



## Child Labour 2022

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### ABSTRACT

Child labour decreased steadily between 2000 and 2016, but the pandemic has caused a significant shift in the situation. Organizations and governments all around the world are taking action to stop the rise of child labour as a result of the poor economic conditions experienced globally.

By 2030, the ILO and UNICEF predict that the number of children working will drop from 160 million to 125 million. The introduction of the Durban Call to Action marked a turning point in the fight against child labour since for the first time, children expressed their demands to policymakers by signing the document.

India (5.8 million) has the biggest number of children working there aged 5 to 17, followed by Bangladesh (5.0 million), Pakistan (3.4 million), and Nepal (2.0 million).

With nearly a quarter (26%) of all children aged 5 to 17 working as children, Nepal has the largest relative risk of child labour than any other country in South Asia.

Nobel Peace Laureate Kailash Satyarthi said, "I am anguished and ashamed about the first increase in child labour in two decades. There can be no excuse for this. During the same four years preceding the pandemic, the world got richer by \$10 trillion. Yet, child labour rose to 160 million. How rich does the world have to be to stop slavery and exploitation of our children?"



### I. Introduction

In this report, data are presented that illustrate the experiences of children who work in hazardous conditions as a child. It provides information that is essential to decisions that are made in order to fulfill moral and legal obligations to stop child labour. This report assesses the COVID-19 crisis' effects as well as the global movement to end child

labour. For the first time since 2000, global efforts to end child labour have stalled.

Furthermore, the current crisis will probably force millions more kids into child labour if urgent mitigation measures are not taken. These findings serve as a crucial reality check when evaluating the chances of eliminating child labour by 2025, in accordance with SDG target 8.7. Sections



provides an overview of the current global and regional estimates, and trends since

2000. In this report different data is collected and presented like forms of child labour, types of child labour, labour law in india, international laws, child labour today considering the age, sex, and residence of children in child labour,

the characteristics of the work they perform, and how child labour interferes with their education. Impact of the COVID-19 crisis on child labour, future trends, child labour in low-income countries, sector wise distribution, through the end of 2022. Hypothesis of an alarming issue and efforts by some people to end child labour



## WHAT IS CHILD LABOUR?

### Meaning

The term “child labour” is defined as work that deprives children of their childhood, their potential, and their dignity, and that is harmful to physical and mental development.

It refers to work that:

is mentally, physically, socially, or morally dangerous to children.

Comes in the way of their schooling by: depriving them of the opportunity to attend school; obliging them to leave school ahead of time; or forcing them to strive to balance working a lot of hours and going to school at the same time. A little more than one in five kids work as slaves in the world's poorest nations.

Children often engage in beneficial paid and unpaid work activities all around the world. However, when children are either too young to work or engaged in dangerous activities that could jeopardise their physical, mental, social, or academic development, they are categorised as child labourers. In the least developed nations, slightly more than one in four kids (aged 5 to 17) undertake jobs that are deemed harmful to their development and health.

UNICEF works to stop and address child labour,

particularly by bolstering the social services industry. Social service providers are essential in identifying, averting, and managing risks that could result in child labour. Through case management and social protection services, such as early identification, registration, interim rehabilitation, and referral services, we work to develop and support the workforce to recognize and address potential instances of child labour.

Nearly 1 in 10 children  
are subjected to child  
labour Worldwide,  
With some forced into  
hazardous Work  
through trafficking.

### Forms of Child Labour

all forms of slavery, including the sale and



trafficking of infants, serfdom, debt bondage, and forced or compulsory labour

- for the purpose of using, obtaining, or providing the child for prostitution,
- for the purpose of using, obtaining, or offering the child for illegal activity, particularly the manufacturing or trafficking of drugs.
- Work that is likely to harm children's health, safety, or morality because of its nature or the conditions under which it is carried out.
- The worst forms of child labour involve children being enslaved, separated from their families, exposed to serious hazards and illnesses and/or abandoned on the streets of big cities, – often at a very early age. worst forms of child labour as defined by Article 3 of ILO Convention No. 182

## II. Causes of child labour

### structural and financial factors

A child typically works because the family needs the extra money. This is especially important for immigrant communities where parents may be jobless or limited to the lowest-paying and most menial jobs. The majority of children in developing nations work because they desire to help their families, according to the theory of child labour as a contribution to the family. According to studies conducted by Save the Youngsters in Sweden, most children begin working at their family's direction or at the very least as a result of a request to help with unpaid household tasks and/or contribute to the family's revenue.

### Child labour as a means of self-actualization

According to this view, some youngsters would still want to engage in constructive activities even if poverty were not a factor. This is true for both children seeking part-time employment in industrialised countries and children in underdeveloped countries and is best illustrated by children who work on family farms.

escaping domestic violence

Due to abuse, some children flee their homes to find employment. This most frequently occurs when a child relocates with a member of the extended family or when abusive stepparents are involved.

### Child labour as a consequence of family dynamics

Other significant factors that affect child labour include parent's occupation and level of education. Less likely are parents, especially mothers, to let their kids work, the more education they have. However, families who work in labour-intensive occupations, such as farmers, are more likely to have a large number of children who begin to contribute

economically at a young age and whose earnings outweigh their expenditures of upbringing. Children frequently enter the workforce when a family's ability to support themselves is threatened by poor harvests, job losses, or the passing of a breadwinner.

## III. Child labour and the law

International conventions have made an effort to establish a global legal framework to address child labour.

UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)

The CRC is a human rights agreement that fully outlines children's rights. Unless specifically stated in national law, a child is defined by the CRC as anybody who is younger than the age of 18. The Convention establishes in international law that States and Parties must make sure that all children - without any form of discrimination - receive special protection measures and assistance, have access to services like education and health care, can fully develop their personalities, abilities, and talents, grow up in a home filled with happiness, love, and understanding, and are informed about and take part in achieving their rights in an environment that is free from fear and violence. The ILO is another example. The ILO, a United Nations organization founded in 1919, has the responsibility of establishing global labour standards in order to improve social and economic fairness.

ILO Minimum Age Convention (no. 138). The minimum age to work is 15 years old according to ILO Minimum Age Convention No. 138, while 14 years old may be permitted circumstances for a limited duration. The minimal age for labour below which it is likely that a young person's health, safety, or morals would be jeopardized is 18, although youngsters between the ages of 13 and 15 are permitted to engage in light work that does not endanger their health or their ability to complete their schoolwork.

## IV. Child labour laws in India

As long ago as 1979 the Government formed the first committee (called the Gurupadswamy Committee) to study the issue of child labour and to suggest measures to tackle it. The Child Labour Prohibition and Regulation Act was enacted based on the recommendations of the committee in 1986.

### The 1948 Factories Act

Children under the age of 14 are not allowed to work in factories under the Act. The law also set restrictions on who could hire pre-adults between the ages of 15 and 18 and how long they could work there.

### The 1952 Mines Act

The Act forbids the employment of minors in mines



under the age of 18.

### Act of 2000 Concerning Juvenile Justice

Anyone who acquires or hires a child in any dangerous employment or in bondage is guilty of a criminal that carries a prison sentence.

All children between the ages of 6 and 14 must get free and mandatory education under this rule. The law also required that children from underprivileged groups and children with physical disabilities receive 25% of the seats in every private school. In 1987, India created a National Policy on Child labour. This policy aims to use a progressive and sequential approach, with a particular emphasis on the rehabilitation of kids who work in dangerous jobs. It called for the severe enforcement of child labour laws in India together with development initiatives to deal with the underlying causes of child labour, such as poverty. This sparked the National Child Labour Project proposal in 1988. The Indian government has recently released funds under this legal and

development effort that is primarily intended to end child labour in India.

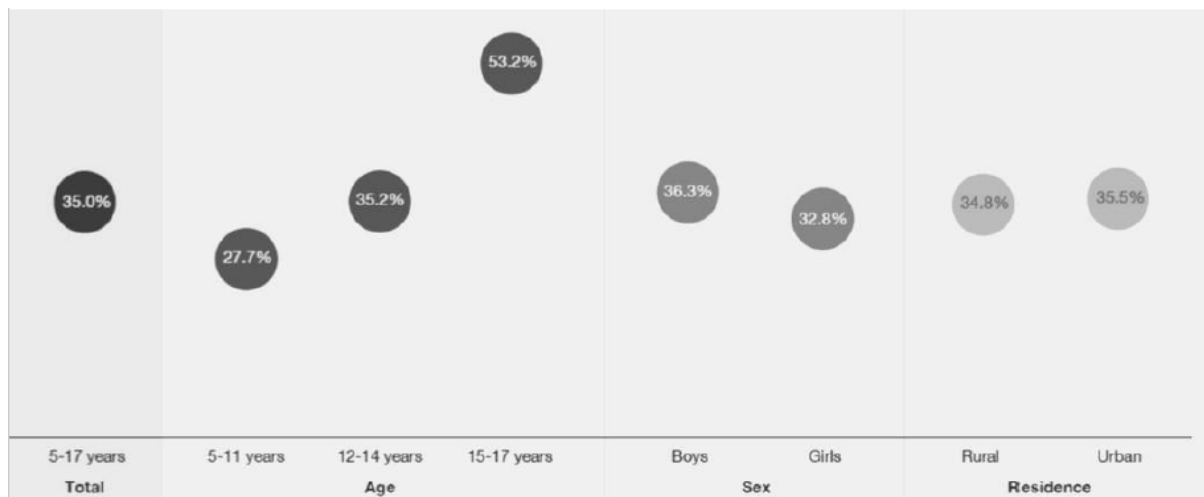
A youngster cannot begin apprenticeship training before becoming 14 years old and passing the required academic and physical fitness tests.

### 1951's Plantation labour Act

Under the terms of this Act, no kid under the age of 12 may be employed; a child beyond the age of 12 may only be employed if a designated doctor obtains a fitness certificate for that child. ILO Convention on the Worst Forms of Child labour (no. 182)

All forms of slavery, commercial sexual exploitation of children, and any work that is by its very nature harmful to children's health, safety, or morals are considered to be the worst forms of child labour, according to the ILO Worst Forms of Child labour Convention No.

182, which requires ratifying nations to take immediate action to prohibit and eliminate them.



### Education and child labour

More than one-third of all children engaged in child labour misses school. Even more of a burden to attending school is dangerous child labour.

The high percentage of younger children in child labour who are not enrolled in school despite being within the age limit for compulsory schooling is particularly concerning. Nearly 28% of children aged 5 to 11 and 35% of children aged 12 to 14 who work as children are not in school. Rarely is there a single explanation for why kids choose to work instead of going to school. Many times, the task is so time- and energy-consuming that it is hard for kids to start, stick with, and finish school. In other cases, kids work because they can't attend good, affordable schools

that offer a worthwhile option. Families' opinions about how important education is and the prospective benefits for the job market can have an impact on decisions about children's education.

Two more kids struggle to juggle the responsibilities of school and job for every child in child labour who has reached the mandatory school age but is not enrolled in school. As a result, they experience educational compromises, and this is why it is important to remember them while discussing child labour and education.

In terms of grade progression and academic achievement, children who must combine child labour and schooling typically fall behind their non-working peers and are more likely to leave school





early.

## 2022 CHILD LABOUR 08

*“They began work at 5:30 and quit at 7 at night. Children six years old going home to lie on a straw pallet until time to resume work the next morning! I have seen the hair torn out of their heads by the machinery, their scalps torn off, and yet not a single tear was shed, while the poodle dogs were loved and caressed and carried to these shore.”*  
— Mother Jones

Their chances of finding quality employment as children and adults, as well as their overall potential, are significantly hampered by this. Boys and urban

children are slightly more likely to miss school than other children, although these differences are not particularly significant.

### Child labour metrics: India

India has 259.6 million children overall in the age range of 5 to 14 years, as was already indicated. Of these, 10.1 million (or 3.9% of all children) are employed as "primary workers" or "marginal workers." In India, more than 42.7 million kids do not attend school. In the prior four years, 10,826 instances of violations of the Child labour Act were documented nationwide, according to research published in February 2019. Only 6032 (or 56%) of these cases reached the point of prosecution. Only 25% of the cases where the Child labour Act was broken between 2015 and 2018 resulted in convictions, according to the authorities.



## V. Impact of COVID-19

Atul Desai, a child rights activist from Kolhapur in Maharashtra, said, “From October 2020 to March 2021, we have seen 12,000 children from the age of 6-14 years old come to Kolhapur from Marathwada region for cutting sugarcane. This is the migratory season and happens every year. But this year we have seen an increase in the number of children as schools are closed due to the lockdown.” COVID-19 has thrown the world into an unprecedented global crisis.

Without a doubt, restoring global health is

the top priority, but the stringent measures required are causing massive economic and social shocks. Due to various COVID-19's additional economic shocks and school closings, children who are already engaged in child labour may work longer hours or in worse conditions, and many more children may be compelled to engage in the worst forms of child labour as a result of job and income losses among vulnerable families. The global economy has entered a recession as lockdown, quarantine, physical separation, and other isolation measures to suppress transmission continue. The pandemic is expected to increase the number of children in low-income



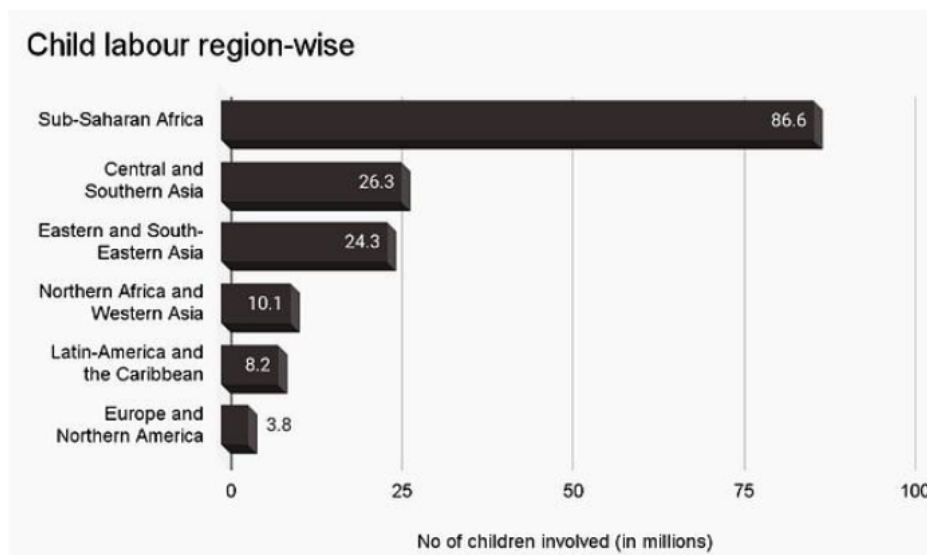
households by 142 million in 2020, adding to the 582 million children who were already poor in 2019. The negative consequences of this pandemic will not be distributed evenly. They are expected to be most harmful in the poorest countries and neighborhoods, as well as for those who are already disadvantaged or vulnerable, such as children in child labour and victims of forced labour and human trafficking, particularly women and girls.

Because of a lack of access to social protection, such as health insurance and unemployment benefits, these vulnerable groups are more vulnerable to income shocks. “We are losing ground in the fight against child labour, and the last year has not made that fight any easier,” said UNICEF Executive Director Henrietta Fore. “Now, well into a second year of global lockdowns, school closures, economic disruptions, and shrinking national

budgets, families are forced to make heart-breaking choices. We urge governments and international development banks to prioritize investments in programmes that can get children out of the workforce and back into school, and in social protection programmes that can help families avoid making this choice in the first place.”

## VI. GLOBAL SITUATION

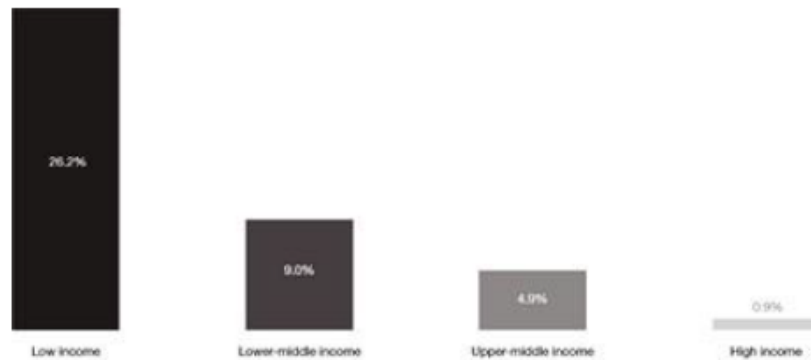
Worldwide, child labour is expected to affect 168 million children, or over 11% of all children (5-17 years old). More than half of these, or 85 million people, work in hazardous occupations that, either by their very nature or the conditions under which they do it, endanger children's physical, mental, or moral well-being. Asia and the Pacific region are where there are the most child labour



- 10.3 million of the 16.7 million (5–17-year-old) children in South Asia who work fall into the 5–14 age group and About one-fifth of all child labourers in South Asia are young children, between the ages of 5 and 11.
- Estimates of child labour show significant regional variance in South Asian nations. India (5.8 million) has the biggest number of children working there aged 5 to 17, followed by Bangladesh (5.0 million), Pakistan (3.4 million), and Nepal (2.0 million). With nearly a quarter (26%) of all children aged 5 to 17 working as

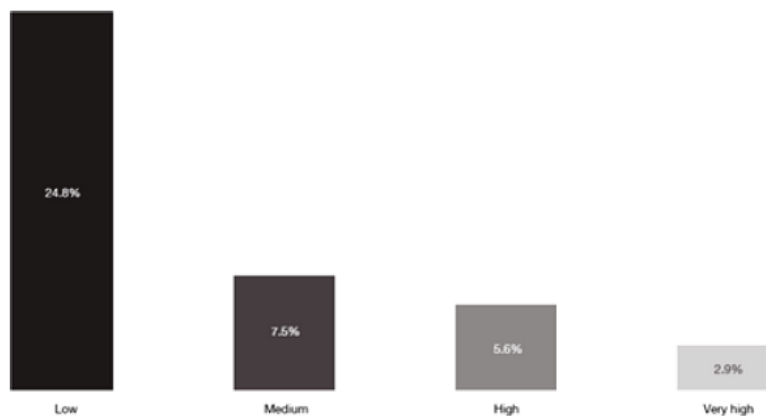
children, Nepal has the largest relative risk of child labour than any other country in South Asia.

- Sub Saharan countries like Angola, Burundi, Cameroon has the highest number of children working with 86.6 million children involved in it . Due to bad governance and corruption, overvalued exchange rates , poor infrastructure , monopoly in many sectors these countries fall in very low income group giving rise to poverty and as a result of which lack of basic needs and high child labour can be seen in these countries



Low-income countries had a gross national income (GNI) per capita in 2020 of \$1,045 or less, lower-middle-income countries of between \$1,046 and \$4,125, upper middle-income countries of between \$4,126 and \$12,735, and high-income countries of \$12,736 or more. The countries which have GNI of less than \$1045 are low income countries with highest number of child labour which mainly consist of african nations like ethiopia , uganda , yemen etc . Whereas countries with GNI above \$12,736 falling in high income group are having the

least child labour like Bermuda, Norway , etc Despite the fact that low-income countries have the highest rates of child labour, middle-income countries have higher rates of child labour as well. In lower-middle income countries, child labour is 9% of all children, while 4.9% of all children in upper-middle income nations. According to statistics on the total number of children working as slaves in each national income category, 84 millions of them—or 56% of all the children working as slaves—actually reside in middle-income nations.

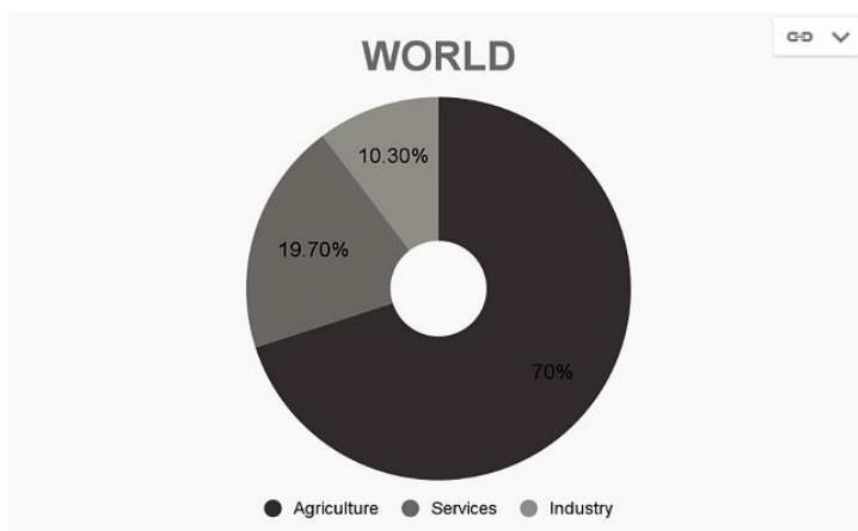


#### Child labour declines as the level of human development increase

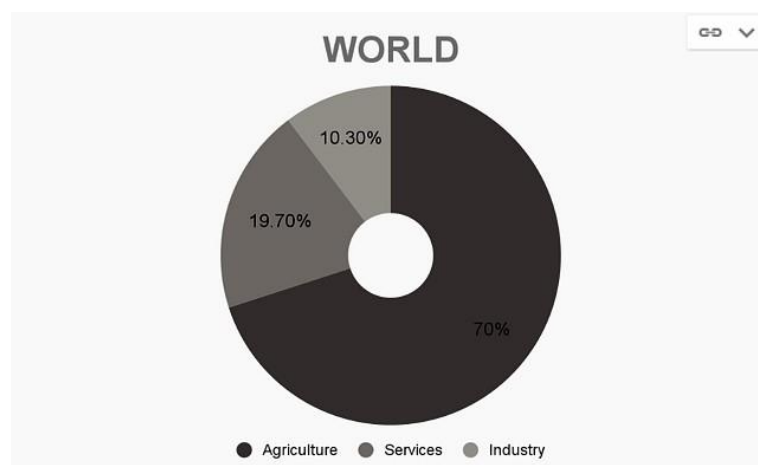
As the human development increases a long and healthy life, access to knowledge and a decent standard of living also increases due to which there is less of child labour seen in very high group of people.



Most children in child labour work within their own family unit  
Percentage distribution of children aged 5 to 17 years in child labour, by status at work.



Most children in child labour work within their own family unit Percentage distribution of children aged 5 to 17 years in child labour, by status at work.

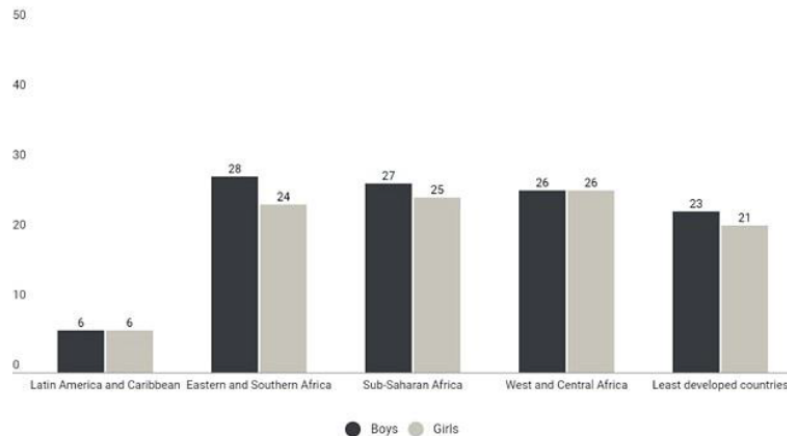


The agricultural sector accounts for the largest share of child labour worldwide Percentage distribution of children aged 5 to 17 years in child labour, by sector of economic activity.



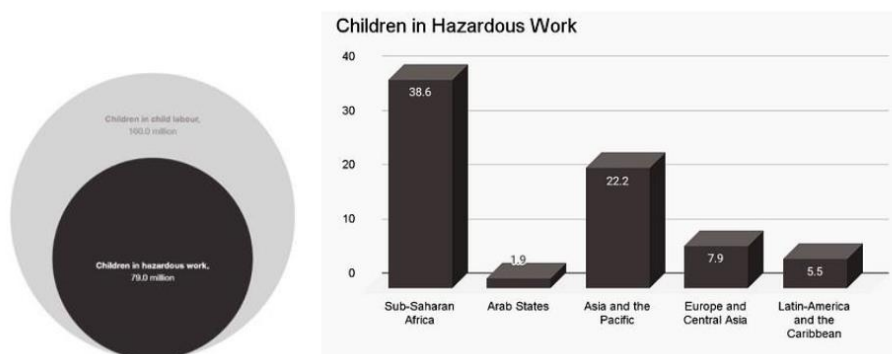


### Percentage of children aged 5 to 17 years engaged in child labour at the time of the survey, by sex and region.



Till 2020 boys were more involved than girls in child labour but after 2020 due to COVID-19 girls were also pushed in child labour across the world. Now girls as well as boys both are equally involved in child labour across all regions.

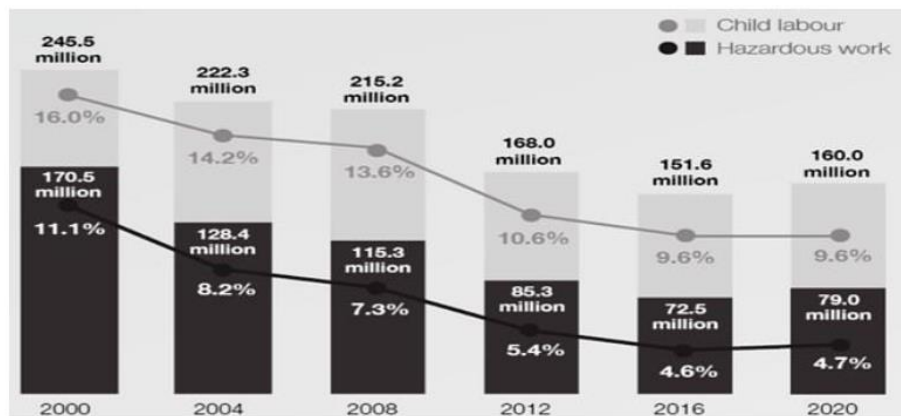
### Worldwide Hazardous child labour



Hazardous child labour is defined as work done by children in dangerous or unhealthy situations that have the potential to cause a child's death, serious injury, or illness due to lax safety and health standards and working conditions. It may result in permanent disability, health problems, and psychological harm. Out of 160 million children 79 millions children (50% of the total child labour) are

engaged in hazardous child labour.

Working in agricultural production with sharp tools, industries like manufacturing of firecracker, mines, jewelry making are some of the examples of hazardous work in which most of the children are involved or are most prone to danger.



From 2000 to 2016 there was rapid decrease in child labour from 16% (245.5 million) to 9.6% (151.6 million) of total children's population. In 2020 The percentage was 9.6% but the number due to increase in population has increased from 151.6 million to 160 million. Hazardous labour has increased from 4.6% to 4.7% (72.5 to 79 million )



### Regional trends

Looking at how regional child labor patterns correlate with broader demographic, economic, and development trends yields some insights.

**Reduction in poverty:** Sub-Saharan Africa has made progress in reducing poverty in recent years, but rates remain high in comparison to other regions. More than 40% of the sub-Saharan African population is still. With the exception of one year, the region has experienced consistent annual economic growth of more than 2%, but due to rapid population growth, GDP per capita has actually declined and remains low in comparison to other regions of the world. In many Sub-Saharan African countries, inequality remains persistently high.

**Population Growth:** Population growth patterns influence child labor trends, with stark differences between regions. From 2008 to 2020, the number of children in child labor fell by 6 million in Latin America and the Caribbean, while the population aged 5 to 17 fell by 4.8 million. Over the same time period, the number of children in child labor in Asia and the Pacific fell by

64.9 million, while the population aged 5 to 17 increased by 12.8 million. In Sub-Saharan Africa, the child labor population increased by 21.5 million between 2008 and 2020, while the total population

aged 5 to 17 increased by 104.8 million. When population growth is considered, child labor in Sub-Saharan Africa takes on a very different hue.

**social security-** Despite advances in expanding social protection, the extent and sufficiency of benefits are still insufficient in every region. Numerous African nations have made notable progress, with spending on social safety nets as a share of income being at or near the global average. Nevertheless, the region as a whole continues to have much less coverage than other regions. In comparison to 66 percent in the Americas, 43 percent in Asia, 83 percent in Europe and 17 percent in Africa only 17 percent of the population is covered by at least one social protection benefit. Social protection frequently influences whether families use child labor.

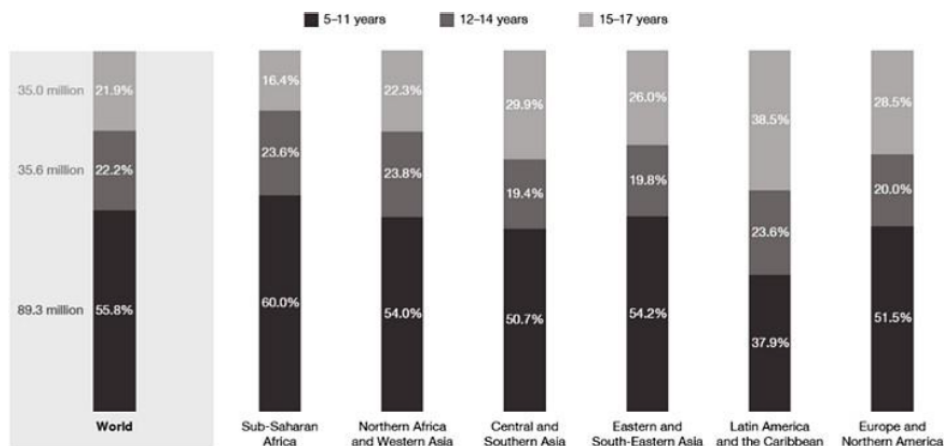
**levels of informality-** Although levels of informal economic activity remain high, regions that make faster progress in reducing child labor have had greater success in doing so. Numerous African nations are working to improve the working conditions for informally employed people, but the continent is still behind in the transition to formality. Eighty-six per cent of African jobs are in the informal economy, more than any other region. The informal economy is where some of the worst labor practices are concentrated.



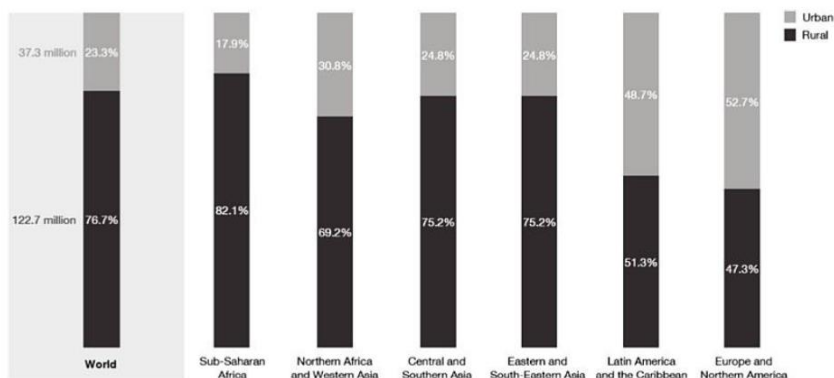
In addition to other factors, informality is linked to lower and less stable incomes, poor and unsafe working conditions, extremely precarious employment, and exclusion from social security programs. All these factors can lead families to use child labor when they are in financial difficulty.

Exclusion in education. In recent years, there has been a sizable net decrease in the number of kids dropping out of primary school across all regions. Sub-Saharan Africa still has a high rate of education exclusion compared to other regions, though. Although the share of GDP devoted to public education insub-Saharan Africa has risen recently, it still falls far short of the global average.

## Regional-Age Trends



## Urban Rural Trends





## VII. INITIATIVES

### World Day Against Child Labour

This year's World Day Against Child Labour was celebrated with a "Week of Action against Child Labour", marked from 3-12 June 2022. Throughout that week, events and activities around the world will provide opportunity to showcase progress on elimination of child labour

### 5th Global Conference on Child Labour

Biggest Event organised by the International Labour Organization (ILO) during the 110th Session of the International Labour Conference, with the support of Alliance 8.7 and the Global Partnership for Universal Social Protection (USP2030). The ILO/UNICEF report on social protection and child labour, which was issued at the 5th Global Conference on Child Labour in May 2022, will be the main topic of discussion. This report demonstrates that a majority of studies on the links between social protection and child labour have identified a child labour reduction effect.

**Why a Global Conference?**

UPSCALE	UPSKILL	INTEGRATE
The programme included forums, panel discussions, and brainstorming sessions around accelerating action.	Prominent speakers, representatives, and participants discussed critical issues and shared solutions that work.	More than 4,000 representatives from around the world united to strengthen their plans to end child labour.

### Durban call

The Durban Call to Action is a document that emphasizes the need for urgent action to end child labour. Delegates adopted this at the 5th Global Conference on the Elimination of Child Labour on 20 May 2022

Its objective is to quicken the process of terminating child labour after years of reversal caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and other vulnerabilities on a worldwide scale.

The Durban Call to Action is a landmark in the movement against child labour because, children signed the Durban Call to Action for the first time and made it clear what they wanted from decision-makers, it marks a turning point in the fight against child labour. The fact that it was the first event conducted in Africa added to its significance.

### 2022 Theme: "Universal Social Protection to End Child Labour"

The world day theme for 2022 calls for increased spending on social protection system and schemes in order to create strong social protection floors and safeguard children from child labour. While there has been tremendous progress in reducing child labour over the past two decades, that progress has slowed over time and even froze between 2016 and 2020. 160 million kids are still working as youngsters

today, some as young as 5.

Government social protection systems are crucial for eradicating and preventing child labour as well as fighting poverty and vulnerability. Social protection serves as both a human right and an effective instrument for policymakers to discourage families from resorting to child labour during difficult circumstances. However, as of 2020 and before to the onset of the COVID-19 crisis, only 46.9% of the global population had access to at least one social security benefit, while the remaining 53.1 per cent – as many as 4.1 billion people – were left wholly unprotected.

As part of an integrated and comprehensive approach to address the issue, increasing investment in universal social protection systems is necessary to make significant headway in abolishing child labour.

### 2022 PROJECTIONS

- Without mitigation measures, it is predicted that by the end of 2022, there may be 8.9 million more children working as children as a result of rising poverty and vulnerability.



Nobel Peace Laureate Kailash Satyarthi said, "I am anguished and ashamed about the first increase in child labour in two decades. There can be no excuse for this. During the same four years preceding the pandemic, the world got richer by \$10 trillion. Yet, child labour rose to 160 million. How rich does the world have to be to stop slavery and exploitation of our children?"



Malala Yousafzai

### CHILD RIGHT ACTIVIST

An advocate of child's rights and education and a fighter against child labour, Nobel Peace Prize winner Kailash Satyarthi has saved over 83,000 children from exploitation in 144 countries. It was due to his efforts that the International Labour Organisation adopted Convention No. 182 on the worst kinds of child labour, which became a guiding force for government across the globe.



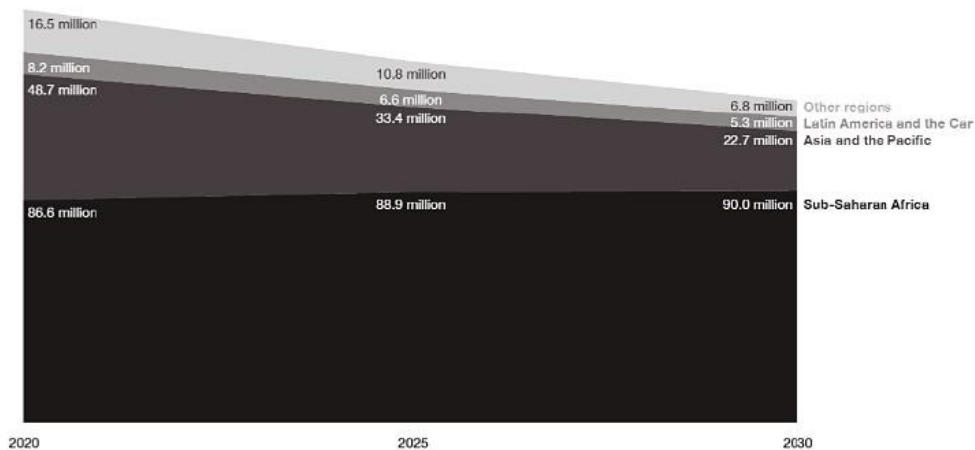
Kailash Satyarthi

At just 15-years-old, Malala Yousafzai was shot in the head on a school bus by the Taliban in Pakistan for daring to speak out against a ban on education for girls. It is a story that is known across the world.

Malala survived, and has gone on to become a role model for women globally. She has devoted her life to being a voice in the fight to ensure all girls receive 12 years of free, safe, quality education.

### FUTURE EXPECTATIONS

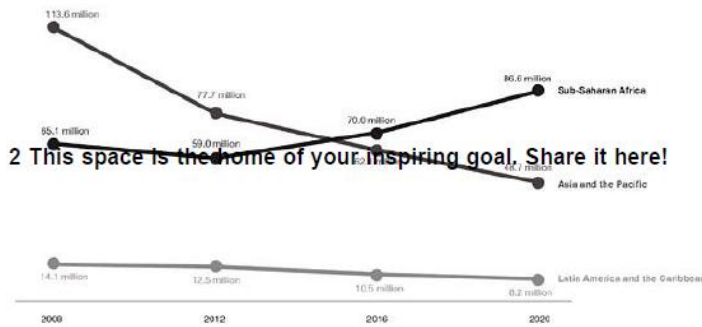
Keeping the acceleration constant, it is expected to reduce child labour from 160 million to 125 million by 2030. But still it is expected that Sub-Saharan African region will still have an increase in child labour.







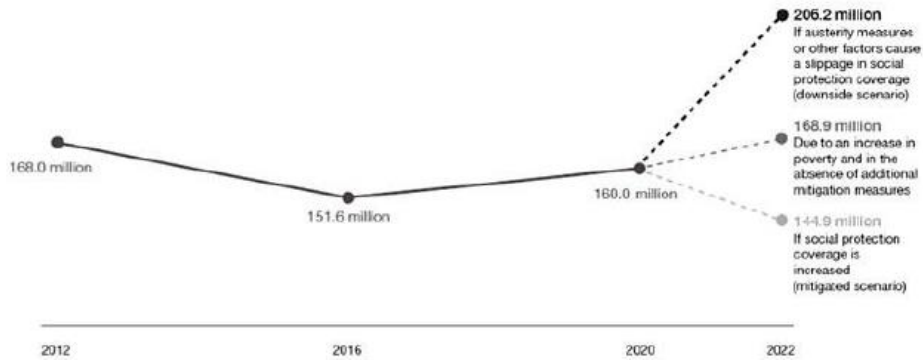
**CURRENT SCENERIO**



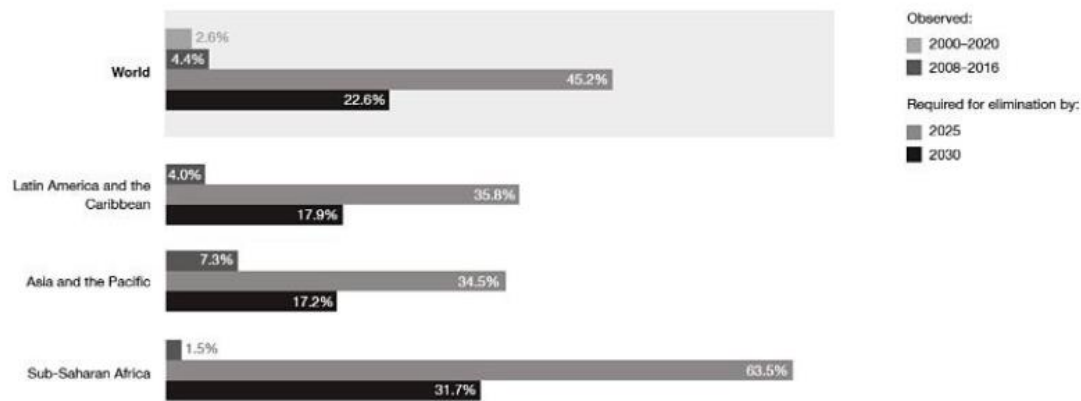
Sub-Saharan Africa is recovering from the 2020 recession sparked by the COVID-19 pandemic with outperforming the expected growth rate of 3.7% to 4.5%. But still the spike of recession, population growth, recruitment crises caused by the pandemic in 2020 lead to huge increase in child labour.

**Future PredictionS in the current time**

Current child labour figures is 168 million (2022) worldwide, so we can say that child labour has increased from 2020 by 8 million. The reason is due to increase in poverty and absence of additional mitigation.



The SDG Targets keeping the abnormal year constant to end poverty are given above. The observed average annual rates of reduction quantify the rate of progress in the prevalence of child labour over each period.



### HYPOTHESIS

Do people prioritize their wants over the injustice of child labor? Null Hypothesis: People do not support child labour

Alternative hypothesis: People prioritize their needs over child labour

**SURVEY:** A survey was conducted using Google Docs, and it consisted of ten questions about people's choices and beliefs regarding purchasing products made with child labor.

According to secondary data, 100% of respondents claim they oppose child labor. However, the remaining results from the other survey questions indicate the opposite. If people knew that their favorite brand is manufacturing its products through child labour, only 26% people agree to stop consuming its products.

The chocolate manufacturer Hershey has been charged with social injustice and found guilty of employing child labor. The consumption of these products should have been stopped right? WRONG, in 2006 company had a net sales of 4.96 U.S. billion dollars and now it is at 7.39 U.S. billion dollars, demonstrating how consumers do not really care whether products they purchase were made with child labor as long as they get what they want.

Disney, Victoria Secret, GAP, Nike, H&M, Aware of these companies? Whether it was during the production of goods or during the production of the raw materials used to make the products, all five of these clothing brands have been implicated in the use of child labor in some capacity. It is obvious that none of these clothing brands care about the rights of children.

### VIII. Conclusion:

Despite being aware that the product was made with child labor, people still purchase it

because they prioritize their wants over the injustice that has taken place. Most consumers "buy products that are made using child labour, regardless of their awareness of the manufacturing of the product, because people value their wants more than the injustice occurring." However, different people have different perspectives on this issue, so unless everyone participates, the hypothesis cannot be satisfactorily answered.

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