from Food-For-Education Program (Salmon, 2005; Khanam, 2006; Khanam, 2008).

According to the findings of Khanam and Ross (2011), school attendance of children has increased due to effective functioning of Food-For-Education Program that reduces child labour at rural areas in Bangladesh. The linkage between child labour and school attendance is overviewed, and strong positive correlation can be drawn between these two factors (Cigno and Rosati, 2002; Orazem and Gunnarsson, 2004; Das and Deb, 2006; Khanam, 2008). The findings of the study of Amin et al, (2004) present the

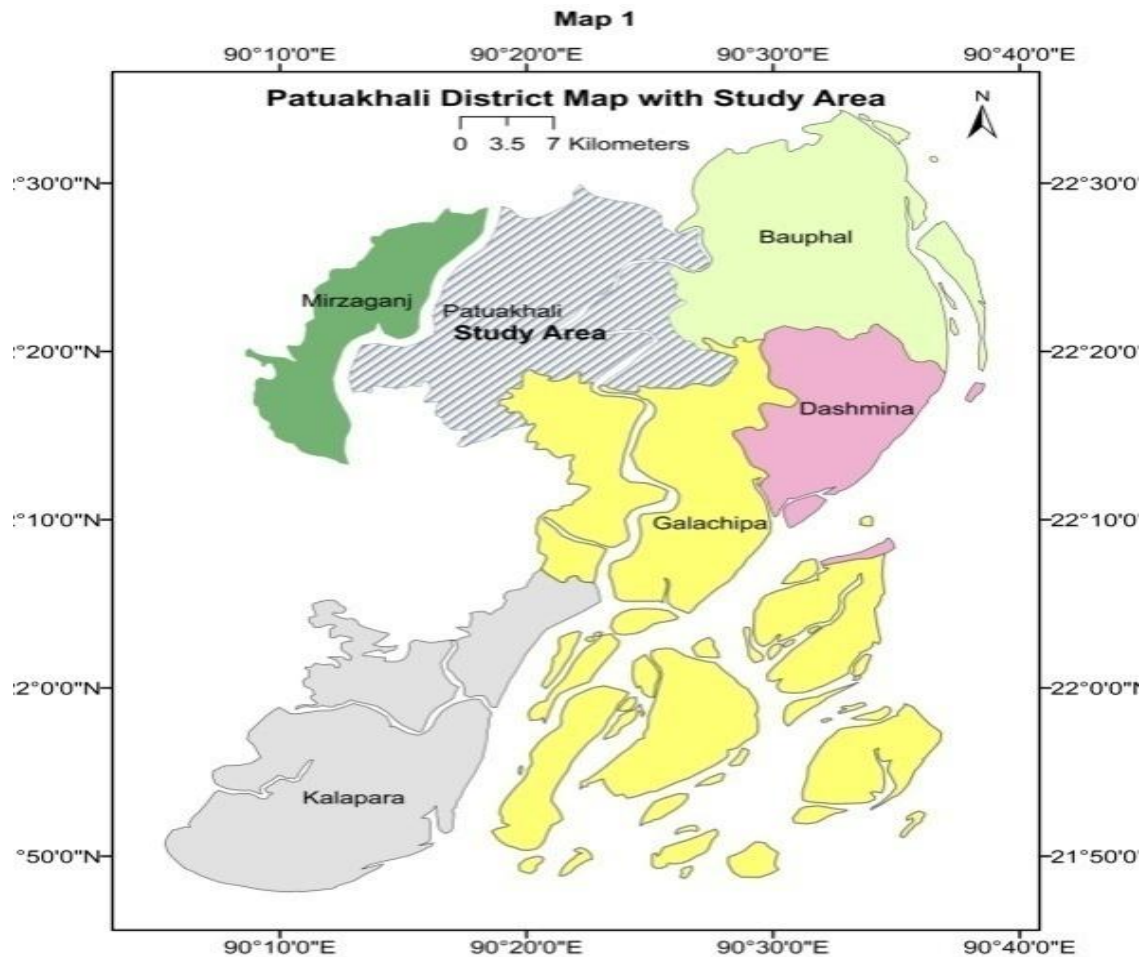
child labour context, which is adversely affecting the children's school attendance. The scenario of child labour is demonstrating low school attendance of children that can lead low grade attainment because it keeps the children away from schools (Gunnarsson et al, 2006; Mukherjee and Sinha, 2009). The findings of Khanam (2008) explain that the determinants of child labour can affect aggressively on family structure of Bangladesh and decrease children's school attendance. The demand of child labour of Bangladesh is lessening due to the existence of anti child labour policies (Delap, 2001; Khanam, 2006). The parents often inspire their children to work in household sector, agricultural sector, industrial sector that makes them as victims of child labour (Raju, 2005; Kingdon and Theopold, 2006; Liebel, 2007; Rogers and Swinnerton, 2008).

The housework and non-market work are considered as child labour, which is examined on effective workforce of girls (Maitra and Ray, 2002; Yeakey and Buck, 2004; Das and Deb, 2006; Close, 2009). Female children are engaging themselves to housework instead of going to school that arises from parents' incapability to afford educational expenses (Yeakey and Buck, 2004; Genicot, 2005; Khanam, 2008; Gamlin and Pastor, 2009). Child labour makes the children deprived from their educational rights, where low attendance of school is also visible because of unpaid household work (Maitra and Ray, 2002; Amin et al, 2004; Raju, 2005; Khanam, 2006; Das and Mukharjee, 2007). The prevalence of child labour is not only a concern in Bangladesh but also in universal context to increase policy response to reduce child labour (Kingdon and Theopold, 2006; Khanam and Ross, 2011). The findings of Salmon (2005) indicate that the policy response about child labour is represented for children's educational liability by the government to reduce poverty.

The understanding of the determinants of child labour has an importance to develop potential impacts on national educational policy and future socio-economic well-being of Bangladesh (Arends-Kuemming and Amin, 2004; Khanam, 2008). The impact of market work and household work on school attendance of children is reducing child attendance at school (Delap, 2001; Heady, 2003; Ray and Lancaster, 2005; Mukherjee and Sinha, 2009; Khanam and Ross, 2011). Previous research findings are indicating that the child labour reduces the probability of continuous school attendance of children and this scenario is also similar in Bangladesh (Amin et al, 2004; Khanam, 2008). Household poverty is an important factor for increasing child labour in Bangladesh that can compel children to work instead of studying (Khanam, 2006; Liebel, 2007). Children are misused as economic opportunity in poor families in Bangladesh that turn them into child labour to support the family earnings (Salmon, 2005; Kingdon and Theopold, 2006; Khanam and Ross, 2011).

## Methodology

The methodology of the study is designed to develop the conceptual framework of child labour in Bangladesh and analyze the real context from a selective study area. The research methodology is developed through realism research philosophy for analyzing the real context of child labour at Patuakhali Sadar Upazila (map 1).



The analysis of the previous research findings shows research gap of child labours on the context because the study area of Patuakhali, Bangladesh has no influence of garments factories employment. The researchers have used deductive research approach for analyzing the context of child labour that decreases school attendance of children. The study is conducted by mixed research methods through both qualitative and quantitative research methods. The researchers have conducted 4 interview surveys with the experts on the issues of child labour and 114 sample children who are purposively selected from 7 to 14 years old for questionnaire survey, who live in Patuakhali Sadar Upazila of Patuakhali District in Bangladesh. Among them, 71 (62 percent) is male children and 43 (38 percent) is female children. The collected primary data is firstly coded and then analysed by using SPSS. Statistical Cross tables and graphs are created in SPSS programme.

## Findings and Analysis

The consequences of child labour are emphasized in the primary survey of the study where all the children from different age levels are analysed with their causes of becoming child labour. The contextual framework is developed from descriptive representation of findings from interview and questionnaire-based tabular data representation from questionnaire survey. The findings and analysis of collected primary data and are explained through critical review. The later sections are design to show the findings of the study according to objectives formulated.

### Causes of Low School Attendance

The researchers have developed a questionnaire survey and conducted pilot survey with 20 children who are 7 to 14 years old. The analysis of pilot survey has supported to develop questionnaire and final questionnaire survey that has pointed out proper reasons for children absenteeism at school, and to engage at work. The research findings of questionnaire survey about causes of low school attendance and school absenteeism is presented by the table below:

**Table 1:** Causes for low school attendance

Causes for low attendance at school	Number	Percentage (%)
Family cannot bear educational expense	23	20.18
Sickness	6	5.26
Do not want to go to school	36	31.58
School is far away from home	3	2.63
Sending girls at school is not appropriate	13	11.4
Housework demand	19	16.67
Demand for family income generation	10	8.77
Other Causes	4	3.51
Total	114	100

*Source: Field Survey, 2015*

The table (Table 1) shows that 31.58 percent of the children do not go to school because of their unwillingness, which is the major cause for school absenteeism or school leave and low school attendance for children. Unwillingness of children to go to school is a normal phenomenon where parents have to be careful for sending them at school. Parents' education and awareness is very important for managing this issue. Financial solvency of the families for bearing educational expense is responsible for their low school attendance explained by 20.18 percent of the children. When family income becomes low then parents do not allow children to attend school, which is the second important reason for child labour at Patuakhali Sadar Upazila. Housework demand is also a reason for child labour urged by 16.67 percent. When housework become higher importance due to hawkers and vendors for preparing and selling their goods then children get low opportunity to attend at school. Sending girls at school is inappropriate is a prejudice, believed by 11.40 percent, which is a cause for low school attendance of children. Many people have taboos and beliefs that girls are



only for household work so do not allow female children to attend school. The demand for family income generation is another cause for children's low school attendance explained by 8.77 percent of the respondents. Total 88.60 percent of the respondents urge that these five reasons are affecting for low school attendance of the children.

### Children's Activity

The findings of primary survey refer different types of activities of children those are classified into major four groups. The descriptions of different categories of children's workforces are given below:

- A. **Study:** Study is the major activity of the children, which is reported at the student occupation and it is expected by all.
- B. **Household activities:** Children are considering their household activities as a role of family member to assist household chores.
- C. **Agricultural activities:** Children are providing support to their family in agricultural activities where they are interested to work for agricultural cultivation to help their families.
- D. **Earning activities:** Earning activities except household and agricultural activities are referred to service, business, permanent labour or part-time labour activities. The children are getting paid for their earning activities, which decreases their school attendance.

Gender-based children activities are categorized through the results of questionnaire survey and all the activities are counted as paid or unpaid. If the children work and attend school then the category is mentioned as "work and study" otherwise the categories are mentioned as "work only" and "study only". Age-based analysis of children workforces are also analysed from the findings and results of primary data. Both the gender-based and age-based children activities are analysed by the table below (Table 2):

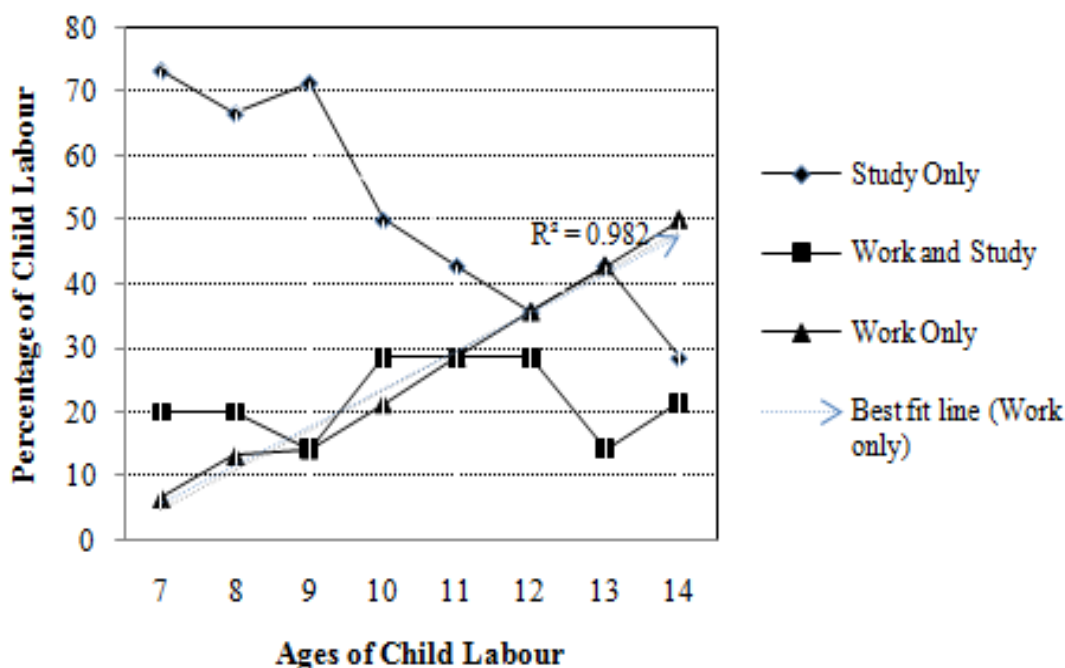
**Table 2:** Gender-based and Age-based Children Activities

		Study Only		Work and Study		Work Only		Total	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
<b>Gender</b>	<i>Boys</i>	38	53.52	15	21.13	18	25.35	71	100
	<i>Girls</i>	21	48.84	12	27.91	10	23.25	43	100
<b>Age</b>	7	11	73.33	3	20	1	6.67	15	100
	8	10	66.67	3	20	2	13.33	15	100
	9	10	71.44	2	14.28	2	14.28	14	100
	10	7	50	4	28.57	3	21.43	14	100
	11	6	42.86	4	28.57	4	28.57	14	100
	12	5	35.71	4	28.58	5	35.71	14	100
	13	6	42.86	2	14.28	6	42.86	14	100
	14	4	28.57	3	21.43	7	50	14	100

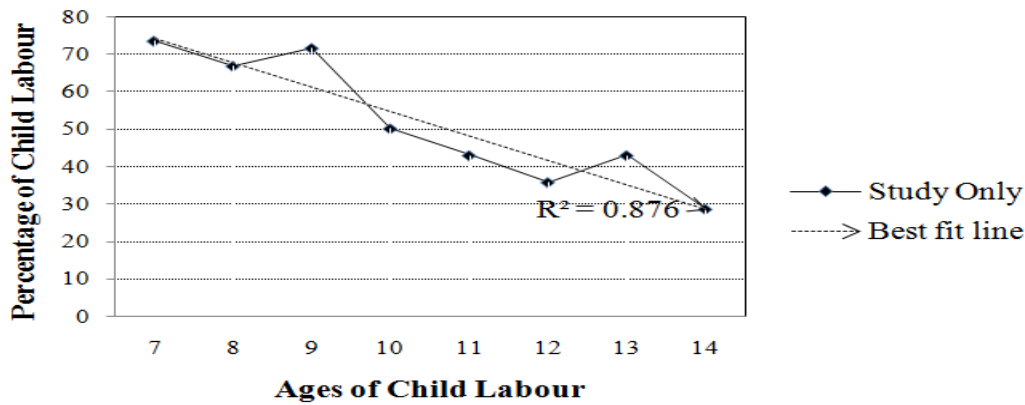
*Source: Field Survey, 2015*

The study shows that 53.52 percent of boys and 48.84 percent of girls are involved in “only study”. The “work only” status is mentioned by 25.35 percent of boys and 23.25 percent of girls. In childhood, the boys and girls are engaged with “Study only”. About 73 percent boys and girls are found in this category at 7 years. About 67 percent boys and girls involved “Study Only” at 8 years and at 9 years about 71 percent boys and girls are involved in study only and the rate is decreasing gradually. The trend of decreasing “study only” status is irregular because sometimes it increases and sometimes it decreases but overall situation is decreasing. The “study only” status of children can decrease while the children grow up but the pattern is irregular sometimes. The ratio of children's involvement in ‘work and study’ is almost constant, which is about 20 to 30 percent. This is also an issue that can be considered in the policy and regulation. The ratio of children's involvement in ‘work only’ is increased with their age. About 50 percent of children are involved with ‘only work’ at 14 years old. About 43 percent and 33 percent are involved with ‘only work’ at age of 13 and 12 years old respectively (Table 2). The ‘work only’ status rate is decreasing according with age increased and decreased. This is very alarming that about 7 percent children's are engaged with work at age of 7 years old and about 14 percent are engaged at age of 8 years old.

Figure 1 is analysed to represent the child labour at Patuakhali. According to the findings of figure 1, the children’s “work only” status is increasing continuously when children grow up, thus high level of child labour is found from children between 11 to 14 years old. There is a strong positive causal correlation among children with age and “work only”. Here correlation value is  $R^2 = 0.982$ .



**Figure 1 : Age-based Child Labour Involvement**



**Figure 2 :** Correlation of Age and Child Labour

The children studying condition by “Study Only” status is decreasing when the age of children is increasing, where the correlation is strongly negative and the value  $R^2 = 0.876$ .

### Characteristics of the Parents

Parent’s characteristics are measured by the researchers and analysed from the interviewee’s response to explain the educational and occupational status of the parents of the children. The occupation of father and low level of family income have significant impact on child labour and low school attendance. The findings reveal that if the level of educational status of parents is high then school attendance of children is also high. One child labour expert states that educational status of the parents is a factor for child labour and school attendance. The expert also adds that if the parents are not educated then they are not interested to send their children to school. Second child labour expert emphasizes on mother’s education level. He adds, if mother is educated then she becomes conscious about health, nutrition, safety, education and provide mental support for the children. High educational status of parents can ensure high level of school attendance of the children, which refers to keep the children away from being child labour. The findings of interview survey mention and all the interviewees agree that less educated parents with higher income are also interested to send their children at school rather than work. The interviewees have also added, if the father is a businessman then it also brings more possibilities for the children to attend school and surprisingly their school attendance remains high. The child labour experts state that if mother is a housewife then she is very sincere about sending her girls to school, so, it ensures the education of girls and save them from being child labour.

### Household Characteristics

The number of total family members has an influence on children to study only where the probability can indicate that if the number of family member is high then children cannot invest their time only for study. The child labour expert thinks that if the family has only one child then the probability of work and study of children can increase due to the determinant of family income level. One child labour expert explains that children invest their time only for study till they become 10 years old, and the probability of work and study can increase after becoming 10 years old while surrounding

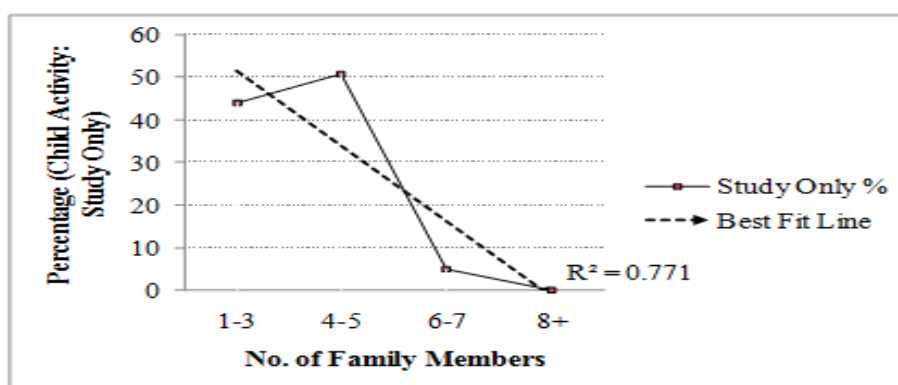
environment does not remain favourable. All the child labour experts share their valuable information about female children who engage themselves with household activities because they are interested to learn household chores. The interest of female children on household chores can be negative because the study hours get decreased and proper concentration on study can be hampered. The experts' opinion has perfect match with questionnaire data finding that is illustrating below:

**Table 3: Family Size based Children Activities**

Number of Family Member	Child Activities						Total	
	Study Only		Work and Study		Work Only			
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
1 - 3	26	44.07	2	7.41	2	7.14	30	26.32
4 - 5	30	50.85	16	59.26	7	25.00	53	46.49
6 - 7	3	5.08	7	25.93	16	57.14	26	22.81
8 +	0	0.00	2	7.41	3	10.71	5	4.39
Total	59	100.00	27	100.00	28	100.00	114	100.00

*Source: Field Survey, 2015*

The finding represents total 44.07 percent child activity is “Study Only” at nuclear family where family size is within 1-3 members. Total 50.85 percent child activity is “Study Only” at 4-5 members’ family and 5.08 percent from 6-7 members’ family. However, the average child activity is 26.32 percent at 1-3 members’ families where 44.07 percent child found “Study Only” status and 7.14 percent “Work Only” status. Total 7.41 percent child activity is “Work and Study” at 1-3 members family and 8 or more members family. Total 59.26 percent child activity is “Work and Study” at 4-5 members family and 25.93 percent at 6-7 members family. Moreover, the average child activity is 46.49 percent at 4-5 members’ families where 44.07 percent child found “Study Only” status and 25.0 percent at “Work Only” status. Total 7.14 percent child activity is “Work Only” at 1-3 members’ family and 25.0 percent at 4-5 members’ family. Total 57.14 percent child activity is “Work Only” at 6-7 members’ family and 10.71 percent at 8 or more members’ family. Therefore, large families have either work or work and study situation of child activity and small families are vice versa. The relationship of the finding is demonstrated by a figure below:



**Figure 3 : Family Size and Child Study**

The figure represents best fit line where study only child activity is decreasing when the family size is increasing. The relationship  $R^2 = 0.77$  that indicates strong correlation with family size increase and study only child activity decrease because of family demand.

Monthly household income and causes of low school attendance of children has a correlation, table 4 represents 11.40 percent low income families cannot bear educational expense of children where 20.93 percent families' monthly income below 10,000 Taka and 18.18 percent families' monthly income range is 10,000 – 20,000 Taka. Sickness represents 5.26 percent cause of low school attendance and there is no relation with household income. Total 48.25 percent children do not want to go to school where 80.0 percent value comes from household income range is 40,001 – 50,000 Taka. The taboos of sending girls at school is inappropriate dominate 11.40 percent children's low school attendance from different income ranges. Total 9.65 percent children's low school attendance is housework demand because of their fathers are food based hawkers and vendors and overall monthly household income lies within 20,000 Taka. Demand for family income generation has 7.89 percent cause of low school attendance of children where household income and size become vital factor.

**Table 4:** School Attendance based on Household Income

Causes for Low School Attendance	Monthly Household Income						Percentage
	Below 10,000	10,000 - 20,000	20,001- 30,000	30,001- 40,000	40,00 - 50,000	50,001 +	
Family cannot bear educational expense	20.93	18.18	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	11.40
Sickness	0.00	0.00	4.76	16.67	0.00	50.00	5.26
Do not want to go to school	41.86	45.45	52.38	41.67	80.00	50.00	48.25
School is far away from home	0.00	0.00	4.76	8.33	10.00	0.00	2.63
Sending girls at school is not appropriate	0.00	18.18	28.57	16.67	10.00	0.00	11.40
Housework demand	23.26	4.55	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	9.65
Demand for family income generation	6.98	13.64	4.76	16.67	0.00	0.00	7.89
Other causes	6.98	0.00	4.76	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.51
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100	100.00

*Source: Field Survey, 2015*

Total land area and space of the household is another vital factor that has significant impact on child labour and school attendance of children. The child labour experts mention that if the lands and space of household remain large then the children have more scope to study, which cannot increase child labour. On the other hand, if the space and land area of the household is small then it can hinder the education of the children and increase the opportunity for child labour. One child labour expert mentions that if land of

household remains large then it indicates work and study condition for male children and study only condition for female children.

### **Conclusion**

The higher educational status of parents significantly increases the probability of children to continue their education and ensure high school attendance that can decrease child labour. The findings of the present study have presented child labour context that gradually decreases school attendance of the children. The children are facing day labour or we labour condition if their father's income level is not satisfactory to support family earnings. The vulnerability of father's occupation can increase the probability for the children to work and study condition or work only condition that can make distance between the children and education. Not only the financial crisis but also the lack of education and awareness level of the families are responsible for increasing child labour. The increased number of family members brings higher probability of children to attend school continuously. Child labour scenario at Patuakhali Sadar Upazila shows that male children are more likely to combine study and work condition rather than female children that refer the boys are still interested to study while they work but girls are not. The context remains coefficient with female children those are also likely to combine study and work for investing their short span of time for household activities to help mother. Girls can easily adapt with official working environment if they are experienced with household chores. Female children of families with higher income can spend their time at household work as their hobby and sometimes they ignore education. Another finding of this study is interesting and that the female children's engagement with work is higher than male children. The Government of Bangladesh provides subsidy for female education, and this is attracting the parents mostly to send their female children to school. Therefore, the findings of this study can provide valuable information and direction to policy makers to control child labour and engage children more to education. The working status is common with older male children who cannot continue their education due to financial insolvency of family and their low educational standards. The working status of older female children can be increased due to financial crisis of the family and impact of early marriage or child marriage. The Ministry of Labour and Employment has recently adopted a National Child Labour Elimination Policy, 2010 which, provides a framework to eradicate all forms of child labour by 2015. UNICEF was one of many stakeholders to provide feedback on this policy. Its aims include: withdrawing children from hazardous jobs; improving income generating opportunities for parents so they do not rely on children's income; offering incentives for working children to attend school; enacting laws and improving law enforcement to eliminate child labour. The policy makers can analyze the findings of this study for taking effective measures to develop children school enrolment compared to low child labour.

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