

The Reasons for Child Labor in the Age Group (5-17) Years in Alegria, Based on the Data from the MICS6 Cluster Survey in 2019

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Abstract---Child labour is considered one of the serious social phenomena and this is because of its negative effects on the child and a violation of his rights on the one hand and on the other hand on the family and society, so this study aims to find out the reasons behind this phenomenon, and direct visions to treat it by asking the following question: What is the reality of child labour in Algeria? To study this topic, we adopted the descriptive analytical approach by analysing the data of the sixth multiple indicator cluster survey 2019. The results we found from this study are that the group most exposed to this phenomenon are males, those who belong to poor families, mothers with an average level of education or less, and belong to rural areas and those who have dropped out of school.

Keywords---work, childhood, family, child labour, school dropout, social and economic conditions.

Introduction

The family has an extreme place in the life of the individual and society, and is considered the first environment in which the child is raised, provides him with all valuable experiences and skills, the family works to provide and create appropriate conditions, provide various aspects of care, satisfy his physical, psychological and mental needs, the family's insufficiency to provide what the child needs, and this, both from a social and economic point of view as a result of the environmental conditions in

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2568

which the family lives, all this pushes the child to rely on himself in meeting his needs through work and drop out of school or work and study together at an early age.

According to ILO statistics for the year 2000, there are 246 million children working, ranging in age from 5 to 17 years, and an estimated 179 million children working in dangerous conditions. Estimates show UNICEF pointed out that there are about 150 million children between the ages of 5 and 14 in developing countries, and about 16% of all children in this age group are involved in child labour. Child labour is a phenomenon that has attracted the attention of various countries of the world in general and human rights and humanitarian organizations in the world in particular.

Developed countries do not differ from developing countries in the size and prevalence of the problem only, but they are all partners in this crime that has a future. Algeria, like many other countries around the world, is currently grappling with the problem of rampant child labour, which continues to pose significant challenges to its socio-economic development. As a direct response to this alarming situation, the country has implemented a variety of national measures and policies that are precisely designed to address and combat the scourge of child labour, with particular emphasis on regulations on establishing a minimum age for work established by law and providing free and accessible compulsory education for all children. Since 2003, Algeria has made concerted efforts to establish a national intersect oral commission dedicated to the prevention and elimination of child labour, highlighting its commitment to the protection of children's rights and well-being. This strategic initiative mainly aims to promote a favourable and protective environment where children can take full advantage of universal health coverage policies, while ensuring their protection along with various educational policies that have been put in place to promote high-quality education and encourage large investments in the educational sector. Thus, by conducting this study, we seek to critically analyse and clarify the current reality of this alarming phenomenon by delving into a comprehensive study of some of the fundamental factors contributing to its continuation, which prompted us to ask the following relevant questions: What are the characteristics of working children Is there a relationship between child labour and the socio-economic conditions of the family.

Objectives of the study:

Disclosure of the socio-economic conditions of working children and their families⁴

Defining concepts:

Labour is a language: "it is said that he did works, professions, and so he worked on charity in the sense that he sought to collect it"(Arabic, P.628).

Work is a term: "a group of jobs that are similar in duties in an enterprise or factory, and work plays a role in determining the social level of an individual, his values, his interfaces and his way of life". (Mursi, 1962).

Child labour:

According to the ILO definition," it is work that is harmful to the physical, psychological and mental health of a child and deprives him of his childhood and dignity, and it is clear from this definition that there are standards in case of which such work loses its legitimacy and leads to outdated practices that violate the rights of the child".

The mentioned phenomenon is related to the work carried out by minors at a young age, which is carried out in an informal and illegal way, which leads to adverse effects on their psychological, physical and social development; this negative impact is significantly influenced by the long hours in which these children are forced to engage in strenuous activities under strenuous conditions that pose significant threats to their safety and health in general, hindering their ability to experience a childhood characterized by security and well-being organism.

Childhood: "childhood is one of the most important stages of formation and personal growth, and childhood represents the period spent by the young person in growing up until he reaches puberty"(Arabic, P.560).

The socio-economic conditions of the family: it is what the individual enjoys in terms of clothing, food and housing, and this is evidenced by the level of income and the environment in which he lives, the social class to which he belongs, and can be measured by several economic, social and cultural indicators such as: income, percentage of learning, health level and poverty rate) (Daddy, without a year).

According to the instructions of the Bureau of Population Activities (FNUAP), the majority of the countries that completed the cluster surveys have adopted an indicator that reflects the level of well-being of families and is divided into 5 sections: from the highest well-being to the least well-being; this indicator includes many and diverse variables such as (housing, income, car, supply, water) (Indices, 2012-2013).

School dropout, a term: the student's interruption from studying, which is during the school year or during the end of the school year, that is, he left the student for school at a certain educational stage, and this for some reason before or the end of the educational (school) stage.

The family: "a group of symbiotic individuals who reside in their own formal environment, bound together by biological, psychological, emotional, socio-economic, legitimate and legal relationships" (Al-Kattani, 2000).

Socio-economic conditions of the family and child labour:

Economic conditions: it is the amount of goods and services that a family can afford, determines their level of life, and the amount of goods affects the degree of civilized progress or the system of social strata through a number of indicators, such as the following:

Income: "it is considered one of the indicators by which development levels are measured and it is one of the important things that families rely on to meet their material needs from eating and dressing, housing ...", And whether their income is fixed or variable, weekly or monthly, seasonal or intermittent, families may differ from each other in these aspects as well as in how they handle their income. (Hassan, the family and its problems, 1967, P.66).

Since poverty is one of the issues faced by the vast majority of the population, it is generally recognized that poverty is the main cause of child labour, especially in developing countries such as Algeria. As a result, this has become a serious and complex danger. The term poverty describes the inability to meet basic needs, or the inability to live within the material norms and regulations that now govern our society. But it is important to emphasize that there is always a tendency to define poverty in terms of income, a concept shared by most people in society.

Housing: housing is one of the fundamental pillars that support the standard of living because it is a social unit that has a great influence on human ties that are reflected in its structure. Housing has a social component and has a great influence on the interaction processes associated with the development of the child, making it more than just a material economic aspect (balcony, P.92), and where Judge ganchazal pointed out" some of the reasons that lead families to leave the child, pushing him to earn his allowance and perhaps the family's allowance, and among the reasons mentioned are cramped housing and harsh housing conditions" (Shakur, 1998, p. 20).

It is known that the main reason for child labour is believed to be the low living conditions experienced by families, the direct causes are low income and significant financial difficulties faced by children of such poor families, the economic level of a family is determined by the amount of money, material possessions, comfort, needs that members of a particular socio-economic group have in a particular

location, as well as the level of housing, cost, access to health care. Excellent education, life expectancy (balcony, P.95), these indicators give a picture of the economic situation of families and are considered necessary to meet their material and psychological needs.

Mainier 1999 define "poverty as the constant and continuous search for the basic factors of survival, the poor is the one who harnesses all his energy and effort in order to feed himself and his family and spends everything he gets and parts of it for the minimum nutrition".

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Educational level and child labour: according to the field study of the National Authority for Health Promotion and research development on child labour in Algeria, 53% of working children are motivated to work because of the difficult financial conditions faced by their families. it is worth noting, according to Al-Ray newspaper, that 75% of young people who work support their families with the money they earn, low family income greatly encourages children to enter the labour market before they reach legal age, however, this has several negative effects on the physical and emotional health of children (delwani).

According to UN statistics, the low level of education and the spread of the phenomenon of illiteracy, "is with great suspicion in developing countries and reaches more than 85% of the population in some countries, as is the case in India, and to 95.6% in Sudan, while the rest of the Arab countries illiteracy rate is between 68% and 89%, while this phenomenon decreases in many developed countries". (Zaroati, introduction to social work, 2000, p.20).

A study by Dr. Abdel Raouf El-Dabaa in Egypt on child labour concluded that the illiteracy rate among the fathers and mothers of working children was high, reaching 56% among fathers and 89% among mothers. The study by Lazar et al. showed that the prevalence of illiteracy "reached 50% of the working children in the sample were illiterate, and illiteracy may reach adulthood with them in most cases, and this is expected despite the fact that most of the Working Children expressed their desire to continue education with their work" (Karim, 2005, p. 46).

School dropout and child labour: many studies indicate that one of the main causes of students dropping out of schools is their joining the labour market, which increases the student dropout rate and the child labour rate. Many factors, such as poverty, the deterioration of the economic situation, and the inability to cope with the requirements of education, contribute to students dropping out of school and entering the labour market, poor academic achievement among students and lack of hope for success is a factor that helped to leave school and engage in the world of work.

The early desire of a child or parents to learn and pursue a career, as well as their lack of faith in the value of continuing education, especially in view of the unemployment of graduates of nearby universities, parents, regardless of their age, are in dire need of helping their children due to the high birth rate and the increase in the number of family members, which makes it impossible for them to support the family on their own. Because of the inherited culture, parents are unaware of the value of Education.

According to the National Investigation to combat child labour, carried out by the National Council for Family Affairs, poverty, high unemployment, low living standards are some of the main reasons why children leave school, a large number of children join the labour market in order to support their family

income or because their parents are unable to provide for their needs (school dropout is a fact that undermines the educational system).

Data sources and analysis methodology:

The Ministry of Health, Population and hospital reform, in partnership with the World Health Organization and the United Nations Population Fund, conducted the fourth Multi-Indicator Survey to track and evaluate Algeria's progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and systematically monitor the conditions of women and children. The first was conducted in 1995, the second in 2000, the third in 2006, the fourth in 2012-2013, the sixth in 2019, a number of surveys were conducted.

Children under the age of eighteen and women of childbearing age were the focus of the last survey. Of the seven regions surveyed by this survey, a two-stage stratified sample was selected. It was estimated that 34,682 young people were between the ages of 5 and 17. 2,118 working children were found, or 6.10% of the total, as only one child from each family was examined.

Approach used: since the nature of the topic determines the type of methodology used, each study must choose an appropriate methodology for addressing the topic. In order to determine the reasons for the occurrence of the phenomenon, we used statistical data analysis and a descriptive-analytical approach in our study.

Results

Table No (01): Distribution of child labour by age groups

Age	frequency	frequency relative	total number
11-05	593	2.85	20814
14-12	720	9.73	7398
17-15	805	12.43	6470
Total	2118	%6.10	34682

Source: prepared by the researcher based on the data of the Multi-Indicator Cluster Survey mics6 2019

We note from the table that the age group (5-17) years represents the largest percentage, estimated at 12.43%, and the age group (05-11) years is estimated at 2.85% of child labour, and therefore we say that the older the child, the more likely he is to work.

Table No(02): Distribution of working children by age (5 - 17) years and sex

Age	sex	relative frequency	frequency	number of children
05-11	males	%3.6	390	593
	Females	%2.0	203	
12-14	males	%10.87	413	7398
	Females	%8.53	307	
15-17	males	%16.66	564	805
	Females	%7.81	241	
17-05	males	%64.54	1367	2118
	Females	%35.46	751	
Total		%6.10	2118	34682

Source: prepared by the researcher based on the data of the Multi-Indicator Cluster Survey mics6 2019

As the table shows, the percentage of males who participate in child labour is estimated at 64.54%, It is twice the estimated 35.4% of females, and is distributed by age as follows: 05-11 years (3.6%, 2.0%), 12-14 years (10.87%+8.53%) +15-17 years(16.66%, 7.81%), respectively, and therefore we say that the proportion of males is higher than the proportion of females in different age groups, that is, males are more likely to work.

Table No (03): distribution of child labour by age and by Education follow-up

age	Teaching	relative frequency	frequency	number of children
05-11	Teacher	%2.9	573	20814
	Unschoolled	%1.7	19	
12-14	Teacher	%9.3	651	7398
	Unschoolled	%21.4	69	
15-17	Teacher	%9.0	457	6470
	Unschoolled	%24.8	348	
17-05	Teacher	5.3%	1681	31807
	Unschoolled	15.2%	436	2875
Total		%6	2118	34682

Source: prepared by the researcher based on the data of the Multi-Indicator Cluster Survey mics6 2019

It can be seen from the table that the percentage of children who do not study and work is estimated at 15.2%, studying and working at 5.3% of the total working children in the age group 05-17 years, as we find that the percentage of schooled children is greater than the percentage of non-schooled children by (2.9%, 1.7%) respectively through the age group 5-11 years, and the age group 12-14 years, we find that the percentage of children who study and work 9.3% compared with their percentage is 21.4%, while in the 15th age group- 17 years old, we find that the percentage of children who do not study and work is estimated at 24.8%, which is high compared to children who study and work 9.0%, and therefore we conclude that the higher the age of the child, the more likely he is to drop out of school, and he is directed to work when he is under the legal age that allows him to work, and therefore he will be deprived of his full rights to play and study..., Which is guaranteed to him by the entirety of national and international laws and charters.

It is clear from the above table that the percentage of working children is estimated at 6.1%, where it is distributed between rural by 8.45% and Urban by 4.95%, and therefore we say that rural children are more likely to work compared to urban and this is a difference of 3 points, as for its Distribution by age, we find that the difference is within the limits of double between rural and urban areas, which is due to the fact that children are employed in agriculture and animal husbandry by a large percentage.

Table No. (04): distribution of child labour by age and educational level of the mother

Mother's educational level	11-05		14-12		17-15		17-05		Total percentages
	frequency	relative frequency	frequency	relative frequency	frequency	relative frequency	frequency	relative frequency	
Preparatory	131	3,3	229	11.20	333	16.3	8,57	694	32
Primary	84	2,3	171	12.00	156	11.9	6,42	409	19.3
Average	219	3,6	176	9.50	183	12.1	6,06	576	27.2
Secondary	114	2,3	105	6.80	108	8.4	4,22	324	15.3
Collectors	42	2,0	36	6.80	29	7.7	3,50	106	5
Total	593	2,8	717	9.7	809	12.43	6,08	2118	

Source: prepared by the researcher based on the data of the Multi-Indicator Cluster Survey mics6 2019

By reading the above table, we find that children belonging to families and their mothers with an average or lower educational level are more likely to work compared to the rest of the other categories within 78.5%, and the lowest percentage we find among the children of their mothers with a university education level by 5%, we say that this is due to the fact that mothers with a university level mostly work and are keen on educating their children, so we find this percentage low except in exceptional cases.

Table No(05): distribution of working children by age (5-17) years and level of well-being (Index of wealth)

	11-05		14-12		17-15		17-05	
Index of wealth	relative frequency	frequency	relative frequency	frequency	relative frequency	frequency	relative frequency	frequency
The poorest	%3.10	146	%13.80	231	%23.20	295	%40.10	672
Poor	%3.00	131	%10.90	147	%12.90	153	%26.80	430
Average	%2.70	114	%9.20	138	%7.90	100	%19.80	352
Sing	%2.90	113	%7.30	106	%9.10	120	%19.30	339
The most rich	%2.40	89	%6.80	100	%9.30	134	%18.50	323
Total	%2.80	593	%9.70	722	%12.40	803	%24.90	2118

Source: prepared by the researcher based on the data of the Multi-Indicator Cluster Survey mics6 2019

According to this table, the number of children aged 5-14 years who participate in child labour according to the level of well-being of families amounted to 21.4% for the poorest children, while it was 20.5% for poor children, the average well-off children were estimated at 19.08%, while the percentage of financially well-off children was estimated at 19.07%, and the rich were estimated at 18.06%.

Discussion of the Results

Through our analysis of the previous tables, we came to the following results:

Since the first and second hypotheses have been verified, there is a strong correlation between child labour and both the Wealth Index and school dropout rates. The vast majority of working children are between the ages of 12 and 17, with a smaller number of working children in the 5-11 age group.

- As a result of their living conditions, the vast majority of young people are either out of school or out of school. Males make up the majority of working groups.
- The geographical origin of working children from urban and rural areas has an impact due to the differences in prices and living costs between the two locations; whether they are students or not, children from rural areas are more likely to work.
- The educational attainment of mothers has a great influence on the entry of their children into the labour market due to the lack of awareness, guidance and guidance. When mothers do not understand the value, prestige and role of education in improving and developing people's lives, it pushes our children into the labour market and they end up dropping out of school.
- The higher the educational level of the mother, the lower the percentage of child labour
- Some rural families are still keen on the economic role of a young child in agricultural work without their education, and this is what pushes the child to leave school seats at an early age.
- The majority of working children suffer from deplorable socio-economic conditions⁴
- We conclude that child labour was a direct result of a decrease in the family's standard of living, caused by a lack of income or low income. Children are forced to work to support their families, pay for necessities such as food, drink and clothing, as well as pay for housing expenses such as gas, electricity and water. The deterioration of the standard of living of families facilitates the spread of child labour in many places and in dangerous professions that can sometimes be fatal.

- There is a close relationship between child labour and the low standard of living of the family, as a result of the inability of the head of the family to provide everything necessary for his children.

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