

Socio Economic Status And Consequence Of Child Labor As Transportation Helper In Dhaka City

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Abstract: *The most common scenario in Dhaka city is to see child as working-child. Most of the city dwellers are aware of the child labor situation in Dhaka city. Children here engage themselves in risky and hazardous work which plays a significant role in improving the family's wellbeing earnings, whereas they were supposed to be engaged in education. The present study aimed at visualizing the socio-economic status of the child-labor as transportation helpers and their contribution to the economy. Children who work as transportation helper in Dhaka city are considered as the population of the study and 100 of them have been randomly selected from different areas of the city as the sample of the study. The study administered a structured questionnaire along with an observation technique and an informal interview to collect primary data. The study also drew information from the existing literatures, internet, newspapers and various reports regarding child labor to clarify the socio-economic status of the child-labor. The major findings of the study are that the financial incapability of family, relocating labor from rural to urban areas, assisting family financially, and family breakdown were the major causes of child-labor. The study also found the contribution of child-labor both to the economy and family by earning money. The study concluded that most of the child-labor who had to give up their basic education is now the income generating source for their families and they live in a very miserable situation with the shortage of basic facilities and amenities.*

Key words: *Child, Transportation helper, Dhaka city, Contribution, Economy.*

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1.0 Introduction

Child labor is the most common phenomenon and a widely viewed scenario in most of the developed and developing countries. Bangladesh is one of the best places to see child as a working child. Social practice and economic conditions somehow accept child labor as the norm in Bangladesh. For many families they generate income as fuel to run their families. The definition of the term child labor varies depending on various social context and human perception. Scholars all over the world define the term in different ways. Child labor is a factor that impedes a child's ability to successfully transition into adulthood.

Economically child labor is defined as any economic activity undertaken by children under the minimum age for admission to employment. (DeBrenna L. Agbényiga, 2011). The term child labour refers to when children is working in any type of work that is dangerous and harmful to children's health or the work hinders their education. Child labour refers to low wages, long hours, physical and sexual abuse (Moyi, 2011). According to Edmonds and Pavcnik (2005), child labour is viewed as a form of child labour abuse, when children work in bad conditions and hazardous occupations. Bhat (2010) says that the definition of child labour is not at all simple because it includes three difficult concepts to define, which are "child", "work" and "labour". He claims that the term childhood can be defined by age, but in some societies people cease to be child at different ages. However, Weston (2005) argues that any work children do can be damaging to their health because the work can be abusive, exploitative or hazardous and it can influence their health. Omokhodion and Odusote (2006) argue that any work that children do outside home is classified as child labour. According to them, working outside home is usually exposed to environmental hazards which may affect their health and safety. The definition of child labor differs among societies, for example in Africa and Asia they do not consider the work of fifteen years old person as a child labor, and they view child labor as a good task that children learn skills from work.

The world renowned organizations responsible for making legislation for human rights and better human treatment all over the world widely vary in the meaning of child labor. A child, according to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), 1989 refers to a person under the age of eighteen. The World Bank assumes that child labour can be a serious threat to long-term national investment. Furthermore, according to UNICEF the problem of child labour can have more bad consequences beside all the concerns of investment or its relation to economic activity (ILO, 2013; Weston, 2005). ILO argues that child labour is difficult to define. It depends on the type of the job and, if the age is under eighteen, the job will interfere with the children's education and development (ILO: 2004). The onset of puberty occurs at different ages for different people. Therefore Article 1 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and the ILO Convention on the Worst Forms of Child Labour, 1999 (No. 182) define a child who is

under the age of eighteen years (Bhat, 2011).

According to UNICEF (2008), Child labour is work that exceeds a minimum number of hours, depending on the age of a child and on the type of work. Such work is considered harmful to the child and should therefore be eliminated:

- Ages 5-11: At least one hour of economic work or 28 hours of domestic work per week.
- Ages 12-14: At least 14 hours of economic work or 28 hours of domestic work per week.
- Ages 15-17: At least 43 hours of economic or domestic work per

Bangladesh Labour Act 2006 (Act XLII of 2006) defines the “child” and “adolescent” on the basis of age. Section 2(8) of the Act defines a person who has attained the age of 14 but is below the age of 18 as an ‘adolescent’ and section 2(63) defines a person not attaining the age of 14 as a ‘child’. According to this definition, the labour provided by a child would be known as ‘child labour’.

1.1 Child as a transportation helper

This study has taken an attempt to define Child as a transportation helper and considered children between age 7 and over 15 years who are engaged in employment either permanently or temporarily in daily transport services and responsible for collecting fair from passengers, washing vehicle etc, and who may or may not stay with their parents or relatives, and live in slums or poorly equipped rented house, who left school previously and earned a specific sum and contributed to the family for its survival, and who are sometimes verbally abused by the driver and the passenger.

1.2 Child labor scenario in Bangladesh

According to the second National Child Labour Survey (NCLS) of Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS 2002/03) there are 4.9 million working children (14.0 per cent of the total 35.06 million) in the age group of 5-14 years in the country. The total working child population between 5 and 17 years old is estimated at 7.9 million. The proportion of boy and girl child workers in the age group of 5-17 years is 73.5 per cent and 26.5 per cent, respectively. The total number of working children aged 5-17 years in rural areas is estimated at 6.4 million as against 1.5 million in urban areas; as many as 93.3 per cent of all working children in the age group of 5-17 years operate in the informal sector. Agriculture engages 4.5 million (56.4 per cent children), while the services sector engages 2 million (25.9 per cent), and industry 1.4 million (17.7 per cent). A total of 1.3 million children are estimated to be working 43 hours or more per week. More boys than girls are

engaged in this form of child labor across all age groups. Among children aged 5-14, about five million, are economically active. According to the International Labour Organization there are about 3.2 million child laborers in Bangladesh. Certain groups of children are more likely to work than others, for instance boys comprise about three-quarters of all working children. In slums almost one in five children aged 5-14 are child laborers, and of these, only 25 per cent attend school. Rapid urbanization means that more children will move into urban slums and be compelled to work (UNICEF Child labor in Bangladesh)

1.3 Rationale of the study

Children are the future of a nation and it is the moral responsibility for every nation to provide all the basic facilities and amenities to the children to make them a complete man. Unfortunately a large number of children are deprived of basic facilities, which make them bound to engage in various risky and hazardous work for their survival along with their families. Being a transportation helper is an assiduous task requiring enormous physical labor and long hour to work and it is related to uncertainty. Even the risky work is not readily available and verbal and physical abuse and harassment is common. The innocent children face such difficulties, not intentionally but to follow the doctrine of necessities. The situation has snatched their right to attend school and play. An attempt should be made to address them appropriately and bring them into light. This study is a modest attempt as part of a big continuous process.

1.4 Objective of the study

The objective of the study is to visualize the socio-economic status of the child-labor as transportation helpers and their contribution to the economy

1.5 Rationale of the selection of the study area

Dhaka is the capital city of Bangladesh having huge number of population. People from different parts of the country come here to make a living. As a result, the city never sleeps, and is always busy with the maintenance of these new as well as existing people. The buses, tempos and Legunas (locally called) are the most extensively used vehicles for public transportation. These vehicles regularly use children often as their helper for various activities like collecting fare, calling passengers, washing vehicle etc. In Dhaka city most of the people are used to hear child workers inviting them to ride buses, tempos or Legunas. In Dhaka city almost everywhere there is the bus or tempo or Leguna using child labor. Because of easy availability, close to residence and familiarity with the respondents the study has chosen Mohammadpur, Zibatola, Dhaka Uddan, Firmgate, Gabtoli, Mirpur, Mohakhali and Gulshan as the study area so that a mutual co-operative relation can be established with the respondents to gather facts and essential information for the purpose of the study.

1.6 Nature and sources of Data

Primary and secondary data have been used in this study. The primary data were collected by field survey whereas the secondary data were collected from different studies, bureau of statistics and also widely used online journals, blogs and website for getting current information.

1.7 Methodology and Research Design

The study considers descriptive research design to conduct the survey. Descriptive research design is made to describe the socio-economic condition and major problems associated with them. By the descriptive research design the causes pertaining to the recent situation or problems were brought out.

1.8 Universe and Sampling

The study considers all the child labor working as transportation helper as the population of this study. The respondents have no specified time of working because of their continuous nature of work. They do not know when they can be back home. They have to go here and there with their vehicle. So, it was very difficult to make definite time and place to meet them. Therefore, accidental sampling procedure within non-probability sampling was chosen because of their mobile nature and uncertainty. In this sampling method any child labor who was in a favorable condition and free was selected as sample of the study to get information. One hundred transportation helper child labors were randomly chosen as the sample of the study.

1.9 Data collection Technique

The data was collected using the following techniques:

1.9.1 Structured Interview:

For the collection of reliable data and information from the transportation helper, a structured interview was used. This method helps the researcher to collect primary data and information. The questionnaire was prepared to obtain the socio-economic condition, demographic background, working condition, health & hygiene etc. of the transportation helper.

1.9.2 Informal Interview

By the structured interview it is not possible to collect all the information about the respondents. Establishing mutual friendly relation with the respondents was necessary to obtain data on internal feeling and emotions by an informal interview.

1.9.3 Observation:

To know more about their attitudes, behavior, actual condition, living wages,

family environment etc, a non-participatory observation method was taken into consideration.

1.9.4 Case Study:

This method is very useful to gather in depth data. A few case studies have been conducted to get more information about transportation helpers, particularly on their past and present, which helps to know the reason that pushed them to become a transportation helper.

1.9.5 Data processing and Analysis:

For the analysis of data SPSS 17 has been used. Since both qualitative and quantitative data are gathered through interviews, questionnaire and observation, the data are analyzed descriptively. Primary data are edited first, following secondary data and they are being interpreted by using tables, numbers and percentages.

1.9.6 Time frame of the study

Timelines are important in evaluating the feasibility of the study. In order to get sufficient number of respondents and adequate amount of information the study was carried out from February 2014 to July 2014.

2.0 Literature Review

This part of the study reviews the related literature, published both locally and abroad in order to shed some light on the contribution of researchers in the related field.

Banu, N. Bhuiyan, S and Sabhlok, S (1998), mention in their study demonstration marches protesting against child labour on each of the continents in January 1998 to culminate in Geneva where the International Labour Organization meets to take up the issue. Meantime, the extent of child labour in a country is being taken as an indicator of how far that country has fallen behind developmentally. Why do poor parents send their children to work? Will employers be able to resist the threat of consumer boycotts and trade sanctions or will they have to reconsider their child labour employment practices? High economic stakes are at risk and the lives of hundreds of thousand children are involved.

Khanam, R (2004) in her study showed that the education of parents significantly increased the probability that a school-age child will enroll in formal study. Empirical results further show that if the father is employed in a vulnerable occupation, for example, day-labour or wage-labour, it raises the probability that a child will work full time or combine work and study. The presence of very young children in the household increases the likelihood that a school-age child will combine study with work. The significant and positive gender coefficient suggests that girls are more likely than boys to combine schooling with work. The children who

are sons and daughters of the household-head, as opposed to being relatives living in the household, are more likely to specialise in schooling or combine schooling with work.

Khanam (2006) found that the trend and incidence of child labor has been increasing in Bangladesh even though child labor is on a declining trend in other South Asian countries. She attributes this to the inadequacy of existing child labor laws in Bangladesh. The study suggested that a combination of policies would be appropriate for reducing child labor, which include employment generation schemes that lead to economic prosperity for the household, compulsory schooling for children, school enrolment subsidy, improving school infrastructure, the quality of education, flexibility in school schedules and adult literacy campaigns that increase community or social awareness, especially of the adult female.

Kalam, I. M. S (2007), did his study in the light of the findings of a practical survey project that was conducted out of the desire to know the situation of the most unfortunate as well as deprived but most important segment of the country's population. Being the capital of the country the child labor situation of Dhaka would certainly serve as an indicator of the whole country. The paper dealt with various aspect of the child labor, such as causes of child labor, causes of rural-urban migration, hours of work and provisions for leave, income, expenditure and savings, educational background and some other important related topics.

Tariquzzaman and Kaiser (2008) in their study aimed at analyzing how and what factors have contributed to changing the patterns and perspectives of child labor over the last 15 years. Based on an in-depth research of 120 child laborers and 40 employers of child labor in a Dhaka slum and a rural community in the poor northern district of Nilphamari they highlighted the employers' perspectives on child labor, with particular emphasis on understanding what factors have caused them to change their own practices over time. In this regard, they addressed four main issues: (i) why employers depend on child labor; (ii) how the types and forms of children's employment are believed to have changed over the last 15 years; (iii) factors that employers believe have contributed to these changes; and (iv) how employers are adapting to the changing situation with respect to the employment of children.

Based on a survey conducted in Sylhet city, the study by M.N. Uddin, M. Hamiduzzaman, and B.G. Gunter, (2009) found that child workers suffer from different physical and psychological problems and that more than half of them receive their medical assistance from local health care providers who have no recognized qualifications. The study maintains that working from an early age impedes the children's physical growth and intellectual and psychological development, which also has negative effects on their long-term health and earning potential.

The study by Meerza, S. I. A and Bacher, B (2011) mainly focused on the current socio-economic condition of those people who were child labor in their childhood. In this study, economic indicators are income and employment status. On the other hand, the level of education, health status and role in case of decision making in the society are treated as social indicators. According to the study, socio-economic condition of child workers in their adulthood is not very satisfactory. The research study found that a person who was not a child worker in early stage of his/her life has higher probability to enjoy better socio-economic condition than a person who worked as child worker in past.

Hossain M. J and Rahaman Sk. H (2011) maintain that Child labor, a sheer reality in Bangladesh like many other developing countries, is one of the major socio-economic problems in the country. Studies revealed that one in every six children in Bangladesh was a working child. The gravity of the situation led them to conduct a study on “Prevalence of Child Labor in Harmful Work” in the work area at Dhaka, Khulna and Kurigram. The study looked into one of the key aspects of child protection – prevalence of harmful child labor using the definition of children and harmful labor. The study also generated baseline information on major characteristics of child labor, including income and household dependency on work/income from the children.

Hossain M. A (2012) found many child laborer miss out on their right to education and fall a victim to hazardous work because they do not have the time to go to school or to study. In this study a total of 560 child laborers were interviewed by the author during June 15 to July 14 in 2010 in the Rajshahi city corporation area in Bangladesh. The study data showed that the duration of working hours and hazardous working environment are negatively correlated with school attendance, smooth livelihood and physical and mental development of children.

The study by Aktar ,S and Abdullah A .S. M (2013) tried to present the socio-economic scenario of child labour in Bangladesh, which has in recent times attracted concerted attention not only in Bangladesh but also all over the globe. Indeed, child labour is recognized as a considerable part of the existing labour market. Their study attempted to search out the ways how child labour can be decreased gradually and at the end of the paper suggestions or recommendations were presented in that regard.

3.0 Analysis of findings

The study analyzes the result through different charts and percentages explained in this section.

3.1 Demographic profile of respondent

Table1: Age of the respondents

	Frequency	Percent	Valid percent	Cumulative percent
Valid Below 6 years	2	2.0	2.0	2.0
6-10 years	22	22.0	22.0	24.0
10-15 years	51	51.0	51.0	75.0
Above 15 but not 18 years	25	25.0	25.0	100.0
Total	100	100.0	100.0	

Source: Field survey 2014

Interpretation: Table-1 shows that around 51% (the largest percentage) of child workers working as transportation helper are in 10-15 years age group. Transportation owners prefer this age group of child worker as helper because of their physical fitness and docility. Among the rest of the child workers working as transportation helper around 22% are in the age group of 6-10 years and 25% are between 15 -18 years old. Child workers between age 6-10 years old are generally physically immature for this purpose and those above 15 years are not so submissive in behavior and they charge more wage for their work. That is why most of the time these two categories are not considered ideal transportation helper by their owner.

Table: 2 Parent's occupation

Father's occupation	Frequency	Percentage
Rickshaw puller	34	34.0
Day labor	36	36.0
Auto driver	6	6.0
Unemployed	17	17.0
Died	6	6.0
Others	1	1.0
Total	100	100.0
Mother's occupation		
Housewife	21	21.0
Maid servant	49	49.0
Garments worker	24	24.0
Hawker	6.0	6.0
Total	100	100.0

Source: Field survey 2014

Interpretation: According to the Table-2 the highest percent of respondent's father's occupation is day laborer and rickshaw puller that are, respectively, 36% and 34%. The rest of the respondents' fathers are auto driver, unemployed and some are dead. The study is based in Dhaka city and most of the people migrated from different districts and started their first work as day laborer and rickshaw puller. Both of the jobs generate very low wages and the survival of the whole family with this low income is not possible. As a result their child needs to work to raise family income. As it is costly to lead life in Dhaka city, most of the time respondents' mothers also need to work for income. And according to Table 2, 49% transportation helper child labors' mothers are working as a maidservant at different houses and 24% mothers are working as garments workers.

Table: 3 Family status of respondents

Family bondage	Frequency	Percent
Stay with father	17	17.0
Stay with mother	39	39.0
Stay with parents	42	42.0
Stay with relatives	2	2.0
Total	100	100.0
No. of family members		
Below 4 members	31	31.0
4-6 members	64	64.0
6-8 members	5	5.0
Total	100	100.0

Source: Field survey 2014

Interpretation: Table -3 shows that family bondage of this class of child labour is not very strong. Only 42% respondents stay with their parents and the rest 58% families are broken. Among them 39% respondents stay with mother and 17% stay with father. Table 3 also states that 64% of the respondents' family consist 4-6 members. And 31% respondents have below 4 family members and only 5% respondents have 6-8 members. This clearly indicates that some unemployed people are family members of the respondents; as a result they do not have any option to avoid working.

Table: 4 Educational status of respondents

Educational status	Frequency	Percent
Never attend school	17	17.0
Pre primary	39	39.0
Primary	42	42.0
Secondary	2	2.0
Total	100	100.0

Reasons of not attending school		
Loss of interest in studies	19	19.0
Financial incapability	31	31.0
To take care family	14	14.0
Poor academic performance	35	35.0
High cost	1	1
Total	100	100.0
Willingness to attend school		
Yes	60	60.0
No	40	40.0
Total	100	100.0

Source: Field survey 2014

Interpretation: Table-4 shows that most of the respondents have got primary and pre-primary education, respectively 42% and 39%, and surprisingly only 2% got secondary education. In Dhaka city all the schools charge relatively high fees from students and it is tough for a transportation helper child to maintain this high cost due to financial incapacity. And 31% respondents do not attend school because of these reasons. 36% respondents drop out from school because of poor academic performance. Loss of interest in studies and taking care of family are some other reasons for not attending school. The respondents were asked “would you like to attend school again?” Some of them expressed a deep interest about education. Some 60% respondents want to attend school again. These respondents left school previously or did not get chance to attend school before.

Table 5: Residential and Living status of respondents

Residential status	Frequency	Percent
Native	28	28.0
Migrated	70	70.0
Floating	2	2.0
Total	100	100.0
Living status		
Slum	35	35.0
Rented tin shade house	61	61.0
Garage	4	4.0
Total	100	100.0

Source: Field survey 2014

Interpretation: Table -5 shows that 70% of the respondents migrated to Dhaka from other districts. And only 28% are from Dhaka city. Still Dhaka is the hub of all occupation. People from different remote areas and from different corners of

the country come to Dhaka to get a chance to earn money. Table 5 also shows that 61% of the respondents can live in a rented tin shade house, which has very little space, and where the living quality is poor and 34% of them have to live in slum with their family, and 4% have to live at garage.

Table: 6 Basic facilities and amenities

Drinking water	Frequency	Percent
Get pure drinking water	34	34.0
Get water but not pure	54	54.0
Don't get water	12	12.0
Total	100	100.0
Sanitation		
Hygienic	22	22.0
Moderate	42	42.0
Not Hygienic	36	36.0
Total	100	100.0
Treatment		
Medicine shop	46	46.0
Govt. hospital	52	52.0
Private clinic	2	2.0
Total	100	100.0
Electricity use		
Use	83	83.0
Don't use	17	17.0
Total	100	100.0
Gas use		
Use	34	34.0
Don't use	66	66.0
Total	100	100.0

Source: Field survey 2014

Interpretation: From table-5 it is found that 61% respondents are residing at crowded tin shaded houses and the next highest 35 % of respondents are living at slum where living condition is worse. The facilities they get from these areas are very poor. Table-6 shows that only 34% respondents get pure drinking water whereas 54% of them get water but not pure. As a result many of the respondents often suffer from water related diseases. 12% of them are completely deprived from pure drinking water facilities. They need to fight regularly to collect the little amount of water. Quality of sanitation facilities is also very poor. Only 22% respondents can use hygienic sanitation facilities whereas 78% are deprived of these facilities. The respondents often suffer from a lot of various diseases because

of unavailability of different health facilities and the unhygienic environment where they live. Low income does not allow them to take better treatment. According to Table 6 maximum respondents like to take treatment from government hospitals. 83% of respondents are getting the electricity facilities which are analogically better. But 66% of them do not get the chance to use gas facilities.

3.2 Work profile of respondents

Table: 7 Work and its condition of respondents

Previous occupation	Frequency	Percent
Hotel worker	32	32.0
Garbage collector	40	40.0
Hawker	14	14.0
Work at shop	11	11.0
Work less	3	3.0
Total	100	100.0
Years of working		
Below 1 year	24	24.0
2-3 years	48	48.0
3-4 years	28	28.0
Total	100	100.0
Working hours		
Below 6 hrs	19	19.0
6-10 hrs	35	35.0
10-12	45	45.0
Above 12	1	1.0
Total	100	100.0
Working days		
3 days	6	6.0
4 days	30	30.0
5 days	33	33.0
6 days	31	31.0
Total	100	100.0
Motivation of work		
No option	28	28.0
Extra income	70	70.0
Easy to get	2	2.0
Total	100	100.0
Willingness to work		
Yes	39	39.0
No	60	60.0
No comment	1	1.0
Total	100	100.0

Source: Field survey 2014

Interpretation: Table-7 states the previous occupation of respondents of whom 40% were Garbage collectors, 32% were hotel workers, 14% were street hawkers and 11% worked at shops. This indicates that the child workers under this survey were previously engaged in many works. Table 7 unexpectedly expresses the truth about child working hours, as it indicates 45% respondents work around 12 hours per day and 35 % respondents work 6-10 hours per day. They are paid on hourly basis irrespective of their physical condition and health. To know their eagerness to work they were asked “would you like to continue your work?”. Table: 7 shows that 60 % of them replied they were ready to leave the work because of problems associated with the job and its risky nature and 39% replied they would like to continue as they do not have any option. Table 7 also shows that most of the respondents engage themselves in that particular work without having any option. Some of them were engaged as it provided some extra income comparative to other work. The driver of the vehicle provides three times food. They also get tips in addition to income and they are paid on daily basis. These are also the sources of their motivation to be a transportation helper.

3.3 Income profile of respondents

Table: 8 Income of the respondents

	Frequency	Percent	Valid percent	Cumulative percent
Valid Below 200	19	19.0	19.0	19.0
200-400	48	48.0	48.0	67.0
400-600	33	33.0	33.0	100.0
Total	100	100.0	100.0	

Source: Field survey 2014

Interpretation: Table-8 shows the daily income of respondents. It indicates that the income of 48 % respondents is around 200-400tk a day. And their monthly income range is 6000-12000 tk. Some 33% of them earn 400-600tk daily. And 19% earns below 200tk daily, which is really very small to survive with family in Dhaka city as life is expensive here. It is almost impossible to maintain minimum basic needs of a family with this income when the child is the only earning member of the family. So child workers remain vulnerable. They do not afford to take nutritious food. Neither are they able to go to doctor or take medicine in case of illness. Child

workers are the portion of regular labor in our society. As the number of child labor increases day by day so with their income they contribute a good amount to the economy. It is true that child labor diminishes the possibility to earn better in the long run. But in the short run they have a huge contribution in our economy. The result also supports the statements of Mike Davis.

Mike Davis (2004), in his article “planet of slums” stated that, ‘A recent study of slum children in Dhaka, for instance, discovered that “nearly half of boys and girls aged 10 to 14 were performing income generating works, and only 7 percent of girls and boys aged 5 to 16 years attended school. Dhaka has the largest number of child laborers in Asia (about 750,000), and their earnings provide half the income in poor female headed households and nearly a third in male headed families.’

Table: 9 Descriptive Statistics of income generated by respondents

	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
Daily income:	100	1.00	3.00	2.1400	.71095
Valid N (list wise)	100				

Source: Field survey 2014

Table-9 shows the descriptive statistics of income of the respondents. The mean value of it is 2.14 that means almost all of the respondents have the average income of tk. 200-400 per month (the scale is, 1=below 200, 2=200-400 and 3=400-600). This means that the respondents’ monthly income is in a range of 6000-12000tk. As a child worker it is huge for them and for their family having education or without education and any specified skills. This part of employment and income is not considered properly in national income calculation but it has huge consequence on the total economy of the country.

3.4 Problems of respondents

Table 10: problems faced by respondents

Problems	Percentage*
Problems with passenger	56
Verbally abuse	79
Physically harass	42
Exploited by driver	23
Not permanent	90

Source: Field survey 2014

*Percentages will not add to 100 because many of the respondents experienced more than one problems (all are rounded figure)

Interpretation: From Table-10 it is found that 79% respondents experience harassment by their owner verbally and 21% report that their master often slaps them for mistakes. Child workers are mentally soft and any harassment affects them badly. So the Child workers pass a very tough childhood, which they do not deserve. According to Table 10, 56% respondents say that they often faced problem with passengers. Passengers of different age, different mentality and different behavior use these transportations. Some of them try to deceive the respondents by giving them less money. Sometimes some of them behave roughly with them and verbally abuse them and sometimes they slap them. So overall they are physically assaulted, verbally abused and become the victim of exploitation by the owner or driver or passengers.

3.5 Respondents' happiness and future plan

Table11: Happiness

	Frequency	Percent	Valid percent	Cumulative percent
Valid Strongly agree	27	27.0	27.0	27.0
Agree	32	32.0	32.0	59.0
No comment	10	10.0	10.0	69.0
Disagree	5	5.0	5.0	74.0
Strongly disagree	26	26.0	26.0	100.0
Total	100	100.0	100.0	

Source: Field survey 2014

Interpretation: Table-11 shows the respondents' feeling of happiness with limited wages and limited facilities. Some 27% respondents strongly agree and 32% of the respondents agree that they are happy in this profession whereas 26% strongly disagree that they are not happy.

Table 12: Future plan

	Frequency	Percent	Valid percent	Cumulative percent
Valid Driver	67	67.0	67.0	67.0
Owner of vehicle	33	33.0	33.0	100.0
Total	100	100.0	100.0	

Source: Field survey 2014

Interpretation: Table 12 shows that as the respondents start their life as a helper of the driver and do not have proper educational facilities, most of them want to become a driver in the future. 33% respondent's future plan is to be vehicle owner.

4. Conclusion and Recommendation

Child labor is a burning issue for most of the developing countries. The densely populated Dhaka city is also a safe field of child labor. Children are the victim of some unavoidable causes and the result is child labor. Because of low wage rate the driver and contractor choose them enormously. As it does not require any specific skill and it is easily available, generates more income, and payment is made daily, children choose it without hesitation. These minor age people need to engage in their work from early morning to night only for their survival. The task is basically risky and hazardous in nature. They have given up their basic education. They live especially with their mother in slum or in rented house with the absence of basic facilities and amenities. They are often verbally abused and physically harassed. Because of their working environment they are easily accustomed with some bad habit. In so many cases they are the prime income generator for their families. Despite the fact that they earn very little amount, it is something like life blood for their families and it also plays a significant role in the total economy of the country. But they are not happy at all in their profession and they have a dream to go to school again. If they need to continue the profession they will like to become a driver or owner of a vehicle. The world is in the ultimate stage of civilization now. Protection of human rights is getting utmost attention from every nation of the world. Some renowned organizations voluntarily along with government cooperation and assistance are working to reduce the level of child-labor from every sector and provide the remediation, and if necessary financing the remediation, to ensure the child the right to live freely with effective education and better environment. The child labor in any sector should have the right to live as a child. Child labor is the ongoing curse; all the concerned parties should

come forward to eliminate it now.

Recommendations

Based on the literature and practical observation and findings, the study makes the following recommendations which might be helpful to change transportation helper child labor's life.

The study found child laborers work more than the normal working hours. It recommends that working hours should be reduced by the drivers.

The study found that most of the respondents do not get pure water, live in slums, rented house, or garage of the Dhaka city. Govt. should ensure supply of pure drinking water through setting up pure water supply plant for those dwellers.

Most of the respondents do not have proper sanitary system for their own; government should ensure at least minimum level of sanitary system to them.

Government and NGOs should offer charitable medical campaign and establish dispensaries for free medical checkup and medicine in the places they are needed.

Introduction of mass education program is desirable for the improvement of the present educational status of child labor. Government should provide night shift education facilities with technical education and arrange comprehensive publicity for making the child-labor aware of the necessity of education. In the school more facilities such as free book, food, tiffin etc. may be introduced to encourage them to enroll in school.

Moreover people's perception should be changed towards them.

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