

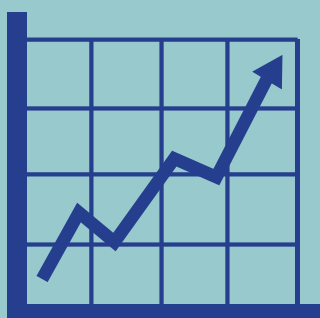
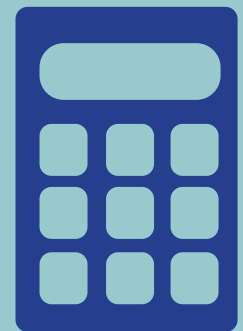
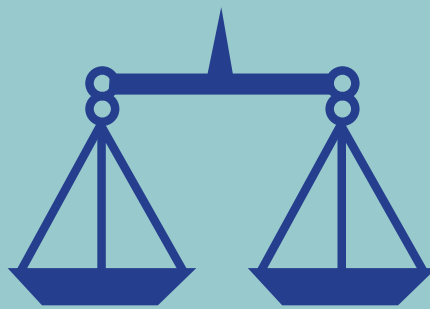
Measuring Children's Work in South Asia

Perspectives from national household surveys

By Sherin Khan and Scott Lyon



International
Labour
Organization



MEASURING CHILDREN'S WORK IN SOUTH ASIA

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By Sherin Khan and Scott Lyon

International Labour Organization (ILO)
Understanding Children's Work (UCW)

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The findings of the Report, based on national household surveys,¹ were presented and discussed in May 2013 at the 2nd SAARC Child Labour Workshop organized in New Delhi by the Ministry of Labour and Employment, India, in collaboration with the V.V. Giri National Labour Institute and the ILO. The Report was shared with the participants from the eight SAARC member States (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, the Maldives, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka). It was also shared for comments with ILO Country Offices in South Asia and ILO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific.

Furthermore, the Report benefits from valuable advice from a number of experts, in particular from Ms. Yoshi Nogushi and Mr. Azfar Khan (ILO), Mr. Hiranya Bora and Mr. Purnendu K. Banerjee (Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, India), Ms. Renu Singh (Young Lives India), and Ms. Bharati Ali (Haq Centre for Child Rights).

¹ For details see the Introduction section of the Report

Foreword

Since 2004 the ILO's global reports on child labour have served as a unique source of statistical information on child labour and children in employment. The ILO has also assisted countries with the preparation of country reports, based on their household surveys. These global and country reports guide action and advocacy efforts to eliminate child labour. In recent years, through our work with regional bodies in Asia, Africa and Latin America, we have seen the important role they can play in supporting countries within their respective regions to reinforce campaigns and forge partnerships in ways that will address child labour issues collectively and responsibly. We foresee that these collaborations will create a greater understanding of the issues involved and allow experiences, models and methodologies to be shared.

Within South Asia there is increasing focus on promoting regional cooperation through SAARC,¹ the eight-country body promoting socio-economic growth and cultural development through collaboration and greater understanding of mutual problems. This extends to cross-regional, South-South cooperation, through inter-regional bodies; key among these are BRICS, IBSA, ASEAN, and BIMSTEC².

Child labour is an issue that SAARC is committed to addressing, along with other child protection and child rights issues.³ In 2012 the ILO signed a partnership Memorandum of Understanding with the SAARC Apex Body on children, SAIEVAC⁴, and served on its Governing Board (2013-14), as the representative of the South Asia Coordinating Group (SACG⁵). Addressing child labour from a SAARC perspective has also been promoted by the Ministry of Labour and Employment in India, which organized two SAARC workshops on the subject, in collaboration with the V.V. Giri National Labour Institute and the ILO. At the 2013 workshop participants representing governments, employers' and workers' organizations from all SAARC countries shared experiences and good practices in ending child labour. They underscored the need for enhancing "data collection tools and building knowledge resources to derive a more precise understanding of child labour and to have clarity of concepts and operational indicators to identify trafficking of children for labour exploitation".⁶ This need is also identified in the SACG South Asia Strategy against Child Labour (2013)⁷.

We know our constituents and partners are seeking a sound understanding of the various dimensions of child labour to guide policy, advocacy and action. It is because of this that the ILO prepared this Report, to create a South Asia regional profile on child labour and children in employment. This is the first ILO South Asia report on children in labour and employment and as such it is an important step towards more coherent, in depth and comprehensive

1 SAARC - South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation

2 BIMSTEC - Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation: Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Bhutan and Nepal.

3 SAARC Commitments on Children include: The Rawalpindi (Ministerial) Resolution on Children of South Asia (1996), SAARC Convention on Regional Arrangements for the Promotion of Child Welfare in South Asia (2002), SAARC Convention on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Women and Children for Prostitution (2002), the Colombo (Ministerial) Statement (2009), and the SAARC Development Goals (SDGs), and South to South Cooperation on Child Rights 2010.

4 SAIEVAC – South Asia Initiative to End Violence against Children

5 SACC – South Asia Coordinating Group on Action against Violence against Children

6 Commitment Statement of Workshop Participants: Second SAARC Regional Workshop on Child Labour, 29-31 May 2013, New Delhi, India

7 SACG: South Asia Strategy against Child Labour - Protecting child rights, promoting development (Kathmandu, 2013)

information on the subject. The Report, its regional analysis and recommendations, are not a substitute for country reports and analysis, but must be seen as complementary, with a view to facilitating more effective in-country action.

Even before embarking on the preparation of the Report it was clear there would be challenges created by multiple inconsistencies on child labour data within and across countries. But that is no reason to ignore the pressing need for more and better data and information.

This Report forms part of broader efforts to build an evidence base and generate constructive debate and discussion on the findings and issues related to child labour. It makes recommendations that promote greater measures to adopt an overall mainstreaming strategy that embeds, under effective leadership, the responsibility for and response to child labour into the work of all institutions, initiatives and partnerships that can make a difference. It also espouses life cycle and inter-generational approaches that correlate child labour with youth (un/under) employment and decent work, steps up action on occupational safety and health and labour inspection that can protect older children who are of a legal age to work, and recognises gender disparities and those that may arise as the unintended consequence of initiatives, as well as taking into consideration the special needs of third gender children. The Report also calls for higher spending on basic education, for further in-depth research and analysis of issues, particularly on the correlation between various factors. As expected from the findings, it makes a strong case for improved data and information on child labour and children's employment within the countries' statistical information systems, and in this context suggests a mechanism at SAARC level to facilitate conceptual and methodological coherence.

The basis of the Report is recently available information from household surveys in seven of the eight South Asian countries (i.e., Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, the Maldives, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka), which have been brought together to provide an overview of children's work, child labour and the related challenge of educational marginalization. Similar data was not available from Afghanistan so a brief profile of child labour in the country has been compiled, based on qualitative studies.

Child labour is a legal rather than a statistical concept. The international legal standards that define it are, therefore, the necessary frame of reference for child labour measurement. The three principal international conventions on child labour (Minimum Age to Employment Convention, 1973 (No. 138), Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182) and United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989, CRC)), together set the legal parameters for child labour and provide the legal basis for national and international action against it. Translating these broad legal norms into statistical terms for measurement purposes requires a thorough knowledge of Convention No. 138, to understand the flexibility clauses available to countries.

We are mindful that the estimates provided do not fully reflect the extent and nature of the child labour problem, but we trust the Report will nevertheless advance the dialogue, partnerships and collaboration on action to end child labour and to protect young workers in South Asia and beyond.

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Executive Summary

Measuring Children's Work in South Asia: Perspectives from national household surveys,¹

the first ILO South Asia report on child labour and children in employment, provides an overview and insight into the nature and extent of child labour and children's employment and educational marginalization in the South Asian countries and region. It further highlights gaps in national statistical surveys and inconsistencies across countries, which limit the scope of the findings and analyses. The Report brings together recent available information (2005/06 to 2011/12) from national household surveys in seven of the eight South Asian countries (i.e. Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, the Maldives, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka).² For Afghanistan, a brief profile of child labour in the country has been compiled from various studies.

Key findings from the Report are highlighted below as are recommended policy measures and interventions.

Key findings

CHILD LABOUR

- There are 16.7 million (5-17 year old) children in *child labour* in South Asia, according to conservative estimates³, and of these 10.3 million are in the 5-14 year age range.
- The young, *5-11 year-old children*, make up about one-fifth of all child labourers in South Asia.
- Substantial variation in child labour estimates exists across the South Asian countries. In *absolute terms*, child labour for the 5-17 years age range is highest in India (5.8 million), followed by Bangladesh (5.0 million), Pakistan (3.4 million)⁴ and Nepal (2.0 million).
- *In relative terms*, among South Asian countries with data, children in Nepal face the highest *risk* of being in child labour with over one-quarter (26 per cent) of all 5-17 year-olds engaged in child labour.

Worldwide there are 264 million children in employment in the 5-17 years group. Among them, 168 million are child labourers, accounting for almost 11 per cent of 5-17 year old children.

About half of all child labourers, 85 million in absolute terms, are in hazardous work, which endangers their health, safety and moral development.

The Asia-Pacific region has the largest number of child labourers – 78 million (5-17 years group), with an incidence of 9 per cent (second highest after Sub-Saharan Africa at 21 per cent. Over half of the child labourers in Asia-Pacific, i.e. 48 million are in hazardous work.

Progress against child labour- Global estimates and trends 2000-2012 (ILO 2013)

1 *Measuring Children's Work in South Asia: Perspectives from national household surveys* (ILO and UCW, 2015)

2 Estimates are based on national statistics, using the ILO methodology as used for global estimates, which may not necessarily reflect child labour as defined by national legislation in each of the South Asia countries. For details on the methodology, see ILO-IPEC, *Making progress against child labour – Global estimates and trends 2000-2012*.– Geneva: ILO, 2013;

3 This sum excludes Afghanistan for which recent data is not available, and the Maldives, where information is only available for the children below the age of 15 years, and child labourers below the age of 10 years in Pakistan. The estimates are based on Child Activity Survey in Sri Lanka (2008-09); National Labour Force -Unemployment Survey in India (round 68); and Demographic and Health Survey (2009) in the Maldives

4 Figures for Pakistan exclude those aged less than 10 years.

- Differences in survey methodologies and reference years, make it imperative that these country comparisons should be interpreted with caution.
- The national surveys capture estimates for *hazardous work* mainly, but other worst forms of child labour are also prevalent in the South Asia region.

CHILDREN IN EMPLOYMENT

- Children in employment is a broader measure than child labour; it includes some child labour. Children's involvement in employment is common in many of the South Asian countries.
- Estimates put Bangladesh at 3.5 million 7-14 year-olds in employment, followed by India (3.3 million) and Nepal (2.1 million).
- In *relative terms*, Nepal has an especially high percentage of 7-14 year-olds (36 per cent), followed by Bangladesh (12 per cent) and Sri Lanka (11 per cent). Pakistan's available national statistics show 13 per cent (2.5 million) in employment for the age range 10-14 years.
- Involvement in employment *increases as children get older*, from below 4 per cent for 7 year-olds in all countries where data are available (with the notable high exception of Bhutan) to variations of over 20 per cent by the time they turn 17 years.
- A substantial share of employment of 15-17 year-olds is *hazardous in nature* – 75 per cent in Bangladesh, 72 per cent in Sri Lanka, 41 per cent in Pakistan, 30 per cent in Nepal, 20 per cent in India and 6 per cent in Bhutan.

NATURE OF CHILDREN'S EMPLOYMENT

- *Agriculture* absorbs the highest percentage of children in employment in every South Asian country for which data is available, ranging from 46 per cent in Bangladesh to 94 per cent in Nepal.
- *Work within the family unit* accounts for the *largest share of children's employment* in most South Asian countries, with the exception of Bangladesh and the Maldives. The share of 7-14 year olds who work without wages within their own families ranges from 92 per cent in Nepal, 75 per cent in Pakistan, 66 per cent in Sri Lanka and 54 per cent each in Bhutan and India.

EDUCATIONAL MARGINALIZATION AND CHILDREN'S EMPLOYMENT

- Each of the seven countries has a significant share of children who are reported "*inactive*", *i.e. neither in employment nor in school*.
- Children in employment are generally *less likely to attend school* than their non-working peers.
- *Work has a negative effect* on the education of the substantial numbers of children who combine school and work, particularly for the young ones.
- *Out-of-school children* constitute a formidable challenge in the South Asia region. A total of over 24 million in the 7-14 years age group in three countries are out of school: India (12.3 million), in Pakistan (7.3 million) and in Bangladesh (4.5 million).

GENDER DIMENSIONS AND CHILDREN'S EMPLOYMENT AND EDUCATION

- Girls are particularly vulnerable to the negative impacts of child labour; and they constitute a majority of the children in some of the most dangerous forms of child labour, including forced and bonded labour, commercial sexual exploitation and domestic work outside of their home.
- Four South Asian countries have the *highest gender disparities globally*. Pakistan (82:100) and Afghanistan (71:100) have high disparities *at the expense of girls*; Bangladesh (94 boys: 100 girls), Nepal (92:100) have high disparities *at the expense of boys*.
- The activity status of children in South Asia differs considerably by gender. More boys are reported in employment in Bangladesh, India, and Sri Lanka and more girls in Bhutan, Maldives and Pakistan.
- Gender differences begin to emerge more clearly in the 15-17 years age range, driven by the different culturally-dictated paths that boys and girls take when leaving education. Specifically, a larger share of girls in this age range are reported "inactive" (i.e. out of school and out of employment) (Bhutan is an exception).
- Sectoral composition of South Asian children's employment shows variation by sex, although patterns are less clear across countries. In India, the share of girls in agriculture is much larger than boys, while in Bangladesh, the share of boys is much higher in agriculture.

RURAL-URBAN OUTCOMES IN CHILDREN'S EMPLOYMENT AND EDUCATION

South Asian statistics show the particular vulnerability and educational marginalization of rural children.

- Children in South Asia's rural areas are generally more likely to be employed and less likely to be in school. Among 15 to 17 year olds, rural children are more likely to be in employment than urban children in every South Asian country reporting data; a higher share of rural children are out of school in all but Sri Lanka for both the 7-14 and 15-17 year age ranges.
- Rural working children are heavily concentrated in agriculture and in family work.

Recommended Policy Measures and Interventions

- Reinforced efforts must be directed at addressing through rights-based, proven and innovative approaches, child labour and children's work in the rural areas, particularly agriculture.
- Family work must not pose a burden nor be a constraint to education.
- The situation of South Asian girls continues to call for special attention, but due attention also needs to be focused on boys and third gender children (recognized in a number of South Asian countries) so they do not fall behind.
- Life cycle approach to employment and cross-generational consideration of impact of policies and action are important to ensure that child labour policies and programmes do not have unintended adverse impact on youth and adults and vice versa; and that the transition to permissible and productive work is effective even for those who are not in schools.

- Occupational safety and health (in permissible work) and enforcement need enhanced attention through policy measures and integrated action, particularly in the agriculture sector, to ensure children at permissible age for employment are not involved in hazardous work.
- Research and action are needed to bring to light the significant numbers of children who are reported as 'inactive' because they are reported neither in education nor in employment.
- Further research and analysis are needed to fully understand the critical correlation between children's participation in work and school, particularly when combining the two.
- South Asia, with four countries having the highest gender disparities globally, must reinforce efforts and resources to address gender disparities against girls and boys at the primary education level and take into consideration any special needs of third gender children.
- Increase public spending on basic education, making it inclusive and productive for all children, and reaching out to the hard-to-reach and out-of-school children, many of who are likely to be engaged in child labour or are at risk of being affected.
- Given the wide range of policy measures and actions that must materialize and correlate urgently if the child labour problem is to be addressed in a sustainable manner, a vigorous focus is called for on the Mainstreaming Strategy as the overarching approach, with support of specific targeted measures, led by governments, with involvement and collaboration of workers' and employers' organizations, civil society and other key stakeholders, including the children and communities.
- Child labour issues and concerns be included in programmes that can impact the lives of children and their families. Among these are social welfare and protection programmes, labour rights, child rights and labour market information systems.
- Adequate national systems of child labour statistics need to be developed and maintained.
- Data on children's work and education monitoring should be correlated.
- A mechanism, such as a South Asia Technical Working Group on child labour, to be established at the SAARC level to facilitate conceptual and methodological coherence.
- On-going coordination be strengthened among agencies at the national and international levels as well at the South Asia regional level to ensure harmonization, consistency and necessary consolidation in interventions, concepts, tools and methodologies in design, implementation, analyses, utilization and the strengthening of the knowledge base on child labour and its contribution to the socio-economic development of the countries and region.

The Report was prepared by the ILO (Decent Work Technical Support Team for South Asia) and UCW⁵ and forms part of broader efforts by the ILO to build the evidence base and generate constructive dialogue on issues related to child labour.

5 UCW is an ILO-UNICEF-World Bank project on Understanding Children's Work

Acronyms

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| ASEAN | Association of Southeast Asian Nations |
| BALFS | Bangladesh Annual Labour Force Survey |
| BIMSTEC | Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation: Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Bhutan and Nepal |
| BMICS | Bhutan Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey |
| BRICS | Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa |
| C138 | Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138) |
| C182 | Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182) |
| CAS | Child Activity Survey, Sri Lanka |
| CBS | Central Bureau of Statistics, Nepal |
| CRC | UN Convention of Rights of the Child |
| DHS | Demographic and Health Surveys, Maldives |
| DWCP | Decent Work Country Programme |
| DWT | ILO Decent Work Technical Support Team |
| EFA | Education for All |
| FPRW | Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work |
| ICLS | International Conference of Labour Statisticians |
| ILO | International Labour Organization |
| IPEC | ILO's International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour |
| ISCO | International Standard Classification of Occupations |
| ISIC | International Standard Industrial Classification |
| LFS | Labour Force Survey |
| MDGs | Millennium Development Goals |
| NSS | National Sample Survey, India |
| OSSC | Out-of-school children |
| SAARC | South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation |
| SAARCLAW | South Asian Association For Regional Co-operation In Law – SAARC Apex Body |
| SACG | South Asia Coordinating Group on Action against Violence against Children |
| SAIEVAC | South Asia Initiative to End Violence against Children – SAARC Apex Body |
| SAS ACL | South Asia Strategy against Child Labour |
| SNA | System of National Accounts |
| SRSV VAC | Special Representative of the (UN) Secretary General on Violence against Children |
| UCW | Understanding Children's Work – An Interagency Research Cooperation Project |
| UNESCO | United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization |
| UNICEF | United Nations Children's Fund |
| VAC | Violence against Children |
| WFCL | Worst Forms of Child Labour |

Section 1

Introduction

1. The International Labour Organization (ILO) estimates that there are 168 million children engaged in child labour around the world.⁶ More than half of these children are working in hazardous conditions that adversely affect their safety, health and moral development.⁷ The effects of child labour are well-documented: it can seriously endanger children's health and well-being instantly as well as their health status later in life; it compromises the ability of children, particularly the younger ones, to attend and benefit from school; and impairs their productive potential and lifetime patterns of employment and wages. The 2013 ILO Global Report on Child Labour emphasizes that "ending the scourge of child labour in the foreseeable future is going to require a substantial acceleration of efforts at all levels".⁸ Nowhere is this truer than in the South Asia region, which is host to the greatest number of children engaged in child labour.⁹ South Asian countries have enacted some form of minimum age legislation and have made national and regional commitments to combat child labour.

2. It is well-established that the right mix of policies for the prevention and elimination of child labour must ensure comprehensive, integrated and convergent approaches and consolidated action that include: mainstreaming child labour issues and concerns in key policies, programmes and reporting; improving education access and quality; ensuring opportunities for decent work for adults; expanding social protection to cover issues that impact children; raising awareness of the problem and solution; empowering and mobilizing communities to secure the well-being, protection and development of children; strengthening legislative and policy frameworks; obligating business to espouse responsible practices (including in the supply chains) toward prevention of child labour; putting in place effective, consolidated and coordinated child labour monitoring and rehabilitation systems, among a multitude of other strategies and areas of action.

3. This Report forms part of a broader effort to build the evidence base and generate constructive dialogue and discussion on the findings and issues related to child labour. It further advocates for improved data and information systems, with a view to enhanced understanding of children's work and its impacts on children and communities. Such systems can lead to more rigorous assessment of the impact of policies and programmes, and the learning that these can provide toward improved, informed and accelerated action.

4. The Report brings together recent available information (2005/06 to 2011/12) from seven of the eight South Asian countries (i.e. Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, the Maldives, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka) to provide an overview of children's work, child labour and the related challenge of educational marginalization. Information from recent national statistical surveys was not available from Afghanistan, but information from various studies has been used to compile a brief profile of child labour in the country. Key findings are presented in Section 2. Data gaps and inconsistencies, which are noted in the Report, restrain the scope and depth of the findings.

6 ILO: *Making Progress against Child Labour*, Global Estimates and Trends 2000–2012 (Geneva, 2013), p. vii.

7 ILO: *Making Progress against Child Labour*, Global Estimates and Trends 2000–2012 (Geneva, 2013), p. vii.

8 ILO: *Making Progress against Child Labour*, Global Estimates and Trends 2000–2012 (Geneva, 2013), p. ix.

9 ILO: *Accelerating action against child labour*, Global Report under the follow-up to the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, International Labour Conference, 99th Session, (ILO, 2010), p. xii.

Measuring numbers is important, but what lies beyond the numbers can be even more important. The available data does not capture the details adequately.

5. **The target audience** for the Report includes policy makers, think tanks, researchers, practitioners and government officials, development professionals involved in technical advisory services and implementation of policies and programmes (particularly in areas of child labour, child rights, education, decent work, youth employment, training programmes, rural economy and development, and statistical information systems) and others whose interests and work involves improving the lives of children and societies, and poverty eradication.

6. The report is structured as follows:

Section 1 provides a brief introduction in regard to the purpose of the report and the target audience. It also discusses child labour definitions and data sources as background for the descriptive statistics presented in the subsequent sections.

Section 2 reports both South Asia regional and country-specific estimates of child labour and children's involvement in employment. It looks at the characteristics of children's employment in order to shed light on children's workplace reality and their role in the labour force, assesses the interplay between children's employment and schooling, and in particular employment as a factor in educational marginalization. It looks in more detail at the gender dimension of children's employment and schooling, and at how children's employment and schooling differs depending on whether they live in rural or urban areas.

Section 3 presents recommendations emerging from the analysis of national statistical surveys, including those in support of adequate child labour statistical information in the South Asian countries and region.

Annex 1: Seven detailed statistical country briefs, drawn from national surveys, provide a country-wise profile of child labour in terms of children's work, schooling, and a combination of work and schooling. They also draw attention to the large numbers of children who are not reported in either of these activities (i.e. education and work). The profile on child labour in Afghanistan is drawn from reports of studies, mainly qualitative.

Annex 2 on ILO child labour measurement framework elaborates concepts and definitions as used in ILO global estimates and in this Report.

1.1. DEFINING CHILD LABOUR AND CHILDREN'S EMPLOYMENT

7. Child labour is a legal rather than a statistical concept. The international legal standards that define it are, therefore, the necessary frame of reference for child labour measurement. The three principal international conventions on child labour – Minimum Age to Employment, 1973 (No. 138),¹⁰ Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182)¹¹ and United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989, CRC) – together set the legal parameters for child labour and provide the legal basis for national and international action against it (see Panel 1).

10 ILO: *Convention concerning Minimum Age for Admission to Employment* (Entry into force: 19 Jun 1976) Adoption: Geneva, 58th ILC session (26 Jun 1973) (Fundamental Convention). http://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:12100:0::NO:12100:P12100_INSTRUMENT_ID:312283:NO

11 ILO: *Convention concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour* (Entry into force: 19 Nov 2000) Adoption: Geneva, 87th ILC session (17 Jun 1999) - (Fundamental Convention). http://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:12100:0::NO:12100:P12100_INSTRUMENT_ID:312327:NO

Panel 1. International legal standards relating to child labour

The term child labour refers to the subset of children's work that is injurious, negative or undesirable to children and that should be targeted for elimination. Three main international conventions – the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), ILO Convention on the Worst Forms of Child Labour, 1999 (No. 182) and ILO Convention on Minimum Age to Employment, 1973 (No. 138) – provide the main legal standards for child labour and a framework for action against it.

Convention No. 138 represents the most comprehensive and authoritative international definition of minimum age for admission to work or employment. It calls on Member States to set:

- a *general minimum age for admission to work or employment* of at least 15 years of age (Art. 2.3) (14 years of age in less developed countries), and
- a higher minimum age of *not less than 18 years for employment or work which, by its nature or the circumstances in which it is carried out, is likely to jeopardise the health, safety or morals of young persons, i.e., hazardous work* (Art. 3.1).

The Convention states that national laws or regulations may permit the employment or work of persons from 13 years of age (12 years in less developed countries) in *light work* which is (a) not likely to be harmful to their health or development; and (b) not such as to prejudice their attendance at school, their participation in vocational orientation or training programmes approved by the competent authority or their capacity to benefit from the instruction received (Art. 7).

Convention No. 182 (Worst Forms of Child Labour) supplements C138 by emphasizing the subset of worst forms of child labour requiring immediate action. For the purposes of the Convention, worst forms of child labour comprise the following (Art. 3):

- a) all forms of slavery or practices similar to slavery, such as the sale and trafficking of children, debt bondage and serfdom, as well as forced or compulsory labour, including forced or compulsory recruitment of children for use in armed conflict;
- b) the use, procuring or offering of a child for prostitution, for the production of pornography or for pornographic performances;
- c) the use, procurement or offering of a child for illicit activities, in particular for the production and trafficking of drugs as defined in relevant international treaties; and
- d) work which, by its nature or the circumstances in which it is carried out, is likely to harm the health, safety or morals of children.

The **Convention on the Rights of the Child** (CRC) recognizes the child's right to be protected from economic exploitation and from performing any work that is likely to be hazardous or to interfere with the child's education, or to be harmful to the child's health or physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development (Art. 32.1). In order to achieve this goal, the CRC calls on State Parties to set minimum age for admission to employment, having regard to other international instruments (Art. 32.2).

Convention No. 182 and CRC cover the worst forms of child labour as noted in the articles below:

Art. 3a of C182 – All forms of slavery (sale and trafficking of children, debt bondage and serfdom, recruitment in armed conflict) (*relates to UN CRC Art. 35*) - sexual exploitation and sexual abuse sale, trafficking; (Art. 36) abduction and impact of armed conflict and hostilities (*relates to CRC Art. 37, 38*)

Art. 3b of C182 – Prostitution for the production of pornography or for pornographic performances (*relates to CRC Art. 34*),

Art. 3c of C182 – Illicit activities (production and trafficking of drugs) (*relates to CRC Art. 33*)

Art. 3d of C182 – Work which is likely to harm the health, safety or morals of children (*relates to CRC Art. 36*)

8. Translating these broad legal norms into statistical terms for measurement purposes requires a thorough understanding of Convention No. 138 as it contains a number of flexibility clauses, with options to be specified at the discretion of the competent national authority in consultation (where relevant) with worker and employer organizations.¹² This means that at the regional level there is no single legal definition of child labour because the flexibilities drawn into national legislation may differ from country to country based on the options specified by each country. Similarly, a single statistical definition or cut-off age for child labour at the regional level may not be consistent with national legislation in all the countries. Therefore, regional statistical measures need to take into account the flexibilities in the Conventions.

9. The legal general minimum age at which children can be engaged in employment varies across countries in South Asian. There are also differences in activities and processes that specified as hazardous work and legally prohibited in countries for the age range between the general minimum age (15 years as per the ILO Conventions) and the higher minimum age below which children must not engage in prohibited activities (18 years as per the ILO Conventions). For instance, a 15-year old engaged in the same work in the Maldives and the other South Asian countries, such as Sri Lanka, could be classified as child labour under the law in the Maldives and not in Sri Lanka. This is because the Maldives has specified 16 years as minimum age and Sri Lanka, along with most other countries in South Asia, has specified 14 years. Not all countries have specified national lists of hazardous work, and, where present, there are variations in content from one country to another. In addition to the variation on the general minimum age for employment and the minimum age for hazardous work, there is the flexibility

¹² In accordance with C138, for example, national authorities may specify temporarily a lower general minimum age of 14 years. Children who are above the minimum working age, but below 18 years, are prohibited from involvement in hazardous work or other worst forms of child labour. The Conventions (C138 and C182) provide guidance but leave responsibility for the compilation of specific lists of hazardous forms of work to national authorities.

of specifying the provision for light work. Among those that do have such provisions, there are differences in terms of the relevant age range and the make-up of light work.

10. In view of these measurement challenges, and in order to facilitate a cross-country overview, the Report first presents child labour estimates based on the methodology employed by ILO in its global child labour estimates (see Annex 2).¹³ Following this, it relies on the broader concept of employment as an approximation of child labour. Children in employment are those engaged in any economic activity for at least one hour during the reference period.¹⁴ All children in employment are not necessarily in child labour and not all children in child labour are captured by national household statistics. Furthermore, it is worth reiterating that these child labour approximations may not necessarily be consistent with child labour as defined in legal terms in the individual countries.

1.2. DATA SOURCES

11. **This report uses national survey data from seven South Asian countries to assess the scope and key features of children’s work and schooling in the region.** It includes recent country-level data for Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka from a variety of different survey instruments. As summarized in Table 1, *national labour force surveys* are the primary data source for three of the countries (Bangladesh, Nepal¹⁵ and Pakistan), while the data for the remaining countries are from: the *Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS)* programme (Bhutan), the *Demographic and Health survey* programme (Maldives), a *child activity survey* (Sri Lanka) and the *Employment-Unemployment Survey* (India). Five of the surveys (Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal and Sri Lanka) collect information for the entire 5-17 years age range; one (Maldives) for 5-14 years, and one (Pakistan) for 10-17 years. The reference years vary from survey to survey, but all surveys except Bangladesh are for 2008 or more recent years.

Table 1: Listing of household survey datasets used in Report

| Country | Survey name | Reference years | Age range covered |
|-------------|--|-----------------|-------------------|
| Afghanistan | - | - | |
| Bangladesh | Annual Labour Force Survey | 2005-06 | 5-17 years |
| Bhutan | Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) | 2010 | 5-17 years |
| India | Employment-Unemployment Survey (national sample survey) - Round 68 | 2011-2012 | 5-17 years |
| Maldives | Demographic and Health Survey | 2009 | 5-14 years |
| Nepal | Labour Force Survey | 2008 | 5-17 years |
| Pakistan | Labour Force Survey | 2010-11 | 10-17 years |
| Sri Lanka | Child Activity Survey | 2008-09 | 5-17 years |

13 For details on the methodology, also see *Making progress against child labour – Global estimates and trends 2000-2012* (ILO, Geneva, 2013)

14 Economic activity covers all market production and certain types of non-market production (principally the production of goods and services for own use). It includes forms of work in both the formal and informal economy; inside and outside family settings; work for pay or profit (in cash or in kind, part-time or full-time), or as a domestic worker outside the child’s own household for an employer (with or without pay). The concept of employment is elaborated further in the Resolution concerning statistics of work, employment and labour underutilization, adopted by the Nineteenth International Conference of Labour Statisticians (October 2013). The resolution is available at: http://www.ilo.org/global/statistics-and-databases/standards-and-guidelines/resolutions-adopted-by-international-conferences-of-labour-statisticians/WCMS_230304/lang-en/index.htm

15 ILO and CBS: Nepal Child Labour Report based on data drawn from the Nepal Labour Force Survey 2008 (Geneva, 2012)

12. **Cross-country comparisons of children's work across South Asia must be interpreted with caution because of the different survey instruments and different survey reference years used.** Except for Sri Lanka, none of the surveys was designed for the specific purpose of child labour measurement, and the range of information collected by the surveys on the characteristics and consequences of child labour is therefore relatively limited. Particular attention should be paid to interpreting the estimates yielded by the Employment-Unemployment Survey (NSS - Round 68) in India. It does not fully capture the group of children combining school and work, resulting in substantial *underestimates* of children's overall involvement in child labour and employment. These data issues point to the broader need in the countries for regular and more adequate collection of reliable and comprehensive information on child labour to guide policy and monitor progress.

Section 2

South Asia Regional Overview based on National Surveys

2.1. CHILDREN'S INVOLVEMENT IN CHILD LABOUR

13. **Millions of South Asian children remain trapped in child labour.** Benchmark child labour estimates for the South Asian countries, based on the ILO global estimates methodology,¹⁶ are reported in Table 2 and Table 3. The number of children in child labour for the entire 5-17 years age range totals 16.7 million¹⁷ and for the 5-14 years age range totals 10.3 million.¹⁸ Young, 5-11 year-old children, make up about one-fifth of all child labourers in the region.

Table 2: Number of children in child labour (based on standard ILO global estimate methodology(a)), by age range and country

| Country | (a) | (b) | (a)&(b) | (c) | (a)&(b)&(c) |
|--------------------|---|---|--|---|---|
| | children aged 5-11 years in economic activity | Children aged 12-14 years in economic activity excluding those in light work(b) | Children aged 5-14 years in child labour | Children aged 15-17 years in hazardous work | Total in child labour, children aged 5-17 years |
| | No. | No. | No. | No. | No. |
| Afghanistan | - | - | - | - | -- |
| Bangladesh | 1,343,220 | 1,603,421 | 2,946,641 | 2,116,376 | 5,063,017 |
| Bhutan(b) | 27,506 | 1,332 | 28,838 | 888 | 29,726 |
| India(c) | 601,063 | 2,652,138 | 3,253,201 | 2,515,165 | 5,768,367 |
| Maldives(d) | 1,256 | 866 | 2,122 | - | -- |
| Nepal | 927,804 | 855,188 | 1,782,992 | 251,889 | 2,034,880 |
| Pakistan(e) | 503,471 | 1,564,271 | 2,067,742 | 1,307,739 | 3,375,481 |
| Sri Lanka | 145,891 | 115,086 | 260,977 | 185,563 | 444,540 |

Notes and source: See Table 4.

16 ILO: Making Progress against Child Labour, Global Estimates and Trends 2000–2012 (Geneva, 2013), Available at: www.ilo.org/ipecl/Informationresources/WCMS_221513/lang--en/index.htm.

17 This estimate excludes Maldives, where information is only available for the children below the age of 15 years. For Pakistan it excludes children below the age of 10 years.

18 This estimate excludes children below the age of 10 years in Pakistan.

Table 3: Percentage of children in child labour (based on standard ILO global estimate methodology(a)), by age range and country

| Country % of total children in the age group | (a) children aged 5-11 years in economic activity | (b) Children aged 12-14 years in economic activity excluding those in light work(b) | (a)&(b) Children aged 5-14 years in child labour | (c) Children aged 15-17 years in hazardous work | (a)&(b)&(c) Total in child labour, children aged 5-17 years |
|---|--|--|---|--|--|
| | % of total children in the age group | % of total children in the age group | % of total children in the age group | % of total children in the age group | |
| Afghanistan | - | - | | - | -- |
| Bangladesh | 5.5 | 12.8 | 8.0 | 35.8 | 11.8 |
| Bhutan(b) | 25.0 | 2.5 | 17.8 | 2.1 | 14.5 |
| India(c) | 0.4 | 3.5 | 1.4 | 3.8 | 1.9 |
| Maldives(d) | 3.2 | 3.8 | 3.4 | - | -- |
| Nepal | 21.8 | 43.3 | 28.6 | 16.3 | 26.2 |
| Pakistan(e) | 6.8 | 13.6 | 11.0 | 13.5 | 11.8 |
| Sri Lanka | 6.4 | 11.4 | 7.9 | 17.7 | 10.2 |

Notes:

(a) Estimates based on this methodology provide an international statistical benchmark for comparative purposes but do not necessarily reflect child labour as defined by national legislation in each of the South Asia countries.

(b) The Bhutan MICS does not collect information on industry or occupation, thereby not allowing the identification of hazardous industries and hazard occupations. Children aged 12-14 in light work and children 15-17 in hazardous work are identified only on the basis of working hours;

(c) The India survey does not collect information on working hours. For this reason, the group of children aged 12-14 and 15-17 are classified as in child labour only on the basis of their involvement in designated hazardous industries and hazardous occupations;

(d) The Maldives DHS 2009 collects information on employment up to the age of 14. Information on industry and occupation is not collected. Children are classified in "light work" only on the basis of the working hours; and

(e) The Pakistan LFS survey collects information on employment for those aged 10 or older. The survey collects information on occupation only at 2 digit level of details, not allowing the identification of hazardous occupations according to the methodology applied by ILO for the scope of the global estimates. Hazardous work is defined on the basis of the designated hazardous industries and long hours of work.

Source: UCW calculations based on national household surveys (see Table 2).

14. Substantial variation in child labour estimates exists across the South Asian countries.

In *absolute terms*, child labour for the entire 5-17 years age range is highest in India (5.8 million), followed by Bangladesh (5.0 million), Pakistan (3.4 million)¹⁹ and Nepal (2.0 million). The country placement changes considerably when viewed in *relative terms*. A child in Nepal faces the highest *risk* of being in child labour than a child elsewhere in South Asia. In Nepal, over one-quarter (26 per cent) of all 5-17 year-olds are in child labour. For the same age range, it is 15 per cent in Bhutan, and 12 per cent each in Bangladesh and Pakistan.

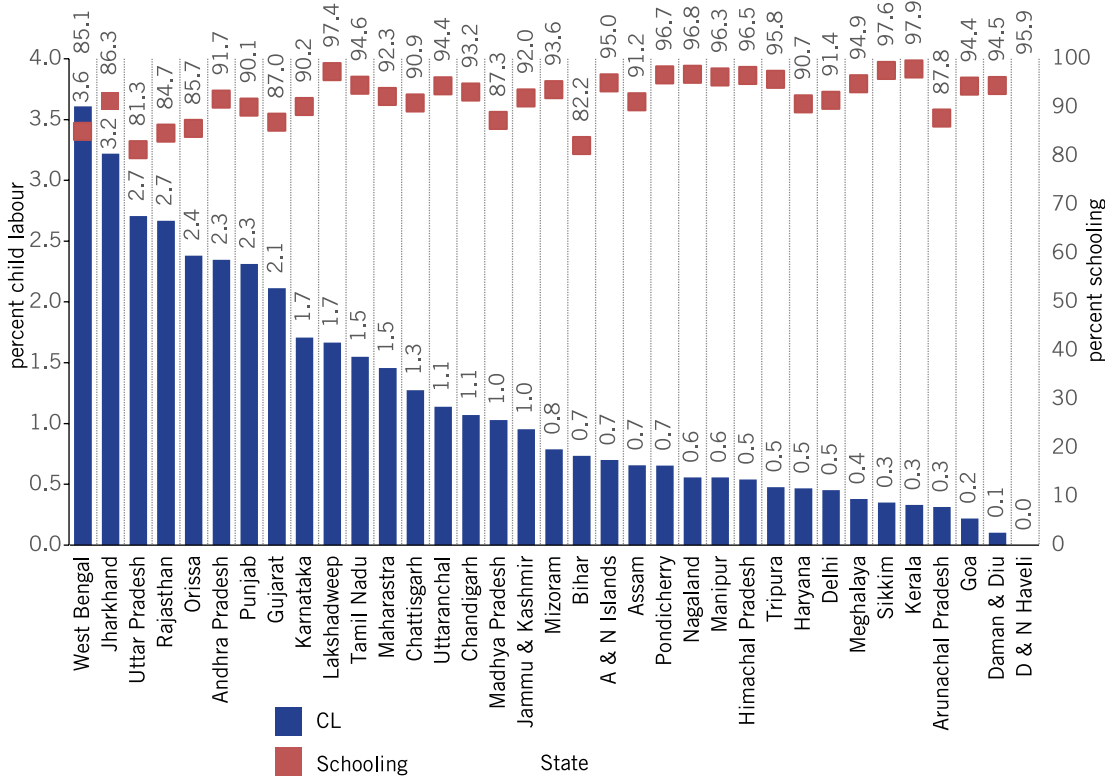
15. As noted previously, the South Asia regional estimates do not necessarily reflect child labour as defined by national legislation in each of these countries. They reflect a standardized approximation of child labour for a regional overview. Moreover, differences in survey methodologies and reference years mean that these country comparisons should be interpreted with caution.

16. Within a country, sub-national levels of child labour and schooling can vary substantially, particularly in countries with a larger and more diverse population.

19 Figures for Pakistan exclude those aged less than 10 years.

Figure 1 . Subnational variations in child labour and schooling can be considerable

Percentage of children aged 5-17 in child labour and attending school, by state, India



Source: UCW calculations based on national household surveys (see Table 2).

In South Asia, where three countries – India, Pakistan and Bangladesh – account for 94 per cent of all South Asian children, sub-national dynamics are important. For instance, an analysis of Indian state level data indicates that child labour incidence in Kerala (with a population similar to Nepal’s) is 0.3 per cent, compared with 3.6 per cent in West Bengal (a state more than four times more populous than Sri Lanka) (Figure 1).²⁰ Similarly, schooling attendance varies from nearly 98 per cent in Kerala to 82 per cent in Bihar. Even in smaller countries, like Nepal, the sub-national situation can vary greatly depending on the area dynamics and development.

17. The national surveys capture estimates are mainly for hazardous work, but other worst forms of child labour are also prevalent in the South Asia region.²¹ These forms of child labour are beyond the scope of standard national household surveys (see Panel 2) and therefore are not reflected in the child labour estimates reported above. Although comprehensive and reliable data on children working in the worst forms, other than hazardous work, are limited, several information sources suggest that children in South Asia are actively involved in armed conflicts and debt bondage, among other forms.

20 Estimates derived from the NSS survey instrument (Round 68), do not fully capture the group of children combining school and work, resulting in substantial under-estimation for child labour incidence.

21 While pursuing the goal of elimination of all forms of child labour according to ILO Convention No. 138 on the Minimum Age to Employment (1973), Convention No. 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labour (1999) identifies four areas of child labour that should be targeted for urgent eradication. These worst forms of child labour include: (1) Child slavery, trafficking, debt bondage, forced or compulsory labour and forced or compulsory recruitment for use in armed conflict; (2) Child prostitution, pornography or pornographic performances; (3) Children engaged in illicit activities, in particular the production and trafficking of drugs; and (4) Hazardous work that, by its nature or circumstances, is likely to harm the health, safety or morals of children. (ILO Convention on the Worst Forms of Child Labour, 1999 (No. 182), Article 3.)

Panel 2. Difficulties in collecting data on the worst forms of child labour

ILO Recommendation No. 190 (1999) calls on member states ratifying Convention No.182 to collect “detailed information and statistical data... to serve as a basis for determining priorities for national action for the abolition of child labour, in particular for the prohibition and elimination of its worst forms as a matter of urgency.”²² However, collecting data on the worst forms of child labour in national surveys is challenging for a number of reasons.

- **Work engaging children in the worst forms of child labour is often illegal.** Those working in prostitution, armed rebellion or the drug trade are unlikely to speak with surveyors because of the criminal nature of their work.
- **Social disapproval of child labour may make surveying more difficult** as people are reluctant to engage in conversation and provide information that may discredit their neighbours and friends.
- **Children in the some worst forms of child labour are often inaccessible.** Many children working in the worst forms do so in work that by its nature is secluded, like prostitution, hazardous household work, or armed conflict.
- **Migrant children, particularly vulnerable to the worst forms of child labour, are difficult to capture in national survey data because of their transience.**

The survey instruments of governments' national surveys, which are the basis for this report, generally do not capture data on children in the worst forms of child labour, with the exception of some of the children performing hazardous work that falls within the scope of the respective surveys. This results in the underestimation of child labour in national household and similar surveys. Consequently, statistics on the worst forms of child labour are often drawn from small studies or rapid assessments.

18. Children are deployed in armed conflicts in the South Asia region. While some armed conflicts in South Asia ended in recent years, children are still to be found deployed in other armed conflicts in the region. At the end of their armed conflicts, Sri Lanka and Nepal made strides in rehabilitating and reintegrating children who had been deployed in the conflict. In 2009, Sri Lanka ended its 26-year civil war, after which over 6,000 children were demobilized. The UN declared in 2012 that no new cases of children's recruitment in Sri Lanka had been reported since October 2009.²³ In Nepal, the monarchy and Maoist rebels signed a comprehensive peace accord in 2006 that ended the country's decade long civil war and paved the way for a Republic. As part of the agreement, thousands of Maoist child soldiers laid down their arms and entered UN-run rehabilitation camps.²⁴ Afghanistan, India and Pakistan experience problems with the involvement of children below 18 years of age in armed conflicts, insurgencies and terrorist acts, including suicide bombing. The abduction,

²² ILO Recommendation on the Worst Forms of Child Labour, 1999 (No. 190), Article 3, Section 1.

²³ Children and armed conflict, Report of the Secretary-General, UN General Assembly Security Council, 67th Session, 2012 A/66/782-S/2012/261. p. 29.

²⁴ Nepal former child soldiers freed, BBC News, January 7, 2010.

recruitment and use of children, as young as 6 years, both boys and girls, by armed groups are reported to have continued in 2013.²⁵

19. Debt bondage of children is a significant problem across much of South Asia.

Statistics on the extent and nature of children living in debt bondage are difficult to obtain, but local studies provide evidence that the practice of bondage is widespread in South Asia.²⁶ Debt bondage is a particularly prevalent issue in the brick kiln industry operating in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Pakistan. Some 60 to 68 per cent of the 4.4 million to 5.2 million brick kiln workers in South Asia are estimated in a 2012 research report to be working in bonded and forced labour conditions, and approximately 19 per cent of brick kiln workers documented across the region were under 18 years of age.²⁷ A study of brick kilns in two districts in Afghanistan reports that 56 per cent of brick makers were children.²⁸ A majority of the child workers (72 per cent) at one of the brick kilns worked more than 70 hours per week.²⁹

20. Debt bondage of children is also reported in agricultural production/hybrid cotton seed, domestic labour, and carpet-weaving, silk reeling and weaving.³⁰ In Nepal, children work as bonded child domestic labourers (*kamlari*) and agricultural child labourers under the *kamaiya* system.³¹ A study of the carpet-weaving industry of rural Thar district in Sindh Province, Pakistan, reported 98 per cent of families as indebted and almost half of the children weaving carpets in conditions of bondage worked eight hours per day.³²

2.2. CHILDREN'S INVOLVEMENT IN EMPLOYMENT

21. 'Children in employment' is a broader concept and measurement than 'child labour'.³³ (See Panel 3). The involvement of children in employment is common in many of the South Asian countries.

25 <https://childrenandarmedconflict.un.org/countries/pakistan/> - information based on the Report of the Secretary-General to the Security Council (A/68/878-S/2014/339) issued on 15 May 2014.

26 ILO: *Accelerating action against child labour*, Global Report under the follow-up to the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, International Labour Conference, 99th Session 2010, Report I(B). (2010), p. 57.

27 Siddharth Kara: *Bonded Labor: Tackling the System of Slavery in South Asia* (xxxxx, 2012). pps. 87, 90.

28 ILO: *Buried in Bricks*, (2011), p. 43.

29 ILO: *Buried in Bricks*, (2011), p. 32.

Surkhroad district of Nangarhar province and Deh Sabz district of Kabul Province reports that 56 per cent of brick makers were children. Of these child workers at the Surkhroad brick kiln, 72 per cent worked more than 70 hours per week.

30 R. S. Srivastava: *Bonded labour in India: Its incidence and pattern* (Geneva, ILO, 2005), pp. 29–31

31 Purwaningrum, Maelenny: *The Prevalent Practice of Kamaiya Bonded Child Labour in the Mid- and Far-Western Terai of Nepal*. Masteroppgave, (University of Oslo, 2012).

32 PILER: *Effectiveness of the Interventions for the Release and Rehabilitation of Bonded Child Labour in the Carpet Industry of Thar, Sindh*, (2007), p. 7.

33 Children in employment are those engaged in any economic activity for at least one hour during the reference period. Economic activity covers all market production and certain types of non-market production (principally the production of goods and services for own use). It includes forms of work in both the formal and informal economy; inside and outside family settings; work for pay or profit (in cash or in kind, part-time or full-time), or as a domestic worker outside the child's own household for an employer (with or without pay).

Panel 3: International standards on child labour statistics

| Children (5-17 years old) in productive activities | | | | |
|---|---|------------------------------|---|---|
| Children in employment | | | | Children in other productive activities of which child labour is included under the general production boundary |
| CHILD LABOUR | | | Permissible light work (12-14 years old) | |
| Worst forms of child labour | | Employment below minimum age | Work not designated as worst forms (15-17 years old) | |
| Hazardous work by children ³⁴ | Other worst forms of child labour ³⁵ | | | |

Source: Child labour measurement framework as per Resolution adopted by the 18th International Conference of Labour Statisticians (ICLS), Geneva, 2008.

22. In *Figure 2 (a)*, Nepal in particular stands out as having an especially high percentage of 7-14 year-olds in employment (36 per cent). Also high in terms of involvement in employment for children in this age range, for countries where statistics are available for 7-14 year-olds, are Bangladesh (12 per cent) and Sri Lanka (11 per cent). Involvement in employment is lower in Bhutan (4.6 per cent), Maldives (4.2 per cent) and India (1.7 per cent).

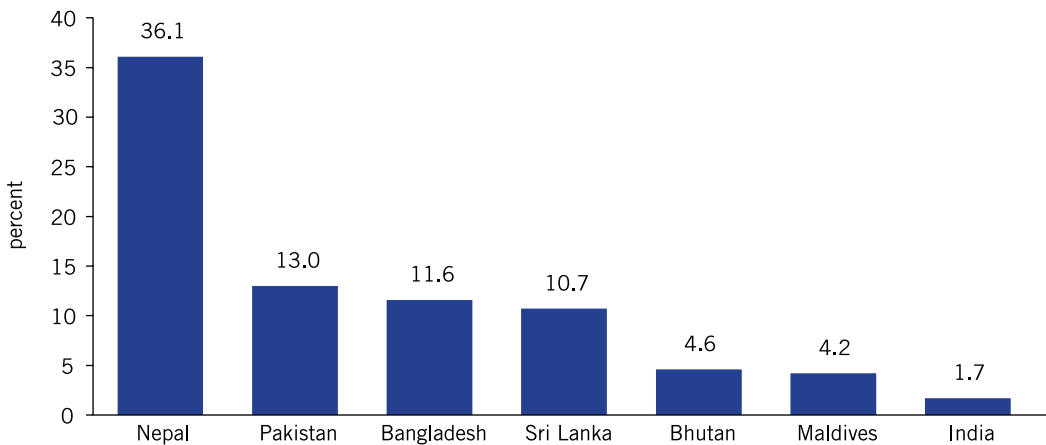
23. These employment ratios translate into millions of South Asian children in employment (*Figure 2 (b)*). In Bangladesh, 3.5 million 7-14 year-olds are in employment, followed by India (3.3 million) and Nepal (2.1 million). Pakistan's available national statistics show 13 per cent (2.5 million) in employment for the age range 10 - 14 years.

34 Exposure to physical, psychological or sexual abuse; Underground, under water, dangerous heights, confined spaces; Dangerous machinery, equipment or tools, heavy loads; Unhealthy environment, hazardous substances, temperatures, noise levels or vibrations damaging to health; Long hours, night work, other particularly difficult conditions

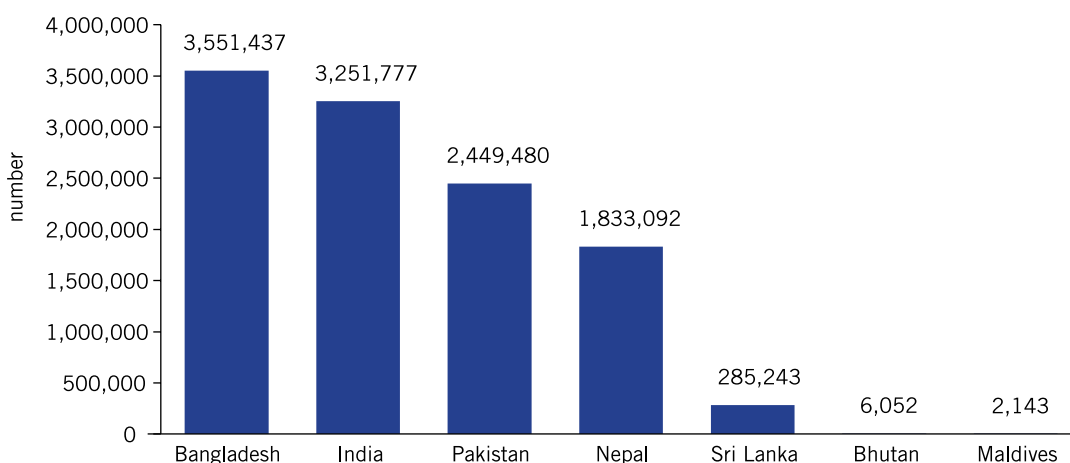
35 Worst Forms of Child Labour include, as per ILO C182: (Art.3a) All forms of slavery or similar practices, trafficking, debt bondage, serfdom, forced or compulsory labour, forced or compulsory recruitment in armed conflict; (Art. 3b) Child prostitution, pornography; (Art. 3c) Illicit activities, production and trafficking of drugs, etc.; (Art. 3d) Hazardous work

Figure 2. Children’s involvement in employment remains common in many South Asia countries

(a) Percentage of children in employment, 7-14 years age group,(a) by country(b)



(b) No. of children in employment, 7-14 years age group,(a) by country(b)



Notes: (a) Estimates for Pakistan refer to the 10-14 years age range; (b) Cross-country comparisons of children’s employment should be interpreted with caution, as estimates are based on different reference years and are derived from different survey instruments.

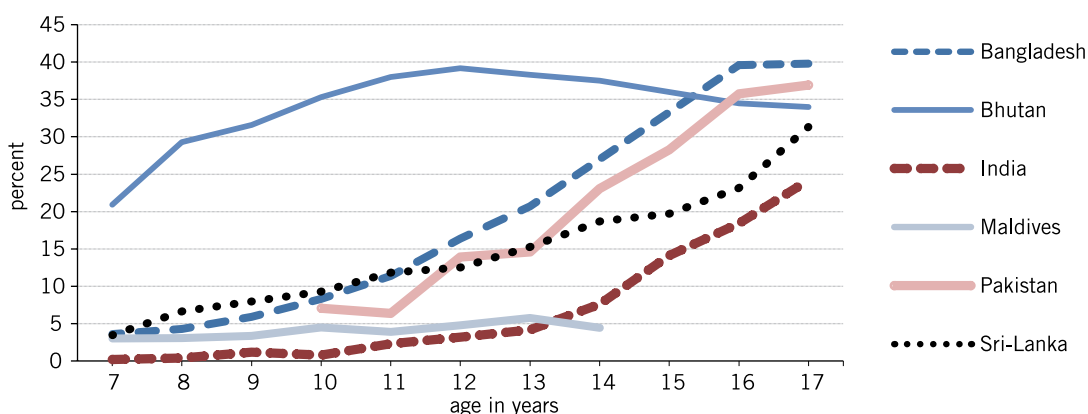
Source: UCW calculations based on national household surveys (see Table 2).

24. Involvement in employment increases as children get older. Children become more productive with age and the opportunity cost of remaining in the classroom rather than at the workplace increases. For 7 year-olds, involvement in employment is below 4 per cent in all countries where data are available, with the notable exception of Bhutan. By the time they turn 17 years, employment ratios diverge markedly for the countries with data but in no instance are they below 20 per cent. It is important to note, however, that employment figures for children at the upper end of the 7-17 years age range (i.e., for those aged 15-17 years) are more difficult to interpret from a child labour perspective because these children are legally permitted to work, except in hazardous work and other worst forms of child labour.³⁶

36 The minimum legal working age according to national legislation differs across the South Asia countries. For instance, in the case of the Maldives, where the general minimum age is 16 years, all child labour and not just hazardous work would be prohibited up to 16 years of age.

Figure 3. Involvement in employment rises as children grow older

Percentage of children involvement in employment, by age and country



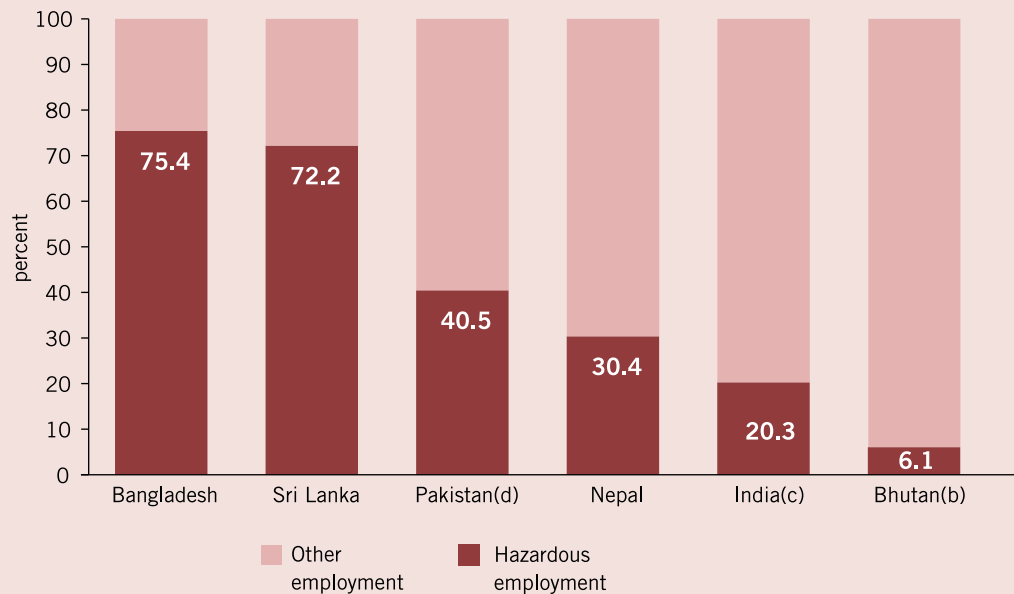
Source: UCW calculations based on national household surveys (see Table 2). (Gaps reflect lack of data for that age range).

Panel 4. Child labour and employment among older children

Young persons aged 15-17 years are of common interest to both child labour and youth employment policies and programmes. Although these young people are over the minimum working age according to national legislation in most countries, they can still fall into the worst forms of “child labour” category under ILO Conventions Nos. 138 and 182 if the work they do is prohibited for their age under national laws (for instance on the prohibited list of occupations and processes, i.e., the hazardous work list) or if they are involved in other worst forms of child labour work as specified in Convention No. 182, and as prohibited under various national laws (which may be covered by laws other than the child labour laws).

The information available from the South Asia countries indicates that the share of employed youth aged 15-17 years in hazardous work is considerable, but varies greatly across countries. The work of 15-17 year-old children is most likely to be hazardous in Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, where 75 per cent and 72 per cent, respectively, of all employed youth find themselves in hazardous work (Figure 4). The share of employed older children in hazardous work is lower but nonetheless also substantial in Pakistan (41 per cent), Nepal (30 per cent) and India (20 per cent). Seen from another perspective, hazardous work among 15-17 year-olds accounts for over one-third of child labour among children of all ages in the six countries where data are available for this age group (See Figure 4).

Figure 4. A substantial share of employment among 15-17 year-olds is hazardous in nature.(a)



Notes:

(a) Estimates based on this methodology provide an international statistical benchmark for comparative purposes but do not necessarily reflect child labour as defined by national legislation in each of the South Asia countries. For details on the methodology, see *Making progress against child labour – Global estimates and trends 2000-2012/ ILO, Geneva, 2013*;

(b) The **Bhutan** MICS (survey) does not collect information on industry and occupation, thereby not allowing the identification of hazardous industries and hazard occupations. Children aged 15-17 in hazardous work are identified only on the basis of working hours;

(c) The **India** Employment-Unemployment (NSS survey) does not collect information on working hours. For this reason, the group of children aged 15-17 are classified as being in child labourer only on the basis of their involvement in designated hazardous industries and hazardous occupations; and

(e) The **Pakistan** LFS (survey) collects information on occupation only at 2 digit level of details, not allowing the identification of hazardous occupations according to the methodology applied by ILO for the scope of the global estimates. Hazardous work is defined on the basis of the designated hazardous industries and long hours of work.

Source: UCW calculations based on national household surveys (see Table 1).

2.3. NATURE OF CHILDREN'S EMPLOYMENT

25. Information on the various characteristics of children's employment is necessary for understanding children's workplace reality and their role in the labour force. This section presents data on broad work *characteristics of children's employment*. In particular, the breakdown by industry is reported to provide a standardized picture of where children are concentrated in the measured economy.

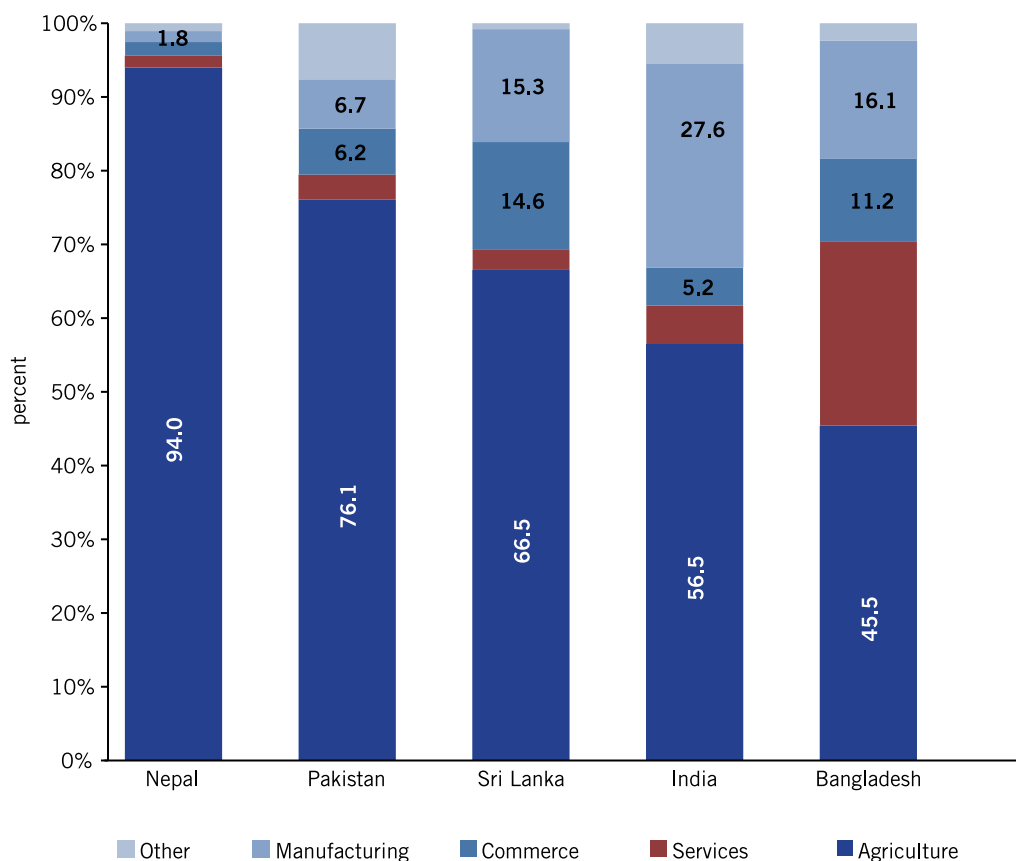
26. **Agriculture absorbs the highest percentage of children in employment in every South Asian country for which data are available.** For 7 to 14 year-old children in employment, the proportion of children working in the agricultural sector ranges from 46 per cent in Bangladesh to 94 per cent in Nepal. The predominance of child labour in agriculture is a particular concern in light of the fact that this sector is one of the three most dangerous in which to work at any age, along with construction and mining, in terms of work-related fatalities, non-fatal accidents and occupational diseases.³⁷ Children working in agriculture can face a variety of serious hazards, including operation of dangerous equipment, pesticide exposure, excessive physical exertion and heavy loads. In all five South Asian countries reporting employment by age and

37 ILO, *Child labour in agriculture* (<http://www.ilo.org/ipec/areas/Agriculture/lang-en/index.htm>).

sector, children shift away from agricultural work as they get older, although agriculture is also the leading sector of employment for working 15 to 17 year-olds.

Figure 5. Agriculture absorbs the highest share of children in employment

Sectoral composition of children's employment (% distribution), 7-14 years age group, by residence and country^(a).



Notes: (a) Estimates for Pakistan refer to the 10-14 years age group.

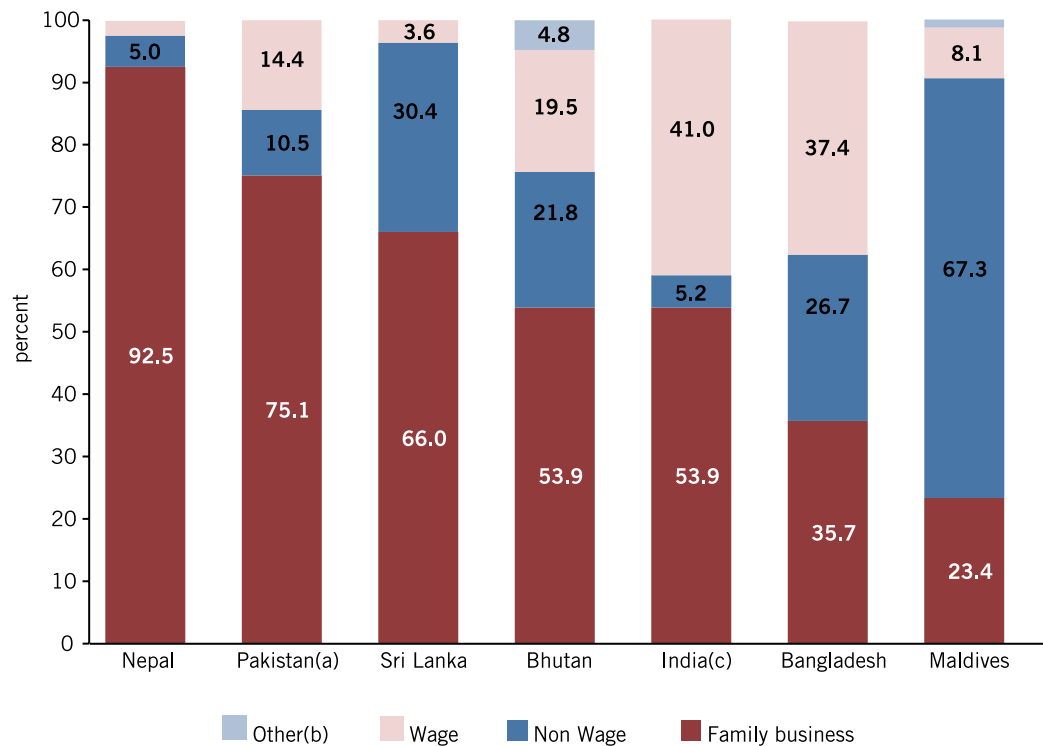
Source: UCW calculations based on national household surveys (see Table 2).

27. A breakdown by *children's status in employment* is also reported to provide further insight into how children's work is carried out. This discussion is, however, limited by the fact that information is available only for general (3-digit) industrial and occupational classifications. More detailed information is needed for a more complete picture of children's work experiences.

28. **Work within the family unit accounts for the largest share of children's employment in most South Asian countries.** The majority of working 7-14 year-old children is engaged in family work in Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, India, as well as the working 10-14 year olds in Pakistan. The two exceptions are Bangladesh and the Maldives. In Bangladesh, a substantial share of children in the age group is in wage and non-wage employment in addition to family work. In the Maldives, non-wage employment outside the family predominates for the age group. In all countries, children in employment move out of family work as they grow older.

Figure 6. The largest share of children in employment work without wages within their own families

Children's status in employment, percentage distribution, 7-14 years age group, by country.



Notes:

(a) Estimates for Pakistan refer to the 10-14 years age group;

(b) "Other" refers to children in multiple status categories;

(c) Wage employment in India includes casual wage workers

Source: UCW calculations based on national household surveys (see Table 2).

2.4. EDUCATIONAL MARGINALIZATION AND CHILDREN'S EMPLOYMENT

29. Understanding the interaction between children's employment and their schooling is critical to assessing the extent to which child labour is linked to educational marginalization in the South Asian countries.

30. This report presents the interaction between children's employment and schooling through categorization of the child population into four non-overlapping activity groups: (a) children in employment only (b) children attending school only, (c) children combining school and employment, and (d) children doing neither.

31. This breakdown, reported in Table 4 for the 7-14 years age range, varies considerably across the South Asian countries. In all but Nepal, the largest share of children is 'only in school'. Nepal stands out as having the highest share of children combining school and employment (at 31 per cent) and the least share in only schooling (at about 60 per cent), while Pakistan stands out as having the highest share of children in employment (at 11 per cent) and also out of school.

Table 4: Children's involvement in employment and schooling, 7-14 years age group, by country

| Country | Mutually exclusive activity categories | | | | (a)&(c) Total in employment | (b)&(c) Total in school | (a)&(d) Total out of school |
|-------------|--|-----------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| | (a) Only employment | (b) Only schooling | (c) Employment and schooling | (d) Neither activity | | | |
| Bangladesh | 4.8 | 78.3 | 6.8 | 10 | 11.6 | 85.1 | 14.8 |
| Bhutan | 1.3 | 88.1 | 3.3 | 7.3 | 4.6 | 91.4 | 8.6 |
| India | 1.4 | 93.2 | 0.3 | 5.1 | 1.7 | 93.5 | 6.5 |
| Maldives | 0.2 | 90.3 | 4 | 5.5 | 4.2 | 94.3 | 5.7 |
| Nepal | 4.9 | 59.7 | 31.3 | 4.2 | 36.1 | 90.9 | 9.1 |
| Pakistan(a) | 11.4 | 74.4 | 1.6 | 12.6 | 13 | 76 | 24 |
| Sri-Lanka | 0.3 | 88 | 10.4 | 1.3 | 10.7 | 98.4 | 1.6 |

Notes: (a) Estimates for Pakistan refer to the 10-14 years age group;
Source: UCW calculations based on national household surveys (see Table 2).

32. The activity composition for older 15-17 year-old children is more concentrated in employment only and inactivity and less in schooling. It shows young persons transitioning (from school and work) to adult life (Table 5).

Table 5: Children's involvement in employment and schooling, 15-17 years age group, by country

| Country | Mutually exclusive activity categories | | | | (a)&(c) Total in employment | (b)&(c) Total in school | (a)&(d) Total out of school |
|------------|--|-----------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| | (a) Only employment | (b) Only schooling | (c) Employment and schooling | (d) Neither activity | | | |
| Bangladesh | 40.4 | 34.8 | 7.1 | 17.7 | 47.5 | 41.9 | 58.1 |
| Bhutan | 15.2 | 54.0 | 19.6 | 11.2 | 34.8 | 73.6 | 26.4 |
| India | 13.1 | 72.7 | 1.7 | 12.6 | 14.7 | 74.3 | 25.7 |
| Maldives | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Nepal | 23.5 | 29.5 | 41.7 | 5.2 | 65.2 | 71.3 | 28.7 |
| Pakistan | 30.3 | 50.2 | 3.0 | 16.5 | 33.3 | 53.2 | 46.8 |
| Sri Lanka | 9.5 | 67.4 | 15.0 | 8.1 | 24.5 | 82.4 | 17.6 |

Source: UCW calculations based on national household surveys (see Table 2).

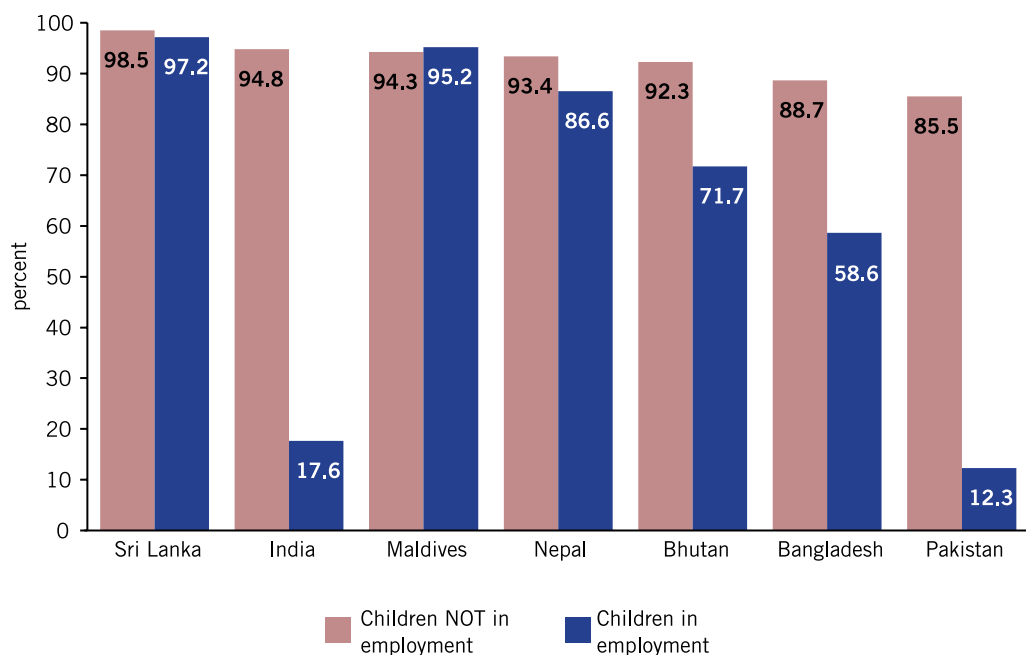
33. Each of the seven countries has a significant share of children who are reported "inactive", i.e., neither in employment nor in school. The reported inactivity rates are especially high in Pakistan for 10-14 year-old children and in Bangladesh for 7-14 year old children, at 13 per cent and 10 per cent, respectively. Many of these ostensibly inactive children are likely performing household chores in their own homes, a form of work falling outside the formal definition of employment. Some may be in worst forms of child labour beyond the scope of standard household surveys.

Panel 5 . Could those reported 'inactive' have ended in child marriage?

Other sources indicate that this inactivity continues into youth. Indeed, almost 100 million South Asian youth, 31 per cent of the total, are unemployed or inactive.³⁸ South Asian women alone account for over one quarter of the world's "inactive" youth.³⁹ Many of these may well be young housewives and mothers. Bangladesh ranks fourth highest globally in the incidence of child marriage, with 65 per cent of women 20-24 years old who were married or in union before they were 18 years, and 25 per cent married by 15 years; India stands 12th internationally, with 47 per cent at 18 years and 18 per cent at 15 years; followed at 20th place internationally, Nepal has 41 per cent married by 18 years and 10 per cent at 10 years.⁴⁰

Figure 7. Percentage of children attending school by work status, 7-14 years age range, by country^(a)

Children in employment are generally less likely to attend school than their non-working peers.



Notes:

(a) Estimates for Pakistan refer to the 10-14 years age group.

Source: UCW calculations based on national household surveys (see Table 2).

34. Children in employment are generally less likely to attend school than their non-working peers. Comparing the school attendance of working and non-working children is a way of assessing the *relative* educational disadvantage of the working children. This comparison, reported in Figure 7, indicates that working children lag behind their non-working peers in all countries except Maldives. Moreover, the size of the attendance gaps is frequently substantial.

38 Generation Jobless, The Economist, April 27, 2013.

39 Generation Jobless, The Economist, April 27, 2013

40 Child marriage prevalence is the percentage of women 20-24 years old who were married or in union before they were 18 years old (UNICEF State of the World's Children, 2014). It is based on Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS), Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS) and other national surveys, and refers to the most recent year available during the period 2002-2011. <http://www.girlsnotbrides.org/where-does-it-happen>

In India, for example, the difference in attendance rates is 77 per cent, while in Pakistan it is 73 per cent. There is a 30 percentage point difference in the attendance rates of working and non-working children in Bangladesh and a 20 percentage point difference in Bhutan. These figures underscore the importance of child labour as a barrier to achieving universal primary enrolment in the region. Data are not available on the regularity of school attendance, i.e. the frequency with which children are absent or late for class, but attendance regularity, particularly at the younger age, is also likely adversely affected by involvement in employment.

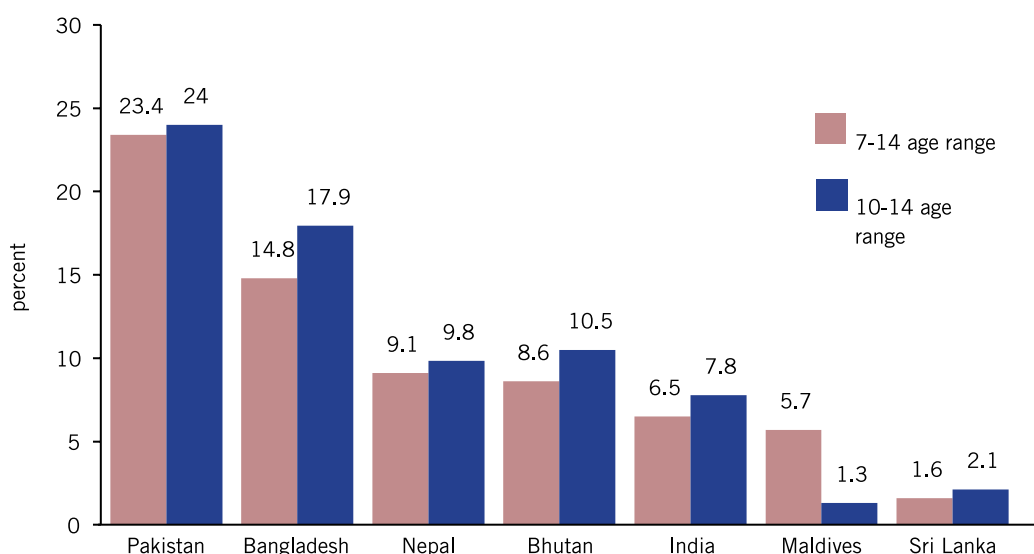
Panel 6. Out-of-school children constitute a formidable challenge in the South Asia region

The share of out-of-school children in the 7-14 years age group stands at 24 per cent in Pakistan, 15 per cent in Bangladesh, nine per cent in Bhutan and Nepal and at seven per cent in India (Table 4). Translated into absolute terms, 12.3 million children in this age range are out of school in India, 7.3 million in Pakistan and 4.5 million in Bangladesh, or a total of over 24 million in these three countries. This underscores the challenges and the distance the region must still cover to reach universal primary enrolment and eliminate child labour. Of the five countries worldwide that have more than one million children (6-11 years old) out of school, two are in South Asia: Pakistan and India. Pakistan has the second highest number of primary school-age out-of-school children globally. Accurate data are not available for Afghanistan.

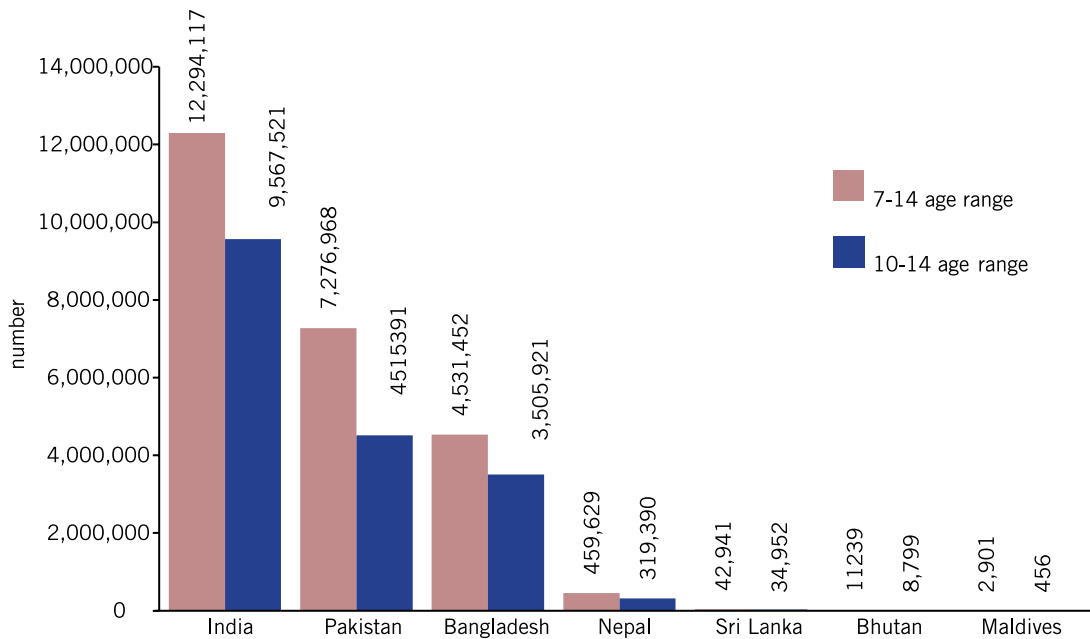
35. Work is seen to have a negative effect on the education of the substantial numbers of children who combine school and work. A large share of working children do in fact attend school in the South Asia region, so a key question is how work affects their school performance. It stands to reason that the exigencies of work limit the time and energy children have for their studies, in turn negatively impacting upon their performance in school. However, information on learning achievement scores is needed to obtain a more complete picture of the impact of work on children's ability to benefit from their time in the classroom across the different age range.

Figure 8. Substantial shares of primary-aged children remain out of school in many of the South Asia countries

(a) Percentage of out of school children (OOSC), by age group and country



(b) No. of out of school children (OOSC), by age group^(a) and country



Panel 7. Public expenditure on education in South Asia – short of commitment

South Asia’s public spending as a percentage of GDP trails all other regions in the world. In 2010, while developing countries in Sub-Saharan Africa and East Asia spent 4.3 per cent and 4.4 per cent of GDP on education, respectively, the South Asia region spent only 2.9 per cent.⁴¹ Some countries that were already spending less than 3 per cent of GNP on education in 1999, such as Bangladesh and Pakistan, have reduced their spending further in the last ten years. As the ILO concluded in its report, “to the extent that budget allocations reflect political priorities, this reveals insufficient levels of commitment to universal education and, by proxy, child labour elimination.”⁴² Analyses of the total primary education expenditure in South Asia place external contributions to be very important for some countries in the region, while household contribution toward “free” education can be significant as well.

2.5. GENDER DIMENSIONS AND CHILDREN’S EMPLOYMENT AND EDUCATION

36. Four South Asian countries have the highest gender disparities globally. Two of these have very high disparities at the expense of girls: in Pakistan, 82 girls are in school for every 100 boys and in Afghanistan, 71 girls are in school for every 100 boys. Two countries have high disparities at the expense of boys: Bangladesh has 94 boys in school for every 100 girls, and Nepal has 92 boys for every 100 girls. A positive indicator for Nepal is the tripling from 18 per cent (2001) to 54 per cent (2011) of the literacy rate of the poorest young women.

41 The World Bank: Public spending on education, total (per cent of GDP), (2013).

42 ILO: Accelerating action against child labour. Global Report under the follow-up to the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, International Labour Conference, 99th Session, p.

Table 6: Children's involvement in employment and schooling, 7-14 years age group, by country

| Country | Mutually exclusive activity categories | | | | | | | | (a)&(c) | | (b)&(c) | | | (a)&(d) | |
|-------------------|--|------|----------------|------|--------------------------|------|------------------|------|---------------------|------|-----------------|------|------|---------------------|---|
| | (a) | | (b) | | (c) | | (d) | | Total in employment | | Total in School | | | Total out of school | |
| | Only employment | | Only schooling | | Employment and schooling | | Neither activity | | | M | F | M | F | M | F |
| Bangladesh | 7.6 | 2 | 74.1 | 82.7 | 9.9 | 3.6 | 8.4 | 11.7 | 17.5 | 5.6 | 84 | 86.3 | 16 | 13.7 | |
| Bhutan | 1 | 1.6 | 87.9 | 88.3 | 3 | 3.6 | 8.1 | 6.4 | 4 | 5.3 | 90.9 | 91.9 | 9.1 | 8.1 | |
| India | 1.5 | 1.3 | 94.1 | 92.1 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 4.1 | 6.3 | 1.9 | 1.6 | 94.4 | 92.4 | 5.6 | 7.6 | |
| Maldives | 0.2 | 0.3 | 89.4 | 91.2 | 4.3 | 3.7 | 6.1 | 4.8 | 4.4 | 4 | 93.7 | 94.9 | 6.3 | 5.1 | |
| Nepal | 3.4 | 6.4 | 63.2 | 55.9 | 29.8 | 32.9 | 3.6 | 4.9 | 33.2 | 39.3 | 93 | 88.7 | 7 | 11.3 | |
| Pakistan | 10.1 | 12.9 | 80.2 | 67.7 | 2.5 | 0.7 | 7.3 | 18.7 | 12.5 | 13.5 | 82.7 | 68.4 | 17.3 | 31.6 | |
| Sri Lanka | 0.6 | 0.1 | 85.8 | 90.2 | 12.4 | 8.4 | 1.2 | 1.3 | 13 | 8.5 | 98.2 | 98.6 | 1.8 | 1.4 | |

Source: UCW calculations based on national household surveys (see Table 2).

Table 7: Children's involvement in employment and schooling, 15-17 years age group, by country

| Country | Mutually exclusive activity categories | | | | | | | | (a)&(c) | | (b)&(c) | | | (a)&(d) | |
|-------------------|--|------|----------------|------|--------------------------|------|------------------|------|---------------------|------|-----------------|------|------|---------------------|---|
| | (a) | | (b) | | (c) | | (d) | | Total in employment | | Total in School | | | Total out of school | |
| | Only employment | | Only schooling | | Employment and schooling | | Neither activity | | | M | F | M | F | M | F |
| Bangladesh | 57.4 | 13.5 | 28.0 | 45.6 | 9.2 | 3.8 | 5.4 | 37.1 | 66.6 | 17.3 | 37.2 | 49.4 | 62.8 | 50.6 | |
| Bhutan | 7.1 | 7.9 | 68.8 | 70.3 | 3.7 | 4.4 | 20.5 | 17.3 | 10.8 | 12.4 | 72.4 | 74.9 | 27.6 | 25.1 | |
| India | 16.7 | 8.7 | 75.2 | 69.7 | 2.0 | 1.2 | 6.1 | 20.3 | 18.7 | 10.0 | 77.2 | 70.9 | 22.8 | 29.1 | |
| Maldives | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Nepal | 18.4 | 28.2 | 33.4 | 26.0 | 44.0 | 39.6 | 4.1 | 6.2 | 62.5 | 67.8 | 77.5 | 65.6 | 22.5 | 34.4 | |
| Pakistan | 33.0 | 27.3 | 55.3 | 44.6 | 4.9 | 0.8 | 6.8 | 27.3 | 37.9 | 28.1 | 60.1 | 45.4 | 39.9 | 54.6 | |
| Sri-Lanka | 12.6 | 6.3 | 62.4 | 72.5 | 18.3 | 11.6 | 6.7 | 9.5 | 30.9 | 18.0 | 80.7 | 84.1 | 19.3 | 15.9 | |

Panel 8. Particular vulnerability of girls

It is well recognized that girls are particularly vulnerable to the negative impacts of child labour. An ILO study of 16 countries found that, although roughly the same percentage of girls are involved in economic activity as boys, girls engage in more non-economic household chores and work longer total hours (economic and non-economic) than boys.⁴³ Girls also constitute a majority of the children in some of the most dangerous forms of child labour, including forced and bonded labour, commercial sexual exploitation and domestic work outside of their home.⁴⁴

43 ILO: Give girls a chance: Tackling child labour, a key to the future, (2009), p.20

44 ILO: Accelerating action against child labour. Global Report under the follow-up to the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, International Labour Conference, 99th Session, p.

37. The activity status of children in South Asia differs considerably by gender. Patterns in this regard, however, are not consistent across countries (Table 6 and Table 7). Among children in the 7-14 years age range, more boys than girls are reported in employment in Bangladesh, India, and Sri Lanka and more girls in Bhutan, Maldives and Pakistan. Differences in school attendance among girls and boys in this age range are not large, with the important exception of Pakistan, where the attendance of girls trails that of boys by 15 percentage points. Pakistani girls, are instead much more likely to be both out of employment and out of school.

Panel 9. “Nowhere” Girls

Although child activity data from national surveys does not indicate as to what South Asian girls are doing if they are neither in school nor in employment, research suggests that they are far from “inactive.”

- A 2011 report found that girls in Bangladesh are three times as likely as boys to perform household chores for more than 20 hours per week.⁴¹
- A 2009 study found that girls in India between 7 and 14 years were more than 15 times as likely as male peers to report their primary activity as housework.⁴²
- Another report found that girls in Nepal spend more than 3 times as many hours on household chores as boys. More than one quarter of girls in Nepal spend 15 to 42 hours per week on household duties.⁴³
- In India, researchers found that the rate of rural child marriage for 12 to 17 year old girls is strongly correlated with hours spent doing household chores.⁴⁴
- According to a 2010 report, 46 per cent of South Asian women between the ages of 20 and 24 had married before they were 18 years.⁴⁵

38. Gender differences begin to emerge more clearly in the 15-17 years age range. This is driven undoubtedly by the different culturally dictated paths that boys and girls take when leaving education. Specifically, a larger share of girls in this age range are reported “inactive” (i.e., out of school and out of employment) (Bhutan is an exception), a reflection of the fact that relatively more girls stay home to undertake domestic responsibilities (see also Panel 9) rather than enter the labour market upon graduating from school. As noted above, early marriage is an enormous problem in a number of South Asian countries. Gender differences in this regard are particularly pronounced in Bangladesh, India and Pakistan.

45 Bangladesh, UCW Country Report Series, July 2011. pg. 15, 25.

46 Child labour in Bangladesh and India: A preliminary gender-based analysis, Understanding Children’s Work, April 2009. p. 6.

47 Nepal Child Labour Report, ILO; Central Bureau of Statistics Nepal, January 2011, p. 53.

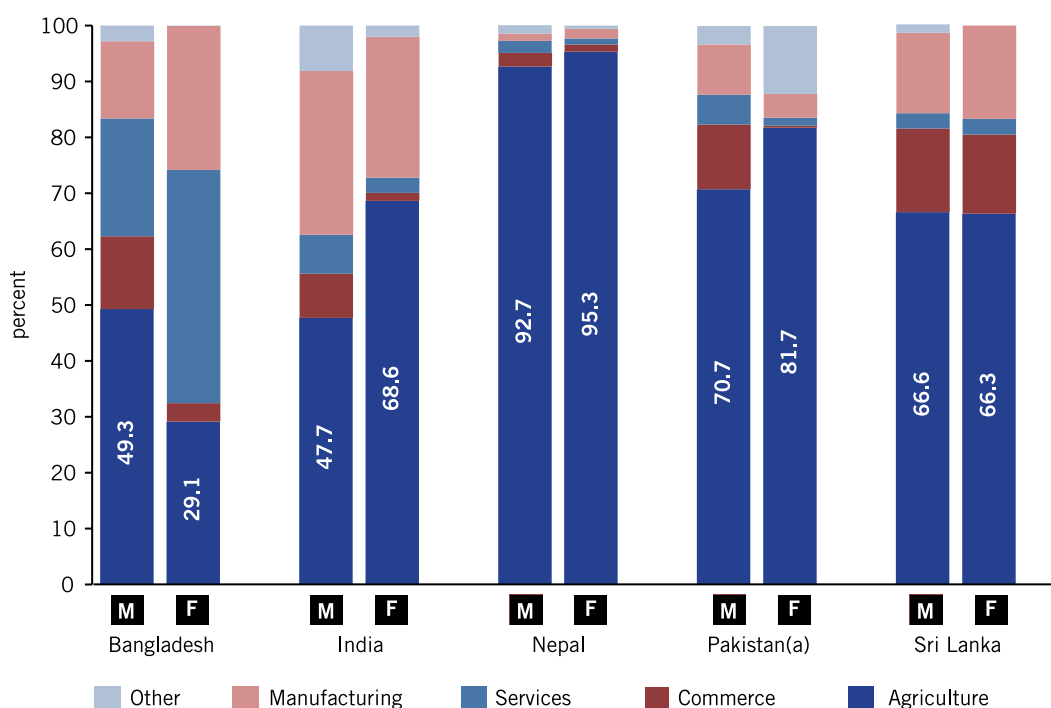
48 Unpaid Household Services and Child Labour (Working Paper), Understanding Children’s Work, March 2013. p. 20.

49 Progress for Children: Achieving the MDGs with Equity, Number 9, UNICEF, September 2010. p. 46.

39. **The nature of employment differs for girls and boys.** Among working children aged 7 to 14 years, girls are more likely to perform paid and unpaid family work than boys in five of the countries (India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka), but not so in Bhutan and Bangladesh. For the 15-17 years age group, this is the case for all countries except Bangladesh (Data is not available for Afghanistan). This result is likely driven in part by social norms dictating that girls remain home to work while boys seek outside employment⁵⁰ and also because girls are subjected to early marriage. These are also countries, together with Nepal, which have a high prevalence of early marriage. The knowledge base is limited on the correlation between early marriage and child labour, particularly for girls in the rural areas.

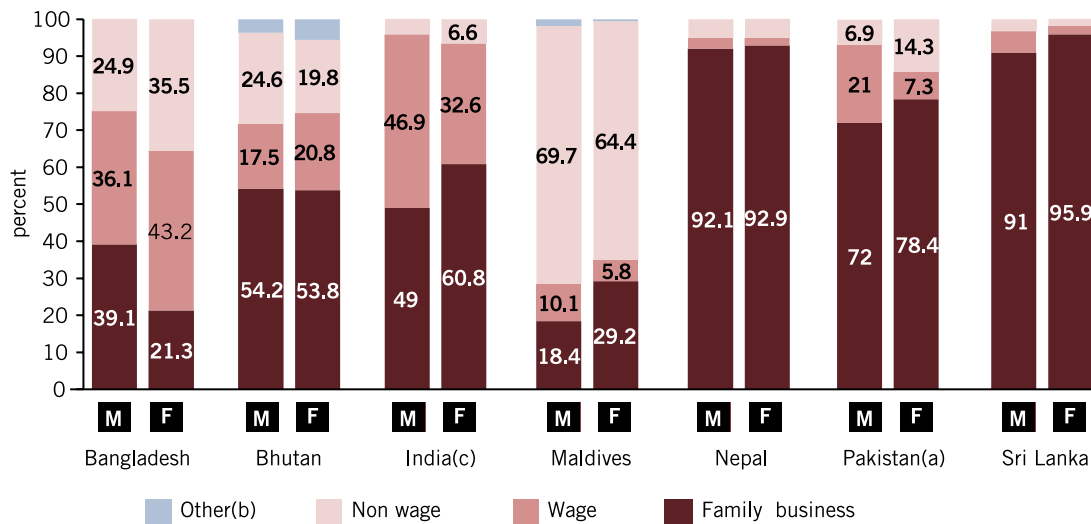
Figure 9. There are important differences in the nature of the work performed by boys and girls

(a) Sectoral composition of children's employment (% distribution), 7-14 years age group, by sex and country.



50 Bangladesh, UCW Country Report Series, July 2011. p. 44

(b) Children’s status in employment, percentage distribution,^(a) 7-14 years, by sex and country.



Notes:

- (a) Estimates for Pakistan refer to the 10-14 years age group;
 - (b) "Other" refers to children in multiple status categories;
 - (c) Wage employment in India includes casual wage workers.
- Source: UCW calculations based on national household surveys (see Table 2).

40. Sectoral composition of South Asian children’s employment shows variation by sex, although patterns are less clear across countries. India stands out as having a much larger share of girls than boys in agriculture and a much smaller share of girls in manufacturing. Differences by sex are also very large in Bangladesh, although in this case boys are much more likely than girls to be in agriculture and less likely than girls to be in manufacturing and services.

41. It is likely, however, that these general employment classifications disguise many differences between the work of girls and boys. More detailed information on the nature of children’s employment, beyond the 3-digit standard industrial classifications provided in the surveys used for this Report, is needed for a more complete understanding of the gender dimensions of children’s employment.

Panel 10. Millions of children in rural South Asia belong to rural-to-urban migrant families, making staying in school and out of work a particular challenge.

Millions of seasonal migrant children below the age of 14 years, many of them of primary school age between 6-14 years old, are on the move in South Asia. Migration cycles rarely align with the school year, leaving many migrant children unable to attend primary or secondary school. Confronted with challenges of access to schooling, children seasonally migrating with their families are inevitably put to work alongside their parents in brick-making, salt manufacture, sugar cane harvesting, stone quarrying, construction, fisheries, plantations or rice mills.⁴⁷

2.6. RURAL-URBAN OUTCOMES IN CHILDREN'S EMPLOYMENT AND EDUCATION

42. **Children in South Asia's rural areas are generally more likely to be employed and less likely to be in school** (Table 9 and Table 10). In every South Asian country reporting data besides Maldives, 7-14 year-old rural children are more likely to be in employment than their urban peers. In Sri Lanka and Nepal, rural children in the 7-14 year old age group are more than twice as likely to be in employment as urban children of the same age. At the same time, a higher share of rural children are out of school in all but Sri Lanka for both the 7-14 and 15-17 year age ranges. Among 15-17 year olds, rural children are more likely to be in employment than urban children in every South Asian country reporting data.

Table 8: Children's involvement in employment and schooling (%), 7-14 years age group, by country and residence (Urban-Rural)

| Country | Mutually exclusive activity categories | | | | | | | | (a)&(c) | | (b)&(c) | | (a)&(d) | |
|-------------------|--|-----|------|------|------|------|------|-----|---------------------|------|-----------------|------|---------------------|------|
| | (a) | | (b) | | (c) | | (d) | | Total in employment | | Total in school | | Total out of school | |
| | U | R | U | R | U | R | U | R | U | R | U | R | U | R |
| Bangladesh | 4.2 | 5 | 80.7 | 77.7 | 5 | 7.3 | 10.1 | 10 | 9.2 | 12.3 | 85.7 | 85 | 14.3 | 15 |
| Bhutan | 0.5 | 1.7 | 93.2 | 86.1 | 2.3 | 3.7 | 3.9 | 8.6 | 2.8 | 5.3 | 95.5 | 89.8 | 4.5 | 10.2 |
| India | 1.3 | 1.5 | 94.6 | 92.6 | 0.2 | 0.3 | 3.8 | 5.6 | 1.5 | 1.8 | 94.8 | 93 | 5.2 | 7 |
| Maldives | 0.4 | 0.2 | 89.8 | 90.5 | 4.7 | 3.8 | 5.1 | 5.6 | 5.1 | 3.9 | 94.4 | 94.2 | 5.6 | 5.8 |
| Nepal | 2.3 | 5.2 | 83.1 | 56.3 | 12.4 | 34 | 2.2 | 4.5 | 14.8 | 39.3 | 95.5 | 90.3 | 4.5 | 9.7 |
| Pakistan | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Sri Lanka | 0.7 | 0.3 | 92.4 | 87.2 | 5.2 | 11.6 | 1.7 | 1 | 5.9 | 11.9 | 97.7 | 98.8 | 2.4 | 1.2 |

Source: UCW calculations based on national household surveys (see Table 2).

Table 9: Children's involvement in employment and schooling (%), 15-17 years age group, by country

| Country | Mutually exclusive activity categories | | | | | | | | (a)&(c) | | (b)&(c) | | (a)&(d) | |
|-------------------|--|------|-----------------------|------|---------------------------------|------|-------------------------|------|---------------------|------|-----------------|------|---------------------|------|
| | (a) Only employment | | (b) Only schooling | | (c) Employment and schooling | | (d) Neither activity | | Total in employment | | Total in school | | Total out of school | |
| | U | R | U | R | U | R | U | R | U | R | U | R | U | R |
| Bangladesh | 36.2 | 41.7 | 43.2 | 32.0 | 4.8 | 7.9 | 15.8 | 18.3 | 41.0 | 49.6 | 48.0 | 39.9 | 52.0 | 60.0 |
| Bhutan | 2.1 | 9.7 | 82.1 | 64.5 | 4.0 | 4.1 | 11.9 | 21.8 | 6.1 | 13.7 | 86.0 | 68.6 | 14.0 | 31.4 |
| India | 10.0 | 14.3 | 78.8 | 70.4 | 0.8 | 2.0 | 10.4 | 13.4 | 10.8 | 16.2 | 79.6 | 72.3 | 20.4 | 27.7 |
| Maldives | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Nepal | 10.6 | 26.0 | 62.7 | 23.2 | 20.9 | 45.7 | 5.8 | 5.1 | 31.5 | 71.7 | 83.6 | 68.9 | 16.4 | 31.1 |
| Pakistan | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Sri Lanka | 10.9 | 9.0 | 75.3 | 66.9 | 6.6 | 16.7 | 7.2 | 7.5 | 17.5 | 25.6 | 81.9 | 83.5 | 18.1 | 16.5 |

Source: UCW calculations based on national household surveys (see Table 2).

Panel 11. South Asian statistics show the particular vulnerability and educational marginalization of rural children.

Familial poverty drives many parents to push their children to work, and 75 per cent of the world's poor live in rural area.⁴⁸ Students in rural areas suffer from low quality school infrastructure,⁴⁹ lower access to schools and a curriculum design often incompatible with the seasonal nature of rural work.⁵⁰ The lack of teachers and teaching resources, and high level of absenteeism, particularly among female teachers, are barriers to learning. Furthermore, the enforcement of labour laws is more lax in rural areas (if they are applicable at all) and some traditional cultural attitudes may make rural communities more tolerant of children working.⁵¹ All of these factors, among others, contribute to a higher prevalence of child labour in rural areas.

52 World Bank: Agriculture for Development, World Development Report 2008 (Washington D.C.: 2007)

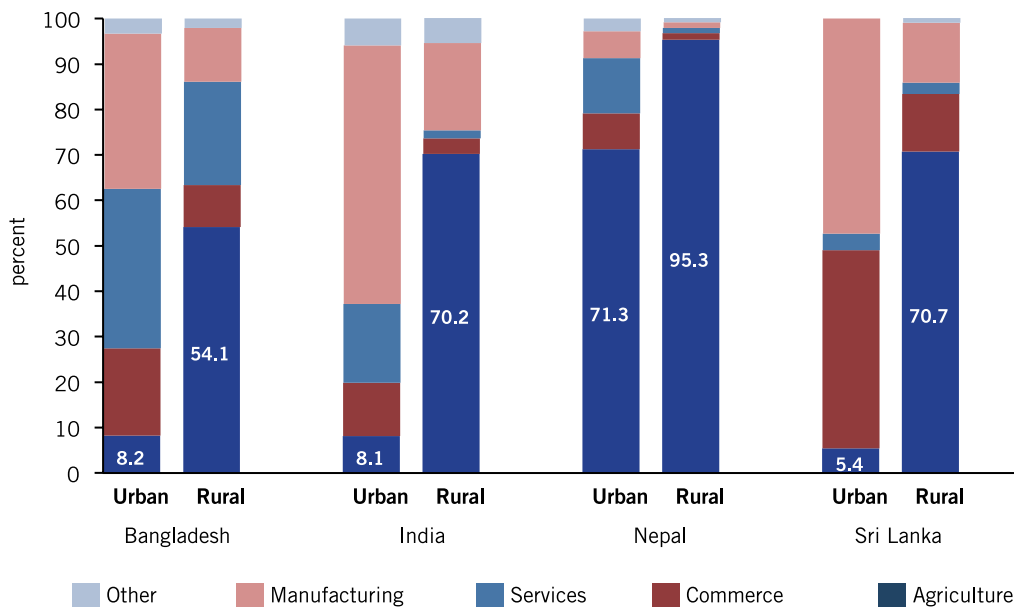
53 A view inside primary schools: A world education indicators (WEI) cross-national study, UNESCO Institute for Statistics, Montreal, 2008. P. 40.

54 Eliminating child labour in rural areas through decent work, Rural development through decent work, ILO, 2011.

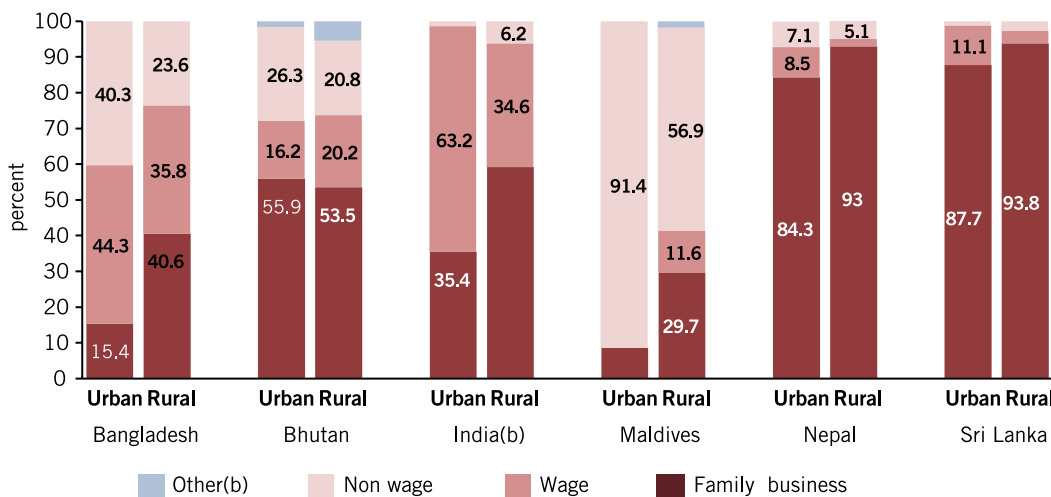
55 Eliminating child labour in rural areas through decent work, ILO, 2011.

Figure 10. Children's employment in rural areas is much more concentrated in the agriculture sector and in family work

(a) Sectoral composition of children's employment (% distribution), 7-14 years age group, by residence and country.



(b) Children's status in employment, percentage distribution, (a) 7-14 years age group, by country.



Notes: (a) "Other" refers to children in multiple status categories; (b) Wage employment in India includes casual wage workers.

Source: UCW calculations based on national household surveys (see Table 2).

43. Rural working children are heavily concentrated in agriculture and in family work. Children's activities in urban areas are more diverse; urban working children are distributed across the commerce, services, manufacturing and agriculture sectors (Figure 8). In every South Asian country reporting data (besides Bhutan) rural children of all ages are also more likely to be engaged in family work, while urban children are more likely to be employed in paid work outside the home.

Section 3

Toward Conclusions and Recommendations

44. Governments, employers' and workers' organizations, civil society and other stakeholders have, for the greater part, responded positively to addressing the problem of child labour. Policies and plans of action have been formulated and expansive projects have been implemented. Laws have been upgraded and enforcement capacity developed. Advocacy work has been undertaken and child rights advocates in South Asia are at the forefront of the global movement to eliminate child labour and make protection and education a reality for all children. Efforts to address child labour through the education framework have resulted in strategies for out-of-school children, bringing them to the classroom. Action under the development framework of Violence against Children (VAC) has integrated child labour as a key theme and progress is being made on that account. Countries have experimented with measuring the broader category of children's work and some even the more targeted one of child labour, resulting in somewhat limited, but nonetheless a wealth of data that enhances our understanding and provides guidance for strategies and policies. A number of countries in South Asia have made significant budgetary allocations at the national level and some at the subnational levels. Strategies have been tested and numerous intervention models have been successfully applied to withdraw millions of children from child labour and mainstream them in schools.

45. Yet, child labour persists relentlessly in South Asia. The sheer numbers pose an enormous challenge. Conflicts and natural disasters are continuously chipping away at institutional infrastructure and capacities. Economic growth in the region has lifted many South Asians out of poverty, but the socio-economic conditions for many of these children and their families remain harsh.

46. Many countries worldwide, with support of the ILO, have undertaken national and other forms of surveys on child labour and established a body of statistical information and knowledge on the subject. On the basis of this information, the ILO devised its methodology for global estimates and trends, which are published in the Global Reports on Child Labour.⁵⁶ The global reports are a unique source of reliable statistics and information and an impetus for action and advocacy. As the first ILO South Asia Report on Children's Work and Child Labour, this document adds an expanded and concrete regional dimension to global and national knowledge and efforts. It provides an overview and insight into the nature and extent of child labour and children's employment in the South Asian countries and region. The report is produced in a context, which in recent years has given rise to increased focus on collaboration and cooperation amongst countries of the South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), focusing on the challenges they face and the possibilities for maximizing opportunities. Child labour is among these issues.

47. Significantly also, the report highlights gaps in national statistical surveys, which translates into gaps in regional estimates and profiles. Such evidence gaps can be an obstacle to addressing not only child labour but the wider socio-economic issues within countries, cross-border and at the regional level.

56 The most recent Global Report on Child Labour is: *Marking progress against child labour - Global estimates and trends 2000-2012* (ILO, 2013) http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/--ed_norm/---ipecl/documents/publication/wcms_221513.pdf

48. Effective and well-targeted responses to child labour demand a strong body of knowledge on the issue, including an understanding of how many child labourers there are, which sectors and geographical areas they work in, the demographic characteristics of the children involved, and the type of work that they carry out. Despite recent national household surveys in most of the South Asia countries (Afghanistan is an important exception), data quality and comparability are uneven and significant information gaps remain, affecting understanding of the child labour phenomenon, the conditions under which young workers work, and the ability of policy-makers to address it. There is a general need in this context for mainstream systems for the collection, analysis and dissemination of child labour statistics, as well as more targeted research aimed at filling specific knowledge gaps.

49. Notwithstanding the limitations of data, the findings in Section 2 of this Report point clearly at specific policy directions and action that must be pursued as efforts are made simultaneously to reinforce and strengthen statistical information on children's employment and child labour.

3.1. RECOMMENDED POLICY MEASURES AND INTERVENTIONS – EMERGING FROM ANALYSIS OF NATIONAL SURVEYS FINDINGS

1) Rural area focus

50. *While paying due attention to addressing the increasing vulnerabilities and risks faced by children and adolescents in urban areas, reinforced efforts must be directed at addressing child labour and children's work in the rural areas, particularly agriculture, through proven and innovative approaches.* Rural children continue to be more likely than their urban peers in most South Asian countries to be working, less likely to be in school and more susceptible to the particular challenges facing children in migrant families. Agriculture absorbs the highest percentage of children in employment in every South Asian country for which data are available.

2) Family work burden and education

51. *Families whose children are vulnerable to child labour, or are in child labour, must be linked to services needed (such as day care for younger siblings, health services, loans and grants for emergencies) so that the children's schooling and development are not affected by excessive family work, which accounts for the largest share of children's employment in most South Asian countries.*⁵⁷

3) The work situation of South Asian girls

52. *Reducing the vulnerability of girls remains important - through education, training and life skills. The child labour and employment situation of the third gender children needs to be assessed and strategies put in place as needed to address concerns.* Girls are more likely to be reported inactive than boys of the same age across most of the region.⁵⁸

4) Gender disparities in primary education

53. *Specific strategies need to be implemented urgently to address gender disparities against girls and boys at the primary education level.* Four South Asian countries register the highest

⁵⁷ Except Bangladesh and the Maldives.

⁵⁸ For 7-14 year old group, more boys are reported inactive than girls in Bhutan and the Maldives, and more girls in Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, with the difference particularly high in Pakistan.

gender disparities globally and these disparities are against both girls and boys.⁵⁹ Interventions focusing on either gender must ensure it will not put the other at a disadvantage.

5) Life-cycle and cross-generational approaches to child labour and employment

54. *The findings reinforce the necessity of life-cycle approaches to employment policies and programmes for swift transition to decent youth employment for all young persons (including those who did not make it to school). Also important in this regard are cross-generational considerations of the impact of the situation of child labour and measures taken (and not taken) on the youth and adult work situations and vice versa to ensure cognizance of correlation across the cycles in labour market trends.*

55. Among children of all ages in the six countries⁶⁰ where data are available for the 15-17 years age group, hazardous work among 15-17 year-olds accounts for over one-third of child labour. In at least two South Asian countries,⁶¹ over 70 per cent of 15-17 year olds in employment are in hazardous work, which makes it child labour. In three other countries, 20 per cent to 40 per cent of 15-17 year olds in employment are in hazardous work, making it child labour.⁶² These are children who could be legally employed in safe work, but who are likely to have missed the opportunities of school-to-work transition because they were not in school. This calls for greater policy attention and response to *child labour-to-decent youth employment transition*, ensuring that children are equipped with basic education and life-skills as they make a life-cycle transition. Review and updating of national legislation on apprenticeship and skills training and ensuring their scope brings into the fold those adolescents from the child labour pool who want to pursue a particular vocation.

6) Occupational safety and health in permissible work and labour law compliance

56. *The need is urgent for policy measures and action, including integrated enforcement, community and sectoral monitoring, training related to occupational safety and hazards (OSH) and general awareness campaigns, to make work safe for adolescents at legal working age.*

57. The findings in particular highlight the need in agriculture, which absorbs the highest percentage of children in employment in every South Asian country for which data are available – from 46 to 94 per cent.⁶³ Children and adolescents face multiple hazards in this sector, which is one of the three most dangerous in which to work at any age, along with construction and mining, in terms of work-related fatalities, non-fatal accidents and occupational diseases.⁶⁴ Furthermore, forced labour continues to be a reality for many children, and thousands of children across South Asia are still involved in armed conflicts, many of them drawn from the rural areas.

7) The situation of children reported ‘inactive’

58. *Research is needed to explain the situation of the significant number of children who are reported as ‘inactive’ because they are neither in education nor in employment and to address the situation appropriately.* A significant number of these are likely to be those in need of urgent action. The findings point to the need for research to see the time-use of these children

59 EFA Global Monitoring Report 2012/4: *Teaching and Learning – Achieving Quality for All* (UNESCO, 2014). High disparities against girls: Afghanistan 71 girls to 100 boys, and Pakistan 82 girls to 100 boys. High disparities against boys: Bangladesh 94 boys to 100 girls, and Nepal 92 boys to 100 girls.

60 Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

61 Bangladesh and Sri Lanka.

62 Pakistan, Nepal and India

63 Ranges from 46 per cent in Bangladesh to 94 per cent in Nepal.

64 ILO, *Child labour in agriculture* (<http://www.ilo.org/ipec/areas/Agriculture/lang-en/index.htm>).

and adolescents and to see whether there is correlation with any hidden form of child labour (including activities categorized in Article 3 of C182, such as trafficking, sexual exploitation, forced labour, trafficking, illicit activities, or other forms) or whether they are subjected to child marriage or any other harmful practice.

8) The impact on education outcomes when combining education and work

59. *Further research and in-depth analysis are needed to fully understand the critical correlation between children's participation in work and school, particularly when combining the two.* Such knowledge is critical for assessing the extent to which child labour is linked to educational marginalization in the region and what combination of policies and action can help deal with it. For children and adolescents who combine schooling and employment, to what extent does employment impede learning achievement, and if so at what age and with what intensity of employment?

9) Public spending on education in South Asia

60. *Increase public spending on quality basic education that it inclusive and accessible to all children, reaching out to the hard-to-reach out-of-school children.*

61. Many of these hard-to-reach children are likely to be in child labour or at risk of being engaged in it. Public expenditure on education by South Asian countries, is below 3 per cent of the GDP and trails all other regions in the world.⁶⁵ According to national data recorded in this Report, there are close to 25 million 7-14 year old children who are out of school in the seven South Asian countries reporting data⁶⁶. Of these, the numbers are highest in three countries where public expenditure on education is either stagnant or declining.⁶⁷

10) Focusing on the Mainstreaming Strategy

62. *Given the wide range of policy measures and actions, which must materialize urgently if the child labour problem is to be resolved effectively with sustained results, a vigorous focus is called for on the Mainstreaming Strategy as the overarching approach, supported by specific targeted measures.* This must ensure that child labour issues and concerns are included in and integral to policies, plans and budgets, feasibility studies, appraisals and evaluations, in economic and development targets and goals, in business plans and codes of conduct, in collective bargaining, and institutional capacity development and performance programmes, among others.⁶⁸ Such mainstreaming is to be pursued at the national, sub-national, sectoral levels and in the agenda of national and regional bodies as well as the global development agenda.

63. Encourage and support employers and workers and their organizations to integrate and address child labour issues as part of their mainstream policies and programmes. Among these, occupational safety and health for young workers.

65 Particularly important for Pakistan, with the highest rate of school exclusion in the region, and where public expenditure on education is reducing. Also important for Bangladesh and India with high numbers of out-of-school children.

66 That is, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, the Maldives, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka.

67 The three countries are in India, Pakistan and Bangladesh. These numbers from the labour surveys are consistent with education data reported by UIS, which puts out-of-school children at almost 33 million for the 5-13 year age group for the eight South Asian countries. See also *All Children In School by 2015 - Global Initiative on out-of-School Children - South Asia Regional Study - covering Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka* (UNESCO Institute for Statistics and UNICEF, 2014).

68 ILO: *Mainstreaming child labor issues in key development policies and programs. Sri Lanka: Report on a preliminary review* (Colombo, 2012)

64. *Mainstreaming involves taking into consideration and including child labour issues and concerns into programmes that can impact the lives of children and their families. Among these are social welfare and protection programmes, labour rights, child rights and labour market information systems.*⁶⁹

65. We see from other regions and within South Asia the positive outcomes where national social security systems are sensitive to children's needs and families in poverty, and where social protection benefits reach out to children and families who are particularly vulnerable. Cash and in-kind transfer programmes, social health protection, maternity benefits, income security in old age and unemployment benefits are some of the initiatives in which the child labour issues and concerns can be mainstreamed with positive results. Such programmes can enhance income security for families, facilitate access to education and health care, thereby helping to prevent child labour, promoting children's enrolment in schools, and encouraging children's health check-ups. Public employment programmes, which provide paid jobs for adults, must integrate child labour issues and concerns to ensure that children of families in the programme have access to education, that it is adults who are at work and not children and that there is no unintended negative consequence for the children, such as excessive household work or looking after siblings. The range of benefits is sizeable and child labour issues and concerns need to be mainstreamed in their design, targeting, delivery and evaluation.

11) Data collection, analysis and use

66. The Brasilia Declaration, adopted at the 3rd Global Conference on Child Labour in October 2013, reinforcing previous recommendations on the subject, calls on countries to “develop and strengthen the collection and dissemination, as appropriate, of more and better national statistics and information on children in employment, both in the formal and informal economies, with data disaggregated preferably by occupation and industry, gender, age, origin and income so as to enhance their visibility and help better design and implement public policies to eradicate child labour.”

67. The data from South Asia's national household surveys, which are analyzed in this report, help to construct a regional paradigm of children's work and schooling, but there are wide gaps in information. Adequate and regular measurement is an important element for policy and action on child labour.⁷⁰

68. The action recommended below draws from and underscores the significance and relevance, of the suggestions and recommendations of the **18th International Conference of Labour Statisticians (2008)**, the Report of which should be consulted for detailed guidance on child labour statistics.⁷¹

- **Adequate national systems of child labour statistics**

69. Countries should develop and strengthen adequate and reliable knowledge on child labour from a variety of quantitative and qualitative, sources, including labour force and other household-based surveys, school-based and community-based surveys, rapid assessments on specific topics, and census reports, among others. Programme and impact evaluation reports provide useful and targeted information that can make significant contribution to the child labour knowledge base.

69 For further discussion on the subject refer to: *World Report on Child Labour: Economic vulnerability, social protection and the fight against child labour: How can we reduce child labour in the less favourable circumstances of a global economic slowdown?* http://www.ilo.org/ipecc/informationresources/WCMS_178184/lang-en/index.htm

70 For further information and documentation on child labour: <http://www.ilo.org/global/topics/child-labour/lang-en/index.htm>
<http://www.ilo.org/newdelhi/areasofwork/child-labour/lang-en/index.htm>

71 ILO: (ICLS/18/2008/III) Report III - Child labour statistics 18th International Conference of Labour Statisticians (Geneva, 2008) http://ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---stat/documents/meetingdocument/wcms_099577.pdf

- **Data links across the employment life-cycle**

70. Data on children's activity, including child labour, should not be treated as stand-alone or ad hoc, even when a stand-alone survey is implemented. To help identify and plan for life-cycle and cross-generational approaches to employment, comprehensive data on children's employment and child labour should be linked to data on youth and adult employment and unemployment (forming an integral part of the labour market data and reports), and to the range of child protection, social protection, education, migration and other related issues.

71. Data on **children's work and education monitoring** should be correlated beyond enrolment. Data on education attendance, regularity and outcomes, including those resulting from combining school and work can help with monitoring of trends and progress from the education and work perspectives. Such evidence base can help put in place specific strategies for the vast numbers of out-of-school children.

72. The scope of **social protection surveys** in South Asia should adequately cover data on children so as to build an evidence-base for policy and programmes. Furthermore, policy decisions on allocations for programmes can benefit from the measurement of relevant initiatives, such as those on conditional and unconditional cash transfers, public employment schemes, family allowances, school feeding schemes, social health insurance, unemployment protection and old-age pensions, building on the wealth of existing policy experience in these areas in the region.⁷²

- **Strengthened survey design and implementation**

73. The **statistical definitions** within countries should make it possible to construct in addition to national statistical profiles, the South Asia regional overview in terms of a statistical, if not legally enforceable, definition that is in line with international standards.

74. **Labour force surveys**, and others that capture data on children's work should integrate key questions so data are collected on important indicators. This can be done as a separate, but cost-effective and manageable, child labour module or integrated in the main body of the questionnaire

75. The **third gender** is recognized by law in a number of South Asian countries and is included in the census⁷³ and national identification documents in those countries. Child labour statistical and qualitative research should encompass third gender children.

- **Capacity development**

76. Adequate **training** should be provided to the enumerators and data analysts on child labour definitions and use of tools. Statistical offices should be capacitated to undertake collect and analyse data on child labour and children in employment on a regular basis as well as to correlate data from different sources for a consolidated view and analysis.

72 For a detailed discussion of this point, see *World report on child labour: Economic vulnerability, social protection and the fight against child labour* / International Labour Office. - Geneva: ILO, 2013. ISBN 978-92-2-126234-3 (print); 978-92-2-126235-0 (web pdf). Available at: [http://www.unesco.org/library/PDF/2013_Worl_Report_on_CL_and_Social_Protection_EN\[1\].pdf](http://www.unesco.org/library/PDF/2013_Worl_Report_on_CL_and_Social_Protection_EN[1].pdf)

73 It is legally recognized in Nepal (2007), Bangladesh and Pakistan (2009) India (2014), It is included in national identity documents and for the first time in the Census for India and Nepal in (2011).

- **Sustainability**

77. Reliable and credible child labour data is important so sustainability of use of the **methodologies** is an important consideration. Sustainability can be achieved by inclusion of critical child labour variables within the labour force/household surveys or a module that can be attached for regular use.

- **Data on worst forms of child labour**

78. Household surveys do not generally collect data on the worst forms of child labour, other than hazardous work as this generally needs to be collected through special methodologies. To the extent possible, data needs related to all worst forms of child labour should be integrated in mainstream surveys and the information should be supplemented with special topic surveys.

12) South Asia Technical Working Group on child labour

79. A South Asia Regional level Technical Working Group on Child Labour is recommended to work in close collaboration with national authorities and other partners to:

- support the implementation of the *Resolution concerning statistics of child labour* (ICLS, 2008),⁷⁴ and thereby to facilitate the harmonization of key concepts, instruments and methodologies across national household and other surveys;
- engage in policy analysis and evidence-based advice to the national and sub-national development planning processes;
- support knowledge development on the issue and its dissemination; (to) undertake advocacy with South Asian governments and stakeholders; and
- pursue resource mobilization to support its activities. The Working Group would collaborate with mechanisms of the South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and with support of specialized agencies like the ILO, UNICEF, the World Bank, entities such as a sub-group of the international labour statisticians, and members of established policy think-thanks.

13) Coordination

80. There should be on-going coordination among agencies at the national and international levels as well at the South Asia regional level to ensure harmonization and consistency in interventions, concepts, tools and methodologies in design, implementation, analyses, utilization and the strengthening of the knowledge base on child labour and its contribution to the socio-economic development of the countries and region. Agencies like ILO and UNICEF, with particular expertise on the subject, can play a facilitating role to support national capacities and the SAARC mechanisms towards increased harmonization, avoidance of duplication, maximization of resources and effective use of the data and information across the different sectors.

81. Recommendations related to Child labour statistics have been put forth in a number of meetings in South Asia and have been taken into consideration here (See Panel 12).

74 <http://www.ilo.org/ipcc/ChildlabourstatisticsSIMPOC/lang--en/index.htm>

Panel 12. Recommendations in South Asia regional meetings and regional commitments on child labour, including statistics

Recommendations related to child labour statistics have been put forth in a number of recent regional meetings in South Asia, as summarized below.

Second SAARC Regional Workshop on Child Labour

At the Second SAARC Regional Workshop on Child Labour (organized by the Ministry of Labour and Employment, India, in collaboration with the ILO and V.V. Giri National Labour Institute, in New Delhi in May 2013), participants representing governments, employers' and workers' organizations concluded with a Commitment Statement, drawing attention to the large number of children engaged in employment and child labour in South Asia and the particularly vulnerable situation of girls.

Noting that South Asia is, in many ways, the "centre of the world's critical fight against child labour," the Statement commits to enhancing data collection tools and building knowledge resources to be able to derive a more precise understanding of child labour and to have clarity of concepts and operational indicators to identify trafficking of children for labour exploitation.

The participants also committed to sharing and promoting the exchange of policy recommendations, stories of success to enable "collective" fight against child labour and trafficking of children for labour migration, and to building institutional capacity.

South Asia Labour Conference, Fostering Regional Cooperation for DWCP

Governments, employers; and workers' representatives, civil society and other stakeholders at the South Asia Labour Conference, Fostering Regional Cooperation for DWCP, organized in Lahore, Pakistan in April 2014, made the following recommendations in the sub-plenary on Vulnerable Workers (Child Labour, Women and Bonded Labour)

- Consistent and inclusive terminology/definition related to children, women and the third gender, supported by improved national data collection on their work/employment and working conditions;
- South Asia advocacy/campaign on key issues and capacity development and experience sharing;
- Input key issues into SAARC Technical Committee on Women, Youth and Children;
- Establish an inter-governmental Working Group/ Apex Body on the Promotion of Decent Work in South Asia in close partnership with representatives of employers' and workers' organizations and policy/research institutes, academia, civil society and UN agencies, particularly the ILO;
- ILO to constitute a follow-up working group towards moving forward on the recommendations;

- To explore collaboration with key regional bodies to move forward on the recommendations: SAIEVAC, SAARCLAW, SAARC statistics group, SAARC gender information base (VAW, health and feminizations of poverty), SAARC gender policy advocacy, SAARC chambers of commerce, HOMENET South Asia/ South East Asia, SA alliance for poverty alleviation, and
- Resource mobilization toward the above.

South Asia Strategy against Child Labour (SAIEVAC – SACG)

In 2013, the SAARC Apex Body, namely, South Asia Initiative to End Violence against Children (SAIEVAC), endorsed the South Asia Strategy against Child Labour (SASACL) that was proposed to it by the UN/INGO interagency South Asia Coordinating Group on Action against Violence against Children (SACG). The Strategy development process, led by the ILO, in coordination with SACG, involved a participatory approach in which recommendations were sought from key actors, including representatives of ministries of labour, child development, and human rights, SAIEVAC Governing Board members and National Coordinators, representatives of employers' and workers' organizations, civil society and other stakeholders who participated in three key meetings/workshops in 2012-13. These were the Second SAARC Tripartite Workshop on Child Labour,⁷¹ the South Asia Regional Consultation on the UN Study on Violence against Children and Follow-Up Actions,⁷² and the Workshop on the UN CRC and ILO Child Labour Conventions - Towards greater coherence in reporting and action.⁷³

The purpose of the SASACL is not to duplicate national efforts but to reinforce and re-invigorate them through approaches that promote and nurture a culture of coherence and synergy to prevent and eliminate all forms of child labour, with a priority on the worst forms and the special situation of girls and excluded and vulnerable populations. With these underlying approaches, the SASACL aims to enhance knowledge generation, dissemination and utilization; capacity development including for enforcement and implementation; innovative and strengthened partnerships; and effective resource mobilization so as to accelerate the pace and scope of action and policies that will contribute to ensuring children's rights and end all violence against children.

The SASACL recognizes that within countries, a number of different ministries at the central level and their respective departments and offices at the sub-national levels are mandated to deal with child labour from different perspectives. Non-state actors, including employers' and workers' organizations, civil society organizations, and business entities also cover child rights and child labour issues within the scope of their mandates and work. It calls for strengthening close collaboration and synergies between the different institutional actors.

75 Organized by the Government of India, Ministry of Labour and Employment and the VV Giri National Labour Institute in collaboration with the ILO in May 2013 in New Delhi.

76 Organized by SAIEVAC and hosted by the Government of Sri Lanka, in collaboration with the SACG in May 2012 in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

77 Organized by the ILO (DWT South Asia and International Training Centre) in collaboration with SAIEVAC and the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary General on Violence against Children (SRSG VAC) in June 2013 at the ILO International Training Centre in Turin.

Annex 1.

Country briefs on child labour

BANGLADESH

BANGLADESH CHILD ACTIVITY SUMMARY

Over 6.3 million children in Bangladesh are in employment, many in agriculture and paid work.

Overall, 17.5 per cent of Bangladeshi children between 7-17 years of age are in employment. Bangladesh has the highest employment ratio for 7-14 year old and 15-17 year old children of any South Asian nation reporting comparable data. Among 7-17 year old children who work and don't attend school, 42.4 per cent are in paid positions while 30.1 per cent are unpaid family workers. Agriculture is the largest employer of Bangladeshi children who work and don't go to school, with 41.3 per cent of those children aged 7-17 working in agriculture, 21.7 per cent in services and 19.1 per cent in manufacturing.

A little over three-quarters of Bangladeshi children between 7-17 years of age attend school.

The school attendance rate is 85.1 per cent for 7-14 year olds, dropping by more than half to 41.9 per cent for children in the 15-17 year old age group. Bangladesh has the lowest school attendance rate among 15-17 year olds of any nation in South Asia.

Over 4.1 million Bangladeshi children between 7-17 years of age are neither working nor in school.

The inactivity rate for all 7-17 year old children is 11.3 per cent, the highest of any country in South Asia with comparable data. There is a large gender divide in inactivity, with girls representing 63.2 per cent of Bangladesh's inactive 7-17 year old children.

Girls in Bangladesh are much less likely to be employed, more likely to attend school and more likely to be inactive.

Among 7-17 year olds, the employment ratio is more than three times higher for boys (26.7 per cent) than for girls (7.1 per cent). Conversely, girls are more likely to attend school, with 81.4 per cent of 7-17 year old girls in school versus 75.2 per cent of boys of the same age. The inactivity rate for girls between 7-17 is 15.1 per cent compared to 7.9 per cent for their male peers. In fact, 15-17 year old Bangladeshi girls have the highest female inactivity rate in South Asia, more than six times higher than 15-17 year old Bangladeshi boys.

Rural children in Bangladesh are more likely to be employed, less likely to attend school and slightly more likely to be inactive than urban children.

The employment ratio of 7-17 year olds living in rural areas is 18.1 per cent compared to 15.1 per cent for urban children. While school attendance rates for younger children 7-14 years old are nearly identical for rural and urban children, rates for 15-17 year olds diverge somewhat. Rural children in the older age group have a school attendance rate of 39.9 per cent compared to 48.0 per cent for their urban peers. The inactivity rate for 7-17 year old rural children is 11.3 per cent compared to 11.1 per cent for urban children of the same age.

CHILD ACTIVITY IN BANGLADESH

Children's involvement in employment remains a pressing concern in Bangladesh. Almost 3.6 million children between the ages of 7-14 years (11.6 per cent of the age group) are employed in Bangladesh according to estimates drawn from a 2006 national survey (Table 11 and Table 12).⁷⁸ Disaggregating the 7-14 year-old population by four non-overlapping activity groups – those engaged in employment exclusively, those attending school exclusively, those combining school and employment and those doing neither – shows that a larger share of than those in employment only are those who combine employment with schooling. Overall, 4.8 per cent of 7-14 year-olds are in employment exclusively while 6.8 per cent are in employment while also attending school. This does not, of course, mean that employment is compatible with education, as the exigencies of work affect the time and energy that children have for their studies. Of the remaining 7-14 years population, 78.3 per cent are in school exclusively and 10 per cent are reported neither in school nor in employment. It is likely, however, that many of this last group of children are involved in household chores, a category of work that falls outside the definition of employment. Almost 15 per cent of 7-14 year-olds in Bangladesh, 4.5 million children, are out of school, underscoring the fact that achieving Education for All remains a major challenge in Bangladesh.

Table 10. Child activity status by sex and residence, 7-14 age group, absolute numbers

| Background characteristics | | Mutually exclusive activity categories | | | | (a)&(c) Total in employment | (b)&(c) Total in school | (a)&(d) Total out of school |
|----------------------------|--------|--|-----------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| | | (a) Only employment | (b) Only schooling | (c) Employment and schooling | (d) Neither activity | | | |
| Sex | Male | 1,180,531 | 11,576,741 | 1,546,475 | 1,313,851 | 2,727,006 | 13,123,216 | 2,494,381 |
| | Female | 290,530 | 12,316,821 | 533,901 | 1,746,540 | 824,432 | 12,850,722 | 2,037,071 |
| Residence | Urban | 276,848 | 5,266,360 | 324,993 | 657,111 | 601,841 | 5,591,352 | 933,959 |
| | Rural | 1,194,213 | 18,627,203 | 1,755,384 | 2,403,280 | 2,949,597 | 20,382,586 | 3,597,493 |
| Total 7-14 | | 1,471,061 | 23,893,562 | 2,080,376 | 3,060,391 | 3,551,437 | 25,973,939 | 4,531,452 |

Source: UCW calculations based on Bangladesh Annual Labour Force Survey (BALFS), 2005-2006

78 Owing to the earlier in reference year for the Bangladesh estimates, caution should be exercised in comparing the Bangladesh estimates with those for the other countries included in this report.

Table 11. Child activity status by sex and residence, 7-14 age group, percentages

| Background characteristics | | Mutually exclusive activity categories | | | | (a)&(c) Total in employment | (b)&(c) Total in school | (a)&(d) Total out of school |
|----------------------------|--------|--|-----------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| | | (a) Only employment | (b) Only schooling | (c) Employment and schooling | (d) Neither activity | | | |
| Sex | Male | 7.6 | 74.1 | 9.9 | 8.4 | 17.5 | 84.0 | 16.0 |
| | Female | 2.0 | 82.7 | 3.6 | 11.7 | 5.6 | 86.3 | 13.7 |
| Residence | Urban | 4.2 | 80.7 | 5.0 | 10.1 | 9.2 | 85.7 | 14.3 |
| | Rural | 5.0 | 77.7 | 7.3 | 10.0 | 12.3 | 85.0 | 15.0 |
| Total 7-14 | | 4.8 | 78.3 | 6.8 | 10.0 | 11.6 | 85.1 | 14.8 |

Source: UCW calculations based on Bangladesh Annual Labour Force Survey (BALFS), 2005-2006

Involvement in employment rises to 48.4 per cent among children aged 15-17 years in Bangladesh. Most children in this group do not, however, constitute child labourers, as only *hazardous* work and other worst forms of child labour are proscribed for this age range. Disaggregating the 15-17 year-old population by the four non-overlapping activity groups, we see that 34.8 per cent of children attended school exclusively, 40.4 per cent were in employment exclusively and 7.1 per cent combine the two activities in 2010 (Table 13 and Table 14). The remaining 15-17 year olds, accounting for 17.7 per cent of the 15-17 years age group, are reported as neither attending school nor working. The activity patterns of 15-17 year-olds therefore differ considerably from those of younger children – older children are much more likely to be in employment and much less likely to be still in education. This is not surprising, as the 15-17 years age range is when children begin their transition from school to the working world.

Table 12. Child activity status by sex and residence, 15-17 age group, absolute numbers

| Background characteristics | | Mutually exclusive activity categories | | | | (a)&(c) Total in employment | (b)&(c) Total in school | (a)&(d) Total out of school |
|----------------------------|--------|--|-----------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| | | (a) Only employment | (b) Only schooling | (c) Employment and schooling | (d) Neither activity | | | |
| Sex | Male | 2,075,552 | 1,013,063 | 333,689 | 196,773 | 2,409,241 | 1,346,752 | 2,272,326 |
| | Female | 308,661 | 1,044,112 | 85,962 | 848,753 | 394,624 | 1,130,074 | 1,157,414 |
| Residence | Urban | 533,309 | 636,449 | 71,171 | 232,232 | 604,480 | 707,620 | 765,541 |
| | Rural | 1,850,904 | 1,420,725 | 348,480 | 813,295 | 2,199,385 | 1,769,206 | 2,664,199 |
| Total 15-17 | | 2,384,214 | 2,057,175 | 419,651 | 1,045,526 | 2,803,865 | 2,476,826 | 3,429,740 |

Source: UCW calculations based on Bangladesh Annual Labour Force Survey (BALFS), 2005-2006

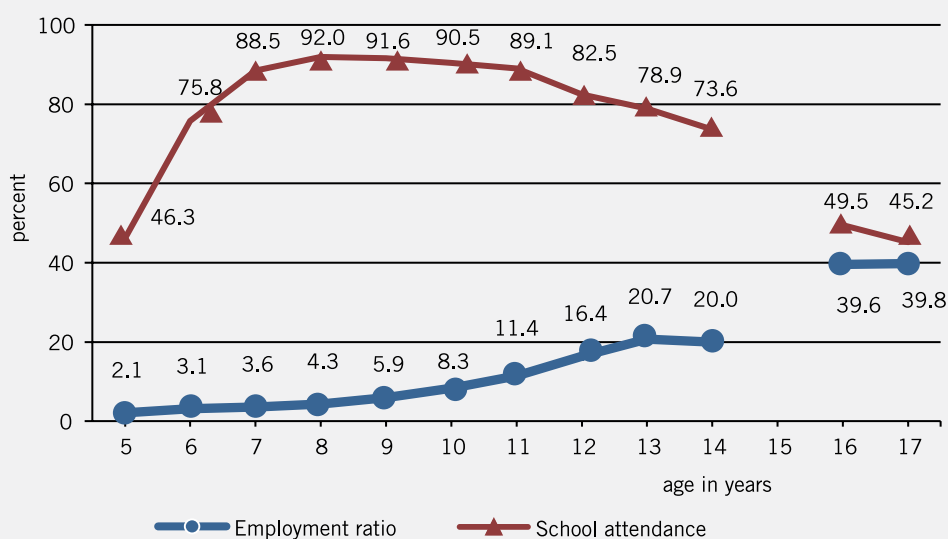
Table 13. Child activity status by sex and residence, 15-17 age group, percentages

| Background characteristics | | Mutually exclusive activity categories | | | | (a)&(c) Total in employment | (b)&(c) Total in school | (a)&(d) Total out of school |
|----------------------------|--------|--|-----------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| | | (a) Only employment | (b) Only schooling | (c) Employment and schooling | (d) Neither activity | | | |
| Sex | Male | 57.4 | 28.0 | 9.2 | 5.4 | 66.6 | 37.2 | 62.8 |
| | Female | 13.5 | 45.6 | 3.8 | 37.1 | 17.3 | 49.4 | 50.6 |
| Residence | Urban | 36.2 | 43.2 | 4.8 | 15.8 | 41.0 | 48.0 | 52.0 |
| | Rural | 41.7 | 32 | 7.9 | 18.3 | 49.6 | 39.9 | 60.0 |
| Total 15-17 | | 40.4 | 34.8 | 7.1 | 17.7 | 47.5 | 41.9 | 58.1 |

Source: UCW calculations based on Bangladesh Annual Labour Force Survey (BALFS), 2005-2006

Aggregate estimates of children's activities mask important differences by age, sex, and residence. The main patterns are reported in Table 11 through Table 14 and are discussed below.

Age: Children's involvement in work rises with age (Figure 11), likely in large part because children's productivity (and therefore the opportunity cost of keeping them in school) rises as they grow older. The increase in involvement in employment is particularly pronounced from age nine years onwards, rising from 5.9 per cent at age 9 to 20.7 per cent at age 13. It is also worth noting that involvement in employment is by no means negligible even among very young children, particularly when seen in absolute terms. Very young children, needless to say, are most vulnerable to workplace abuse and injury, and are most likely to have their education compromised. Involvement in schooling peaks at 92 per cent at the age of eight years and slowly decreases thereafter as children drop out to work in employment or to undertake a greater share of household chores.

Figure 11. Child activity status by age


Source: UCW calculations based on Bangladesh Annual Labour Force Survey (BALFS), 2005-2006

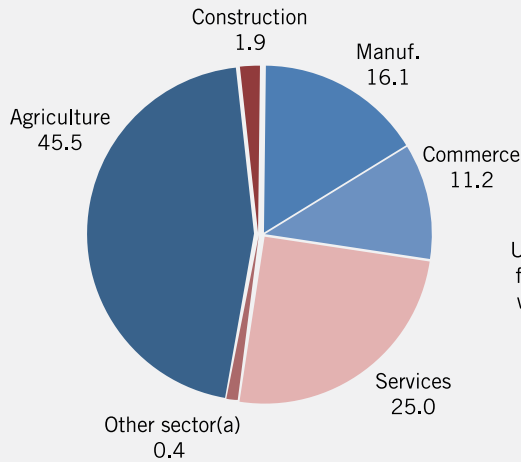
Gender: Children's involvement in employment appears to have an important gender dimension. Boys are more than three times more likely than girls to work in employment in both the 7-14 years and 15-17 years age ranges. Girls, on the other hand, are more likely to be in school. The difference by sex in attendance is particularly pronounced among 15-17 year-olds; girls' school attendance in this age range exceeds that of boys by 12.2 percentage points. Girls are also much more likely than boys to be neither in school nor in employment, and again the difference is particularly pronounced among 15-17 year-olds. This pattern undoubtedly reflects the different societally-driven paths that girls and boys take as they transition to adulthood – boys are much more likely to enter the labour force upon leaving education while girls, despite their higher levels of education attainment, are much more likely to stay out of the labour force and undertake domestic responsibilities instead.

Place of residence: The activity patterns of Bangladeshi children also appear to depend somewhat on their residence. Rural children aged 7-14 years are more likely than their urban peers to be in employment, but this does not appear to be at a cost to their school attendance – rural and urban children in this age range attend school in roughly equal proportion. Differences by residence are more pronounced among older, 15-17 year-old, children. Urban children in this age group are more likely than their rural counterparts to delay their entry into employment in order to continue their education.

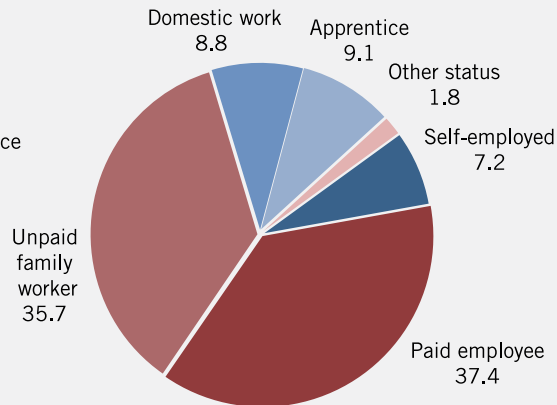
The largest share of children in employment is found in the agriculture sector and in paid employment. The composition of children's employment, however, is more varied in Bangladesh than in the other South Asian countries looked at in this report. Among 7-14 year-olds who work and do not attend school, agriculture accounts for 45.5 per cent of children in employment, followed by services (25.0 per cent), manufacturing (16.1 per cent), commerce (11.2 per cent) and construction (1.9 per cent). The sector composition of employment for older, 15-17 year-old children is similar. In terms of status in employment, paid employment accounts for the largest share of children in employment who do not attend school for both age groups, again a pattern that differs from the other South Asian countries included in this report. Paid employment, in turn, is a rough proxy for formal sector employment. For 7-14 year-olds who work and do not go to school, paid employment and unpaid family work predominate, accounting for 37 per cent and 36 per cent, respectively, of children in employment. For 15-17 year-olds, paid employment is even more important, accounting for 45.6 per cent of children solely in employment, followed by unpaid family work (26.7 per cent) and self-employment (21.3 per cent). It is important to note that unlike other South Asian national surveys, Bangladesh's sector and status of employment data only refers to children exclusively in employment, which may explain the unique results.

Figure 12. Sector and status of children in employment, by age range

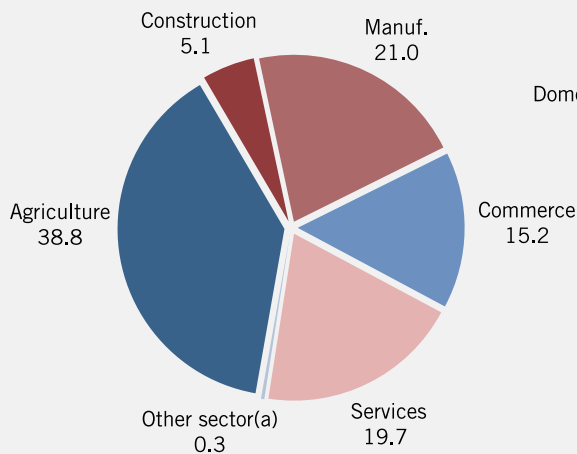
(a) Sector of employment (7-14 years age group)



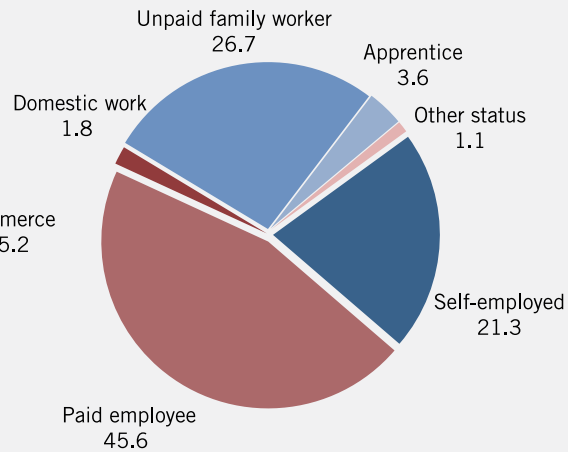
(b) Status in employment (7-14 years age group)



(c) Sector of employment (15-17 years age group)



(d) Status in employment (15-17 years age group)



Notes: (1) Estimates refer only to the sub-group of child workers only in employment; caution should therefore be exercised in generalizing the results to the overall population of working children.(a) The category "Other sector" includes mining and quarrying, electricity, gas and water supply and extraterritorial organizations and bodies.

Source: UCW calculations based on Bangladesh Annual Labour Force Survey (BALFS), 2005-2006.

The composition of children's employment varies somewhat by sex and residence. The main patterns are reported in Table 15 and discussed below.

Gender: The type of work assigned to children in employment appears to have an important gender dimension. Differences by sex are particularly pronounced in terms of involvement in the agriculture sector (higher for boys), manufacturing (higher for girls) and commerce (higher for boys). In terms of status in employment, boys are more concentrated in unpaid family work and in apprenticeships. Girls, on the other hand, are much more likely to be found in domestic work, and form of work hidden from public view in which children are particularly vulnerable to abuses.

Place of residence: The composition of children's employment also depends on their place of residence. Agricultural work, not surprisingly, predominates in rural areas but non-farm employment also constitutes an important share of children's work in rural areas. Indeed, 45.9 per cent of rural 7-14 year-olds in employment, and 52.3 per cent of rural 15-17 year-olds in employment, work in non-agricultural sectors. Employment in urban areas is more varied, with manufacturing, commerce and services playing especially important roles. In terms of status in employment, unpaid family work is much more common among rural children in employment, while paid employment, domestic work and apprenticeships play a relatively larger role in urban areas.

Table 14. Sector and status of children in employment,(1) by age range, residence and sex

| Sector and status | | 7-14 years age group | | | | 15-17 years age group | | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|------------|------------|------------|-----------------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | | Residence | | Sex | | Residence | | Sex | |
| | | Urban | Rural | Male | Female | Urban | Rural | Male | Female |
| Sector of employment | Agriculture | 8.2 | 54.1 | 49.3 | 29.1 | 8.0 | 47.7 | 42.0 | 16.6 |
| | Manufacturing | 34.2 | 11.8 | 13.8 | 25.7 | 41.3 | 15.2 | 16.0 | 55.5 |
| | Construction | 2.9 | 1.7 | 2.4 | 0.0 | 4.8 | 5.2 | 5.7 | 1.1 |
| | Commerce | 19.2 | 9.3 | 13.0 | 3.3 | 21.1 | 13.4 | 16.8 | 4.2 |
| | Service | 35.1 | 22.7 | 21.1 | 41.8 | 24.8 | 18.2 | 19.2 | 22.7 |
| | Other sector(a) | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.0 |
| | Total | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| Status in employment | Self-employed | 6.2 | 7.4 | 8.0 | 3.8 | 18.4 | 22.2 | 21.9 | 17.4 |
| | Paid employee | 44.3 | 35.8 | 36.1 | 43.2 | 57.5 | 42.1 | 43.9 | 56.9 |
| | Unpaid family worker | 15.4 | 40.6 | 39.1 | 21.3 | 13.3 | 30.6 | 28.7 | 13.0 |
| | Domestic work | 15.5 | 7.2 | 4.8 | 26.2 | 2.8 | 1.5 | 0.6 | 9.9 |
| | Apprentice | 15.8 | 7.5 | 10.4 | 3.5 | 7.0 | 2.6 | 3.9 | 1.1 |
| | Other status | 2.8 | 1.5 | 1.7 | 2.0 | 1.1 | 1.1 | 1.0 | 1.7 |
| | Total | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |

Notes: (1) Estimates refer only to the sub-group of child workers only in employment; caution should therefore be exercised in generalizing the results to the overall population of working children.(a) The category "Other sector" includes mining and quarrying, electricity, gas and water supply and extraterritorial organizations and bodies.

Source: UCW calculations based on Bangladesh Annual Labour Force Survey (BALFS), 2005-2006

CHILD LABOUR IN BANGLADESH⁷⁹

Over 1.3 million children below the age of 12 years were in employment and an additional 1.6 million (12-14 year-old) children in employment were below the minimum age for this type of work (Table 15). A further 2 million older 15-17 year-old children were at work in hazardous employment. Summing these three groups yields a total of 5.1 million 5-17 year-old children in child labour. Differences in child labour by sex are large for this age group - the percentage of boys in child labour exceeds that of girls by more than 13 percentage points.

Table 15. Lower-bound estimate of child labour involvement, Bangladesh

| | (a) | | (b) | | (c) | | (a)&(b)&(c) | |
|---------------|---|------------------|---|------------------|---|------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------|
| | Children aged 5-11 years in economic activity | | Children aged 12-14 excluding those in light work | | Children aged 15-17 years in hazardous work | | Total in child labour, 5-17 years | |
| | % of total age group | No. | % of total age group | No. | % of total age group | No. | % of total age group | No. |
| Male | 7.2 | 901,347 | 21.1 | 1,353,302 | 51.6 | 1,868,793 | 18.3 | 4,123,442 |
| Female | 3.7 | 441,874 | 4.1 | 250,119 | 10.8 | 247,582 | 4.6 | 939,575 |
| Urban | 4.6 | 233,195 | 9.9 | 273,934 | 32.5 | 478,845 | 10.6 | 985,974 |
| Rural | 5.8 | 1,110,025 | 13.6 | 1,329,487 | 36.9 | 1,637,531 | 12.2 | 4,077,044 |
| Total | 5.5 | 1,343,220 | 12.8 | 1,603,421 | 35.8 | 2,116,376 | 11.8 | 5,063,017 |

Source: UCW calculations based on Bangladesh, Annual Labour Force Survey (BALFS), 2005-2006

79 See section on data source and methodology for details on child labour measurement.

BHUTAN

BHUTANESE CHILD ACTIVITY SUMMARY

Almost 11,000 children in Bhutan between 7-17 years of age are in employment, primarily engaged in family work. Bhutan's employment ratio for 7-17 year old children is 6.3 per cent. Among children in Bhutan who work, 46.7 per cent do family work, 26.2 per cent are engaged solely in work for pay and 20.1 per cent do only unpaid work.

Approximately 87 per cent of children in Bhutan between 7-17 years of age attend school. The school attendance rate drops from 91.4 per cent for 7-14 year olds, to 73.6 per cent for 15-17 year olds. The largest year-to-year drop in the attendance rate is a 7.9 percentage point decline when children go from 16-17 years old.

Bhutan has one of the highest (statistical) inactivity rates in South Asia and is one of only two South countries where boys are more likely to be (statistically) inactive than girls. Overall, 10.1 per cent of 7-17 year old children in Bhutan are neither working nor attending school. Boys in the age range are 2.3 percentage points more likely to be inactive than girls.

Bhutanese girls are more likely to be employed, more likely to attend school and less likely than boys to be reported as inactive. Girls in the 7-17 year old age group have an employment ratio of 6.9 per cent compared to 5.7 per cent for boys. School attendance among 7-17 year old girls stands at 87.9 per cent, 1.8 percentage points higher than their male peers. Girls of all ages in Bhutan are also reported with lower rates of inactivity.

In Bhutan, rural children are more than twice as likely to be employed, less likely to attend school and almost twice as likely to be reported as inactive. The employment ratio for 7-17 year old rural children is 7.4 per cent compared to just 3.6 per cent for urban children of the same age. Overall, 86.1 per cent of urban children between 7-17 attend school, versus 68.6 per cent of rural children. This disparity in school attendance rates is the highest in South Asia. Rural children also have a greater likelihood of neither working nor attending school, with 11.8 per cent of rural 7-17 year olds inactive compared to 5.9 per cent of urban children of the same age.

CHILD ACTIVITY IN BHUTAN

According to UCW estimates drawn from a 2010 national survey in Bhutan (Table 17 and Table 18),⁸⁰ 4.6 per cent of children the 7-14 years age range, 6,000 children in absolute terms, are in employment. Disaggregating the 7-14 year-old population by four non-overlapping activity groups – those engaged in employment exclusively, those attending school exclusively, those combining school and employment and those reported as doing neither – shows that most of those in employment also attend school. Only 1.3 per cent of 7-14 year-olds are in employment exclusively while 3.3 per cent are in employment while also attending school. This does not, of course, mean that employment is compatible with education, as the exigencies of work affect the time and energy that children have for their studies. Of the remaining 7-14 years population, 88.1 per cent are in school exclusively and 7.3 per cent are reported neither

⁸⁰ These estimates do not include children's involvement in water and firewood collection. While these activities could technically be considered as falling within the definition of employment, and indeed are considered in UNICEF estimates of children's employment, they are not considered here for the sake of consistency with estimates from other countries included in the report. It is worth noting, however, that including water and firewood collection dramatically increases estimates of children's employment: 34 per cent of 7-14 year-olds were in employment in 2010 if water and firewood collection are included in the employment definition.

in school nor in employment. It is likely, however, that many of this last group of children are involved in household chores, a category of work that falls outside the definition of employment. Approximately 8.6 per cent of Bhutanese 7-14 year-olds are out of school, underscoring that Education for All has not yet been realised in Bhutan.

Table 16. Child activity status by sex and residence, 7-14 age group, absolute numbers

| Background characteristics | | Mutually exclusive activity categories | | | | (a)&(c) Total in employment | (b)&(c) Total in school | (a)&(d) Total out of school |
|----------------------------|--------|--|-----------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| | | (a) Only employment | (b) Only schooling | (c) Employment and schooling | (d) Neither activity | | | |
| Sex | Male | 636 | 55,525 | 1,863 | 5,135 | 2,499 | 57,542 | 5,776 |
| | Female | 1,108 | 59,542 | 2,445 | 4,342 | 3,553 | 62,149 | 5,463 |
| Residence | Urban | 201 | 34,537 | 846 | 1,461 | 1,047 | 35,428 | 1,662 |
| | Rural | 1,544 | 80,529 | 3,461 | 8,016 | 5,005 | 84,263 | 9,577 |
| Total 7-14 | | 1,745 | 115,067 | 4,307 | 9,477 | 6,052 | 119,691 | 11,239 |

Source: UCW calculations based on Bhutan Multiple Indicator Survey (BMIS), 2010

Table 17. Child activity status by sex and residence, 7-14 age group, percentages

| Background characteristics | | Mutually exclusive activity categories | | | | (a)&(c) Total in employment | (b)&(c) Total in school | (a)&(d) Total out of school |
|----------------------------|--------|--|-----------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| | | (a) Only employment | (b) Only schooling | (c) Employment and schooling | (d) Neither activity | | | |
| Sex | Male | 1.0 | 87.9 | 3.0 | 8.1 | 4.0 | 90.9 | 9.1 |
| | Female | 1.6 | 88.3 | 3.6 | 6.4 | 5.3 | 91.9 | 8.1 |
| Residence | Urban | 0.5 | 93.2 | 2.3 | 3.9 | 2.8 | 95.5 | 4.5 |
| | Rural | 1.7 | 86.1 | 3.7 | 8.6 | 5.3 | 89.8 | 10.2 |
| Total 7-14 | | 1.3 | 88.1 | 3.3 | 7.3 | 4.6 | 91.4 | 8.6 |

Source: UCW calculations based on Bhutan Multiple Indicator Survey (BMIS), 2010

Involvement in employment rises to 11.5 per cent among Bhutanese children aged 15-17 years (Table 19 and Table 20). Most children in this group do not, however, constitute child labourers, as only *hazardous* work is proscribed for this age range. Decomposing the 15-17 year-old population by the same four non-overlapping activity groups, we see that almost 69.5 per cent of children attend school exclusively, 7.5 per cent are in employment exclusively and 4.0 per cent combine the two activities in 2010. A significant remaining share of children, representing 19 per cent of the 15-17 years age group, is reported neither as attending school nor working in employment. The activity patterns of 15-17 year-olds differ considerably from those of younger children: their involvement in employment is much higher and their involvement in education much lower than their younger counterparts. Older children are also much more likely to be absent from both education and employment. These differences are not surprising, as the 15-17 years age range is when children begin their transition from school to work.

Table 18. Child activity status by sex and residence, 15-17 age group, absolute numbers

| Background characteristics | | Mutually exclusive activity categories | | | | (a)&(c) Total in employment | (b)&(c) Total in school | (a)&(d) Total out of school |
|----------------------------|--------|--|-----------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| | | (a) Only employment | (b) Only schooling | (c) Employment and schooling | (d) Neither activity | | | |
| Sex | Male | 1,561 | 15,183 | 812 | 4,517 | 2,373 | 15,995 | 6,078 |
| | Female | 1,610 | 14,292 | 902 | 3,515 | 2,512 | 15,194 | 5,125 |
| Residence | Urban | 250 | 9,954 | 485 | 1,440 | 736 | 10,439 | 1,690 |
| | Rural | 2,921 | 19,521 | 1,228 | 6,591 | 4,149 | 20,749 | 9,512 |
| Total 15-17 | | 3,171 | 29,475 | 1,714 | 8,032 | 4,885 | 31,189 | 11,203 |

Source: UCW calculations based on Bhutan Multiple Indicator Survey (BMIS), 2010

Table 19. Child activity status by sex and residence, 15-17 age group, percentages

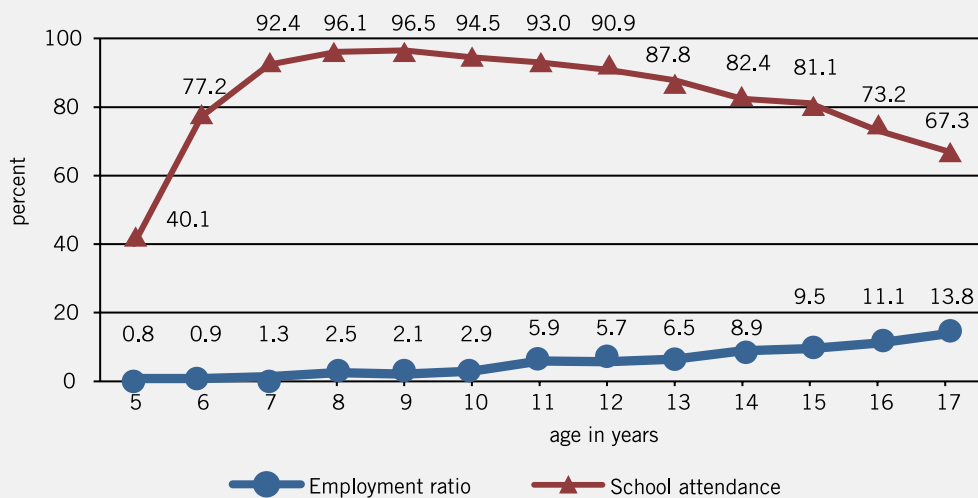
| Background characteristics | | Mutually exclusive activity categories | | | | (a)&(c) Total in employment | (b)&(c) Total in school | (a)&(d) Total out of school |
|----------------------------|--------|--|-----------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| | | (a) Only employment | (b) Only schooling | (c) Employment and schooling | (d) Neither activity | | | |
| Sex | Male | 7.1 | 68.8 | 3.7 | 20.5 | 10.8 | 72.4 | 27.6 |
| | Female | 7.9 | 70.3 | 4.4 | 17.3 | 12.4 | 74.9 | 25.1 |
| Residence | Urban | 2.1 | 82.1 | 4.0 | 11.9 | 6.1 | 86.0 | 14.0 |
| | Rural | 9.7 | 64.5 | 4.1 | 21.8 | 13.7 | 68.6 | 31.4 |
| Total 15-17 | | 7.5 | 69.5 | 4.0 | 19.0 | 11.5 | 73.6 | 26.4 |

Source: UCW calculations based on Bhutan Multiple Indicator Survey (BMIS), 2010

Aggregate estimates of children's activities mask important differences by age, sex, and residence. The main patterns are reported in Table 17 through Table 20 and are discussed below.

- **Age:** As in other South Asian countries, children's involvement in work rises with age (Figure 13 below), in large part because children's productivity (and therefore the opportunity cost of keeping them in school) rises as they grow older. Involvement in schooling peaks at the age of nine years at 96.5 per cent and slowly decreases thereafter as children drop out to join the labour force or to undertake a greater share of household chores.
- **Gender:** Girls in both the 7-14 years and the 15-17 years age groups are slightly more likely than their male peers to be in employment and also more likely to be in education.
- **Place of residence:** Differences in rates of employment and schooling by place of residence are particularly pronounced in Bhutan. Rural children are disadvantaged both in terms of their risk of employment and their ability to attend school. Rural children aged 7-14 years are almost twice as likely to be at work in employment as their peers living in cities and towns while at the same time they lag about 6 percentage points behind their urban peers in school attendance. These patterns continue into the 15-17 years age range. Urban children in this age group are much more likely than their rural counterparts to delay their entry into employment in order to continue their education.

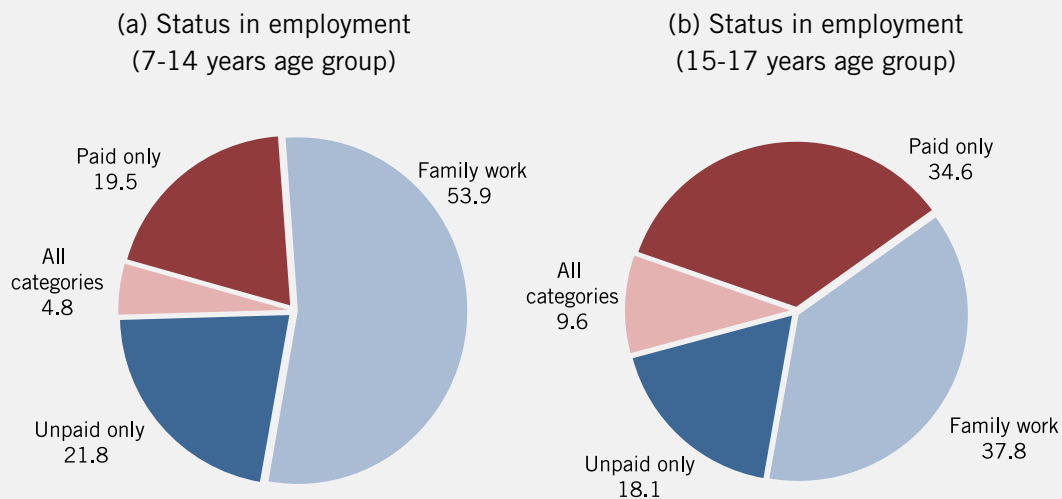
Figure 13. Child activity status by age



Source: UCW calculations based on Bhutan Multiple Indicator Survey (BMIS), 2010

The largest share of children in employment is found in family work, accounting for 53.9 per cent of 7-14 year-old and 37.8 per cent of 15-17 year-old employment. Paid work, a rough proxy for work in the formal sector, also accounts for an important share of children in employment, particularly in the 15-17 years age range. Over one third of 15-17 year-olds in employment are in some form of paid work.

Figure 14. Status of children in employment, by age range



Source: UCW calculations based on Bhutan Multiple Indicator Survey (BMIS), 2010

Table 20. Status of children in employment, by age range, residence and sex

| Sector and status | | 7-14 years age group | | | | 15-17 years age group | | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------|------------|------------|------------|-----------------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | | Residence | | Sex | | Residence | | Sex | |
| | | Urban | Rural | Male | Female | Urban | Rural | Male | Female |
| Status in employment | Paid only | 16.2 | 20.2 | 17.5 | 20.8 | 22.1 | 36.9 | 40.0 | 29.6 |
| | Unpaid only | 26.3 | 20.8 | 24.6 | 19.8 | 7.6 | 19.9 | 18.7 | 17.4 |
| | Family work | 55.9 | 53.5 | 54.2 | 53.8 | 67.7 | 32.4 | 32.2 | 43.0 |
| | All categories ^(a) | 1.6 | 5.5 | 3.7 | 5.6 | 2.6 | 10.8 | 9.1 | 10.0 |
| | Total | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |

Note: (a) children declaring contemporary more than one working status

Source: UCW calculations based on Bhutan Multiple Indicator Survey (BMIS), 2010

The composition of children's employment varies somewhat by sex and residence. The main patterns are reported in Table 21 and are discussed below.

- *Gender*: Differences by sex in status in employment are most pronounced among older, 15-17 year-old, children. In this age range, girls are much more likely than boys to work in family work, while boys are much more likely to be involved in paid work.
- *Place of residence*: Differences by residence are again most pronounced among 15-17 year-olds. In this age range, the share of urban working children in family work is double that of rural working children. At the same time, paid and unpaid work account for a much larger share of children's employment in rural areas.

CHILD LABOUR

Over 25 percent (over 27,500) of children below the age of 12 years were in employment and an additional 2.5 percent (over 1,300) (12-14 year-old) children in employment were below the minimum age for this type of work (Table 21). A further 2 percent (about 900) of older 15-17 year-old children were at work in hazardous employment. Overall, about 15 percent (over 29,000) of the 5-17 year-old children were in child labour. Differences in child labour by sex are small for this age group, while the figures shows important differences by area of residence. Almost 18 percent of children living in rural areas were in child labour, compared to about 7 percent of their peers living in urban areas.

Table 21. Lower-bound estimate of child labour involvement, Bhutan

| | (a) Children aged 5-11 years in economic activity | | (b) Children aged 12-14 excluding those in light work ⁽¹⁾ | | (c) Children aged 15-17 years in hazardous work ⁽¹⁾ | | (a)&(b)&(c) Total in child labour, 5-17 years ⁽¹⁾ | |
|---------------|--|---------------|---|--------------|---|------------|---|---------------|
| | % of total age group | No. | % of total age group | No. | % of total age group | No. | % of total age group | No. |
| Male | 23.7 | 13,085 | 2.1 | 513 | 2.1 | 468 | 13.9 | 14,067 |
| Female | 26.3 | 14,421 | 2.9 | 819 | 2.1 | 420 | 15.1 | 15,659 |
| Urban | 12.1 | 3,719 | 0.8 | 131 | 0.5 | 58 | 6.7 | 3,908 |
| Rural | 30.0 | 23,787 | 3.3 | 1,201 | 2.7 | 830 | 17.7 | 25,818 |
| Total | 25.0 | 27,506 | 2.5 | 1,332 | 2.1 | 888 | 14.5 | 29,726 |

Note: (1) The Bhutan MICS survey do not collect information neither on industry nor occupation, not allowing the identification of hazardous industries and hazard occupations. Children aged 12-14 in light work and children 15-17 in hazardous work are identified only on the basis of working hours.

Source: UCW calculations based on Bhutan Multiple Indicator Survey (BMIS), 2010

INDIA

INDIAN CHILD ACTIVITY SUMMARY

Over 12.9 million children in India between 7-17 years old, 5.1 per cent of the total, are in employment, primarily working in agriculture and unpaid family work. Children between the ages of 15-17 are more than eight times as likely to be working as children between 7-14. The employment ratio for children in India more than doubles when they go from 12-14 years old, and doubles again when they grow from 14-15 years old. Approximately 56.5 per cent of 7-14 year olds and 51.6 per cent of 15-17 year olds in employment work in agriculture, with manufacturing representing the next largest sector of employment for both age groups. Among 7-17 year olds in employment, 43.0 per cent were engaged in unpaid family work while 39.6 per cent were casual wage workers.

More than 88 per cent of all children ages 7-17 in India attend school, with children in employment less likely to do so than elsewhere in South Asia. The school attendance rate drops from 93.5 per cent among 7-14 year olds to 74.3 per cent for 15-17 year olds. The school attendance rate for children drops by more than 6.5 percentage points per year for children over 14 years of age. In addition, only 12.8 per cent of 7-17 year old children in employment also attend school in India, less than half the rate of comparable children in Bangladesh, Bhutan and Sri Lanka.⁸¹

India has more children who are reported neither working nor in school than children in employment. Almost 18 million children in India between 7-17 years of age are inactive, representing 7.0 per cent of the total age group. Almost 65 per cent of these inactive children are girls and 79.1 per cent live in rural areas.

Girls in India are less likely to be in employment or attending school, and more likely than boys to be reported as inactive. The employment ratio for boys in India between 7-17 years is 6.3 per cent, compared to 3.7 per cent for girls in the same age group. The rate of school attendance is also higher for boys, with 89.9 per cent of 7-17 years old boys attending school versus 86.9 per cent of 7-17 year old girls. Girls are more than twice as likely to be inactive, with 9.9 per cent of Indian girls between 7-17 years old neither working nor attending school versus only 4.6 per cent of boys in the same age group.

Children in rural areas in India are more likely to be employed, less likely to attend school and more likely to be inactive. Approximately 5.5 per cent of 7-17 year olds living in rural areas are in employment, versus 4.1 per cent of urban children in the same age range. Conversely, school attendance for urban children aged 7-17 is 90.7 per cent compared to 87.8 per cent of rural 7-17 year olds. Rural children are more likely to be in neither employment nor school, with an inactivity rate of 7.5 per cent for rural 7-17 year olds versus 5.6 per cent for urban 7-17 year olds.

Over 3.4 million children in India in the 5 to 17 years age group are engaged in child labour. More than one quarter of 15-17 year old children are engaged in hazardous labour. Among all 5-17 year-olds, boys are more than three times as likely to be engaged in child labour as girls, and urban children are more likely to be child labourers than rural children.

⁸¹ National surveys for the Maldives, Nepal and Pakistan did not include comparable data.

CHILD ACTIVITY IN INDIA

Almost 3.3 million Indian children in the 7-14 age group, accounting 1.7 per cent of all children in this age group, were in employment in 2012 (Table 23 and Table 24). Disaggregating the 7-14 year-old population by four non-overlapping activity groups – those engaged in employment exclusively, those attending school exclusively, those combining school and employment and those doing neither – shows that 93 per cent of children attended school exclusively, while one per cent were in employment exclusively and less than one per cent combined the two activities in 2012. The remaining share of children, five per cent of the 7-14 years age group, were neither attending school nor at work in employment. It is likely, however, that many of this last group of children were involved in household chores, a category of work that falls outside the definition of employment. Eight per cent of Indian 7-14 year-olds, 12 million children in absolute terms, were out of school in 2012, underscoring the fact that achieving Education for All remains a major challenge in India.

Table 22. Child activity status by sex and residence, 7-14 age group, absolute numbers

| Background characteristics | | Mutually exclusive activity categories | | | | (a)&(c) Total in employment | (b)&(c) Total in school | (a)&(d) Total out of school |
|----------------------------|--------|--|-----------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| | | (a) Only employment | (b) Only schooling | (c) Employment and schooling | (d) Neither activity | | | |
| Sex | Male | 1,562,088 | 95,065,577 | 329,404 | 4,121,775 | 1,894,875 | 95,394,981 | 5,683,863 |
| | Female | 1,116,634 | 79,926,374 | 240,268 | 5,493,620 | 1,356,902 | 80,166,642 | 6,610,254 |
| Residence | Urban | 626,868 | 45,299,499 | 93,289 | 1,841,603 | 720,156 | 45,392,788 | 2,468,471 |
| | Rural | 2,051,854 | 129,692,452 | 476,383 | 7,773,792 | 2,531,621 | 130,168,835 | 9,825,646 |
| Total 7-14 | | 2,678,722 | 174,991,951 | 569,672 | 9,615,395 | 3,251,777 | 175,561,623 | 12,294,117 |

Source: UCW calculations based on India National Sample Survey (NSS), Round 68, 2011-2012

Table 23. Child activity status by sex and residence, 7-14 age group, percentages

| Background characteristics | | Mutually exclusive activity categories | | | | (a)&(c) Total in employment | (b)&(c) Total in school | (a)&(d) Total out of school |
|----------------------------|--------|--|-----------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| | | (a) Only employment | (b) Only schooling | (c) Employment and schooling | (d) Neither activity | | | |
| Sex | Male | 1.5 | 94.1 | 0.3 | 4.1 | 1.9 | 94.4 | 5.6 |
| | Female | 1.3 | 92.1 | 0.3 | 6.3 | 1.6 | 92.4 | 7.6 |
| Residence | Urban | 1.3 | 94.6 | 0.2 | 3.8 | 1.5 | 94.8 | 5.2 |
| | Rural | 1.5 | 92.6 | 0.3 | 5.6 | 1.8 | 93.0 | 7.0 |
| Total 7-14 | | 1.4 | 93.2 | 0.3 | 5.1 | 1.7 | 93.5 | 6.5 |

Source: UCW calculations based on India National Sample Survey (NSS), Round 68, 2011-2012

Involvement in employment rises to 15 per cent among children aged 15-17 years in India (Table 25 and Table 26). Most children in this group do not, however, constitute child labourers, as only *hazardous* work is proscribed for this age range. Disaggregating the 15-17 year-old population by the same four non-overlapping activity groups, we see that 73 per cent of children attended school exclusively, Some 13 per cent were in employment exclusively and two per cent combined the two activities in 2012. The remaining share, accounting for about 13 per cent of the 15-17 years age group, were reported as neither attending school nor at work in employment. The activity patterns of 15-17 year-olds therefore differ considerably from

those of younger children – older children are much more likely to be in employment and much less likely to be in school. This is not surprising, as the 15-17 years age range is when children begin their transition from school to the working world.

Table 24. Child activity status by sex and residence, 15-17 age group, absolute numbers

| Background characteristics | | Mutually exclusive activity categories | | | | (a)&(c) Total in employment | (b)&(c) Total in school | (a)&(d) Total out of school |
|----------------------------|--------|--|-----------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| | | (a) Only employment | (b) Only schooling | (c) Employment and schooling | (d) Neither activity | | | |
| Sex | Male | 5,969,601 | 26,873,386 | 711,779 | 2,172,162 | 6,683,494 | 27,585,165 | 8,141,763 |
| | Female | 2,608,885 | 20,809,195 | 372,012 | 6,076,086 | 2,980,896 | 21,181,206 | 8,684,970 |
| Residence | Urban | 1,810,318 | 14,302,594 | 150,123 | 1,884,456 | 1,960,441 | 14,452,717 | 3,694,774 |
| | Rural | 6,768,168 | 33,379,986 | 933,668 | 6,363,791 | 7,703,949 | 34,313,654 | 13,131,959 |
| Total 15-17 | | 8,578,486 | 47,682,581 | 1,083,791 | 8,248,247 | 9,664,390 | 48,766,371 | 16,826,733 |

Source: UCW calculations based on India National Sample Survey (NSS), Round 68, 2011-2012

Table 25. Child activity status by sex and residence, 15-17 age group, percentages

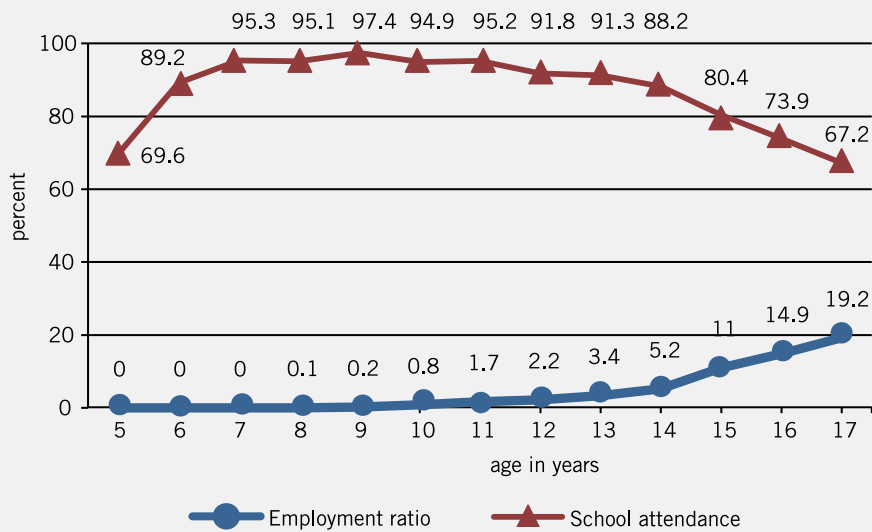
| Background characteristics | | Mutually exclusive activity categories | | | | (a)&(c) Total in employment | (b)&(c) Total in school | (a)&(d) Total out of school |
|----------------------------|--------|--|-----------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| | | (a) Only employment | (b) Only schooling | (c) Employment and schooling | (d) Neither activity | | | |
| Sex | Male | 16.7 | 75.2 | 2.0 | 6.1 | 18.7 | 77.2 | 22.8 |
| | Female | 8.7 | 69.7 | 1.2 | 20.3 | 10.0 | 70.9 | 29.1 |
| Residence | Urban | 10.0 | 78.8 | 0.8 | 10.4 | 10.8 | 79.6 | 20.4 |
| | Rural | 14.3 | 70.4 | 2.0 | 13.4 | 16.2 | 72.3 | 27.7 |
| Total 15-17 | | 13.1 | 72.7 | 1.7 | 12.6 | 14.7 | 74.3 | 25.7 |

Source: UCW calculations based on India National Sample Survey (NSS), Round 68, 2011-2012

Aggregate estimates of children's activities mask important differences by age, sex, and residence. The main patterns are reported in Table 24 15 through 18 and are discussed below.

- **Age:** Children's involvement in work rises with age (Figure 15 below). This pattern is undoubtedly in large part the product of the fact that children's productivity (and therefore the opportunity cost of keeping them in school) rises as they grow older. The increase in involvement in employment is particularly pronounced from age 11 years onwards, rising from two per cent at age eleven to five per cent at age of 14 years. Involvement in schooling peaks at the age of nine years at 97 per cent and slowly decreases thereafter as children drop out to work in employment or to undertake a greater share of household chores.

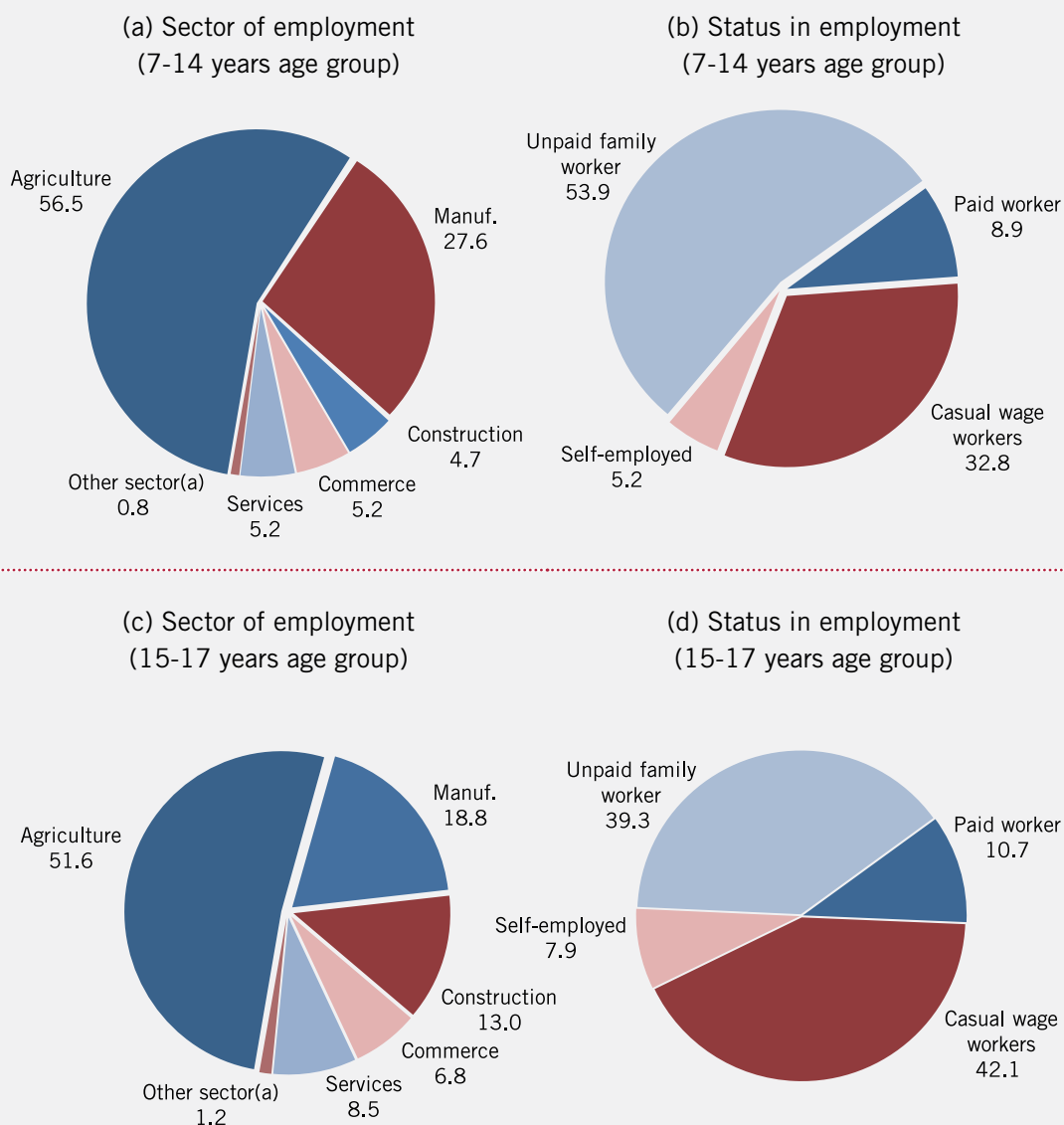
Figure 15: Child activity status by age



Source: UCW calculations based on India National Sample Survey (NSS), Round 68, 2011-2012

- Gender:** Children's involvement in employment appears to have an important gender dimension. In the 7-14 years age range, girls' are slightly less likely to be involved in employment than boys and are also less likely to be involved in school. A much higher percentage of girls than boys, however, are neither in employment nor attending school. This latter result is not surprising, as many from the group neither in school nor employment are likely involved in household chores, a form of work that typically falls to females in most societies. These gender patterns are even more pronounced among children in the 15-17 years age range. Girls in this age range are much less likely than their male peers to be in employment and education, and, it follows, are much more likely to be in the group absent from both of these activities.
- Place of residence:** The activity patterns of Indian children also appear to depend somewhat on their residence. Rural children appear disadvantaged both in terms of their risk of employment and their ability to attend school. Rural children aged 7-14 years are slightly more likely to be at work in employment than their peers living in cities and towns while at the same time they lag about two per cent behind their urban peers in terms of school attendance. These patterns continue into the 15-17 years age range; urban children in this age group are more likely than their rural counterparts to delay their entry into employment in order to continue their education.

Figure 16: Sector and status of children in employment, by age range



Note: (a) The category "Other sector" includes mining and quarrying, electricity, gas and water supply and extraterritorial organizations and bodies.

Source: UCW calculations based on India National Sample Survey (NSS), Round 68, 2011-2012

The largest share of children in employment is found in unpaid family work in the agriculture sector. More than half of children aged 7-14 years in employment are found in the agriculture sector (57 per cent) while the remainder are divided primarily across manufacturing (28 per cent), services and commerce and construction (5 per cent respectively). Among employed 7-14 year-olds, 54 per cent are in unpaid family work, 32 per cent work as casual wage labourers, 9 per cent are in paid employment and five per cent in self employment. Similar patterns prevail for the 15-17 years age group – the largest share of those in employment is again in agriculture and unpaid family work, although these two categories account for a smaller overall share of 15-17 years in employment than for younger children in employment. Of note, only 11 per cent of 15-17 year-old children are found in paid employment, a rough proxy for employment in the formal sector, and an additional 42 per cent work as casual wage labourers.

The composition of children's employment varies somewhat by sex and residence. The main patterns are reported in Table 27 and are discussed below.

- *Gender:* The type of work assigned to children in employment appears to have an important gender dimension. Girls in both the 7-14 years and 15-17 years age ranges are more likely than boys to work in agriculture and manufacturing and are less likely to work in other sectors. Boys in both age groups are more likely to work in paid employment, while a larger share of working girls are in unpaid family work and self-employment.
- *Place of residence:* The composition of children's employment also depends on their place of residence. Agricultural work, not surprisingly, predominates in rural areas. Employment in urban areas is more varied, with manufacturing, construction, commerce and services all playing important roles. Unpaid family work accounts for the largest share of all children in employment, but is much more common among rural children in employment. Paid work – again a rough proxy for formal sector employment – accounts for more than one-third of child workers living in cities and towns but for 3 per cent of working children living in the countryside.

Table 26. Sector and status of children in employment, by age range, residence and sex

| Sector and status | | 7-14 years age group | | | | 15-17 years age group | | | |
|----------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|------------|------------|------------|-----------------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | | Residence | | Sex | | Residence | | Sex | |
| | | Urban | Rural | Male | Female | Urban | Rural | Male | Female |
| Sector of employment | Agriculture | 8.1 | 70.2 | 47.7 | 68.6 | 7.3 | 62.9 | 47.2 | 61.6 |
| | Manufacturing | 56.9 | 19.2 | 29.3 | 25.2 | 37.8 | 14.0 | 15.2 | 26.8 |
| | Construction | 2.9 | 5.3 | 7.0 | 1.5 | 13.2 | 13.0 | 17.3 | 3.3 |
| | Commerce | 11.8 | 3.4 | 7.9 | 1.5 | 17.3 | 4.2 | 9.0 | 1.9 |
| | Service | 17.3 | 1.8 | 7.0 | 2.7 | 23.1 | 4.8 | 9.8 | 5.7 |
| | Other sector(a) | 3.0 | 0.2 | 1.1 | 0.5 | 1.4 | 1.2 | 1.5 | 0.7 |
| | Total | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| Status in employment | Paid worker | 29.4 | 3.0 | 14.1 | 1.5 | 31.4 | 5.4 | 12.0 | 7.7 |
| | Casual wage workers | 33.8 | 31.6 | 32.8 | 31.1 | 30.9 | 45.0 | 45.7 | 34.2 |
| | Self-employed | 1.4 | 6.2 | 4.2 | 6.6 | 9.9 | 7.4 | 6.3 | 11.6 |
| | Unpaid family work | 35.4 | 59.2 | 49.0 | 60.8 | 27.8 | 42.2 | 36.1 | 46.5 |
| | Total | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |

Note: (a) The category "Other sector" includes mining and quarrying, electricity, gas and water supply and extrateritorial organizations and bodies.

Source: UCW calculations based on India National Sample Survey (NSS), Round 68, 2011-2012

CHILD LABOUR

Approximately 5.7 million Indian children aged 5 to 17 years are involved in child labour.⁸² Over 600,000 children below the age of 12 years were in employment and an additional 2.6 million (age 12-14) were in regular (non-light) work. A further 2.5 million 15-17 years old children were at work in hazardous employment. Summing these three groups yields a total of about 5.7 million 5-17 year-old children in child labour. Differences in child labour by sex are large for this age group - the per cent of boys in child labour exceeds that of girls at any age.

82 See Annex I for details on child labour measurement.

Table 27. Lower-bound estimate of child labour involvement, India

| | (a) children aged 5-11 years in economic activity | | (b) Children aged 12-14 excluding those in light work ⁽¹⁾ | | (c) Children aged 15-17 years in hazardous work ⁽¹⁾ | | (a)&(b)&(c) Total in child labour, 5-17 years ⁽¹⁾ | |
|--------------|--|----------------|---|------------------|---|------------------|--|------------------|
| | % of total age group | No. | % of total age group | No. | % of total age group | No. | % of total age group | No. |
| Male | 0.4 | 360,262 | 3.7 | 1,534,996 | 6.1 | 2,197,919 | 2.5 | 4,093,177 |
| Female | 0.3 | 240,801 | 3.2 | 1,117,142 | 1.1 | 317,247 | 1.2 | 1,675,190 |
| Urban | 0.6 | 242,936 | 2.5 | 478,458 | 4.4 | 798,444 | 2 | 1,519,838 |
| Rural | 0.3 | 358,127 | 3.9 | 2,173,680 | 3.6 | 1,716,722 | 1.9 | 4,248,529 |
| Total | 0.4 | 601,063 | 3.5 | 2,652,138 | 3.8 | 2,515,165 | 1.9 | 5,768,367 |

Note: (1) The survey do not collect information on working hours. For this reason, the group of children aged 12-14 and 15-17 are classified as child labourers only on the basis of their involvement in designated hazardous industries and hazardous occupations.

Source: UCW calculations based on India National Sample Survey (NSS), Round 68, 2011-2012

Over 5.7 million children in India in the 5-17 years age group are engaged in child labour. More than 2.5 million of 15-17 year old children are engaged in hazardous labour. Among all 5-17 year-olds, boys are more than three times as likely to be engaged in child labour as girls, and urban children are more likely to be child labourers than rural children.

MALDIVES

MALDIVIAN CHILD ACTIVITY SUMMARY

Over 2,000 children are in employment in the Maldives, with most working in unpaid or family work. The employment ratio for 7-14 year old children in the Maldives is 4.2 per cent. Boys are slightly more likely than girls to be in employment, while children in urban areas are more likely to work than their rural peers. Among these employed children, 67.3 per cent are working in unpaid only positions, while 23.4 per cent are engaged in family work.

The Maldives has the second highest school attendance rate for 7-14 year olds in South Asia, with girls and urban children most likely to attend. Overall, 94.3 per cent of Maldivian children between 7-14 years of age attend school. Maldivian girls in the 7-14 year old age group have a higher school attendance rate than their male peers, with 94.9 per cent of girls attending school versus 93.7 per cent of boys. Among 7-14 year olds, urban children had an attendance rate of 94.6 per cent, whereas 94.2 per cent of children living in rural areas attended school.

Approximately one out of twenty children between 7-14 in the Maldives neither attends school nor works. The inactivity rate reported is higher among boys (6.1 per cent) than girls (4.8 per cent), and rural children (5.6 per cent) than urban children (5.0 per cent).

CHILD ACTIVITY IN THE MALDIVES

Over 4 per cent of Maldivian children aged 7-14 years, a little over 2,000 children in absolute terms, are in employment according to UCW estimates from a 2009 national survey (Table 29 and Table 30). Disaggregating the 7-14 year-old population by four non-overlapping activity groups – those engaged in employment exclusively, those attending school exclusively, those combining school and employment and those doing neither – shows that most Maldivian children attend school exclusively. More than 90 per cent of 7-14 year-olds are full-time students, while 4.0 per cent combine employment and school. Almost no children (0.2 per cent) work exclusively in employment. The remaining share of 7-14 year old children (5.5 per cent) are inactive. However, many of this last group of children are likely involved in household chores, a category of work that falls outside the formal definition of employment. Almost 6 per cent of Maldivian 7-14 year-olds, almost 3,000 children in absolute terms, are out of school in, underscoring the fact that Education for All has not yet been attained in the country. Information is not available for the 15-17 years age group in the Maldives Demographic and Health Survey (DHS), 2009.

Table 28. Child activity status by sex and residence, 7-14 age group, absolute numbers

| Background characteristics | | Mutually exclusive activity categories | | | | (a)&(c) Total in employment | (b)&(c) Total in school | (a)&(d) Total out of school |
|----------------------------|--------|--|-----------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| | | (a) Only employment | (b) Only schooling | (c) Employment and schooling | (d) Neither activity | | | |
| Sex | Male | 50 | 23,268 | 1111 | 1,587 | 1,160 | 24,379 | 1,637 |
| | Female | 67 | 22,601 | 915 | 1,197 | 983 | 23,516 | 1,264 |
| Residence | Urban | 50 | 11,322 | 593 | 636 | 644 | 11,915 | 686 |
| | Rural | 66 | 34,547 | 1433 | 2,148 | 1,499 | 35,980 | 2,214 |
| Total 7-14 | | 117 | 45,869 | 2026 | 2,784 | 2,143 | 47,895 | 2,901 |

Source: UCW calculations based on Maldives, Demographic and Health Survey (DHS), 2009

Table 29. Child activity status by sex and residence, 7-14 age group, percentages

| Background characteristics | | Mutually exclusive activity categories | | | | (a)&(c) Total in employment | (b)&(c) Total in school | (a)&(d) Total out of school |
|----------------------------|--------|--|-----------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| | | (a) Only employment | (b) Only schooling | (c) Employment and schooling | (d) Neither activity | | | |
| Sex | Male | 0.2 | 89.4 | 4.3 | 6.1 | 4.4 | 93.7 | 6.3 |
| | Female | 0.3 | 91.2 | 3.7 | 4.8 | 4.0 | 94.9 | 5.1 |
| Residence | Urban | 0.4 | 89.8 | 4.7 | 5.1 | 5.1 | 94.4 | 5.6 |
| | Rural | 0.2 | 90.5 | 3.8 | 5.6 | 3.9 | 94.2 | 5.8 |
| Total 7-14 | | 0.2 | 90.3 | 4.0 | 5.5 | 4.2 | 94.3 | 5.7 |

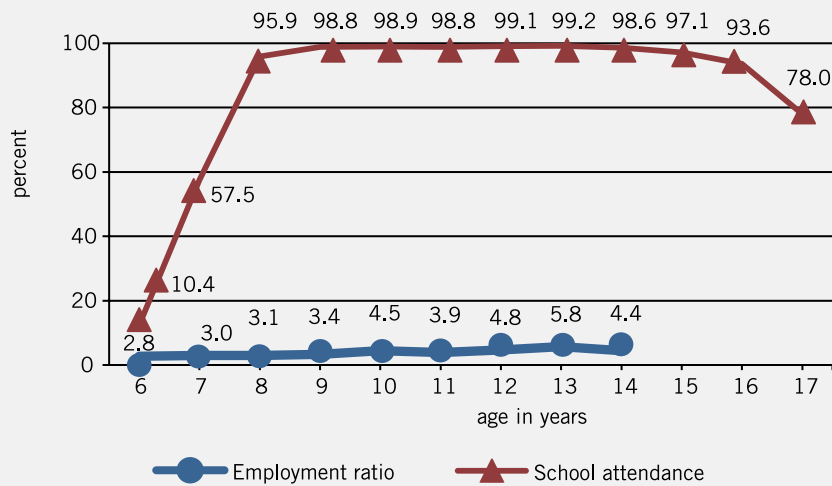
Source: UCW calculations based on Maldives, Demographic and Health Survey (DHS), 2009

Aggregate estimates of children's activities mask slight differences by age, sex, and residence.

The main patterns are reported in Table 29 and Table 30 and are discussed below.

- **Age:** The common pattern of children's involvement in work increasing with age is less pronounced in the Maldives than in the other South Asian countries (Figure 17 below). Indeed, of those Maldivian children working, most appear to start at a young age. Young children already at work are most vulnerable to workplace abuse and injury, and are most likely to have their education compromised. Involvement in schooling peaks at the age of 13 years at over 99 per cent but does not decline appreciably until after the age of 15 years.

Figure 17: Child activity status by age



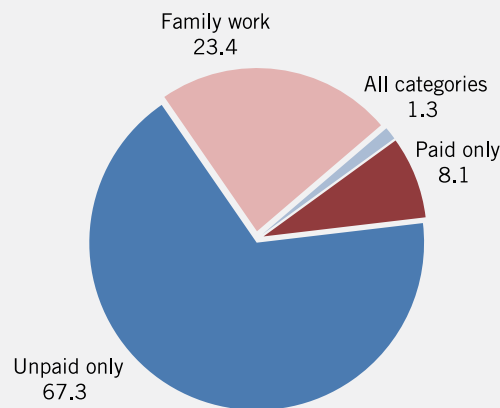
Source: UCW calculations based on Maldives, Demographic and Health Survey (DHS), 2009

Gender: Girls are slightly more likely than boys to attend school and slightly less likely to be at work in employment, but the differences by sex in both employment and schooling are not large.

- *Place of residence:* Children’s employment is slightly higher in urban than rural areas, while children’s school attendance is almost equal among children in rural and urban areas.

The largest share of children in employment is found in unpaid work. Unpaid work accounts for more the two-thirds (67.3 per cent) of 7-14 year-olds in employment, while 23.4 per cent are in family work and 8.1 per cent are in paid work. Information is not available in the Maldives Demographic and Health Survey (DHS), 2009 on the sector composition of children’s employment.

Figure 18: Status of children in employment, 7-14 years age range



Source: UCW calculations based on Maldives, Demographic and Health Survey (DHS), 2009

The composition of children’s employment varies somewhat by sex and residence. The main patterns are reported in Table 31 and are discussed below.

Gender: The type of work assigned to children in employment appears to have an important gender dimension. Boys are more likely to work in both paid and unpaid employment, while a larger share of working girls is in family work.

Place of residence: The composition of children’s employment also depends on their place of residence. Unpaid work account for almost all (91.4 per cent) of children’s employment in urban areas, with family work accounting for the remainder. In rural areas, children’s employment is distributed across unpaid work (56.9 per cent), family work (29.7 per cent) and to a lesser extent paid work (11.6 per cent).

Table 30. Status of children in employment, 7-14 years age group, by residence and sex

| Status in employment | Residence | | Sex | |
|----------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | Urban | Rural | Male | Female |
| Paid only | 0.0 | 11.6 | 10.1 | 5.8 |
| Unpaid only | 91.4 | 56.9 | 69.7 | 64.4 |
| Family work | 8.6 | 29.7 | 18.4 | 29.2 |
| All categories(a) | 0.0 | 1.8 | 1.8 | 0.6 |
| Total | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |

Note: (a) children declaring contemporary more than one working status
Source: UCW calculations based on Maldives, Demographic and Health Survey (DHS), 2009

CHILD LABOUR⁸³

In Maldives accounts for more than 3 percent of children aged 5-14 in the country (Table 31). Boys are slightly more likely than girls to be in child labour, and children living in urban areas seems to be more exposed to child labour than their peers living in rural areas. No numbers are available for the 15-17 year olds.

Table 31. Lower-bound estimate of child labour involvement, Maldives

| | (a) | | (b) | | (c) | | (a)&(b) | |
|--------------|---|--------------|---|------------|---|----------|---------------------------------------|--------------|
| | Children aged 5-11 years in economic activity | | Children aged 12-14 excluding those in light work (1) | | Children aged 15-17 years in hazardous work | | Total in child labour, 5-14 years (1) | |
| | % of total age group | No. | % of total age group | No. | % of total age group | No. | % of total age group | No. |
| Male | 3.2 | 640 | 4.2 | 496 | - | - | 3.6 | 1,136 |
| Female | 3.2 | 616 | 3.4 | 370 | - | - | 3.3 | 986 |
| Urban | 4.2 | 424 | 4.6 | 261 | - | - | 4.4 | 685 |
| Rural | 2.8 | 831 | 3.6 | 605 | - | - | 3.1 | 1,437 |
| Total | 3.2 | 1,256 | 3.8 | 866 | - | - | 3.4 | 2,122 |

Note: (1) The Maldives DHS 2009 collects information on employment up to the age of 14. Information on industry and occupation is not collected. Children are classified in "light work" only on the basis of the working hours.
Source: UCW calculations based on Maldives, Demographic and Health Survey (DHS), 2009

83 See section on data source and methodology for details on child labour measurement.

NEPAL

NEPALI CHILD ACTIVITY SUMMARY

Almost half of 7-17 year old children in Nepal are in employment, although Nepal's national survey defines employment more expansively than other South Asian countries.⁸⁴ Overall, 3.1 million of Nepal's 6.6 million children in the age group are employed. Nepal's employed children overwhelmingly work in agriculture (87.8 per cent) and unpaid family work (89.7 per cent). This also likely derives from the definition of employment used in Nepal's national survey.

More than six out of seven Nepali children between 7-17 years of age attend school, with the largest year-to-year drop in attendance between 15-16 year olds. The school attendance rate for 7-14 year olds is 90.9 per cent, dropping to 71.3 per cent for 15-17 year olds. The school attendance rate drops 11 percentage points when Nepalese children turn 16.

The inactivity rate in Nepal is the second lowest in South Asia. Over 250,000 Nepali children are reported as neither working nor attending school. Nepal has the smallest increase in inactivity as children get older in South Asia, with 4.7 per cent of children between 15-17 neither in work nor school compared to 3.6 per cent of 7-14 year olds.

Nepali girls are more likely to be employed, less likely to attend school and more likely to be (statistically) inactive than Nepali boys. The employment ratio for 7-17 year old girls is 51.6 per cent compared to 42.5 per cent for 7-17 year old boys. This nine point gender gap in employment is illustrative of what might happen to the employment ratio for girls in other countries if household services were included as employment rather than classified as household chores. The school attendance rate for girls in the 7-17 year old age group is 83.0 per cent compared to 89.6 per cent for their male peers. Additionally, the percentage of 7-17 year old girls who are reported as neither attending school nor in work is 4.2 per cent, compared to 3.4 per cent for males in the same age group.

Nepali children living in rural areas are more than twice as likely to be in employment, less likely to attend school and more likely to be inactive than their children living in urban areas. The employment ratio for rural 7-17 year old Nepalis is 50.9 per cent, compared to 21.6 per cent for urban children in the same age range. Nepal has the second largest disparity in school attendance between rural and urban children, with school attendance rates for rural children standing at 85.4 per cent compared to 92.2 per cent for urban children. Rural 7-17 year old children have an inactivity rate of 4.0 per cent compared to 2.9 per cent for urban children of the same age.

CHILD ACTIVITY IN NEPAL

Children's involvement in employment remains a very pressing concern in Nepal. Overall, 40.7 per cent of children in the 7-14 age group, more than 2 million children in absolute terms, are in employment according to UCW estimates drawn from a 2008 national survey (Table 33 and Table 34). Disaggregating the 7-14 year-old population by four non-overlapping activity groups – those engaged in employment exclusively, those attending school exclusively, those combining school and employment and those doing neither – shows that 5.5 per cent of 7-14 year-olds

⁸⁴ The Nepal Labour Force Survey includes gathering firewood and fetching water in employment. However, these activities are typically categorized as household services outside of employment. It is probable that the percentage of Nepalese child employment would decline substantially using the more common definition of employment.

are in employment exclusively, while 35.2 per cent are in employment while also attending school. This does not, of course, mean that employment is compatible with education, as the exigencies of work affect the time and energy that children have for their studies. Of the remaining 7-14 years population, 55.8 per cent are in school exclusively and 3.6 per cent are neither in school nor in employment. Almost 460,000 children, 9.1 per cent of 7-14 year olds, were out of school in 2008, underscoring the fact that achieving Education for All remains a challenge in Nepal.

Table 32. Child activity status by sex and residence, 7-14 age group, absolute numbers

| Background characteristics | | Mutually exclusive activity categories | | | | (a)&(c) Total in employment | (b)&(c) Total in school | (a)&(d) Total out of school |
|----------------------------|--------|--|-----------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| | | (a) Only employment | (b) Only schooling | (c) Employment and schooling | (d) Neither activity | | | |
| Sex | Male | 96,552 | 1,580,108 | 846,602 | 85,646 | 943,154 | 2,426,710 | 182,198 |
| | Female | 181,622 | 1,248,494 | 936,681 | 95,810 | 1,118,303 | 2,185,175 | 277,432 |
| Residence | Urban | 15,699 | 521,122 | 92,956 | 13,087 | 108,654 | 614,078 | 28,786 |
| | Rural | 262,475 | 2,307,480 | 1,690,327 | 168,368 | 1,952,802 | 3,997,807 | 430,843 |
| Total 7-14 | | 278,173 | 2,828,602 | 1,783,283 | 181,456 | 2,061,456 | 4,611,885 | 459,629 |

Notes: (1) Employment includes fetching water and collecting firewood.

Source: UCW calculations based on Nepal, Labour Force Survey, 2008

Table 33. Child activity status by sex and residence, 7-14 age group, percentages

| Background characteristics | | Mutually exclusive activity categories | | | | (a)&(c) Total in employment | (b)&(c) Total in school | (a)&(d) Total out of school |
|----------------------------|--------|--|-----------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| | | (a) Only employment | (b) Only schooling | (c) Employment and schooling | (d) Neither activity | | | |
| Sex | Male | 3.7 | 60.6 | 32.5 | 3.3 | 36.2 | 93.0 | 7.0 |
| | Female | 7.4 | 50.7 | 38.0 | 3.9 | 45.4 | 88.7 | 11.3 |
| Residence | Urban | 2.4 | 81.1 | 14.5 | 2.0 | 16.9 | 95.5 | 4.5 |
| | Rural | 5.9 | 52.1 | 38.2 | 3.8 | 44.1 | 90.3 | 9.7 |
| Total 7-14 | | 5.5 | 55.8 | 35.2 | 3.6 | 40.7 | 90.9 | 9.1 |

Notes: (1) Employment includes fetching water and collecting firewood.

Source: UCW calculations based on Nepal, Labour Force Survey, 2008

Involvement in employment rises to 67.8 per cent among Nepalese children aged 15-17 years (Table 47 and Table 48). Most children in this group do not, however, constitute child labourers, as only *hazardous* work is proscribed for this age range. Decomposing the 15-17 year-old population by the same four non-overlapping activity groups, 27.5 per cent of children attended school exclusively, 24.1 per cent were in employment exclusively and 43.7 per cent combined the two activities and 4.7 per cent neither attend school nor work in employment. The activity patterns of 15-17 year-olds therefore differ considerably from those of younger children: their involvement in employment is much higher and their involvement in education much lower than their younger counterparts. This is not surprising, as the 15-17 years age range is when children begin their transition from school to work.

Table 34. Child activity status by sex and residence, 15-17 age group, absolute numbers

| Background characteristics | | Mutually exclusive activity categories | | | | (a)&(c) Total in employment | (b)&(c) Total in school | (a)&(d) Total out of school |
|----------------------------|--------|--|-----------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| | | (a) Only employment | (b) Only schooling | (c) Employment and schooling | (d) Neither activity | | | |
| Sex | Male | 137,075 | 229,263 | 341,440 | 28,922 | 478,515 | 570,702 | 165,997 |
| | Female | 234,090 | 195,301 | 332,733 | 42,812 | 566,823 | 528,034 | 276,902 |
| Residence | Urban | 27,401 | 150,122 | 56,154 | 13,152 | 83,555 | 206,276 | 40,553 |
| | Rural | 343,764 | 274,442 | 618,019 | 58,582 | 961,783 | 892,460 | 402,347 |
| Total 15-17 | | 371,165 | 424,564 | 674,173 | 71,734 | 1,045,338 | 1,098,736 | 442,900 |

Notes: (1) Employment includes fetching water and collecting firewood.

Source: UCW calculations based on Nepal, Labour Force Survey, 2008

Table 35. Child activity status by sex and residence, 15-17 age group, percentages

| Background characteristics | | Mutually exclusive activity categories | | | | (a)&(c) Total in employment | (b)&(c) Total in school | (a)&(d) Total out of school |
|----------------------------|--------|--|-----------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| | | (a) Only employment | (b) Only schooling | (c) Employment and schooling | (d) Neither activity | | | |
| Sex | Male | 18.6 | 31.1 | 46.4 | 3.9 | 65.0 | 77.5 | 22.5 |
| | Female | 29.1 | 24.3 | 41.3 | 5.3 | 70.4 | 65.6 | 34.4 |
| Residence | Urban | 11.1 | 60.8 | 22.8 | 5.3 | 33.9 | 83.6 | 16.4 |
| | Rural | 26.6 | 21.2 | 47.7 | 4.5 | 74.3 | 68.9 | 31.1 |
| Total 15-17 | | 24.1 | 27.5 | 43.7 | 4.7 | 67.8 | 71.3 | 28.7 |

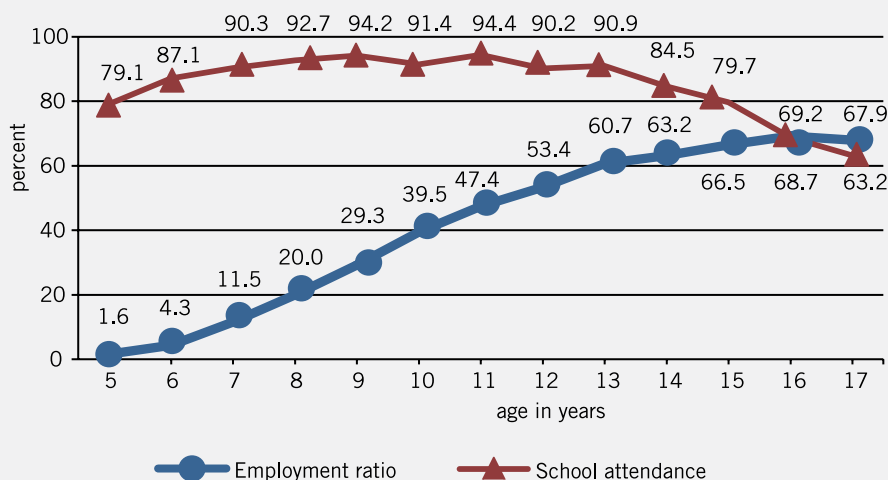
Notes: (1) Employment includes fetching water and collecting firewood.

Source: UCW calculations based on Nepal, Labour Force Survey, 2008

Aggregate estimates of children's activities mask important differences by age, sex, and residence. The main patterns are reported in Table 34 through Table 48 and are discussed below.

- **Age:** Children's involvement in work rises with age (Figure 19 below) undoubtedly in large part because children's productivity (and therefore the opportunity cost of keeping them in school) rises as they grow older. It is worth noting, however, that involvement in employment is very high even among young children: more than 11.5 per cent of children are already at work in employment at the age of seven years and 20.0 per cent of children are in employment at the age of eight years. These young children are most vulnerable to workplace abuse and injury, and are most likely to have their education compromised. Involvement in schooling peaks at the age of 11 years at 94.4 per cent and decreases thereafter as children drop out of school to work in employment.
- **Gender:** Children's involvement in employment appears to have an important gender dimension. In the 7-14 years age range, girls' involvement in employment is more than 9.2 percentage points higher than that of boys. Involvement in schooling, on the contrary, is 4.3 percentage points higher for boys than for girls in this age range. For the 15-17 years age group, the gap between boys and girls in terms of involvement in employment narrows. Girls in this age range are less likely than boys to remain in school; they are also more likely to be absent from both school and employment, presumably at home helping to run the household.

Figure 19: Child activity status (1) by age



Notes: (1) Employment includes fetching water and collecting firewood.
Source: UCW calculations based on Nepal, Labour Force Survey, 2008

Place of residence: The activity patterns of Nepalese children appear to consistently depend on their residence. For the 7-14 years age range, involvement in employment is more than two and a half times higher among rural children compared to their peers living in urban areas. Their greater involvement in employment only partially translates into lower levels of school participation; the school attendance rate of urban children exceeds that of rural children by 5.2 percentage points. These patterns continue into the 15-17 years age range: urban children in this age group are more likely than their rural counterparts to delay entry into employment in order to continue their education.

Children in employment are mainly found in unpaid family work and in the agriculture sector. The large majority of children aged 7-14 years in employment are found in the agriculture sector (89.0 per cent) while the remainder is divided primarily across the Electricity, gas and water sector which includes fetching water (6.2 per cent), commerce (1.6 per cent) and manufacturing (1.4 per cent). In terms of status in employment, unpaid family work accounts for 92.3 per cent of 7-14 year-olds in employment, while 5.5 per cent of child workers are self-employed and 2.1 per cent are paid workers. Similar patterns prevail for the 15-17 years age group – the largest share of those in employment is again in agriculture and unpaid family work, although these two categories account for a smaller overall share of 15-17 years in employment than for younger children in employment. Of note, only 2.0 per cent of older, 15-17 year-olds, are in the electricity, gas and water sector which suggests that younger children are more commonly engaged in fetching water.

Figure 20: Sector and status of children in employment (1), by age range

Notes: (1) Employment includes fetching water and collecting firewood; (2) Electricity, gas and water includes fetching water

Source: UCW calculations based on Nepal, Labour Force Survey, 2008

The composition of children's employment varies by sex and residence. The main patterns are reported in Table 37 and discussed below.

- **Gender:** The type of work assigned to children in employment does not appear to have a strong gender dimension. Differences by sex in the sector composition of children's employment are small for the 7-14 years age group. For older children, however, differences emerge in terms of involvement in agricultural work (higher for girls) and in the construction, commerce and services sectors (higher for boys). Again, differences by sex in the employment status of child workers are small. For older children, 15-17 year-olds, a higher share of working girls is in unpaid family work and a lower share in paid employment.
- **Place of residence:** The composition of children's employment largely depends on their place of residence. Agricultural work predominates in rural areas, while the manufacturing, hotel and restaurants, commerce and services sectors account for a large share of children's employment in cities and towns. Unpaid family work is more common among rural children in employment, although this category also accounts for the largest share of children in employment in urban areas. Rural children are less likely than their counterparts in urban areas to be paid workers.

Table 36. Sector and status of children in employment (a), by age range, residence and sex

| Sector and status | | 7-14 years age group | | | | 15-17 years age group | | | |
|----------------------|---|----------------------|------------|------------|------------|-----------------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | | Residence | | Sex | | Residence | | Sex | |
| | | Urban | Rural | Male | Female | Urban | Rural | Male | Female |
| Sector of employment | Agriculture | 67.8 | 90.2 | 89.0 | 88.9 | 51.3 | 88.5 | 80.6 | 89.7 |
| | Manufacturing | 5.2 | 1.2 | 1.3 | 1.5 | 10.5 | 4.2 | 5.5 | 4.0 |
| | Construction | 0.9 | 0.3 | 0.7 | 0.0 | 2.1 | 1.3 | 2.5 | 0.4 |
| | Commerce | 6.8 | 1.3 | 2.2 | 1.1 | 12.1 | 2.2 | 4.7 | 1.5 |
| | Hotels and restaurants | 7.1 | 0.6 | 1.3 | 0.7 | 9.8 | 0.5 | 1.4 | 1.2 |
| | Service | 3.8 | 0.3 | 0.7 | 0.4 | 9.7 | 1.6 | 3.6 | 1.1 |
| | Electricity, gas and water ^(b) | 8.5 | 6.1 | 4.9 | 7.4 | 4.6 | 1.8 | 1.8 | 2.2 |
| | Total | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| Status in employment | Paid worker | 7.5 | 1.8 | 2.5 | 1.7 | 21.1 | 7.3 | 11.2 | 6.1 |
| | Self-employed | 7.6 | 5.3 | 5.2 | 5.7 | 8.7 | 6.6 | 6.0 | 7.3 |
| | Unpaid family work | 84.4 | 92.7 | 92.0 | 92.5 | 70.0 | 86.0 | 82.5 | 86.5 |
| | Other status | 0.5 | 0.2 | 0.3 | 0.1 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.3 | 0.1 |
| | Total | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |

Note: (a) Employment includes fetching water and collecting firewood. (b) Electricity, gas and water includes fetching water

Source: UCW calculations based on Nepal, Labour Force Survey, 2008

CHILD LABOUR⁸⁵

Some 930,000 children below the age of 12 years were in employment and an additional 855,000 (12-14 year-old) children were in regular (non -light) work (Table 37). A further 252,000 older, 15-17 year-old children were at work in hazardous employment. Summing these three groups yields a total of over 2 million 5-17 year-old children in child labour. Differences in child labour by sex are large for this age group - the percentage of boys in child labour exceeds that of girls by more than 6 percentage points. Children living in rural areas were much more exposed to child labour (29 percent) compared to their peers living in urban areas (11 percent).

Table 37. Lower-bound estimate of child labour involvement, Nepal

| | (a) | | (b) | | (c) | | (a)&(b) | |
|---------------|---|----------------|--|----------------|---|----------------|--|------------------|
| | Children aged 5-11 years in economic activity | | Children aged 12-14 excluding those in light work ⁽¹⁾ | | Children aged 15-17 years in hazardous work | | Total in child labour, 5-14 years ⁽¹⁾ | |
| | % of total age group | No. | % of total age group | No. | % of total age group | No. | % of total age group | No. |
| Male | 19.1 | 416,738 | 37.6 | 383,227 | 16.4 | 120,792 | 23.4 | 920,757 |
| Female | 24.6 | 511,066 | 49.5 | 471,960 | 16.3 | 131,097 | 29.1 | 1,114,123 |
| Urban | 7.7 | 39,196 | 18.2 | 48,005 | 11.7 | 28,759 | 11.3 | 115,959 |
| Rural | 23.7 | 888,608 | 47.2 | 807,183 | 17.2 | 223,130 | 28.4 | 1,918,921 |
| Total | 21.8 | 927,804 | 43.3 | 855,188 | 16.3 | 251,889 | 26.2 | 2,034,880 |

Source: UCW calculations based on Nepal, Labour Force Survey, 2008

85 See section on data source and methodology for details on child labour measurement.

PAKISTAN

PAKISTANI CHILD ACTIVITY SUMMARY

Millions of children in Pakistan are employed, primarily in the agricultural sector and in unpaid family labour. Pakistan's 2010-2011 Labour Force Survey reveals that 5.7 million 10-17 year olds, representing 19.9 per cent of all children in the age group, are in employment. The employment ratio is 13.0 per cent for 10-14 year olds, rising to 33.3 per cent for children between 15-17 years of age. More than two-thirds of working children between the ages of 10-17 in Pakistan are employed in the agricultural sector. A similar proportion of employed children, 67.9 per cent, are engaged in unpaid family work, with the remaining 32.1 per cent paid workers or self-employed.

Pakistan's school attendance rate is lower than many of its South Asian neighbours. Overall, 68.3 per cent of children between 10 and 17 years of age attend school. The school attendance rate for 10-14 year old children is 76.0 per cent, dropping to 53.2 per cent for 15-17 year olds. For Pakistani children between 8 and 16 years of age, the attendance rate for each age of child is lower than all other countries in South Asia reporting data.

Almost 4 million children in Pakistan are reported in neither work nor attending school. The inactivity rate for 10-17 year old children is 13.9 per cent, with almost one out of six Pakistani children aged 15-17 neither in employment nor in school.

Girls are less likely to be in employment, less likely to attend school and more likely to be inactive than boys. Among 10-17 year olds, boys have a slightly higher employment ratio (21.1 per cent) than girls (18.5 per cent). However, 10-14 year old Pakistani girls are more likely to work than their male peers. In terms of school attendance, 75.1 per cent of 10-17 year old boys attend school, compared to 60.5 per cent of Pakistani girls of the same age. The share of 15-17 year old Pakistani girls attending school, 45.4 per cent, is the lowest in South Asia. Additionally, girls account for 72.7 per cent of all (statistically) inactive children between 10-17 years of age.

CHILD ACTIVITY IN PAKISTAN

Millions of children below the age of 14 years are in employment in Pakistan. According to UCW estimates from a 2011 national survey (Table 39 and Table 40),⁸⁶ 13 per cent of children in the 10-14 age group, almost 2.5 million children in absolute terms, are in employment. Disaggregating the 10-14 year-old population by four non-overlapping activity groups – those engaged in employment exclusively, those attending school exclusively, those combining school and employment and those doing neither – shows that 74.4 per cent of children attend school exclusively, while 11.4 per cent are in employment exclusively and 1.6 per cent combine the two activities. The remaining share of children, 12.6 per cent of the 10-14 years age group, are neither attending school nor working in employment. It is likely, however, that many of this last group of children are involved in household chores, a category of work that falls outside the definition of employment. Almost one-fourth of Pakistani 10-14 year-olds, 4.5 million children in absolute terms, are out of school, underscoring the fact that achieving universal access to education remains a challenge for Pakistan.

86 Information on the full 7-14 years age range is not available in the *Pakistan Labour Force Survey (LFS), 2010-2011*.

Table 38. Child activity status by sex, 10-14 age group, absolute numbers

| Background characteristics | | Mutually exclusive activity categories | | | | (a)&(c) Total in employment | (b)&(c) Total in school | (a)&(d) Total out of school |
|----------------------------|--------|--|-----------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| | | (a) Only employment | (b) Only schooling | (c) Employment and schooling | (d) Neither activity | | | |
| Sex | Male | 1,014,300 | 8,094,842 | 250,187 | 735,107 | 1,264,487 | 8,345,029 | 1,749,407 |
| | Female | 1,127,682 | 5,927,105 | 57,311 | 1,638,302 | 1,184,993 | 5,984,416 | 2,765,984 |
| Total 10-14 | | 2,141,982 | 14,021,947 | 307,498 | 2,373,409 | 2,449,480 | 14,329,445 | 4,515,391 |

Source: UCW calculations based on Pakistan, Labour Force Survey (LFS), 2010-2011

Table 39. Child activity status by sex, 10-14 age group, percentages

| Background characteristics | | Mutually exclusive activity categories | | | | (a)&(c) Total in employment | (b)&(c) Total in school | (a)&(d) Total out of school |
|----------------------------|--------|--|-----------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| | | (a) Only employment | (b) Only schooling | (c) Employment and schooling | (d) Neither activity | | | |
| Sex | Male | 10.1 | 80.2 | 2.5 | 7.3 | 12.5 | 82.7 | 17.3 |
| | Female | 12.9 | 67.7 | 0.7 | 18.7 | 13.5 | 68.4 | 31.6 |
| Total 10-14 | | 11.4 | 74.4 | 1.6 | 12.6 | 13.0 | 76.0 | 24.0 |

Source: UCW calculations based on Pakistan, Labour Force Survey (LFS), 2010-2011

Involvement in employment rises to 33.3 per cent among Pakistani children aged 15-17 years (Table 41 and Table 42). Most children in this group do not, however, constitute child labourers, as only *hazardous* work is proscribed for this age range. Decomposing the 15-17 year-old population by the same four non-overlapping activity groups, we see that 50.2 per cent of children attend school exclusively, 30.3 per cent are in employment exclusively and 3 per cent combine the two activities. The remaining 16.5 per cent of the 15-17 years age group are neither attending school nor at work in employment. The activity patterns of 15-17 year-olds therefore differ considerably from those of younger children – older children are much more likely to be in employment and much less likely to be in school. This is not surprising, as the 15-17 years age range is when children begin their transition from school to the working world.

Table 40. Child activity status by sex, 15-17 age group, absolute numbers

| Background characteristics | | Mutually exclusive activity categories | | | | (a)&(c) Total in employment | (b)&(c) Total in school | (a)&(d) Total out of school |
|----------------------------|--------|--|-----------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| | | (a) Only employment | (b) Only schooling | (c) Employment and schooling | (d) Neither activity | | | |
| Sex | Male | 1,692,384 | 2,831,224 | 249,889 | 35,0492 | 1,942,273 | 3,081,113 | 2,042,876 |
| | Female | 1,245,720 | 2,036,815 | 36,331 | 1,247,211 | 1,282,051 | 2,073,146 | 2,492,931 |
| Total 15-17 | | 2,938,104 | 4,868,039 | 286,220 | 1,597,703 | 3,224,324 | 5,154,259 | 4,535,807 |

Source: UCW calculations based on Pakistan, Labour Force Survey (LFS), 2010-2011

Table 41. Child activity status by sex, 15-17 age group, percentages

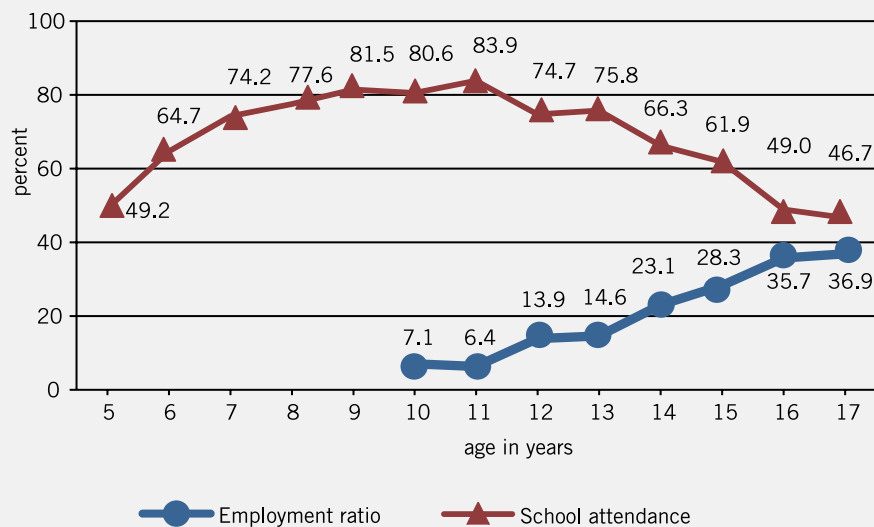
| Background characteristics | | Mutually exclusive activity categories | | | | (a)&(c) Total in employment | (b)&(c) Total in school | (a)&(d) Total out of school |
|----------------------------|--------|--|-----------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| | | (a) Only employment | (b) Only schooling | (c) Employment and schooling | (d) Neither activity | | | |
| Sex | Male | 33.0 | 55.3 | 4.9 | 6.8 | 37.9 | 60.1 | 39.9 |
| | Female | 27.3 | 44.6 | 0.8 | 27.3 | 28.1 | 45.4 | 54.6 |
| Total 15-17 | | 30.3 | 50.2 | 3.0 | 16.5 | 33.3 | 53.2 | 46.8 |

Source: UCW calculations based on Pakistan, Labour Force Survey (LFS), 2010-2011

Aggregate estimates of children's activities mask important differences by age and sex. The main patterns are reported in Table 39 through Table 42 and are discussed below.

- **Age:** Children's involvement in work rises with age (Figure 21). This pattern is likely in large part due to the fact that children's productivity (and therefore the opportunity cost of keeping them in school) rises as they get older. Children's involvement in employment more than triples between the ages of 10 and 14 years old, from 7.1 per cent to almost 23.1 per cent. Involvement in schooling peaks at the age of 11 years at 83.9 per cent and decreases thereafter as children drop out to work in employment or to undertake a greater share of household chores.

Figure 21: Child activity status, by age



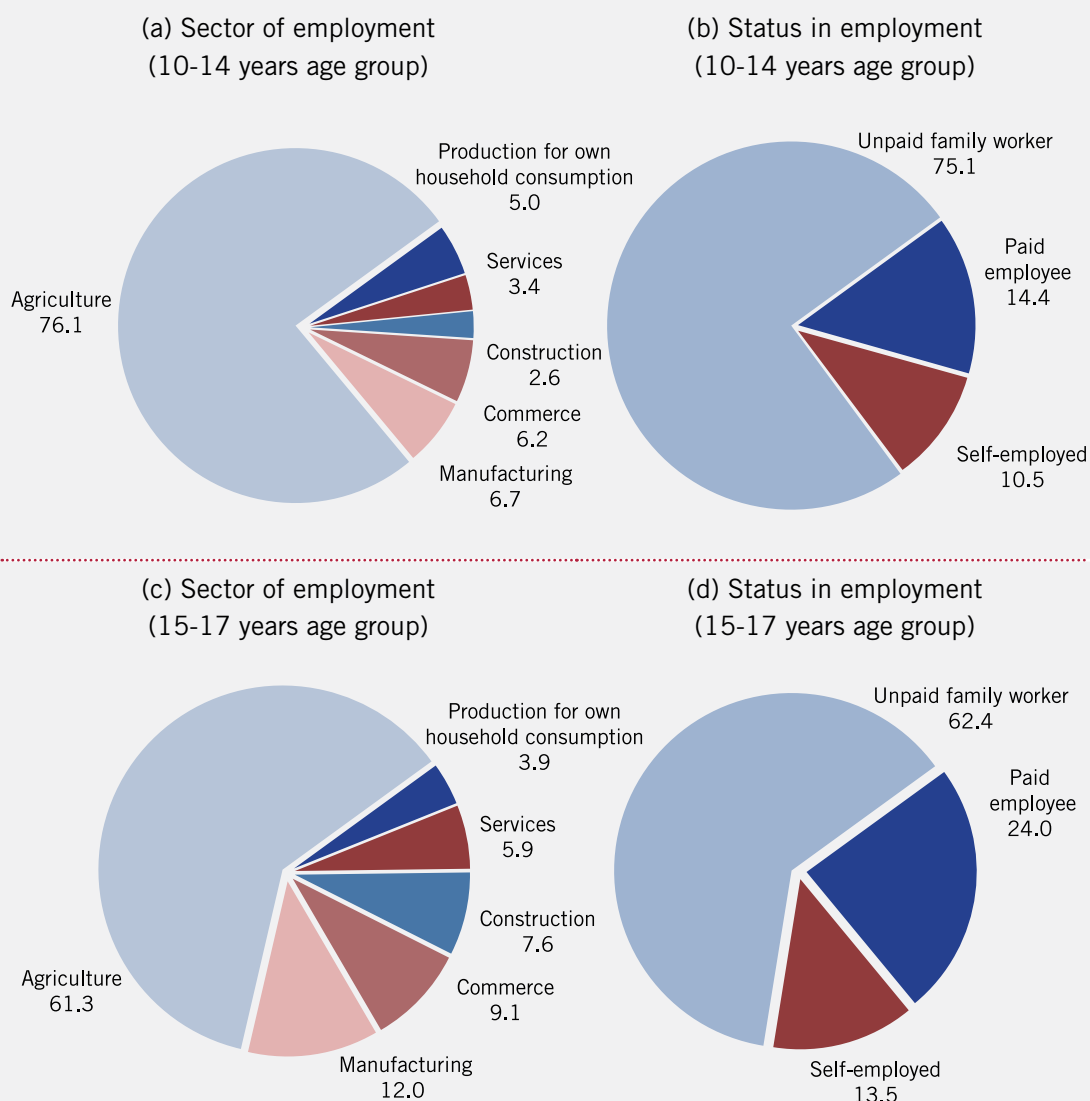
Source: UCW calculations based on Pakistan, Labour Force Survey (LFS), 2010-2011

Gender: Children's involvement in employment appears to have an important gender dimension. In the 10-14 years age range, girls face a double disadvantage: they face a slightly higher risk of involvement in employment than boys while at the same time they are much less likely than boys to attend school. Only 68.4 per cent of 10-14 year-old girls attend school compared to 82.7 per cent of same-aged boys. A much higher percentage of girls than boys are neither in employment nor attending school. This latter result is not surprising, as many inactive children are likely involved in household chores, a form of work that typically falls to girls.

The largest share of children in employment in Pakistan is found in unpaid family work in the agriculture sector. More than three-fourths of children aged 10-14 years in employment are found in the agriculture sector (76.1 per cent) while the remainder is divided primarily across

manufacturing (6.7 per cent), commerce (6.2 per cent), non-market household production (5.0 per cent), services (3.4 per cent) and construction (2.6 per cent). In terms of status in employment, unpaid family work accounts for 75.1 per cent of 10-14 year-olds in employment, while only 14.4 per cent are in paid employment and 10.5 per cent in self employment. Similar patterns prevail for the 15-17 years age group – the largest share of those in employment are again in agriculture and unpaid family work, although these two categories account for a smaller overall share of 15-17 years in employment than for younger children in employment. Of note, only 14.4 per cent of 15-17 year-old children are found in paid employment, which is a rough proxy for employment in the formal sector.

Figure 22: Sector and status of children in employment, by age range



Source: UCW calculations based on Pakistan, Labour Force Survey (LFS), 2010-2011

The type of work assigned to children in employment appears to have an important gender dimension. Girls in both the 7-14 years and 15-17 years age ranges are much more likely than boys to work in agriculture and in non-market household production, but are less likely than boys to work in the other sectors. Boys, again for both age ranges, are much more likely to work in paid employment, while a larger share of working girls than working boys is in unpaid family work and self-employment.

Table 42. Sector and status of children in employment, by age range, residence and sex

| Sector and status | | 7-14 years age group | | 15-17 years age group | |
|----------------------|--|----------------------|------------|-----------------------|------------|
| | | Male | Female | Male | Female |
| Sector of employment | Agriculture | 70.7 | 81.7 | 53.0 | 73.8 |
| | Manufacturing | 9.0 | 4.3 | 13.1 | 10.5 |
| | Construction | 3.2 | 2.0 | 10.6 | 3.2 |
| | Commerce | 11.6 | 0.4 | 14.9 | 0.4 |
| | Services | 5.3 | 1.4 | 8.1 | 2.5 |
| | Production for own household consumption | 0.1 | 10.1 | 0.1 | 9.7 |
| | Total | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| Status in employment | Paid employee | 21.0 | 7.3 | 34.0 | 8.8 |
| | Self-employed | 6.9 | 14.3 | 10.5 | 18.1 |
| | Unpaid family worker | 72.0 | 78.4 | 55.5 | 72.9 |
| | Total | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |

Source: UCW calculations based on Pakistan, Labour Force Survey (LFS), 2010-2011

CHILD LABOUR⁸⁷

The share in the 10-17 years age group in child labour is 12 percent, or about 3.4 million in absolute terms. Differences in child labour by sex are large for this age group - the percentage of boys in child labour exceeds that of girls by 8 percentage points. More than 500,000 children below the age of 12 (age 10-11) years were in employment and an additional 1,6 million (age 12-14) were in regular (non -light) work (Table x). A further 1.3 million 15-17 years old children were at work in hazardous employment. Figures are not available for 5-10 year olds.

Table 43. Lower-bound estimate of child labour involvement, Pakistan

| | (a) Children aged 10-11 years in economic activity | | (b) Children aged 12-14 excluding those in light work ⁽¹⁾ | | (c) Children aged 15-17 years in hazardous work ⁽¹⁾ | | (a)&(b) Total in child labour, 10-17 years ⁽¹⁾ | |
|---------------|---|----------------|---|------------------|---|------------------|--|------------------|
| | % of total age group | No. | % of total age group | No. | % of total age group | No. | % of total age group | No. |
| Male | 6.2 | 251,409 | 16.1 | 977,065 | 22.2 | 1,140,070 | 15.6 | 2,368,544 |
| Female | 7.5 | 252,062 | 10.9 | 587,206 | 3.7 | 167,669 | 7.6 | 1,006,937 |
| Total | 6.8 | 503,471 | 13.6 | 1,564,271 | 13.5 | 1,307,739 | 11.8 | 3,375,481 |

Note: (1) The Pakistan LFS survey collects information on occupation only at 2 digit level of details, not allowing the identification of hazardous occupations according to the methodology applied by ILO for the scope of the global estimates. Hazardous work is defined on the basis of the designated hazardous industries and long hours of work.

Source: UCW calculations based on Pakistan LFS 2010-11

87 See section on data source and methodology for details on child labour measurement.

SRI LANKA

SRI LANKA CHILD ACTIVITY SUMMARY

Over 539,000 children are in employment in Sri Lanka, most working in agriculture and unpaid family work. The employment ratio for children between 7-17 in Sri Lanka is 14.6 per cent. Among employed children in the 7-17 age group, 59.1 per cent work in agriculture, 16.8 per cent in manufacturing and 14.4 per cent in commerce. More than four out of five Sri Lankan 7-17 year olds who work are employed in unpaid family work.

School attendance rates in Sri Lanka are the highest in South Asia. Almost 94 per cent of all 7-17 year olds in Sri Lanka attend school. Younger children between 7 and 14 have an attendance rate of 98.4 per cent, while 15-17 year olds maintain a school attendance rate of 82.4 per cent. In addition, Sri Lanka has the highest percentage of children in employment who also attend school (80.0 per cent) in all of South Asia.

The share of Sri Lankan children who are reported neither employed nor attending school is the lowest in South Asia. Overall, 118,000 thousand children between the ages of 7 and 17 are inactive, representing 3.2 per cent of the total cohort.

Sri Lankan girls are more likely to attend school, less likely to be employed and more likely to be inactive than Sri Lankan boys. While 93.3 per cent of Sri Lankan boys between 7 and 17 attend school, the attendance rate for girls in the same age group is 94.5 per cent. The employment ratio for girls aged 7-17 is 11.1 per cent versus 18.0 per cent for their male peers. Girls meanwhile, are more likely to be inactive, with 3.6 per cent of female 7-17 year olds neither in school nor employment compared to just 2.8 per cent of boys aged 7-17.

In Sri Lanka, rural children are the most likely to be employed, while estate children have the lowest school attendance rate and highest inactivity. Among 7-17 year olds, 9.3 per cent of urban children, 11.8 per cent of estate children and 15.7 per cent of rural children are in employment. School attendance rates in the age group are highest for rural children, at 94.5 per cent, compared to 93.0 per cent for children in urban areas and 87.5 per cent for children living on estates. The percentage of children who neither attend school nor work is more than twice as high among 7-17 year olds living on estates than among urban or rural children of the same age.

CHILD ACTIVITY IN SRI LANKA

Hundreds of thousands of Sri Lankan children under 14 are engaged in employment. According to UCW estimates from a 2009 Sri Lankan national survey (Table 45 and Table 46), 10.7 per cent of children in the 7-14 age group, almost 285,000 children in absolute terms, are in employment. Disaggregating the 7-14 year-old population by four non-overlapping activity groups – those engaged in employment exclusively, those attending school exclusively, those combining school and employment and those doing neither – shows that most of those in employment also attend school. Less than 1 per cent of 7-14 year-olds are in employment exclusively while 10.4 per cent are in employment while also attending school. This does not, of course, mean that employment is compatible with education, as the exigencies of work effect the time and energy that children have for their studies. Of the remaining 7-14 years population, 88.0 per cent are in school exclusively and 1.3 per cent are neither in school nor employment. School enrolment is high in Sri Lanka although not yet universal – a little under 2 per cent of 7-14 year-olds, 43,000 children in absolute terms, are out of school.

Table 44. Child activity status by sex and residence, 7-14 age group, absolute numbers

| Background characteristics | | Mutually exclusive activity categories | | | | (a)&(c) Total in employment | (b)&(c) Total in school | (a)&(d) Total out of school |
|----------------------------|--------|--|-----------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| | | (a) Only employment | (b) Only schooling | (c) Employment and schooling | (d) Neither activity | | | |
| Sex | Male | 7,598 | 1,148,895 | 165,909 | 16,421 | 173,507 | 1,314,804 | 24,019 |
| | Female | 1,447 | 1,186,922 | 110,289 | 17,475 | 111,736 | 1,297,210 | 18,922 |
| Residence | Urban | 2,311 | 326,621 | 18,440 | 6,012 | 20,751 | 345,061 | 8,322 |
| | Rural | 5,699 | 1,865,803 | 248,537 | 20,508 | 254,236 | 2,114,340 | 26,207 |
| | Estate | 1,035 | 143,393 | 9,220 | 7,376 | 10,255 | 152,613 | 8,411 |
| Total 7-14 | | 9,045 | 2,335,817 | 276,198 | 33,896 | 285,243 | 2,612,014 | 42,941 |

Source: UCW calculations based on Sri Lanka, Child Activity Survey (CAS), 2008-2009

Table 45. Child activity status by sex and residence, 7-14 age group, percentages

| Background characteristics | | Mutually exclusive activity categories | | | | (a)&(c) Total in employment | (b)&(c) Total in school | (a)&(d) Total out of school |
|----------------------------|--------|--|-----------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| | | (a) Only employment | (b) Only schooling | (c) Employment and schooling | (d) Neither activity | | | |
| Sex | Male | 0.6 | 85.8 | 12.4 | 1.2 | 13.0 | 98.2 | 1.8 |
| | Female | 0.1 | 90.2 | 8.4 | 1.3 | 8.5 | 98.6 | 1.4 |
| Residence | Urban | 0.7 | 92.4 | 5.2 | 1.7 | 5.9 | 97.7 | 2.4 |
| | Rural | 0.3 | 87.2 | 11.6 | 1.0 | 11.9 | 98.8 | 1.2 |
| | Estate | 0.6 | 89.1 | 5.7 | 4.6 | 6.4 | 94.8 | 5.2 |
| Total 7-14 | | 0.3 | 88.0 | 10.4 | 1.3 | 10.7 | 98.4 | 1.6 |

Source: UCW calculations based on Sri Lanka, Child Activity Survey (CAS), 2008-2009

Involvement in employment rises to 24.5 per cent among Sri Lankan children aged 15-17 years (Table 47 and Table 48). Most children in this group do not, however, constitute child labourers, as only *hazardous* work is proscribed for this age range. Decomposing the 15-17 year-old population by the same four non-overlapping activity groups, we see that 67.4 per cent of children attend school exclusively, 9.5 per cent are in employment exclusively and 15.0 per cent combine the two activities. The remaining 8.0 per cent of the 15-17 years age group are inactive. The statistics show that children in the 15-17 year-old age group are much more likely to be in employment much less likely to be in education than their younger counterparts. This is not surprising, as the 15-17 years age range is when children begin their transition from school to work.

Table 46. Child activity status by sex and residence, 15-17 age group, absolute numbers

| Background characteristics | | Mutually exclusive activity categories | | | | (a)&(c) Total in employment | (b)&(c) Total in school | (a)&(d) Total out of school |
|----------------------------|--------|--|-----------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| | | (a) Only employment | (b) Only schooling | (c) Employment and schooling | (d) Neither activity | | | |
| Sex | Male | 66,361 | 328,323 | 96,433 | 34,993 | 162,793 | 424,756 | 101,353 |
| | Female | 32,394 | 371,166 | 59,547 | 48,774 | 91,941 | 430,713 | 81,168 |
| Residence | Urban | 15,914 | 109,903 | 9,625 | 10,481 | 25,539 | 119,527 | 26,395 |
| | Rural | 74,554 | 557,317 | 138,866 | 62,576 | 213,419 | 696,182 | 137,130 |
| | Estate | 8,286 | 32,270 | 7,489 | 10,710 | 15,776 | 39,759 | 18,996 |
| Total 15-17 | | 98,754 | 699,489 | 155,980 | 83,767 | 254,734 | 855,469 | 182,521 |

Source: UCW calculations based on Sri Lanka, Child Activity Survey (CAS), 2008-2009

Table 47. Child activity status by sex and residence, 15-17 age group, percentages

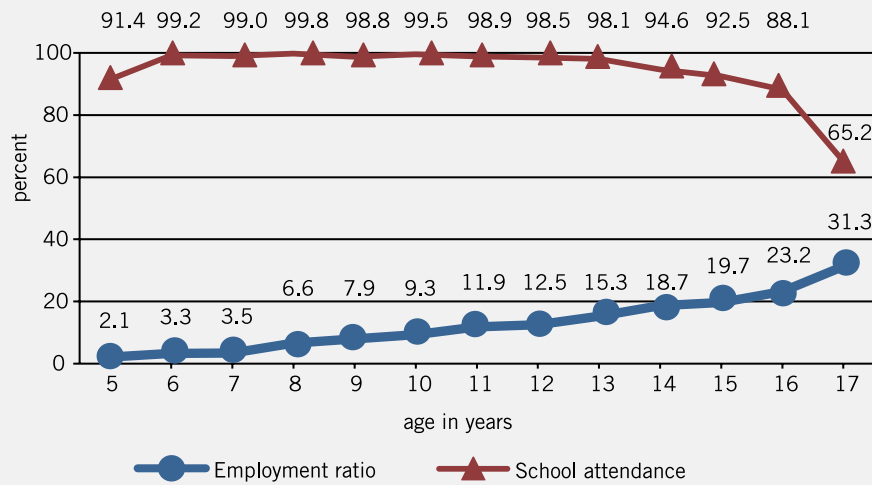
| Background characteristics | | Mutually exclusive activity categories | | | | (a)&(c) Total in employment | (b)&(c) Total in school | (a)&(d) Total out of school |
|----------------------------|--------|--|-----------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| | | (a) Only employment | (b) Only schooling | (c) Employment and schooling | (d) Neither activity | | | |
| Sex | Male | 12.6 | 62.4 | 18.3 | 6.7 | 30.9 | 80.7 | 19.3 |
| | Female | 6.3 | 72.5 | 11.6 | 9.5 | 18.0 | 84.1 | 15.9 |
| Residence | Urban | 10.9 | 75.3 | 6.6 | 7.2 | 17.5 | 81.9 | 18.1 |
| | Rural | 9.0 | 66.9 | 16.7 | 7.5 | 25.6 | 83.5 | 16.5 |
| | Estate | 14.1 | 54.9 | 12.8 | 18.2 | 26.9 | 67.7 | 32.3 |
| Total 15-17 | | 9.5 | 67.4 | 15.0 | 8.1 | 24.5 | 82.4 | 17.6 |

Source: UCW calculations based on Sri Lanka, Child Activity Survey (CAS), 2008-2009

Aggregate estimates of children's activities mask important differences by age, sex, and residence. The main patterns are reported in Table 45 through Table 48 and are discussed below.

- **Age:** Children's involvement in work rises with age (Figure 23 below). This pattern is undoubtedly in large part because children's productivity (and therefore the opportunity cost of keeping them in school) rises as they grow older. It is worth noting, however, that involvement in employment is by no means negligible even among young children: 6.6 per cent of children are already at work in employment at age 8 years and 7.9 per cent of children are in employment at age 9 years. These children, needless to say, are most vulnerable to workplace abuse and injury, and are most likely to have their education compromised. Involvement in schooling peaks at the age of 10 years at almost 100 per cent but remains above 98 per cent up to the age of 13 years; it slowly decreases thereafter as children drop out to work in employment or to undertake a greater share of household chores.
- **Gender:** Children's involvement in employment appears to have an important gender dimension. In the 7-14 years age range, boys' involvement in employment is about one-third higher than that of girls. Involvement in schooling, however, differs little between boys and girls in this age range. For the 15-17 years age group, the gap between boys and girls in terms of involvement in employment widens further. Girls in this age range are more likely than boys to remain in school; they are also more likely to be absent from both school and employment, presumably at home helping with the running of the household.

Figure 23: Child activity status by age

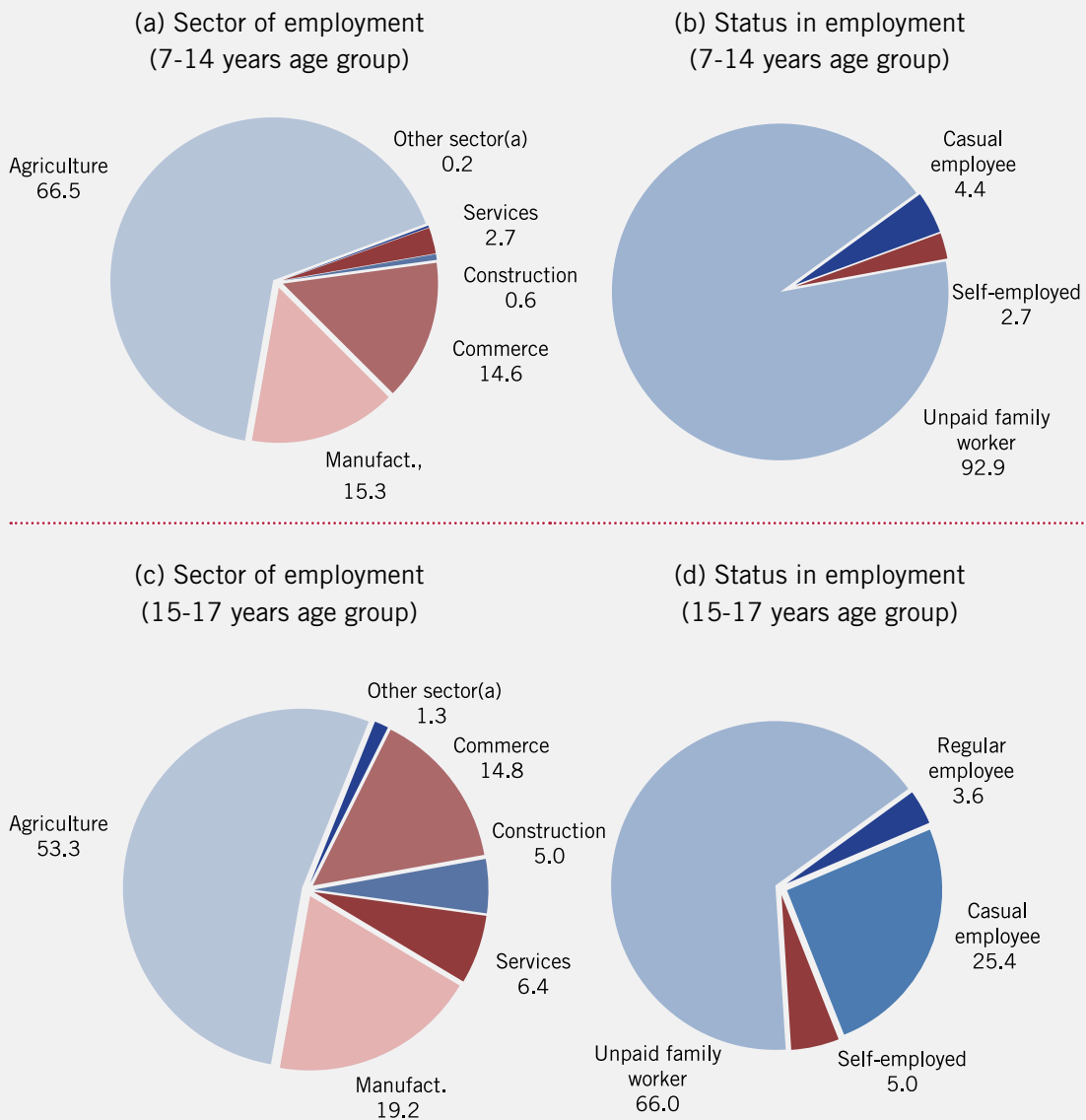


Source: UCW calculations based on Sri Lanka, Child Activity Survey (CAS), 2008-2009

Place of residence: The activity patterns of Sri Lankan children also appear to depend somewhat on their residence. For the 7-14 years age range, involvement in employment is almost two times higher among rural children compared to their peers living in urban areas or on estates. Their greater involvement in employment does not, however, translate into lower levels of school participation; indeed, it is estate children rather than rural children that lag slightly behind in terms of school attendance in the 7-14 years age group. Among children aged 15-17 years, involvement in employment is lowest among those living in cities and towns while again children on estates lag furthest behind in terms of school attendance.

The largest share of children in employment is found in unpaid family work in the agriculture sector. More than two-thirds of children aged 7-14 years in employment are found in the agriculture sector (66.5 per cent) while the remainder is divided primarily across manufacturing (15.3 per cent) and commerce (14.6 per cent). In terms of status in employment, unpaid family work accounts for 92.9 per cent of 7-14 year-olds in employment, while 4.4 per cent work as casual employees and 2.7 per cent in self-employment. Similar patterns prevail for the 15-17 years age group – the largest share of those in employment is again in agriculture and unpaid family work, although these two categories account for a smaller overall share of 15-17 years in employment than for younger children in employment. Only 3.6 per cent of 15-17 year-old children are “regular employees”, a rough proxy for employment in the formal sector.

Figure 24: Sector and status of children in employment, by age range



Source: UCW calculations based on Sri Lanka, Child Activity Survey (CAS), 2008-2009

The composition of children's employment varies somewhat by sex and residence. The main patterns are reported in Table 48 and discussed below.

- *Gender:* The type of work assigned to children in employment appears to have an important gender dimension. Differences by sex in the sector composition of children's employment are not large for the 7-14 years age group. For older children, however, differences emerge in terms of involvement in agriculture work (higher for boys) and in manufacturing (higher for girls). A higher share of working girls is in unpaid family work and a lower share in casual employment; this pattern is particularly pronounced for 15-17 year-old girls.
- *Place of residence:* The composition of children's employment also depends on their place of residence. Agricultural work, not surprisingly, predominates in rural areas and on estates, while the manufacturing and commerce sectors account for the bulk of children's employment in cities and towns. Unpaid family work is more common among rural children in employment, although this category also accounts for the largest share of children in employment in urban areas and estates. Rural children are less likely than their counterparts in urban areas and estates to be casual or regular employment.

Table 48. Sector and status of children in employment, by age range, residence and sex

| Sector and status | | 7-14 years age group | | | | | 15-17 years age group | | | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-----------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | | Residence | | | Sex | | Residence | | | Sex | |
| | | Urban | Rural | Estate | Male | Female | Urban | Rural | Estate | Male | Female |
| Sector of employment | Agriculture | 5.4 | 70.7 | 86.8 | 66.6 | 66.3 | 8.1 | 57.0 | 76.5 | 55.9 | 48.7 |
| | Manufacturing | 47.3 | 13.2 | 3.2 | 14.4 | 16.7 | 44.6 | 17.3 | 4.6 | 12.6 | 30.9 |
| | Commerce | 43.6 | 12.7 | 5.0 | 15.0 | 14.2 | 32.5 | 13.2 | 7.2 | 14.8 | 14.7 |
| | Construction | 0.0 | 0.7 | 0.0 | 1.1 | 0.0 | 4.3 | 5.4 | 1.6 | 7.6 | 0.4 |
| | Services | 3.7 | 2.5 | 5.1 | 2.7 | 2.8 | 10.5 | 5.7 | 9.3 | 7.0 | 5.3 |
| | Other sector(a) | 0.0 | 0.3 | 0.0 | 0.4 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 1.5 | 0.8 | 2.1 | 0.0 |
| | Total | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| Status in employment | Regular employee | - | - | - | - | - | 8.9 | 2.1 | 15.8 | 2.7 | 5.2 |
| | Casual employee | 11.1 | 3.6 | 11.5 | 5.8 | 2.4 | 39.4 | 22.8 | 39.1 | 30.4 | 16.6 |
| | Self-employed | 1.2 | 2.6 | 6.6 | 3.2 | 1.8 | 5.5 | 4.8 | 6.7 | 5.2 | 4.5 |
| | Unpaid family worker | 87.7 | 93.8 | 82.0 | 91.0 | 95.9 | 46.3 | 70.4 | 38.5 | 61.6 | 73.8 |
| | Total | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |

Note: (a) The category "Other sector" includes mining and quarrying, electricity, gas and water supply and extraterritorial organizations and bodies.

Source: UCW calculations based on Sri Lanka, Child Activity Survey (CAS), 2008-2009

CHILD LABOUR

Accounts for more than 10 percent of children aged 5-17 in Sri-Lanka.⁸⁸ About 450,000 children were in child labour, with the percentage of boys in child labour exceeding that of girls by 5 percentage points. Children's involvement in child labour was much more common in rural areas (11 percent) compared to urban areas (5 percent) or Estate (8 percent).

Table 49. Lower-bound estimate of child labour involvement, Sri-Lanka

| | (a) | | (b) | | (c) | | (a)&(b) | |
|---------------|---|----------------|---|----------------|---|----------------|-----------------------------------|----------------|
| | Children aged 5-11 years in economic activity | | Children aged 12-14 excluding those in light work | | Children aged 15-17 years in hazardous work | | Total in child labour, 5-17 years | |
| | % of total age group | No. | % of total age group | No. | % of total age group | No. | % of total age group | No. |
| Male | 6.9 | 81,377 | 15.1 | 75,581 | 24.3 | 128,102 | 13.0 | 285,059 |
| Female | 5.8 | 64,515 | 7.8 | 39,506 | 10.8 | 55,461 | 7.5 | 159,481 |
| Urban | 3.6 | 10,797 | 2.7 | 3,817 | 8.9 | 12,956 | 4.7 | 27,569 |
| Rural | 7.1 | 131,402 | 13.2 | 106,162 | 19.2 | 159,744 | 11.4 | 397,308 |
| Estate | 2.7 | 3,693 | 8.3 | 5,107 | 18.5 | 10,863 | 7.6 | 19,663 |
| Total | 6.4 | 145,891 | 11.4 | 115,086 | 17.7 | 183,563 | 10.2 | 444,540 |

Source: UCW calculations based on Sri-Lanka, Child Activity survey (CAS) 2008-09

88 See section on data source and methodology for details on child labour measurement.

AFGHANISTAN

Although there is no official national survey data for Afghanistan, researchers have conducted national and provincial studies on child labour in a number of Afghan regions. A study published in 2008 included a national survey of 5,295 children and an in-depth look at child labour in four Afghan provinces.⁸⁹ A 2007 study included interviews of over 500 children and parents in Kabul, using the rapid assessment methodology.⁹⁰ In 2011, a study on the dynamics of bonded child labour in the brick kilns of Kabul and Nangarhar provinces was undertaken.⁹¹ A series of estimates of social indicators for Afghanistan, with child labour statistics, was published in 2006.⁹² The methodologies, concepts and definitions are not fully aligned across this research in Afghanistan. However, taken together, these studies paint a suggestive, if incomplete, picture of the characteristics of children's employment and child labour in Afghanistan.

More than 20 per cent of children in Afghanistan are estimated to be in employment or child labour.⁹³ A 2003 estimate that the total percentage of Afghan children aged 7 to 14 engaged in child labour was 24.3 per cent in 2003.⁹⁴ A 2008 report, using survey data collected in 2006 and 2007, estimates 24.2 per cent of 5 to 17 years old Afghan children worked in the previous week.⁹⁵ This estimate translates into 2.27 million working children in Afghanistan.⁹⁶

Data on children in employment by sector of employment does not reflect the composition of Afghanistan's labour force as a whole. A 2008 national survey of 1,283 children between 5 and 17 years reports that children in employment in Afghanistan are concentrated in agriculture (21.9 per cent), street/bazaar selling (20.0 per cent), artisanship (19.6 per cent) and manufacturing (17.0 per cent). However, Afghanistan's labour force as a whole is 69.6 per cent agricultural⁹⁷ and the population is 76 per cent rural.⁹⁸ It is unclear if this discrepancy is caused by limitations in the collection of data or if it is an actual trend of children working in different sectors than the population as a whole.

89 Child Labor in Afghanistan: A Four Province Study in Kabul, Kandahar, Nangarhar, and Balkh, ICF International, May 30, 2008

90 A Rapid Assessment on Child Labour in Kabul (Draft Document), Altai Consulting, Research Commissioned by the ILO International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (ILO-IPEC), January 2008.

91 Buried in Bricks: A Rapid Assessment of Bonded Labour in Brick Kilns in Afghanistan, International Labour Organization, 2011.

92 Best Estimates of Social Indicators for Children in Afghanistan, 1990-2005, The Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and UNICEF, May 2006.

93 Child labour as defined for the 2003 UNICEF Multiple Indicators Cluster Survey, is not consistent with the ILO's definition for child labour. The MICs defined child labour as: Children aged 5-11 during the week preceding the survey did at least one hour of economic activity or at least 28 hours of domestic work; Children aged 12 to 14 during the week preceding the survey did at least 14 hours of economic activity or at least 42 hours of economic activity plus domestic work combined.

94 Best Estimates of Social Indicators for Children in Afghanistan, 1990-2005, The Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and UNICEF, May 2006. p. 70.

95 Child Labor in Afghanistan: A Four Province Study in Kabul, Kandahar, Nangarhar, and Balkh, ICF International, May 30, 2008, p. 1.

96 Child Labor in Afghanistan: A Four Province Study in Kabul, Kandahar, Nangarhar, and Balkh, ICF International, May 30, 2008, p. 1.

97 Afghanistan, Key Indicators for Asia and the Pacific

98 2011 Rural Population (% of total population), World Bank Database, 2013.

Afghan girls are less likely to be in employment than boys, but more likely to engage in household chores. According to the 2008 report of survey in four provinces, 33.7 per cent of Afghan boys between 5 and 17 years old are in employment, compared with 12.4 per cent of girls in the same age range.⁹⁹ A 2009 Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit (AREU) study found that while boys were more likely to work outside the home, Afghan girls were at much greater risk to work long hours on domestic chores in their family homes or those of their husbands.¹⁰⁰

Afghan children from Western Afghanistan were the most likely to be employed, while children from provinces near Kabul in Central and Eastern Afghanistan were the least likely to be in employment. The 2008 Report estimates that 41.9 per cent of children in Western Afghanistan worked in the previous week, versus just 17.9 per cent of children living in Central Afghanistan and Kabul.¹⁰¹

99 Child Labor in Afghanistan: A Four Province Study in Kabul, Kandahar, Nangarhar, and Balkh, ICF International, May 30, 2008, p. 2.

100 Confronting Child Labour in Afghanistan, Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit, Briefing Paper Series, May 2009. p. 7.

101 Child Labor in Afghanistan: A Four Province Study in Kabul, Kandahar, Nangarhar, and Balkh, ICF International, May 30, 2008, p. 39.

Annex 2.

ILO Child Labour measurement framework: concepts and definitions

The international standards define the target population for measuring child labour as “all persons in the age group from 5-17 years, where age is measured as the number of completed years at the child’s last birthday.”(para 9 of the *Resolution concerning Statistics of Child Labour*).

The measurement of child labour is schematically presented in the diagram below. It starts with the concept of children in productive activities: children, 5-17 years old engaged in any activity falling with the general production boundary as defined by the System of National Accounts (SNA).¹⁰² Children in productive activities are then divided into those in employment and those in other productive activities.

International standards on child labour statistics

| Children (5-17 years old) in productive activities | | | | |
|--|--|------------------------------|---|---|
| Children in employment | | | | Children in other productive activities of which included as child labour under the general production boundary Hazardous unpaid household services |
| CHILD LABOUR | | | Permissible light work (12-14 years old) | |
| Worst forms of child labour | | Employment below minimum age | --- | |
| Hazardous work by children | Other worst forms of child labour | | | Work not designated as worst forms (15-17 years old) |
| Exposure to physical, psychological or sexual abuse Underground, under water, dangerous heights, confined spaces Dangerous machinery, equipment or tools, heavy loads Unhealthy environment, hazardous substances, temperatures, noise levels or vibrations damaging to health Long hours, night work, other particularly difficult conditions | All forms of slavery or similar practices, trafficking, debt bondage, serfdom, forced or compulsory labour, forced or compulsory recruitment in armed conflict Child prostitution, pornography Illicit activities, production and trafficking of drugs, etc. | | | |

* Resolution adopted by the 18th International Conference of Labour Statisticians (ICLS), Geneva, 2008.

102 United Nations, System of National Accounts 1993, <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/nationalaccount/>

Child labour under the SNA production boundary is a subset of children in employment. It includes those in worst forms of child labour and children in employment below the minimum age. In fact, the ILO global estimation methodology was used to produce the new estimates on child labour as follows.

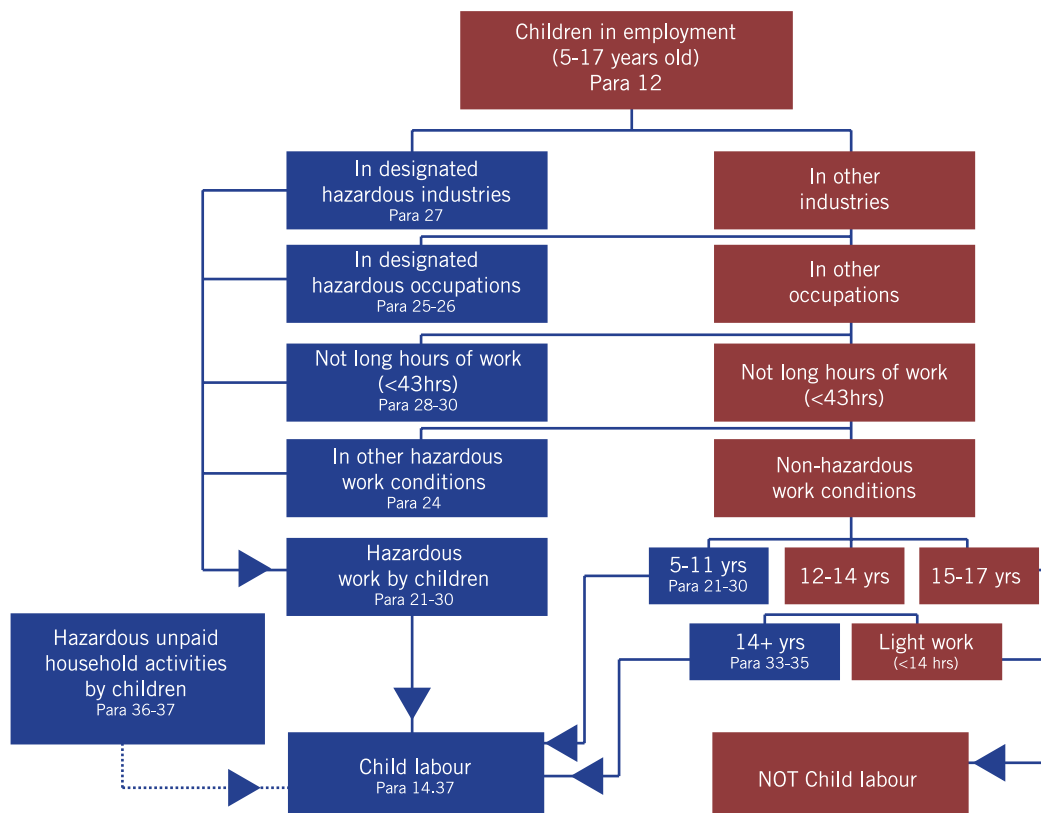
ILO GLOBAL ESTIMATION

For the purpose of global estimation, a specific sequential procedure for measuring child labour has been adopted within the framework of the international standards as schematically represented in the diagram below.

To maintain comparability with the earlier ILO global estimates, it was decided to continue to measure child labour on the basis of the SNA production boundary, and not on the general production boundary.

The starting point of the measurement of child labour for the purpose of global estimation is therefore the population of children in employment. These are children (5-17 years old) who were engaged in any economic activity during the reference period of the survey, where economic activity includes essentially all production of goods whether intended for sale on the market or not, and all paid services.

Conceptual framework of the ILO global estimation of child labour



Source: 18th International Conference of Labour Statisticians (ICLS). Resolution concerning statistics of child labour (ILO, Geneva, 2008).

Not all children in employment are considered as child labour. Among children in employment, all engaged in designated hazardous industries are first sorted out. Designated hazardous industries, referred to in paragraph 27 of the international standards, are for the purpose of ILO global estimation the following two branches of economic activity:¹⁰³

- Mining and quarrying (ISIC Rev 3 codes 10-14)
- Construction (ISIC Rev 3 code 45)

Among the children engaged in other branches of economic activity, those employed in designated hazardous occupations are then identified. Designated hazardous occupations (paragraphs 25-26 of the international standards) are defined for the purpose of global estimation by the following ISCO-88 codes:¹⁰⁴

Designated hazardous occupations used in the ILO global estimation of child labour

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| ISCO-88 313 | 313 Optical and electronic equipment operators |
| ISCO-88 322-323 | 322 Modern health associate professionals (except nursing) 323 Nursing and mid-wifery associate professionals |
| ISCO-88 516 | 516 Protective service workers |
| ISCO-88 614-615 | 614 Forestry and related workers 615 Fishery workers, hunters and trappers |
| ISCO-88 711-713 | 711 Miners, shot-firers, stone cutters and carvers 712 Building frame and related trades workers 713 Building finishers and related trades workers |
| ISCO-88 721-724 | 721 Metal moulders, welders, sheet-metal workers, structural-metal preparers, and related trades workers 722 Blacksmiths, tool-makers and related trades workers 723 Machinery mechanics and fitters 724 Electrical and electronic equipment mechanics and fitters |
| ISCO-88 731-732 | 731 Precision workers in metal and related materials 732 Potters, glass-makers and related trades workers |
| ISCO-88 811-816 | 811 Mining and mineral processing plant operators 812 Metal processing plant operators 813 Glass, ceramics and related plant operators 814 Wood processing & papermaking plant operators 815 Chemical processing plant operators 816 Power-production and related plant operators |
| ISCO-88 821-823 | 821 Metal-and mineral-products machine operators 822 Chemical-products machine operators 823 Rubber- and plastic-products machine operators |
| ISCO-88 825-829 | 825 Wood products machine operators 826 Textile-, fur- and leather-products machine operators 827 Food and related products machine operators 828 Assemblers 829 Other machine operators |
| ISCO-88 832-834 | 832 Motor-vehicle drivers 833 Agricultural and other mobile-plant operators 834 Ships' deck crews and related workers |
| ISCO-88 911-912 | 911 Street vendors and related workers 912 Shoe cleaning and other street services elementary occupations |
| ISCO-88 915-931 | 915 Messengers, porters, doorkeepers and related workers 916 Garbage collectors and related labourers 921 Agricultural, fishery and related labourers 931 Mining and construction labourers |
| ISCO-88 933 | 933 Transport labourers and freight handlers |

103 United Nations, International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities, ISIC-88, Rev. 3, <http://unstats.un.org/unsd>.

104 ILO, International Standard Classification of Occupations, ISCO-88, <http://laborsta.ilo.org>. The occupational codes listed here correspond to the hazardous occupations and processes found in national legislations reported in previous ILO Global child labour trends. The correspondence table between ISCO-88 and the new occupational classification (ISCO-08) can be found at the ILO website cited above. The present study uses the earlier version of the classification because essentially most of country data available for the study were based on this earlier classification (ISCO-88).

Next, among the children not engaged in either hazardous industries or hazardous occupations, those who worked long hours during the reference week are then sorted out. Long hours (paragraphs 28-29 of the international standards) are defined for the present purpose as 43 or more hours of work during the reference week. The 43-hour threshold was also used in earlier ILO global estimations. It corresponds to about the mid-point of normal hours of work stipulated in national legislations, mostly in the range of 40-44.

The next step involves separating among the children not engaged in hazardous industries or occupations, nor in long hours of work, those who were exposed nevertheless to some hazardous work conditions not captured by the designated hazardous industries or occupations, or by long hours of work.

In general, hazardous work conditions include night work and long hours of work, exposure to physical, psychological or sexual abuse; work underground, under water, at dangerous heights or in confined spaces; work with dangerous machinery, equipment and tools, or which involves the manual handling or transport of heavy loads; and work in an unhealthy environment which may, for example, expose children to hazardous substances, agents or processes, or to temperatures, noise levels, or vibrations damaging their health (paragraph 20 of the international standard).¹⁰⁵

As indicated in the diagram, the total of children in designated hazardous industries, children in designated hazardous occupations, children with long hours of work and children working in other hazardous work conditions make up in aggregate the total number of children in hazardous work. For the purposes of calculating the global and regional estimates, hazardous unpaid household activities by children are excluded from the methodology.

The final estimate of child labour is then obtained by adding to the total number of children in hazardous work, the number of other children aged 5-11 years who were engaged in any economic activity during the reference period (employment below minimum age), and the number of other children 12-14 years old who were engaged in an economic activity that could not be considered as permissible light work during the reference period.

Permissible light work is defined in the present context as any non-hazardous work by children (12-14 years) of less than 14 hours during the reference week. The 14-hour threshold was also used in earlier ILO global estimations. The choice was based on provisions in the ILO Convention, the Minimum Age (Non-Industrial Employment) Convention, 1932 (No. 33), which sets two hours per day, on either school days or holidays, as the maximum for light work from the age of 12 years.¹⁰⁶

¹⁰⁵ The measurement of children in these hazardous work conditions depends on the extent to which the appropriate elements are covered by the national survey. Full comparability of national datasets has therefore not always been possible in this respect.

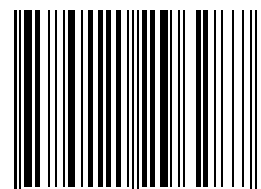
¹⁰⁶ Article 3 (para. 1) of the Convention states that "Children over twelve years of age may, outside the hours fixed for school attendance, be employed on light work (a) which is not harmful to their health or normal development; (b) which is not such as to prejudice their attendance at school or their capacity to benefit from the instruction there given; and (c) the duration of which *does not exceed two hours per day on either school days or holidays*, the total number of hours spent at school and on light work in no case to exceed seven per day" (emphasis added).

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