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Child labour in Herat districts: A research of child labour in Herat (As a contribution to family income)

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Abstract

This report reviews the situation of child labor in Herat City. It argues that child labor has to be tackled in the context of national development frameworks and initiatives, in particular efforts centered around the Decent Work Agenda but also poverty reduction strategies, Education For All efforts, and initiatives to boost youth employment.

Chapter 1 considers the scientific literature on child labor, some definitions and attributes of child labor, and pertinent international statistics.

Chapter 2 enters the Afghan situation, examining existing studies and statistics on child labor in Afghanistan and Herat in its socio-economic context.

Chapter 3 contains empirical research of child labor in Herat City and an outline of the causes of child labor, research questions, research objectives, research methodology, research environment. There is a brief review of Herat City and introducing of district# 8 and district# 10. choice method of sample size district and schools analyses variables dependent and independent variables model summary.

Chapter 4 research result indicates the analysis of data that has collected from research environment Minitab software result and some of the next steps that need to be taken.

And chapter 5 indicate the Conclusion and recommendation for this research.

There is a clear need for research and data collection to continue, and to improve, if we are to have a complete picture of child labour in the city and see clearly how we should target actions to have the most immediate impact. Such actions will include accelerating efforts to persuade all people in the city that child labour is not only detrimental to the child and a fundamental denial of their rights but also an obstacle to national development. It must also include review and revision of national legal.

Keywords: Child, labour, poverty, education

Introduction

Child Labor in Herat and Afghanistan

Background of Child Labor in Afghan Society

Afghanistan is the world's seventh-poorest nation and is rising out of years of crisis. The worst forms of child labour are rife and, although there are some 600 NGOs now operating in the country and the government is giving increasing attention to the issue, it will be decades before child labour is brought under control.

UNICEF estimates that almost 25 percent of Afghan children aged 7–14 are working. This figure probably underestimates the total figure. School enrolment and attendance is very low only half of all school-age children go to school and the drop-out rate is around 70 percent.

^[1]. Children are reported to be found in many forms of child labour, including:

- Begging gangs with children as young as 12 months being 'rented out' by parents;
- Street-based informal work including as street hawkers;
- Child domestic labour (average age = 5 to 12 years; both girls and boys);
- Carpet weaving (usually in family settings);
- Brick kiln-related debt bondage;
- Road construction;
- Potting;
- Sheep-herding;
- Child trafficking (mostly boys);
- Drug trafficking;
- Auto-repair;
- Construction and masonry;

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¹ dr. June kane, 2005, in published Thailand, combating child labour in Asia and the pacific progress and challenges,

- Agriculture (poppy production, fruit orchards)
- As child soldiers.

ILO-IPEC is currently exploring programming directions in Afghanistan and potential partners, and has undertaken preliminary field missions and research, including consultations with UNICEF. A Project Concept Note ^[2] has been widely discussed and endorsed by key stakeholders and donor funding has been secured for a project based on the success of the Peshawar Education and Training Project. UNICEF has been supporting community-based reintegration of more than 8,500 war-affected young people and has supported development of an NPA on child trafficking.

Involvement in low-paid and irregular jobs, child labour and labour migration ^[3].

In accordance with the recommendations of the 18th ICLS, child labour includes the following categories of children

1. Children age 5–11 years, engaged in any economic activity;
2. Children age 12–14 years, engaged in any economic activity for at least 14 hours a week, or any hazardous work or worst forms of child labour;
3. Children age 15–17 years, engaged in non-hazardous economic activities for at least 43 hours per week, and those engaged in any hazardous work or worst forms of child labour ^[4].

Labour have even higher non-attendance rates. The adverse effect of working seems to be stronger for boys than for girls ^[5].

Existing studies and statistics on child labor in Afghanistan

After 30 years of conflict, Afghanistan is one of the poorest countries in the world, where children make up half the population; a quarter of children die before the age of five and the average Afghan life expectancy is 44 years.

Some children work for mechanics, in agriculture, weaving carpets, selling goods on the street, begging for money wiping down dusty vehicles stuck in Kabul's chronic traffic jams, or collecting canes and bottles from the city's putrid rubbish dump.

The average annual income for an Afghan is \$370 a year, according to The World Bank, reported many families have to choose between giving children an education and sending them out to work. "A majority of them start to work from age nine and we have kids below nine selling things on the street," said Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commissioner. "A major portion of these kids are breadwinners for their families."

Also said working children did not shock Afghans anymore, but it was a key right and social problem and the government lacked a plan and resources to deal with it. The

commission says that at least 1.5 million children are breadwinners for their families.

Herat socio-economic context

The Department of Labour and Social Affairs (DoLSA) estimated that there are between 5,000 to 7,000 street working children and scavengers in Herat City and claimed that these numbers is increasing every year. There are a dozen NGOs, both local and international who work and provide a range of services to street children but there is no concrete evidence to show that the such number of street children really exist in Herat City.

As a result of this, DoLSA has done a baseline survey of street children in all 12 districts of Herat city to determine which of these districts contributes to the street children population. UNICEF has provided financial support and War Child UK provided technical support alongside the UNDP consultant who was assigned to build the capacity of DoLSA.

In Herat, a large number of children are exposed to hazardous work. The increasing number of street children, led them to used for begging, scavenging children and children selling different goods on the street represent the harsh reality that most Herat's children have to do work over school. The number of such children are not known and it's very challenging to keep track of them because they are mobile and more difficult to approach or talk to them.

The most important works that Herati's children do are Beggary, Badger, transporting of stuff, working outside home, collect of garbage and often in voles in transporting of opium ^[6].

This baseline data was conducted to assist DOLSA- the government agency mandated by law to look after the protection and welfare of children to plan its long term intervention and strategy to address the street working children and street beggars in Herat City.

The baseline survey was conducted for 6 weeks with 30 trained enumerators. War Child assisted DoLSA in developing the questionnaire as well as training the enumerators. Staffs of War Child UK in coordination with the UNICEF Child protection officer did a random check of the areas where enumerators are conducting the interviews to ensure that the right respondents are interviewed, questionnaires properly filled up and the right questions asked.

Empirical Research on Child Labor in Herat

Research hypothesis

Null hypothesis

There is no significant difference between socio economics characteristics of child labour in two districts of Herat.

Research hypothesis

There is a significant difference between socio economics characteristics of child labor in two districts of Herat.

Research questions

- What are the different characteristics of child labor in districts of Herat city?
- How many child labors exist in districts of Herat city?
- What are the most important different characteristics in Herat districts?

² Provided by ILO-IPEC, 2011, a research in Afghanistan

³ AREU (2005), Bound for the City: A study of rural to urban labour migration in Afghanistan. Kabul, Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit.

⁴ ILO (2009), Global Employment Trends. January 2009. Geneva, ILO.

⁵ MRRD-CSO (2007), The National Risk and Vulnerability Assessment 2005. Kabul.

⁶ - A survey by WAR CHILD in HERAT Office, 2011

Sub Questions

- How many children go to school in each district?
- What are the most different characteristic in two researched districts of Herat city?
- What are the most important reasons of child labor in districts of Herat city?

Research Objectives

The main objective of this research seeks and to explain the characteristic of child labor in two districts of Herat city.

Specific Objectives are

- To quantify the numbers of children skipping school

- To analyze the variation of those numbers in Herat districts
- To explore the contribution of child labor to the family income in urban communities of Herat city.
- To identify the characteristics of child labor, who work in the society and their reasons for skipping school ?
- To explain the relationships between economic and social factors that influence child labor work in districts of Herat city

Choice method of sample size, districts and schools:

From all districts in Heart city (12 districts) we have selected two districts as random simpling these districts are eighth district and tenth district.



Fig 1: Herat pasport

For specify sample size, we should specify the population of each district and then use from sample size formula, now we introduce as summary these two districts.

Eighth district of Herat city^[7]

Eighth district is bound from north side in Takht-e- Safar’s mounts and Khaja Abdollah Ansari, from south side on Farqa street and district 6 & 11, from east side in Shaydaei park and from west side on Qol Ordo street and district 1. Herat pasport Municipality of Herat Province.

Tenth district of Herat city^[8]

Tenth district is bound from north side in Iraq bazaar and district 7, from south side in Kar Abad Injel district, from east side in bazaar Qandahar and district 2 and from west side on Payan Aab.

8 Heart pasport Municipality of Herat Province

Totally, the population of both districts are 124517 persons that we use it for specifying sample size as bellow.

Probability= P = 0.5 Total population = N = 124517 Sample size = S

Confidence grade = Z = 1.96 Level error = D = 0.1 = 10%

$$S = \frac{NZ^2 * P(1-P)}{Nd^2 + Z^2 * P(1-P)}$$

$$\frac{1.96^2 \times 124517 \times 0.5(1-0.5)}{0.1^2 \times 124517 + 1.96^2 \times 0.5(1-0.5)} = 95.96$$

Our sample size is about 96 persons. For more surety and better result we spot it 100 persons.

For selecting one school from schools in each district we have to use random simpling as for each school spot one ID number and then use from random lottery and the school which selected, include in our research.

There are 19 schools in district 8 that 17 are governmental schools and 2 other are private schools, after lottery Baghnazargha School selected, that this school has 1250 Students and has student until eight class.

⁷ Municipality of Herat province

⁸ Municipality of Herat Province

Research Result

1. Going to school regulatory

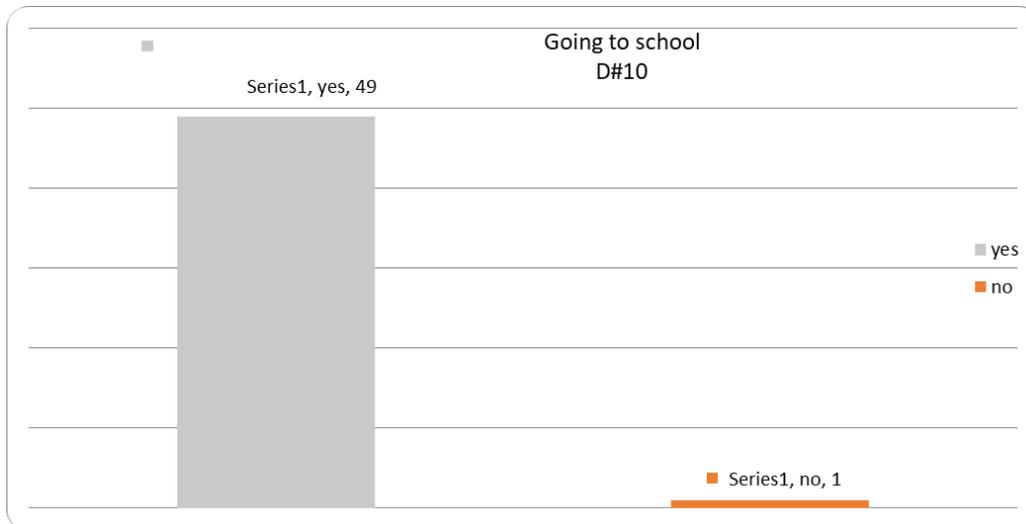
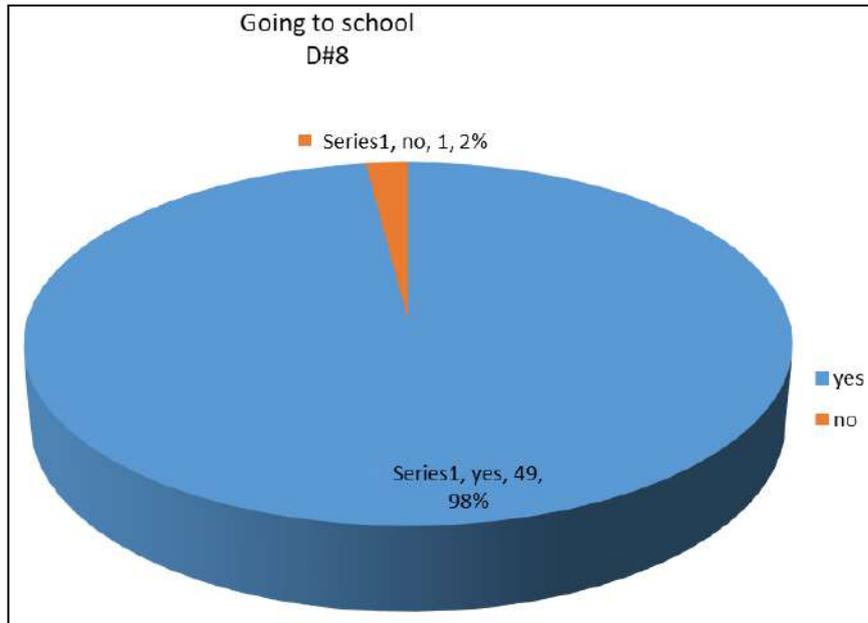
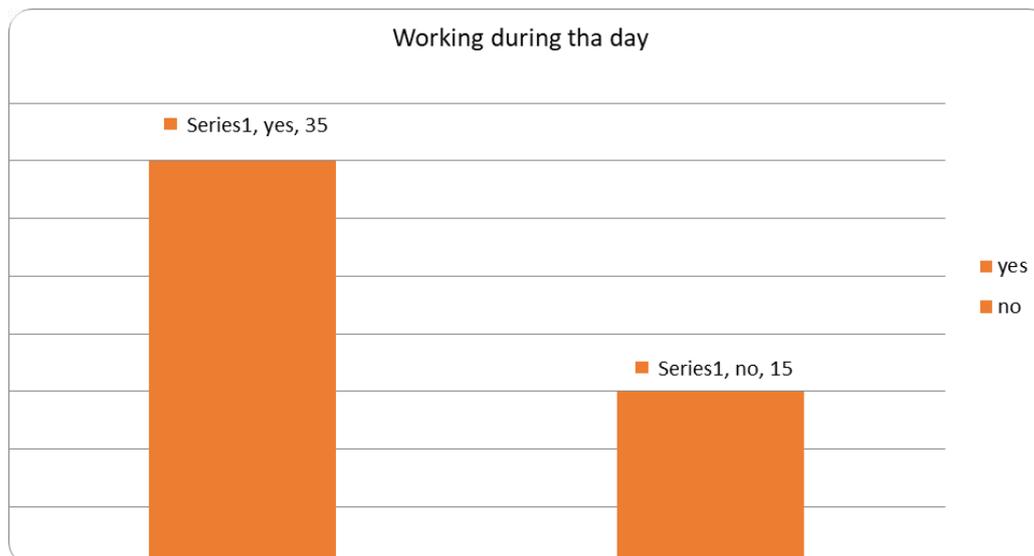


Fig 2: School regulatory

2. Working during the day



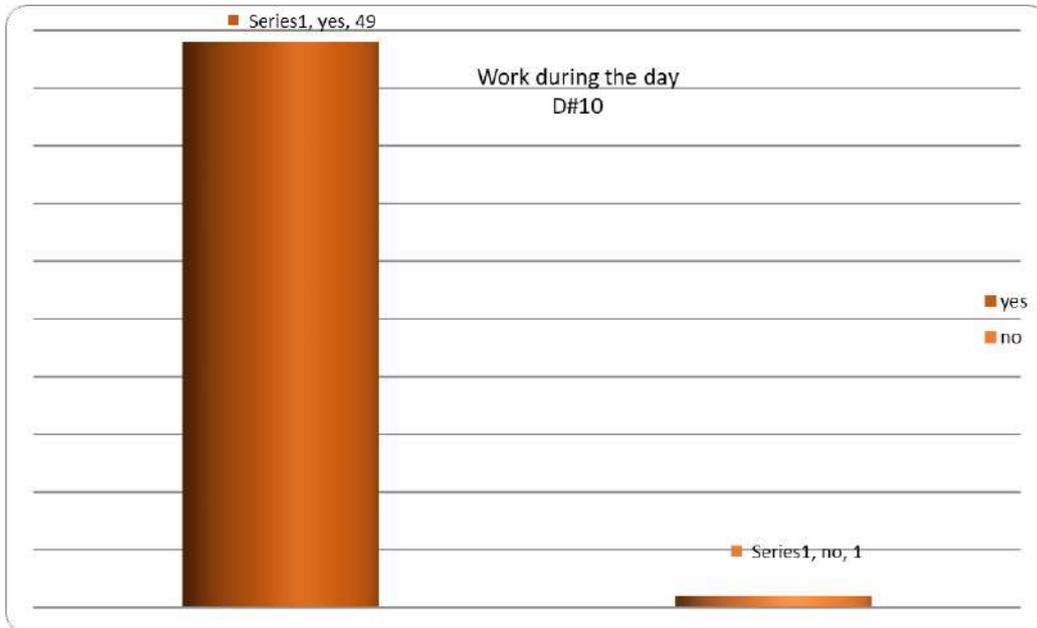


Fig 3: Working day

3. Reasons of working

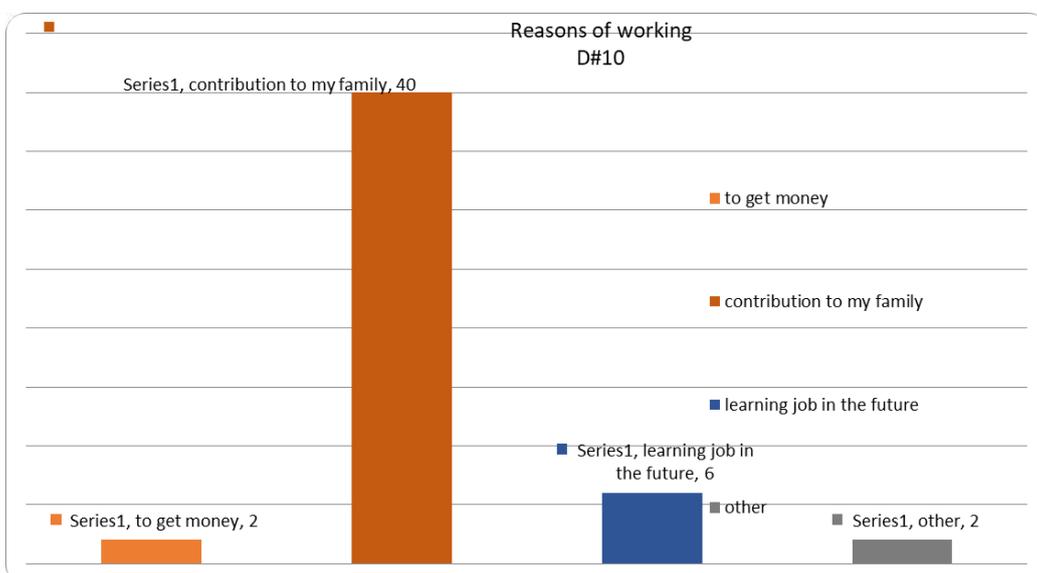
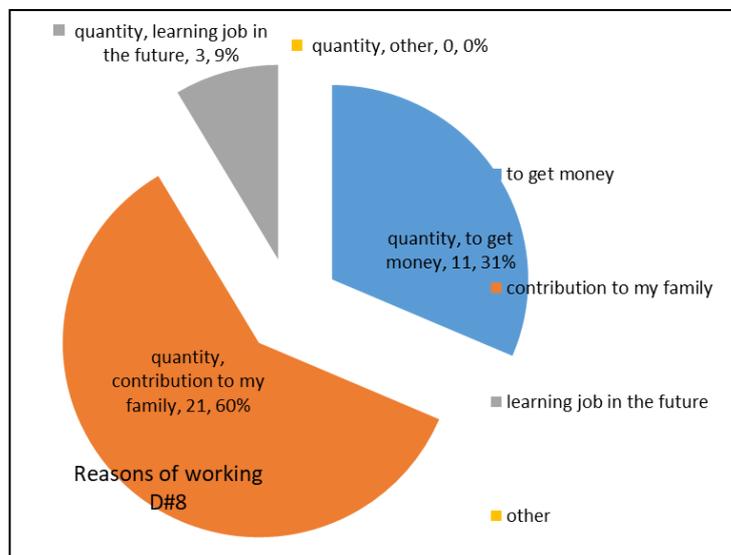


Fig 4: working reasons

4. Kind of work

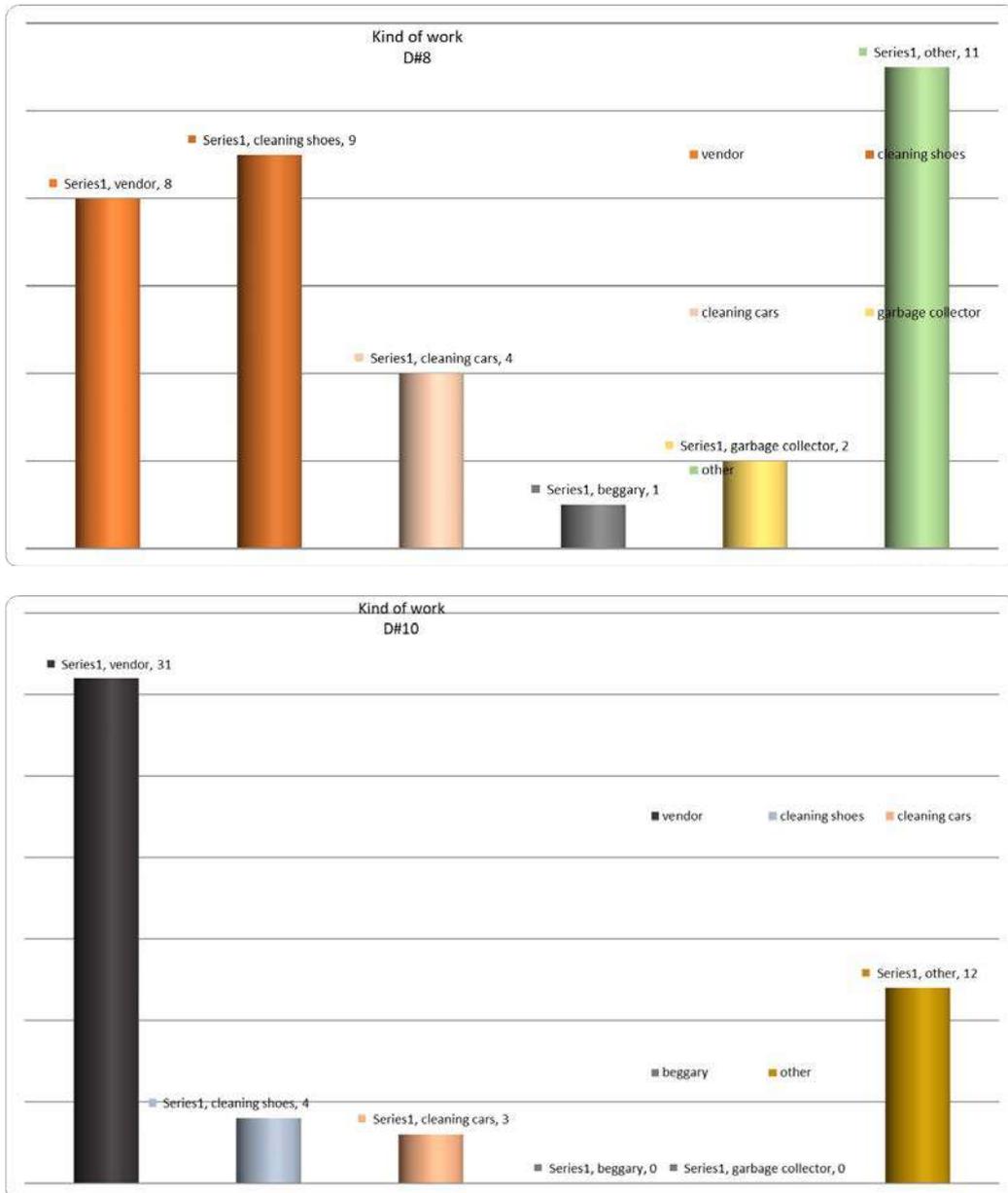
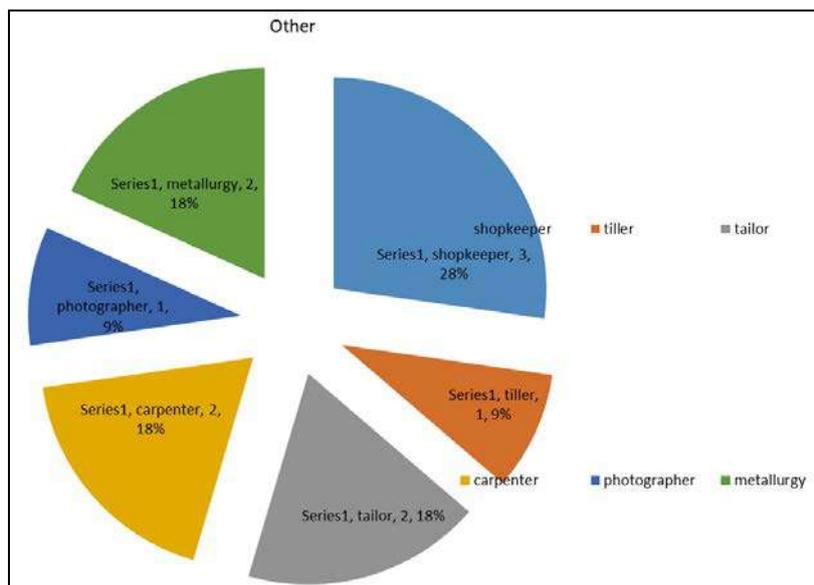


Fig 5: Kind of work



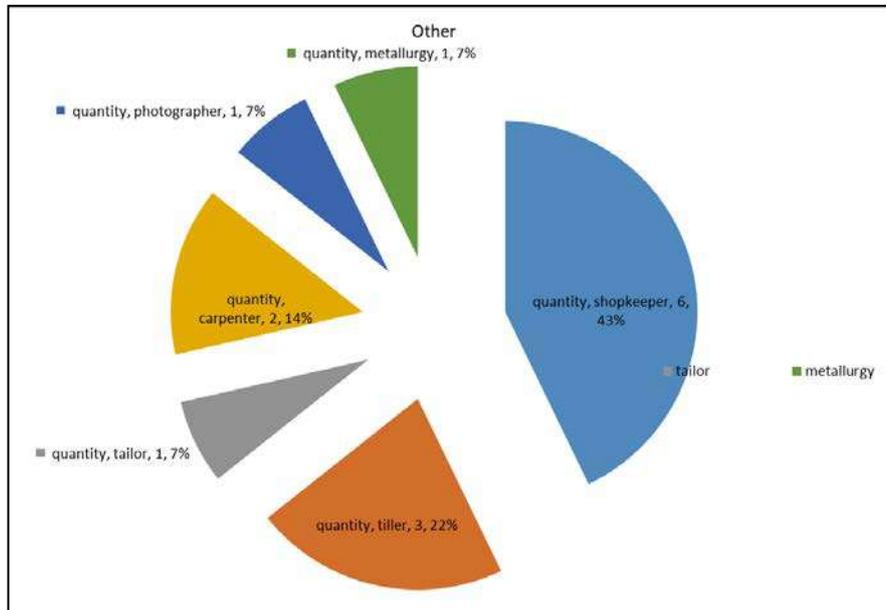


Fig 6: Kind of work

5. Daily income

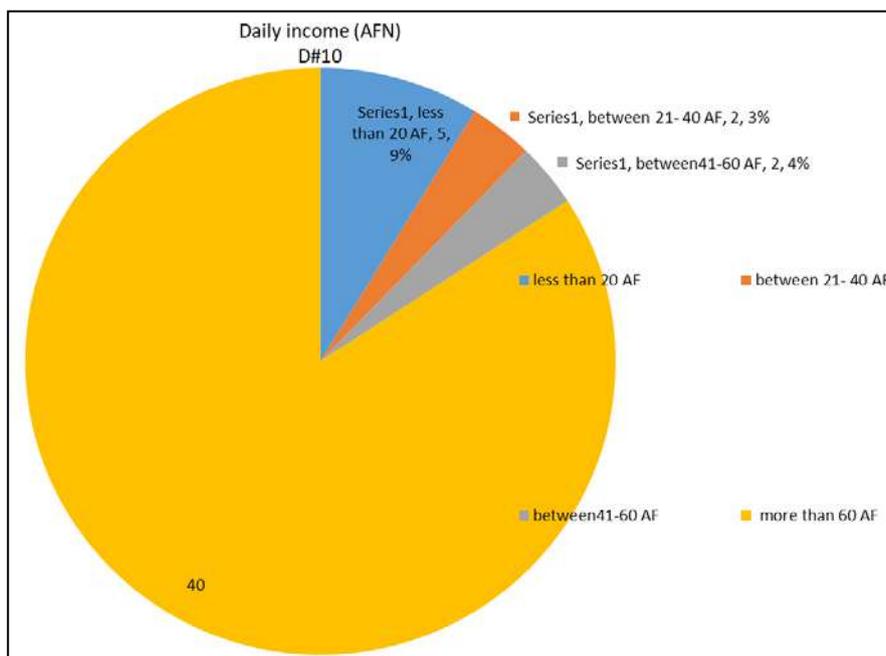
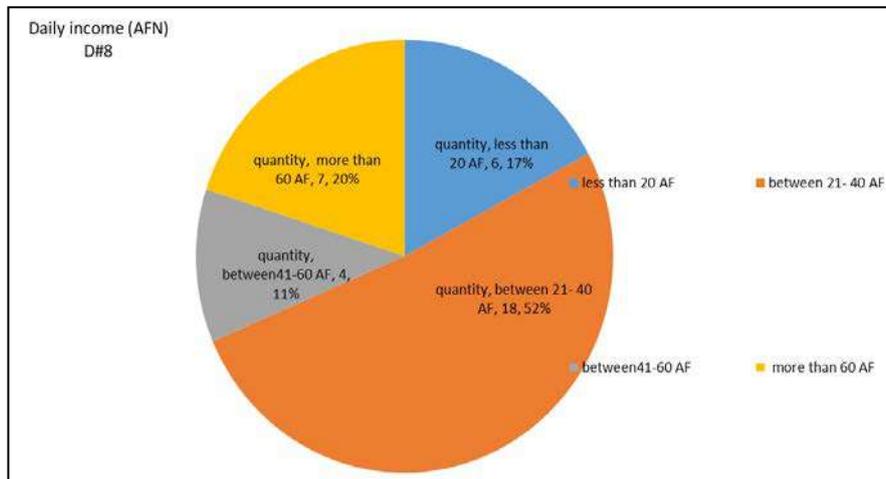


Fig 7: daily income

6. Sharing income to family

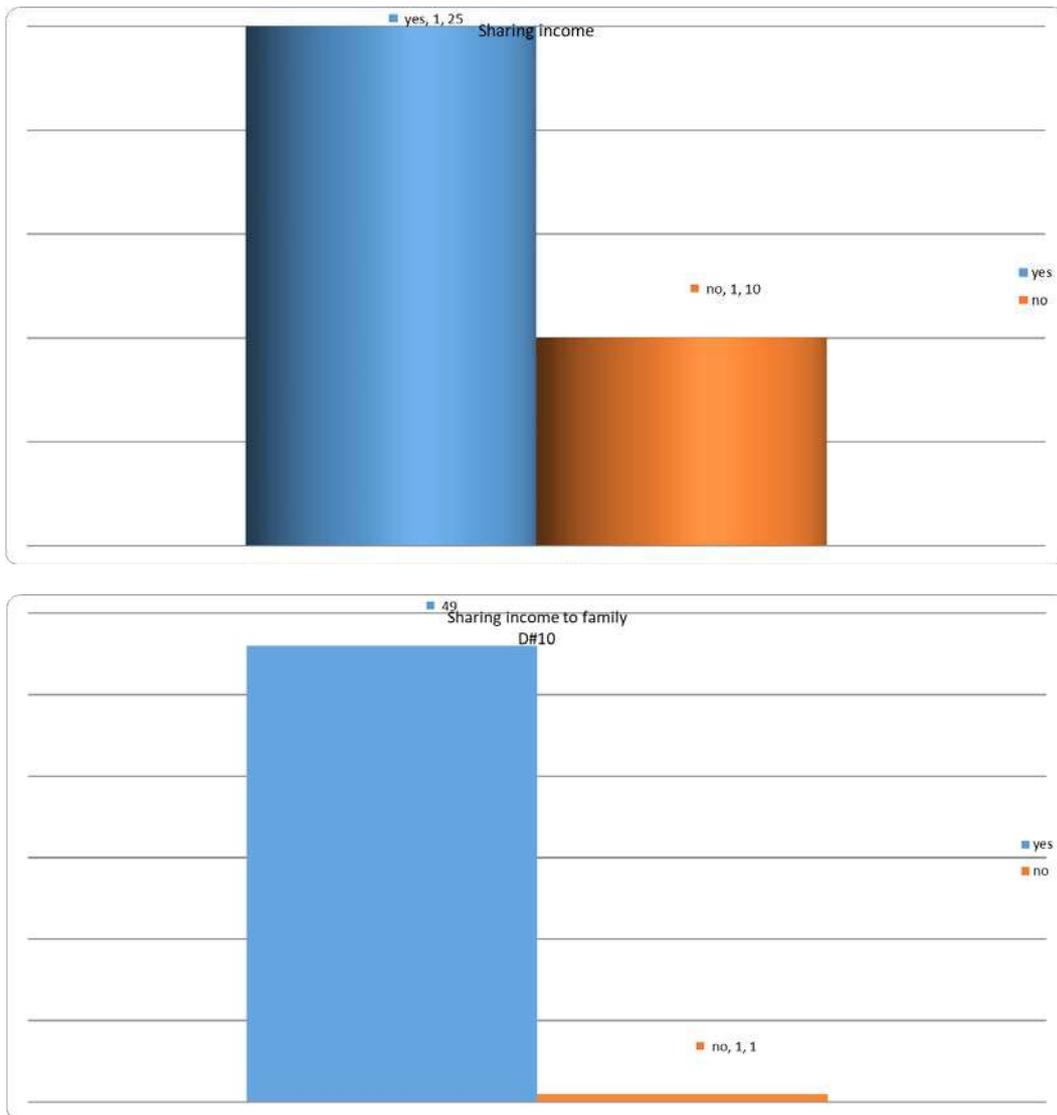
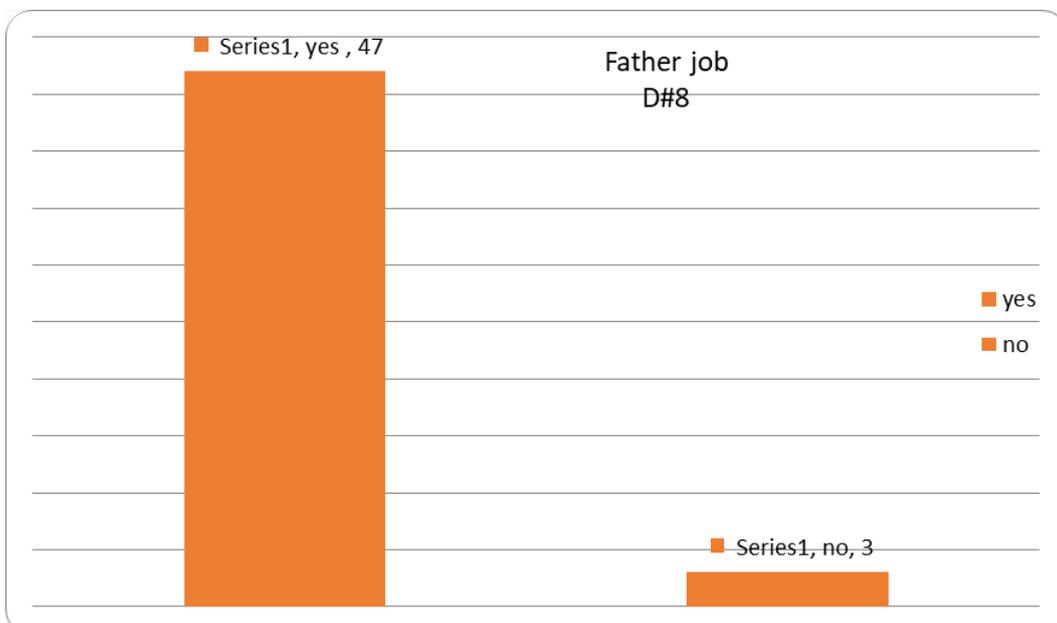


Fig 8: family income

7. Father Job



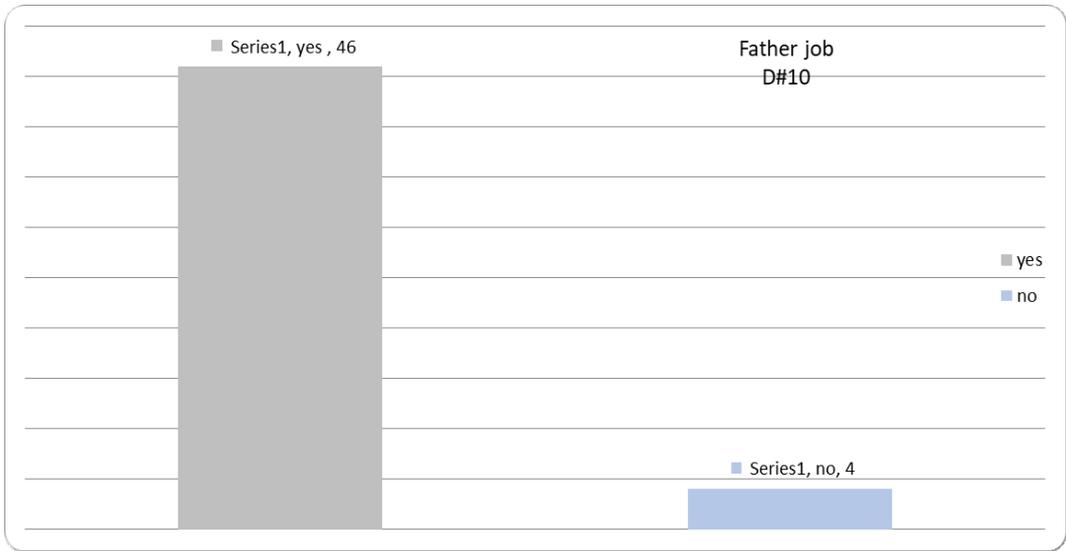


Fig 9: Parents job

8. Father educated

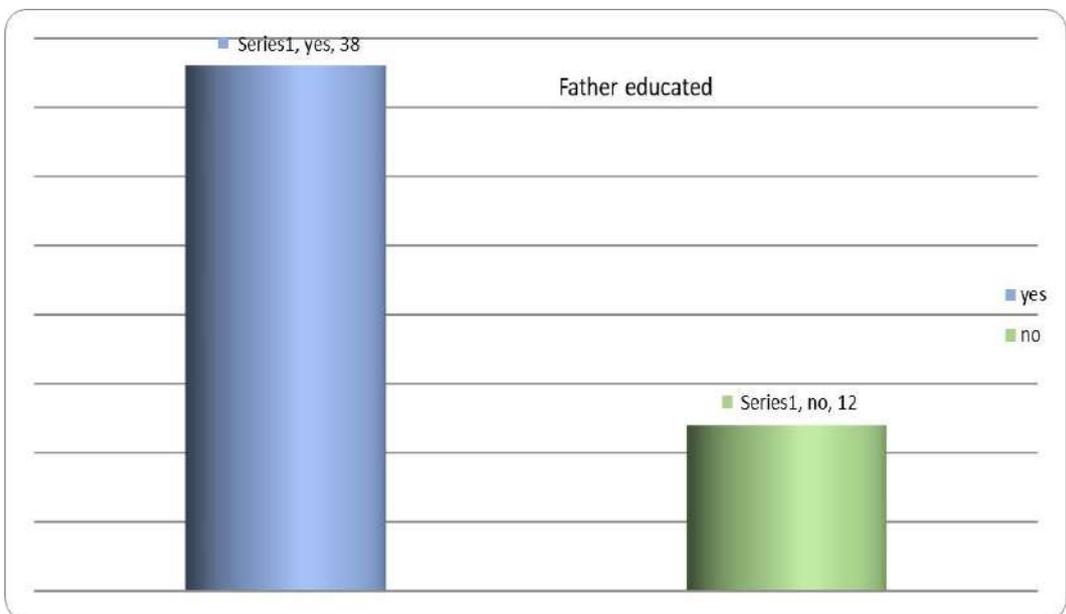
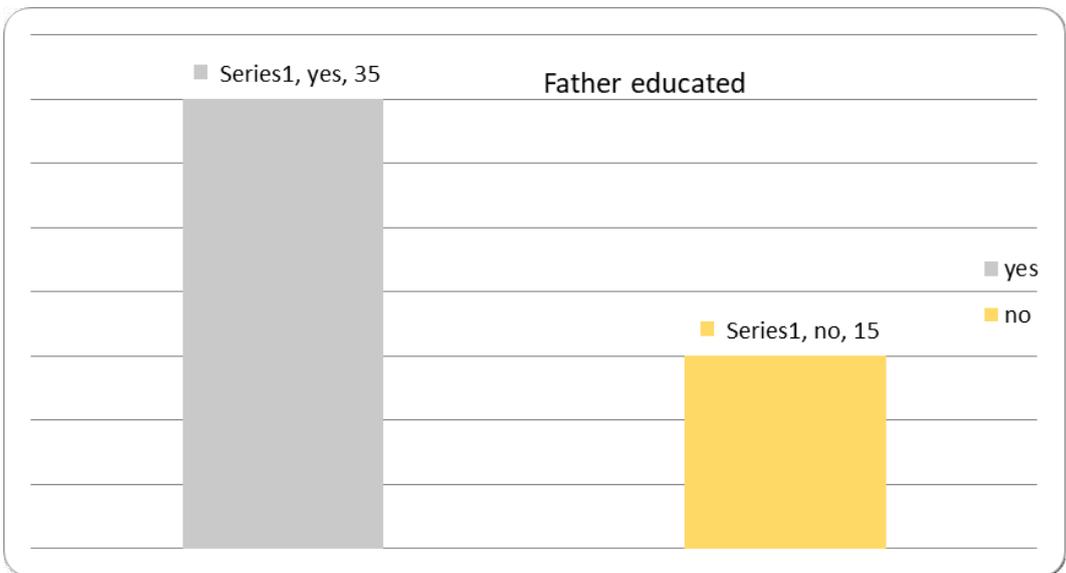


Fig 10: Parents education

In the area of legislation

- a) The State should provide, on the basis of standards established by ILO, protection to children through adopting regulations, amending the Law on Labour and embodying clear and specific provisions regarding employment age and definition of child labour (light work, heavy work, and hazardous work).
- b) The State should take urgent and strict measures to approve ILO Conventions relating to child labour.
- c) Employment of child laborers to narcotic production works and other prohibited affairs should be considered as a crime.
- d) Employment of children under 18 to hazardous works should be abolished.
- e) Economic exploitation and laborious works should be prevented.
- f) Work hours should be determined for child worker.
- g) The private sector that employs children and adolescents, should arrange the working hour in a way not to interfere with their schooling and private educational courses.
- h) Employment of children to jobs, detrimental to their health and morals should be avoided. And offenders should be subjected to legal punishment.
- i) Employers should arrange working hours according to the children's ability, when there is a need to their work,

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