

CHAPTER - 4

Child Labour in Automobile Servicing Sector in Saharsa District (Socio-economic Background, Occupations and Income of their Family Members, Wage, Working Condition, Nature of Work, Hours of Work etc.)

4.0 Introduction

This chapter presents the socio-economic background of child labour in Saharsa district , their wages, working conditions, nature of work , hours of work etc. including occupation and income of their family members. Child labour is a socio-economic problem. The parents of child labourers are often unemployed or underemployed, desperate for secure employment and income. Yet it is their children - more powerless and paid less-who are

offered the jobs. Child labour is a socio-economic problem. Parents for the reason of poverty have to send their children in order to supplement their income derived from child labour, however meagre are essential to sustain the family. The major reason that creates the circumstances for a child to work as a child labour due to their socio-economic backwardness, Poverty and Illiteracy, Unemployment , Over population, Lack of education facilities, Ignorance of parents about the importance of education, Ignorance of impact on children of labour, Government apathy etc. In addition to the above mentioned factors responsible for child labour in automobile servicing sector, there are several other causes too. Firstly, the provisions of the protective labour legislations are lopsided and do not cover agriculture and small-scale industries.

Secondly, the enforcing machineries, which are provided by the state governments, are inadequate almost everywhere and fail to check up on child labour.

The children are mostly silent listeners or non-listeners of the policies and programmes meant for them and hence, their problems are not properly realized, for which nobody pays serious attention to their plights and the safeguards extended for the prevention of child labour are not implemented effectively. Economic Globalization is equally responsible for the growth of child labour.

The study used a case of two from ten blocks of Saharsa district. one of the Sadar Block Kahra and other was Simri-Bakhtiyarpur. These represented other small markets and Blocks of the Child Labour in automobile servicing

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sector in Saharsa district since these two blocks were identified as areas of high child labour concentration. The time under focus was 2000-2010.

4.1 Sampling Plan Models for the Study OF Child labours

Sampling Plan for the study of child labours are found in various settings e.g. restaurants/dhabas, small roadside eateries, shops, domestic settings. It is proposed to conduct survey of road-side dhabaowners/eateries and auto-repair shops as our sample for the study. The following formula has been used to calculate the sample size at 95% confidence level.

$P [1-P]$

$A^2 P (1-P)$

$Z^2 + N = n$

R

Where, n= sample size required

N= number of people in the population

P= estimated variance in population

A= precision desired

Z= Based on confidence level

R= Estimated Response Rate

The study adopted both qualitative and quantitative methods of investigation. These included a case study design and descriptive analysis. a period when the Employment Act, Education Act and the National Child Labour Policy were promulgated. The case study was chosen to enable an

analysis of child labour issues in the study focused on a total of 81 respondents, ninety of whom were the working children, specifically, child labourers and eleven key informants representing the government institutions of the district, Civil Societies and NGOs.

4.2 KEY RESPONDENTS of Saharsa district

Category of Institution	Institution	No of Respondents	Total
Government	Police Station	2	2
	Block	1	1
Civil Societies	Panchayat	2	2
	Zila Parishad	2	2
NGO's	ILO	1	1
	UNICEF	1	1
	Save the Children	1	1
	Invisible Children	1	1
Total		11	11

Key informants on this issue of child labour were purposively chosen and these included; government institutions civil societies and representatives from lead international organizations, UNICEF, Save the Children, Invisible Children, and Raising Voices . These representative institutions were deemed appropriate and provided substantial information that was used in the study.

This study basically covered children engaged in automobile servicing sector in Saharsa district . These were called centres of high child labour concentration and they were purposively selected because of their known informal activities. The selection of children engaged in automobile servicing sector in Saharsa district was done using the snow-balling

technique and convenience sampling due to the children's high mobility levels.

The key informant interview guides and working children questionnaires were pre-tested on specific categories of respondents which helped the researcher identify difficult and unclear questions. The procedure enabled the researcher collect accurate data as per the set objectives.

4.3 USING Data Collection Methods and Procedures

The researcher collected primary and secondary data from various categories of respondents and documentation respectively. For secondary data; the researcher made reference from dissertations, print media (News Papers and Magazines), reports and books with relevant literature, policy statements, legislation. Other methods of data collection used included; questionnaires which were used for key sample categories like; child labourers, interview guides for key informants like representatives of various NGO's, Civil Societies and government officials, photography, particularly in respect to activities that children were involved and observation.

4.3.1 Questionnaires

Questionnaires were the main instrument used in the study and were particularly distributed to the working children. The questions were prepared in a logical sequence in order to address the research objectives and were open ended which allowed the respondents give a wider view

about their understanding of the study problem. The method was used because it targeted a wider group of respondents, it eliminated bias, and most importantly, the researcher was able to get that information that was not readily given face to face, especially that information that dealt with community perceptions and attitudes. To avoid misinterpretations of the questionnaire, the researcher translated some questions for the respondents to avoid inaccuracy.

4.3.2 Interviews

The interview method was used and this involved an oral communication with representatives of government, civil society and NGO's (key informants). The information given was very crucial for the study and included qualitative and quantitative data.

4.3.3 Observation

Due to the nature of the study, the researcher deemed it important to use the observation method to ease the work of data collection. Some information that was not revealed by the respondents was got through observation. Particular attention was paid to the time and kinds of activities the children engaged. The researcher came to notice of the kinds of activities the children engaged and the time the activities were conducted. For instance, the children who engaged in automobile servicing sector and worked all day from morning to evening.

4.3.4 Photography

In order to ensure efficiency in data collection, analysis and presentation, the researcher took different photographs to give a visual representation of the existing situation in both blocks. The researcher took and downloaded some pictures of particularly children who engaged in child labour. This method of data collection clearly brought out the true and clear understanding of the study and the phenomenon of child labour.

4.3.5 Research Instruments

To conduct the study, the researcher used several research instruments including; interview guides, questionnaires, pens, pencils, camera, note book, set, ruler and tally sheet.

4.3.6 Data Management

The qualitative and quantitative data collected was analysed using statistical and qualitative approaches in order to make meaningful presentations and conclusions. Data collected from the 81 respondents was examined and arranged basing on the research objectives.

4.3.7 Data Processing and Analysis

In order to make meaningful presentation of the data collected and to match it with the study objectives and research questions, the data was subjected to various steps including; editing in order to identify missing gaps, spelling mistakes, incomplete answers and to eliminate unwanted data; coding,

classification of data with common characteristics. In the statistical method, analysis of child labour data focused on children engaged in the automobile servicing sector and this was done at three levels: -

- a. *the researcher described the study population by background characteristics purposely intended to put child labour and related activities in the socio-economic context;*
- b. *the establishment of child labour participation status in general and in automobile servicing sector in particular to assess the nature, causes and effects of labour activities and;*
- c. *cross tabulations were finally carried out between child labour activity status especially involvement in child labour in general and the urban informal sector in particular with some individual and community variables to identify the causes of child labour. The data was finally put in table form (tabulation) to ensure effective presentation.*

4.4 Gender of Respondents (Working Children) The total number of children that were interviewed in the two divisions was seventy (70). The research results show that out of the 70, 51.4% of the children were girls while 48.6% represented the boys.

Table 4.1: Respondents (Working Children) by Gender

Gender	Frequency	Percentage	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percentage
Female	36	51.4	51.4	51.4
Male	34	48.6	48.6	100.0
Total	70	100.0	100.0	

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4.5 Place of Birth of the Respondents

Admittedly, the study area was urban and thus the research findings showed that the majority of the working children (90%) indeed were urban born. 10% of the children represented those that were born in the rural area. However, notwithstanding their various places of birth or origin, as indicated in Table 4 below, the working children had one common objective of raising money for their survival or to supplement meagre family incomes.

Table 4.2: Place of Birth of the Respondents

Location	Frequency	Percentage	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Nariyar	3	4.3	4.3	4.3
Sour Bazar	2	2.9	2.9	
Sonbarsa Kachery	1	1.4	1.4	8.6
Nauhatta	2	2.9	2.9	11.4
Simri-Bakht.	7	10.0	10.0	21.4
Bariyahi Bazar	8	11.4	11.4	32.9
Panchgachhia	4	5.7	5.7	38.6
Kahra	8	11.4	11.4	50.0
Sonbarsaraj	1	1.4	1.4	51.4
Mahishi	2	2.9	2.9	54.3
Sihaul	1	1.4	1.4	55.7
Tulsiahi	1	1.4	1.4	57.1
Koparia	3	4.3	4.3	61.4
Rahua	1	1.4	1.4	62.9
Sattarkataiya	1	1.4	1.4	64.3
Shahpur	2	2.9	2.9	67.1
Jibachhpur	1	1.4	1.4	68.6

Maina	1	1.4	1.4	70.0
Patuaha	3	4.3	4.3	74.3
Purikh	2	2.9	2.9	77.1
Saharsabasti	2	2.9	2.9	80.0
Sugma	1	1.4	1.4	81.4
Balwa Bazar	2	2.9	2.9	84.3
Baijnathpur	4	5.7	5.7	90.0
Bangaon	2	2.9	2.9	92.9
Dumra	1	1.4	1.4	94.3
Nayabazar (Saharsa)	3	4.3	4.3	98.6
Murli	1	1.4	1.4	100.0
Total	70	100.0	100.0	

4.6 Age of the Respondents

Out of the seventy respondents, 20% were working children aged six years and under. The results indicated that the number of working children tends to increase with the advance in age. Accordingly, the percentage of respondents between the ages of 7 and 11 years was 34.3%, while that of children from 12 years onwards was 45.7% as indicated in Table 5 below. While it is logical to say that as the children advance in age they are getting towards the legal working age, the fact that they are engaging in several activities in the urban informal sector does not rule out the fact that they are still underage.

Table 4.3: Age of Respondents

Age	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
6 years and under	14	20.0	20.0	20.0
7- 11 years	24	34.3	34.3	54.3
12 years and over	32	45.7	45.7	100.0
Total	70	100.0	100.0	

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Table 4.4: Size of the Family of the Respondents

Number of people	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
2 and less	20	28.6	28.6	28.6
3-5	30	42.9	42.9	71.4
More than 5	20	28.6	28.6	100.0
Total	70	100.0	100.0	

4.7 Size of the Family of the Respondent

The research findings brought to light the falsity of the general thinking that the number of siblings of the children in labour is the only key factor that drives them to work at a tender age. As the table below shows, the percentage of respondents (children in child labour) was, 28.6% for children with two or less siblings, and the same percentage for children with five or more siblings. On the other hand, the percentage of respondents having between three and five siblings stood at 42.9%. This state of affairs encouraged the researcher to search for additional causes of child labour, causes that could be added to “the size of the family of any given child in child labour”.

4.8 Respondents’ Abode

There was a variety of responses to the question, ‘Do you live with your parent or a guardian?’ While 37.1% of the respondents lived with their parents and 41.4% with their guardians, 21.4% indicated that they had found themselves a place of safety which they considered as their abode.

These statistics indicated that parents and guardians played a role in the employment of children since the children who stayed with either of them were represented by a big figure as compared to those who stayed in places of safety.

**Table 4.5: Parentage and Place of Abode of Respondents
(Working children)**

Response	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Parent	26	37.1	37.1	37.1
Guardian	29	41.4	41.4	78.6
Place of safety	15	21.4	21.4	100.0
Total	70	100.0	100.0	

4.9 Commercial Activities of the Respondents

The activities the child engaged/worked in included; automobile garage, washing cars/vehicle, petrol pumps, motorcycle repairing and puncture repairing . According to the findings, mostly child engaged in automobile garage, totalling to 50%. This was followed by children who engaged in puncture repairing with 17.1%, vehicle washing/cleaning at 11.4%, motorcycle repairing 18.6% and petrol pump with 5.7%.

Table 4.6: Activities in which Children Engaged

Activities done by children	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumul. Percent
Automobile Servicing Sector	35	50	50	35
Puncture Repairing	12	17.1	17.1	47
Vehicle Washing/Cleaning	8	11.4	11.4	55

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Motorcycle Garage	Repaing	13	18.6	18.6	68
Petrol Pump		2	2.9		100
Total		70	100	100	

4.10 School Attendance by the Respondents

The level of school attendance also determined the rate at which children engaged in work. The research clearly indicates that only 20% of the respondents (working children) attended school on a daily basis, the same percentage that applied to children who attended at least once or twice a week. Children who attended thrice a week comprised 14.3% overall, with 45.7% not attending school at all. This percentage clearly indicates that children who did not attend school engaged in various activities to earn a living. Such activities include those listed in Table 4.9.

Table 4.7: Level of School Attendance by the Respondents (Working Children)

Responses	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Every day	14	20.0	20.0	20.0
Once or twice	14	20.0	20.0	40.0
Three times	10	14.3	14.3	54.3
None	32	45.7	45.7	100.0
Total	70	100.0	100.0	

4.11 Career Aspirations of the Working Children

Despite the lack of education for some of the respondents, they had various career aspirations. This showed that they were interested in education

though they could not afford. For instance, the study indicated that 15.7% aspired to be business men and women, 12.9% as doctors, 8.6% as teachers and 5.7% as lawyers. It is important to note however that some respondents also did not have any career aspirations, while others hoped for careers that did not require higher qualifications. For instance, some just hoped for life, represented by 2.9%.

Table 4.8: Career Aspirations of the Working Children

Career aspirations of the children	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Politician	2	2.9	2.9	2.9
Teacher	6	8.6	8.6	11.4
Mechanic	2	2.9	2.9	14.3
Lawyer	4	5.7	5.7	20.0
Business woman/man	11	15.7	15.7	35.7
Policeman	3	4.3	4.3	38.6
Journalist	1	1.4	1.4	40.0
Accountant	2	2.9	2.9	42.9
Doctor	9	12.9	12.9	55.7
Engineer	1	1.4	1.4	57.1
Manager	2	2.9	2.9	60.0
Nurse	2	2.9	2.9	62.9
Pilot	3	4.3	4.3	67.1
Good wife	4	5.7	5.7	72.9
Computer -Expert	1	1.4	1.4	75.7
Foot-baller	3	4.3	4.3	80.0
Disco - Jockey	1	1.4	1.4	81.4
Chef	1	1.4	1.4	82.9
Hair- Stylist	1	1.4	1.4	84.3
Driver/ Boda-boda cyclist	1	1.4	1.4	85.7
Member of Parliament	3	4.3	4.3	90.0

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Music Artist	3	4.3	4.3	94.3
Model	1	1.4	1.4	95.7
Nothing so long as I live	2	2.9	2.9	98.6
Mid- wife	1	1.4	1.4	100.0
Total	70	100.0	100.0	

4.12 On Achieving Career Aspirations

As aforementioned, the children had different career aspirations that required an education and higher qualifications. However, it is important to note that there are some jobs that the children could perform without necessarily attending school. For instance, being a taxi driver, model, disc jockey, boda boda cyclist and a foot-baller. The children who thought that they could acquire their career aspirations even without an education were 45.7%, while those who thought that they could not attain their career goals without an education were 54.3%. This meant that many would love to go to school but could not as a result of different circumstances attributed to the failure to raise school fees.

Table 4.9: Children's Response in Regard to their Career Aspirations

Responses	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Yes	32	45.7	45.7	45.7
No	38	54.3	54.3	100.0
Total	70	100.0	100.0	

4.1.12 Reasons for Missing School

In regard to the research findings, the children gave different reasons as to why they were not in school at that very point of contact. These ranged from the failure to raise school fees, the lack of scholastic materials, orphan hood, the lack of teachers and capacity full classes, the lack of interest to study, having a job to mistreatment by care takers. Most respondents said that they were not in school because their parents could not afford school fees, taking a percentage of 32.9%. This percentage was followed by those who were employed at 18.6%, those that could not afford scholastic materials and fees at 11.4%, those that were not interested in studying were represented by 8.6% and orphan hood at 5.7%. Other miscellaneous reasons that were given included; waking up late, beating by the teachers and staying at home to help parents.

Table 4.10: Reasons as to why Children do not Attend School

Responses	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumul. Percent
Lack school fees	23	32.9	32.9	32.9
Lack scholastic materials	8	11.4	11.4	44.3
Employed	13	18.6	18.6	62.9
Orphan hood	4	5.7	5.7	68.6
Not interested in studying	6	8.6	8.6	77.2
No teachers and the classes are filled to capacity	3	4.3	4.3	81.5
Went to school and came back	3	4.3	4.3	85.8

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Transport costs are high	2	2.9	2.9	88.7
My parents told me I will attend next week	1	1.4	1.4	90.1
They refused me to study	1	1.4	1.4	91.5
I was suspended	1	1.4	1.4	92.9
Others	5	7.1	7.1	100.0
Total	70	100.0	100.0	

4.13 Average Monthly Earnings through Child Labour

The children who participated in various automobile servicing sector earned not more than Rs. 8900. Those who earned between Rs. 2600 – 4100 were 32.9% comprising the biggest percentage. This was followed by those who earned between 1000 and 2500 with 31.4%, 7400 – 8900 took a percentage of 8.6%, as the table shows-

Table 4.11 : Amount Earned by the Working Children

Average Amount earned Rs. Per month	Frequency	Percentage	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
1000-2500	22	31.4	31.4	31.4
2600-4100	23	32.9	32.9	64.3
4200- 5700	4	5.7	5.7	70.0
5800- 7300	9	12.9	12.9	82.9
7400-8900	6	8.6	8.6	91.4
Above 8900	6	8.6	8.6	100.0
Total	70	100.0	100.0	

4.14 Night Residence of the Respondents

The children also were asked about their places of residence. The biggest percentage (64.3%) lived at home with their parents, 24.3% lived in a home and 11.4% on the streets while those that lived on the streets were mostly own account workers, who worked to meet their daily independent needs.. This implied that the children who lived at home and worked were simply supplementing the meagre family incomes.

Table 4.12: Night Residence of the Working Children

Place of residence	Frequency	Percentage	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
At home	45	64.3	64.3	64.3
In a home	17	24.3	24.3	88.6
On the streets	8	11.4	11.4	100.0
Total	70	100.0	100.0	

4.15 Respondents' knowledge of Children's Homes

Given the fact that there are rehabilitation homes for children in need, many did not know that they were provided. For instance, according to Table below, only 2.9% knew that there was a place provided for them, against 65.7% who hardly knew of any place provided for their safety. 31.4% of the children stayed at home.

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Table 4.13: Respondents' Knowledge of Children's Homes

Responses	Frequency	Percentage	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Yes	2	2.9	2.9	2.9
No	46	65.7	65.7	68.6
Not sure/don't know	22	31.4	31.4	100
Total	70	100.0	100.0	

4.16 Correlations

The following Table highlights the relationship between child labour and the automobile servicing sector using what is termed as the "Pearson Correlation" Method.

Table 4.14: Relationship between Child Labour and the Automobile Servicing Sector

		Child labour	Automobile servicing sector
Child labour	Pearson Correlation	1	.182
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.	.131
	N	70	70
Automobile Servicing Sector	Pearson Correlation	.182	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.131	.
	N	70	70

4.17 The Magnitude of Child Labour in the Automobile Servicing Sector.

According to information gathered from the key informants, the magnitude of child labour in the urban informal sector exceeds 2 hundred working

children. Many children come from different parts of the district to the urban areas to work for survival. This number is on the increase year after year.

4.18 Extent of Children's Involvement in Child Labour According to Sex

The research findings indicated that more girls than boys engaged in child labour activities. For instance, the girls were represented by a percentage of 54.5% against their counterparts, the boys with 45.5%. This indicates that more girls dropped out of school, or still did not go to school so as to engage in work.

Table 4.15: Extent of Children's Involvement in Child Labour According to Sex

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
More boys	5	45.5	45.5	45.5
More girls	6	54.5	54.5	100
Total	11	100	100	

4.19 Main Causes of Children's Participation in the Automobile Servicing Sector

The study further indicated the main causes of child labour/why children engaged in work in the automobile servicing sector. Several reasons were given and the most outstanding was domestic violence with 36.36%. This percentage was followed by weak laws in the country with 27.27%. India has many laws both national and international but most have not been enforced. Other causes of children's participation in the automobile sector

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included; poverty, lack of basic needs, negligence of care takers and the lack of viable economic activities, all represented by 9.09%.

Table 4.16: Main Causes of Children's Participation in the automobile servicing Sector

Main causes	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Weak Laws in the country	3	27.27	27.27	27.27
Domestic violence	4	36.36	36.36	63.63
Lack of viable economic activities	1	9.09	9.09	72.72
Negligence of care takers	1	9.09	9.09	81.81
Lack of basic needs	1	9.09	9.09	90.9
Poverty	1	9.09	9.09	100.0
Total	11	100.0	100.0	

4.20 Negative Effects of Children's Participation in Child Labour in General Based on Children as Individuals

Children's participation in several activities exposed them to a number of health hazards in addition to failure to pursue an education. Children for instance according to the findings were exposed to sexual exploitation especially those who worked as domestic servants, HIV and early pregnancies, retarded growth, prone to crime (children in crime), accidents, psychological stress, bad behaviour and child violence. It is to a large extent

that children were affected by their involvement in child labour. Their positive contribution to the family and the community at large is overridden by the negative consequences.

Table 4, 17: Negative Effects of Child Labour Based on the Individual Children

Negative Effects	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumul. Percent
Accidents, contraction of HIV, exposure to sexual exploitation and abuse.	1	9.09	9.09	9.09
Children are denied their rights like right to education.	1	9.09	9.09	18.18
Children have missed out on their childhood and some end up not going to school, easy spread of diseases.	1	9.09	9.09	27.27
Collecting of metal scraps expose children to dangerous weapons like bombs and other dangerous gases, those who beg stand high chances of getting HIV, early pregnancies and eventually early marriages.	1	9.09	9.09	36.36
Easy spread of diseases, accidents, the children end up becoming criminals.	1	9.09	9.09	45.45

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Exploitation of children, failure to attain formal education	1	9.09	9.09	54.54
Interferes with children education/drop out of school, affects normal child growth.	1	9.09	9.09	63.63
It's harmful to their health, distracts their education, and hampers child growth and development.	1	9.09	9.09	72.72
Prone to crime, develop diseases when very young, they develop bad habits.	1	9.09	9.09	81.81
Psychological consequences	1	9.09	9.09	90.9
These children suffer violence whereby they are even beaten and punished by the people they work for, they are also exploited and this makes them hard to enjoy their rights. Some kids like girls are sexually abused and this makes them vulnerable to HIV/AIDS.	1	9.09	9.09	100.0
Total	11	100.0	100.0	

4.18 Negative Effects of Children's Participation in Child Labour in General Based on a Child and Community

Cause	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Health hazards	3	27.27	27.27	27.27
Children are used in crime since they move till late, they are victims of sexual abuse.	1	9.09	9.09	36.36
Children who beg on streets are at a high risk of being abused like defilement, getting diseases like pneumonia.	1	9.09	9.09	45.45
Creates unemployment to adults since children are employed cheaply, child's rights are abused by employers.	1	9.09	9.09	54.54
Denies adults employment, lack of skills.	1	9.09	9.09	63.63
Exploitation of children, school dropouts, abuse of child rights.	1	9.09	9.09	72.72
Being idle as a result of begging makes children become criminals.	1	9.09	9.09	81.81
Most kids like those who beg on the streets stand high chances of becoming prostitutes.	1	9.09	9.09	90.9

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These children suffer violence, exploitation and sexual abuse which exposes them to the risk of catching HIV/AIDS, have learning problems and poor physical and mental health.	1	9.09	9.09	100.0
Total	11	100.0	100.0	

The research findings according to Table 4.22 below indicate that children were widely exposed to risks and criminal activities since they worked till late and thus affected negatively. The children were exposed to defilement, accidents, health risks like catching pneumonia, dropping out of school and high chances of becoming criminals. Children in crime become a nuisance to the community as a whole in form of criminal gangs and yet still, they also come out as children in conflict with the law. The community on the other hand benefited from cheap employment although it can be noted that the adults stayed unemployed, an effect that further facilitated child labour.

4.22 General Perception of Children’s Participation in the Labour Force

The general perception of children’s involvement in child labour was mixed. Some respondents according to the research findings supported its existence, while others were strongly against it. For instance, those in support of child labour said that children acquired responsibility, developed

skills and supplemented household incomes, and others were of the view that children were supposed to do light work and thus their employment in domestic service.

Table 4.19: General Perception of Children’s Participation in the Labour Force

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
A significant proportion of child labourer participate in vending of goods and other items, quarrying and scrap collection.	1	9.09	9.09	9.09
Child participation in labour force encourages child responsibility and apprenticeship.	1	9.09	9.09	18.18
Children aged 5-17 years are working in urban informal sector and this has brought about children dropping out of school at tender ages early child mothers.	1	9.09	9.09	27.27
Children are not supposed to be employed there, they are supposed to be in school and therefore not employed in any form of work.	1	9.09	9.09	36.36
Children are supposed to do light work under the supervision of elders but now people have gone ahead to employ children in their homes.	1	9.09	9.09	45.45

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I feel bad that children are exploited.	1	9.09	9.09	54.54
It's bad but to most people it is a way of supplementing household income.	1	9.09	9.09	63.63
It's against the laws of the country for a child below the age of 18 to be subjected to child labour.	1	9.09	9.09	72.72
It's not a good thing and neither is it right for children to be labourers.	1	9.09	9.09	81.81
It's not a good thing for a child to be a labourer because of their age. They need to be in school and if they are to work, they are supposed to do only light work.	1	9.09	9.09	90.9
It's not right, but they go to work because they have been denied family resources.	1	9.09	9.09	100.0
Total	11	100.0	100.0	

Other perceptions on child labour included; led to the failure to pursue an education and increased school dropouts, early marriages and overall, it was against the laws of the country.

4.2.2 Principal Goals of the Institution

The above institutions based on their mission statements had a major goal of protecting the child. The research findings from the key informants

indicated that the institutions aimed to improve the health of the children through improving their nutritional status, encourage their education, protection against child abuse and neglect, provide psychosocial support, law and order, enforce laws and to mobilize resources to build capacity for the children.

Table 4.20: Principal Goals of the Institutions Addressing Child Labour.

Principal Goal of the Institution	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumu Percent
Protect and promote children's rights	2	18.18	18.18	18.18
Improve on the nutritional status of all children under the age of 5, we provide protection to the children; we focus on food health, education for the children and women.	1	9.09	9.09	27.27
Improving quality of life, provision of improved livelihood.	1	9.09	9.09	36.36
Protection against child abuse and neglect, address challenges of child abuse and neglect in Africa, uphold an African society free of child labour.	1	9.09	9.09	45.45
Responsible for preventing violence against women and children, have violence free communities.	1	9.09	9.09	54.54

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To keep law and order, to protect life and property, to detect and investigate crime.	1	9.09	9.09	63.63
To offer direct protection to children, fight abuse and neglect and address the challenges in Africa, provide psychosocial support to children in labour, we provide resources to sensitise the community.	1	9.09	9.09	72.72
To protect life and property, to enforce laws of Uganda, to ensure public safety, to prevent and detect crime in society (P OLICE).	1	9.09	9.09	81.81
To provide technical support and capacity building on violence against women and children, human rights advocacy, to provide management support to both the children and women who are violated.	1	9.09	9.09	90.9
To work towards the human development goals, peace and social progress, promote equal rights of women and girls, advocate for protection of children's rights, mobilize resources that help in building the capacity of children.	1	9.09	9.09	100.0
Total	11	100.0	100.0	

4.24 Institutional Initiatives to Address the Problem of Child Labour in the Automobile Servicing Sector

According to the research findings, the institutions representing the government, the international community and civil society had various initiatives on addressing the issue of child labour. These included but not limited to; awareness raising on the rights of the child, building and strengthening structures for child protection, policy influence and advocacy, service delivery, school peer group programmes, enforcement of labour laws, media campaigns, research, training and monitoring programmes. All these initiatives were and are aimed at combating child labour.

Table 4.21: Institutional Initiatives to Address Child Labour in the Automobile Servicing Sector

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Awareness raising and sensitization, building and strengthening structures for child protection, policy influence and advocacy, service delivery.	1	9.09	9.09	9.09
Community sensitization programmes and media programmes, school peer group programmes, stakeholder sensitization programmes.	1	9.09	9.09	18.18

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Coordinating stakeholders against child labour, National Child Labour Policy should be implemented.	1	9.09	9.09	27.27
Enforcement of labour laws, sensitization of the rights of children, sensitize the community not to employ young children under 18 years.	1	9.09	9.09	36.36
Religious and media campaigns against physical, sexual and emotional violence.	1	9.09	9.09	45.45
Research, i.e. the results help inform the public to raise awareness on fighting child labour.	1	9.09	9.09	54.54
Sensitization of parents/guardians about the negative implications of child labour, formation of child rights.	1	9.09	9.09	63.63
We conduct research studies and this helps us learn the nature of the problem, we have also provided communication materials to the communities that help in educating about child labour.	1	9.09	9.09	72.72

We have a community based growth monitoring programme that identifies the children in need; we provide necessities to the children.	1	9.09	9.09	81.81
We have created research clubs in schools that help teach the kids about child labour.	1	9.09	9.09	90.9
We have trained people including teachers and village teams about child labour; we also have a toll free number (child help line) that is used to report these cases.	1	9.09	9.09	100.0
Total	11	100.0	100.0	

4.25 Effectiveness of Strategies in Reducing Child Labour

According to the research findings, several interviews from key informants indicate that their institutional initiatives have been effective; however, it is to a large extent that they largely blame the poor enforcement of available laws addressing child labour and the weak and less facilitated structures by the government. Children who worked in private premises, who in most times are 'invisible' to the public were also identified as a hindrance to addressing child labour. It was noted that media campaigns on child labour have been wide spread including grass root sensitization, children have opted for education

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Table 4.22: Effectiveness of Institutional Initiatives in Reducing Children's Involvement in the Labour Force

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Even small effects make big changes and 10 million Ugandans listen to small adverts on radio.	1	9.09	9.09	9.09
Interventions in form of withdrawal of children from hazardous work to school or vocational institutions for skills acquisitions.	1	9.09	9.09	18.18
Its complex to enforce child labour laws because most children are employed in private premises and it's difficult to access them.	1	9.09	9.09	27.27
Laws have been set up to criminalize child labour and laws protect the children	1	9.09	9.09	36.36
Some communities now report cases of child labour; some children have gone to school and earned a better education.	1	9.09	9.09	45.45

There is increased awareness on the dangers of child labour, structures do exist in some parts of the country but are not well facilitated by the government.	1	9.09	9.09	54.54
They have worked because now elders/traditional leaders know and understand what to do in cases of child labour, some children have learnt and now go and report the culprits.	1	9.09	9.09	63.63
Through our research findings, the communities have acquired more knowledge and the government has also set up laws against child labour.	1	9.09	9.09	72.72
Through radio programmes especially Emiti Emito on WBS every Sunday at 9:00am a number of children have been sensitized.	1	9.09	9.09	81.81
Child labour has been reduced through several initiatives.	1	9.09	9.09	90.9
Very effective	1	9.09	9.09	100.0
Total	11	100.0	100.0	

and knowledge acquisition and not work.

4.26 Suggested and Recommended Measures to Contain the Situation of Child Labour

This subsection presents a way forward on addressing the problem of child labour.

4.27 Way Forward on Reducing Child Labour

According to the research, respondents suggested various recommendations to address the problem of child labour in Saharsa. For instance, it was suggested that the efforts to encourage children to attend school should be uplifted. Details about the way forward with regard to reducing children's involvement in the labour force in the Automobile Servicing Sector in Saharsa District are listed down in Table 4.27 below.

Table 4.23: Way Forward on Reducing Children's Involvement in the Labour Force in Saharsa

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Encourage education for children.	1	9.09	9.09	9.09
Institutional reforms, ensure that we have peace amongst families, communities should sensitize the people.	1	9.09	9.09	18.18
More sensitization on child labour to political leaders.	1	9.09	9.09	27.27

Political will, enforcement of laws, sustainable awareness on the dangers of child labour	1	9.09	9.09	36.36
Preventive measures, community should report any suspicious cases of child labour to the nearest police station.	1	9.09	9.09	45.45
Provision of alternative livelihood to poor families, involvement and retention of children in schools.	1	9.09	9.09	54.54
Sensitization of the community and informal sector, strengthening laws on child labour, ensure national labour identification to all employers in the country.	1	9.09	9.09	63.63
Strict laws governing child labour, children need to be educated more by their parents and should be responsible as well.	1	9.09	9.09	72.72
Strict laws, the education system should be expanded to include human rights and child rights curricular.	1	9.09	9.09	81.81

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The government should engage more in policy development, law reform and planning/ budget discussion at all levels to help reduce on the rate of children working, educate the population on the dangers of child labour.	1	9.09	9.09	90.9
The government should go ahead and educate the public so as to keep children at school, and schools should teach rights to children.	1	9.09	9.09	100.0
Total	11	100.0	100.0	

4.28 CONCLUSION

Reasons for working children 89.8% respondents in Sadar Block Kahra and 96.9% respondents in Simri-Bakhtiyarpur reported poverty as reason for children to seen work for income.

Working hours of children: The Child Labour Prohibition an Regulation Act 1986 Section 7 clause (2): “The period of work on each day shall be so fixed that no period shall exceed three hours and that no child shall work for more than three hours before he has had an interval for rest for at least one hour”. During the study, 47.6% respondents in Sadar Block Saharsa and 30.5% respondents said that the children who work for money generally work as much as adults (around 8-10 hours) whereas 36.9% respondents in

Sadar Block Saharsa and 53.9% respondents in Simri-Bakhtiyarpur said that children generally worked for lesser hours than adults. In addition, around 15% respondents in both the sample blocks said that children were working more than the adults.

Should children be working?

Around 85% respondents in Sadar Block Kahra and around 75% respondents in Simri-Bakhtiyarpur said that children should not work. Almost the same percentage of respondents felt that working of children was inappropriate. Action by the government on working children 66.9% respondents in Sadar Block Kahra and 63.6% respondents in Simri-Bakhtiyarpur said that government is actually doing nothing on the issue of working children.

