



CRC

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Total Population: 1,52,331,000



Child Population: 73,691,000

## TOTAL CHILD LABOUR

An ILO-IPEC assisted national child labour survey (1996) conducted by the Federal Bureau of Statistics for the Ministry of Labour, Manpower and Overseas Pakistanis, found 8.3% (3.3 million) of the 40 million children aged 5 to 14 years to be economically active practically on a full-time basis.

The Ministry of Labour, in collaboration with ILO, surveyed the child labour situation in Pakistan, in 1996, through the Federal Bureau of Statistics. Based on the survey, total child labour between the age groups of 5 to 14 years is estimated at 3.313 million.

For the year 2000, the ILO projected 2,993,000 economically active children, 1,158,000 girls and 1,835,000 boys between the ages of 10 to 14, representing 15.4% of this age group.

3,215,344 children are economically active, of which 2,374,830 are males, 840,514 are females.

## CHILD SLAVERY

The Bonded Labour Liberation Front estimates that eight million children are bonded in Pakistan. Half a million are allegedly bonded in the carpet industry alone.

A UNICEF report estimated that there are 1.2 million children are engaged in the Pakistan carpet industry.

A minimum of 250,000 children live and work in brick kilns in complete social isolation. They are totally illiterate and have no hope of escaping from this inferno. In fact these children are bonded labourers, driven into this miserable state by the fact that their entire families have been 'pawned' to the owners by virtue of their having pledged their labour in return for so-called 'advances' taken, sometimes by their ancestors, which, even after the entire family having toiled for years on subsistence wages in prison-like conditions, is not accounted as repaid.

## CHILD TRAFFICKING

In Pakistan, where most of the trafficked Bengali women are sold, there are about 1,500 Bengali women in jail and about 200,000 women and children in the slave trade.

Lawyers for Human Rights and Legal Aid (LHRLA) of Pakistan have reported that more than 19,000 boys from the region, ranging in age from 2 to 11 years old, have been trafficked as camel jockeys to the Middle East, a trade that can cost them their lives.

## CHILD PROSTITUTION

Between 20,000 and 40,000 children are in prostitution in Pakistan.

## CHILDREN USED IN CRIME

No confirmed data.

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# PAKISTAN

## CHILD SOLDIERS

There are no official figures regarding the number of madrassas in Pakistan; estimates vary between 15,000 and 25,000. Some madrassas have emerged as centres for indoctrination, training and recruitment of young fighters for the armed conflicts in Afghanistan and in Jammu and Kashmir.

In February 2000 the Pakistani Interior Minister claimed that "only 1%" of the madrassas in Pakistan sent their students for training in Afghanistan. Reportedly, there are 219,000 students in madrassas in the Punjab province alone.

The Pakistan Government representative said that while Pakistan recruited under 18s, it had adequate safeguards to ensure that they were not involved in armed conflict.

## CHILD SERVANTS

The largest number of male children was found working in tailoring (23.8%), shop assistants (14.5%), hotel and restaurants (8.9%), while most female children were found in domestic help (6.7%) and tailoring (4.5%).

Child domestic workers generally have to work for 15 hours a day, 7 days a week.

## OTHER HAZARDOUS CHILD LABOUR

**Auto Workshops** - A survey conducted by the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan published in June 1999 noted that there are approximately 4,000 children working in auto workshops in the Mardan district of the NWFP.

**Brick Kilns** - A minimum of 250,000 children live and work in brick kilns in complete social isolation.

**Carpet Industry** - 1.2 million children were engaged in the carpet industry.

**Sporting Goods Industry** - Sialkot District alone produces nearly 75% of the world's hand-stitched soccer balls. Recent ILO study estimated that as many as 7,000 children currently work in the industry.

**Surgical Instruments Industry** - The exact number of vendor shops in Sialkot is not known but it is estimated that more than 2,000 vendors are involved in surgical instrument production. It is estimated that each vendor shop employs an average of 2 children. Hence some 3,000 to 4,000 children have been suspected of being involved in the production process.

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