

# **Do Child Labourers Come from the Poorest?**

Evidence from NCLS and 64-Village Census Plus

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### **Abstract**

This paper explores whether child labourers come from, not only the poor, but also the poorest households in Bangladesh or not. The paper also tries to explain what determines the participation of children in labour force. A comparison has also been made between macro statistics and micro survey in this respect. Data used in this paper are obtained from the National Child Labour Survey 2002-03 as well as the 64-village census plus survey 2005 conducted under the Programme for Research on Chronic Poverty in Bangladesh (Phase II). A comparison between the National Child Labour Survey 1995-96 and 2002-03 has also been provided to analyze the nature and extent of changes in child labour over time.

The paper observes that there have been significant changes in some of the important aspects of child population (e.g., gender differentials, occupational choice, rural urban differentials, schooling options, etc.) in the country and their participation in the workforce. The paper also observes that higher proportion of child labour comes from land poor and the poorest households. Household's education and occupational choice also matter for child labour.

## **I. Introduction**

The purpose of the paper is to explore whether the child labourers come from the poorest or not as revealed by both National Child Labour Survey, 2002-03 and 64-Village Census Plus, 2005 carried out by PRCPB Phase-II. It describes the extent and nature of changes of child labour over time. It also analyzes factors that influence child labour.

Rahman (2005) undertook an analysis of the national level data on children's economic activity using NCLS and LFS data. It examined the overall scenario of children's participation in economic activity. Results suggest that poverty has significant positive impact on the probability that a child is engaged in paid employment, and that factors like father's education and landownership has significant negative impact on the same. When the dependant variable is the probability of children's engagement in all economic activities (not only paid employment), the results are somewhat different, importantly, impact of education of head of household and landownership become positive. This suggests that family employment in agriculture is currently more acceptable to non-poor households and to household heads who are engaged in agriculture.

Drawing on the academic debate surrounding explanations for why children go to school or not and the tensions between viewing education as a right or as a need, Kabeer and Mahmud (2005) tries to explain the determinants of children's education and labour force participation. The analysis draws on quantitative data gathered through a household survey carried out in two slums, as well as qualitative data gathered through in-depth interviews with parents and children.

The results of the multivariate analysis suggest that the factors behind children's school attendance and their participation in the labour market only partly overlap. Insecurity of livelihoods, female headship and the absence of assets all play a role in explaining why children are not currently attending school but only female headship appears to have a role to play in explaining child labour.

Given the above work done recently on child labour, the question is what could be the value addition in the current analysis? Two points are important to note here in his respect: (a) while the present paper also analyze NCLS data, it also analyze 64-village census data and make a comparison between the two, and (ii) the focus of the paper is not on the poor only, but, on the poorest households.

The paper is organized as follows: Section II presents a descriptive analysis of the extent and nature of child labour in Bangladesh. Section III presents the correlates of child labour followed by section IV which provides the evidence from 64-village census plus. Section V looks at what factors appear to influence participation in child labour, and section VI summarize the major findings.

## **II. Extent and Nature of Child Labour**

### **2.1 Changes in Child Labour**

Comparison of the two surveys on child labour (National Child Labour Survey 1995-96 and 2002-03) indicates noticeable changes in some of the important aspects of child population in the country and their participation in workforce.

It is expected and also apparent that with increase in population, child population will also increase over time (Table 1). However, child population as percentage of total population has declined during the same period as evident by both Population Census 1991 and 2001 and Child Labour Force Survey 1995-96 and 2002-03 (Table 2).

Children's participation in the labour force has declined between the two survey periods. The proportion of working children in total child population aged 5-14 years has come down from 18.3 percent in 1995-96 to 14.2 percent in 2002-03 (Table 3). These changes were largely contributed by girls - proportion of working girl in the total girl population aged 5-14 has declined from 15.2 to 8.5 percent. The decline was faster in the rural areas than that of the urban areas (Table 4). This is possibly because of introduction of female secondary stipend programme at the secondary schools in the country.

Significant redistribution is also observed in terms of the major occupations of the working children. A major shift of the working children is apparent from agricultural sector to other sectors (particularly production and transport and sales sector). Proportion of working children in agricultural sector has declined from 71 percent in 1995-96 to 56 percent in 2002-03 (Table 5). On the other hand, proportion of working children in production and transport labourers has increased from 5 percent in 1995-96 to 25 percent in 2002-03. These changes were largely contributed by boys - girls share remained almost unchanged. Proportion of sales workers has also increased significantly (from 6 to 14 percent) and the increase has been shared almost equally by both boys and girls.

### **2.2 Nature and Extent of Child Labour<sup>1</sup>**

Boys' share in the total child work force of the country is significantly larger than that of girls (26 percent for boys against 11 percent for girls). However, not all these working children are child labour according to the ILO Convention on child labourers. According to ILO Convention, less than half (43 percent) of the working children are actually labelled as child labourers (Table 6). As a result, the proportion of child labourers in the total child population of the country is only 8 percent with boys' domination over girls (11 percent for boys against 4 percent for girls).

Although the proportion of working children is higher in rural areas compared to urban, proportion of child labour is higher in urban than that of rural (Table 7). There are also spatial differences in the proportion of child labour (Table 8).

Table 9 and 10 present the current activity status (whether at work, or school or both, or no where) of the children aged 5 to 17 years. Current activity status refers to the status of the

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<sup>1</sup> The changes of child labour presented in the previous section were made for the children aged 5-14 years, as comparative statistics were not available for the children aged 5-17 years which are now considered in the definition of child labour. However, the discussion from now on will be based on this age group (5-17 years).

children's activities during the week (7 days) preceding the survey. According to the current activity status, almost 73 percent of the children are at school and not at work. Percentage of girls in this case is much higher (80) than that of boys (67). Of the rest, about 12 percent are at work only and about 6 percent are simultaneously at work and school. And, about 10 percent (without significant gender difference) of the children are neither at work nor at school (Table 9). There is not much difference between urban and rural areas in terms of the current activity status of the children (Table 10).

Majority of the working children (both boys and girls) are engaged in agricultural activities (in broad sense including forestry and fisheries). The other two sectors having significant participation of working children are production and transport sector and sales. In both of these sectors, boys' participation is much higher than that of girls' (Table 11). In rural areas, participation of working children is largely (about two thirds) concentrated in agricultural activities; but, in urban areas, participation is much higher in the production and transport sectors (45 percent) followed by sales workers (25 percent) (Table 12).

Unpaid workers dominate among all working children; they account for 57 percent of the total. Of all the working girls, 77 percent are unpaid workers and for the boys, half of them are unpaid workers. The second largest category in terms of employment status is that of paid day or casual labourers (24 percent of the working children). Percentage for boys (28) in this case is much higher than that of girls (10). Almost 7 percent of all the working children are regular employees, with boys' percentage again higher than girls' (Table 13). Unpaid child workers are more in rural areas (59 percent) than in urban areas (47 percent). As expected, urban areas have more regular employees than rural areas (Table 14).

Average monthly income of the working boys (excluding those who are unpaid) is Taka 1,037 and that of girls is Taka 810. More than one third of all the paid working children (38 percent for boys and 24 percent for girls) earn more than Taka 1,000 per month. Three quarters of the paid working children earn more than 500 taka per month (Table 15). Rural-urban difference in average monthly income of working children who are paid is however insignificant (Table 16).

Table 17 and 18 present the male-female and rural-urban distributions of working children by broad sectors of employment. Agriculture dominates in rural and services and industry dominate in urban. Educational profile of the working children shows that over 40 percent of them are illiterate (Table 19). And over 50 percent of the educated ones are also educated up to primary level. Male-female and rural-urban differences with regard to education of working children are not significant (Table 20).

### **III. Correlates of Child Labour**

Households having less land tend to have more working children. More than 57 percent of households having working children have less than half an acre of land (Table 21). For urban areas, this percentage is much higher (78 percent) compared to rural areas (52 percent). This is expected, as people living in rural area are likely to have more land than that of urban. Occupations of the heads of the households have bearing on the proportion of working children in the households and particularly on the choice of children's occupation. While in rural areas majority (57 percent) of the heads of the households having working children have agriculture as their main occupation, in urban areas it is the production and transport (33 percent) and sales (25 percent) sectors that have relatively more dominance (Table 23). This

pattern of the occupational distribution of the household heads is very much similar to that of the occupational distribution of the working children themselves, probably implying the fact that in the majority of the cases the working children engage themselves in parents' occupations.

Distribution of child labourers<sup>2</sup> according to the poverty categories of the households demonstrates that more than four-fifths of the child labourers come from poor households (Table 24). Why do the households let their children work for earning? Table 28 provides some answers to this question. More than two thirds of the households think that their living standard will fall if their children stop working. Another 8 percent even think that it will be hard for them to survive if the children stop working.

#### **IV. Evidence from 64-Village Census Plus**

Since the 64-village census plus has been carried out only in the rural areas, this section deals with the child labour issues in rural areas only. Child labour has been defined here by the children aged 5-17 years and work within household or outside for income.

Proportion of child labour in rural areas as evidenced from 64-village census plus is about 15 percent. This proportion is higher for the extreme poor households (19 percent) compared to other groups. Similar pattern is also observed when we estimate the child labour by occupations of the heads of the households, household head's education, and land holdings of the households. If the household head is wage labourer, it is more likely to send children to work compared to other occupational groups. If the household head is illiterate, the proportion of child labour goes up significantly. And, if the household is land poor, probability of sending children to work goes up (Tables 29 through 32). Divisional distribution of child labour demonstrates some variation between them (Table 33).

We have observed the pattern of child labour by household's background characteristics just above. Now, if we look at the participating households in the child labour, we observe the following: 26 percent of the households who have child population do participate in child labour force and this figure is 34 percent for the poorest compared to 18 percent for the surplus category (Table 34), 29 percent for wage labourers (Table 35), 31 percent for illiterate compared to 9 percent for better educated ones (Table 36), and 28 percent for landless against 18 percent for land rich households (Table 38). There are divisional variations in this respect as well (Table 38).

While data shows that the proportion of child labour as well as household's participation in child labour are the highest for the extreme poor households, figure is not much (one fifth and one-third respectively).]

#### **V. Factors Influencing Participation in Child Labour**

Two models have been estimated here to identify the factors that influence participation in child labour. Particular interest here is to observe the influence of the poorest on child labour.

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<sup>2</sup> Here the definition of child labour is a bit broader but very close to the definition of ILO.

In the first model, proportion of child labour has been considered as dependent variable and in the second model, whether participate or not (by the households) has been considered as dependent variable. In both the estimates, a common set of explanatory variables were used which includes household poverty, land poverty, household heads' education, and household head's occupation.

The results for both the models confirm significant positive relationship between the 'poorest' and 'child labour' and 'illiteracy of household head' and 'child labour' (see Tables 39 and 40 for regression results). That means, 'poorest' has a strong bearing on child labour.

## **VI. Summary**

In short, what we have observed in this paper is the following: Proportion of child labour has declined over the last decade or so; This has been contributed largely by girls; Rate of decline has been faster in rural than that of urban; There were occupational shifts in child labour – from agriculture to production, transport and sales; There are spatial variations in child labour though not very significant; Those who work, majority of them work only, don't go to school; Majority of the child labour are unpaid worker; Average income earned by the child labourers is Taka 1,000 per month; Majority of them have little or no education; and Majority of them also come from landless and poor households.

Higher proportion of child labour comes from land poor and the poorest households. Household's education and occupational choice also matter for child labour.

**Table 1**  
**Trends in child population aged 5-14 years by gender**  
 (Number in 000)

Gender	1991 Population Census	1995-96 CLS	2001 Pop. Census	2002-03 NCLS
Boys	15967	17862	17242	18263
Girls	14537	16593	15388	16800
Total	30505	34455	32630	35063

Note: Census population figures are enumerated, while CLS and NCLS figures are estimated.

**Table 2**  
**Trends in child population aged 5-14 years as proportion of total population by gender**  
 (Percent)

Gender	1991 Population Census	1995-96 CLS	2001 Pop. Census	2002-03 NCLS
Boys	29.2	28.7	27.0	26.7
Girls	28.2	27.8	25.7	25.8
Total	28.7	28.3	26.3	26.3

**Table 3**  
**Trends in child labour force participation (children aged 5-14 years) by gender**  
 (Percent of child population)

Gender	1995-96 CLS		2002-03 NCLS	
	Child labour force (%)	Working children (%)	Child labour force (%)	Working children (%)
Boys	21.9	21.1	19.6	19.5
Girls	16.1	15.2	8.7	8.5
Total	19.1	18.3	14.4	14.2

**Table 4**  
**Trends in child labour force participation (children aged 5-14 years) by gender**  
 (Percent of child population)

Residence	1995-96 CLS		2002-03 NCLS	
	Child labour force (%)	Working children (%)	Child labour force (%)	Working children (%)
Urban	15.2	14.2		11.9
Rural	20.2	19.4		14.9
Total	19.1	18.3		14.2

**Table 5**  
**Trends in occupational distribution of working children by gender**

Major Occupation	1995-96 CLS			2002-03 NCLS		
	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
Professional, technical	2.5	3.0	2.7	0.3	0.8	0.5
Admin & managerial	0.1	0.0	0.0	-	0.0	-
Clerical workers	0.4	0.0	0.3	0.9	0.3	0.7
Sales workers	9.6	0.8	6.1	15.8	8.2	13.8
Services workers	3.8	15.9	8.6	3.2	5.7	3.9
Agriculture, forestry and fisheries	70.2	72.8	71.2	55.3	59.1	56.3
Production & transport labourers	4.3	5.9	4.9	24.5	5.9	24.9
Total number in 000	3769	2529	6298	5810	2094	7904

**Table 6**  
**Children aged 5 to 17 years by activity status and gender, 2002-03**

Gender	Child population: 5-17 Number (000)	Child workforce (%)	Working children (%)	Child labour <sup>3</sup>	
				% of working children	% of total children (5-17)
Boys	22689	25.8	25.6	44.4	11.4
Girls	19698	10.9	10.6	38.2	4.1
Total	42387	18.9	18.6	42.8	8.0

**Table 7**  
**Children aged 5 to 17 years by activity status and residence**

Residence	Child population: 5-17 Number (000)	Child workforce (%)	Working children (%)	Child labour <sup>*</sup>	
				% of working children	% of total children (5-17)
Urban	9458	-	15.9	49.8	7.9
Rural	32929	-	19.4	41.1	8.0
Total	42387	18.9	18.6	42.8	8.0

<sup>3</sup> Estimated according to the ILO Conventions on child labour.

**Table 8**  
**Children aged 5 to 17 years by activity status (current) and region (old districts)**

Region (old districts)	Child population: 5-17 Number (000)	Child workforce (%)	Working children (%)	Child labour*	
				% of working children	% of total children (5-17)
Dinajpur	1762		16.0	40.0	6.4
Rangpur	2972		20.3	41.9	8.5
Pabna	1458		18.3	37.7	6.9
Rajshahi	2443		18.0	42.2	7.6
Bogra	1150		17.6	40.9	7.2
Khulna	1766		16.9	45.6	7.7
Jessore	2172		17.3	38.2	6.6
Kushtia	1359		17.3	37.0	6.4
Barisal	2653		14.6	43.8	6.4
Patuakhali	956		16.6	41.0	6.8
Faridpur	3075		15.7	44.6	7.0
Dhaka	4035		18.1	50.8	9.2
Tangail	962		18.8	37.8	7.1
Mymensingh	1332		22.6	43.8	9.9
Jamalpur	1009		21.5	50.7	10.9
Kishoreganj	1329		20.6	43.7	9.0
Comilla	3046		12.5	48.0	6.0
Noakhali	2289		15.3	42.5	6.5
Sylhet	2725		19.0	42.6	8.1
Chittagong	2297		18.2	38.5	7.0
Banderban	528		22.8	29.4	6.7
Rangamati	549		20.2	35.6	7.2
Khagrachari	518		17.4	39.7	6.9
Total	42387		17.5	42.9	7.5

**Table 9**  
**Current activity status of children aged 5 to 17 years by gender**  
(Percent)

Activity status	Boys	Girls	Total
At work only	16.0	6.9	11.8
At work and at school	8.1	3.0	5.7
At school and not at work	66.7	80.0	72.9
Neither at work nor at school	9.2	10.1	9.6
Number of children in 000	22689 (100.0)	19698 (100.0)	42387 (100.0)

**Table 10**  
**Current activity status of children aged 5 to 17 years by residence**  
(Percent)

Activity status	Urban	Rural	Total
At work only	10.7	12.1	11.8
At work and at school	4.2	6.2	5.7
At school and not at work	75.4	72.2	72.9
Neither at work nor at school	9.7	9.6	9.6
Number of children in 000	9458 (100.0)	32929 (100.0)	42387 (100.0)

**Table 11**  
**Working children by major occupation and gender**  
(Percent)

Major occupation	Boys	Girls	Total
Professional, technical	0.3	0.8	0.5
Admin & managerial	-	0.0	-
Clerical workers	0.9	0.3	0.7
Sales workers	15.8	8.2	13.8
Services workers	3.2	5.7	3.9
Agriculture, forestry and fisheries	55.3	59.1	56.3
Production & transport labourers	24.5	5.9	24.9
Total number in 000	5810 (100.0)	2094 (100.0)	7904 (100.0)

Note: - denotes negligible.

**Table 12**  
**Working children by major occupation and residence**  
(Percent)

Major occupation	Urban	Rural	Total
Professional, technical	1.1	0.3	0.5
Admin & managerial	-	-	-
Clerical workers	1.8	0.5	0.7
Sales workers	24.5	11.3	13.8
Services workers	6.3	3.3	3.9
Agriculture, forestry and fisheries	21.4	64.5	56.3
Production & transport labourers	44.9	20.1	24.9
Total number in 000	1501 (100.0)	6403 (100.0)	7904 (100.0)

Note: - denotes negligible.

**Table 13**  
**Working children by status in employment and gender**  
(Percent)

<b>Status in employment</b>	<b>Boys</b>	<b>Girls</b>	<b>Total</b>
Regular employee	7.6	4.4	6.8
Paid domestic worker	0.8	3.3	1.5
Paid day/casual labourer	28.3	10.3	23.5
Paid/unpaid apprentice	4.2	0.6	3.2
Unpaid domestic worker	0.4	1.1	0.6
Employer/self employed	7.4	3.0	6.2
Unpaid worker	49.9	76.5	57.0
Others	1.4	0.8	1.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Table 14**  
**Working children by status in employment and residence**  
(Percent)

<b>Status in employment</b>	<b>Urban</b>	<b>Rural</b>	<b>Total</b>
Regular employee	13.6	5.2	6.8
Paid domestic worker	2.1	1.3	1.5
Paid day/casual labourer	21.4	24.1	23.5
Paid/unpaid apprentice	7.0	2.3	3.2
Unpaid domestic worker	0.5	0.6	0.6
Employer/self employed	6.9	6.1	6.2
Unpaid worker	47.1	59.3	57.0
Others	1.4	1.2	1.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Table 15**  
**Working children by average monthly income and gender**  
(Percent)

<b>Average monthly income (Tk.)</b>	<b>Boys</b>	<b>Girls</b>	<b>Total</b>
<250	3.7	12.6	4.8
251 – 300	3.9	7.7	4.3
301 – 400	7.6	5.4	7.3
401 – 500	8.8	10.2	8.9
501 – 750	13.5	15.8	13.8
751 – 1000	24.8	24.6	24.7
1000+	37.9	23.7	36.1
<b>Total number in 000</b>	<b>2754 (100.0)</b>	<b>389 (100.0)</b>	<b>3143 (100.0)</b>
Average income/month (Tk.)	1037	810	1009

**Table 16**  
**Working children by average monthly income and residence**  
 (Percent)

<b>Average monthly income (Tk.)</b>	<b>Urban</b>	<b>Rural</b>	<b>Total</b>
<250	6.1	4.5	4.8
251 – 300	4.8	4.2	4.3
301 – 400	5.9	7.7	7.3
401 – 500	9.3	8.8	8.9
501 – 750	15.1	13.3	13.8
751 – 1000	23.1	25.2	24.7
1000+	35.7	36.2	36.1
<b>Total number in 000</b>	718 (100.0)	2424 (100.0)	3143 (100.0)
Average income/month (Tk.)	1017	1006	1009

**Table 17**  
**Working children by broad sector of employment and gender**  
 (Percent)

<b>Broad sector of employment</b>	<b>Boys</b>	<b>Girls</b>	<b>Total</b>
Agriculture	55.5	59.1	56.4
Industry	16.0	22.4	17.7
Services	28.5	18.4	25.9
<b>Total number in 000</b>	5810 (100.0)	2094 (100.0)	7904 (100.0)

**Table 18**  
**Working children by broad sector of employment and residence**  
 (Percent)

<b>Broad sector of employment</b>	<b>Urban</b>	<b>Rural</b>	<b>Total</b>
Agriculture	21.7	64.6	56.4
Industry	33.5	14.0	17.7
Services	44.8	21.4	25.9
<b>Total number in 000</b>	1501 (100.0)	6403 (100.0)	7904 (100.0)

**Table 19**  
**Working children by level of education and gender**

(Percent)

Level of education	Boys	Girls	Total
No education	39.5	46.1	41.3
Literate	60.5	53.9	58.7
<b>Total</b>	100.0	100.0	100.0
Of which:			
Class I-V	54.1	51.8	53.5
Class VI-VIII	32.9	33.1	33.1
Class IX-X	7.9	9.4	8.2
SSC or equivalent	1.1	1.1	1.1
HSC or equivalent	1.6	0.9	1.4
Degree or equivalent	0.3	0.0	0.2
Others	2.1	3.7	2.5
<b>Total</b>	100.0	100.0	100.0

**Table 20**  
**Working children by level of education and residence**

(Percent)

Level of education	Urban	Rural	Total
No education	39.8	41.6	41.3
Literate	60.2	58.4	58.7
<b>Total</b>	100.0	100.0	100.0
Of which:			
Class I-V	49.8	54.4	53.5
Class VI-VIII	34.7	32.5	33.1
Class IX-X	9.2	8.0	8.2
SSC or equivalent	1.6	1.0	1.1
HSC or equivalent	1.3	1.4	1.4
Degree or equivalent	0.2	0.2	0.2
Others	3.2	2.3	2.5
<b>Total</b>	100.0	100.0	100.0

**Table 21**  
**Households having working children by land owned and residence**

(Percent)

Land owned (acre)	Urban	Rural	Total
Landless	15.5	3.9	6.1
<0.50	62.9	48.3	51.1
0.50-0.99	7.3	12.4	11.4
1.00-2.49	9.9	20.7	18.6
2.50+	4.4	14.7	12.7
<b>Total number in 000</b>	1096 (100.0)	4621 (100.0)	5716 (100.0)

**Table 22**  
**Households having working children (current status)**  
**by monthly household income and residence**

(Number in 000)

Average monthly income (Tk.)	Urban		Rural		Total	
	<i>No. of households</i>	<i>No. of working children</i>	<i>No. of households</i>	<i>No. of working children</i>	<i>No. of households</i>	<i>No. of working children</i>
<1000	22	27	121	141	144	168
1001 – 1500	60	68	381	447	441	516
1501 – 2000	111	139	706	878	817	1016
2001 – 2500	108	138	592	755	700	893
2501 – 3000	167	215	799	1041	965	1257
3000+	628	821	2022	2751	2650	3572
<b>Total</b>	1096	1408	4621	6014	5716	7423
Average income	4367	-	3537	-	3696	-

**Table 23**  
**Main occupation of head of households of working children by residence**  
(Percent)

<b>Household heads main occupation</b>	<b>Urban</b>	<b>Rural</b>	<b>Total</b>
Professional, technical	1.4	0.9	1.0
Admin & managerial	0.1	-	-
Clerical workers	2.1	0.7	0.9
Sales workers	24.7	12.3	14.7
Services workers	5.4	1.9	2.6
Agriculture, forestry and fisheries	19.5	56.6	49.5
Production & transport labourers	32.8	14.4	17.9
No occupation / household work	14.1	13.2	13.4
<b>Total number in 000</b>	<b>1096 (100.0)</b>	<b>4621 (100.0)</b>	<b>5716 (100.0)</b>

Notes: - denotes negligible.

**Table 24**  
**Distribution of child labourers by poverty categories and gender**  
(Percent)

<b>Poverty category</b>	<b>Boys</b>	<b>Girls</b>	<b>Total</b>
Extreme poor	37.3	43.0	38.7
Moderate poor	43.2	41.3	42.8
Non-poor	19.5	15.7	18.6
<b>Total number 000</b>	<b>3016 (100.0)</b>	<b>976 (100.0)</b>	<b>3992 (100.0)</b>

Note: Here child labourers refer to children aged 5-11 involved in any economic activity plus economically active children aged 12-14 working for 14 hours or more in the week preceding the survey plus economically active children aged 15-17 working 43 hours or more in the same week.

**Table 25**  
**Distribution of child labourers by poverty categories and residence**  
(Percent)

<b>Poverty category</b>	<b>Urban</b>	<b>Rural</b>	<b>Total</b>
Extreme poor	38.8	38.6	38.7
Moderate poor	39.8	44.1	42.8
Non-poor	21.4	17.3	18.6
<b>Total number in 000</b>	<b>810 (100.0)</b>	<b>3182 (100.0)</b>	<b>3992 (100.0)</b>

Note: Here child labourers refer to children aged 5-11 involved in any economic activity plus economically active children aged 12-14 working for 14 hours or more in the week preceding the survey plus economically active children aged 15-17 working 43 hours or more in the same week.

**Table 26**  
**Distribution of child labourers by land owned by households and gender**

(Percent)

Land owned by household	Boys	Girls	Total
Landless	8.0	9.7	8.5
Less than 0.5 acre	54.9	50.9	54.0
0.5-0.99 acre	11.3	10.9	11.2
1.00-2.49 acres	15.6	16.4	15.8
2.50-7.49 acres	7.8	9.1	8.1
7.50+ acres	2.3	3.0	2.4
<b>Total number 000</b>	<b>3016 (100.0)</b>	<b>976 (100.0)</b>	<b>3992 (100.0)</b>

Note: Here child labourers refer to children aged 5-11 involved in any economic activity plus economically active children aged 12-14 working for 14 hours or more in the week preceding the survey plus economically active children aged 15-17 working 43 hours or more in the same week.

**Table 27**  
**Distribution of child labourers by land owned by households and residence**

(Percent)

Land owned by household	Urban	Rural	Total
Landless	17.5	4.4	8.5
Less than 0.5 acre	61.8	50.4	54.0
0.5-0.99 acre	7.9	12.7	11.2
1.00-2.49 acres	8.8	19.0	15.8
2.50-7.49 acres	2.9	10.4	8.1
7.50+ acres	1.0	3.1	2.4
<b>Total number in 000</b>	<b>810 (100.0)</b>	<b>3182 (100.0)</b>	<b>3992 (100.0)</b>

**Table 28**  
**Types of problems faced by parents or family if children stop working, by residence**

(Percent)

Type of problems faced	Urban	Rural	Total
Living standard of household will fall	69.8	68.6	68.9
Hard to survive	8.9	7.9	8.1
Difficult to run family business	2.6	2.4	2.4
For household work	1.9	3.1	2.9
Does not matter	6.4	5.6	5.7
Others	10.5	12.4	12.0
<b>Total number in 000</b>	<b>1096 (100.0)</b>	<b>4621 (100.0)</b>	<b>5716 (100.0)</b>

**Table 29**  
**Proportion of Child Workers in Child Population (5-17 years) by Poverty Category**

Poverty category (food availability)	% of child worker in child population
Shortage throughout the year	18.6
Temporary shortage	15.5
Neither shortage nor surplus	13.4
Surplus	10.6
All categories	14.7

**Table 30**  
**Proportion of Child Workers in Child Population (5-17 years) by Occupation**

Occupation	% of child worker in child population
Farmers	14.3
Agricultural labourers	16.7
Non-agricultural labourers	16.8
Transport worker	15.7
Petty professionals	16.1
Petty traders	11.7
Business	11.6
Salaried job / Professionals	5.0
All occupations	13.7

**Table 31**  
**Proportion of Child Workers in Child Population (5-17 years) by Education**

Education	% of child worker in child population
Illiterate	17.8
Primary	14.1
Primary completed	11.1
S.S.C./H.S.C.	4.9
Higher education	3.3
All categories	14.7

**Table 32**  
**Proportion of Child Workers in Child Population (5-17 years) by Agricultural Land**

Agricultural land holding (in decimal)	% of child worker in child population
No land	15.9
1 - 49	15.1
50 - 99	15.1
100 - 249	11.7
250 or more	10.5
All categories	14.7

**Table 33**  
**Proportion of Child Workers in Child Population (5-17 years) by Division**

Division	% of child worker in child population
Chittagong	15.4
Dhaka	13.6
Khulna	14.2
Rajshahi	15.1
Barisal	13.0
Sylhet	19.9
All divisions	14.7

**Table 34**  
**Proportion of Household Having Child Workers by Poverty**

Poverty category	(Percent)		
	Households having child worker(s)	Household not having child worker	Total
Shortage throughout the year	34	66	100
Temporary shortage	27	73	100
Neither shortage nor surplus	22	78	100
Surplus	18	82	100
All categories	26	74	100

**Table 35**  
**Proportion of Household Having Child Workers by Occupation of Household Head's Occupation**

Occupation of household head	(Percent)		
	Households having child worker(s)	Household not having child worker	Total
Farmers	25	75	100
Agricultural labourers	29	71	100
Non-agricultural labourers	29	71	100
Transport worker	26	74	100
Petty professionals	29	71	100
Petty traders	23	77	100
Business	21	79	100
Salaried job / Professionals	11	89	100
All occupations	24	76	100

**Table 36**  
**Proportion of Household Having Child Workers by Education of Household Head's Education**

Education of household head	Households having child worker(s)	Household not having child worker	(Percent)
			Total
Illiterate	31	69	100
Primary	25	75	100
Primary completed	19	81	100
S.S.C./H.S.C.	9	91	100
Higher education	6	94	100
All categories	26	74	

**Table 37**  
**Proportion of Household Having Child Workers by Agricultural Land**

Agricultural land holding (in decimal)	Households having child worker(s)	Household not having child worker	(Percent)
			Total
No land	28	72	100
1 - 49	27	73	100
50 - 99	26	74	100
100 - 249	20	80	100
250 or more	18	82	100
All categories	26	26	100

**Table 38**  
**Proportion of Household Having Child Workers by Division**

Division	Households having child worker(s)	Household not having child worker	(Percent)
			Total
Chittagong	30	70	100
Dhaka	25	75	100
Khulna	21	79	100
Rajshahi	25	75	100
Barisal	24	76	100
Sylhet	38	62	100
All divisions	26	74	100

**Table 39**  
**Determinants of Child Labour**

Explanatory variables	Co-efficient	Significant level
Poverty group (ex poor = 1)	.048	.004
Land poor (landless = 1)	.004	.794
Household head's education (illiterate = 1)	.116	.000
Household heads occupation (Wage labourer = 1)	-.004	.829

**Table 40**  
**Determinants of Child Labour: A Logistic Approach**

Explanatory variables	Co-efficient	Significant level	Exp (B)
Poverty group (ex poor = 1)	.379	.000	1.461
Land poor (landless = 1)	-.003	.964	.994
Household head's education (illiterate = 1)	.612	.000	1.845
Household heads occupation (Wage labourer = 1)	-.037	.672	.964