



Planning and Development Department
Government of Gilgit-Baltistan

GILGIT-BALTISTAN Child Labour Survey 2018-19

KEY FINDINGS REPORT

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Center for Evaluation
and Development



GILGIT-BALTISTAN
Child Labour
Survey

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INTRODUCTION

The Gilgit-Baltistan Child Labour Survey (GBCLS) 2018-2019 is the first child labour survey conducted in Pakistan since 1996. It was conducted as part of a nationwide survey with the aim of covering all provinces and territories. The survey provides unique information about the living conditions of children in the territory as well as their daily activities including schooling, working, household chores and leisure. It is the largest survey conducted in the administrative territory so far, with a representative sample of 7,032 households from all 10 districts in Gilgit-Baltistan (GB).¹ The survey is representative of 388,569 children aged 5–17 in the territory, at the district urban-rural stratum level.

The GBCLS follows the methodology defined by the Statistical Information and Monitoring Programme on Child Labour (SIMPOC) for data collection and analysis. The questionnaire was adapted to the local context in GB and relevant questions were included. This is the first SIMPOC Child Labour Survey that explores mental health among children in child labour, which



¹ At the time of the survey there were 10 districts, in 2019 4 new districts were announced. As of 2021 there are 14 districts in GB.

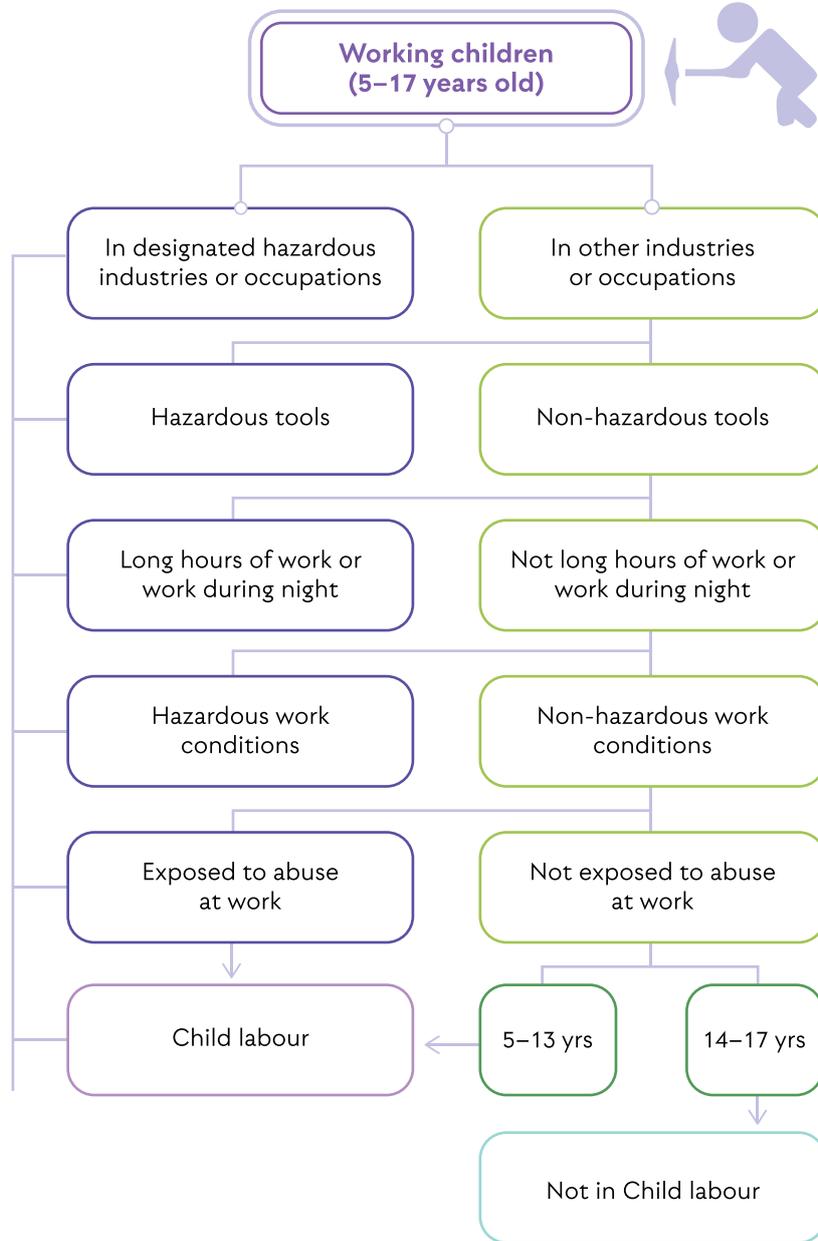
represents a major step forward in recognising the manifold consequences of child labour. The main objectives of the GBCLS were to investigate causes, circumstances, characteristics, and consequences of child labour on education, health, protection of children rights, as well as to facilitate decision makers in the formulation of cross-sectoral policy in support of protecting children in the province from all forms of economic exploitation.

This report presents a selection of key findings from the GBCLS. First, information on the population of children is presented, including characteristics of the children themselves and the households they live in. This is followed by information on the activities of children, with a focus on work and child labour. We then present circumstances in which children in child labour live and potential causes of child labour followed by consequences of child labour, including violence against children at work. Children with disabilities are given special attention at the end of the section on children's activities.

It is important to note that not all work that children carry out is defined as child labour. According to the 20th ICLS, working children are defined as those "engaged in any activity falling within the general production boundary as defined in the 2008 System of National Accounts (SNA)" and "comprises all children below 18 years of age engaged in any activity to produce goods or to provide services for use by others or for own use". Unpaid household services, i.e. household chores, are outside the SNA production boundary and not included in child work nor child labour for the purposes of this report. Child labour is generally defined as "work that deprives children of their childhood, their potential and their dignity, and that is harmful to physical and mental development" (International Labour Organization, 2002, p. 16). Statistically, it is defined as illustrated in Figure 1 according to a set of age specific thresholds for the number of hours worked and the circumstances under which a child works, i.e. the environment, the tools used, the industry, the occupation, and whether working at night. The thresholds and hazards used in the definition of child labour are taken from the legislation set out in the Gilgit Baltistan Prohibition of Employment of Children Act, 2019.² This act was passed in partial fulfilment of Pakistan's commitment to end child labour in accordance with the ratification of ILO convention 138 (The minimum age convention), ILO convention 182 (on the worst forms of child labour), the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (see CRC article 32), as well as to measure child labour enabling progress towards Sustainable Development Goal 8.7.

² The definition of child labour employed in this report follows the 18th ICLS as a general framework and encompasses within it the Gilgit-Baltistan Prohibition of Employment of Children Act 2019. The definition of child labour according to the 18th ICLS and the Gilgit-Baltistan Prohibition of Employment of Children Act 2019 differ with respect to i) light work for children aged 12-13 and ii) the limit of hours for children of the minimum working age 14-17 (up to 48 hours in the Gilgit Baltistan law). Appendix 4 in the GBCLS main report shows a comparison of child labour incidence rates depending on the definition applied.

Figure 1. Definition of child labour illustrated

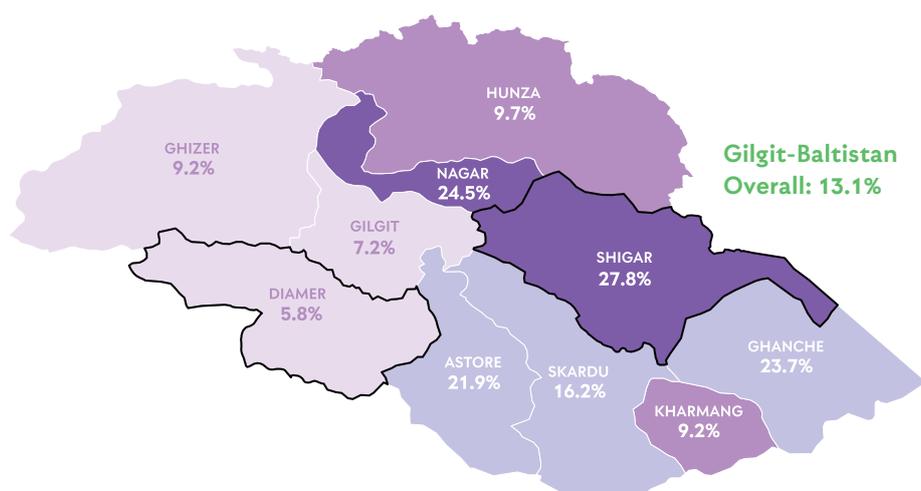


GILGIT-BALTISTAN CHILD LABOUR SURVEY AT A GLANCE

Table 1. Survey implementation	
<p>Sample frame used: Population census 2017 for clusters and full household listing of selected clusters</p>	<p>Questionnaires: Household members (adult respondent) Household characteristics (adult respondent) Children 5–17 years (child respondent)</p>
<p>Survey sample:</p> <p>Households</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sampled: 7,648 • Approached: 7,479 • Responded: 7,032 <p>Children</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In sample: 24,758 • Interviewed: 22,693 <p>Number of clusters: 479 Child response rate: 91.7% Response rate (per cent): 94.0%</p>	<p>Fieldwork: 25th March – 23rd July 2019</p>

Table 2. Children (5–17 years): population estimates		
Indicator	Number	Percentage ³
Total	388,569	100
Age group		
5–9	166,599	42.9
10–13	122,024	31.4
14–17	99,946	25.7
Sex⁴		
Boys	198,144	51.0
Girls	190,419	49.0
Residence		
Rural	323,689	83.3
Urban	64,880	16.7
Division		
Baltistan	124,604	32.1
Diamer	95,197	24.5
Gilgit	168,768	43.4

Figure 2. Gilgit-Baltistan child labour incidence⁵

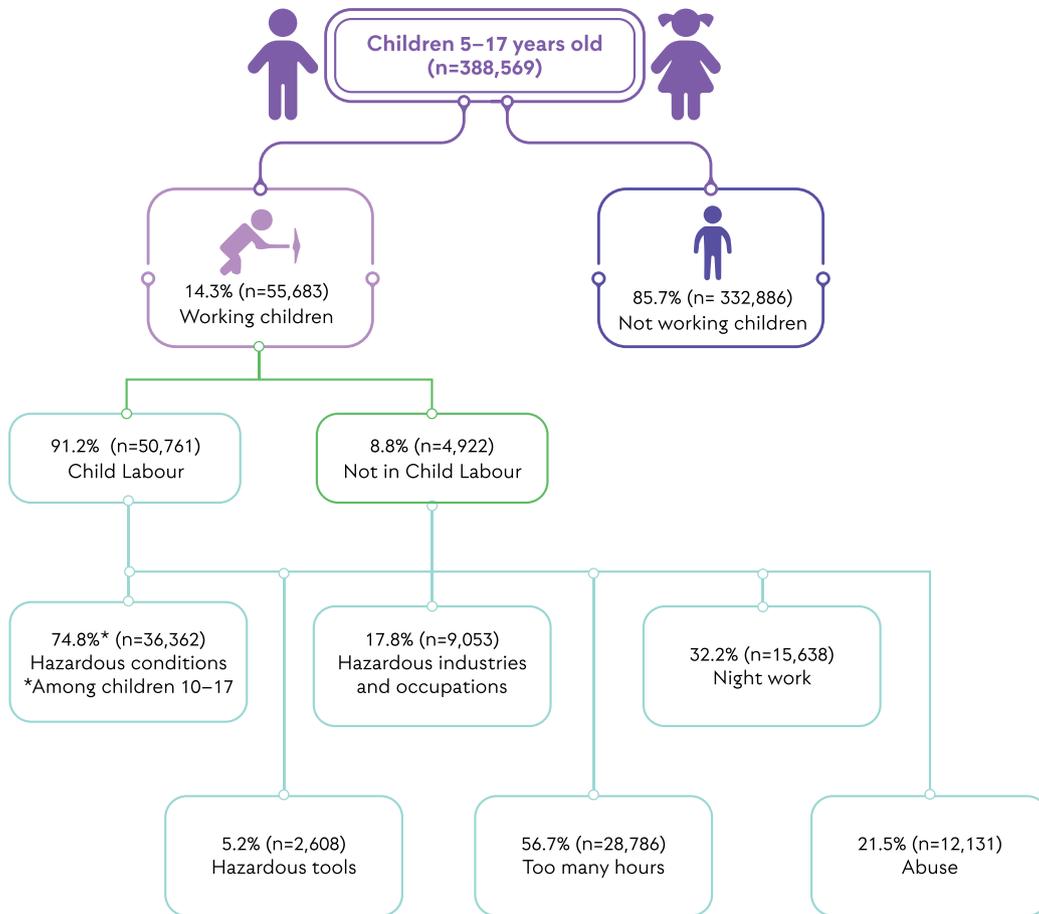


³ Due to rounding, the percentages do not always sum up to 100.

⁴ The sum of boys and girls does not equal the total number of children since the table does not include transgender/other.

⁵ Source of map: Planning and Development Department, Government of Gilgit-Baltistan

Figure 3. Results overview



Note: The components of child labour do not sum to 100 per cent since children may fall into multiple categories.

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SURVEY POPULATION

In addition to the description of the population of children presented in Table 2, Table 3 describes the population of children in terms of the sex ratio by age and residence, and the share of ever married children and children with a birth certificate. There are more boys than girls, except for the age group 10–13, where there are 95.1 boys for every 100 girls. The sex ratio is higher in urban compared to rural areas, so there are more boys for every girl in urban areas compared to rural areas. Girls are married more than boys in the same age group. It is reported that 0.2 per cent of girls aged 10–13 and 7.4 per cent of girls aged 14–17 have married. Less than 1 in 3 children has a birth certificate, with the percentage being 1.3 percentage points higher for boys than girls and higher for children in older age groups with a difference of 14.8 percentage points between children aged 5–9 and children aged 14–17.

Table 3. Population composition		
Indicator	Value (%)	Description
Sex ratio⁶		
Overall sex ratio	104.1	Ratio of boys to girls in the population of children 5–17 years by age group and area of residence.
5–9 years	109.7	
10–13 years	95.1	
14–17 years	106.4	
Rural	103.2	
Urban	108.3	
Ever married		
Boys		Percentage of children 10–17 years old that have ever been married (married, divorced, Nikah or married but separated) by sex and age group.
10–13 years	0.1%	
14–17 years	0.8%	
Girls		
10–13 years	0.2%	
14–17 years	7.4%	
Birth certificate		
Total	32.0%	Percentage of children 5–17 years old that have a birth certificate by age group and sex.
Age group		
5–9 years	25.2%	
10–13 years	34.7%	
14–17 years	40.0%	
Sex		
Boys	32.6%	
Girls	31.3%	

⁶ The sex ratio is the number of boys per 100 girls.

Table 4 shows characteristics of households with children aged 5–17. These households have on average eight members, four of which are children. In a minority of 5.1 per cent of households, the household head is female⁷ and 16.0 per cent of households are beneficiaries of the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP).⁸ The main income source of half of the households is regular wage employment and a majority of 90.8 per cent of households own the dwelling where they live.

Indicator	Value (%)	Description
Female-headed households	5.1	Percentage of female-headed households.
Average household size	8.1	Average number of household members per household.
Average number of children per household	4.2	Average number of children 0–17 per household.
Households receiving BISP assistance	16.0	Percentage of households currently receiving BISP assistance.
Main income generating activity		
Regular wage employment	51.0	Percentage of households by main activity from which households derive income.
Self-employment (agriculture)	5.4	
Self-employment (non-agriculture)	24.6	
Seasonal paid employee in agriculture	3.0	
Other casual labour	13.4	
Other sources	2.6	
Type of housing tenure		
Owner occupied	90.8%	Percentage of households by type of housing tenure.
On rent	5.5%	
Subsidised rent	0.6%	
Rent free	3.1%	

⁷ Slightly more than half of the female-headed households are widows (50.4 per cent) and slightly less than half are married (48 per cent). Out of the married females that are head of the household, almost all have a spouse that lives outside of the household (93 per cent).

⁸ The Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) was launched by the government of Pakistan in 2008. Through cash transfers to vulnerable women and their families from the poorest households, the programme aims to smooth consumption and alleviate adverse effects of slow economic growth, with the goal to eradicate extreme poverty and empower women (Government of Pakistan, 2020).

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

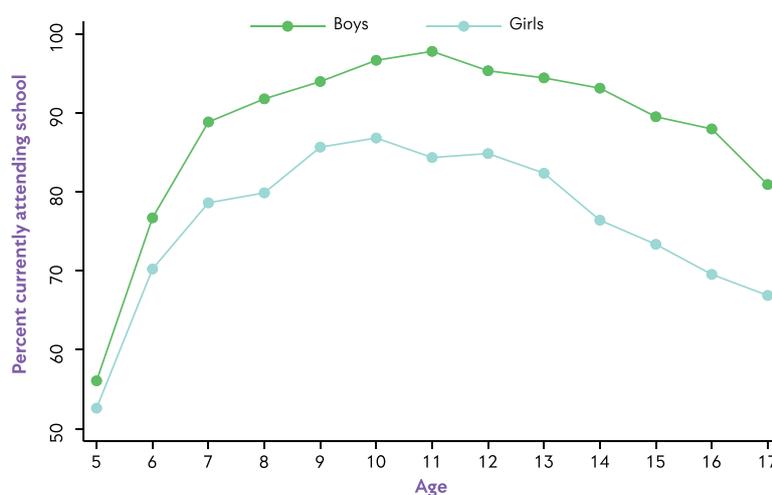
SCHOOLING

Table 5 shows the share of children aged 5–17 who attend and never attended school by sex. More than 4 in 5 children attend school, and the share of boys who attend school with 87.5 per cent is higher compared to 76.8 per cent for girls. Similarly, 10.3 per cent of boys never attended school, whereas the share is higher for girls with 19.5 per cent.

Indicator	Value (%)	Description
Attend school	82.3	Percentage of children 5–17 years currently attending school by sex.
Boys	87.5	
Girls	76.8	

Figure 4 shows school attendance⁹ rates for both girls and boys for all ages between 5–17 years. Attendance is about 55 per cent for boys and girls at age 5 and sharply increases the first two years. It continues to increase until age eleven when the school attendance rates start to decline. This trend is similar for both boys and girls, but the gap between the school attendance rate of boys and girls increases as the children get older. From initially similar attendance rates at age 5, the gap increases to more than 10 percentage points at age 17.

Figure 4. Percentage of all children 5-17 years currently attending school by sex and age



⁹ In Gilgit Baltistan, children are supposed to enter primary school at age 5, middle school at age 10, secondary school at age 13, and higher secondary school at the age of 15. Article 25A in the Constitution of Pakistan requires the state to provide free and compulsory education to all children between 5-16 years.

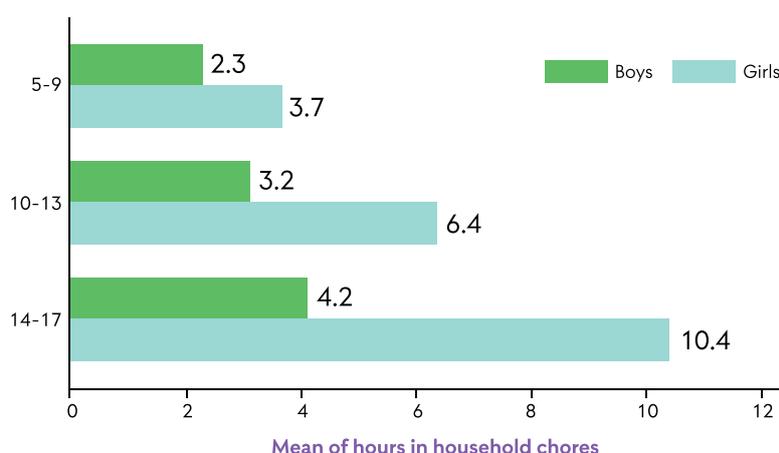
HOUSEHOLD CHORES

Table 6 shows the percentage of children engaged in household chores for at least one hour during the past 7 days by age and sex. With 69.0 per cent of girls, a larger share is engaged in household chores compared to 56.7 per cent of boys. Both boys and girls are more involved in household chores as they grow older, but the increase is larger for girls compared to boys. Between 14–17 years of age, the share of girls engaged in household chores is 14.8 percentage points higher than the share of boys.

Indicator	Value (%)			Description
	Total	Boys	Girls	
Household chores¹⁰	62.7	56.7	69.0	Percentage of children that performed household chores during the past 7 days by age group and sex.
5–9 years	38.8	35.0	43.0	
10–13 years	76.9	70.0	83.4	
14–17 years	85.3	78.1	92.9	

Girls are not only more often involved in household chores, but they also spend more time on household chores compared to boys across all age groups. As shown in Figure 5, boys aged 5–9 spend on average 2.3 hours per week on household chores activities, while girls of the same age spend on average an additional 1.4 hours per week or 60 per cent more. This gap increases with age and boys aged 14–17 spend 4.2 hours, whereas girls of the same age group spend more than twice that amount of time or 10.4 hours per week on household chores.

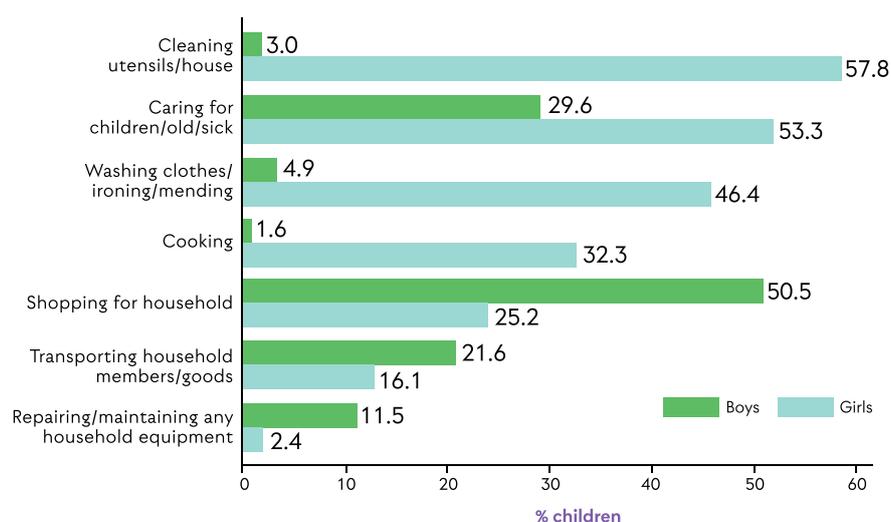
Figure 5. Average number of hours per week spent in household chores by age group and sex



¹⁰ Household chores include i) shopping for households (e.g., grocery), ii) repairing or maintenance of any household equipment, iii) cooking, iv) cleaning utensils or house, v) washing clothes, ironing, or mending, vi) caring for children, old or sick, and vii) transporting members or goods.

Boys and girls are also engaged in different types of household chores. Figure 6 shows what household chores children aged 5–17 perform. The most common household chores for boys are shopping for the household, caring for children, the elderly or the sick and transporting household members or goods. For girls, the most common household chores are cleaning utensils or the house, taking care of children, the elderly or the sick, and washing, ironing or mending clothes.¹¹

Figure 6. Percentage of children 5–17 years engaged in household chores by type and sex



CHILD WORK

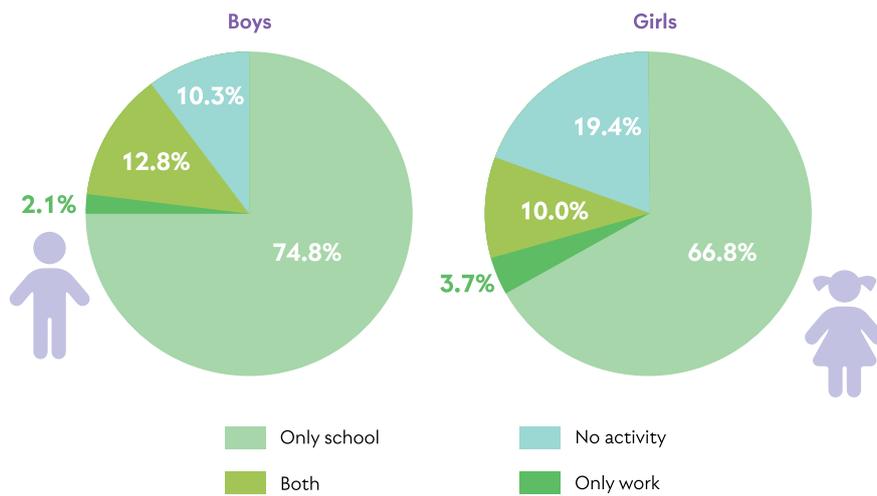
Table 7 shows the incidence of working children measured in two periods of time, the last seven days and the last 12 months, disaggregated by age group and sex. For both measures, the proportion of boys who work increases with age and boys are about one percentage point more likely to be working compared to girls. 5.6 per cent of children aged 5–17 worked in the last 12 months but not during the last 7 days. The difference between children working in the last 7 days compared to the last 12 months is increasing with age groups ranging from 1.4 percentage points for children aged 5–9 to 11.8 percentage points for children aged 14–17.

¹¹ Because children perform several different types of household chores, the percentages in the graph do not sum up to one hundred.

Table 7. Working children		
Indicator	Value (%)	Description
Working children – last 7 days	14.3	Percentage of children 5–17 years that worked in the last 7 days.
Age group		
5–9 years	4.2	
10–13 years	16.4	
14–17 years	28.6	
Sex		
Boys	14.9	
Girls	13.8	
Working children – last 12 months	19.9	Percentage of children 5–17 years that worked in the last 12 months.
Age group		
5–9 years	5.6	
10–13 years	22.6	
14–17 years	40.4	
Sex		
Boys	20.6	
Girls	19.2	

Figure 7 illustrates how children aged 5–17 combine school and work activities. The majority of both boys and girls attend school only and do not work, although the percentage is higher for boys. Boys are also more likely than girls to engage in both school and work, while girls are more likely not to be in school or work and also more likely than boys to work only.

Figure 7. Children’s activities by sex



SCHOOLING AND WORK

Figure 8 shows the relationship between children’s activities and age. The share of children only attending school increases sharply between ages 5 and 7 and then continues until the age of 10 when it starts to decline. The percentage of children who neither attend school nor work moves in the opposite direction until around age 10, and thereafter remains relatively stable for the other ages, indicating that children who did neither activity increasingly start going to school until the age of 10. As the percentage of children only attending school starts to drop around the age 11, the percentage of children engaging only in work starts to increase from 0 to around 10 per cent at age 17. This pattern is in line with children dropping out of school and starting to work from the age of 11. The share of children both in school and work steadily increases with age from almost none at age 5 to around 20 per cent at age 17.

Figure 8. Children’s activities by age

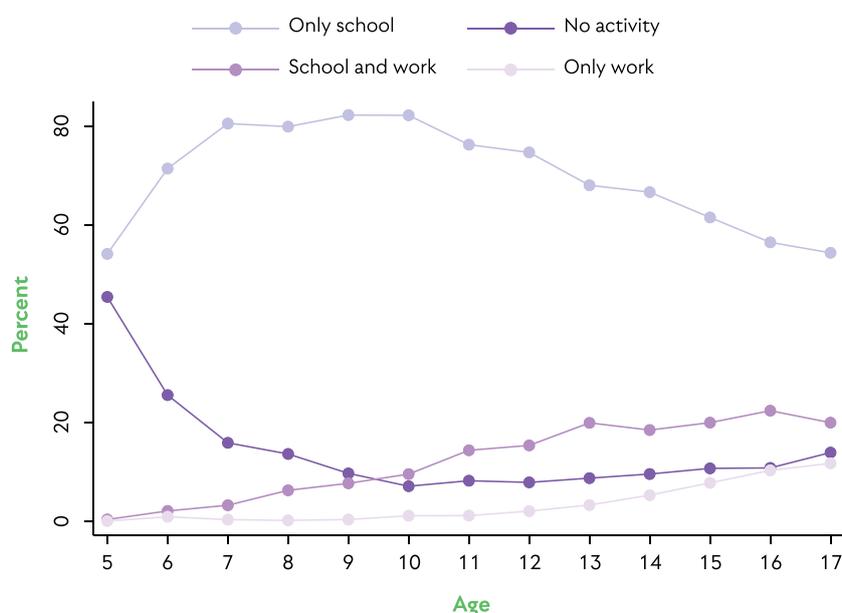


Table 8 presents an indication of how school attendance is related to the work and household chores children aged 5–17 perform. The table shows that school attendance is 3.0 percentage points higher for children that are not working compared to those who are. Further, children attending school spend less time working and performing household chores. Half of the children who attend school spend less than 6.5 hours working, whereas half of the children who do not attend school spend more than 21 hours working per week. The median number of hours devoted to household chores is 2.5 for children in school compared to 8 hours per week for children not in school. By gender, the median number of hours devoted by girls not attending school is around three times higher than that of boys not attending school (10 hours vs 3.5 hours per week, respectively).

Table 8. School attendance		
Indicator	Value (%)	Description
Working children attending school	79.7	Percentage of working children 5–17 years attending school by age group and sex.
Age group		
5–9 years	91.5	
10–13 years	88.6	
14–17 years	70.5	
Sex		
Boys	85.7	
Girls	72.9	
Children not working attending school	82.7	Percentage of not working children 5–17 years attending school by age group and sex.
Age group		
5–9 years	76.9	
10–13 years	90.5	
14–17 years	84.6	
Sex		
Boys	87.9	
Girls	77.5	
Median number of hours worked		Median number of hours worked per week for working children 5–17 years by school attendance.
Attending school	6.5	
Not attending school	21	
Boys		
Attending school	7	
Not attending school	43	
Girls		
Attending school	6	
Not attending school	16	
Median number of hours devoted to household chores		Median number of hours devoted to household chores per week for children 5–17 years by school attendance.
Attending school	2.5	
Not attending school	8	
Boys		
Attending school	2	
Not attending school	3.5	
Girls		
Attending school	3.5	
Not attending school	10	

CHILD LABOUR

Nearly all working children are in child labour, as shown in . According to the Gilgit-Baltistan Prohibition of Employment of Children Act 2019, all working children aged 5–13 are, by definition, in child labour. However, children in this age group are not necessarily engaged in hazardous

work. Hazardous work is defined as long hours of work (more than 48 hours in the context of Gilgit-Baltistan), in occupations or industries designated as hazardous, with hazardous tools, under hazardous conditions, during night, or work that exposes the child to abuse. Working children between 14–17 years are in child labour if they are engaged in hazardous work, meaning that the percentage of older children in child labour and hazardous work is the same. The figure shows that more than 4 in 5 working children aged 14–17 are in child labour, mainly due to a high share of children in this age group working under hazardous conditions.

Figure 9. Percentage of children 5-17 years working, in child labour and in hazardous work by age group

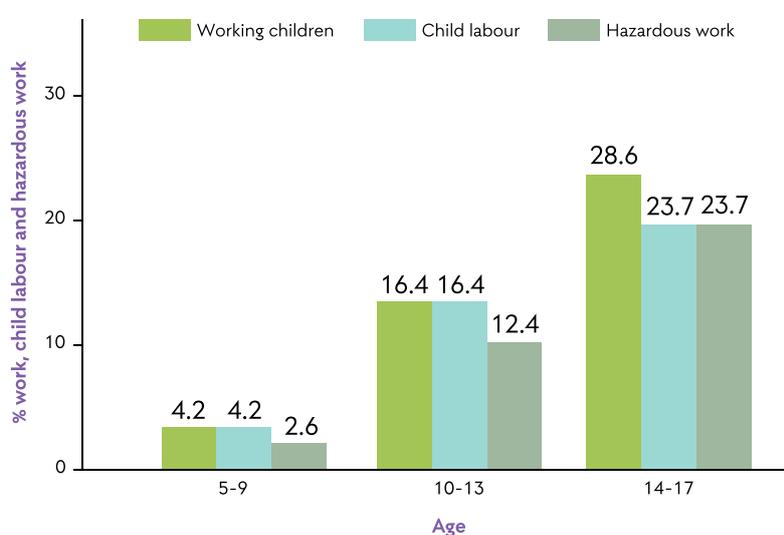


Table 9 reports the overall child labour incidence of 13.1 per cent which is increasing with age group and slightly higher for boys compared to girls. The table further shows that most children in child labour work in the agriculture, forestry and fishing industry and are employed in elementary occupations. Girls work more often in water supply compared to boys. Among those in the water supply industry, 96.7 per cent are listed as water collectors under occupation. Henceforth, we therefore refer to the water supply industry as water collection throughout this report. Furthermore, girls are more often found in elementary occupations, whereas boys are more often found in service or as sales workers. Most children in child labour are unpaid family workers. Girls are more often unpaid family workers and work more often at home than boys. Almost a third of children work during the evening or night. Nearly three quarters of all children in child labour are exposed to an unhealthy working environment. Exposure to health hazards increases with age and is higher for girls than boys. Industry wise, for boys, construction is the industry with the largest share of children exposed to health hazards, while for girls it is highest in the agriculture, forestry, and fishing industry.

Table 9. Incidence and characteristics of child labour				
Indicator	Value			Description
	Total	Boys	Girls	
Child labour prevalence	13.1%	13.6%	12.5%	Percentage of all children 5–17 years in child labour.
5–9 years	4.2%	4.3%	4.1%	
10–13 years	16.4%	17.2%	15.7%	
14–17 years	23.7%	25.1%	22.3%	
Child labour prevalence among working children	91.2%	91.1%	91.2%	Percentage of working children 5–17 years in child labour.
5–9 years	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	
10–13 years	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	
14–17 years	82.8%	83.1%	82.4%	
Industry				Percentage of children 5–17 years in child labour by industry.
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	76.2%	78.5%	73.4%	
Manufacturing	2.1%	1.7%	2.6%	
Water collection	13.7%	6.0%	22.6%	
Construction	3.4%	6.0%	0.3%	
Wholesale and retail trade	2.4%	4.3%	0.3%	
Transport, storage and communication	0.4%	0.8%	0.0%	
Accommodation and food service activities	0.9%	1.6%	0.1%	
Other industry	0.9%	1.0%	0.8%	
Occupation				Percentage of children 5–17 years in child labour by occupation.
Service and sales workers	2.4%	4.1%	0.4%	
Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers	41.3%	41.0%	41.7%	
Craft and related trades workers	3.2%	3.8%	2.6%	
Plant and machine operators and assemblers	0.4%	0.8%	0.0%	
Elementary occupations	52.5%	50.1%	55.2%	
Other occupations	0.1%	0.2%	0.1%	
Status in employment				Percentage of children 5–17 in child labour years by status in employment.
Unpaid family worker	83.1%	77.9%	89.0%	
Self-employed (non-agriculture)	3.3%	4.3%	2.1%	
Self-employed (agriculture)	8.8%	10.2%	7.1%	
Labourer (agriculture)	0.8%	1.2%	0.3%	
Labourer (non-agriculture)	1.6%	2.7%	0.4%	
Employee	0.9%	1.7%	0.1%	
Apprenticeship	1.0%	1.3%	0.7%	
Other	0.6%	0.8%	0.3%	
Location of work				Percentage of children 5–17 years in child labour by location of work (at home or outside home).
At home	21.4%	19.4%	23.7%	
Outside the home	78.6%	80.6%	76.3%	

Night work	32.2%	32.7%	31.7%	Percentage of children 5–17 years in child labour that work in the evening or during night (after 6 p.m. or after sunset and before sunrise).
5–9 years	29.4%	32.0%	26.4%	
10–13 years	35.9%	37.4%	34.3%	
14–17 years	30.3%	29.7%	30.9%	
Median hours worked	8	8	7	Median number of hours worked per week for children 5–17 years in child labour.
5–9 years	3.5	5	3	
10–13 years	7	7	7	
14–17 years	11.5	11	12	
Hazardous conditions	74.8%	71.7%	78.3%	Percentage of children 10–17 years in child labour working in hazardous conditions.
10–13 years	61.9%	57.8%	66.0%	
14–17 years	85.9%	82.9%	89.4%	
Industry and exposure to health hazards				Percentage of children aged 10–17 in child labour that are exposed to health hazards by industry.
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	75.8%	72.2%	80.1%	
Manufacturing	73.2%	70.1%	75.5%	
Water collection	70.7%	52.2%	75.2%	
Construction	86.6%	87.9%	48.7%	
Wholesale and retail trade	62.9%	63.1%	55.1%	
Transportation and storage	54.1%*	54.1%*	-	
Accommodation and food service	56.9%	58.1%*	22.5%*	
Other industry	74.9%	80.8%*	65.8%*	
*The percentages should be interpreted with caution as they are based on a small number of total unweighted observations (less than 25).				

ACTIVITIES OF CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

There are an estimated 6,663 children between the ages 5–17 with disabilities in Gilgit Baltistan. Table 10 shows the number of children with disabilities by age group and sex. Among children with disabilities, a higher share are boys.

Indicator	Value	Description
Children with disabilities	6,663	Total number of children 5–17 years with disabilities and number of children 5–17 years with disabilities by age group and sex.
Age group		
5–9 years	2,488	
10–13 years	2,235	
14–17 years	1,941	
Sex		
Boys	4,054	
Girls	2,609	

¹² Defined as having at least one of the following disabilities: upper limb, lower limb, mental, speech, hearing, visual (partial), visual (full) and/or other disability.

Figure 10 shows the activities children are engaged in by disability status, including schooling, household chores, and work. Children with disabilities are less likely to engage in any of the activities shown in Figure 10 compared to children without disabilities. The share of children with disabilities attending school is 30.9 percentage points lower than for children without disabilities, indicating that children with disabilities face barriers to education. The incidence of child labour is lower for children with disabilities.

Figure 10. Percentage of children attending school, performing household chores, working, and engaged in child labour by disability status

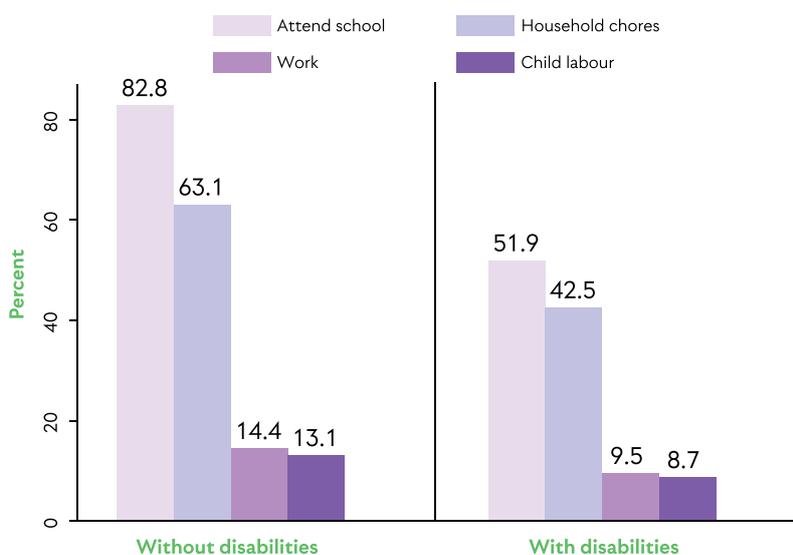
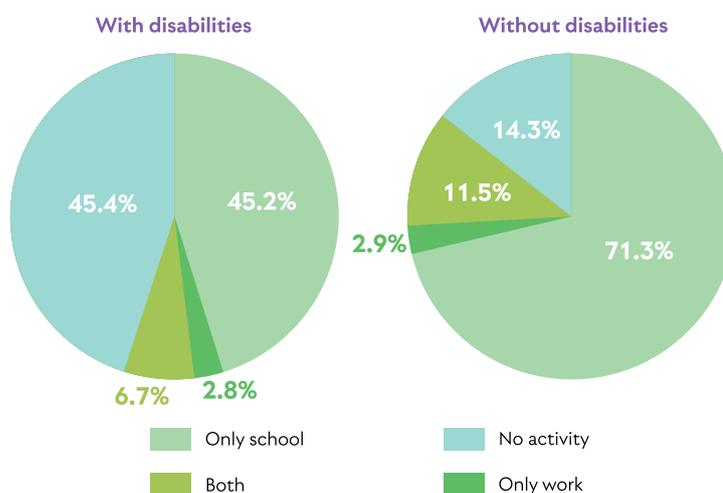


Figure 11 contrasts how children with and without disabilities combine work and schooling. Children without any disability are more likely to only attend school compared to children with disabilities. Children with disabilities, on the other hand, are more likely to not engage in neither school nor work.

Figure 11. Children's activities by disability status



CIRCUMSTANCES AND CAUSES OF CHILD LABOUR

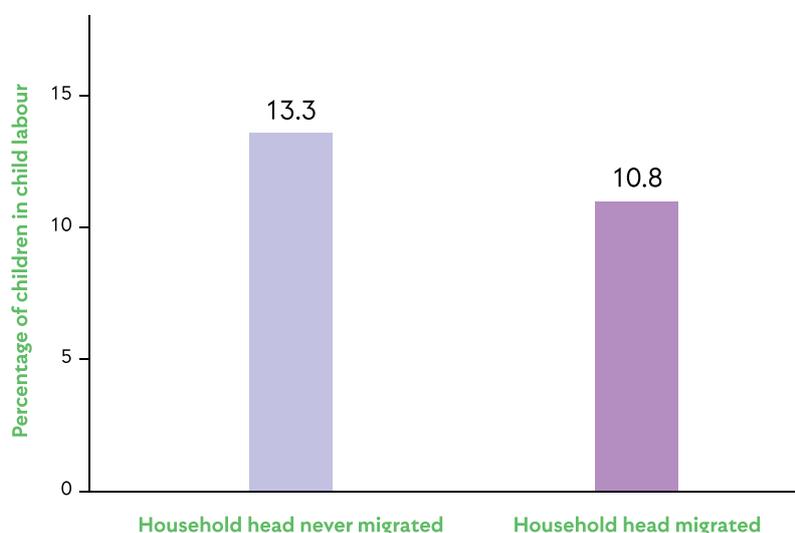
Table 11 shows household characteristics for children in child labour and not in child labour. Children in child labour live on average in households with slightly fewer members compared to children not in child labour. Furthermore, children in child labour are less likely to live with both parents, and more likely to have lost at least one parent.

Indicator	Value		Description
	Children in child labour	Children not in child labour	
Average household size	8.8	9.3	Average household size for children 5–17 years in child labour and not in child labour.
Average number of children	5.0	5.2	Average number of children 0–17 years in the household for children 5–17 years in child labour and not in child labour.
Average number of adults	3.8	4.1	Average number of adults in the household for children 5–17 years in child labour and not in child labour.
Living arrangements – living with both father and mother	86.3%	88.9%	Percentage of children 5–17 years in child labour and not in child labour that live with both their father and mother in the household.
Parental survival – lost at least one parent	6.8%	4.1%	Percentage of children 5–17 years in child labour and not in child labour that have lost at least one parent (either father, mother, or both).
Boys	6.3%	4.1%	
Girls	7.4%	4.1%	

The child labour prevalence is lower among children living in a household where the household head has migrated (10.8 per cent) compared to children living in a household where the household head never migrated (13.3 per cent), as shown in Figure 12. Additional analysis suggests that on average, migration is a means to improve livelihoods¹³, which is likely a contributing factor to the lower child labour prevalence observed among children with a migrating household head.

¹³ A higher share of households in which the head has migrated are in the richest wealth index quintile and more often live in urban areas compared to households in which the head has never migrated.

Figure 12. Per cent of children 5-17 years in child labour by migration status of the household head

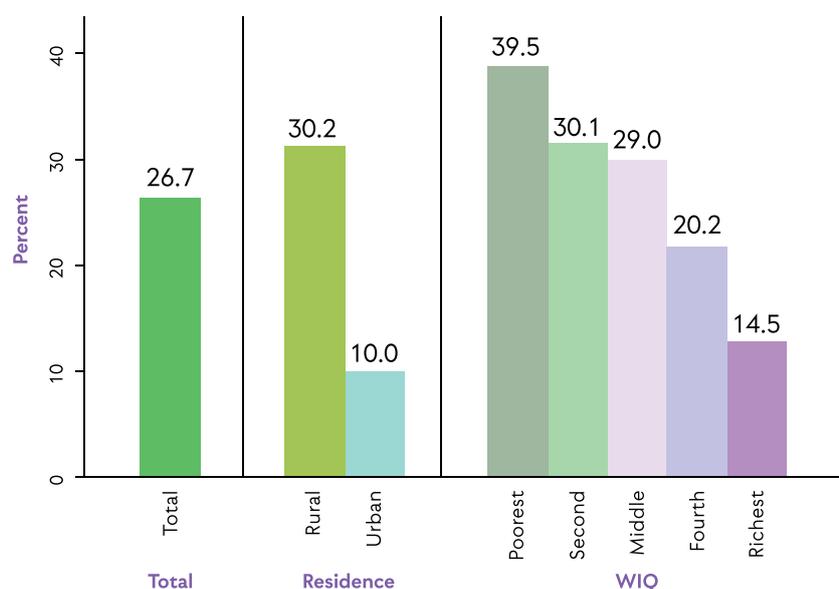


Children from poorer households are more likely to be in child labour compared to children from richer households by various measures. Table 12 shows the relationship between socio-economic status and child labour. Average household income is higher for children who are not in child labour and children in child labour are more likely to live in households receiving BISP assistance, a nationwide financial assistance that is offered to poor households based on their wealth measured in 2011. Note that this does not imply that BISP causes child labour, and neither that it does not help to reduce child labour. Since BISP eligibility, and many other financial assistance schemes, is based on a measure of wealth, we can think of BISP receipt as an indicator for poverty. If poverty causes child labour, we expect that children in child labour are more likely to live in a household that receive BISP.

Table 12. Socio-economic status			
Indicator	Value		Description
	Children in child labour	Children not in child labour	
Median household income	25,000	30,000	Median household income in PKR of children 5–17 years in child labour and not in child labour.
Receiving BISP assistance	25.3%	18.8%	Percentage of children 5–17 years child labour and not in child labour living in a household that is currently receiving BISP assistance.

More than a quarter of all households have at least one child in child labour. As shown in Figure 13 the child labour rate decreases with wealth of the household. While almost 40 per cent of households in the poorest wealth quintile have a child in child labour, 14.5 per cent of households in the richest wealth quintile do. Further, the percentage of households with at least one child in child labour is three times as high in rural compared to urban areas in which the child labour rate is 10 per cent.

Figure 13. Per cent of households with at least one child in child labour by area of residence and wealth index quintile



Households where the highest education completed by the household head is any grade of primary school are the most likely to have at least one child in child labour and the percentage of households with at least one child in child labour decreases with the level of education of the household head and is about 10 percentage points lower for households where the household head obtained higher education compared to the average of 26.7 per cent, as shown in Figure 14.

Figure 14. Per cent of households with at least one child in child labour by education of household head

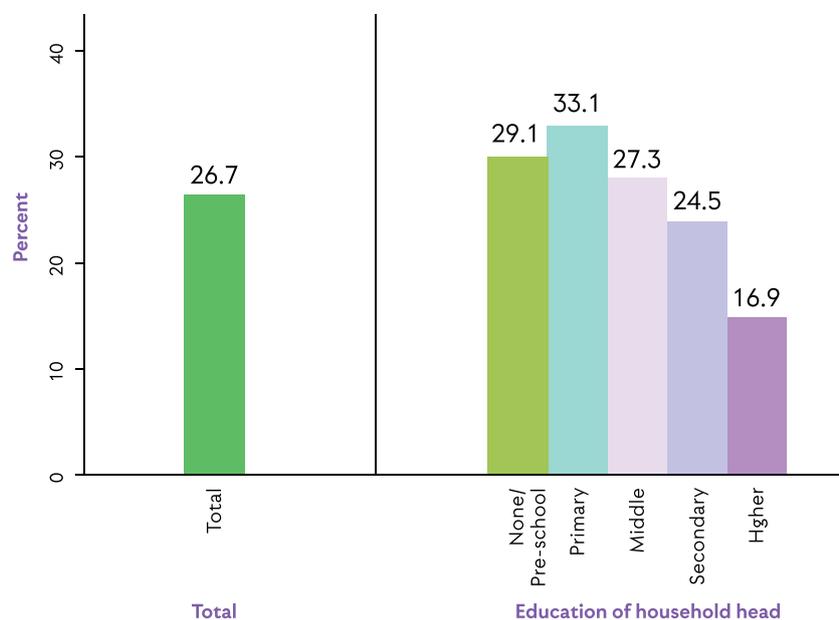


Figure 15 shows that the majority of both children 5–17 years in child labour and not in child labour do not have a birth certificate. While the proof of age provided by the birth certificate can be crucial in assessing and preventing child labour, more children in child labour have a birth certificate than children who are not in child labour.

Figure 15. Percentage of children 5–17 years with a birth certificate by child labour status

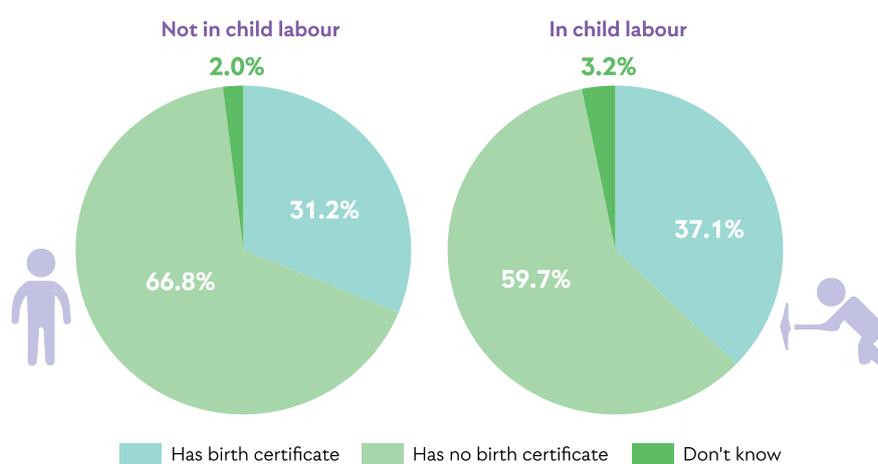


Table 13 shows that for children in child labour, the most reported reason of the main respondent for letting the child work is to support household needs. Other common reasons are to supplement household income, own will or interest and learn skills. The table further shows that most children earning an income give all or part of their income to their parents or guardian and buy things for themselves and the household.

Indicator	Value (%)	Description
Reasons for letting child work¹⁴		
Support household needs ¹⁵	55.2	Percentage of children 5–17 years in child labour by reported reason of parent/guardian for letting child work.
Own will/interest	23.7	
Supplement household income	29.5	
Learn skills	21.3	
Help in household enterprise	5.3	
Social pressure	3.0	
Other economic reasons ¹⁶	3.6	
Other educational reasons ¹⁷	4.3	
Other reasons ¹⁸	1.2	
Children in child labour that earn an income by contribution to household income¹⁹		
Give all/part to parents/guardian	56.9	Percentage of children 5–17 years in child labour that earn an income by contribution to household income.
Employer gives all/part to parents/guardian	12.3	
Pay school fees	4.2	
Buy things for school	11.0	
Buy things for household	27.6	
Buy things for myself	33.9	
Save	7.2	
Travel expenses	3.6	
Other	5.0	

Figure 16 shows that children from households that experienced a natural or economic shock during the past 12 months are more likely to be in child labour with a child labour rate of about 20 per cent compared to the overall child labour prevalence of 13.1 per cent.

¹⁴ The percentages do not sum up to 100 as multiple reasons could be stated.

¹⁵ Category includes fetching water and collecting firewood.

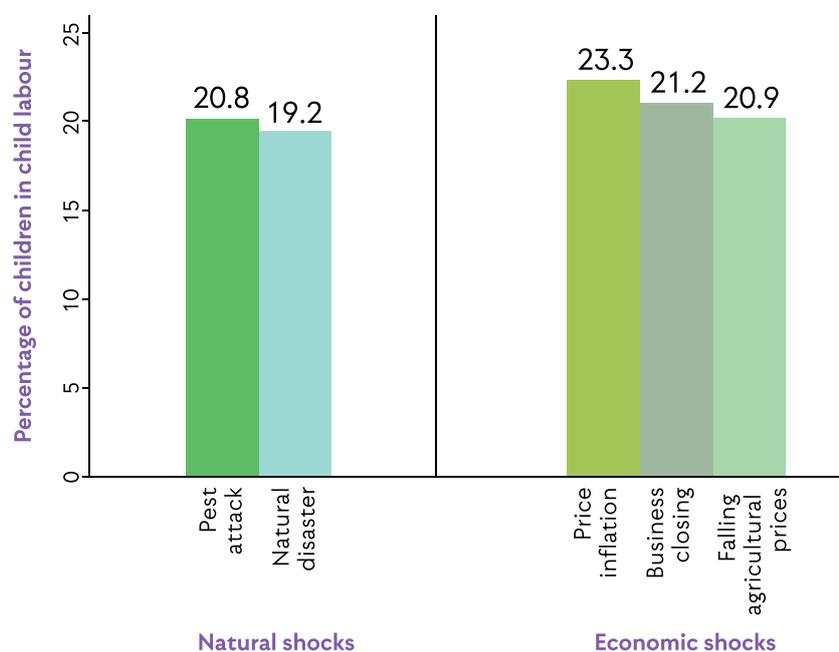
¹⁶ Category includes i) help pay family/household debt, and ii) cannot afford school fees/school related expenses.

¹⁷ Category includes i) schooling not useful for future, ii) no school/school too far, iii) school environment not good/no quality education, iii) corporal punishment in school, v) child not interested in school, and vi) school environment not suitable for minorities.

¹⁸ Category includes i) temporarily replacing someone unable to work, ii) preventing him/her from making bad friends and/or being led astray, and iii) child is harassed/made fun of if he does not go to work.

¹⁹ The percentages do not sum up to 100 as multiple choices could be selected.

Figure 16. Child labour and shocks faced by households



Based on various measures presented above children in poor households and households that were affected by a natural or economic shock are more likely to be in child labour and reported reasons are to support the household's income and needs. Furthermore, the household head's education predicts whether there are children in child labour in the household. Nevertheless, a considerable share of rich and educated households have children in child labour. Table 14 further illustrates the complexity of circumstances and causes of child labour. The table displays the child labour rate for each of the 10 districts of Gilgit Baltistan as well as the prevalence of previously discussed household characteristics that predict child labour. Shigar has the highest child labour rate of 27.8 per cent of all districts and its population also tends to be poorer, less educated and has experienced more shocks compared to other districts. Nagar with the second highest child labour rate of 24.5 per cent on the other hand has neither particularly poor nor uneducated households. Gilgit and Hunza that tend to have richer and more educated households do have below average child labour rates. The most distinctive district might be Diamer with the lowest child labour rate of 5.8 per cent, which at the same time has the poorest households according to the wealth index quintiles and with 70 per cent has the most household heads with less than primary education.

A low child labour rate however does not necessarily imply a high level of child protection. While the child labour rate is the lowest in Diamer, the school attendance rate with less than 50 per cent is by far the lowest as well, the birth registration rate is also the lowest, and the child marriage rate with 6.1 per cent is by far the largest across all districts.

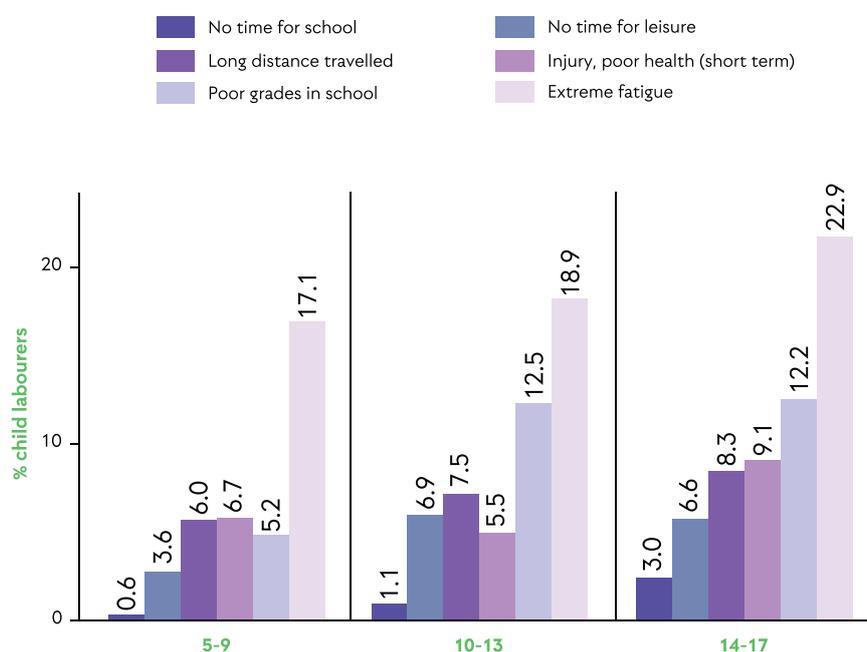
Table 14. Child labour incidence and selected household characteristics by district										
District	Astore	Diamer	Ghanche	Ghizer	Gilgit	Hunza	Kharmang	Nagar	Shigar	Skardu
Percentage of total children that are working										
	24.1	6.3	26.0	9.8	8.0	12.6	10.6	26.2	29.5	18.1
Percentage of total children in child labour										
	21.9	5.8	23.7	9.2	7.2	9.7	9.3	24.5	27.8	16.2
Percentage of total children by wealth index quintile										
Poorest	21.4	61.8	31.7	11.5	9.7	2.0	55.9	5.6	60.4	40.4
Second	29.8	26.8	33.6	16.3	9.1	12.4	16.5	16.5	24.6	26.6
Middle	23.9	7.3	19.5	35.7	19.8	25.1	21.3	30.7	12.2	20.2
Fourth	15.1	3.9	10.8	27.9	24.0	32.8	4.7	32.1	2.3	9.6
Richest	9.9	0.2	4.4	8.6	37.5	27.7	1.6	15.1	0.5	3.2
Percentage of total children in a household receiving BISP										
	25.8	20.6	15.5	11.2	22.8	6.2	24.4	24.0	34.7	13.3
Percentage of total children by education of the household head										
None/ Pre-school	41.6	70.3	40.4	40.8	30.0	16.3	54.5	30.5	51.7	49.0
Primary	16.4	7.4	17.1	19.5	15.3	18.3	11.8	23.4	20.3	10.3
Middle	13.2	6.5	11.0	13.1	12.7	20.9	10.0	16.6	8.6	9.1
Secondary	14.7	7.2	15.7	13.9	17.4	21.3	11.6	12.8	9.0	13.5
Higher	14.1	8.6	15.8	12.7	24.6	23.2	12.2	16.8	10.4	18.2
Percentage of total children in a household experiencing a natural shock										
	11.6	9.9	22.5	18.7	6.4	18.6	34.8	31.8	37.5	11.1
Percentage of total children by marital status										
Never married	98.9	93.9	98.2	99.1	98.7	99.8	99.1	99.2	98.7	99.2
Ever married	1.1	6.1	1.8	0.9	1.3	0.2	0.9	0.8	1.3	0.9

Percentage of total children currently attending school										
	83.9	46.6	92.6	89.3	89.0	98.2	89.8	96.0	90.7	89.9
Percentage of total children performing household chores										
	67.7	34.8	70.5	71.1	71.5	74.4	53.4	83.5	64.8	60.6
Percentage of total children by birth certificate										
Yes, seen	18.1	0.9	9.2	22.1	2.7	18.2	8.1	5.9	6.6	13.8
Yes, not seen	22.0	13.9	21.8	12.7	19.8	39.5	14.7	13.4	36.4	47.0
No	58.4	84.9	59.2	64.4	77.3	40.9	65.9	79.1	54.9	36.5
Don't know	1.6	0.3	9.8	0.9	0.2	1.3	11.3	1.6	2.2	2.7

CONSEQUENCES OF CHILD LABOUR

Figure 17 shows the most common negative consequences faced by children in child labour due to their work, as reported in the adult questionnaire. For all age groups, the most reported negative consequence is extreme fatigue. For younger children, the second is injury or poor health and for older children, poor grades in school.

Figure 17. Negative consequences of child labour



SCHOOLING

Figure 18 shows differences in school attendance rates for children in child labour and not in child labour. The share of children attending school or who have never attended school decreases with age for both children in child labour and not in child labour, but for all age groups children in child labour are more likely to have dropped out of school.

Figure 18. Per cent of children in child labour and not in child labour by age, attending school, currently not attending school and never attended school

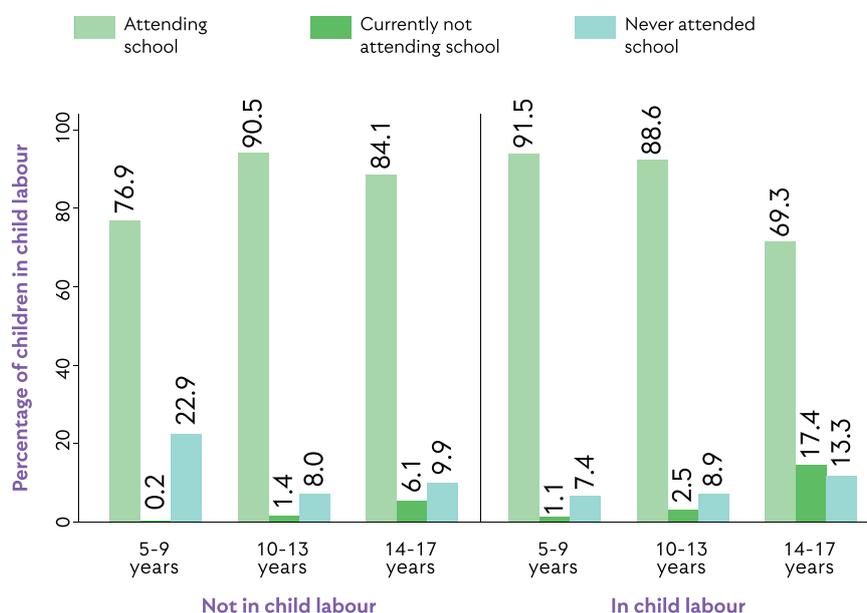
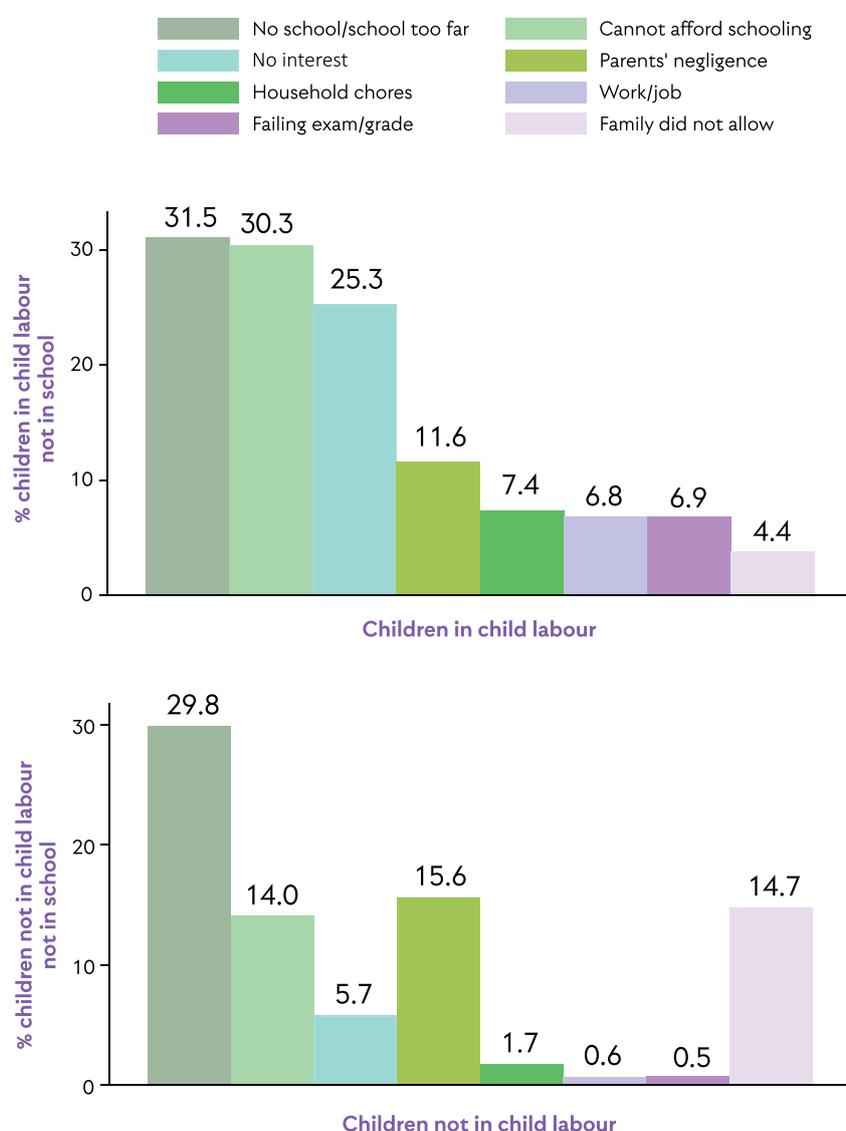


Table 15 presents more details on the relationship between schooling and work. The median hours worked in the last week, at 26 hours, is the highest for children in child labour who are currently not attending school. For children in child labour attending school the median is 6.5 hours of work per week and 5.3 per cent report that their work affects their regular attendance and studies.

Indicator	Value	Description
Median numbers of hours worked		
Total		
Attending school	6.5	Median number of hours worked per week for children 5–17 years in child labour attending school, currently not attending school, and never attended school by sex.
Currently not attending school	26	
Never attended school	21	
Boys		
Attending school	7	
Currently not attending school	48	
Never attended school	42	
Girls		
Attending school	6	
Currently not attending school	19.5	
Never attended school	15	
School attendance affected by work	5.3%	

Figure 19 displays the main reason for not attending school as reported by the child respondent for both children in child labour and not in child labour. The most reported reason by all children is that there is no school available in their proximity. Apart from that, the reported reasons differ considerably between children in and not child labour. For 30.3 per cent of children in child labour the reported reason is that they cannot afford school and for 25.3 that there is no interest, whereas for children not in child labour not being able to afford school is reported in 14 per cent of the cases and no interest in only 5.7 per cent. Failing exams or grades, household chores and work are more frequently reported for children in child labour, whereas parent's negligence and that the family did not allow it are more frequently reported reasons for not attending school for children not in child labour.

Figure 19. Reported reason for non-attendance or dropping out of school for children in child labour and not in child labour who are not in school



HEALTH

Table 16 shows the association between child labour and health. More than half of all children in child labour were injured or ill due to work compared to about a quarter of children working but not in child labour. Furthermore, children in child labour are slightly more likely to report symptoms of depression of all severity levels compared to working children not in child labour. Among children who are not working, 20.6 percent of children reported symptoms of depression ranging from severe (0.1 percent of children) to mild (14.9 percent of children), which is a higher rate of reported depression symptoms than among working children, even when comparing to children in child labour.

Indicator	Value (%)		Description
	Children in child labour	Working children not in child labour	
Injured or ill due to work	53.8	26.9	Percentage of children 5–17 years in child labour and working children not in child labour who got injured or ill due to work.
Symptoms of depression			Percentage of children 10–17 years in child labour and working children not in child labour reporting symptoms of depression by severity level (mild, moderate, moderately severe or severe form of depression).
Mild	15.5	14.9	
Moderate	3.4	2.9	
Moderately severe	0.9	0.0	
Severe	0.3	0.0	

The most prevalent hazardous conditions among children in child labour are extreme heat or cold, carrying heavy loads and exposure to dust or fumes, as presented in Figure 20.²⁰

²⁰ Note that as children can face several hazardous conditions the percentages do not add up to 100 per cent.

Figure 20. Most prevalent hazardous conditions among children in child labour

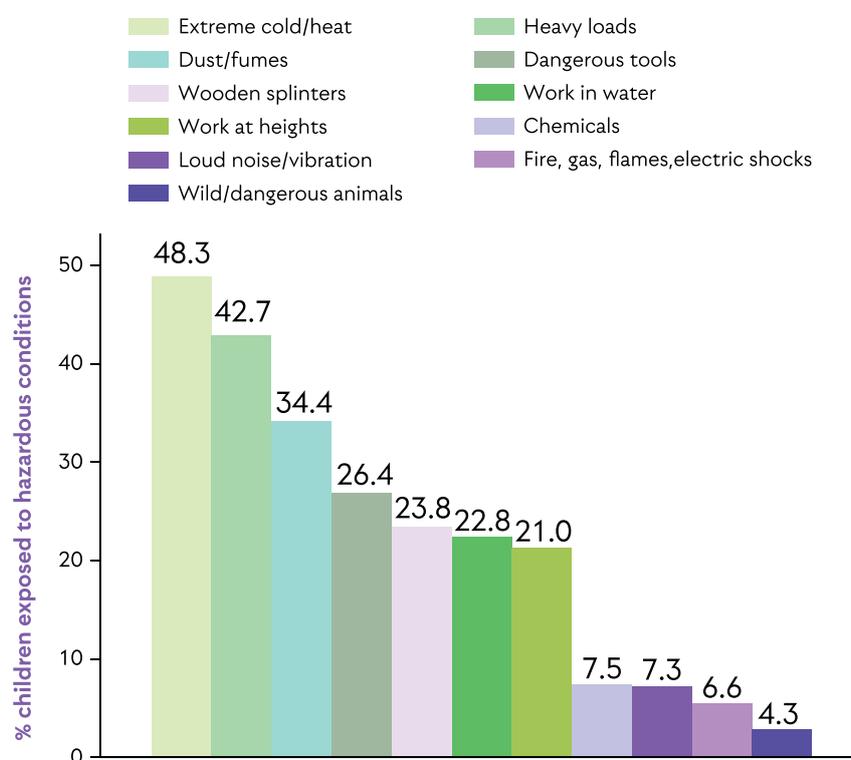
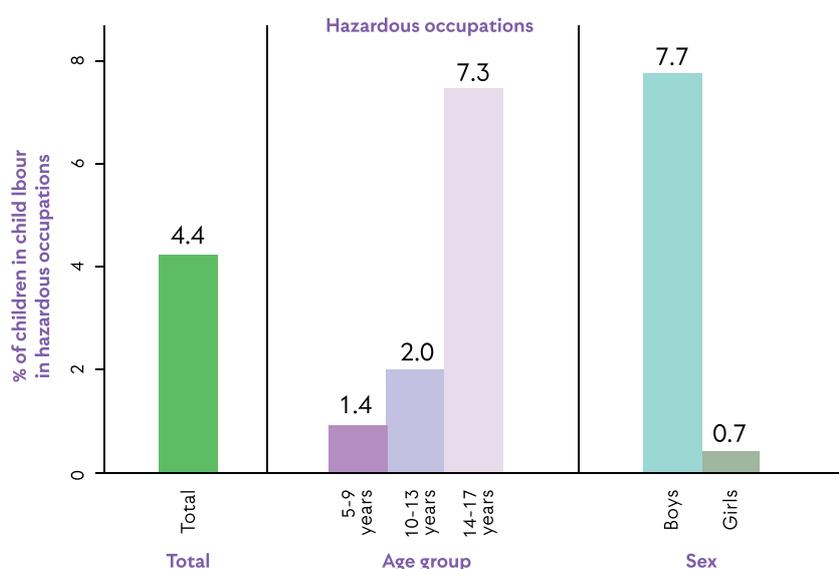


Figure 21 shows that 4.4 per cent of children in child labour work in hazardous occupations.²¹ This percentage increases with age and is higher among boys than girls.

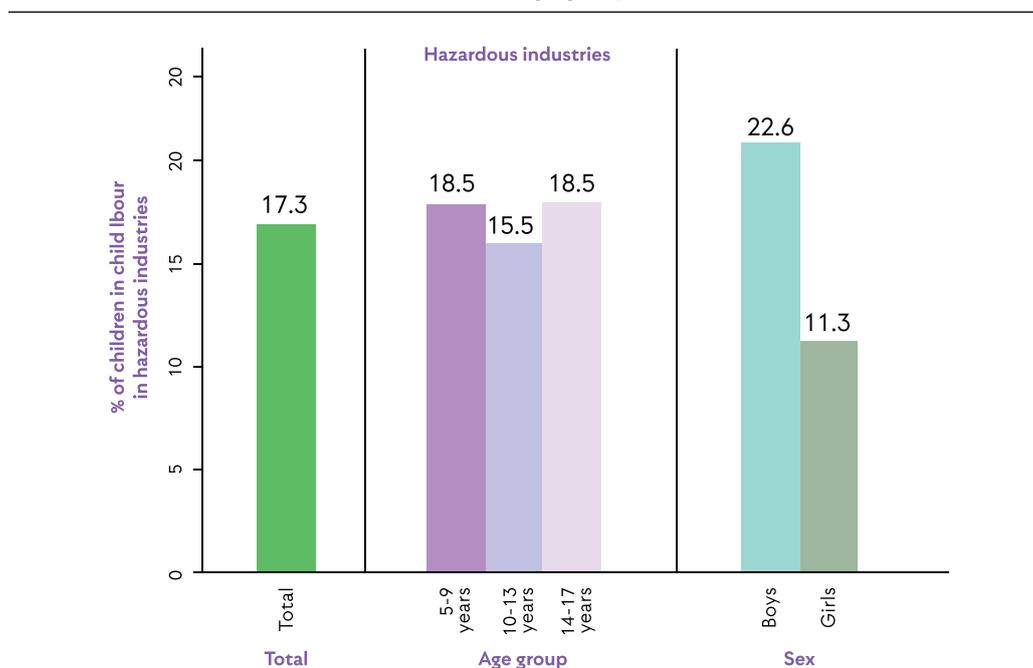
Figure 21. Per cent of children 5–17 years in child labour working in hazardous occupations by sex and age group



²¹ Among children in child labour working in hazardous occupations, the most common occupation is "Building construction labourers".

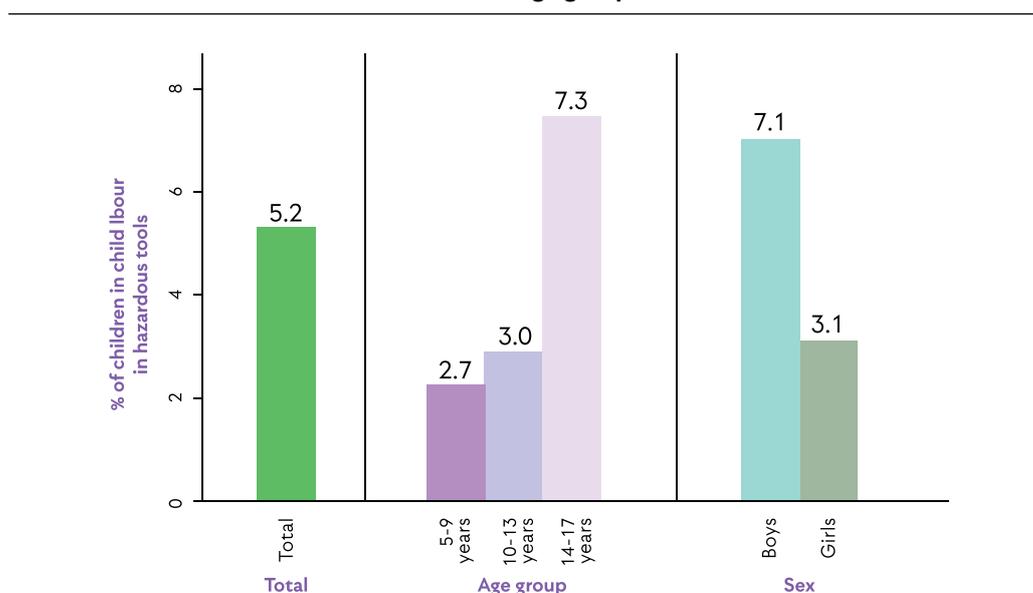
Almost one in five children in child labour work in hazardous industries²², as shown in Figure 22. This share is similar for all the age groups but is twice as high for boys compared to girls.

Figure 22. Per cent of children 5–17 years in child labour working in hazardous industries by sex and age group



Overall, around 5 per cent of children in child labour work with hazardous tools²³, as shown in Figure 23. The percentage is higher for older children and more than twice for boys than girls.

Figure 23. Per cent of children 5–17 years in child labour working with hazardous tools by sex and age group



²² Among children in child labour working in hazardous industries, the most common industries are "Logging" and "Construction of buildings".
²³ Hazardous tools are identified in two steps: 1) Based on the descriptions given by the child (sharp, heavy, bigger than the child, power driven and/or fully shielded), and 2) Based on the name and code of the tool used (power driven tools used for sawing, drilling, hammering, forming, sandblasting, grinding etc., or machinery used for sawing, cutting, drilling, pressing, forming, splitting stone etc.)

Figure 24 shows the percentage of children in child labour that experienced abuse at work. More than 1 in 5 children in child labour faced abuse at work.²⁴ Slightly more boys have experienced any type of abuse at work compared to girls. The most common type of abuse for both sexes is psychological, followed by physical and sexual abuse.

Figure 24. Percentage of children 5–17 years in child labour that experienced abuse at work by type of violence²⁵ and sex

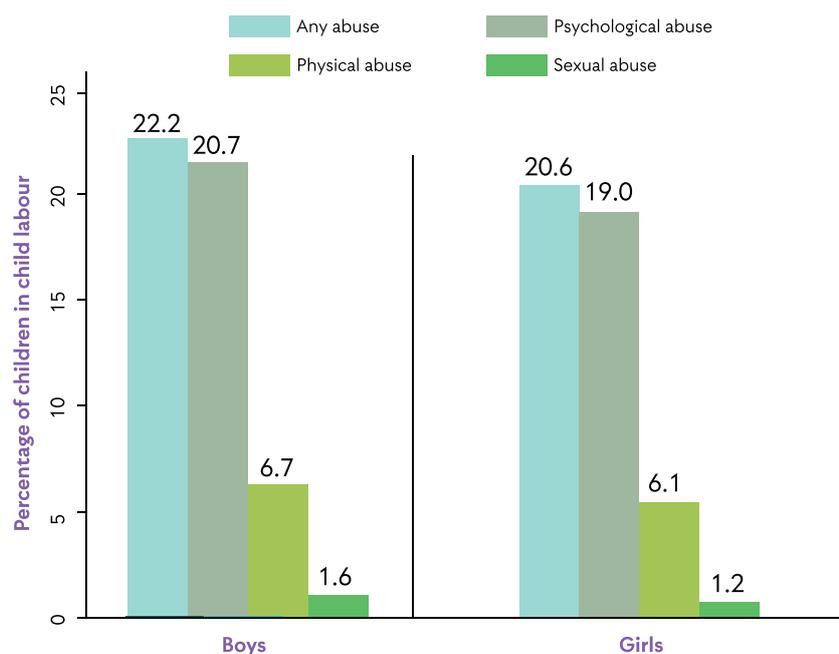


Table 17 shows that children in child labour working away from home are more likely to have experienced abuse at work and the percentage of children in child labour that report symptoms of depression is higher among those that experienced abuse compared to those that did not.

Table 15. Child labour and schooling		
Indicator	Value (%)	Description
Abuse against children and location of work		
At home	19.4	Percentage of children 5–17 years in child labour that experienced abuse at work by location of work.
Outside of home	22.0	
Symptoms of depression among children experiencing and not experiencing abuse		Percentage of children 10–17 years in child labour that experienced or did not experience abuse at work with a mild or more severe form of depression.
Experienced abuse	33.2	
Did not experience abuse	16.2	

²⁴ Abuse at work comprises: Psychological abuse: being constantly shouted at, repeatedly insulted, discriminated due to gender, religion, and caste. Physical abuse: beaten/physically hurt. Sexual abuse: being touched or done things that you did not want.

²⁵ The categories do not add up to the total of "any abuse" as some children experienced more than one type of abuse.

CONCLUSIONS

- Out of 388 thousand children between the ages 5–17 in Gilgit-Baltistan, 14.3 per cent are working and most of them are in child labour (91.2 per cent of working children and 13.1 per cent of all children 5–17 years).
- The percentage of girls engaged in household chores is 69 per cent while that of boys is 56.7 per cent. Most children are engaged in household chores for 7 hours or less (78 per cent), while 13.6 per cent are engaged for 8 to 14 hours. Older children and girls tend to devote more time to those activities than younger children and boys.
- The percentage of households with at least one child in child labour is three times as high in rural (30.2 per cent) compared to urban areas (10.0 per cent). The highest child labour prevalence is in Shigar with 27.8 per cent and lowest in Diamer²⁶ with 5.8 per cent.
- The rate of boys engaged in child labour is slightly higher (13.6 per cent) than that of girls (12.5 per cent). Most of the children in child labour belong to the age group 14–17 (23.7 per cent), followed by children aged 10–13 years (16.4 per cent) and children aged 5–9 years (4.2 per cent).
- The median number of hours worked per week for children in child labour varies from 3.5 hours for the age group 5–9 to 11.5 hours for the age group 14–17.
- Children in child labour mostly work as unpaid family workers (83.1 per cent), work in agriculture, forestry, or fishing (76.2 per cent), and are employed in elementary occupations (52.5 per cent). Girls work more frequently in water collection (22.6 per cent) compared to boys (6.0 per cent).
- More than a quarter of all households have at least one child in child labour and the child labour rate decreases with the wealth index of the household. While almost 40 per cent of households in the poorest wealth index quintile have a child in child labour, 14.5 per cent of households in the richest wealth index quintile do. However, the analysis illustrates that policy to reduce child labour needs to take the complexities of child labour into account and go beyond targeting poor and uneducated households in rural areas.
- Of the 10–17-year-olds in child labour, 74.8 per cent work in an unhealthy environment, such as in extreme hot or cold conditions or carrying heavy loads and around 20 per cent of children in child labour suffer from abuse at work. As negative consequences of work children primarily report extreme fatigue, a serious issue for children in their development process, and poor grades in school for older children. Children in child labour are more likely to get injured or ill due to work compared to working children not in child labour.

²⁶ The case of Diamer was explored further in a summary note, attached as an appendix to the main GBCLS report.







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