

**SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITIONS OF CHILD LABOUR  
IN COAL MINES IN BALOCHISTAN**



**BY**

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**Quaid-I-Azam University**

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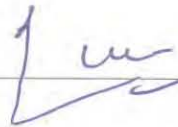
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## ABSTRACT

The major purpose of this paper is to know the level of child labor in coal fields at Tehsil Mach, as Balochistan is the most backward province of Pakistan where literacy rate is very much low as compare to other provinces Balochistan has low life style in all fields of life, though it is the biggest province in terms of land but least populated province also, Balochistan is very much rich in its minerals, low literacy is not the only reason behind the child labor, poverty can be the other major source of child labor in province, it has the highest rank in poverty also, According to one report by ILO in 2013 that some 500 children are working in Loralai coal fields, the situation is very much similar in other coal fields of Balochistan including Mach coal fields, the children are found in all coal mines at Mach coal fields while working to support their families financially, the child labor is found inside and outside the black hole while prone to all hazards, working at coal fields without any safety kits and prone to all disease which are caused by coal dust, The children are mostly from Tehsil Mach but other than this the children from KPK and Afghanistan are also seen in coal fields, the children in coal fields are not safe from all type of hazards, their rights are being violated and they are exploited physically and sexually, the child labor is seen due to many reasons at coal fields the major reason is seen as poverty, health and safety issues are being faced by the children, the children at Mach fields are deprived from the all basic rights such as education, health, entertainment, the heavy work is being taken from them while working six to eight hours at coal fields.

**Key words:** Child labor, Coal Mine, Chronic Diseases, Poverty.

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# CHAPTER 1

## Introduction

In the process of industrialization and output generation, the working community plays a vital role. The working environment and working conditions of worker is equally important to that of capital and organization to promote sustainable development. The socio-economic condition of coal mine workers in this study covers various dimensions of workers such as working conditions, work environments, occupational hazards, industrial accidents and income generation, etc. The conditions under which the workers perform their duty have a great bearing on their general health, efficiency, and productivity. The performance is affected by environmental problems such as temperature, noise, ventilation, humidity, work zone air quality, ambient air quality, etc. The continuous exposure of the miners to such an unhealthy atmosphere leads to fatigue and boredom ultimately leading to serious fatal accidents. So it has been correctly said that a perfect man can be from a good and healthy environment. The piece of research is mainly meant for the economic policy measures for the control of environmental pollution, particularly in the coal industry. Since the coal industry has been already identified as one of the most polluting units in the country, this study is very much contextual and worthwhile from the angle of policy decision-making. Again, the study is based on grass root level observation covering socio-economic aspects of the groups affected by the pollution due to coal mines (Ahmed,2017).

But the socio economic condition of people in province are very much weak, the major number of people suffer due to poverty the large number of people live under the line of poverty, the province lacks all the basic facilities such as education and health, instead of sharing huge natural minerals ,the ratio of poverty is very much high as compare to other provinces, the statistics regarding the poverty and unemployment does not show good picture according the report in 2013, that 45.68% people live under the poverty line but the ratio has been increased to 52%, the province is also suffering due to lack of safe drinking water only 20% people have access to safe drinking water and 86% in rest of Pakistan, just 25% villages in Pakistan have electricity, the infant mortality rate is also

high as compare to rest of country in spite these all the province has been suffering due to drought weather, that badly affected the livestock which is the largest source of livelihood in province because just 6% land is cultivated, the report published by institute of sustainable development policy that half of population in Balochistan just earn 1.25\$ per day , the poverty and unemployment are causing several issues in province including the illiteracy or quality education. None of the constitutions in Pakistan permits children to work as child labor is defined by the —International Labor Organization ILO that those children who are deprived of their dignity and childhood are called child labor and such activities are harmful to their physical and mental development and deprive children of education (Ali,2000).

Ray, R. (2000) in Pakistan 86 the age of children which is mentioned in the 18th amendment is below 14 however the United Nations convention on the rights of children(CRC) mentions the age of children under 18 years. Child labor in Balochistan Child labor is extensively predominant in the country and can be found in every field of economy, there is a large number of child laborers who are not visible normally because they mostly work in predominantly in at informal sectors, the child labor is highly accepted in society, child protection laws are not implemented completely, in Pakistan there is no any type of authentic survey which indicates the prevalence and extension in child labor because the last survey in the country was carried out by Federal Bureau of Statistics, in 1996 in collaboration with international labor organization ILO, according to that data 3.36 million children in ages 5 to 14 were child labor. Child labor is a universal issue all over the world mostly in developing countries; however, in Asia and Africa, 90% of child employment is noticed Patrinos. In these countries child labor is mostly seen in rural areas where mining and agricultural activities are carried out, also lack of educational institutes is observed in rural areas of developing countries, children are the major contributor to their families in terms of the family economy however the children are not well or paid enough for the work which they do, there can be several reasons why the parents prefer to send their children for earning some money rather than sending them to schools, the reason might be the lack of good educational institutes or quality of education, in Asia, India has the highest number in child labor which is 44 million and in

Pakistan, the child labor is some 10% though the child labor is banned in these Asian countries (Weiner 1991).

According to an ILO report that child labor is also seen in South America as child labor in Brazil is some seven million. (ILO 1992). The child labor is one of the major issues in Pakistan, there is no enough or reliable statistics regarding the child labor in Pakistan but according to one estimate that in Pakistan there are 11 to 12 million children working in different fields(HRCP2015) major number of children are under the age of 10, the children are mostly seen in technical activities and child labor is the quarter of skilled labor, even there are few industries which cannot survive without children such as motor garages, brick 87 making and carpet making, each year huge number of children enter in the labor force where they face or compete with adults however it has observed that in many cases they work combined with their parents, the child labor is found irrespective of fields means even mostly children are seen in domestic labor as well, the high class society mostly prefer women for their domestic or kitchen works where the girl children work with their mother or many times with their parents, in Metropolitan cities Pakistan the child labor is normally seen in different places, while in collecting garbage, in streets, working in restaurants or working in motor garages. (Anker, 2000).

This is a fact and all the world has understood this phenomenon that the children are the future of any nation and child labor does not have positive impacts on any society, the children who are working or involved in child labor can bring disturbance in society due to illiteracy or ignorance, the children remain far from the education, which created disharmony in the society, there would be a violation of laws, in such society all institutions of society cannot function properly because society is not going smoothly, child labor does not cause just illiteracy but it also deprives the children of their childhood, removes their freedom and dignity, the children are deprived form their basic education though after the 18th amendment it is decided that education is a basic right of everyone (Hassan, 2012).

Poverty is the major reason for child labor in developing countries and all form of child labor are available in these countries, there are several reasons for child labor in

Balochistan, such as poverty, unemployment, and lack of educational institutes, according to one non-governmental organization —AlifAilaanll that 66% children between ages 5-16 are out of school, further it was revealed by them that that in 2016 1.8million children do not attend school in Balochistan. Child labor at coal fields in Balochistan There are six big coal fields in Balochistan which all are located near Quetta district the capital, coal mining has been carried out in the province for the last several decades, before the British era just open cast coal mining was carried out but underground coal mining was started in the British era, the coal mining is the most hazards work in the world, the coal dust directly hits the people's lung and creates chest and cardiac issues not among the workers but also the population living near by the coal fields, 88 the unsafe and fangled methods of mining are making more hazard because the workers are prone to many physical and mental threat due to unsafe mining. The Mach coal fields are located 60km far from the capital Quetta city and situated in Kachi district, where there are 213 million ton coal reserves at tehsil mach. (GSP,2013).

Child labor is one of the major issues in all six coal fields of Balochistan, children are found in all fields of coal mining weather inside the coal for excavation of coal or outside of coal fields while transporting the coal, and the condition of children in coal mining is similar in all six fields The child labor is also in peak at Sharagh coal fields, all coal fields are situated in rural areas where they lack all the basic facilities, the coal mine workers live under serious conditions, there are no public schools for their children, due to poverty the children also work with their parents, and same is the condition in health the workers and their children do not get health facilities from the contractors or coal mine owners, the 1923 mines act is not properly implemented in coal fields the owners with the collaboration of mines department always violate the law and however the 1923 act does not fulfill the current requirements. Research Methodology, The universe of this study is Mach coal fields located at Tehsil Mach district Kachi, the population of this study is child labor who are working in coal fields This is a mix method research, qualitative and quantitative methods are applied in this study, different type of methods are used to collect data such as interview, questionnaire, FGDs, key informants, researcher observation, the sample unite is child labor and the sample size is 100 children

from 20 coal fields out of 40 Child labor at Mach coal fields. In Mach coal fields the children are forced to mine irrespective of coal hazards, in this study hundred children are interviewed, the children at Mach coal fields have no choice the only choice is to work coal fields, they aim to earn and support their family, the all children who are found at Mach coal fields they do not go to school, the majority of the children have not completed their early or primary education, in this study the coal mine workers who are working in coal fields are also interviewed regarding their children weather their children working in coal fields the following chart shows the children who are working with their father/brother or guardians in Mach coal fields.

### **1.1 Statement of the Problem**

There are various two aspects of child labor. Initially, child labor affects the child, and secondly, it affects society. The current research focused the children they how children are affected in severe forms. However, the effect of child labor in coal mines is a secondary concern of the research. The research aims to investigate the questions of the study systematically. There are various objectives of the study firstly, what are the basic economic conditions of the children in coal mines? Secondly, what are the social factors of child labor that are related to family and other societal relationships? This is an important part of the research to see the dynamics of social life and financial situations of the children impact on their socialization. Thirdly, the study aims to explore the factors contributing to children's involvement in work.

### **1.2 Significance of the Study**

Child labor has been a menace in society. Pakistan has implemented laws regarding child labor (like Article 11 of the Pakistan constitution II part, the employment Of children Act 1991, The Bonded Labor System Abolition Act 1992, etc). Working children are deprived of basic needs like education and health. Good and healthy children are the future of any nation depriving them of their basic rights, resulting in the production of a generation that would not be helpful to society.



Children have been working in factories, brick kilns, workshops, mines, etc. There has been less work in Pakistan regarding child labor and particularly in coal mines. The study aimed to highlight the various cause and effect factors of child labor in coal mines. The study extracted data that helps in understanding the actual causes that are promoting children towards exploitive work. The study also helped to understand the health issues of working children like malnutrition, psychological disorder, and physical injuries. Further, it aimed to understand the socialization of the children in a working environment. The topic also aimed to understand the contributions of children to the household economy. In short, the study helped to draw a Picture of working children in coal mines.

#### **1.4 Objectives**

1. To study the socioeconomic impacts of child labor on children themselves and at a societal level as well.
2. To examine the factors that is attracting children to work.
3. To review the position of laws implemented in Pakistan to cure or control child labor.

## CHAPTER 2

### Literature review

Lately, child labor has been the focus of the world. Especially it is found in developing countries that tend to be concentrated in the informal sector of the economy. Before starting, it is very important to understand the term "child labor". Singh (1992) says child labor is interpreted in two ways, firstly as economic practice and secondly as a social evil. According to the first interpretation, it means the children are working to increase the family income. And the second interpretation expresses needed to look at the nature and extend of the work the child is doing. Singh defines child labor as,

“The employment of children is a gainful occupation which is dangerous to their health and denies them the opportunity of development”. (Singh: 1992). In the present research, we focus on the same context such economic activities have been studied which are considered hazardous for the child. Before going in-depth regarding child labor, first, let us understand the actual meaning of child labor. The International Labor Organization defines child labor as,

*"The work that deprives children of their childhood, their potential, and their dignity and that is harmful to their physical and mental development. In its most extreme forms, child labor involves children being enslaved or forced to work in perilous occupations". (ILO, 2009)*

Child labor refers to the phenomenon of depriving children of their fundamental rights which are guaranteed by the law of the state and by their family's customary laws. Different factors became responsible for child labor a few of them will be described areas. Lawlessness, poverty, illiteracy, etc. lawlessness also leads to child labor because when the law of the state is under the hands of a few then it cannot be enforced in its true sense, education plays an important role in stabilizing the life of individuals if education prevails in any society it can pave the way for progress, it can also reduce the intensity of child labor if prevail in its true sense.

We belonging to Asia make our concern more specifically in this region. According to ILO Asia and Pacific region has the highest number of working children worldwide with 120.3 million economically active children aged between 5 to 14 years. In this regard, several worst forms of child labor include child trafficking, commercial sexual exploitation, bonded child labor, child domestic work, hazardous child labor the recruitment in the use of children for armed conflict, and drug trafficking or rampant in the region.

For a couple of years, The United Nations has shown great regarding the exploitation of child labor. The UN has said that child labor is exploitative if it involves

Child labor has remained an invasive problem for successive governments in Pakistan even though copious amounts of legislation laws have been passed over several years to stem the growth of this phenomenon. Child labor manifests in different forms in both the formal and informal sectors of the economy. They range from rag picking and begging to work in auto workshops, brick kilns, and coal mines. The last child labor survey was conducted in 1996 by the government which detailed that 3.3 million out of the total 40 million children in Pakistan are economically active in different sectors of the economy.

## **2.1 Bonded Child Labor in Pakistan**

The UN Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery (1956) defines bonded labor as the: “status or condition arising from a pledge by a debtor of his services or those of a person under his control as security for a debt, if the value of those services as reasonably assessed is not applied towards the liquidation of the debt or the length and nature of those services are not respectively limited and defined”. Bonded labor, deeply rooted in the exploitative feudal system has been further exacerbated by the recent debilitating economic situation in Pakistan that has pushed countless people below the poverty line. From taking loans for marriages and medical assistance to simply surviving and feeding themselves, individuals not only pledge themselves but their entire families into bonded labor. Illiteracy has played its part in worsening the situation as poor people are tricked into taking loans that are impossible to pay off in the given time frame,

therefore, are passed on down in the family. Bonded child labor is also a result of the push system where a family member takes advance payment from an employer and in return pledges the child to work until the loan is paid off. Debt bondage, regardless of whether parents have contracted a debt that is to be paid off by their labor or by pledging the services of their children, places children ultimately at the mercy of the landowner, contractor, or money-lender, where they suffer from both economic hardship and educational deprivation. The main difference between adult and child bonded labor is that children have not themselves contracted the debt; it was done on their behalf by adults. The link between child labor and the inter-generational perpetuation of poverty could hardly be clearer. Poverty and the existence of people prepared to exploit the desperation of others are at the heart of debt bondage. Without land or the benefits of education, the need for money for daily survival forces people to sell their labor in exchange for a lump sum or loan. Parents are driven to accept money in exchange for allowing their children to work outside their village, often in the hope that their children will be better off working for a more affluent family. Caste, discrimination along ethnic, religious, and gender lines, and continuing feudal agricultural relationships are also key to the existence of bonded labor and what makes it thrive. Debt bondage is increasingly linked with the trafficking of children for labor exploitation. Rural poverty, coupled with population growth and rapid urbanization, leads some parents to place their children with agents, not only in exchange for money but also in the hope that the child will receive education or training at the point of destination. In other cases, children themselves decide to leave their homes. The child victims, who may end up in commercial sexual exploitation, domestic work, or sweatshops, may never know the amount of debt they are working to pay off or the terms of repayment.

Furthermore, to know Pakistani children who are working in laborious activities see the survey report of FBS. According to a survey done by the Federal Bureau of Statistics (FBS) ( ). Government of Pakistan in 1996 there are 3.3 million working children actively. As the report states “There are 3.3 million child labors in Pakistan. Estimated labor laborers participation for the year 1996-7 would be for males between the ages of 10-14 years, 16.34 percent, and females 5.76 percent (Economic Survey of Pakistan,

1996-7) while in 1992 it was 18.09 percent and 7.81 percent. Pakistan lacks reliable data statistics on the situation of child labor in the country. Since 1996 there is no survey since then done by the government.

Bounded labor refers to a worker who renders service under conditions of bondage arising from economic considerations, notable indebtedness through a loan or advance. When the root cause of the bondage, the implication is that the worker (or dependents or hers) is to a particular creditor for a specific period until the loan is repaid".(international labor organization, March 2004)

Interestingly Pakistan has banned bonded labor and states,

*"Bonded labor as a form of slavery is non-existent and forbidden and no law shall permit or facilitate its introduction into Pakistan in any form. (2) All forms of forced labor and tragedy in human beings are prohibited". (Article 11, Constitution of Pakistan, 1973).*

The children along with; either family or forced laborer under this article of the Pakistan Constitution is prohibited. They are not to be hired as laborers or a worker below the age of 14 years old and if in any case found in the violation, there is a punishment of either six months imprisonment or a fine of 5000 to 50,000 or both.

The bonded labor system (Abolition) Act 1992 Pakistan also gives a comprehensive definition of bonded labor as "the system forced or partly forced, labor under which a debtor enters, or is presumed to have entered into an agreement with the creditor to the effect that in consideration of an advance peshagi' obtained by him or by his any member of his family, in pursuance of any customary or social obligation or for any economic consideration received by him or any member of his family". Bonded Labour Act, 1992)

However, the Bonded Labor System (Abolition) Act 1992 does not specifically target child bonded labor, but does cover children trapped in bondage and its proper enforcement can free a large number of children from bondage. The act declares all customs, traditions, practices, and contracts or agreements concerning bonded labor void

and inoperative. Coming up to our topic of the study we also find that the children are employed in mine sectors. In this regard, it is stated that children at the sight or in the mines are hazardous in both situations because they deal with harmful health matters either physical, psychological, or mental. As Owen R. Lovejoy defines, " Small boys hardly aged 9 to 15 are found in coal mining sites, working as toiling under heavy burdens and in noisome channels in coal mines. The chief duties of the few small boys who work inside the hard coal mines to-day are as mule drivers, strangers, and gate-tenders. The site along with working condition both is harmful to the child". (Lovejoy, March 1906).

To further understand the law implementation regarding children working in mines we see the Mines Act of 1923 that forbids the employment of children less than 14 years in mines which is below ground. To conclude the importance and methodology of the research topic "socio-cultural determinants of child labor in coal mines was of prime concern. It was essential to know about child labor coal minimizes a great issue, and then constructed a methodology for the research paradigms that helped me to work systematically and scientifically to extract knowledge about the issue of child labor in coal mines.

The research paradigms were mainly anthropological and applied several methodologies to conduct the research thoroughly and accurately. For this purpose anthropological tools were used.

Child labor in Balochistan Child labor is extensively predominant in the country and can be found in every field of economy, there is a large number of child laborers who are not visible normally because they mostly work in predominantly in at informal sectors, the child labor is highly accepted in society, child protection laws are not implemented completely, in Pakistan there is no any type of authentic survey which indicates the prevalence and extension in child labor because the last survey in the country was carried out by Federal Bureau of Statistics, in 1996 in collaboration with international labor

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In these countries child labor is mostly seen in rural areas where mining and agricultural activities are carried out, also lack of educational institutes is observed in rural areas of developing countries, children are the major contributor to their families in terms of the family economy however the children are not well or paid enough for the work which they do, there can be several reasons why the parents prefer to send their children for earning some money rather than sending them to schools, the reason might be the lack of good educational institutes or quality of education, in Asia, India has the highest number in child labor which is 44 million and in Pakistan, the child labor is some 10% though the child labor is banned in these Asian countries (Weiner 1991).

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Child labor at coal fields in Balochistan There are six big coal fields in Balochistan which all are located near Quetta district the capital, coal mining has been carried out in the



province for the last several decades, before the British era just open cast coal mining was carried out but underground coal mining was started in the British era, the coal mining is the most hazardous work in the world, the coal dust directly hits the people's lung and creates chest and cardiac issues not among the workers but also the population living near by the coal fields, 88 the unsafe and fangled methods of mining are making more hazardous because the workers are prone to many physical and mental threats due to unsafe mining. The Mach coal fields are located 60km far from the capital Quetta city and situated in Kachi district, where there are 213 million ton coal reserves at tehsil Mach (GSP,2013).

The phenomenon of the child, besides political issues, is also a social issue. It is also a social problem that has been the byproduct of various factors like poverty, antiquated social customs, unemployment, the lack of education, and various other social factors. The menace of child labor is also a social issue as it emerges in a particular social context and because of various "social facts" which have been called such by Emile Durkheim according to which every kind of phenomenon is caused by some social factor called "social facts". (Edmonds, 2017).

The most important factor which causes child labor in Pakistan has been the social causes. First, the general nature of the social system has been patriarchal. Certain causes lead to overpopulation which in the long run can overburden the family. In such a situation, the child is considered as the entity which could be utilized to complement their income. Secondly, there is a lack of education and the prevalence of illiteracy in the country. The issue of literacy is more conspicuous in rural areas. The lack of education means the lack of enlightened principles to be inculcated. In such a situation, children are

not devoted to education rather they are devoted to child labor. The illiteracy prevents them to think in terms of long-term dividends of education of the children. (Basu, 2001)

The most important cause which has been attributed to child labor in Pakistan has been overpopulation. According to the latest population census of 2017, the population of Pakistan stands at 210 million and it is likely to reach 350 million by 2030 if the current rate of population growth persisted. Overpopulation not only means a burden on national resources but also on household income. The increase in population and households can lead to various issues like more children, and similar demands for more income. In such a situation, the only alternative for the family is to rely on child labor to complement their meager income and effectively meet their various needs.

The rise of child labor in the country is attributed to economic factors due to several factors. First, the economic base of the country is not that strong. Secondly, there is unemployment in the country. Thirdly, there are income inequalities. The confluence of all these factors has resulted in the rise of child labor in the country. Since its independence, the economy of Pakistan was mired in various problems. Pakistan always alternated between the boom and bust cycle. Structural reforms could not be undertaken and the indigenous resources could not be utilized to keep pace with the rising population. The reason was simple; Pakistan has stunted economic growth. Such kind of growth is not confined to Pakistan only, rather many of the developing countries of South Asia are faced with such kind of stagnated economic growth. In the presence of stagnated growth, the rise of unemployment cannot be ruled out. Pakistan has been wracked by the specter of unemployment since independence. According to the report of the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, the current unemployment of the country stands at 4.08%. In this

context, unemployment and concomitant social problems cannot be overlooked. Due to unemployment, the family is overburdened and could not be looked after with the meager resources available. The direct outcome has been the use of a child to complement the meager resources of the family. The meager resources of the family have also exacerbated the issue of income inequality in the country. (Gilani, 2020). Using the terminologies of Marxism, there are also wide income inequalities in the country. According to one report, only 21% of the families have wealth equal to the remaining poor in the country. Such inequitable distribution has created various socio- economic problems for the lower classes in the country. The upper classes are afforded the luxury provided, by the lower classes are languishing in socio-economic problems. To make ends meet, they have to resort to child labor to keep their status afloat.

In legal terms, child labor constitutes a crime. It is evident from various legal concepts and various laws present in the country. First, there is the concept of “ParentsPatria”, according to which the state is the guardian of the children and it must play a proactive role to prevent the abuse of children in society. Secondly, the constitution of Pakistan stipulates according to article 11 that child labor is prohibited. (Beegle, 2019) It leads to the conclusion that anyone violating these fundamental rights can be called into account. Likewise, the Employment of Children Act-1991 provides that child labor is prohibited. Hence, from a legal perspective, the age of majority and minority has been demarcated and anyone who is found to be committing the crime of child labor can be apprehended. Hence, from a legal perspective Child labor is a crime. (Baland, 2000).

Every social problem also requires a policy to be dealt with. When translated into actions, the various social problems require various solutions and it becomes the duty of the political organ of society to prevent and administer the legal regime and deal with it effectively. In this regard, the elimination of social problems becomes the duty of the political organs of society which can assume various manifestations. (Edmonds, 2017) To prevent those social problems, the state utilizes various measures. The state utilizes various instruments like various institutions and administrative structures and the institution of law. These structural and legal regimes can lead to the prevention of many of the social problems in society. When studied in the context of the legal regime and the administrative structure which deals with social problems like child labor, it becomes evident that even from this social perspective the phenomenon of child labor is a crime and needs to be stopped. (Apel, 2019).

Child labor is a universal issue all over the world mostly in developing countries; however, in Asia and Africa, 90% of child employment is noticed Patrinos, H. A. (1995). In these countries child labor is mostly seen in rural areas where mining and agricultural activities are carried out, also lack of educational institutes is observed in rural areas of developing countries, children are the major contributor to their families in terms of the family economy however the children are not well or paid enough for the work which they do, there can be several reasons why the parents prefer to send their children for earning some money rather than sending them to schools, the reason might be the lack of good educational institutes or quality of education, in Asia, India has the highest number in child labor which is 44 million and in Pakistan, the child labor is some 10% though the child labor is banned in these Asian countries (Weiner 1991). According to ILO reports

that child labor is also seen in South America such as child labor in Brazil is some seven million. (ILO 1992).

The child labor is one of the major issues in Pakistan, there is no enough or reliable statistics regarding the child labor in Pakistan but according to one estimate that in Pakistan there are 11 to 12 million children working in different fields(HRCP2015) major number of children are under the age of 10, the children are mostly seen in technical activities and child labor is the quarter of skilled labor, even there are few industries which cannot survive without children such as motor garages, brick 87 making and carpet making, each year huge number of children enter in the labor force where they face or compete with adults however it has observed that in many cases they work combined with their parents, the child labor is found irrespective of fields means even mostly children are seen in domestic labor as well, the high class society mostly prefer women for their domestic or kitchen works where the girl children work with their mother or many times with their parents, in Metropolitan cities Pakistan the child labor is normally seen in different places, while in collecting garbage, in streets, working in restaurants or working in motor garages. Anker, R. (2000). This is a fact and all the world have understood this phenomenon that the children are the future of any nation and child labor does not have positive impacts on any society, the children who are working or involved in child labor can bring disturbance in society due to illiteracy or ignorance, the children remain far from the education, which created disharmony in the society, there would be a violation of laws, in such society all institutions of society cannot function properly because society is not going smoothly, child labor does not cause just illiteracy but it also deprives the children of their childhood, removes their freedom and dignity, the children are deprived form their basic education though after the 18th amendment it is decided that education is the basic right of everyone. Hassan, S. A. (2012).

## **CHAPTER 3**

### **Research methodology**

Social research is a systematic and deliberate method of exploring new facts or verifying old ones. Research methodology means the philosophy of the research process this includes the assumption and values that serve as a rationale for research and the standards or criteria the research uses for interpreting data and reaching a conclusion. Thus research methodology determines different factors such as research writing hypotheses and making decisions, the specific objectives of this chapter are to shed light on various research tools, techniques, and procedures being used in the current study (Bryman, 2016).

Research methodology is a systematic and scientific process used to collect data. The methodology includes different ways of researching interviews, surveys, case studies, and other techniques of research. It involves observation, analysis, and interpretation of data. Through research methodology the researcher designs. The topic of research is descriptive so the methodology is purely based on it. The research methodology includes methodology, methods, a tool for data collection, population, sample size, sample technique, unit of analysis, and locale.

#### **3.1 Research methodology**

Research Methodology is a basic guideline that follows a systematic way of conducting research. The topic focused on anthropological aspects of child labor in coal mines so the most appropriate type was qualitative research. An anthropological discipline that has multiple instruments to carry out research with multiple techniques. These anthropological method techniques and their applications are given below which I followed during my field work.

### **3.2 Rapport building**

First of all most important thing for me was to build rapport with the target respondents. However, I made access directly to the field. Initially, I made myself visible by wondering in the streets of Harnai main market. In the first days, people stared at me from their shops and rest places (places like depot where people sit to spend time). My presence in town made them uncomfortable in the beginning so they asked me several questions including my intention of arrival which I explained as part of my M.sc research. Some people took more interest in me and suggested I make the concerned officials and authorities (Frontier Corps) aware of my presence in town. I spent most of my first days of research in a local restaurant where a variety of people came to have tea and spend some leisure time. This was the right spot for me to interact with people and especially coal labors. I drank tea and a cold drink with them. Once I felt enough confidence built, I started merging with people in their activities and participated in a variety of activities. For instance, the local people discussed politics and social issues I would listen carefully. I spent time with teenage at Picnics where we got to know one another more. I also played cricket with them. These things paved way for me to win their trust and get into research without any much hurdle. Secondly, it was very helpful for me to access the respondent and make sound and effective rapport with them through any other sources especially labor unions, my supervisor, contractor, Owner, and other working agencies working over there.

### **3.3 Sampling**

Sampling was very important for me because access to all relevant people and extracting data is prime significance and authenticity of my research. Therefore, I applied random sampling to opt actual population from the universe. This type helped me extract community data. Furthermore, I also used snowball sampling for the samples like tradesmen, shopkeepers, and others. The people referred me to others who could help me as well. Some people I met accidentally while in the market, or during a visit to lease. All people were important to me. Having viewed the total population, I selected 100.

### **3.4 Participant observation**

I participated in the field to extract very keen information by senses i.e. seeing, listening, feeling, perceiving, etc). I stayed in the field, among the people, saw their activities, and conditions, and shared their experiences as far as possibly I could. Participant observation helped me reveal those data which were not said, hidden, or unidentified. My observation in and by all means provided me with inaccessible truth. These truths revealed that a boy despite family pressure and injuries still manages to meet some of his wishes and wants, these parents and society acculturate the child of his early responsibilities, exposing that a child gets oral appreciation while their wishes were not met, dug out of untold threats a child poses during work and so on. These truths weren't uttered in words by respondents but felt and sensed while spending time with them.

### **3.5 Key informants**

For me, the most appropriate informants were Munshi Safar, Mr. Iqbal, and Yar Khan who gave me proper guidelines and data throughout my research. They had very good knowledge and experience regarding child labor, children's issues, social and economical conditions, working hours, income, and so on. The basic criteria for all key informants were based on the following Sensible and responsible person

- Experienced
- Fully involved in child labor
- Had sound knowledge and was comfortable communicating
- Outspoken people

The personal characteristics of each respondent varied. These characteristics of Master Muhammad Iqbal were his community services, fully involvement in social and educational activities, and most importantly he was outspoken and had communal knowledge. Selecting Muhammad Hani Panazai as my key informant was based on his extra-ordinary jurally rights efforts for labor and especially a voice for children. He has well knowledge of child labor from all comers and guided me throughout. To select Mr.



Gulab Shah my key informant was the reason that he was one of the labors, who worked himself, among other labors, and knew about every activity going on in leases. He was outspoken, introduced me to other laborers, and paved my way for further knowledge.

### 3.6 Interviews

I conducted interviews different types of interviews which were best suited for data collection according to the type of respondents and the domain I choose. It depends on the situation and who was my respondent. If my respondent was official and educated, I referred to conducting structured interviews while on the other hand if my respondents were casual labor then I preferred unstructured interviews. However, in interviews, the prime type was informal interview because this was a comparatively less restricted method of getting information from the respondents. This method helped me to a great extent to collect in-depth information. The environment of the interview where the mostly informal as well total number of interviews was 100. However in-depth interviews were 30 out of which 22 were unstructured and 8 were structured.

Structured	Unstructured	Total in-depth interviews
08	22	30

### 3.7 Focus group discussions

The Focus group discussion was very helpful in getting different opinions on child labor in coal mines. I conducted this method to know various points of view within a group of people. In the group, six to ten different ages and experience-based persons were selected. I manage formal and sometimes formal settings where there were formal and deep discussions related to child labor in the field. This method also helped me testify to my information by when one member was hiding the data the other member revealed that

data. This method helped me receive verified data. The following were the topics that were discussed in FGD during the field.

- Start of child labor in Pakistan
- The growing ratio of child labor in the country
- Problems and difficulties that children are facing.
- Child labor and education
- Child labor and society

### **3.8 Socio-economic census**

Census forms supported me to know the basic information of the respondents especially their socialization, income, creeds, education, family, occupation, working hours, livelihood sources, etc. I would say this method of data extraction was the backbone of my research. Otherwise, it would have been very hard for me to estimate the numerical data regarding my research. It was a tool for quantitative data which is mentioned in most chapters.

### **3.9 Case study**

I conducted this method. There were conditional cases that had occurred in the field. These cases were observed in very detail and added support to my objectives. Furthermore, this method was appropriate to know the accidental-based or exploitive forms of child labor in the field. This method led me towards more specified individuals with data that helped me to record the particular data required. I found six cases based on issues like

- Nusrat commits suicide due to psychological stress
- Shahan's death during work
- Nasir was murdered after rape
- Khurshid starts education when school opens

- Dawa khan and his children as bonded labor (only case of bonded labor in the area)

The following topics will discuss in the fields.

1. Start of child labor in Pakistan.
2. Injuries facing
3. Health issues

### **3.10 Photography**

This technique was used to create a visual record of any community. This used technique to capture the events, situations, and moments that were visual data for me. I kept my digital camera around me in case I could use it to capture the events. Sometimes people wished to capture their Pictures to show them how they look while some people didn't permit to capture their Pictures at all. I kept a record of Pictures as much possible as I could. I used video recordings as well to capture the events and situations.

### **3.11 Daily diary**

I used a daily diary as one of my methods of maintaining or arranging data in a systematic and organized manner. Besides this, the daily diary helped me maintain the contents of data according to the objects of my topic. This method made my work easy, recorded, and maintained. Or I would say without it I would have been the victim of ambiguity about the arrangements of my data.

### **3.12 Field notes**

I maintained my field notes in a field notebook which helped me create a complete record. This provided accurate and useful information about field expeditions. I constantly wrote down every piece of information in my field book so that I did not forget them at the time of writing a thesis.

## CHAPTER 4

### Area profile

#### 4.1 Locale

There are many places in Pakistan where children are extensively working in coal mines, one of them is Harnai. Harnai is a district in Sibi division of Balochistan. It is at the nearest distance to the Capital Quetta. Three coal fields exist in Harnai where children are found working (PMDC, 2006). Harnai was the most appropriate locale to conduct the research for the following reasons,

- Coal field
- Children working in the fields
- Access to the locale.

I selected the Harnai because coal mines existed in abundance. The 70% source of income of the locals is entirely dependent on coal work while another source of income in one way or another was dependent on coal work. For instance, shopkeepers, transport (Truck, tractors, etc.), and so on. The second reason why I selected Harnai as my research field was that children were working in coal fields. These children worked with their parents and elders or independently. Thirdly I selected the area that was access to the field easily.

Like other districts of Balochistan social organization in Harnai is also tribal and the social structure is patriarchal. Close kinship weaved a number of tribes and sub-tribes define the fabric of Harnai society. The dominant tribe of district Harnai is Tareen and the majority of the population is Pashtun and Afghan which belong to the Tareen tribe. Baloch tribes living in the area are Marri-is and Sailachis. The major language spoken in the district is known is the Tareeno dialect of the Pashto language. There are a large number of heterogeneous groups the Abdullanis, Khadranis, Aspanis, Manis, Sheikhs, Wanaichi, Maraizai, and Bazanietc including the minor tribes. There are other ethnic groups including Sindhis and Swati Patans.

## 4.2 Social organization

As the society is predominantly patriarchal, decision-making is in the hands of men but in family affairs voice of elderly women is also valued. Society is structured on kinship bases and each tribe's slash sub-tribe is attached to its particular tradition. Most of these rules and traditions have undergone a considerable transformation over time. Tribe or sub-tribe identity is widely respected and has a strong attachment to individuals and families.

## 4.3 Society

Harnai is a patriarchal society where male dominates the affairs of the family, politics, economics, and others. The access to interview females was not easy. Therefore, the ratio of the female respondents was less than 9.85%. On the other hand, the male respondent ratio is 90.15% in Sharing.

**Table 1: Gender and population**

Male	95,414	89.1%
Female	83,248	10.85
Total	178,662	100%

## 4.4 Ethnic groups

The dominant cast is Tareen of the Pathan ethnic group with a ratio of 53.75%% while other ethnic groups and casts are Sindhi with a ratio of 23.03%, Baloch with 21.86% ratio, and Punjabi with 1.33%. The demographic changes are for many reasons: The Baloch of Marri tribe from Kohi district have shifted to Harnai after the situation

worsened, Afghans from Afghanistan migrated to the area after the war outburst in Afghanistan, and the Sindhis have migrated to the area from Sibi and Jaffarabad for living.

**Table 2: Ethnic groups and population**

<b>Baloch</b>	<b>11000</b>	12.65%
<b>Pathan</b>	<b>85000</b>	83.48%
<b>Sindhi</b>	<b>1800</b>	1.37%
<b>others</b>		2.50%

#### **4.4.1 Localities of ethnic groups**

The people who work in mines are from different localities within Pakistan and Afghanistan as well. The majority of people who work in mines are from other parts of Balochistan, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK), Punjab, and Afghanistan. Swati people from KPK are the highest in number with a ratio of 27.71% who work in or around mines with their families. The second highest in number are the local people who have settled there for one generation with a ratio of 24.37%. The third in number are the people from Sibi with a ratio of 12.68%. The fourth in number are the people of Dhir with 9.18%. The fifth number is Afghan from Afghanistan with a ratio of 7.17%. The sixth number of people of Jaffarabad with a ratio of 4.67%. The seventh number of Marri people from Kohlu with a ratio of 4.17%. Harnai is mostly rural where the joint family system has strong roots. Family relations are highly respected and elders especially the head of the family (male members) are held in high esteem in town Decisions concerning major

affairs of the family are made by the elder of the family. At the top of Harnai, nuclear families exist but in small numbers. These nuclear families are duly recent because of the migration from Dhir, Swat, and Sibi who have come in search of living in the area

#### **4.5 Family structure**

The people of research concern had variations in family structure. The duly reason was that majority of the family who had shifted to the area were from different areas, therefore, they were living either in joint or nuclear families. The people of Swat, Dhir, and Afghanistan lived in nuclear families with a ratio of 57.59%% while other people who had migrated and settled to the area for one or two generations lived in joint families.

**Table 3: Family structure**

Joint family	200	37.5%
Extended family	100	12.5%
Nuclear family	360	53%

#### **4.6 Marriage**

Harnai has a traditional style of living. Marriages are only the formation of a new family but it is considered a religious and social contract between the bride and groom and their families or clans, tribes, or sub-tribes. The occasion is celebrated joyfully by whole the relatives and friends of the two families involved in the marriage. The mate is selected by the parents and in rare cases; the marriage is arranged by the partner themselves. The arranged marriage system is Common in the area. Marriages are prepared to be fixed in the near relation for the reason that it could be easily arranged as well as the bride price is

compensated in relationships. Marriage generally takes place when the male can pay the vulvar (money given by the bride groom or his family to male elders of the bride for buying a household, articles for the bride and the new family). The amount of Vulvar varies from family to family according to their statuses. It is relatively low when the marriage takes place.

#### **4.7 Marital status of respondents**

The majority of the people who work in or around mines are single with a ratio of 63.77%. On the other hand, 35.89% of respondents were married while 0.33% was a widow.

<b>Single</b>	<b>390</b>	<b>65%</b>
<b>Married</b>	<b>150</b>	
<b>Divorced</b>	<b>130</b>	
<b>Widow</b>	<b>96</b>	

#### **4.8 Property**

Property is an integral part of people in Harnai. These properties are in form of land, livestock, economic assets, and so on. The majority of the people possess livestock and the livestock possess ratio is 44.07% while another economic asset possessed by the people of Harnai is 79.29%.



**Table 4: possession of the property**

Livestock	266	45%
Assets	400	55%

#### **4.9 Religion**

The majority of the people of the area are Muslims belonging to the Wahhabi school of thought. They are regular in their prayers and observe religious injunctions in their daily lives the learning, reading, and recitation of the Holy Quran start at an early age both for boys and girls. It is considered mandatory to be able to read Quran. However, in some cases where children who are working have to perform their prayers during work, and reading Quran is rarely observed from them. Islam is the religion of the majority in Harnai.

#### **4.10 Conflict resolution**

Here are two main methods of conflict resolution in the area. One is official and the other is traditional. The official system involves government and the unofficial system is based on the traditional brotherly/Jirga system. Conflicts between different tribes and also between members of the same tribe are usually resolved in traditional ways by invoking the intervention of the elders within a clan or taking the issue to the Jirga (a group of elders in the area that is given authority by the people to decide the cases of conflict). Resort to Qazi and Civil Court is made exceptionally.

#### **4.11 Health facilities**

General diseases like malaria, typhoid, diarrhea, and others are common in Shahrug Furthermore, there happen accidents that also compel the people of Harnai to visit hospitals There are officially two basic health units in the area but without the doctor

(there was one Punjabi doctor but he was killed and since then no other doctor has replaced him). In rare cases, people visit DHQ for treatment with 1.33%. Most people for their treatment visit private clinics. In very serious cases of accidents, a few reach Quetta, the capital of Balochistan for treatment. The health condition incarnates very poorly. Yasir a coal-cutter told that the clinics they visit for treatment are run by self-medicated people and sell medicines that are black-marketed due to which instead of getting fine get even worst.

#### **4.12 Settlement patterns**

Settlement patterns are based on the structure of the dwelling, the ownership of the dwelling, and the number of dwellings. The people who work in mines when were asked about the house where they live temporarily, 27.37% answered that they lived in their own houses either bought or constructed, and 38.56% answered that they resided at a house of rent which is based on double rooms constructed in the shape of the colony by Tareens. 7.84% said they resided at the houses of the coal mine owners provided them on the bases of loyalty to him. The majority of the house structures are kacha made of mud with a 78.63% ratio while 8.01% are pakka houses made of cement. The number of rooms the families resided in is based on either single rooms (28.54%) or double rooms (61.93%).

#### **4.13 Energy sources**

The sources of energy the people of Harnai receive are coal, wood, and electricity. The majority of people use wood as an energy source because they believe it is easily available, is collected by women and female children, and is not a male concern. The ratio of wood usage as energy is 90.48%. In some cases, the male brings coals from leases for energy sources with a ratio of only 3.33%. And in very rare cases electricity is used as an energy source as well.

## CHAPTER 5

### The Children at Work

Children spend a tough day at work. They work in or around the coal mines where they spend most of their time. This chapter would focus on the conditions of the environment where they work, focuses on how many hours in a day they work, how much these working children can earn and where they spend their remuneration, and last but not least focus on the recreational activities and exposure of the working children beside work.

#### 5.1 Children's day at work

The children start their day quite early. They wake up at the call of prayer (Azaan) and after having tea they depart to the lease" (mine where coal is taken out) where they take out the coal. The other children who work in the depot (storage place where the coals are loaded to Rucka) Teach later. 1 his timing vanes in summer and winter. In summer the children working in leases start their work around 8 am. Seasons have impacts on the working hours and ratio of children's involvement in coal work. In summer children get more involved in the workforce because those children studying or residing in other areas also come to work. Working hours in summer decrease because of the temperate weather. While in winter fewer children are involved in the workforce.

These children change their working clothes and do the preparations like filling the gallons with water, collecting the sacks, and then dividing into groups. The first shift of night members goes inside the mine. This shift includes three coal cutters (ones who cut from the mine), two loaders (ones who fill the sacks with coals), two budhi (ones who Lease: Allocated area where coal is extracted Lodger ones who fill the sacks with coals Budhi: ones who bring the sacks on their shoulder one trolley-man (one who manages the trolley inside the mine) sacks on their shoulder) and one trolley-man in this group are aged between 12 to 18 years old and two aged men. This shift continuously works for eight hours. During this time, they are not supposed to come out till case of pie they attend it inside as well. Around 2p'm or 3 pm they come and have lunch For two more

hours they work On the surface emptying the location of the sack later the tractor takes them to the depots. These children get free from work from around 4 pm to 5 pm. These children spend around ten hours per day at work. The second type of children mostly aged 7 between 12 works on the depots, for comparatively lesser hours. Their work depends upon the trucks. The more per day trucks get loaded the more chances they get to work. These children wait till a Munshi' hires them for a truckload. They get Rs250 to Rs300 per truck. Those children receive Rs.300 per load which has closer ties with Munshi. A truck gets loaded in two to three hours. Sometimes they get more than one load and the other times even not one, however, these children have a more flexible nature of work comparatively than the first type of child labor. They can get time to rest during work and there are fewer chances of pressure upon work.

## **5.2 Working environment and conditions**

As previously, there are two types of work that children perform as well. First, they work on the surface or ground where they can clean the coal from stone, mud, sand, and unnecessary elements. This is safer in comparison to the second type of work. The second type of children e those who work inside the mines. The conditions of the mining are still old and there is Send of safety measurements which causes threats to people working inside especially children because these children who work inside do not know what to do in case of emergency and bow remain safe. Threats are often life-taking. The threats like methane gas explosion, the collapse of the mine, or even the fall of stone on workers inside the mine can be dangerous but people in general and children in specific are still in practice. Mines are locally known as the lease. The leases are a minimum of 8000 feet to a maximum of 4000 feet deep.

Dug in slop for the easy movement of trolleys. These leases are supported by woods laid protected sheets against the walls. For safety, the workers wear a helmet and wear boots. The reason is that the feet burn and hatch due to the coals. Furthermore, there is an absence of safety measurement such as

- Flame extinguisher in case of fire,
- First aid medical kit in case of minor injuries,
- Ambulance to transfer the injured to the nearby medical center.

The other hazards in underground mining are suffocation of Workers inside, gas poisoning, and collapse of my roof. To meet the safety challenges, Facilities are a question mark. Among the rest of the adult laborers, there are young ones as well who pose the threats more seriously.

Comparatively, children who work on surfaces in depots pose threats as well. These children help in loading the trucks and their task is to clean off the coal from mud, stones, and sand. They use a hammer to clean off coal in which most cases they hit their finger. Hand infections with rashes are also found in most cases. These children while on the truck often fall from the truck and get injuries. There are increasing ratios of threats children pose on surface Coal work.

Muhammad Azam- 11 years old, shares his story that one day when he was loading, the truck got completely loaded, leaving no space to make sit or stand to work. At the final, we were asked to clean the surface of the truck before putting the plastic sheet. He explains "when I am working sat on the body of the truck because there was fix place and that was when I slipped. There are many other Muhammad Azam who had fallen and become seriously injured and even lost their lives. Shahan Ahmed s/o Naveed Ahmed is one case that lost his life while coming under the truck.

### **Case study 1 Name: Shahan Ahmed**

Case: Came under the truck and lost his life Shahan Ahmed was years old when life didn't favor him to live longer. He was from the Sibi district and had come to Harnai to spend his summer vacation with his grandparents and also to make some earnings during summer vacations. It was just a week when he had reached and started work with one of his friends Joru. Joru (12 years old) elaborated that they were hired as Mutkuli because this job is the least effort and energy consuming and they are easily hired for with a good

amount. That day they loaded two trucks. After the first load of the truck, Shahan was fine but during the second shift he got tired so he went to rest. I thought he had gone to the Narmada of the near room. The second truck when half was loaded had to go to Kanta for checking the weight of the coal load. When the truck started moving there was a scream and when we saw Shahan had already been crushed by the double-wheel tire. The nearby people tried to help him but it was already too late and Shahan had died. The truck driver was caught and taken to Harnai and imprisoned for eight days then the problem was resolved through settlement and Shahan's parents forgave the truck driver. Further tried to contact Shahan's grandfather but he didn't give me a response. The second people I contacted were his father. Through the phone, I tried to contact and he requested me not to tackle the past wounds but he told me that Shahan's mother has become a psychic due to the loss of her eldest son. However, I could access Joru and he shared his part of his story. You suggested I contact Shahan's cousin who was involved in all problems that occurred till the problem was settled down. His name was Abdul Rauf. When I contacted him, he accepted my request and told me the story. He said the boy had a wish to help his parents financially. Joru also expressed that he had shown his sentiments regarding financial problems at home. When I asked whether his parents were aware of his Work he affirmed. When I asked whether blood compensation was paid he said that they had paid the parents three lacs including the expenditure of the ambulance which took the dead body back to Sib1. On a question, Abdul Rahu answered that if the mine inspector had visited, and had not permitted children to work then Shahan would have been alive and further he expressed his anti sentiments about the coal work, especially of children. Was told that the truck driver was arrested and kept in prison for eight days so it means FIR had also been cut against the truck. For this very purpose, I contacted the Tehsildar of Harnai who resides in Harnai. On my request, he said he could give me FIR copy. This could strengthen my case study, but it never happened.

### **5.3 The working hours of children**

Working hours vary from season to the type and nature of work. The children who work underground (inside mine) spend most of their time on lease where they work the entire day. In minimum hours of mine are at least eight hours in summer and 10 hours in winter

because the weather is more favorable in winter. Besides normal shifts sometimes they do extra shifts as well. The other children who work on the surface in depots often spend lesser time. The maximum hour of work is five hours in the depot (coal loading site) in summer and six hours in winter when they load two trucks and two and half hours when they load one truck. During these hours the children also get space and time to rest when the truck goes to weigh at Kanta.

#### **5.4 Children's remuneration and their expenditure**

There are many determiners of children's wages and income. Nature, type, and hour of work are such determiners that set the remunerator of Children. Those children who work underground and for more hours earn more (ksS1D000 to RS25000) while on the contrary who work on the surface and at lesser times earn less (10000 to Rs.1 5000). 40% of children's monthly income. These were those children who daily delivered the wages to their parents.

When asked about pocket money they received, 60% of children answered that whenever they needed anything to buy then their parents gave them otherwise they did not bother to give. 30% of children (aged between 13 to 16 years) answered that they do extra shifts to meet their needs and wants. When they were asked about their needs and wants, they explained that their parents would never give them money for bats, boots, and uniforms therefore they do not bother to ask as well. Usman- 14 years old answered that once he wished to buy a pair of Cheetah boots because all his friends had therefore he asked his mother to provide him money. His mother did not have the money so he had to ask his father. To the demand for money his father not only scolded him for demanding money.

#### **5.5 Off days, outings, and recreational activities of working children**

Children work in or around coal mines six days of the week from Saturday to Thursday Friday is an off day when the coal market stops functioning. The reason for Friday being an off day is because Harnai is an Islamic society. Friday is off for coal workers and everyone either rests, offer Friday's prayers, visits markets, play games, visit relatives, do

household chores, and so on. While on Friday children wake up late, take tight baths in a stream or river, and get ready for Friday's prayer. After prayer children from their groups and then they visit markets, wander all-around play games, purchase things, and so on. Other off days for the coal workers are those days when there is heavy rain because rain disturbs extracting coals from mines and loading the trucks as well.

According to the people, the water spoils the coal and even sometimes rain when touches coal, coal gets fire. Therefore, they don't work on rainy days. On off days children perform various activities. These activities include visit of markets and going to Picnic. Children aged between 13 to onward have in depend on Pi days. According to some children they held competitive sports and matches on-off days. Of days is a good source of entertainment for them. Interesting tact emerged of children to take their ordinary decisions like outing, going to Picnics. Visiting places, people, etc.

## **5.6 Threats at work**

Children at work face many hazardous threats. These threats include accidents, injuries, causalities, sexual and laborious or in short physical exploitation. These threats are

Mainly of two types. The first is the physical threat and the second is the mental threat. In physical threats, there are various other threats that children face. These include injuries due to accidents, excessive laborious hours, sexual exploitation, and even death. While mental threats children face in or around coal are psychological. These include mental disorders, a victim of an inferiority complex, resistance, and so on.

According to Akhtar Shah, accidents frequently happen, and people get injured and lose their lives and precious part of the body like eyes sight, arms, backbone, and so on. He further added diseases are common in coal workers, especially among children. These diseases include finger fractures, rashes, back pain, nose burn, lungs problem, cough, infected nails, and so on. Other diseases are stomach pain duly caused by the germs through unhygienic. Nasir said that he always had stomach pain and he wept every day. When he went to the doctor the doctor told him that it was the result of eating with dirty



hands which created pains. Discussing the matter with Aziz-ur-Rehman he explained that children are vulnerable to diseases because they do not take care of what they eat, what they drink, don't take care of hygiene, and so on. Furthermore, Aziz ur-Rehman added that these children face an exploitative labor force because they do not complain. Furthermore, child labor discussions were conducted with the employers as well. The people who were chosen for these discussions had been working in this field for a long time.

Safar Khan is a coal mine contractor. He deals with every matter of the mine. He is considered a model of success. He started working at the age of 13 years as a Mutkuh. He says he vividly remembers how he hated getting up so early in the morning, ie says that he also hated the fact that he had to be at the mines and listen to all the abuse from his Munshi. He felt that verbal abuse is worse than physical abuse because one can forget the physical hurt but can never forget the hurt given by the verbal abuse. Safar Khan worked at the mine of the man who later got his first lease to dig out the coal. He has hired children to work in his lease because according to him they are far easier to handle as employees. He treats the children's work much more than the adults in this field. He says that one can easily make unit say tor extra hours of work in the same wages. He said,

*"You can slap the children and make them work one to two hours more"*

He said that children do not ask for a paid wage even when they work extra hours. A child confirmed what Safar Khan had said. A 12 years old boy confirmed that he is always asked to stay late to finish work and when he asks for his overtime the Munshi tells the contractor who boxes his ears. So he has stopped asking for his overtime pay. There are cases in which children have lost their lives during work. There were 19 accidents of death of which four were children in 2011 and 14 deaths in 2012 out of which two were children (PMDC: 2012). Access to deceased family and friends was not possible except in the Shahan Ahmed case.

## 5.7 Sexual exploitation

Children face many threats at work. Besides physical and financial exploitation, they also face sexual exploitation. When boys of a young age were asked about the sexual touches, the majority of the children answered in negation but when asked if any of their friends have experienced such act they answered positively. During a group discussion with children I threw a question that at least working children are often raped or sexually abused, is it right? They said yeah you hear such many stories. Boys often are touched at things, cheeks and bottoms. Spank during work is a common thing. Besides these, most children are harassed during work which they can't share with elders. Some children during the interview confessed attempts have been made to sodomize them by their co-workers. Rape and intercourse were also evident in the children's interview when I asked who they are and why they behave with the children. They explained that they are the co-workers, the Munshi, and even the contractor when he comes. Children are helpless if they resist they won't be given jobs so they bear them. They said that if there is no elder relative of the worker then it gets very difficult for the children to work. Either they get sexually abused or run or become mentally ill. I 'was surprised to hear mentally ill. They explained that there was a Sindhi boy in the group who was sexually abused in mines and in sleep used to weep and shout. When I asked to have you guys experienced such matters they laughed and said Kamal ran away from work when he was tried to be raped. Kamal- the Sindhi boy himself burst into laughter a...

### **Case Study 2** Name: Shehzad and Abid

After three frequent days, I met Mr. Shehzad. We kept discussing and one day through informal chat Shehzad brought the word, handsome boy. When he talked of handsome boys I thought it is the right time to ask (T was introduced to Shehzad by Gulab. It wasn't was not easy to ask about his relationship with Abid, therefore, I frequently visited him and gossiped about various things, and finally, he came to the topic). He said handsome boys don't work in mines but they are hired and kept with the miners. He said people consider us bad because we are miners and deal with coal but the same people's sons come to us for entertainment. I asked how much you pay them he said it depends on the

boy. If a boy is smart and chubby anything is paid, two or three thousand or sometimes even five hundred if a normal boy. I had a full idea of what he was elaborating and that was what I wanted to confirm. Did I ask then don't these boys complain? He said they take the money then they don't. I asked another question whether these boys do these with their will or if that is a compulsion. He told me that there are some boys who themselves need pleasure and some do because they need money but they all do it with their will. He gave the example of Abid. He said he came with him willingly and here he is with him. I give him money, security, and everything he needs and in return, he comes to my work. I asked if he runs away. Shehzad said he won't because he has no one else here and in Afghanistan, he can't go back. I asked are their other boys like Abid in the area. He said yeah there are and 4/10 munshi keeps a boy for him. Did I ask our boys more pleasure or female? He said he prepared boys. When I asked if he was married, he said yes but his wife and children are in Quetta. I asked him why he doesn't bring his family so that he will be more comfortable. He said he is satisfied alone so he doesn't bring them but sends money for them. He also added that if he brings his family then he has to look after his wife and work. Therefore, he can't do two works simultaneously. I asked a very personal question, I thought it had hit him but he even didn't bother and answered that a female is for keeping generation and a boy is for fun. When I again asked that the people don't mind keeping boys. He said every man keeps and it is not considered bad. I asked if Abid is happy with his life. He answered himself yeah. During this time Abid wasn't with us. My next target was to get Abid's point of view. So I asked if Shehzadifi could also talk to Abid. He said there was a need for Abid so whatever I wanted to ask should ask him. I remained silent for a while. After a while, I asked whether boys go to school to learn. He answered in negation because they are Afghan and they can only read till 5<sup>th</sup> class and for 6<sup>th</sup> class documents are required. I asked if they don't have formal documents. He said there is no need for it. He said they can get documents with money but it means creating hurdles for you. I asked another question whether if they are caught they won't be in real trouble. He said first they won't come and second if you are caught till you have money nobody can create a tiny problem for you. Finally, it was time for me to catch some Pictures. When I requested a collective Picture then he refused. I could also not force him.

## **CHAPTER 6**

### **Child, Family, and The Society**

The environment and treatment of the children at the mines have been discussed in the previous chapter. This chapter will focus on the fact of how child labor is treated within the immediate family and by the people of the area. What sort of relationship do the working children share with their parents, rest of their family members, and neighbors? The emphasis is on the child and his outlook towards his family's behavior and his relative's and neighbors' attitude toward him. The view of the child's life has been divided into three spheres. Family life, society and child's world view. These spheres would be discussed separately to set a clear distinction between the approaches of the family, and the society.

#### **6.1 Child and his family**

A family is a basic unit of society. A child is surrounded by the members of his family from the day of his birth. He acculturates from the same family. Parents are the primary agents of socialization. They teach him how to interact with the outside world. They transmit the culture and the norms of society. Due to a child's emotional dependency on his parents, he adopts the same outlook on life as them. He even takes up their opinions and is greatly affected by them. Therefore, it is essential to understand the perception of the parents over the issue of child labor, to see the child's family life and the views of his parents. Then to get the ideology regarding child labor present in this culture, interviews with parents and other members of the family are also very important. There are different versions of the parents regarding children. Parents believe their children should work to support the family. Parents believed poverty compels them to force their children to work otherwise who doesn't wish his children to live in comfort, and enjoy their childhood? Parents were those who believed that if their children didn't work and didn't study so they had no other option except to send them to work. Work would make them busy.

### **6.1.1 Child's day at home**

Working children spent most of their time out of the home environment. They join the workplace by the time they are 7 or 8 years of age. Their day starts at sunrise. They have breakfast (tea and Nan) when their mothers or sisters prepare. Usually the boys after finishing their breakfast go to their friend's house and get together in the form of a group to walk to their leases. The children who are late can join them on the way. In one area there are often more than five leases. Therefore, their caravan to leases is in the group till they reach the area and then depart towards leases where they work. After spending the entire day at least they return at sunset and take a bath or wash their hands and face. If they are hungry and ask for food they are given otherwise they have the food when their fathers arrive from work. Some often join friends and play cricket or get together at a friend's place. Often the children stay at home and go to sleep. And then another day starts for them.

These children have a weekly holiday on Friday. On the day they get up late and laze around the house. Some children visit the bazaar in the morning and the evening they get together with other friends of theirs and have a game of cricket, Gilidanda (stick game), between (marbles), etc. some children also do small house chores on an off day.

### **6.1.2 Parents opinion**

When each parent was asked the question of who sends the children to work, it gave a variant answer. Parents said that they had sent their child to work while said that their child went on his own. However, when the children were asked who got them the job said father while said they went to get the job.

The truth of the matter is that parents consider it a matter of pride if their child decides to go to work on his own. They think of it as a sign of a child's maturity and find pride in the acquisition of Carly's sense of responsibility. In this way, they can also prove that their child knows and understands the families economic and financial hardships, Parents by sending their young child to work feel that they have done their duty by helping the

child secure his future and allowing him to learn a skill. Parents feel that in today's times it is more fundamental for a child to acquire a skill than to be educated, especially for the children of the poor. A child Shabi was not sent to school because his parents had seen a nephew who had received his Metric degree and is a coal cutter with the same profession in mines. The parents have also seen in their society young graduate boys working as budhi, belchamar, and so on because they could not get a job elsewhere. So they feel important and better that their child should be skilled at an early age. When they grow they will be experts with more wages. When asked parents about what should children do at an early age they answered varied. Parents believed that children should start work at an early age to secure their future while answering that children should not work at a very early age though they have to work when they come to a certain age. To my surprise, there was only one where parents favored educating their children to work. These were from the Swati community who were metric to graduate they believed education is important for the child.

Whatever the general response be towards the question of the responsibility of sending the child to work, the fact remains that the social situation and the cultural upbringing are such that by the age of 7 or 8 the child himself decides to go to work, on his own. Mr. Hanif Panizai speaks of a similar situation when he says, "In a social setting, the child is brought up with such an ideology that he accepts a role which terms him into both the victim and the involuntary accomplice of an unjust action.

### **6.1.3 Authority of parents**

Another factor that must be considered is the status of the child in the family. A child has a specific role in the family with duties towards his elder, especially towards his parents. Heis has been given a limited space to grow and is expected to submit to his father, who is the key authoritative figure in the family. Most of the children spoke of their father being the person who sent them to work because he is the authority they cannot question. No child blamed his mother in some cases it was noted that it was always the father who asked the child to quit his education and begin work. In one case a child Sahibo who is thirteen years old used to study in class 6" before he joined the mines. He had to work

because his father could not pay the expenses and asked him to stop studying to support him financially. When it was asked children about their start of work who asked them to work they answered differed. Confessed their father sent them to work or took them along with them to coal for work. Children confessed involvement of mother's involvement in sending them to work while children explained that they realized to work either because of the elder's absence or due to the elder's death or old age. Therefore, they had to work to run the heart of the family.

#### **6.1.4 Parents blaming poverty**

The parent is one of the phenomena that compel them to send their children to work some parents explained that they need to send their children to work because of poverty. Parents also feel that they cannot afford to take care of their children and need the child's support as every rupee counts. One parent gave a statement that puts everyone's opinion in perspective: he justified that he has a big family of eight children, and feeding them with one man's salary is not only difficult but impossible, therefore, his children help him lighten the financial burden of the family. Parents believed that high costs and financial burdens have compelled them to send their children to work.

#### **6.1.5 Children hold parents and poverty responsible**

Children, to a great, extent hold parents and poverty as the main responsible for making their child labor. When asked about the children 45.7% believed that their parents are mainly responsible for making them labor while 54.29% of children also held poverty responsible for pushing them towards coal work. Comments like, "The child of a poor man has to work." And "If we do not work we will die of hunger" clearly show the children's opinion about the cause of their labor of children who blame their parents and feel that their parents can at least keep them but still send them to work.

Children think that it is the big family size that they are made to work. Thirteen-year-old child Tanzeel told me that a few days back he had asked his father, "if you cannot rear me then why did you give birth to me? My father did not reply and instead slapped me for

immoral behavior" He explained that his father's will is mighty and they are not supposed to question him. He further said that this is the case with most children. The reason children feel this way is because they can see their fathers or elder brothers working all day and still they have no money. They explained that there is sufficient money to run the family but they are being used. Children feel that by telling them to work their parents and their fate has given them the responsibility to support their family. They have to be useful to their families. Some children feel that it is because of poverty that compels them to work. They also feel that whoever is poor will remain that way and will spend most of his life working. 14 years old Amjad said,

*"I blame both my parents and poverty because poverty makes me work so that I can feed my parents."*

Many children have to work because they need money to survive. Noor Ahmed started work when his father got ill and could no longer care for his family of seven. Noor Ahmed is the eldest son so he took it upon himself to look after the family. Being said that, he is working so that the hearth of the house has something eatable on fire. The children also blamed the government for not helping them. When asked how the government they did not have an answer. It was felt that they have heard of the government but don't even know what the government is.

## **6.2 Child and the society**

After a child's home, his second learning institution is his surroundings, his neighbors, his relatives, and his community. This is of great concern to know who affects whom. Whether it is the society that affects the children or these are the children that affect the society. It is Mutkuli: The person that separates clay, sand, and stone from the coal imperative to distinguish the cause and effect relation between children and society. Children acculturate things around them and learn and adapt to his society. The scenario of society indicates that children are modified in a similar way that they join the workforce because their neighbors are working, their friends are working, and they have affiliation with coal from one another. In short, society is manufacture the beliefs and



enculturation method that the child himself starts work at a tender age. Here it is visible that society has an impact on children. To not see the other side of the Picture would be fair-full. Therefore, we also see whether children affect society or not. To a great extent, the findings indicate that these are the children who help manifest the mindset of parents. A working child is considered a role model to motivate others. If a child succeeds in education then there could be a shift in the mindset of society. In the case of Kurshed when joined a community school, getting a position motivated other parents to send their children to school instead of work.

It gets clear that Society and children and their cause and effect matters are interwoven. It is the society that manifests the mindset of its members. And these are also the same children who help to change these manifests of society. In Harnai there are two perceptions prevailing in the area regarding child labor. One perception consists of those people who work in coals. Child labor and coal work are both normal and considered positive because they believe this is their work, their source of living, and their survival. People of Harnai, especially people from coal communities feel coal work is a positive work that gives the workers a source of living. The second perception consists of other citizens oiZohabwh0 doesn't work with mine. The coal work is the work of inferior people. Therefore, they don t have a respectful eye for them and child labor is not considered a respectable thing. The ratio of such people is comparatively less.

There are some other people like teachers, Shopkeepers, doctors, etc who believe that orders are as important as other people of Harnai. Doctors like Dr. Fazal explained that it.

### **6.2.1 Child's view of the world**

Children were asked such questions that would help in giving their perceptions and worldview regarding different things such as their plans, their opinion of wealthy people, and their attitude toward money. When asked about the children, 30% answered that people around them often treat them badly because they work in coal, and 50% answered the opposite by stating that if they don't work then they are called idle, lazy, worthless, and so on while 20% answered that they have not felt any favor or discrimination against

them by the people around them. When tried to find out the reason, I came to know that these children have a limited world starting from home neighbors, and work. Therefore, they don't interact with strangers or outsiders therefore they don't feel discrimination or favor against them. One thing got clear there were three distinct worlds for the children. The first second is the neighbor and the third is the rest of society who do not work in the mine. His family neighbors favor those children and compliment their efforts who work and those children who don't work have a negative connotation attached to them as lazy, idle and worthless, etc.

### **6.2.3 Child's view of rich and privileged people**

There were rich and poor families in Harnai. Rich are the people who either have business in other parts of the area or the Coal mines Owners. For are those who work in the mines. A shopkeeper, teacher, or even watchman or farmer is considered as rich who can afford independently. Thus people who have businesses are considered rich. I conducted a discussion with the children about their view of rich and privileged people and them. To them, rich children are those who possess materials like good clothes, footwear, sports things, bicycle, and so on. During the discussions, a very important aspect that came out was that these children knew about the difference between them and the privileged children. The society also set a distinct attitude toward working children. When I asked about the attitude of society towards them they answered they felt jealous they were not respected as compared to the rich children. Had a normal attitude towards rich children. Amongst these respondents children considered the rich children exemplary and wished to become like them

On a question, a child answered that he found children in uniforms looking like clowns at the circus. To see what the children felt about their situation and why they feel such towards these children. They were asked what they felt when they saw children going to school 480 Children feel deprived and got angry and hurt when seeing all that One child said,

*"I want to take it from them and run away."*

## CHAPTER 7

### **Pull And Push Factors of Child Labor**

There are various reasons why children become child laborers. These reasons are pulled and push factors that drag children into laborious work. These can be termed economic and social elements. Firstly, the economic elements behind child labor have been accepted worldwide. It is accepted that child labor exists also due to the theory of demand and supply. Secondly, social elements also play an imperative role in promoting child labor. For instance, if a father or an elder is a coal worker then the child is brought up in a manner that makes him follow them to be a coal worker as well.

In the economic element, it can be accepted that child labor exists due to two main reasons. One is the relatively less cost of keeping children as workers. This occurs due to their being untrained when they join the workforce and can be forced to stay for longer hours, something that cannot be imposed on adult laborers. The children do not question the authority of the employers. Due to the illegality of their work, it is easier to fire them in case of low demand for coals in the market. The second reason is their characteristics, like being more active, more agile, and the ability to keep quiet and run and hide when the time or situation requires. These elements are separately given below

- Child labor exists also due to the theory of demand and supply
- Less cost of keeping children as workers
- Vulnerable to being forced to stay for longer hours with fewer wages
- Children don't question the authority of employers

Physical characteristics (i.e. physical structure allows them to work in narrow mines)

Several other determinants pull and push the children towards laborious work. These pull and push factors that are promoting child labor include the Easiest source of income. Children wished to run shops of their own. One of the boys even explained a shopkeeper has respect so he would become a shopkeeper to be respected. 13% of children were

those who wished to study. Amongst this 13%, there were 3% who wished to become doctors and engineers to serve the nation.

## **7.1 Easiest source of income**

It is very hard to find jobs in days of the present. There is a complete absence of another source of income. People with different backgrounds of family, income, status, and education are forced to work in or around coal mines. People who don't get other jobs find coal work as available and they opt for this field of profession. Among these job seekers are children as Shakoor is a supporting staff of SPARC's regional office in Quetta. He explained that he started working when he was a teen. He elaborated that before getting a job he used to work in coal mines first as budhi and then Alleg-man and at last became Munshi. He explained it is easy for anyone with physical strength and stamina can be appointed as a coal worker. Among the workers, children are easily appointed as coal labor. Safar Khan explained that comparatively they are cheap and can work excessively without complaint. Therefore, it is easy to appoint them whenever they come for work. There are approximately 70 to 80 children every day in coal mines who get appointed as Mutkuli. It is an easy source of jobs where they can generate income.

## **7.2 Sense of competition**

Harnai is a Tehsil full of the labor force from old to young and adult. There is always competition among the laborers and their families. A family with more labor force and income is often esteemed as exemplary. Therefore, other family members set an example for their children to observe their family status of them. This thing promotes the children to longer hours and with more income. Therefore, there is always a sense of competition among the families and children who work in or around mines. When asked to children they worked hard three answers were most common and these are answered that they worked to be praised answered that they worked to bring more money because their night friends and relatives brought more money answered that they worked extra hours to make their parents happy.

Najeebullah- a father of seven working children is proud. He explains that when he walks in the market his counterparts often compliment him for his children who work. He says his children have comforted him from work and family tension because they entirely handle the family hurdles. They bring money home, bring food, take the sick to the hospital and entertain their relatives. He said that other parents often come to him to take advice that how to send their children to work and be responsible. He further explained that those children who don't work and bring money home are considered lazy and idle and worth nothing. Such harsh behavior for them compels them to find any kind of work and do it. It forces them to compete with others so that they also get praised and set exemplary. In a group discussion with children, children said when they work and bring good money home then they get praise while 20% of other children added that they also get better food, more money for their expenditure, and are loved and cared for more. Therefore, they work harder to gain these things. A boy said that when he was not working, his father used to use spicy words against him that X's son works, Y's son is obedient, etc. Since he has started work he doesn't have to hear such hurtful words.

### **7.3 Remittance back home**

One of the very pushing factors toward child labor is that the family especially those who have relation back homeland wish to send as much remittance as possible. For this purpose the elders especially the father or brother gets their younger sons and brothers to work to generate as much remittance as possible. There is also evidence that parents send their young children to coal work with their paternal uncles. When these children earn enough money they send them back home. Some children didn't know how much they earned for their physical services because their uncles send the money back home and just give the child pocket money.

The population is divided area-wise. These populations of coal labor forces are local those who have settled in Harnai for one or two generations and remain.

## **7.4 Child labor as a cheap labor**

Children are inexpert and unskilled, prepared for labor for many reasons. One such reason why employer takes children as labor is the fewer wage they give to children in comparison to adults. Children are the easiest and cheapest forms of labor. Children are easy to control, easy to make them work for extra hours and they don't even complain. And they work with fewer wages in comparison to adults. As Safar Khan says "You can slap the children and make them work one to two hours more there are two factors that make the children work in coals. The first factor is the parents who send their children to work in coal to financially support the family. The second factor is the employer who hires the children. In both forms, the parents and employer exploit the physical energy of the children because a father may be happy with RS. 250 per day with a child's wage because he brings something at home at least while the employer feels satisfied to get his work done with lesser expenses.

## **7.5 Bonded labor as a determiner**

One of the reasons that promote or drag children's participation in the work field is duly loans that are taken by their families. Sometimes these loans reach so high that the family entirely gets trapped by lenders and loans. They neither can leave the work where they have taken a loan nor they can return the loans. Therefore, they have no other options except to return the loan to the labor force. One individual can return the loan no soon therefore they involve the other members of the family. Among these members, young and children are also included. One such case of bonded labor is Dawa Khan Swati who with such circumstance got compelled to make his family work with him in lease.

**Case study 5** Name: Dawa Khan Swati

Case: Bonded Labor

Dawa Khan Swati. Dawa Khan Swati told me his entire story that he left Swat due to worsening Situations there. If he would have stayed there for longer than their survival

would have been in danger. Therefore he migrated to Dera Ismail Khan before finally settling in Shahrag He migrated from there because he couldn't get a proper job to bear the losses because he had nothing left except his family so he came here. He had no job. His Swati friends who were already here searched for a job for him in mine. He explained that a man with an empty pocket couldn't run his family and at first he took a loan from his friends. These loans from friends were small and couldn't meet his family's end so he asked for a big loan of 2 lac rupees to manage a proper residence for his family. His friends managed a loan for him as well because he had nothing from Swat. From his first loan, he couldn't manage his family so took another loan from the same man. He was a coal owner and kept taking loans one after another till the loan reached 5 lac. Till he realized he was overloaded with loans and had no other options except to work excessively. Despite hard efforts, a single man couldn't manage to return the loan and run the family. He already worked in lenders mine then he brought his children one after another to the same lease. His youngest children aged below 12 managed to work in the depot. Initially, he worked all alone but loans also indulged his all family and his youngest child aged 7 as well. He told me that his loan is now reduced to 3 lacs. When I asked whether his children are also forced to work by the manager, he explained that the manager wants to work whether alone or with family. However, when he only works the loan would keep rising and never end. Therefore he explained that he asks his children to work with him. In this way, in less time we can repay the loan and don't keep burdened. When i asked whether he or his family could move from Harnai back to Swat with or without the will of the manager. He explained firstly he can't go back to Swat and second ask for permission then the manager gives permission. Does the manager ask for somebody as security when you are away? He explained that he never went and then goes for a visit then his family remains in the area so there is no need for security. The same question I asked in other words whether his family is under the will of the manager regarding anything. He said his family is not under his will but he is and till he pays he can't leave anywhere. So I said somebody has to be in the mine will the loan is paid and he answered the manager be would forgive him all loan.

## **7.6 Wars in Tribal Areas and Afghanistan promoted child labor**

One of the interesting determiners of child labor found during research that promotes child labor is the war that has disrupted people in their indigenous lands. Among these people are Baloch from Kohlu, Patans from Swat, Dhir, and Tribal areas, and Afghans from Afghanistan. Come across people, who have very reasoned their lives, property, sources of income, and even safety had become a threat to them. They had no other options except to flee their homes and belongings for safety reasons. When they reached a safer place they had to find means of income. They found Harnai as the right spot to start earning because there is always a high demand for coal labor in Harnai. Therefore, it was easy for them to get jobs. As the war had destroyed their every belonging they have to re-establish their lives and their economy come on track with normal lives. Returning to normal life for them was not so easy therefore; they needed more labor force to generate more income to reach a normal phase of life. For this purpose, they involved the young members of the family. Labor demand was already high and young members were easily employed in mines jobs. These young members of the family included the children as well. To understand the war as a reason I tried to access such people and I could gain access to three case studies. The first is of Altaf Marri from Kohlu who migrated to Harnai with his family after the war outburst. The second case study is of Arman Khan from a tribal area. When the Taliban launched its program from the areas and as a reaction, the army tried to combat the Taliban and as a result, he was displaced from his own home and migrated to Harnai. The third case is of Kabir Khan Afghani who migrated to Harnai when American troops invaded Afghanistan.

### **Case Study 6**

Altaf is a residence of district Kohlu. District Kohlu has been the center of civil war and separatist movements have often been observed. In 2004 when the paramilitary launched an operation in an area many people fled their homes. Among these people, one of them was Altaf Marri. He narrates the story of his life before the war in district Kohlu. He lived with his father and grandfather. They had agricultural lands and livestock that made their survival in old days. He passed his primary and then left to join the farm and



sometimes take the animals to pasturals Life was busy but peaceful. They had nothing to worry about There were all separate activities but ordinary life was not affected. In 2004 when the paramilitary launched the operation the first thing that happened was that rockets and bombs were launched. Their house was also demolished. Life turned heaven and their father decided to migrate to Barkhan. But before shifting, Rockets were launched to a nearby house that was said to be the house of a Sarmachar. But a rocket hit their house as well and three members of his family including his father died. Therefore, the family shifted in haste without any belongings. Their farms, livestock, and all property have vanished and they needed money to survive. Then he came first to Harnai and started working in coal mines. He got the job easily. Then he called the rest of the family's male members to Harnai and at last, the entire family shifted. It was hard for him to recover from the losses but as survival was still difficult so he brought his three younger brothers aged 7, 12, and 13 to work. The work for them is also not difficult. They earn a minimum of Rs.1000 per day and this money help in many ways He explained if the war had not displaced them and deprived them then he would never force his younger brothers to work.

## CHAPTER 8

### **Socio-economic condition of Harnai**

Harnai is a tehsil with a very poor ratio of education. Government has one boy and one girl. For boys, there are sixteen primary schools, three middle schools, and one high school. And for girls, there are nine primary schools and two middle schools. Dieu governmental schools there are three Community schools opened by UNICEF in the evening to promote education for those children who are working in the morning. There is one newly established private school run by a Punjabi principal with local teachers. Besides government and private schools, there is one Madrasah that provides religious education to the children. However, despite schools, there is a dip in the ratio of students who pass primary, middle, and high schools.

When asked respondents of different ages including children about the level of their education, the answers varied. The level of education is poor in the area. Respondents have attended primary schools, 3.83% have attended middle school have passed Metric, have done intermediate, have done graduation, and (one person) possesses a Master's degree. However, the religious Level of education was higher in comparison to academic education. The level of religious education in Harnai explained that coal work is not easy. It's full of threats. Accidents can occur which can take their lives. Besides natural accidents, they don't have security and safeguard because they don't possess legal documents. He expressed that they are like slaves, say nothing, and demand nothing. Be happy with what they get. Otherwise, their employers would fire them from work. If they get fired and lose their job then from where they would earn their living? Therefore, they bear the life of slavery

He said nobody forces you but situations are in such way that he becomes unchained slaves the only difference is that others are physical slaves and we have slaved for our survival

## 8.1 Child's View of Education

Children's view regarding education was shocking. Some children didn't wish to study at all and a small number of respondents answered that they wished to study. To make poverty a reason for not studying proved wrong as well because when I asked children whether their educational expenses are borne by another organization then would they go to school to study. The answers didn't change to a great extent because the majority answered they still didn't wish to study. Some children didn't know whether to study or not. These children could be persuaded to study, but before it's too late. When it was asked about children, the children said that they did not want to be educated and they blamed poverty for their work. They all felt that if they went to school then they would not be able to afford the expenses that come along with the privilege of being educated. Besides poverty when I asked what if their educational expenses are borne by another person then will you study? The majority asked me then who would run their family. To another question, the children answered their father or brothers couldn't support the family all alone so they support and that's why they don't study. In other words, they believed if they were able to meet the expenses this would disrupt the financial situation in their homes. 11% wanted to join the school, while 4% had joined Community schools built by UNICEF Community schools run in I evening to educate the working children. These community schools are helping in many ways to promote education. Of such child who started studying when community school was opened in their area is Kurshed. He shared his experiences like this.

### **Case Study 7 Name: Kurshed Khan:**

Case: Started studying when a school was opened in their locality Kurshed Khan started work when he was 9 years old. He started work with his brother Jamshed where his father was munshi. His initial work was cleaning the woods used in mines and later started work as a Mutkuli. The work was tough, often got injured and his hands used to bleed in the initial days of cleaning coal. He used to get 9000 per month as a salary in return. He could not show laziness at work because his father or his brother would scold him. He used to wake up at the fair and after prayer, he along with his father and brother used to

go to lease and used to return at dark. He didn't have time to play. Whenever he lay in bed he used to fall asleep in

Seconds and every day he used to pray for Fridays when he did not have to go to lease for work. He believes it might be the result of his prayers that a community school was opened in the locality by UNICEF to educate the children. Master Iqbal one day invited him to school and then he asked his brother to ask his father for permission. His brother helped him and at last, he got admission to the community school of UNICEF and now he does have to go on lease and work. When asked about his brother Jamshed Khan, he expressed that he and his father earned enough money to run the family however, the reason to take Kurshed to work with them was that in the future he had work and if he starts work at an early age then he would be earning more at a later stage. The second reason he said that if he would stay at home, doing nothing would make him indulge in bad activities and join a bad group. So taking Kurshed to work was also to protect him from bad companies. However, once school was opened, Kurshed had the interest to read and become a good person with a good profession then it was better for him and his future. Khurshid is now one of the top students of the school and it is his second year since he started reading Kurshed not only made himself admitted to the school but with his effort, and position in his study provided a chance to convince other parents to send their working children to school as well. A community school can bring such a positive change then it gets clear that a little more ethos in education can help reduce the ratio of working children in the area as well.

## **8.2 Scenario of child rights**

According to Article 11 of Pakistan Constitution II part, the Employment of Children Act 1991, and The Bonded Labor System Abolition Act, 1992 children enjoy protective and privileged rights. However, the scenario in HARNAI of child rights was a question mark. During my stay in the field, I could find no law functional. There were children employments as young as 7 years old. I found children's rights being violated. For instance, these children were working in a hazardous environment, children are exploited for their labor, they are not provided with basic education, and there were physical and

psychological threats to these children. These children were found working in, by, or around mines. According to the violation of this law, the employer could be fined and imprisoned for six months but this too was nonfunctional.

### **8.3 Parents' view on educating their children**

On the other hand, when asked parents, they had their justification. Some parents feel the importance of education in government schools as positive while others show a trust deficit in the educational system in Harnai. The ratio of answers varied but the majority of parents were those who opposed educating their children in school. 35% of parents feel that educating their children is a waste of their time. they had their justification that there are boys who had graduated and were also working in mines with the same incomes so it is better to get his children to start work at an age with experience and more income. However, the difference in education emerged. When asked about religious education by the same respondents they answered differently the question, parents favored educating their children religiously because it is their responsibility to teach their children about the second world hereafter. Furthermore, besides academic education, the parent also supported to educate of their children practically and professionally. Those parents who supported academic or school education According to some parents, even if schools, books, uniform, and mid-day food is free it will not be feasible as the major loss will be the child's earnings to the family income. Therefore, they discouraged educating their children.

### **8.4 Parents unwilling to look at available options**

Parents and elders of the family tell that s there are no educational facilities for their children. They have to send them to work to train them. They believe that if the children remain free for too long they will get into bad difficulties. They feel that instead of their child remaining free, and roaming in the streets the child should learn something so that it will secure his future. Similar to Kurshed's elder brother Jamshed explains that the fear of bad company, and Wondering uselessly were the cause which made him and his father take Kurshed with them to the work Contrary to the parent's opinion besides

governmental schools, there were some community schools started by UNICEF. The schools run in the evening to provide a chance for those children who work in the morning and in the evening to attend classes. In other words, these schools offer afternoon classes for working children and morning classes for non-working children. They don't charge a fee and at the same time provide books, notebooks, writing materials, playing materials, and some cases provide medical facilities. These schools have been successful to convince some parents to send their children and younger siblings to the schools. Such as the case of Kurshed who was sent to a community school when UNICEF opened the school. And today he is one of the toppers in the school. On the other hand, some parents knew about the existence of community schools with free education but were still not willing to lose their child's income. In one case a child Fareed who is 11 years old was asked to join the coal depot by his father. He did not want to join so he started helping out at home and by taking up the responsibility of feeding the livestock but that did not convince his father and his father took him to a coal depot where he started as Mutkuli labor.

## **8.5 Scenario of child rights**

According to Article 11 of the Pakistan Constitution, I part, the Employment of Children Act 1991, and The Bonded Labor System Abolition Act 1992 children enjoy protective and privileged rights. However, the scenario of incarnation child rights was a question mark. During my stay in the field, I could find no law functional. There were children employments as young as 7 years old. I found children's rights being violated. For instance, these children were working in a hazardous environment, children are exploited for their labor, they are not provided basic education, and there were physical and psychological threats to these children. These children were found working in, by, or around mines. According to the violation of this law, the employee could be fined and imprisoned for six months but this too was nonfunctional.

## **CHAPTER 9**

### **Conclusion**

Child labor is an issue and phenomenon implying exploitation within groups and society have verily been focused on and written about. My field data shows the existence of children working as young as seven years old. These field data are collected from Harnai. Field data indicate that prevailing poverty in the region is linked with economical elements and the socialization of children. Besides poverty, other reasons forcibly indulge the young member of the family in the labor force as well. Such as coal work is the easiest source of income there is a sense of competition among the coal labor families, financial crisis of families lead the child to support the family, remittance back home of immigrant labor, child labor as cheap labor, etc have one way or another link that promote child labor.

There are many reasons behind the child labor at Mach coal fields few are identified in this study as the family members especially the mother education must be improved which can have positive impact on child socialization, although it is the responsibility of mines labor organization to provide education to the coal mine worker's children, because illiteracy is very much high among the children in coal fields which is causing many other social issues, the situation in coal fields never supports the coal mine workers and their family because of their living areas and conditions, there health issues must be solved and the children must not be involved in such activities which directly affects their mental and physical health, the children at coal fields must be given opportunity to play different indoor and outdoor games, technical education should be provided to the children, the government, coal mine owner or contractor must provide all the basic facilities to the family members of coal mine workers, there is no proper medical checkup of children who are working or living near the coal fields because the dust which is produced from coal can even effect the population living nearby coal such as the whole Mach city is effected by coal dust because the coal is dumped at the middle of city, the children come early morning and leave at late night, those children who are working as loader or for transportation of coal are mostly abused sexually and physically, those

children who are working with their father or elder brothers, the wedges of their father or guardian must be increased that they should not bring their children to coal fields, the wedges system must be improved because the lion share is taken by the owner or contractor the workers get small amount, there is no awareness among the children regarding the mental and physical health or related to issues which are being caused by coal or coal dust. No doubt children are the future of any nation and the progress and prosperity of a nation or country depends on their youth, the coal mining can change the lives of people while utilizing it positively, but the precious lives of children must not be given to black hole, the underground coal mining should not be applied to save the children and family members of coal mine workers, the children are sent to underground up to 3000ft.



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## **Interview Guide**

### Demographic profile

Q1. What is your working status in the coal mine?

Q2. How much remuneration are paid to you on a daily basis?

Q3. Did the honor of the coal mine granted some bonuses tp you?

Q4. Is there ventilation available in the coal mine?

Q5. What is your working position in the coal mine?

Q6. Do you have any fear of the death while working in the coal mine?

Q7. How do you feel when you come out of the mine at the end of the day?

Q8. What was your general perception about working in the coal mine?

Q9. What was your family reaction when you start working in the coal mine?

Q10. What changes you perceived when you start working in the coal mine?

Q11. How many hours you are working in the coal mine?

<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Variable</b>
<b>Name</b>	<b>Asadullah</b>
<b>Age</b>	<b>16 years</b>

<b>Working status</b>	<b>Sack loader</b>
<b>Marital status</b>	<b>Daily wager</b>

**Average Monthly Earnings of the Mineworkers from different sources in mines**

<b>Income source</b>	<b>Labour</b>
<b>Wages</b>	<b>1000</b>
<b>Bonus</b>	<b>lunch and medical facility</b>
<b>Part-time work</b>	<b>watchman</b>

**The physical work environment in mines**

<b>Type of work condition</b>	
<b>Ventilation</b>	<b>Available</b>
<b>Heat</b>	<b>To great extend</b>

<b>Noise</b>	<b>To some extend</b>
<b>Smell</b>	<b>The explosive and pungent smell</b>

**The posture of working in mines**

<b>Working position</b>	<b>Sack loader</b>
<b>Sitting</b>	<b>Two hours</b>
<b>Standing</b>	<b>four hours</b>
<b>Often changing</b>	<b>Two hours</b>

**Fatal accidents and serious accidents in mines**

<b>Fatal accident</b>	<b>Occasionally occur</b>
<b>Serious accident</b>	<b>On weekly basis</b>