Activism of Child Labour in Agricultural Sector

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C hild labor in the South Punjab area was the focus of this study. This study employed a three-point Likert scale to measure how many children were involved in farming in 415 farm families. Fewer than a third of farm kids worked full-time in agriculture compared to more than half of the students in the research. Weeding and picking crops and gathering firewood were among the most common chores in addition to caring for livestock. There was a positive link between agricultural activity and children's age, gender, and distance from school. When it comes to children's involvement in agriculture, factors including the family head's education, monthly income, and ownership of agricultural land were found to be detrimental. The study's findings suggest that child labor regulations be implemented in agriculture and that the number of public schools in rural areas increase. In traditional agriculture, fewer personnel are needed because of interest-free formal finance for contemporary technology installation.

Keywords: Child labor, Farmlands, Logistics, South Punjab.

Introduction

The future of a country and the entire globe rests on the shoulders of its children. For a country to progress and succeed, its citizens must have a sense of mental, social, and physical safety. Even when it's time for young people to have the education, skills, self-worth, and values they need to be moral citizens, a substantial percentage of them are forced to work and exploited as cheap commodities worldwide [1].

According to the World Bank, about 74 million children between the ages of 5 and 17 work in dangerous situations worldwide. About 88 million boys and 64 million girls between the ages of 12 and 14 are among 152 million child laborers [2]. Almost 98 million young people (60 percent) work in agriculture worldwide, in cattle farming, fisheries, forestry, and aquaculture.

They are a severe problem that harms businesses by prolonging rural poverty and restricting children's capacity to learn new skills and attend school, ultimately denying them the chance to find meaningful work. [3]. During the peak harvest season, farmers are obliged to hire youthful workers because of a lack of capital-intensive technologies or a dearth of available labor [4].

Feudal systems in Pakistan have led to many youngsters being pushed to labor for money or to pay back their parents. They are also unpaid farmworkers for their families. Primary responsibilities were hauling water from distant sources, caring for younger siblings, and gathering wood for cooking. For-profit, a substantial number of young people engage in child labor.

According to the Pakistani government, there are 24 million children in Pakistan who work as child laborers, 74 percent of whom are boys and 26 percent are girls (2007-08)[5]. Males make up 62% of the 11.9 million children aged 11 to 15 employed in some capacity nationwide[6]. Most young people work for their families or run their businesses, with only one in four working as unpaid volunteers[7][8].

Many initiatives and legal frameworks have been implemented in Pakistan to combat child labor, including the Employment of Children Act, of 1991, secondly, the Bonded Labor Abolishing Act of 1992. Factory Act of 1934; The Mines Act of 1935; The Benazir Income Support Program were established by the Government of Pakistan (GOP) (2007) [9][10]. Pakistan Bait-ul-Maal has started a child cash transfer program for the poorest households in some districts. Constitutional law specifies that "No child under fourteen years of age shall be employed in any factory, mining or dangerous activity [11]."

In South Punjab province, researchers' research was conducted to investigate what influences children's participation in agriculture. Only a few research have looked into this issue. Pertinent data from other countries found that agricultural production methods rely heavily on manual labor. Farmers recruit the help of families and children to reduce their production costs. Children's participation would be more widespread in labor-intensive economies than in capital-intensive ones, according to authors [12], [13]. The consequences of urbanization on farmworker children were studied [14][15]. According to the findings, students who reside in or near large cities are more likely to attend school. In other words, children who work in agriculture are impacted by their parent's educational backgrounds, local wage rates, and agricultural returns in their community. Evidence suggests that children of higher-earning parents are more likely to go to school and work fewer hours. A child's age strongly influences involvement in agriculture and gender, as well as the level of education of their parents, according to authors[16][17] [18][19]

Methods

In 2019, families were asked to fill out a lengthy questionnaire to gather information. Houses were surveyed by conducting face-to-face interviews[20].

The data was analyzed using a variety of descriptive statistics. Means, percentages, and frequencies were all included in these calculations.

Children's interest in farming was studied using a Multinomial Logistic model. Child participation was modeled which considered family, child, and geographic variables.

Children's involvement in agriculture can be divided into three stages: In no way, shape, or form was I ever involved2. Participate on a part-time basis three hours a day, seven days a week, with no breaks these phrases are used to express the outcomes of the multinomial logistic model are estimated assuming that all coefficients in the other categories equal zero ($= 0$). Coefficients (2) and (3), if set (1) is zero, measure the difference between the $y = 1$ and $y = 0$ groups.

Findings

The socioeconomic status of the homes surveyed was examined. Below is a breakdown of each home's socioeconomic class, Most families had six members, with men making up most household leaders. According to the data, the majority of the people in charge were uneducated and, on average, 47 years old. They had only elementary school education as a group. For 81% of households, agriculture was the primary source of income. The typical monthly pay in Pakistani rupees was $3000 (PKR).

To select 415 farm homes from each UC, the D'Andrea, Joy [21] method was utilized, and Proportional Allocation was employed to distribute the cash. A random sample procedure was used to choose the agricultural residences at each UC.

More than half of the youngsters polled were currently enrolled in some form of an educational institution. About 17.20 percent of applicants were accepted, while 24.19 percent dropped out of the application process. Most students lived within a five-kilometer radius of their local school, which is a significant number. Whether or not a rural girl enrolls in school is strongly influenced by the distance she must travel to get there.

Families in the study region were questioned about their children's involvement in agricultural activities. To name a few of the responsibilities, gathering firewood, hauling fodder, and plowing. Likert-type scales were used to measure children's participation in these activities. To further understand the data, we used simple descriptive statistics. Researchers found that children in the study households played a significant role in gathering firewood, cutting feed, and taking care of their livestock, all of which required significant participation.

The explanatory variables explained 64% of the variance in the dependent variable. Therefore, it isn't considered when evaluating the model's forecasting accuracy.

Using the Likelihood Ratio Test, we checked that the model's fit was accurate enough. Each of the model's explanatory variables was given its correlation matrix. This shows that there is no statistically significant association between the explanatory factors.

Various factors play a role in the involvement of children in agriculture. Children's gender coefficient is statistically significant and favorable. While female farm children are less likely than male farm children to participate in full-time agricultural activities, they are more likely than female farm children to participate in some agricultural activities. Tradition dictates that women are the primary carers in the family.

Boys are expected to work outside the home and provide for the family's basic requirements, while women are expected to stay at home and care for their children. According to Adeoti et al. (2013) and Adisa (2016), agricultural activities were more popular among male youngsters than females.

The distance to a nearby school is also a fictitious consideration (1 if more than 5 kilometers, 0 otherwise). Comparing "full-time" and "part-time" agricultural participation to the "never involved" control group, the estimated coefficients are both positive and significant. Children who live far from their nearest school are more likely to engage in

agricultural pursuits (more than 5 kilometers). If the distance between their houses and schools is too great, it is assumed that children will not attend school. When a child has finished a grade level at one school, they are unable to enter another school because of the distance. To participate in extracurricular activities, students must leave class early. There are no other options for girls in remote rural areas other than Islamic schools where their neighbors teach them the Quran. Children who live in or near urban areas and are closer to school are less likely to engage in agricultural activities [8].

As indicated by the negative and significant coefficients, children's involvement in "full-time" and "part-time" agricultural activities is negatively related to the head's educational level (schooling years). Due to more educated family heads wanting their children to attend school to improve their grades, social skills, and behavior, the number of youngsters involved in agricultural activities has decreased. These findings met the predictions of the researcher as well as those of [22], [23].

For example, the dummy "farmland ownership" has negative and significant coefficients, showing that children of farmland owners are less likely to be involved in agriculture than non-farmers' children. Full- and part-time farming activities are likely to be pursued by the children of tenant farmers. " The use of land ownership as a proxy for money influences children's participation in agricultural activities, according to Cingo and Rosati [24].

Low-income, medium-income, and high-income agricultural households are categorical variables. According to the computed coefficients for this group, high-income families are more likely to be involved in their communities. According to this study, children in this group are less likely to participate in agricultural activities than those in the middle and lower-income levels. However, even if the government provides free literature, low-income families are still unable to afford school fees and uniforms. These findings align with previous projections that youngsters' spending time working in the fields would decrease as a family's income rose[25].

Compared to the control group, the part-time agricultural activity of children ages 1 to 10 (or 0 if the kid is less than 10) is significantly higher. According to researchers [26], the children of farmers are more likely to work in part-time agriculture.

The age and size of the farm's adult leadership have little effect on children who work in agriculture.

A young person is more likely to get involved in agriculture at three key periods in their life. Multinomial logistic models and average values of all explanatory factors were used to predict these probabilities. Part-time involvement was anticipated to be the most common. A youngster from a farming household had a 42.1% chance of working part-time in agriculture in the study area of the study area's farm children were engaged in part-time agriculture 43.2%.

Another 37.4% say that they want their children to work in agriculture full-time when they grow up. According to the findings, a third of the children in this study's research area worked full-time in agriculture. Researchers are alarmed by the fact that 74.2 percent of farm children are involved in agriculture when these two groups are combined.

Gender significantly impacts a young person's chances of being involved in agriculture. Marginal influences on children's participation in the "never" and "part-time" categories are estimated to be statistically significant. According to the estimates of the marginal effects, if used as a dummy variable (1 if they're male, 0 otherwise), male children are less likely to participate in any of these categories than female children. However, the statistical significance of the full-time involvement group ME is negligible. "

Distance to a nearby school does not affect a child's likelihood of involvement in the "never involved" or "part-time involved" categories; however statistically significant for the "full-time involved" group. When a nearby school is more than 5 kilometers away, the likelihood of a child working in agriculture full-time rises.

The odds of a household's head of household becoming a full-time agricultural worker are reduced by 0.047 percent if they have a higher education level. A positive and statistically significant ME for the 'never involved' category shows that the head's education level and the chance of never engaging in agriculture are favorably connected.

Because income was treated as a categorical variable, families with higher wages were more likely to have children who will never work in agriculture (low, average, and high-income farm households). This substantially impacts the probability that a youngster would never work in the agricultural industry. Or, to put it another way, children from middle- and upper-class households are more likely than those from lower- and middle-class families to be "never involved" in farming.

Conclusions

According to the report, children were involved in various agricultural practices. They are also in charge of caring for livestock, including grazing, feeding, watering, milking them, harvesting, threshing, weeding, plowing, and storing their harvest. Regression studies reveal that a child's age, gender, and distance from school are the most important variables of their involvement in agriculture. Education, money, and property ownership influence children's involvement in agriculture. A staggering of pupils reported difficulty getting to and from school. This may be the primary reason why so many young people are getting involved in scientific research. When a nation's future depends on its children, it is everyone's responsibility to warn everyone in the agriculture industry who employs youngsters.

Agriculture is one of the most dangerous professions in the country. Children's risky behaviors can negatively impact their overall well-being, academic performance, and personal growth. A recent study found that many young people who work in agriculture do so because they are desperate to make ends meet. A young person's involvement in agricultural work is often necessitated by the head of the household's lack of resources and knowledge.

It's time for more government schools in rural areas to provide free and high-quality education for children; farmers should be given interest-free formal credit for the adoption of labor-saving modern production technologies, and people should be given technical training on additional income-generating activities so that they can better deal with poverty.'

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