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In-country Research and Data Collection on Forced Labor and Child Labor in the Production of Goods: Bangladesh

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**In-country Research and Data Collection on Forced Labor and
Child Labor in the Production of Goods**

Bangladesh

Submitted to:

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Bureau of International Labor Affairs
Office of Child Labor, Forced Labor, and Human Trafficking
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Summary of Goods

Bangladesh

1. Shrimp Farming

Sector overview: The high quality and flavorful shrimp from Bangladesh owes much to its traditional method of farming. Experts often describe this as near-organic mode of cultivation. There are currently approximately 41,000 farms cultivating baghda (black tiger shrimp), with an average farm size of 4.5 ha. Thirty-one thousand tons of baghda were produced in 2004. Baghda production has increased by 20 percent each year in the past twenty years. There are also 30,000 ha of land producing galda (sweet water shrimp), resulting in 11,942 tons of galda shrimp produced in 2001. Because galda farms are generally smaller than baghda mud (averaging 0.28 ha and four ha respectively), galda farms support a greater number of poor and marginal farmers.¹

There are 105,000 galda farms, mostly located in the Khulna region. The galda method of cultivation is spreading rapidly in other parts of Bangladesh. Unlike brackish water cultivation of baghda (black tiger shrimp, *Penaeus Monodon*), freshwater galda cultivation is not restricted to the coastal regions and is expanding at a rate of 10–20 percent each year. Moreover, galda shrimp (fresh water scampi, *Marobhrachium Rosenbergii*) farming is usually done on family farms by small farmers who have transformed their tiny plots of agricultural lands into shrimp-cum-rice farms.²

Summary of relevant findings: The researchers observed two big shrimp farms (one was the size of 23,100 to 24,750 decimals (British measurement system), and the other was the size of 27,555 decimals) and 10 other small shrimp farms. They informally interviewed two laborers and four shrimp farm officials from one of the big shrimp farms and 8 to 10 workers in the small shrimp farms in █████, █████, █████, and █████ in the Khulna region. They formally interviewed one shrimp farm worker, █████, at █████ farm in the █████ district and informally interviewed two workers in █████ in █████ district. Based on the researchers' observations and discussions with the officials mentioned above, the tasks that they perform are not very labor intensive. Typically, one to five workers are needed in each shrimp farm on a regular basis. Whereas, the farmer worker, █████ stated that these regular laborers are virtually on duty for 24 hours a day. The other 8-10 laborers of other small farms mentioned above revealed the same information. These workers feed the shrimp and guard the farming area. However, the officials said that temporary workers are hired to release the baby shrimp into the water for farming and to harvest the shrimp. These officials also mentioned that, no incidence of involuntary forced labor was observed or heard of in these shrimp farms. However, according to █████ regular workers are not allowed any leave during their contract period. Besides, according to all of the 13-15 laborers mentioned above, as they have to take out loans from the shrimp farm owners for various reasons, it becomes obligatory for the laborers to work for the farm owners until the whole amount is repaid.

Based on the observations made during the visits of 13 shrimp farms, interview findings of one formal and 14 informal interviews of shrimp farmers as well as four informal interviews with farms officials, the researchers noted that shrimp farming basically involve three broadly

¹ Shrimp of Bangladesh, Embassy of Bangladesh, Brussels Website. Page 2 at http://www.bangladeshembassy.be/index_files/Shrimp_p2.htm

² Ibid.

classified groups of laborers: (i) temporary laborers who are hired on a contractual basis (these laborers build mud boundaries, known locally as gher, to surround the shrimp farming area at shallow water level); (ii) permanent workers for day-to-day operation and routine maintenance activities, and (iii) fishermen for harvesting, usually on piece-work basis. Workers of the type (i) and type (iii) do enjoy some degree of rights to decide the terms and conditions of their work. But the regular workers (type ii), who are engaged on monthly salary basis are tied to the farms and reside in makeshift huts built as guard posts at different strategic sites within the farm boundaries. As they are on 24 hour duty each day, they are secluded from families and mainstream society.

2. Shrimp Processing

Sector overview: Shrimp processing is the second largest export in Bangladesh which earned as much as 378 million US Dollar in the years 2003 to 2004. A non-traditional export item in the late 1980s, shrimp has systematically grown into a major export sector of Bangladesh over the years. Commercial cultivation of shrimp increased rapidly in the coastal regions of Bangladesh, undergoing several stages of transformation. In the last ten years, Bangladesh has earned international credibility by responding to the food safety and quality requirements of export destinations, mostly to the United States and the European Union countries. Continuous investment has enabled the sector to grow despite competition from other countries.³

Bangladeshi Black Tiger (Baghda) is renowned for its beautiful look and great flavor. Baghda makes up two-thirds of the country's shrimp export. In recent years, Bangladesh has invested substantially to be able to respond to the food and quality requirements of international organizations. It has developed a quality control program based on the Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) approach in addition to meeting the standards specified by the Codex Alimentarius Commission. As many as 72 processing plants have been approved by the European Commission for exporting shrimp and fish products to the European Union member states. A Seal of Quality program, under the auspices of the Agro-based Industries and Technology Development Project (ATDP), is progressing with success. Recently, Bangladesh has also initiated projects for implementing 'traceability' regulations of the EU.⁴

In addition to sustained emphasis on food-safety requirements, Bangladesh has focused on organic production of shrimp. Swiss Import Promotion Program (SIPPO) is assisting Bangladesh in this initiative.⁵

The progress made by the shrimp industry of Bangladesh is reflected in continuous diversification in both production and market diversity. A larger number of export processors are now producing greater amount of value-added products, including individually quick-frozen (IQF), peeled and deveined, butterfly-cut shrimp, cooked, and semi-cooked products.⁶

There are 132 shrimp processing factories in Bangladesh located mostly in the Khulna and Chittagong regions of the country and about 67 hatcheries, mostly in Cox's Bazar area. The direct and indirect employment generated by the shrimp sector is about 900,000, next to the

³ Shrimp of Bangladesh, Embassy of Bangladesh, Brussels Website. Page 1 at http://www.bangladeshembassy.be/index_files/Shrimp_p1.htm

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Page 2 at http://www.bangladeshembassy.be/index_files/Shrimp_p2.htm

ready-made garments sector of the country. In the recent years, value-added products have made up about 33 percent of total exports of 32,000 metric tons, valued at 378 million US dollars.⁷

Summary of relevant findings:

The researchers visited 13 shrimp processing factories in [REDACTED], but they were not permitted to enter any of these factories. However, they were able to speak to several people connected to two of these factories. At these two factories, three child workers of 12-16 years of age and their families were reported to be working at these two factories. The researchers formally interviewed the project coordinator of [REDACTED] a local NGO working in the sector, and one female shrimp processing factory worker, presently living at [REDACTED] under [REDACTED] in the Khulna district. The researchers only could gather information based on these interviews and discussions.

According to the interview of the NGO official mentioned above, shrimp processing activities are completed in two phases. In the first phase, shrimp are collected by some agents from the *aratdars* (wholesale traders/producers) who do some preliminary cleaning, sorting, and grading before handing the shrimp over to the mainstream processing factories. Other activities are done within the factory premise. Twenty five to thirty percent of total laborers are enlisted as regular factory workers while the remaining 70-75 percent work under labor contractors as needed by the factories. Eighty percent of total laborers are female and 5 percent of the total workforce are children in the age range of 14 to 17 years.

According to the NGO official interviewed, both the mainstream factories and *aratdars* (wholesale traders) have some permanent workers recruited on fixed monthly wage basis. But most of the laborers work under the sub-contractors/labor leaders who engage them as needed and pay wages on daily or piece-work basis. Based on the interview with the families mentioned above, the contractors/labor leaders take a percentage of the workers' payment from the factory owners.

According to the NGO official interviewed, there is no forced labor and the mainstream processing factories are almost child labor free; however, based on the interviews of child laborers and their families mentioned above, there is circumstantial evidence of labor exploitation in the 13 factories in [REDACTED] and precisely the two factories they work in, The exploitation includes the following:

- Neither the mainstream regular factory workers nor the seasonal workers under the labor contractors are given any employment letter – leaving laborers extremely vulnerable to the threat of dismissal with any reason;
- There is no formal pay structure for any type of laborers. The present monthly wages for the regular factory workers ranges from TK1000 (14.73 USD) to TK 2500 (36.82 USD). Those who work under contractors on piece-work basis are paid at the rate of TK3 to 4 (0.04-0.05 USD) per kilogram for preliminary processing, including cleaning, sorting and chopping off shrimp heads. Such workers earn TK 30 to 40 (0.44-0.58 USD) per day on average.
- Some factories pay Eid bonuses to their enlisted regular workers, ranging from 50 to 100 percent of salary. Some factories supply aprons and uniforms on annual basis.

⁷ Ibid.

- Although all 13 shrimp processing factories in ██████ officially maintain three shifts duty rosters, actual work shifts for the regular workers are two shifts and duty hours last 12 to 14 hours a day, starting from 8 am. The shifts may even extend 24 hours or more in peak season. While most of the factories have definite lunch break of half an hour, it is not adhered to by some factories during the busy days in the peak season.
- The laborers under contractors usually work during night time, starting from 8 pm, and continuing until the collected stock in any Arat or factory is finished. A shift may last 24 hours or more during the peak season. Although any individual worker is free to decide his/her work hours, a conventional invisible group binding mentality may stop the worker from exercising his/her personal freedom in this regard.
- No leave and weekly holiday is allowed. If any laborer is off from duty one day, he/she is to work a double shift (24 hours) on the following day.
- No payment provisions for overtime work.
- Despite the fact that over 80 percent of the workers in the sector are women, no provisions exist for maternity leave and no child care facilities are available.
- No labor union or bargaining agent exists.

However, as per the discussion with the above mentioned NGO official at ██████, the situation is gradually improving after passage of the Labor Law 2006. Some local and international NGOs are building awareness among the laborers by holding motivational meetings with factory owners/management. They are also lobbying with the relevant Government agencies and civil society bodies on basic labor rights and providing legal support to laborers in the extreme cases of deprivations. This has created some positive concerns among the factory owners, on the one hand, and a sense of security among the workers community.

Other than awareness building among the laborers and motivational meetings with factory owners/management, the NGOs are providing legal support to laborers in extreme cases of deprivation. The INGO (the Solidarity Center), in collaboration with Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST), has lodged more than 30 complaints with the labor court against sudden dismissal or denial of major legal rights. Favorable court verdicts have already been won for 10 to 12 cases. This has created some concern for workers' rights among factory owners and a sense of security among the workers community. Another local NGO, ██████ also has improved the working conditions by raising awareness and training to laborers and lobbying the factory owners, government agencies, and civil society organizations on basic human and legal labor rights. Recently, ██████ has initiated a 'Watch Committee' to monitor and address the major violations of labor rights in the shrimp processing factories. The Committee will have representation from:

- Bangladesh Frozen Foods Exporters' Association – 5 members
- Local and NGO representatives -6 members
- Greater Khulna Development Coordination Committee – 2 members
- Khulna University – 1 member
- Local media personalities – 2 members
- Civil society representatives – 3 members

3. Deep Sea Fishing

Sector overview: Deep sea fishing has emerged as an important economic sector in Bangladesh. Most of the sea fish are consumed domestically and some are exported to international markets. Marine fish contributes 20 percent of the fish production in Bangladesh and this proportion has

not changed in the last 20 years. 1.2 million workers earn their livelihood from fishing.⁸ The fishermen mostly look for Hilsa fish during breeding season in the deep sea but also collect other catches such as Laitta, small shrimp, Rupchanda, and Lotkon, among other fishes.

The National Child Labor Survey 2002-03 reported that 14,868 children (12,776 boys and 2,093 girls) had been employed in ocean and coastal fishing. They are involved in fishing Laitta, small shrimps, Rupchanda and Lotkon, among other fishes. These figures may be smaller than the actual number of children involved in fishing and in fish processing⁹.

Most of the workers recruited within the fisherman community receive advance payment, which represents about 80 percent of their seasonal wages. Having received the advance, they are bound to work the entire season.¹⁰

Deep-sea fishing is an extremely dangerous occupation due to the harsh sea climate and the pirates. Moneylenders control this sector by providing loans and advance money to the fishermen. The fishermen then can meet their family and other expenses with the loans.¹¹

Summary of relevant findings:

The researchers visited seven sites in the coastal region of Khulna. They spoke to two government officials who work as managers and two *aratdars* (wholesalers)/ trawler/net owners at [REDACTED]. They also spoke to the president of *arotdars*' (wholesalers') association at [REDACTED], 20 *aratdars* (wholesalers) and 18 to 20 people in various professions related to deep sea fishing in the same market. In addition, they interviewed two to three fish trader association leaders at [REDACTED]. The researchers also spoke with one *ex-mazhi* (head of a trawler), four *mazhis* in trawlers anchored at [REDACTED] *ghat* (local small port) in Khulna district and three *mazhis* in trawlers anchored at [REDACTED] at Patharghata Upazilla in Barguna district. They also interviewed five to seven ordinary fishermen at Dumuria and four ordinary fishermen and two *aratdars/trawler owners* at [REDACTED]. Furthermore, they spoke to one fishermen family at Dumuria and one fishermen family at [REDACTED]nra, Patharghata Upazilla, Barguna District.

Apart from these informal discussions, the researchers formally interviewed [REDACTED], the chairperson of [REDACTED] and one deep sea fisherman, [REDACTED], at Patharghata Wholesale Fish Market in Patharghata.

In Chittagong Division, the researchers visited two sites, Jahanabad and Gubgultol at Jahanabad, Bhatiary, and Sitakunda Upazilla in Chittagong district. At Jahanabad, they spoke to two money lenders who are also *aratdars* (wholesalers) and one or two deep sea fishermen. They also spoke to two children who are engaged in deep sea fishing.

At Gubgultol, the researchers spoke to two or three deep sea fishermen, one money lender and one social worker. They interviewed [REDACTED] a child involved in deep sea fishing, who works for the [REDACTED] in the area. The researchers also spoke to the parents of this child.

⁸ Bangladesh Economic Review 2002, Ministry of Finance, Government of Bangladesh.

⁹ Slaves for a Season, Save the Children Sweden-Denmark, 2006, Pages 12 & 14.

¹⁰ Ibid, Page 18.

¹¹ Ibid, Page

Based on these interviews and discussions, the researchers synthesized the information learned as follows:

The deep sea fishing offers employment opportunities to a huge number of people living in the coastal districts. It involves a chain of activities and actors like boats/trawlers owners, a relatively rich group that finance the boats, nets and other accessories, who are the principal beneficiaries. According to [REDACTED], a deep sea fisherman mentioned above, these principal beneficiaries receive 60 percent of the share of the total catch while the rest 40 percent of profits is distributed among the members of the fishermen team, giving one extra share to the lead fisherman. This same information was mentioned by the social worker of [REDACTED].

Based on information from a discussion with one *ex-mazhi* (head of a trawler) and crosschecking his statements with four other *mazhis* at Dumuria *ghat*, it is found that the second important man in the chain is the lead fisherman, called *mazhi*, who is the intermediary contractor under agreement with the boat/trawler owner to organize a team and oversee all activities while the trawler is out to the sea for fishing. According to three *mazhis* at [REDACTED] *ghat*, the trawler owner advances money to the lead fisherman for all operational expenses until the catch is brought in.

Although relatively young and able bodied workers with experience are preferred, instances of child workers in the team are not uncommon. In his formal interview, [REDACTED] chairperson of Barguna District Fishing Trawler Owners Association, stated that deep sea fishing is child labor free by the nature of the activities involved. As a whole, he stated, there is no coercion in the deep sea fishing labor recruitment process. Two *aratdars/trawler* owners at [REDACTED], revealed the same information. Two government officials who work as managers and two *aratdars* (wholesalers)/ trawler/net owners at [REDACTED] also made the same statements.

Yet, invisible debt bondage is evident. Because the fishermen community in general is poor and traditionally tied to the occupation, they are absolutely dependent on the trawler owners/*aratdars*/moneylenders who supply them boats, nets and hard cash for fuel, food and other accessories necessary for deep sea fishing. Also the fishermen community members in general do not have any other skills and alternate job opportunities in the area are very limited. Most of them remain idle during the off season and are compelled to borrow from *Mohajans*, who are usually the trawler owners and/or *aratdars*. It is thus an invisible debt bondage that keeps them attached to the trawler owners /fish wholesale traders, or *aratdars*. The same information was revealed in the formal interview of [REDACTED], a deep sea fisherman at [REDACTED] wholesale fish market. The 5-7 ordinary fishermen at [REDACTED] and four such fishermen at [REDACTED] spoken to revealed the same information. In Chittagong Division, 1 or 2 deep sea fishermen at Jahanabad and 2 or 3 deep sea fishermen at [REDACTED] also described the same picture. However, in Chittagong Division, two money lenders who are as well *aratdars* (wholesalers) at Jahanabad and the other money lender at Gubgultol denied the facts and stated that money lending as a noble cause of helping the fishermen in their hard times.

In addition to these fishermen, the deep sea fisherman at [REDACTED] Fish Market and the fishermen's families at [REDACTED] and at [REDACTED] revealed that, most of all, once a fisherman agrees to be in a deep sea fishing team, he is given a money advancement for his family to sustain during his absence, usually for a period of six to seven months. The advance is gradually adjusted from his share of catch and one cannot leave the boat/team until the whole amount of advance money has been accounted for by the catch.

According to two fish trader association leaders at [REDACTED], the fish traders buy fish from the *chars* (tiny islands), where the fishermen gather and store fish and then sell it to the *aradars*. They use small boats for commuting. There are also independent small boatmen who perform the same job for the traders. The president of the *arotdars*' (wholesalers') association at [REDACTED] revealed that most of the time, the *aradars* are the owners of the trawlers and collect the fish directly from the returning fishermen. The other 20 *aratdars* (wholesalers) and 18-20 people in various professions related to deep sea fishing in the same market revealed the same information.

According to the chairperson [REDACTED] at [REDACTED], some trawler owners are not *aratdars*. They sell the catch from their trawlers to the *aratdars*. According to [REDACTED] and the other two children of [REDACTED] engaged in deep sea fishing mentioned above, children are also involved in the process. Children are usually taken to the *chars* and live there in the makeshift huts to load and unload or grade fish. They are also engaged in gathering and storing the catch. In the trawlers, some of the children are engaged in cooking and others are engaged in casting nets or collecting fish from the nets or draining water out from the trawlers. The children also work in small boats, transporting the catch from the *chars* to the wholesalers markets and draining water out from the boats.

4. Steel Furniture Making

Sector overview: The furniture sector is a fast growing sector in Bangladesh. At present, over 5,000 entrepreneurs are engaged in furniture manufacturing. The sector employs around 1 million people directly and indirectly (source: [REDACTED]). According to the "Baseline Survey for Determining Hazardous Child Labour Sectors in Bangladesh 2005" conducted by Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS), a total of 2,239 children of different age groups is engaged in hazardous work such as manufacturing steel furniture as well as other furniture painting in Bangladesh.

Summary of relevant findings: There are two areas in Khulna City where steel furniture are made and sold. One at [REDACTED] and the other is at the both sides of [REDACTED] in Khulana city. The steel furniture making workshops are usually behind or very near to the shops. The researchers visited 12 such workshops-cum-shops in both the areas. They have talked to seven or eight child laborers working in these workshops and as well as in these shops. One of them working in such workshop was formally interviewed. They also spoke to three of the owners and two head technicians of these workshops-cum-shops. As a result of general observation and discussions made with the respondents, there are about 50 child laborers working in these business ventures. Children working in steel furniture making are mostly apprentices and are unpaid.

5. Brick production

Sector overview: Brickfield is a production unit that manufactures bricks from mud-soil or clay. Dependence on mud bricks as construction material in Bangladesh is excessive since the country is covered with alluvial soil and stone materials are scarce. There are about 6,000 brick manufacturers in Bangladesh. Brick production in the country is estimated at about 18 billion pieces a year. The brickfields are typically small independent units. Most of those operate only during the dry season. The fields are located near towns or major construction sites. The same

locations are used repeatedly over years. Some of those have permanent sheds and well-organized input support system.

Brickfields classify construction bricks into three grades depending upon quality of raw materials used, evenness of firing and damages like cracks or breaks. Grade-I is suitable for construction of buildings, roads and bridges; grade-II is used for structures that require relatively less compressive strength; and grade-III is used for temporary structures. Automated brickfields produce mainly grade-I bricks and also ceramic and refractory bricks used in construction of decorated buildings, boilers and some specialized industrial establishments. Brickfields have been blamed for increasing, air pollution, especially, during the dry season. The pollution is caused by poor quality of fuel and improper design of chimneys. Ash, dust and sulfur dioxide gas pollute the areas surrounding the brickfields and acid rain syndrome has become a regular phenomenon in such areas. Brickfields also cause crop loss, corrosion of metallic content of soil and loss of soil fertility. Burning in kilns makes the land unusable for cultivation for several years.¹²

Summary of relevant findings: The researchers visited eight sites in Khulna District at [REDACTED], [REDACTED] at [REDACTED] and at [REDACTED] upazilla. The researchers spoke to two supervisors, one adult laborer and two child laborers at a brick kiln in [REDACTED], Khulna District. They also spoke to the owner of that brick kiln. In [REDACTED], they spoke to two managers, one supervisor, 3 or 4 adult laborers and three child laborers at four brick kilns. At one of these brick kilns, [REDACTED] in Nandanpur, they formally interviewed one child worker. In [REDACTED], the researchers have visited three brick kilns. They spoke to the owner and the manager of one of the brick kilns. They also spoke to four laborers out of 18 including two child laborers working in that brick kiln. The researchers also spoke to the manager, two labor leaders, and a brick baking laborer out of six and one child laborer at another brick kiln. They have spoken to another five adult laborers at the other brick kiln.

According to two supervisors at [REDACTED] and the other supervisor at [REDACTED], although discouraged, both women and children work in the brick kilns. Roughly, 80 percent of the brick kiln workers are adult male, 15 percent are female, and 5 percent are children.

According to the manager of one of the brick kilns at [REDACTED] and two managers of a brick kiln at [REDACTED], work season begins from late November and continues up to March. The other manager of other visited brick kiln at [REDACTED] stated that almost all laborers are temporary and work on piece-work basis; except for eight to ten laborers employed by each enterprise for six months (or the entire season) on fixed monthly wage basis. According to the owner of a brick kiln in [REDACTED], the wage rates vary in between TK 3500 (51 USD) and TK5000 (73 USD) per month, depending on the nature of activities and the skills of respective laborers. According to two labor leaders at one of the brick kilns at [REDACTED], the laborers for activities usually done on piece-work basis are mobilized through the labor contractors and are grouped/sub-grouped for different activities as follows:

- Cutting, watering and mixing earth into clay – done usually by a team of 2-3 persons, called *zaboorey*. Their wage share is determined based on per thousand bricks produced. The prevailing rate is TK 22-25 (0.32-0.36 USD) for per thousand bricks.
- Carrying clay to grinding machine transforming the clay into paste (trolley men receiving TK 20-22 (0.29-0.32 USD) for per thousand bricks produced)
- Grinding and paste making (a power driven machine)

¹² Banglapedia website at http://search.com.bd/banglapedia/HT/B_0627.htm

- Loading the clay paste on trolleys and carrying from the grinding machine to brick cutting site, jointly receiving TK15-16 (around 0.22 USD) for per thousand bricks produced.
- Cutting the paste balls into standard pieces (3-4 persons, called *Jogali*)
- Formatting the paste balls into raw bricks (10-12 persons)
- Placing the raw bricks in specially organized rows for sunning (workers at the end of the chain of brick making collectively get TK 100-120 or 1.47-1.76 USD for each thousand of bricks produced.)
- Head carrying sun-dried bricks to the kiln by a team of 6-8 laborers receiving TK 100-130 (1.47-1.91 USD) for per thousand.
- Placing raw bricks in organized way in the kiln for burning (piece-work basis at the rate of TK25-30 or 0.36-0.44 USD per thousand)
- Fuelling the furnace with wood and/or coal (seasonally contracted on monthly wage basis)
- Post-furnace carrying, sorting and stacking for sale (piece-work basis at the rate of TK100-130 or 1.47-1.91 USD per thousand)

The discussions with the adult and child laborers mentioned above and the researchers' investigation into the labor supply system and circumstantial evidences revealed that:

- Due to hard and stressing nature of activities involved in the brick production processes, participation of women and children is discouraged on the ground that they cannot work as much as adult male.
- Most of the children, who were observed working in the sites visited, are above 14 years old. But some women living in the work sites along with their children were reportedly helped by underage children in one or other activities like cutting and watering of earth, carrying and placing raw bricks in specially organized rows for sun drying.
- Majority of the temporary laborers come from distant places and are allowed to live cost free in makeshift houses at the work sites. The couples with children are given separate family houses.
- Mostly working on piece-work basis, the brick field workers are not subjected to any involuntary labor; although individual freedom is somewhat curtailed due to the fact that the activities in the brick production processes constitute a chain demanding all to work in a complementary fashion - meaning stresses for some sub-groups – particularly those doing the frontline activities like earth cutting and mixing involved in the process of making raw bricks. Also those carrying the sun-dried bricks to the kiln are to cope up with their co-workers organizing bricks in rows inside the kiln.

According to the owner of a visited brick kiln at [REDACTED], generally, workers enjoy weekly holidays and receive partial payments on weekly basis. However, according to the two labor leaders mentioned above, despite the stressful keeping up with the chain order of activities in the brick production processes, majority of the laborers are under an invisible compulsion to work for labor contractors from whom they receive money advancement. A labor is not allowed to leave a contractor until the advanced money has been fully recovered.

6. Chumki Works (Embroidery), Saree, Dopatta (Large Scarves), Shalwar Kameez (two-piece dress worn by mostly young girls) and Shawls.

Sector overview: NA

Summary of relevant findings: The researchers visited three embroidery factories at [REDACTED] at [REDACTED] in Dhaka City which are meant for doing *chumki* works. They formally interviewed the factory owner and informally interviewed three laborers including two child laborers at [REDACTED] one of the factories mentioned above. At another factory, the researchers spoke to the owner. They also formally interviewed a child laborer working at that factory. They spoke to the owner and four laborers at the third factory. The factories do *chumki* works on sarees (a long piece of cloth worn by the females covering the body around), dopatta (large scarves), shalwar kameez (two-piece dress worn by mostly young girls), and shawls.

Based on general observations made from the three factories visited and the discussions with the two owners of the two unnamed factories, four laborers from one of these factories, and three laborers from [REDACTED], it is found that about 70 percent of total workers here are male and 30 percent female in *chumki* works. About 70 percent of the total workers engaged in *chumki* embroidery are children starting from 10 years of age. There were both boys and girls and most of them are illiterate. According to [REDACTED] a *chumki* work contractor and the owner of the [REDACTED], 20 percent of total workers are under age 14 and the age of the other workers in *chumki* works ranges from 15 to 35 years. According to [REDACTED], most of the workers come from Mirpur and Mohammad Bihari colonies or from the nearby slums. Though not a significant number, some come from outside districts like Rangpur, Comilla, Shariatpur, and Faridpur.

The researchers also visited the [REDACTED] at [REDACTED] in Dhaka. They visited two [REDACTED] saree factories. They formally interviewed [REDACTED], a [REDACTED] saree weaving factory owner, spoke to seven or eight weavers from the same factory, informally interviewed the manager of one of the factories, and also spoke to three or four [REDACTED] saree shop owners. Based on the discussions with these respondents and general observations, it is found that the situation in the [REDACTED] saree industry is similar to the *chumki* work in terms of child laborer engagement, the education level, the ratio of men and women worker and range of their ages. According to [REDACTED], there are child workers in [REDACTED] saree factories; maybe 20 to 25 percent of workers are age 14 or below. There is no forced labor, as such. About 80 percent of workers live in this area, 5 to 6 percent come from Mohammad Bihari colonies and the rest from different parts of the country.

7. Salt production and refining

Sector overview: Traditionally, salt is produced by drying with solar/natural heat in the coastal belt of Bangladesh. People from all upazillas (sub-districts) of Cox's Bazar and Chittagong districts, especially of Banskhali upazilla of Chittagong, are engaged in salt production generating around Tk.15 billion (221,043,324 USD) per annum. According to [REDACTED] of [REDACTED] Bazar, for the fiscal year 2005-2006, the demand of salt was 1.14 million metric ton (MT), whereas, the total salt production was about 1.57 million MT. In the fiscal year 2006-07, the salt production stood at nearly 1.3 million MT, whereas, net surplus was 50,000 MT. According to the statistics of [REDACTED], over the last few years, due to over production and illegal import, an average of 1,000-1,500 thousand MT salt from Myanmar every year, the net surplus of salt now stands around 1 million MT. According to the "Baseline Survey for Determining Hazardous Child Labor Sectors in Bangladesh 2005" conducted by Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS), a total of 182 children of different age groups is engaged in hazardous work in the salt production and refining sector in Bangladesh.

Summary of relevant findings: The researchers visited one salt factory, [REDACTED], and formally interviewed the owner and one of the child workers engaged in salt production in the factory. According to [REDACTED], the owner of the factory, although is no debt bondage, indentured servitude or caste-based slavery like subjugations are evident. About 40 percent of the total workers involved in the process of salt production and refining are children in the age ranges of 12 to 18 years. These children work as a daily wage laborer in [REDACTED] Bazar region. Poverty being the main reason, children of many families are reportedly involved in one or other salt production or refinery activities. Both male and female child labors are there. The boys and girls from poor families of the coastal areas of the southern part of Chittagong division are more mostly engaged in this sector.

8. Readymade Garments (RMG) Sector (sub-contract level)

Sector overview: The RMG sector is by far the country's most important manufacturing and the largest export sector, earning around USD 5 billion annually and accounting for about the two-thirds of all exports from Bangladesh. Currently, Bangladesh is earning 75 percent of its total foreign currency from garments exports (Source [REDACTED], managing director, [REDACTED]). Bangladesh has about 2,500 garments factories with up to 10 million people dependant on it. Most of the garments workers (80 percent) are women. Despite the phenomenal success of the RMG sector, the working conditions and wages of the workers in the industry are the causes of serious concerns. Most of the garments factories are established in Dhaka and Chittagong City.

Summary of relevant findings: The researchers visited two garments factories at [REDACTED] in Dhaka City. They were not permitted to enter in one of the factories. However, they managed to take formal interview of the managing director [REDACTED], one of the garments factories mentioned above, and spoke to the director as well. The researchers also spoke to the manager and four garments workers including two child workers at the same factory. One of the four workers was female. The researchers also formally interviewed one of the child workers. Based on the discussions with the managing director, garments factories are almost child labor free; although adolescent workers are so common in many of them. He also added that there are some small factories which are subcontractors. These factories employ children aged above 14 to work as helpers and operators. The people spoken to revealed that they have not seen or heard about any incidence of forced labor in garments factories. The workers all come by themselves, of course, being pushed by poverty.

9. Ship Breaking

Sector overview: Ship breaking is a process of dismantling an obsolete vessel's structure for scraps. This activity is a very risky and dangerous work. Over the last twenty years, more than 400 workers have been killed and 6,000 seriously injured according to the Bangladeshi media. [REDACTED] (an area between Bhatiary to Barwalia), situated a few kilometers north of [REDACTED] city beside the Bay of Bengal is the biggest ship breaking zone in Bangladesh and also one of the biggest zones in the world. [REDACTED], an NGO working in this sector, has revealed the fact. The ship breaking industry grew in this area in the 60's and it has widely spread in the 80's in Sitakund. At present, there are more than 60 ship breaking units in the area.

Bangladesh has no natural iron so it relies heavily on the 1.2 million tons of scrap iron gleaned from ship breaking. This scrap iron goes mostly to feed over 300 re-rolling and some steel mills in the country. A substantial quantity of scrap metal goods and metal pipes found in the obsolete vessels are in good use in different industries. Moreover, the sector generates Tk.9 billion

(132,645,385 USD) each year as revenue for the government (Source: [REDACTED]).

More than 30 thousand workers are engaged in this sector. Among them, 11 percent are children. Most of these children come from the northern part of Bangladesh, according to [REDACTED] report titled [REDACTED].

Summary of relevant findings: Ship breaking, a process of dismantling obsolete sea vessel's structure for iron scraps is a very risky and dangerous work. As per the study mentioned above, approximately, 20 percent of the total workers in ship breaking are children, mostly coming from the northern part of Bangladesh. The shipbreaking contractors prefer to involve child workers, as they are less expensive than the adult workers, the report notes.

The researchers visited four shipbreaking yards, [REDACTED] at Gubgultol, [REDACTED] at Jahanabad, [REDACTED] at Hasnabad [REDACTED] at Chairmanghata. All four of them are at [REDACTED] upazilla in Chittagong District. At the yard in Gubgultol, they spoke to one technician, four or five laborers and two labor contractors. At the yard in Jahanabad, the researchers formally interviewed one laborer, [REDACTED], and spoke to four or five adult laborers. At the yard in Hasnabad, the researchers spoke with the managing director of the yard. At the yard in Chairmanghata, they spoke to four or five adult laborers and two technicians. The researchers also formally interviewed [REDACTED], the program officer of [REDACTED] a local NGO based [REDACTED] working in the shipbreaking sector.

According to the discussions and general observations mentioned above, the researchers made the following conclusions:

No specific incidence of involuntary forced labor was observed in the ship breaking yards visited. However, through the discussions with 8-10 laborers at the yards in Gubgultol and Chairmanghata, it is found that induced debt bondage practice is prevalent. [REDACTED], the laborer at Jahanabad yard also revealed in his formal interview about his own victimization in such debt bondage. According to [REDACTED], the program officer of [REDACTED], at least 20 to 25 percent of the total workers in ship breaking are children. The laborers mentioned above also revealed that labor contractors hunt for cheap child labor and propose advances to the poor parents who usually yield to their motivating proposals. Once one is trapped in such loans, the incumbent child becomes a bonded labor and bound to work until the given advance is fully adjusted from the poor wage bills. In most cases, loan recovery continues for years, compelling the concerned worker to stick to the job. All the three technicians at the yards in Gubgulto and Chairmanghata also agreed with this description of the situation. However, both of the labor contractors at yards in Gubgultol denied the existence of such harsh realities.

Based on the discussions with all the respondents mentioned above the overall picture is that the shipbreaking workers come from the poorest regions of the country. They lose their lands, they take loans from the NGOs, local mohajons etc. Very often, to give the money back, they need to earn money. As there is not much working opportunity in the monga-stricken (lean season affected) areas of the country, they come to work in the shipbreaking yards.

10. Leather Tannery

Sector overview: Most of the tannery industries of the country are located in Hazaribagh area in Dhaka City. Approximately, 300 large and small industries have been established in this area. Many of these tanneries are operating for as long as 50-60 years. According to the “Baseline Survey for Determining Hazardous Child Labour Sectors in Bangladesh 2005” conducted by Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS), a total of 256 male children is involved in hazardous work like tanning and dressing of leather in the leather sector of Bangladesh.

Summary of relevant findings: The researchers visited Hazaribagh area in Dhaka City. They formally interviewed [REDACTED], the general secretary of [REDACTED], spoke to one local community leader, formally interviewed one child worker working at [REDACTED] and spoke to three or four workers in the same factory. According to the community leader, nearly, 15,000 workers are working in tanneries located at Hazaribagh area. Of them, 60 percent are male, 15 percent female and 25 percent are adolescent or child workers. According to [REDACTED], children working in tanneries are mostly boys aged between 9 to 17 years. Children of the families living in the slums around Hajaribagh come to work in tanneries. Many of them are orphans or were abandoned by their parents.

11. Fish Processing/Drying

Sector overview: Dried fish are preserved through removal of moisture. Fish drying as a means of preservation has been practiced since time immemorial in the coastal region of Bangladesh, and dry fish is considered as a delicacy in the menu of many people in the country. The basic principle of fish drying is that the muscle enzyme and microorganism is reduced to a minimum through drawing out the water content of the fish by sun shine in a traditional way. Fish drying is carried out in some selected coastal areas and inland depressions of Bangladesh where modern preservation facilities and good infrastructures for transportation are absent. Some important spots are: Dublar Char of the Sundarbans, St. Martin's Island, Rangabali, Sonadia Island, Moheshkhali, Cox's Bazar, Ibrahimpur of Sunamganj, and Joshomantapur of Jamalganj. Estuarine and marine set bag nets (*Behundi*) are the main gears for supplying fish for drying; harvested fish are carried to the drying yards and then segregated species-wise by hired laborers. The estimated total number of child workers in Bangladesh engaged in the drying fish is 78,592, according to the “Baseline Survey for Determining Hazardous Child Labour Sectors in Bangladesh 2005” conducted by Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS).

The important marine and freshwater species that are dried are Loitya (*Harpodon neherius*), Chhuri (*Lepturacanthus savala*), Punti (*Puntius sarana*, *P. stigma*), chapila (*Gadusia Chapra*), Lakhua (*Polynemus indicus*), Rupchanda (*Pampus chinensis*), and shrimp (*Metapenaeus species and Penaeus species*). (The researchers could not find the names in English). Two to eight days are required for drying depending on the size and species of the fish. The segregated fish are placed on mats, or hung from raised racks/poles. The dry fish are often infested by blow fly (*Chrysomya species*) and their larvae (maggot) during the drying phase, especially in the cloudy and rainy days; and by beetle (*Necrobia species*) and mites in the store causing considerable amount of weight loss of the finished product every year. To protect the products from the infestation of insects, the merchants often use various harmful insecticides and fungicides. But the availability of sterilization of dried fish by radiation can ensure pollution-free environment. Institute of Food and Radiation Biology of Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission is currently engaged in research on storage technology of dried fish using nuclear radiation.

In Kishoreganj, Mymensingh, Narsingdi, Sylhet, Comilla, and Narayanganj districts, *Chapa Shuntki* (pressed dried fish) is prepared through the fermentation of small-sized Punti fish. Kuliarchar and Lalpur of Kishoreganj and Madhabdi of Narsingdi produce large scale *Chapa*

Shuntki. In the process of making *Chapa Shuntki*, scales and inner organs of fish are removed and washed. Then these are sun-dried for 12 to 14 days and the dried fish are put in sack for about a month. In the meantime, the removed inner parts of the fish are boiled and the oil so produced is applied inside a big sized earthen pot. The pot is then kept in the sun. After a month, the fish are unpacked and washed in water. Eight or ten hours later, when the fish become soft, those are put inside the earthen pot under pressure. The name *Chapa* has originated from this pressured filling process. When the pot is filled up, powdered dry fish is spread over the fish and the mouth of the pot is covered airtight with jute sack or polythene. Fish are fermented inside the pot in about three or four months and *Chapa Shuntki* is produced. According to one key informant named [REDACTED], owner of [REDACTED], *shuntki* can be kept for about a year.

Summary of relevant findings: The researchers visited one dry fish processing factory, [REDACTED], at [REDACTED], and [REDACTED]. There they formally interviewed the owner and one of the child laborers. According to their discussions, fish processing/drying is a labor intensive process and a huge number of adults and children of poor families of costal districts are involved in the process. According to [REDACTED], the owner of [REDACTED], approximately, 30 percent of the workers engaged in this sector are children starting from the age as below as 10 years. Both boys and girls equally work in this sector on seasonal contract basis while some workers are engaged during the peak season on daily wage basis. The age of the child workers in this profession ranges in between 10 to 18 years. Boys and girls equally work here.

In the researchers' opinion, to some extent, in fish processing/drying, it is the case of debt bondage. The employers like [REDACTED] admit that they give some amount of money to the family of the child laborer and in return, they utilize the child in their work for a period of 9 months. Apart from the main tasks, the child is bound to do other household work. Based on the interviews with the respondents, none of the children or adults is actually forced to work. Rather it is poverty and absence of alternate job opportunities in the areas compel workers, including children, to seek for any kinds of jobs. As the case is in fish processing /drying, induced indebtedness is a trick adopted by the fish processors hunting for cheap child labor.

12. Gul Making (chewing dust of tobacco, to a certain extent, similar to chewing tobacco)

Sector overview: The main raw material of 'gul' is tobacco. Purbo Podderpara village of Haragachh municipality near Rangpur town is being considered as an ideal place for manufacturing 'gul'. The demand is increasing day by day.

Presently, bidi production is suffering from recession. For this reason, the owners of the bidi factories have turned to 'gul' manufacturing as a priority sector for making profits. As a result, a good number of 'gul' factories have flourished in this area. The number of 'gul' factories is seven to eight (Source: [REDACTED] an elite person of the locality). Some of the brand names of 'gul' are Fancy, Tiger, Eagle, Latin, etc.

Summary of relevant findings: Intoxicating chewing tobacco stuff mixed with some flavoring chemicals, 'Gul' processing is gradually increasing in Haragachh area of Rangpur district, a well-known tobacco growing area. There are 10-12 gul factories in the area. The researchers visited five or six of them. They spoke to four adult workers and three child workers in these visited factories. They also spoke to the mothers of two of these child workers. The researchers formally interviewed one of these child workers working at [REDACTED] at [REDACTED], Rangpur District. The researchers also

spoke to three community leaders, one ex-labor union leader and one present labor union leader, and interviewed [REDACTED] the executive director of [REDACTED] a local NGO, working in the sector. According to the discussion with [REDACTED], nearly, 50 percent of the workers in ‘Gul’ processing factories are children, 35 percent of them boys and 15 percent of them girls. The researchers observed that activities involved in the process are all light and manually done. Based on the discussions with the community leaders mentioned above, children working are almost all from the neighboring villages. The activities they are to do include: i) cutting and mixing tobacco; ii) filling tube like small cans with processed ‘gul’; iii) fixing covers of the canes, iv) putting labels on the cans; and iv) packaging in small cartons.

The children can leave their jobs at their own will whenever they wish. According to [REDACTED], the child laborers and their parents, in such cases, do not become subject to any tortures. Because of poverty in the family, the children have to continue their jobs and that is why, they do not want to leave any jobs at the factory. The labor union leaders interviewed agreed with [REDACTED].

13. Wooden Furniture

Sector overview: The local furniture market in Bangladesh is of Tk. 4 billion (57,142,857 USD) with a growth rate of 15 to 20 percent.

Wooden furniture is made of wood, or to put it botanically, the xylem tissue that forms the bulk of the stem of a woody plant. Chairs, tables, beds, wardrobes and racks are the major furniture items most commonly made of wood. Other items such as almirahs, chests of drawer, dressing tables, sofa sets are also made of wood. In Bangladesh, wood used in making good quality furniture include Mahogany, Segun, Garjan, Chapalish, Chikrashi, Shilkarai, Gamari, Walnut, and Cherry. Segun and Chapalish are preferred for almost all kinds of furniture. Chikrashi, Shilkarai and Tikchambal are characterized by straightness and an ability to hold nails and tacks. Consequently, they are much used in constructing furniture frames that are to be covered by upholstery. Inferior wood such as that of rain tree and of mango or some other fruit bearing trees are also used in furniture manufacturing and given a finish so as to simulate the finer varieties.

The manufacture of wooden furniture evolved in Bangladesh from varieties of wood, such as, bent wood, plywood, laminated wood, hardboard, etc. Before wood can be used in furniture production, it must be thoroughly dried and seasoned. The indigenous technique of seasoning the wood is to keep it under water for 20 or 30 days and then dry it under the sun. A more efficient method, the application of heat by high frequency electricity, is recently being used by many enterprises, especially for drying solid wood and plywood in the country. Laminated wood is another type used in making arms and legs of chair. Hardboard or fiberboard is sometimes used as drawer bottoms, while chest backing is utilized in the manufacture of inexpensive furniture.

Manpower is available in Bangladesh in abundance at a very low rate. Skilled carpenters at low costs are available in Bangladesh. Specialized wood craftsmen working in urban furniture factories produce designs to satisfy various types of customers. Sometimes experienced wood craftsman will start with a piece of wood, often without a preconceived plan or idea, which he develops as he works to form the shape and grain of the material. Almost all big cities and towns of Bangladesh have some areas specializing in the manufacture of wooden furniture. Such areas in the Dhaka city are Gulshan, Mirpur, Shahjahanpur, and the Stadium Market.

Supplies of wood of different varieties, sizes and shapes come largely from the forests of Chittagong, Kaptai, Rangamati, Khulna and Sylhet. Burmese teak and other solid forms of Garjan and Chikrashi come from Myanmar, India, Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia, Hong Kong and Japan. Bangladesh imports readymade wooden furniture such as beds, dressing tables, chairs and kitchen cabinets. Estimated annual imports vary between Tk.7 billion and Tk.10 billion.

Bangladesh also exports some wooden furniture such as dining tables, book shelves, chests of drawer, TV chests, French bouquets and primitive sideboards to Australia, United States and Canada. Bangladesh has exported wooden furniture worth of US\$2,220,979 in 2005-06. Each year Bangladesh earns about US\$20 million from such export.

Wooden furniture items in the rural Bangladesh, in contrast, are rudimentary in form and simple in characters. Continuous pressure on the forests of the country for the purpose of fuel and household timber for an ever increasing population has resulted in extreme scarcity of good quality wood. The bulk of the wooden furniture remains simple and traditional in form because of a shortage of specialized wood craftsmen and the required hardware. A typical middle-income group rural household owns wooden furniture such as chairs, tables, beds, dressing hangers, stools, sinduks, wardrobes, showcases, almirahs, racks and ladders.

Wooden furniture is pleasant looking and comparatively cheap and it is more durable. The material used to make such furniture was once easily available. This is why it dominated all other types of furniture in Bangladesh since time immemorial. But present day shortage in wood plantation is gradually constricting the development of wooden furniture.

Summary of relevant findings: At present, over 5,000 entrepreneurs are engaged in furniture making all over Bangladesh, employing around 1.0 million people directly and indirectly. The wood furniture making carpenters are mostly adult males; while some young workers are there working as apprentices. Approximately, 25 percent of the workers engaged in furniture workshops are children. The activities they usually do are finishing/polishing wood, sweeping/cleaning the floor, etc. Paid on daily basis, furniture factory workers have to work from 8 AM to 8 PM and get in average Tk.70 (1.03 USD) while a skilled carpenter gets Tk.165 (2.43 USD).

The researchers visited four wooden furniture factory-cum-shops at sites in Chittagong City. They interviewed the owner of [REDACTED] and one child laborer and spoke to one adult laborer working in the same factory-cum-shop at [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], in Chittagong City. They also spoke to the owner of another wooden furniture factory-cum-shop and one of his senior workers at [REDACTED] in [REDACTED]. The researchers visited another two factory-cum-shops at [REDACTED] in Chittagong City. There they spoke to one head carpenter and one child laborer. As per the discussions with these respondents, the workers are not forced by employer to work in this sector. They are not involved in any debt bondage, indentured servitude, etc.

14. Plastic Products

Sector overview: Plastic factories are mostly established in the district town of Bogra in the northern part of Bangladesh. There are nearly eight to ten plastic factories in the town that produce different kinds of plastic products. Nearly, a total of 200-300 workers are engaged in this sector in Bogra Town. Around 20 percent of the workers are children (source: [REDACTED], [REDACTED], Executive Director, [REDACTED] a local NGO). There is no trade union in the plastic sector.

In the Rajshahi division, Bogra town is well-connected with other parts of northern Bangladesh. It is also well-connected with the Dhaka City. As a result, the plastic factories began to flourish in this district town. Plastic granules and different types of dyes are used at the plastic factories as raw materials. Some *upazillas* (sub-districts) are located on the banks of the mighty Jamuna River and some *upazillas* have shoals (river islands) in the rivers. The workers from these poverty-stricken areas are available with lower salaries to work at the plastic factories. For these reasons, the most of the plastic factories in the region have been established here. The products made at these plastic factories are marketed in different districts of northern Bangladesh.

Summary of relevant findings: There are ten to twelve plastic goods factories at [REDACTED] industrial area in Bogra Municipal Area. The researchers visited three of them. The researchers spoke to the owner of one such plastic factory. They formally interviewed one of the child workers engaged at another factory, Athena Plastic Company. They also spoke with the mother of the child worker. They also interviewed [REDACTED], the executive director of [REDACTED] a local NGO working in the sector. According to the discussions with the owner of a plastic good factory mentioned above, the researchers found that a cheaper substitute of aluminum and other metal utensils like buckets, jugs, jars, plates, pots, etc. made by plastic in these factories are used mainly by the rural households. The production and use of plastic items of the line are gradually increasing. The researchers found that whereas plastic factories may be found even in the rural areas, a good number of such factories are available in and around the district town of Bogra in the northern part of Bangladesh. By visiting Phulbari under the Bogra Municipality where eight to ten factories are located, it was understood that a total of about 300 workers are currently working in these factories. Of them, 20 percent are children. Children of poor families of the Char areas come to Bogra in search of jobs and get engaged in plastic factories. Children as young as 7 years old were found working in different factories/enterprises in and around Bogra Town. According to [REDACTED], most of them are boys. The number of girl workers is very negligible. Employers prefer them as cheap labor for light activities like packaging and loading into cartons and then carrying packages from one place to another. No one is physically forced to work. It is poverty compels even children to desperately look for works. Employers prefer child laborers as cheap labor for light activities such as packaging, loading products into cartons, and carrying packages from one place to another.

The researcher observed that the plastic factories do not have good working environment. Inadequate spaces dumped with raw materials and finished products, noisy and hot environment inside the factory, bad smell of chemicals, inadequate lighting, poorly ventilated factory rooms, inadequate water supply, and unhygienic conditions of the toilets is a common scenario.

15. Steel and Re-rolling Mills

Sector overview: Steel re-rolling sector mainly produce metal rods used in constructions that plays an important role in the infrastructure building of Bangladesh. There are many private-owned steel mills in the country. In Bangladesh, there are many steel re-rolling mills around Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna and Narayanganj producing different types of steel items like deformed bars, angles, channels, plane bars, and metal sheets. But it is alarming that imports of scrap vessels, which are the main raw materials for this sector, have sharply declined in recent months mainly due to their price hike in the international market. The steel re-rolling sector is a very important sector in Bangladesh because either for infrastructure building or for any construction, steel/deformed bars are one of the prime components. Thousands of workers are also engaged in this sector. According to the “Baseline Survey for Determining Hazardous Child

Labour Sectors in Bangladesh 2005” conducted by Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS), a total of 87 children of different age groups is engaged in hazardous work in the steel re-rolling mills in Bangladesh. Another 26 children are engaged in casting iron and steel and 485 child workers are involved indirectly in the sector at iron and steel foundry.

Summary of relevant findings: The researchers visited [REDACTED] at [REDACTED] in Chittagong City. [REDACTED] is the biggest steel re-rolling mills in the Chittagong region where manual labors are required mainly for unloading scraps from trucks, sizing scraps by gas cutter, bending finished rods and stacking them by categories. Steel mills workers are almost all male adults. Only a few child laborers were found but no forced labor was identified. Workers are not anyway bonded due to debts. No indentured servitude, caste-based slavery does exist. But they are compelled to work for their livelihood. All these information were gathered from the discussions made by the researchers with three or four adult workers and formal interviews of one supervisor and one child worker at [REDACTED]. The researchers also spoke to two roommates of this child worker.

16. Handloom Weaving, Saree, Lungi (a large piece of cloth worn around the waist hanging to the foot instead of trousers), napkins, handkerchiefs

Sector overview: Handloom in Bangladesh has a long tradition. It is part of life for about six hundred thousand weavers’ families. Sirajganj is mostly famous for its handloom products. There are the highest numbers of looms in the district. Besides, Kazipur, Belkuchi, Shahzadpur, Chowhali, Kamarkhanda and Ullahpara *upazillas* (sub-districts) are also famous for handloom industry. About 1.5 million people work in the handloom sector in these areas. Around 183 thousand people are directly or indirectly dependent on handloom industries (Source: The Daily Star, April 07, 2008). Of them, many women are involved in the handloom related work like cotton rolling, cutting and dyeing. Saree, lungi (a large piece of cloth worn around the waist hanging to the foot instead of trousers), napkins and other items like handkerchiefs are produced and supplied all over the country and abroad. With the changing time, the number of power looms and its productivity is increasing due to demand. Nevertheless, the handloom products are higher in demand.

Summary of relevant findings: The researchers visited 10-15 handloom factories at [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED] in Sirajganj District. Each factory consisted of 2 to 10 handlooms. They spoke with the owner of one of the visited factories. They also spoke with 25-30 weavers and 4 or 5 child workers. They interviewed [REDACTED], the owner, one boy and one girl worker of [REDACTED], a handloom factory that produces sarees. They also interviewed [REDACTED], the assistant manager of [REDACTED] ([REDACTED]), a local NGO working in the sector. As per the discussion with these respondents the researchers found that weaving requires a lot of energy. As a result, in the handloom industries, 85 percent of the workers are above 18 years of age and the rest 5 percent are child workers. On the other hand, in power looms, workers above 18 years are 80 percent and workers less than 18 years are 20 percent (Source: [REDACTED] assistant manager, [REDACTED], a local NGO based in [REDACTED]).

According to [REDACTED], the child workers engaged in the handloom industries are in between 8 and 17 years and most of them are boys. Most of the weavers are male; while female workers are mainly engaged in spinning. In the handloom industries, girl child workers are engaged in greater number than the boy child workers. Among the workers, 70 percent of them are from different areas and 30 percent of them are local inhabitants (Source: [REDACTED], a handloom factory owner).

According to the child workers mentioned above, the activities child workers do are spinning and supplying of bobbins to adult weavers and they are always under pressure to supply prepared bobbins to their adult co-weavers in time.

According to the 25-30 weavers spoken to, workers are not anyway forced to work; except that some workers are pledged bound to work for particular factory owners from whom they take advances.

According to [REDACTED], if any worker fails to produce standard quality product, then it is not paid for and at time penalties are imposed for serious defects. (No more details could be found).

17. Bidi Making

Sector overview: Although Bidi factories may be found here and there in the rural areas of many other districts but mostly concentrated in the districts of Rangpur and Kustia where tobacco is largely grown. Bidis are cheap hand-rolled cigarettes filled with the chopped leaves and shredded stems of the tobacco plant, then flavored with spices. Bidis are sold in packets of 25, for US\$0.05-\$0.07, according to a UNICEF report titled “Child work in the bidi industry, Bangladesh”. Bidis are simple to make, requiring no sophisticated technology, or even electricity. Unlike Indian bidis, Bangladeshi bidis are rolled in cigarette paper, since the Tendu trees (the leaf of which was formerly used) do not grow in Bangladesh. The transition to cigarette paper makes the rolling of bidis much easier, so that the job could easily be carried out by children.

According to the “Baseline Survey for Determining Hazardous Child Labour Sectors in Bangladesh 2005” conducted by Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS), a total of 3,095 males and 5,538 females are involved in hazardous work in the bidi factories in Bangladesh.

Summary of relevant findings: Haragachh in the Rangpur district is one of the most concentrated bidi factory areas in Bangladesh. About 35 large and small bidi factories are located there employing around 40,000 to 45,000 workers. Of them, about 10,000 are registered workers and the rest 30,000 work under a traditional system of sub-contract (Source: An interview with [REDACTED] General Secretary, [REDACTED]). (No written materials were provided. He only provided the information verbally).

The researchers visited seven or eight bidi factories in the area and spoke to 10-12 workers including five or six child workers. They also spoke to the parents of three or four of these child workers. They formally interviewed the general secretary [REDACTED] and a child laborer working at [REDACTED].

Those who are registered with factories are actually the middlemen who contract the bidi rollers, generally women and children, and earn a margin out of the rate given by the factory owners for per thousand bidis. In some cases, the bidi workers work on contractual basis. There is no debt bondage or any other type of compulsion in bidi factories.

About 60 percent of the total sub-contract work is actually done by child workers, partly sitting in factory premises and partly at home (source: [REDACTED] General Secretary, [REDACTED]). The nature and range of the work in the bidi sector is such that even the children workers are forced to work at their homes and factories equally. Many of school aged children of poor laborers’ families do go to school and are also engaged in bidi making.

Based on the discussions with 10 workers including five child workers and the parents of these child workers, the researchers came to the following conclusion:

The reasons for children and women to engage themselves in bidi factories vary by sites. In Haragachh the reason compelling children and women to get engaged in bidi making is mainly poverty and absence of any other job opportunities. Given the extremely low pay, it is not only poverty, but other factors, that cause parents to push their children into the work. Many children accompany their mothers who work at factories and have none at home to look after them. Such children naturally get involved in the work at younger age. However, it has been found in a study covering five bidi making sites in Bangladesh that 36.6 percent of the mothers said that poverty compels them to engage their children in bidi making.¹³ Other reasons include:

- ❑ mothers who work at factories for (relatively) daily pay, who has no one to look after their children or protect their daughters at home; they then bring the children with them to the factory, and the children naturally spend their day working as well;
- ❑ *purdah* (the practice of using a piece of cloth or dress with which the Muslim women cover their bodies, hands, legs and heads) of the mothers, which causes them to work at home (not being allowed to go to the factory); since they and their daughters earn so little, they may push their sons to work in the factory;
- ❑ women whose husbands either do not work, or do not share their income with their wives, may force their young children to make bidis, since they can also force the young children to hand over the entire income; and
- ❑ a way of controlling children (keeping them out of trouble);

Rather than paying workers directly, a quota system is in practice in this sector. Those who hold numbers receive payment for delivery of a certain number of bidis. It is the middlemen who contract the bidi rollers, generally women and children, and who keep the largest share of the pay for the work. In one site, workers (those who actually roll the bidis) receive US\$0.18 to 0.71 per day; depending on the quantity they can handle (3,000-12,000 bidis per day).

18. Soap Making

Sector overview: Laundry soap is common consumer goods, which has a large demand in the domestic market in Bangladesh. Most of the local customers are quite happy with the domestic products as long as product performance is satisfactory and the price is reasonable.

According to the “Baseline Survey for Determining Hazardous Child Labour Sectors in Bangladesh 2005” conducted by Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS), a total of 248 male children is engaged in hazardous work in the soap and detergent manufacturing sector in Bangladesh.

Soap produced in these factories are relatively cheap and have large demand all over the country. They are all for domestically use. The owner of a soap factory in his formal interview said that the market for washing powder is growing at about 20 percent a year while the demand for laundry and ball soap remains almost stagnant due to a decline in demand for non-branded soaps produced by small-scale and regional operators. But recently, the demand has been declining due to increased preference to use powder detergents.

¹³ Blanchet. (2000) Child work in the bidi industry, Bangladesh. Dhaka, UNICEF.

Summary of relevant findings: The researchers visited one soap factory, [REDACTED], located in [REDACTED] at [REDACTED] nearby the [REDACTED]. They formally interviewed the owner and one of the child laborers of this soap factory. Based on general observations and discussions with the interviewees, most of the factories in Dhaka City make 20 percent of the work force in these factories with child laborers. Most of the workers are male in this sector and their average age is between 15 and 35 years. The child workers are engaged mostly in pasting stickers and packaging ready soaps. However, workers are not in any way forced or in any type of debt bondage, indentured servitude, or caste-based slavery.

19. Shoe Making

Sector overview: Footwear industry has grown in Bangladesh since the colonial era, although its modernization took place only in the late 1980s. According to Banglapedia (no other sources were available for this purpose), the number of production units in the industry now exceeds 2,000. Most units are, however, small and medium in size and only 23 of them are relatively large and use mechanized and semi-mechanized production technology. The annual production capacity of the total industry is about 32 million pairs of leather and non-leather footwear. Over twenty-five (25.17 million) million of these pair of shoes are produced by mechanized and semi-mechanized units. Production capacity of the individual manufacturing concerns varies from 750 to 3,000 pairs a day. The shoes produced there find their way mainly to the local market and only a few companies produce shoes for export. The industry provides direct employment to about 25,000 people. According to the “Baseline Survey for Determining Hazardous Child Labour Sectors in Bangladesh 2005” conducted by Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS), a total of 3,038 male child workers and one female child worker are involved in hazardous work in the footwear manufacturing sector in Bangladesh.

About 80 percent of all footwear units are located in Dhaka and Chittagong City. The total volume produced by these units account for about seven million pairs of shoes per year.

Marketing of footwear produced in such factories is done through a distributive channel of wholesale and retail shops, which employ an estimated 50,000 people (Source: Banglapedia). On the other hand, marketing of imported footwear is done through importers/local agents. Local manufacturers use a network of Dhaka based, district level and thana level wholesalers as their distributive channels to sell to retailers and finally to consumers in the local market.

Summary of relevant findings: The researchers visited three shoe factories, [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], at S [REDACTED], [REDACTED] in [REDACTED] Dhaka City. They spoke to seven or eight shoe makers including three child workers at [REDACTED] and three or four shoe makers including three child workers at [REDACTED]. The researchers interviewed [REDACTED], the manager and [REDACTED], an apprentice shoe maker (child worker) at [REDACTED] and spoke to two or three other adult shoe makers and another child worker at the same shoe factory. Based on general observations and discussions with the above mentioned shoe makers and according to rough estimation, there are 30-35 percent child workers in each small handmade shoe factory, an anonymous source has revealed. Nearly, 50 percent of them are engaged in mechanized and semi-mechanized units and are classified on the basis of shoe factories, as large, medium, and small. About 20 percent of the children working in the shoe factories are above 20 years of age.. Women workers dominate (55 to 60 percent) the work force in the mechanized sector.

According to the respondents, the majority of child workers are actually apprentices, mostly brought, not by force but by convincing them with promises of better life, by senior workers from

their own localities. The interviews with the child worker and the manager revealed the same information. The apprentices generally help their seniors by cutting leather into sizes, trimming rubbers for making shoe soles, and putting chemical glue on rubber soles.

According to [REDACTED], the child apprentices are not treated well in all factories. They are usually not paid but provided with food and, at times, paid TK 10 to 20 (0.14 to 0.29 USD) to meet personal expenses.

Usually, the workers are not allowed to leave their work when there are plenty of orders on hand. More than one informant cited instances of keeping child workers under lock and key so that they cannot leave the factory in peak season. The factory owners very often hold back the wages of the senior workers for four to five months so that they cannot leave.

20. Forced/Child labor in Agriculture

Sector overview: Agriculture is one of the most important sectors of Bangladesh's economy producing various kinds of rice, wheat, jute, maize, potatoes, sugar cane, beans, and huge variety of vegetables. Fruits grown are mango, jackfruit, papaya, litchi, watermelon, and banana

Eighty percent of the population is engaged in agriculture (about 66 percent of the labor force). Fifty-seven percent of the labor force is engaged in the crop sector, which represents about 78 percent of the value addition in the agricultural sector. Within the crop sector (rice, wheat, pulses and jute), rice dominates, with an average 71 percent share of the gross output value of all crops. As a result, growth in the agricultural sector essentially mirrors the performance of rice production, although the share of livestock and fisheries has increased steadily in recent years to 22 percent of the value added in agriculture (<http://www.reportbd.com/articles/25/1/Bangladesh-and-its-Agriculture-Sector/Page1.html>).

The share of agriculture in GDP has fallen from around 57 percent in the 1970s to 22 percent in recent years. Another 33 percent of GDP is contributed by the rural non-farm economy, which is largely linked to agriculture. (The World Bank, 2008)

According to the Child labor survey of 1995-96, done by Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS), 52.72 percent of the working children were largely engaged in agriculture and forestry. According to the BBS second survey, 20.91 percent of children are engaged in WFCL in agriculture. According to National Child Labor Survey (NCLS), conducted by BBS in 2002-03, among working children ages 5-14, approximately three out of every five are employed in the agricultural sector.

Causes of Forced Labor in agriculture production: The researchers have visited four sites at [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED] Upazilla, Thakurgoan District. They formally interviewed the [REDACTED] of [REDACTED], the manager of [REDACTED], a local NGO working in this sector, and one agricultural wage laborer. They also spoke with 10-12 local people and families of two agricultural wage laborers. The researchers also visited several other houses of such laborer to witness their living conditions. According to the in-depth discussions with the respondents and researchers' general observations and site visits for this data collection project, it is commonly found that the chronic and growing debt that the worker incurs while working in the agriculture sector is the main reason for bondage labor. Based on the interviews and observations, the researchers also found that the deficit budget (meaning excess of household expenditures over incomes) plays a role in debt bondage. However, our argument is that the

bondage mechanism is not prevalent because of debt, but because of lack of alternative employment opportunities in the rural areas. Besides, the major problem is the increasing alienation of small and marginal farmers from the lands and the consequent increase in the number of agricultural laborers. To a large extent, this increase is natural, given the large increase in population during the last 30 years. However, the fact is that the economic condition of agriculture laborers is very poor.

Summary of relevant findings: Although no instances of serfdom and coercive labor in agriculture was reported by any of the respondents mentioned above, the examples of debt bondage were so common in production of all of the agricultural goods mentioned above, particularly, in the flood prone south western coastal *char* areas and mongha prone districts of northern Bangladesh. Some tribal people in the hilly pockets of north-western districts are also reportedly subjected to slavery like subjugations, partly due to culture-bound allegiance and partly due to local tenancy systems characterized by much skewed distributions of lands.

According to a key informant, about 300 people among the 5,000 inhabitants in the [REDACTED] district are shackled under the debt bondage in agricultural sector (source: [REDACTED]). They usually do not have any work in the fields for three four months in the year and have no skill for any other job to do. They usually do not have money in their hands in the lean season. It becomes impossible for them to support their family. Therefore, due to poverty and seasonal joblessness during the agricultural off season, to meet the family expenses, dowry, medical costs and other emergency expenses, they have to take loans from the landowners that usually being paid back by working at a lower wage rate during harvesting season, when wage rate is generally higher. As a result, the poor borrowers do not actually receive enough money to maintain their family even during the peak seasons of work and thus get further indebted.

Type I Interview notes

Bangladesh

Conducted by: [REDACTED]

Interview No. 01

Sector: Shrimp Processing

Interviewee's Name: [REDACTED]

Official Position: Project Coordinator

Organizational Affiliation: [REDACTED]

Brief description of the organization: In general, [REDACTED] is a local NGO working for the socioeconomic development of disadvantaged communities, but they are also for protecting and promoting interests of shrimp processor. It has built a working partnership with local [REDACTED] to provide legal support to shrimp processors in cases of major deprivations by employers.

Date of Interview: March 12, 2008

Time of Interview: 14:30–17:30

Location of Interview: [REDACTED]

Researcher's Note:

For this interview, there are some questions that did not seem relevant for some of the interviewees. For example, while we interviewed a local elected leader, NGO official, and employee at a far off place in the country, they or s/he is not supposed to have any clear idea about the overall scenarios or policy aspects of a sector. Their domain is just within the area where they are working every day. There are some questions that were not responded to or addressed by some of the interviewees in any relevant or meaningful manner. So there was no point to keep them in the script merely as some listed items.

1. Is there forced or child labor in shrimp processing?

No, there is no forced labor as such, and the mainstream processing factories are also presently child-labor free. But 70 to 75 percent of shrimp processing is actually done by the subcontractors/Aratdars, who get most of their activities done by temporary workers engaged on a piecework contract basis. Such workers are mostly women. It so happens that a child-accompanying mother lends a hand to some activities. But such cases are not so common and enterprise owners usually discourage bringing children to workplaces.

2. What are the activities a shrimp processor has to do?

While the subcontractors/Aratdars do some preliminary processing before delivering the collected shrimps to the mainstream processing factories, the activities they do are—

- Collection/procurement
- Washing/cleaning
- Weighing
- Chopping off heads and shell

- Sorting/Grading
- Icing and packaging.

The trained regular workers of the mainstream processing factories then do the real processing work.

3. Who employs them?

The subcontractors/Aratdars engage 70 to 75 percent of total workers involved in the chain of shrimp processing, and the rest (25 to 30%) are employed by the mainstream factories. They are engaged on a fixed-salary basis.

4. How did they get involved in these occupations/activities?

██████████ is an industrial area where many workers' families live. They come from different parts of the coastal districts of Barisal, Bhola, Patuakhali, Barguna, Khulna, Satkhira, Shariatpur, and elsewhere. In fact, they all flock here knowing one way or another that such work opportunities exist here. Women of these poor families find it as an opportunity to add to their husband's income by working in the shrimp-processing enterprises.

5. Are workers paid well?

There is hardly any pay structure for shrimp processors—even the well-established mainstream factories do not have any definite pay structure. Workers are paid based on their skill and experience. But none is given any appointment letter and payment is always a consolidated amount, whether paid on a monthly or daily basis. Monthly wages vary from TK 1,200 to 2,500 (approximately 17-36 USD), depending on skill and experience. Those who work independently on a piecework basis usually get TK 3 to 4 per kilogram (0.04 to 0.05 USD) for chopping off the heads and tails of shrimp.

6. What physical and psychological risks do the workers or their family members face?

Whereas long hours of work (12 to 14 hours a day) is a common phenomenon, the laborers under contractors usually work during nighttime, starting from 20:00 hours and continuing until the collected stock in any Arat or factory is finished. It may be 24 hours or more during the peak season.

7. Can the workers leave the work at will?

Yes. There is nothing binding anybody to work for any factory or employer. Although any individual worker is free to decide his/her work hours, a conventional invisible group dynamic influences the way they might exercise that personal freedom in this regard. Floors are always wet and workers have to work all day long standing.

8. What are the environments in which they work?

The overall work environment in the mainstream factories is good—but not in most of the subcontractors' premises. At times, too many workers have to work in limited spaces both in the Arats and factories—particularly during the peak season. Workplaces are mostly insufficiently lighted and poorly ventilated with consequential bad odor. Work floors are always wet, with no sitting arrangement for workers, and many have to work standing all day long. Many workers are exposed to cold temperatures or have to handle ice barehanded. All these have a long-term detrimental impact both on the physical and mental health of the workers.

9. In what regions of the country do they work? Do they work in cities or in rural areas?

They work in the rural/coastal regions of the country. They mainly work in Cox's Bazar—Maheshkhali and Teknaf in the Chittagong region—and workers of the factories around Khulna come from Barisal, Bhola, Patuakhali, Barguna, Satkhira, Shariatpur, and elsewhere.

10. What is the typical age/gender of individuals producing the good?

Over 80 percent of shrimp processors are women. Their age ranges from 15 to 45.

Interview No. 02

Sector: Deep Sea Fishing

Interviewee's Name: [REDACTED]

Official Position: Chairperson

Organizational Affiliation: [REDACTED]

Brief description of the organization: This is an informal committee of fishing trawler owners in the district maintaining liaison among themselves and safeguarding their own interests at the first instance.

Date of Interview: March 18, 2008

Time of Interview: 12:30–13:30

Location of Interview: [REDACTED]

Researcher's Note:

Some questions were not asked to these interviewees, as they appeared to be irrelevant and did not suite or fit with the issues related to the sectors they are individually associated with.

1. Are there child workers or forced labor in deep sea fishing?

Deep sea fishing is child-labor free by nature of the activities involved. Although relatively young and able-bodied workers with experience are preferred, no child is taken in the team, as it would not be possible for any child to cope with adults. Also, no adult is forced in any way to join a team for deep sea fishing.

2. What are the activities a fisherman has to do while in the sea?

Net casting and pulling is their main job. Also, they lend a hand to fish collection/preservation and net repairing/drying

3. Who employs them?

Trawler owners or contractors through a leader fisherman, locally called [REDACTED].

4. How do/did they get involved in these occupations/activities?

Fishing is their only profession from generation to generation.

5. Are you aware of trafficking in persons for deep sea fishing purposes?

No, I am not aware of any such occurrence in our area. But rumor goes that Chittagonian fishermen collect laborers with false promises and use them against their will.

6. Are workers paid their due share?

The prevalent distribution practice of net sale proceeds of fish between trawler owners and fishermen is a ratio of 60:40. If catches are good and no mishap is encountered, an individual fisherman may get TK 20 (0.29 USD)—that's TK 25,000 (365 USD) in a season of 6 to 7 months. But fishing is like gambling. There may be a bounty of catches for one trawler, while another may go one trip or another empty-handed. But there is transparency on the part of trawler owners and Aratdars in keeping accounts of fish sales and distribution of sale proceeds on a pre-agreed ratio.

7. What physical and psychological risks do workers or their family members face?

When the trawler is out in the deep sea, workers are exposed to the risks of being robbed by pirates or being caught in a cyclone and losing their lives. They are to live in the boat for days and months at a stretch. The roar of the sea and the noises of the trawler engine are the constant hazards they face. Once a fisherman goes to deep sea, his other family members count days in anxiety until the man returns.

8. Can the fisherman leave the work at will?

Yes, but not during the time the boat is in the sea. One is free to decide to go back or not if he is on shore and provided there are no dues to the *Mohajan* or leader fisherman. Conventionally, any fisherman taking advance from any trawler owner or leader fisherman or contractor is under obligation to work in the boat until the debt is fully recovered.

9. What specific group is vulnerable to the risks involved in deep sea fishing?

Fishermen of all coastal districts—namely, Barisal, Patuakhali, Barguna, Khulna, and Chittagong—are by profession and circumstance bound to go into the sea for fishing, because it is their only livelihood and many of them have no other skill to work elsewhere. The majority of them live near the sea shore and are subjected to tidal bores and cyclones. Due to endemic poverty and fragile health, many get sick while in the sea, but no medical facilities are readily available in the trawlers. Relatively older fishermen are especially prone to sea sickness and pulmonary diseases.

Interview No. 03

Sector: Ship Breaking

Interviewee's Name: [REDACTED]

Official Position: Program Officer

Organizational Affiliation: [REDACTED]

Brief description of the organization: [REDACTED], established on [REDACTED], is a nonprofit and nonpolitical social development organization, a local NGO, working mainly in ship breaking industries with a total of 5 million disadvantaged and vulnerable people in greater Chittagong Division, including Chittagong Hill Tracts.

Date of Interview: March 9, 2008

Time of Interview: 10:00–13:00

Location of Interview: [REDACTED]

1. In what occupations/activities do forced labor victims and/or children work?

Ship breaking is one of the most hazardous and worst forms of child occupation. At least 20 to 25 percent of the total workers in ship breaking are children. As we understand it, children do not like to work in ship breaking, but because of poverty they are forced to do such a hazardous work.

2. What good(s) do they produce?

Most of the children in ship breaking are engaged as cutters, helpers, fitters, and cleaners of mud from the scrap iron. They are helping to produce raw materials for iron manufacturing in the steel rerolling mills.

3. Are goods for domestic consumption or export?

The goods are used for domestic purposes.

4. Who employs them?

The foremen who are working under the contractor of cutting ships are bringing them from some of the poorest regions of the country. Sometimes they are paid in advance. Often they come with their relatives, who are already involved in the ship breaking yards.

5. How do they come to be involved in these occupations/activities?

They come with their relatives. Sometimes the foreman, who is very local, brings the workers from the villages.

6. If applicable, what type of forced labor is used (e.g., debt bondage, indentured servitude, caste-based slavery, etc.)?

The ship breaking workers come from the poorest regions of the country. They lost their lands, they take loans from the NGOs, local Mohajons, etc. To give the money back, they need to earn money. And there is not much opportunity in the munga-stricken areas. Sometimes they are paid in advance. These are the causes of forced labor.

7. How is trafficking in persons related to forced labor and/or child labor in the production of goods, if at all?

The foremen bring the workers to the shipyards by hiding the dangers involved in the ship breaking activities. By taking advantage of their poverty, these kinds of human trafficking take place.

8. Are they paid for their work? If so, how (i.e., cash, in-kind)?

Yes, they are mostly paid in cash on an hourly basis. The amount of experience, nature of work, and their physical abilities mainly determine the rates.

9. What tasks do they perform?

They help the cutter man, like lighting the gas flame, washing the iron from mud or sludge, going into the big pipes to clean the petroleum, loading pieces of iron, pulling wear to bring the iron in the yards from the seashore, and working in the ship to dismantle the outfitting of the ship are the tasks they perform.

10. What physical and psychological risks do they or family members face? (Are other elements of “menace of penalty” present)?

They often get wounded and burnt by the flame and iron. They are inhaling toxic smoke all day. They feel pain and a burning sensation inside their chests and stomachs.

As they have very little income (TK 11 [0.16 USD] per hour, 11 hours a day, commonly 25 days in a month), they often cannot go to see their families. They feel lonely and isolated. They also like to play and study like normal children. But they cannot because of these factors.

11. Are they able to leave their workplaces at will? If so, are other elements of coercion present (see above)?

The contractors never pay the whole payment. They keep some amount as due so that the workers cannot leave the work. Often the workers face trouble when they want to leave. They can leave, but at that time, they will not get the due payment. Sometimes, they face serious elements of coercion.

12. What are the environments in which they work?

There is no safety equipment for the workers in the workplace. The workplace is very dangerous and unsafe. Deadly accidents can happen, like explosions, as the ships are full of toxic gas. Inhaling toxic gases, the slipping and falling of iron pieces, and falling from the top of the ship might happen at any moment. There are—

- No precautions of dangers
- A lack of equipment to protect workers from accidents
- No compensation
- No treatment facilities in the yards
- Risky working condition.

13. In what regions of the country do they work? Do they work in cities or in rural areas?

The ship breaking activities are located in the Sitakund coastal area, Chittagong. The workers are working there.

14. (For each good), what is the typical age/gender of individuals producing the good?

Usually, male workers are engaged there. The average age of the child ship breaking workers is 12 to 16 years.

15. What specific groups of people are more vulnerable to engagement in forced labor and/or child labor in the production of each good (e.g., boys versus girls, urban versus rural, indigenous/ethnic groups, etc.)?

The poor children driven by poverty are the most vulnerable group to engage themselves in such a hazardous job. Most of the workers in ship breaking are coming from the northern part of the country.

16. What is the estimated number/percentage of adults and/or children engaged in forced labor and/or child labor in the production of each good?

At least 20 to 25 percent of the total workers in ship breaking are children. It is found that children do not like to work in ship breaking, but because of the poverty they are forced to do so.

Interview No.- 04

Sector: Leather Tanning

Interviewee's Name: [REDACTED]

Official Position: General Secretary

Organizational Affiliation: [REDACTED]

Brief description of the organization: [REDACTED] was established in [REDACTED].

Date of Interview: March 23, 2008 and March 24, 2008

Time of Interview: 15:30–19:00 and 10:00–12.30

Location of Interview: [REDACTED]

1. In what occupations/activities do forced labor victims and/or children work?

The children in the Hazaribagh area are engaged in many hazardous activities, like:

- Tannery industries
- Workshops
- Motor vehicle helpers
- Bricks and stones crushing
- Hotel boy
- House servants.

2. What good(s) do they produce?

The child laborers are engaged in the tannery industries, where they produce tanned leather.

3. Are goods for domestic consumption or export?

Around 90 percent of the total products are exported. The rest (10%) of the products are used domestically.

4. Who employs them?

Generally owners of the factory employ them.

5. How do they come to be involved in these occupations/activities?

Poverty being the root cause, children of families living in the slums around Hajaribag come to work in tanneries. Many of them are orphans or abandoned by parents.

6. If applicable, what type of forced labor is used (e.g., debt bondage, indentured servitude, caste-based slavery, etc.)?

Not applicable.

7. How is trafficking in persons related to forced labor and/or child labor in the production of goods, if at all?

Not applicable.

8. Are they paid for their work? If so, how (i.e., cash, in-kind)?

Workers receive their wages in cash every fortnight.

9. What tasks do they perform?

They usually perform the following tasks:

- Fleshing machine

- Making white-blue
- Sprit machine
- Sewing
- Dyeing
- Ironing.

10. What physical and psychological risks do they or family members face? (Are other elements of “menace of penalty” present?)

No menace or penalty, as such. But the risks of physical injury and any psychological adverse effects cannot be ruled out altogether.

11. Are they able to leave their workplaces at will? If so, are other elements of coercion present (see above)?

They can give up the job if they wish.

12. What are the environments in which they work?

The working environment in some factories is not so good. Inadequate spaces and inappropriate working postures, poor toilet and ventilation facilities, and a noisy environment are the common complaints.

13. In what regions of the country do they work? Do they work in cities or in rural areas?

The children from the districts of Barisal, Rangpur, Kurigram, Lalmonirhat, Nilphamari, Gaibandha, Jamalpur, Bhola, etc. get involved in child labor due to existing poverty in their families. Most of the child laborers in the industrial sector are based in cities and towns.

14. (For each good), what is the typical age/gender of individuals producing the good?

Children engaged in tanneries are mostly boys aged between 9 and 17 years.

15. What specific groups of people are more vulnerable to engagement in forced labor and/or child labor in the production of each good (e.g., boys versus girls, urban versus rural, indigenous/ethnic groups, etc.)?

Most of the children have no other sources of income, and the victims of river erosion and children of char- and flood-prone areas constitute the majority. For example, the children from the rural areas under the districts of Sirajganj, Gaibandha, Rangpur, Jamalpur, Kurigram, Lalmonirhat, Nilphamari, Barisal, Bhola, and Noakhali are found working more than those of other districts.

16. What is the estimated number/percentage of adults and/or children engaged in forced labor and/or child labor in the production of each good?

Children are basically involved in the following sectors. For example—

- Thirty percent (30%) of children are engaged in tannery industry
- Fifteen percent (15%) are in different workshops
- Ten percent (10%) are in the transport sector
- Twenty percent (20%) are in hotels/restaurants
- Ten percent (10%) are in brick fields and stone crushing.

Interview No. 05

Sector: Gul Making—Chewing Dust of Tobacco

Interviewee's Name: [REDACTED]

Official Position: Executive Director

Organizational Affiliation: [REDACTED]

Brief description of the organization: [REDACTED] is a local NGO in [REDACTED] district. This organization works among the poor community at [REDACTED] Upazila.

Date of Interview: March 12, 2008

Time of Interview: 11:30–13:10

Location of Interview: [REDACTED]

1. In what occupations/activities do forced labor victims and/or children work?

[REDACTED], executive director of [REDACTED], has told me that the child workers of those areas are especially engaged in gul manufacturing and bidi making.

2. What good(s) do they produce?

The children are engaged in gul manufacturing and bidi making.

3. Are goods for domestic consumption or export?

The products are all used domestically. These are supplied to different districts of Bangladesh. These products are not exported to any country.

4. Who employs them?

Generally, bidi and gul factory owners and subcontractors of a bidi factory employ them.

5. How do they come to be involved in these occupations/activities?

The children are forced to get involved into child labor due to the following reasons:

- Poverty in their family
- A lack of awareness among the guardians
- Having a large number of family members
- The absence of parents for many children
- Gul manufacturing and bidi making jobs are very easily available
- The factories are located near their homes.

6. If applicable, what type of forced labor is used (e.g., debt bondage, indentured servitude, caste-based slavery, etc.)?

Not applicable.

7. How is trafficking in persons related to forced labor and/or child labor in the production of goods, if at all?

Not applicable.

8. Are they paid for their work? If so, how (i.e., cash, in-kind)?

The child workers receive their wages in cash. Generally, the employer pays them each day's wages every day.

9. What tasks do they perform?

The children engaged in bidi making perform the following tasks:

1. Making packets
2. Filling in tobacco
3. Closing the opening of a bidi.

The children who are engaged in gul factories perform the following selected tasks:

1. Filling gul in small cans
2. Putting the mouth covers of the canes
3. Putting labels on the cans
4. Packaging.

10. What physical and psychological risks do they or family members face? Are other elements of “menace of penalty” present (see above)?

The children face mental and physical hazards in different ways:

- They always remain under pressure due to the contractual nature of the job
- The employer rebukes them if they make any mistakes, even threatening to sack them
- They have to work under noisy conditions in the gul and bidi factory
- They have to work in very hot conditions
- They are always giddy due to the smell of raw and dust tobacco
- They have to work within a very small space
- The workers do not face any financial penalty.

11. Are they able to leave their workplaces at will? If so, are other elements of coercion present (see above)?

The children can leave their jobs by their own will whenever they wish. In such a case, they do not become subject to any torture. Because of poverty in the family, the children have to continue their jobs, and that is why they do not want to leave any jobs at the factory.

12. What are the environments in which they work?

The children are forced to work in the following environments:

1. They have to work in the environment with a tobacco odor
2. They have to work in a very hot environment
3. The toilet facilities are not good
4. They have to work in a noisy environment created by machines
5. They (both male and female) have to work in a very congested space.

13. In what regions of the country do they work? Do they work in cities or in rural areas?

Most of the bidi and gul factories are located in different parts of Bangladesh—in Syedpur, Nilphamari district; Haragachh, Rangpur district; Khustia, etc. There is no existence of forced labor in these factories, but the children are compelled to work because of poverty in their families. Most of the children live in the rural areas.

14. (For each good), what is the typical age/gender of individuals producing the good?

At the gul and bidi factories in Rangpur, the children between the ages of 7 and 17 years are found to be engaged in gul manufacturing and bidi making activities. Seventy percent (70%) of them are boys and 30 percent are girls.

15. What specific groups of people are more vulnerable to engagement in forced labor and/or child labor in the production of each good (e.g., boys versus girls, urban versus rural, indigenous/ethnic groups etc.)?

Due to poverty in the family, most of the child workers are found to get engaged in jobs at different factories at their tender ages. Moreover, most of the children from the river-eroded and flood-affected areas are in child labor, especially those from the regions of Rangpur, Karugram, Jamalpur, Bogra, Barisal, Dhaka, and Kushtia. Both boys and girls are engaged in this type of labor. But most of the children from the rural areas are involved with child labor.

16. What is the estimated number/percentage of adults and/or children engaged in forced labor and/or child labor in the production of each good?

The percentage of child workers engaged in the gul and bidi factories of Haragachh is about 50 percent. Of them, 70 percent are boys and 30 percent are girls.

Interview No. 06

Sector: Plastic Products

Interviewee's Name: [REDACTED]

Official Position: Executive Director

Organizational Affiliation: [REDACTED]

Brief description of the organization: [REDACTED], a local NGO of [REDACTED] of [REDACTED] district, provides general education to the child laborers for 2 years and vocational training for a period of 6 months in the [REDACTED] town and helps the graduated child workers to get better job opportunities.

Date of Interview: March 15, 2008

Time of Interview: 10:15–12:30

Location of Interview: [REDACTED]

1. In what occupations/activities do forced labor victims and/or children work?

It was understood from [REDACTED], Executive Director of [REDACTED], that the child workers of the area are engaged in different types of jobs. For example—

- Welding/workshop
- Bidi making
- Saw mills
- Transport helper
- Plastic and metal factories
- Rickshaw/van pulling
- Brick and stone crushing.

2. What good(s) do they produce?

As the respective works are meant for.

3. Are goods for domestic consumption or export?

The products are mostly locally consumed/used by the districts of the northern part of Bangladesh. These are not exported.

4. Who employs them?

Private-sector enterprises.

5. How do they come to be involved in these occupations/activities?

The children are forced to work mainly for economic reasons. Some of the common reasons are mentioned below:

- a) Many families are unable to survive depending only on income of adult earners
- b) There is a lack of awareness among the guardians
- c) Many children have no parents
- d) Many guardians have polygamous families.

6. If applicable, what type of forced labor is used (e.g., debt bondage, indentured servitude, caste-based slavery, etc.)?

No one is physically forced to work. It is poverty that compels even children to desperately look for work.

7. How is trafficking in persons related to forced labor and/or child labor in the production of goods, if at all?

Not applicable.

8. Are they paid for their work? If so, how (i.e., cash, in-kind)?

The employers certainly pay the wages in cash. Workers of some lines of enterprises are paid on piecework basis, while others are paid on a fixed wage/monthly salary basis.

9. What tasks do they perform?

It varies depending on the lines of business/enterprises.

10. What physical and psychological risks do they or family members face? Are other elements of “menace of penalty” present (see above)?

The child workers face many mental and physical problems. For example, they have to carry heavy loads; they have to work standing or sitting for long hours; and they work in a very hot environment. Also, the employers hurl abusive words at the child workers if they make any mistakes and force them to work overtime for longer hours.

11. Are they able to leave their workplaces at will? If so, are other elements of coercion present (see above)?

The child workers can leave their jobs if they wish. But they have to do any type of work they can due to poverty in the family. Therefore, the child workers do not leave a job unless driven away by employer.

12. What are the environments in which they work?

The child workers do not have a good working environment because the factories established in the area do not have enough space. Factories do not maintain a good environment and, in most cases, are inadequately lighted, poorly ventilated, do not have enough water supplies, and the conditions of the toilets are unhygienic. Some children have to work in a noisy environment and some factories have the bad smell of chemicals.

13. In what regions of the country do they work? Do they work in cities or in rural areas?

There are such plastic factories in Dhaka and Narayanganj. However, the child workers are not forced to work—poverty in their families compels them to work. Most of the plastic factories are located in the town. Due to the location of the plastic factories in the town, the child workers coming from far flung rural areas have to live in slums near their workplaces.

14. (For each good), what is the typical age/gender of individuals producing the good?

Children working in different factories/enterprises in and around Bogra town range in between 7 to 16 years. Most of the workers are boys. The number of girl workers is very negligible.

15. What specific groups of people are more vulnerable to engagement in forced labor and/or child labor in the production of each good (e.g., boys versus girls, urban versus rural, indigenous/ethnic groups etc.)?

In Bangladesh, due to poverty, children are bound to engage themselves in jobs. Moreover, children from the river-eroded and flood-affected areas are compelled to engage themselves in work. For example, children from Rangpur, Jamalpur, Mymensingh, Barisal, etc. get involved in jobs at early ages.

16. What is the estimated number/percentage of adults and/or children engaged in forced labor and/or child labor in the production of each good?

In the Bogra region, the percentage of child workers engaged in the production of different types of products are as follows:

- Twenty percent (20%) work at plastic and other factories
- Twenty percent (20%) work at bidi factories
- Ten percent (10%) are engaged in brick and stone crushing
- Thirty percent (30%) are engaged in welding and automobile workshops
- Twenty percent (20%) work as the helpers of auto-vans.

Interview No. 07

Sector: Handloom Weaving

Interviewee's Name: [REDACTED]

Official Position: Assistant Manager

Organizational Affiliation: [REDACTED]

Brief description of the organization: [REDACTED] works for the victims of river erosion in particular and char dwellers in general and is presently working in partnership with the [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Date of Interview: March 17, 2008

Time of Interview: 15:10–17:15

Location of Interview: [REDACTED]

1. In what occupations/activities do forced labor victims and/or children work?

The child workers are engaged in—

- Handloom industry
- Rickshaw and van pulling
- Selling peanuts on the streets
- Motor workshops.

2. What good(s) do they produce?

Other than handloom workers, none actually produce any tangible output.

3. Are goods for domestic consumption or export?

Some quality handloom products are exported to different countries.

4. Who employs them?

The handloom owners employ them.

5. How do they come to be involved in these occupations/activities?

It is poverty that pushes children to work for their livelihood. Especially children of poor but big families and those who either have lost, or were abandoned by, parents are bound to work

6. If applicable, what type of forced labor is used (e.g., debt bondage, indentured servitude, caste-based slavery, etc.)?

No such subjugations.

7. How is trafficking in persons related to forced labor and/or child labor in the production of goods, if at all?

Not applicable.

8. Are they paid for their work? If so, how (i.e., cash, in-kind)?

Those who work in the handloom industries are paid on a production/productivity basis. Handloom workers are paid in cash on a weekly basis. Others engaged in different jobs get their payment in cash on a monthly basis.

9. What tasks do they perform?

They usually perform the following tasks:

- Weaving

- ❑ Spinning
- ❑ Welding and lathe machine workshop jobs
- ❑ Rickshaw and van pulling.

10. What physical and psychological risks do they or family members face? Are other elements of “menace of penalty” present?

If any worker fails to produce standard quality product, then it is not paid for and at time penalties are imposed for serious defects.

11. Are they able to leave their workplaces at will? If so, are other elements of coercion present (see above)?

Workers are generally free to decide. But usually a worker does not leave a factory once entered into, because they develop an emotional relationship with the respective factory owners and consider the factory as their own establishment providing for their livelihood.

12. What are the environments in which they work?

In many factories, too many workers are to work in a limited space where they work day and night. The environment is noisy and the numbers of toilets are inadequate in many factories.

13. In what regions of the country do they work? Do they work in cities or in rural areas?

Handlooms are mostly in rural villages. Mainly the children from Rangpur, Kurigram, Bogra, Pabna, Barisal, Bhola, Kushtia, Tangail, etc. are engaged in handlooms of Sirajgonj area.

14. (For each good), what is the typical age/gender of individuals producing the good?

The child workers engaged in the handloom industries of Belkuchi area are in between 8 and 17 years and most of them are boys. Female workers are mainly engaged in spinning.

15. What specific groups of people are more vulnerable to engagement in forced labor and/or child labor in the production of each good (e.g., boys versus girls, urban versus rural, indigenous/ethnic groups, etc)?

River erosion and frequent floods force the children of the char areas to work. The children from the districts of Kurigram, Rangpur, Sirajganj, Jamalpur, Barisal, Bhola, and Kushtia come to work here.

16. What is the estimated number/percentage of adults and/or children engaged in forced labor and/or child labor in the production of each good?

Eighty-five percent (85%) of the workers in the handloom industries are above 18 years and 15 percent of them are child laborers, both girls and boys. In the power loom factories, 80 percent of the workers are above 18 years and 20 percent of them are children workers.

Interview No. 08

Sector: Bidi Making

Interviewee's Name: [REDACTED]

Official Position: General Secretary

Organizational Affiliation: [REDACTED]

Brief description of the organization: Established in 1991

Date of Interview: March 12, 2008

Time of Interview: 10:00–19:00

Location of Interview: [REDACTED]

Rangpur district

1. In what occupations/activities do forced labor victims and/or children work?

- The child laborers are engaged in bidi making.
- They are engaged in gul (a kind of raw dust of tobacco) manufacturing.
- They are also engaged in crushing bricks and stones.

2. What good(s) do they produce?

The child workers are engaged in bidi and gul manufacturing.

3. Are goods for domestic consumption or export?

The product is used domestically.

4. Who employs them?

The owners of bidi and gul factories employ them.

5. How do they come to be involved in these occupations/activities?

The children's families suffer from abject poverty. The family members have to starve if they do not work. Because of the fact that there is no other job opportunity in the area, the children are forced to engage in bidi and gul factories.

6. If applicable, what type of forced labor is used (e.g., debt bondage, indentured servitude, caste-based slavery, etc.)?

There is no debt bondage or otherwise binding for the workers in bidi and gul factories. They come themselves to work, and it is poverty that compels them to do such hazardous work.

7. How is trafficking in persons related to forced labor and/or child labor in the production of goods, if at all?

Not applicable.

8. Are they paid for their work? If so, how (i.e., cash, in-kind)?

The children get payment in cash at the rate of TK 19 for making 1,000 bidi and those who work in gul factories get on an average TK 40 per day.

9. What tasks do they perform?

The children certainly do the following jobs:

- Making packets
- Filling in tobacco
- Closing the openings of bidi.

10. What physical and psychological risks do they or family members face? Are other elements of “menace of penalty” present?

Instances of physical torture are very few. But some mental pressure is always there for completing the daily quota.

11. Are they able to leave their workplaces at will?

Yes, anybody can quit the job, if he/she wishes.

12. What are the environments in which they work?

In many factories, workers have to work sitting in a small/limited space. They have to work in a very hot environment. There is no arrangement for fans. Both male and female workers sit and work together, and the toilet facility is very poor.

13. In what regions of the country do they work? Do they work in cities or in rural areas?

Child labor comes mainly from neighboring areas. Some come from the districts of Rangpur, Bogra, Sirajganj, Kushtia, Tangail, Dhaka, Narayanganj, etc.

14. (For each good), what is the typical age/gender of individuals producing the good?

Usually, the children aged 8 to 16 years work in a bidi factory. Both male and female workers work in a bidi factory.

15. What specific groups of people are more vulnerable to engagement in forced labor and/or child labor in the production of each good (e.g., boys versus girls, urban versus rural, indigenous/ethnic groups etc.)?

Among the outsiders, people of the flood-prone districts of Gaibandha, Kurigram, Sirajganj, Jamalpur, Bhola, Barisal come to work in this area.

16. What is the estimated number/percentage of adults and/or children engaged in forced labor and/or child labor in the production of each good?

At the bidi factories, the percentage of child labor is 60 percent. At the gul factories, the percentage is 25 percent. The percentage of child labor in bricks and stone crushing is 15 percent.

Interview No. 09

Sector: Agriculture

Interviewee's Name: [REDACTED]

Official Position: Union Parishad (UP) Member

Organizational Affiliation: [REDACTED]

Brief description of the organization: A local government council

Date of Interview: March 13, 2008

Time of Interview: 10:00–12:00

Location of Interview: [REDACTED] Thakurgoan district

1. In what occupations/activities do/did you/the child victim(s) work?

Most of the debt-bondage laborers are involved in agriculture.

2. What good(s) do you/they produce?

They grow paddy, maize, sugarcane, jute, wheat, banana, etc.

3. What tasks do you/they perform?

The debt-bonded families are to work for their landlords as and when asked. They work in various activities involved in the processes of cultivation of different crops grown in the area.

4. Who is your/their employer?

Generally landowners are there employers.

5. How did you/they come to be involved in these occupations/activities?

Due to extreme poverty, they are engaged in such debt-bondage-based agricultural work.

6. Are you/they paid for their work? If so, how (i.e., cash, in-kind)?

They are paid in cash, but usually at lower rates than the normal average market rates.

7. Do you/the child owe a debt to your employer that you work to pay back?

Yes, the debt-bonded agriculture laborers owe debts to their employer as they take advances and work for them to pay by working.

8. If so, how was this debt incurred?

The agriculture laborers are very poor and usually do not have any work for 3 or 4 months in a year. They don't have any money in their hand at that time. Moreover, they usually don't have money for ceremonies and festivals. They are always short of money throughout the year. To meet their family expenses, they have to borrow or take advances from their employers. Later they have to work for them. The cycle goes on and on.

9. What are your/their working conditions? Are there dangerous tools, machinery, fumes, or other physical risks?

The types of activities the wage laborers are to do involve no dangerous tools and machines. But most of them are physically tiresome.

10. Are you/the child beaten/abused by the employer?

The employers always pressure the laborers for more work. They do not accept any mistakes. They always mistreat the laborers. Due to hard labor, they fall sick very often but go without any medical treatment.

11. Are you/they threatened by the employer if certain job tasks are not performed? What kind of threats?

Usually, the laborers take advances from several employers and fail to keep pace with orders from all of them during the peak planting or harvesting times. As a result, the employers harass them very often and pressure them to do more and more. In such working conditions, the laborers suffer from serious mental and physical abuse.

12. Do employers provide food and shelter? If so, do you/they have enough to eat?

No the employers do not provide such local laborer with food and shelter. But the migrant workers from outside districts are given shelter and food in certain cases.

13. Are you/they able to leave your/their workplaces at will?

The debt-bonded laborers can never leave the workplace at their will. They are local people and do not try so.

14. How far away is your/the child's home? How did you/they get here (to this place of employment)?

The laborers live in the villages within 5 kilometers of their workplaces.

15. How old are they?

Mostly adults. But child workers are not uncommon.

16. What is their education level?

Almost all of them are illiterate.

17. (Whether the person is male/female)

Both male and female members of poor families work. Particularly during the peak season, their wife and children help them in their work.

Interview No. 10

Sector: Agriculture

Interviewee's Name: [REDACTED]

Official Position: Manager

Organizational Affiliation: [REDACTED]

Brief description of the organization: A [REDACTED] NGO working for socioeconomic empowerment of the rural poor in northern Bangladesh for more than 34 years.

Date of Interview: March 14, 2008

Time of Interview: 14:00–16:00

Location of Interview: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Thakurgoan district

1. In what occupations/activities do forced labor victims and/or children work?

Most of the workforces in the area are in agriculture.

2. What good(s) do they produce?

They usually grow crops and vegetables.

3. Are goods for domestic consumption or export?

The agri-products are usually for domestic consumption and for sale in the local and inter-district markets.

4. Who employs them?

The landowners generally employ them.

5. How do they come to be involved in these occupations/activities?

The area they live in is mainly agriculture-based. Therefore, most of the poor people are agriculture laborers. Poverty and illiteracy are the main reasons for them to get involved in low paid agriculture work.

6. If applicable, what type of forced labor is used (e.g., debt bondage, indentured servitude, caste-based slavery, etc.)?

The laborers in the area are engaged in debt bondage.

7. How is trafficking in persons related to forced labor and/or child labor in the production of goods, if at all?

Not applicable.

8. Are they paid for their work? If so, how (i.e., cash, in-kind)?

The laborers are paid in cash. However, they usually take advances that they pay back by working for the landowners. Therefore, the employers exploit them by fixing a low wage for their work. Soon they need more cash to support their livelihood and take advances again and get involved in the debt-bondage cycle.

9. What tasks do they perform?

Various activities as involved in the cultivation practices of different crops grown in this region.

10. What physical and psychological risks do they or family members face? Are other elements of “menace of penalty” present?

As the agriculture laborers work under debt bondage they have to work as per the employers will. Most of the time they have to work very long hours. They have to work for several landowners at the same time facing unbearable pressure at times.

11. Are they able to leave their workplaces at will?

The laborers never get the opportunity to leave their workplace at their will, as they are chained in debt bondage.

12. What are the environments in which they work?

The laborers work in rain, high heat, mud, hunger, etc. In the peak season, very often the laborers have to work all night long.

13. In what regions of the country do they work? Do they work in cities or in rural areas?

The laborers are mainly from the neighboring districts.

14. (For each good), what is the typical age/gender of individuals producing the good?

The laborers are mostly adult males aged 20 to 60. Many women are also involved in such work.

15. What specific groups of people are more vulnerable to engagement in forced labor and/or child labor in the production of each good (e.g., boys versus girls, urban versus rural, indigenous/ethnic groups, etc.)?

Almost all the poor people in the area have to work for the local landowners from whom they take advances during lean periods or for any emergency purposes. The minority and the tribal people are high in number among them. Rural people are more vulnerable in such labor than the urban.

16. What is the estimated number/percentage of adults and/or children engaged in forced labor and/or child labor in the production of each good?

About 20 percent of the agriculture laborers are in debt bondage and 5 percent of the laborers are children.

Interview No. 11

Sector: Salt Production

Interviewee's Name: [REDACTED]

Official Position: Salt factory owner

Organizational Affiliation: [REDACTED]

Brief description of the organization: A salt refinery and manufacturing industry owned by [REDACTED], who has been in this line of business for the last 10 years.

Date of Interview: March 12, 2008

Time of Interview: 11:30

Location of Interview: [REDACTED] Cox's Bazar Town.

1. In what occupations/activities do forced labor victims and/or children work?

Child laborers are involved in the salt refinery and manufacturing industry as daily workers.

2. What good(s) do they produce?

They (child laborers) are engaged in the production of refined salt.

3. Are goods for domestic consumption or export?

Salt is generally produced for domestic consumption.

4. Who employs them?

The child laborers are generally employed by the [REDACTED]—the labor leader/contractor employed by the owner of the salt factory.

5. How do they come to be involved in these occupations/activities?

The child labors become involved in this profession due to extreme poverty in their families. It is the same case with [REDACTED], who has been compelled to get involved in this sector. The [REDACTED] called [REDACTED] [REDACTED] actually has brought him to this job.

6. If applicable, what type of forced labor is used (e.g., debt bondage, indentured servitude, caste-based slavery, etc.)?

Researcher's Note/Comment: The researchers found nothing in vogue like debt bondage, indentured servitude, caste-based slavery, etc., but the child is forced to earn money because of poverty.

7. How is trafficking in persons related to forced labor and/or child labor in the production of goods, if at all?

Not applicable.

8. Are they paid for their work? If so, how (i.e., cash, in-kind)?

The child laborers are paid for their work on a daily basis in cash.

9. What tasks do they perform?

They actually do the tasks of holding buckets of salts (1 bucket = 10 kg). After refining and crushing salts, it is thrown to a particular hole containing water. The child laborers then collect this refined salt from the hole into small buckets and hand these over to other workers. Two child laborers hold one bucket of salt.

10. What physical and psychological risks do they or family members face? Are other elements of “menace of penalty” present (see above)?

Researcher’s Note/Comment: The employer actually denied of any such menace. But a child worker we interviewed at his salt factory reported mental and psychological pressure.

11. Are they able to leave their workplaces at will? If so, are other elements of coercion present (see above)?

Researcher’s Note/Comment: The employer denied any form of compulsion for anybody to work for him. But some invisible elements of coercion/inducement are there, for which workers are not fully free to decide to quit any employer unless anything desperate happens to them.

12. What are the environments in which they work?

Researcher’s Note/Comment: When asked about the congested, noisy environment, the employer said that everybody works in this type of environment. But the fact is that when we visited the factories, we found the environment noisy, dirty, wet, and congested for such workers.

13. In what regions of the country do they work? Do they work in cities or in rural areas?

They work in the rural/coastal regions of the country. They mainly work in Cox’s Bazar, Maheshkhali, and Teknaf regions of the coastal belt.

14. (For each good), what is the typical age/gender of individuals producing the good?

In general, child laborers working in this sector are between the ages of 12 and 18. Both male and female child laborers are seen in this sector.

15. What specific groups of people are more vulnerable to engagement in forced labor and/or child labor in the production of each good (e.g., boys versus girls, urban versus rural, indigenous/ethnic groups etc.)?

The boys or girls from poor families of the rural/coastal areas of the southern part of Chittagong division are more vulnerable to engagement of child labor.

16. What is the estimated number/percentage of adults and/or children engaged in forced labor and/or child labor in the production of each good?

About 40 percent of the child laborers are engaged in the production of salt in the Cox’s Bazar region.

Interview No. 12

Sector: Readymade Garments (RMG) (subcontract level)

Interviewee's Name: [REDACTED]

Official Position: Managing Director

Organizational Affiliation: [REDACTED]

Brief description of the organization: A reputed privately owned garments factory located in the [REDACTED] area in Dhaka city engaged in exporting readymade garments (t-shirts, shirts, jeans, etc.).

Date of Interview: March 23, 2008 and March 24, 2008

Time of Interview: 14:00–17:30; 11:30–15:00

Location of Interview: [REDACTED]

1. In what occupations/activities do forced labor victims and/or children work?

Presently, garments factories are almost child labor free, although you may find adolescents working in many of them. However, there are some small factories working on a subcontract basis, employing children aged above 14 working as helpers and operators. But may find child workers in Mirpur area working as—

- Engineering and motor workshop apprentices
- Transport/tempo/bus helper
- Hotel boy
- Domestic servant.

2. What good(s) do they produce?

In garments factories, they produce t-shirts, shirts, jeans, etc.

3. Are goods for domestic consumption or export?

We export the goods to foreign countries. Sometimes, we sell them in the local market.

4. Who employs them?

At present, [REDACTED] is working in my factory. He came here with one of his relatives. His home district is [REDACTED]. He lives in [REDACTED], very near to the factory.

5. How do they come to be involved in these occupations/activities?

Most of the garments workers come from poverty-stricken families. Their parents live in the rural areas.

6. If applicable, what type of forced labor is used (e.g., debt bondage, indentured servitude, caste-based slavery, etc.)?

None is forced to work. They all come themselves, of course, being compelled by poverty.

7. How is trafficking in persons related to forced labor and/or child labor in the production of goods, if at all?

Not applicable.

8. Are they paid for their work? If so, how (i.e., cash, in-kind)?

Garments workers are paid wages in cash. They are paid wages at the end of the month. They work 9 hours in a day from 08:00 to 17:00. If they work after 17:00, it is counted as overtime. They are paid extra for doing overtime.

9. What tasks do they perform?

Most of the child laborers work as helpers and operators. They perform the following tasks:

- Wrapping up the products (cloths, jeans, t-shirts, etc.)
- Packaging the products into plastic bags
- Cutting threads
- Marking the clothes if found any fault
- Loading the garments products into the lorries
- Sewing jeans pants, t-shirts, shirts, etc.
- Ironing (if he does not have any work in hand).

10. What physical and psychological risks do they or family members face? (Are other elements of “menace of penalty” present, see above)?

Workers do not face any adverse mental and physical situation. Because, there is no risk in making garments products. We contribute financial support to them if someone faces any accident.

11. Are they able to leave their workplaces at will? If so, are other elements of coercion present (see above)?

They can give up the job at their will. We never deter them and they never face any physical or mental tortures. But we face serious problems, because it is hard to get skilled workers. For this reason, we always try to make them happy.

12. What are the environments in which they work?

The working environment of the factory is moderate, for example—

- The total area of the production room is 1,500 square feet. There is an office space (150 sq. ft.) And a store room (300 sq. ft.) beside the production room.
- There is no noise pollution.
- There is no ventilation, but we ensure enough lighting.
- Toilet and drinking water facilities are available at the workplace.

13. In what regions of the country do they work? Do they work in cities or in rural areas?

Most of the garments factories are established in the urban areas, especially in Dhaka and Chittagong city. Most of the workers have no other sources of income. People from river erosion areas, char (shoals) areas, and flood-affected areas are mainly forced to come to Dhaka for work and most of them join garments factories.

14. (For each good), what is the typical age/gender of individuals producing the good?

Most of the garments workers (80%) are women. No child below 14 is engaged in the garments factories, nowadays.

15. What specific groups of people are more vulnerable to engagement in forced labor and/or child labor in the production of each good (e.g., boys versus girls, urban versus rural, indigenous/ethnic groups, etc)?

Most of the children have no other sources of income and the children from river erosion areas, munga-stricken areas, and flood-affected areas mainly join garments factories.

16. What is the estimated number/percentage of adults and/or children engaged in forced labor and/or child labor in the production of each good?

Approximately 10 to 12 percent of child laborers are engaged in the garments subcontracting sector.

Interview No.- 13

Sector: Fish Processing/Drying

Interviewee's Name: [REDACTED]

Official Position: Dry Fish Trader and owner of dry fish processing unit

Organizational Affiliation: [REDACTED]

Brief description of the organization: The fish processing factory is located at [REDACTED] in Cox's Bazar district.

Date of Interview: March 13, 2008

Time of Interview: 11:00

Location of Interview: [REDACTED], Cox's Bazar district

1. In what occupations/activities do forced labor victims and/or children work?

[REDACTED] (a child laborer whom the researcher interviewed at [REDACTED]) or any other laborer is engaged on a contractual basis for a period of 8 to 9 months. Also, some workers are engaged during peak season on a daily wage basis. No one is actually forced to work. Rather, it is poverty and the absence of alternate job opportunities in the area that compels workers, including children, to seek out any kind of job.

2. What good(s) do they produce?

They are engaged in drying or processing fish.

3. Are goods for domestic consumption or export?

The processed dry fish are mainly for domestic consumption. To some extent, these are exported abroad. But [REDACTED] employer does not directly export the good.

4. Who employs them?

[REDACTED] employer is a labor leader who has an understanding with this factory owner to supply labor on commission basis.

5. How do they come to be involved in these occupations/activities?

[REDACTED] got involved in this work mainly due to family poverty. [REDACTED], a neighbor, asked him whether he was interested to work at dry fish factories to earn some money. Then he and his family agreed and he was given some money in advance to join.

6. If applicable, what type of forced labor is used (e.g., debt bondage, indentured servitude, caste-based slavery, etc.)?

The employer admits that they give some amount of money to the family of the child laborer, and in return he utilizes the child in his work for a period of 9 months. Apart from the main tasks, the child is bound to do other household work.

Researcher's Note: To some extent, it is a case of debt bondage.

7. How is trafficking in persons related to forced labor and/or child labor in the production of goods, if at all?

Not applicable.

8. Are they paid for their work? If so, how (i.e., cash, in-kind)?

Yes, in cash.

9. What tasks do they perform?

They do the tasks of drying, segregating and grading fish, etc. But [REDACTED] performs the task of buying fish and segregating those from the other types of fish.

10. What physical and psychological risks do they or family members face? Are other elements of “menace of penalty” present (see above)?

The employer actually denies any mental or physical risks.

Researcher’s Note/Comment: The situation found is different inside the factory visited. Due to hot weather, the child laborer might fall sick; the strong smell of dry fish can be injurious for a child’s health. Fish bone can penetrate into any part of their bodies.

11. Are they able to leave their workplaces at will? If so, are other elements of coercion present (see above)?

According to the employer, they can leave the job any time, but they have to refund the money, if taken in advance. But realities are different. If a labor wants to leave any employer, they do not usually release them forthwith.

12. What are the environments in which they work?

They work in a hot/humid and foul-smelling environment. But the employer does not find anything wrong with their working condition.

13. In what regions of the country do they work? Do they work in cities or in rural areas?

The southern part of the Chittagong division, particularly in the rural areas of Cox’s Bazar, Moheshkhali, and Banskhali regions.

14. (For each good), what is the typical age/gender of individuals producing the good?

The age of the child workers in this profession ranges in between 10 and 18 years. Boys and girls equally work here.

15. What specific groups of people are more vulnerable to engagement in forced labor and/or child labor in the production of each good (e.g., boys versus girls, urban versus rural, indigenous/ethnic groups etc.)?

Both boys and girls are more vulnerable to engagement in this sector.

16. What is the estimated number/percentage of adults and/or children engaged in forced labor and/or child labor in the production of each good?

Approximately 30 percent of the child laborers are engaged in this sector.

Interview No. 14

Sector: Wooden Furniture, Carpentry

Interviewee's Name: ██████████

Official Position: Owner of furniture factory

Organizational Affiliation: ██████████

Brief description of the organization: A shop for manufacturing furniture, established in ██████, out of wood with the varieties of wooden chair, table, and almirah, where approximately 17 workers are working in a very nice atmosphere.

Date of Interview: March 12, 13, 14, and 15, 2008

Time of Interview: 10:00–14:00; 08:00–13:00; 16:00–21:00; 08:30–14:00

Location of Interview: ████████████████████, Chittagong city.

1. In what occupations/activities do forced labor victims and/or children work?

Working in a furniture workshop.

2. What good(s) do they produce?

Wooden furniture.

3. Are goods for domestic consumption or export?

The wooden furniture made in the workshops—like the one where ██████ works—are used for domestic/office purposes. Its selling and using are only limited around the Chittagong city.

4. Who employs them?

Actually, every worker/child worker comes here through some kind of link. The same thing happened in the case of ██████, who came through his uncle, who is known to ██████ ██████, the owner of the furniture workshop.

5. How do they come to be involved in these occupations/activities?

According to Mr. ██████ ██████, most of the laborers are poor. They need to work for survival. The economic condition of Ibrahim's family is not good. He was compelled to quit his studies and start earning.

6. If applicable, what type of forced labor is used (e.g., debt bondage, indentured servitude, caste-based slavery, etc.)?

He is not forced by the employer to work. He is forced to work for survival, but he is not involved in any debt bondage, indentured servitude, etc.

7. How is trafficking in persons related to forced labor and/or child labor in the production of goods, if at all?

Not applicable.

8. Are they paid for their work? If so, how (i.e., cash, in-kind)?

The worker/child laborer works on daily wage basis. They work from 08:00 to 20:00. Every day they get in average TK 70 (1.02 USD). A skilled carpenter gets TK 165 (2.4 USD). They all get cash.

9. What tasks do they perform?

Child workers in particular perform the tasks of unloading wood; helping to make chairs, tables, alnas, etc.; making wood smooth by rubbing; dyeing the designed furniture; etc. Sometimes, they follow the adult workers how they are performing their tasks in terms of learning.

10. What physical and psychological risks do they or family members face? Are other elements of “menace of penalty” present (see above)?

The employer denies any physical or psychological risks in this sector.

11. Are they able to leave their workplaces at will? If so, are other elements of coercion present (see above)?

Workers can leave the workplace anytime. But prior to leaving, they have to inform the employers a maximum of 7 days beforehand. Nobody is coerced here.

12. What are the environments in which they work?

Employers claimed that the environment in the shop is good. There is sufficient arrangement for lighting, fresh air, toilet/water facilities, etc.

13. In what regions of the country do they work? Do they work in cities or in rural areas?

Workers from different regions come to work. Most of them come from rural areas.

14. (For each good), what is the typical age/gender of individuals producing the good?

Underage apprentices are preferred due to the cheap wage, and they are always obedient.

15. What specific groups of people are more vulnerable to engagement in forced labor and/or child labor in the production of each good (e.g., boys versus girls, urban versus rural, indigenous/ethnic groups, etc.)?

Apart from the garments industry, where most of the workers are female, most of the workers are male in furniture-making workshops.

16. What is the estimated number/percentage of adults and/or children engaged in forced labor and/or child labor in the production of each good?

Approximately 20 to 25 percent of workers engaged in furniture workshops are children.

Interview No. 15

Sector: Steel Rerolling

Interviewee's Name: [REDACTED]

Official Position: Supervisor

Organizational Affiliation: [REDACTED]

Brief description of the organization: Privately owned mills, established before the independence of Bangladesh, located at the [REDACTED] under Chittagong district, which manufactures products are sold in different parts of the country.

Date of Interview: March 9, 2008 and March 10, 2008

Time of Interview: 16:00–20:00; 15:00–19:25

Location of Interview: N [REDACTED]
Chittagong City

1. In what occupations/activities do forced labor victims and/or children work?

There is no child worker in [REDACTED]. Neither is anybody is forced to work here.

2. What good(s) do they produce?

[REDACTED] produces deformed bars, angles, channels, plane bars, etc.

3. Are goods for domestic consumption or export?

The products are mostly used domestically.

4. Who employs them?

It is the mill owner virtually employs any worker. But as a site supervisor, I do some recruiting of workers for loading and unloading raw materials and finished products. [REDACTED] (the child laborer interviewed at this site) is one of such workers who come from the village Boro Hashimpur, P.S Chirir Bandar, Dinazpur district.

5. How do they come to be involved in these occupations/activities?

Mainly the economic reasons compel children to work. For [REDACTED], this is no exception. However, lack of awareness among the guardians is one important reason that children are sent to work at the early stage of their life when they should have been in school.

6. If applicable, what type of forced labor is used (e.g., debt bondage, indentured servitude, caste-based slavery, etc.)?

Workers are not in any way bonded due to debts. No indentured servitude or caste-based slavery exists. But they are compelled to work for their livelihood.

7. How is trafficking in persons related to forced labor and/or child labor in the production of goods, if at all?

There is no question of trafficking at all. They come willingly to work for their livelihood.

8. Are they paid for their work? If so, how (i.e., cash, in-kind)?

Of course, workers are paid in cash. Wages are paid on a daily basis, and for some workers it is monthly. But in some factories, new workers do not get wages until they become skilled at the specific job. During this time, they are paid money only for Tiffin (lunch).

9. What tasks do they perform?

The workers usually are engaged in unloading scraps from trucks, cutting scraps into pieces using a gas cutter, bending the finished rods, and carrying them to storage, etc.

10. What physical and psychological risks do they or family members face? Are other elements of “menace of penalty” present?

The workers face physical pressure. For example, they have to carry heavy loads of scraps while unloading. They have to work in a very hot environment, particularly while working with gas cutting. While cutting big scraps with a gas cutter, it may cause physical injury, burning skin by flames, etc.

11. Are they able to leave their workplaces at will? If so, are other elements of coercion present (see above)?

Yes, anybody can decide for himself whether or not he will work in [REDACTED].

12. What are the environments in which they work?

The working environment in [REDACTED] is good. It has enough space, is well maintained, is adequately lighted, and is ventilated. But yet, the factory area is hot and workers face some difficulties for that reason.

13. In what regions of the country do they work? Do they work in cities or in rural areas?

In Bangladesh, there are many steel rerolling factories in the Chittagong, Khulna, and Narayangonj regions. Though the workers are not forced to work, poverty in their families compels them to work. Most of the steel rerolling factories are located in the town. Due to the location of such factories in the town, the child workers live in slums near the town area.

14. (For each good), what is the typical age/gender of individuals producing the good?

Steel mill workers are almost all male and adults.

15. What specific groups of people are more vulnerable to engagement in forced labor and/or child labor in the production of each good (e.g., boys versus girls, urban versus rural, indigenous/ethnic groups, etc.)?

Members of poverty-ridden families and victims of river erosion and flood are compelled to work. For example, workers from Rangpur, Dinajpur, Gaibandha, etc. are working here.

16. What is the estimated number/percentage of adults and/or children engaged in forced labor and/or child labor in the production of each good?

There is no child or forced labor in steel rerolling mills.

Interview No. 16

Sector: Handloom Weaving

Interviewee's Name: [REDACTED]

Official Position: Proprietor

Organizational Affiliation: [REDACTED]

Brief description of the organization: Established in [REDACTED], owned by [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED], having a total number of 121 handlooms

Date of Interview: March 16, 2008

Time of Interview: 11:45–14:30

Location of Interview: [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], Sirajganj district

Interview Notes:

1. In what occupations/activities do/did child victim(s) work?

Although agriculture is the main livelihood for a majority of the people in this area, job opportunities for members of land-poor families are very limited. Weaving is the second most pursued activity by many families who do not have land to grow enough food. [REDACTED] family is one of them.

2. What good(s) do they produce?

The handloom weavers produce sarees, lungis and gamchhas

3. What tasks do they perform?

The workers are mainly engaged in the following tasks at the handloom industries:

1. Spinning
2. Preparing design forms
3. Supplying bobbins
4. Weaving.

4. Who is their employer?

Proprietors of handloom factories.

5. How did they come to be involved in these occupations/activities?

Most of child workers have one or another family member in the weaving line, and children of those families just follow their seniors' footsteps.

6. Are they paid for their work? If so, how (i.e., cash, in-kind)?

The handloom workers get their payments based on production/productivity. They are paid their wages on Thursday. The workers engaged in spinning get TK 300 to 500 (4.38 to 7.30 USD) depending on skills and speed of work.

7. Do the child workers owe to employers that they pay back by working?

The employer does not lend money or give any advance to the workers like Sultana.

8. If so, how was this debt incurred?

Not applicable.

9. What are their working conditions? Are there dangerous tools, machinery, fumes, or other physical risks?

On the whole, the work environment is not bad. No dangerous machine or tools are involved in handloom weaving activities. But it is noisy when all weavers start weaving. The toilet facility is very poor, particularly for female workers. There are only two toilets for 150 workers.

10. Are the child workers beaten/abused by the employer?

No, workers are never beaten or physically tortured.

11. Are they threatened by the employer if certain job tasks are not performed? What kind of threats?

The activities child worker do are to keep pace with co-weavers they work with. If one fails to supply prepared bobbins in time, the main weaver has to sit idle—meaning loss of wage. So helpers are to be time-bound and under pressure for regular supply and scolded by a coworker in cases of failures.

12. Do employers provide food and shelter? If so, do they have enough to eat?

The employers do not provide food and shelter to such workers.

13. Are they able to leave their workplaces at will?

The laborers can quit the job at their will.

14. How far away is the child's home? How do they get here (to this place of employment)?

Workers of nearby villages come on foot or by any mode of transport available in their localities—mostly by rickshaw vans.

15. How old are they?

In the handloom industries, 95 percent of the workers are above 18 years and the rest (5%) are child workers. In the power loom factories, 80 percent of the workers are adult and 20 percent child workers.

16. What is their education level?

Most of them have not attended school more than Class V.

Interview No. 17

Sector: Soap Making

Interviewee's Name: [REDACTED]

Official Position: Owner

Organizational Affiliation: [REDACTED]

Brief description of the organization: A privately owned soap factory, established 30 years ago, now runs by its current owner where [REDACTED] is the brand name of its product.

Date of Interview: N/A

Time of Interview: 12:00

Location of Interview: [REDACTED], Old Dhaka City

1. In what occupations/activities do forced labor victims and/or children work?

The child workers are engaged mainly for pasting stickers and packaging ready soaps.

2. What good(s) do they produce?

Child workers do not produce any complete product. They just help others.

3. Are goods for domestic consumption or export?

The produced soaps are only for domestic use/consumption.

4. Who employs them?

The factory owners employ them. Sometimes supervisors/main workers employ the child workers on daily basis.

5. How do they come to be involved in these occupations/activities?

They come to be involved with this profession due to poverty. For livelihood, they seek jobs. At the [REDACTED], child workers come to be involved through the other workers working at this factory. These workers are from the same district. Thus, they become involved.

6. If applicable, what type of forced labor is used (e.g., debt bondage, indentured servitude, caste-based slavery, etc.)?

According to him, the workers working at his factory are not forced. There is no element of debt bondage, indentured servitude, caste-based slavery, etc. at this workplace. He has admitted the fact that they have been compelled to work for their own needs.

7. How is trafficking in persons related to forced labor and/or child labor in the production of goods, if at all?

Not applicable.

8. Are they paid for their work? If so, how (i.e., cash, in-kind)?

They are paid on a daily basis. Regarding child workers, they get daily wages based on the proportion of work. In a day, for the production of one pan, they get TK 65 (0.96 USD); or, for the production of one pan or for two pans, they get TK 130 (1.90 USD). But adults get TK 160 (2.35 USD) for two pans.

9. What tasks do they perform?

Child workers perform the task of shaping soaps by hand.

10. What physical and psychological risks do they or family members face? Are other elements of

“menace of penalty” present (see above)?

The employer denied any physical or psychological risks.

11. Are they able to leave their workplaces at will? If so, are other elements of coercion present (see above)?

They can leave the workplace at will. No elements of coercion exist there. They will not get paid until they work. That is why they are compelled to do work.

12. What are the environments in which they work?

They work in a dirty, congested, unhygienic environment.

13. In what regions of the country do they work? Do they work in cities or in rural areas?

In the Dhaka region, most of the soap factories are located in Old Dhaka. The workers are typically from this region. They work in city areas, as most of the factories are in city areas.

14. (For each good), what is the typical age/gender of individuals producing the good?

Most of workers/child workers are males in this sector, and their average age is between 15 and 35 years.

15. What specific groups of people are more vulnerable to engagement in forced labor and/or child labor in the production of each good (e.g., boys versus girls, urban versus rural, indigenous/ethnic groups, etc)?

Male workers from the rural areas of different districts are more vulnerable to engagement to this sector.

16. What is the estimated number/percentage of adults and/or children engaged in forced labor and/or child labor in the production of each good?

In the Dhaka region, approximately 15 percent child labors are engaged in soap factory.

Interview No. 18

Sector: Shoemaking

Interviewee's Name: [REDACTED]

Official Position: Manager

Organizational Affiliation: [REDACTED]

Brief description of the organization: [REDACTED] is a privately owned handmade shoe factory in [REDACTED] where eight workers work in a room that is 12 feet long, 11 feet wide, and 10 feet high. Meanwhile, another similar room has been divided into two levels by a wooden surface, reducing each floor to a height of 5 feet; 10 to 12 workers work in the smaller areas.

Date of Interview: March 28, 2008

Time of Interview: 10:30

Location of Interview: [REDACTED]

1. In what occupations/activities do/did you/the child victim(s) work?

Making shoes.

2. What good(s) do you/they produce?

Handmade shoes made of synthetic and/or natural leather.

3. Are the goods for domestic consumption or export?

Shoes produced in such factories are all used by domestic users.

4. Who employs them?

[REDACTED], the owner of the shoe factory employs the workers. In the case of child apprentices, the senior workers usually bring them from their own locality and keep them for some time as their helpers.

5. How did you/they come to be involved in these occupations/activities?

As described earlier.

6. If applicable, what type of forced labor is used (e.g., debt bondage, indentured servitude, caste-based slavery etc.)?

Nobody is forced to work. Even a child who comes to learn the skill from their seniors can go if he or she wishes. But generally, they do not leave until they are fully skilled to work independently.

7. How is trafficking in persons related to forced labor and/or child labor in the production of goods, if at all?

No such trafficking is known to me. Maybe, some shoe factory owners and senior workers attract the children from distant villages by giving them hope of a better life by working in their factories. They are given the hope of good wages. They are told that they will be taught how to make shoes in 10-11 months. But many children cannot learn so quickly and need to work as apprentices for longer days than promised.

8. Are you/they paid for their work? If so, how? (i.e. cash, in-kind).

The shoe-manufacturing workers are paid, but not the apprentices. However, they are provided with food and boarding.

9. What tasks do you/they perform?

Among 13 of its workers in [REDACTED], 9 are real shoemakers and 4 are apprentices assisting their seniors. Most of these apprentices are child workers helping in cutting, pasting glues, and fixing soles.

10. What physical and psychological risks do they or their family face? Are other elements of “menace of penalty” presents (see above)?

The workers at the shoe factory use sharp tools to cut natural or synthetic leather. Sometimes accidentally they cut fingers. The various kinds of leathers and the chemical glues cause them skin diseases. The working environment is suffocating. In such situations, the shoe factory workers suffer from various physical and mental problems.

11. Are they able to leave their workplaces at will? If so, are other elements of coercion present?

Usually, the workers are not allowed to leave their work when plenty of orders are in hand. Sensing such a situation, the workers try to negotiate with the factory owners for a salary raise. Some of them try to join another factory for better pay. In such situations, the owners of the shoe factory prevent them in every way possible.

12. What are the environments in which they work?

Most of the small shoe factories in Dhaka City are housed in narrow rooms due to higher rates of rentals. So, workers are to work in crowded rooms. Usually, the size of the room they work in is not more than 12 feet long and 11 feet wide. There are fans and electric lamps in many of such rooms. Bathroom facilities are not good in many factories.

13. In what regions of the country do they work? Do they work in cities or in rural areas?

The workers come from any part of the country. While factories are mostly located around the big cities, there are factories in rural areas as well.

14. (For each good), what is the typical age/gender of individuals producing the good?

Most of the shoe factory workers are younger lads. Most of the child workers in such establishments are aged 12 to 16 years.

15. What specific groups of people are more vulnerable to engagement in forced labor and/or child labor in the production of each goods (e.g., boys verses girls, urban verses rural, indigenous/ethnic groups etc.)?

Most of the child workers in these establishments are from poor families in the rural areas. Many of them are the victims of river erosion. Many of them are from the monga-stricken (lean season) northern part of the country.

16. What is the estimated number/percentage of adults and/or children engaged in forced labor and/or child labor in the production of each goods?

About 20 percent of the workers in shoe factories are children. But most of them are above 14 years.

Type II Interview Notes

Bangladesh

Conducted by: [REDACTED] Dhaka

Researcher's Note:

The following information was collected directly from the victims of child/forced labor and adults (such as parents and community members) knowledgeable about child/forced labor in the production of goods, or adults engaged in the production processes of some selected goods. Interviews were conducted using a semistructured questionnaire developed on the basis of guidelines provided by Macro International Inc., and each interview is presented as a representative case of child/forced labor in the respective sector.

Discussions were held with cross-sections of informants (including the coworkers of the sample victims and their close associates) to get an overall impression of the existence and severity of child/forced labor in the respective sectors.

Some of the questions did not seem relevant for some of the interviewees and, therefore, were not asked.

Interview No. 01

Sector: Shrimp Farming

Interviewee's Name: [REDACTED], shrimp farm laborer

Location of Interview: [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], Tala Thana, Satkhira District

Date of Interview: March 11, 2008

Time of Interview: 10:00 to 13:00 hrs

Interview Notes:

About 40KM westwards from Khulna City, Tala is a well known shrimp farm area. There are many big shrimp farms (locally called *Ghers*) in the area, ranging from 100 to 2,500 *bighas* (approximately 40 to 1,000 acres). We visited and spoke with several farm owners and workers to gain a general understanding of the shrimp farming activities, labor recruitment, and working practices. [REDACTED] was selected for an in-depth interview. [REDACTED], aged about [REDACTED] has been working in a *gher* of 235 *bighas* (approximately 80 acres), where his father also worked before him. He replaced his father, who is presently unable to work due to old age. The replacement of father by son was obligatory because [REDACTED] father owed a sum of TK 20,000 (290 USD) to the owner of the *gher*. The loan was to pay a dowry at the time of marriage of [REDACTED]'s youngest sister. [REDACTED]'s father could repay only TK 7,000 (102 USD) before his retirement and it was agreed that an amount of TK 500 (7 USD) would be deducted from [REDACTED]'s monthly salary. But [REDACTED] cannot support his [REDACTED]-member family; even with the total amount he earns (TK 2,300, or 34 USD) a month. He has to appeal every month to defer the payment due. He still owes about TK 10,000 (146 USD), and is obligated to work for the *gher* owner until the whole amount is repaid.

[REDACTED] and his five coworkers live in small huts built at strategic points within the *gher* area, and all of them are on 24-hour duty. They are not allowed any leave during their contract period. The specific activities [REDACTED] and his coworker have to perform include the following:

- Routine inspection and maintenance of *gher* boundaries
- Operation of salt water regulator
- Spreading of feed throughout the *gher* area
- Guarding the *gher* area from intruders and thieves
- Supporting fishing and collection of harvested shrimps
- Grading, weighing, icing, and carrying of baskets to depots

For [REDACTED], neither the activities nor the work load is considered to be heavy. He is not unhappy to serve an owner like [REDACTED], who stands by his family in times of distress.

Interview No. 02

Sector: Shrimp Processing

Interviewee's Name: ██████████, Shrimp-Processing Factory Worker

Location of Interview: ██████████, ██████████, Rupsha Thana, Khulna District

Date of Interview: March 14, 2008

Interview Notes:

██████████, aged approximately ██████████, has been living in the ██████████ area since her early childhood. Her father, originally from ██████████, arrived there about 20 years ago in search of job, and was hired as a gatekeeper at a shrimp processing factory (██████████). ██████████ herself started to work in 1992 as a temporary laborer in a shrimp processing factory (██████████), at a monthly wage of TK 700 (10 USD). Her primary job was to carry fish trays to the sorting and packaging desk. At times, she had to assist her older coworkers in icing and organizing fish blocks. She continued working there until a few months after her marriage with one ██████████; a fish-carrying trawler driver before marriage, and then a gate keeper of a shrimp processing factory near the work place of ██████████. Immediately after their marriage, ██████████ became pregnant; but it was peak processing season and she was forced to work day and night without any break. At one point, she was compelled to work 48 hours at a stretch. Her husband objected to it and complained loudly, crying at ██████████ factory gate and demanding her back. The result was dismissal of ██████████ from her job. Soon after, however, she managed to enlist herself with another factory, where the work environment was relatively better. But when her pregnancy reached an advanced stage, a problem arose there also. It was off-season, yet she was not allowed any leave. So, she had to leave her job and could not work for about two years after the birth of her first child. After those two years, however, she was taken back by her factory. ██████████ had her second child in 1998, and during this pregnancy she was also not granted any leave. She was absent from work for about two months, but was not allowed to return to her position when she tried on the grounds of prolonged absence. She then tried with another factory, and was appointed as a gate checker at a monthly salary of TK 1,300 (19 USD). When ██████████ began working after the birth of her second child, one of her younger brothers took care of her children at her slum residence. The caretaker would carry her second child everyday to the factory gate, and ██████████ would take the child for breast feeding during her lunch/leisure time.

██████████ is now recognized as an efficient shrimp grader. She is given the highest wage rate, TK 2,300 (34 USD) a month. She continues to work a 12-hour shift each day, with a lunch break of half an hour. The workday is divided into two shifts from 8:00–20:00 and from 20:00–8:00. ██████████, like all her coworkers, has to work day and night shifts on an alternating weekly basis. Nowadays, the job she has to perform is not as stressful for her; except for an emotional feeling that she is away from her child. Add to this, consistent exposure to cold temperatures and watery floors is the reason for their frequent colds and fever. But ██████████ feels lucky that her mother currently is there to take care of her child during her absence.

As she has been working for about 10 years in the same factory, ██████████ enjoys some privileges that new workers are not given. She receives two *Eid* bonuses—equivalent to 100 percent of her salary, as well as warm clothes and company uniforms on an annual basis. She was also recently given a loan of TK 6,000 (88 USD), to repair her dwelling, a house at her husband's village home in ██████████ district.

Now that the cost of living has increased so much that it has become difficult for them to maintain their four-member family with what she and her husband earn, they have decided to quit their job and her husband has already gone back to his village home. For the meantime, he has started a tea stall there. Their children have also been shifted to a school in her husband's village.

██████████ is now living alone in a makeshift slum at a rent of TK 400 (6 USD) a month, and counting the days until she can join her family in Narail. But she cannot leave right now because the loan she took from the factory owner has still not been fully repaid. Every month, TK 1,000 is deducted from her salary; repayment is expected to be completed in April 2008. ██████████ will then be free to join her family. ██████████ has a plan to buy a sewing machine and start working in tailoring at their village home. As part of her service benefits, she is expecting some money from her employer at the time of her departure. If denied, she might request the help of ██████████ and ██████████ in order to lodge complaints with the labor court in realizing her rights and demands. Having seen favorable court verdicts in similar cases supported by ██████████, ██████████ is confident of winning.

Interview No. 03

Sector: Deep sea fishing

Interviewee's Name: [REDACTED] Deep Sea Fisherman

Location of Interview: [REDACTED], Patharghata Upazilla, Barguna District.

Date of Interview: March 18, 2008

Time of Interview: 08:00 to 11:00 hrs

Interview Notes:

1. In what occupations/activities does the victim(s) work?

Deep sea fishing

2. What good(s) do you/they produce?

Fish

3. What tasks do you/they perform?

- Casting and pulling fishing nets
- Fish collection/preservation
- Net repairing and drying

4. Who is your/their employer?

Name: [REDACTED] (Fish Trader and owner of two fishing trawlers)

Address: [REDACTED]

5. How did you get involved in these occupations/activities?

Fishing is a paternal occupation. [REDACTED] father, [REDACTED], and his forefathers were all fisherman.

6. Are you paid for the work? If so, how? (i.e., cash, in-kind)

Yes, we receive a share of net sale proceeds of fishes caught during a season. As per the agreement with the trawler owner, all operational expenses (e.g., food, fuel, ice) are deducted from total sale proceeds, and then 60 percent of the net proceeds go to the trawler and net owner. The rest—40 percent—is equally divided among the members of the fishing team, giving one extra share to the lead fisherman.

7. Do you owe debt to your employer that you work to pay back?

Yes, I took this year an amount of TK 8,500 (124 USD) in advance for family expenses during my absence. An amount of about TK 5000 (73 USD) has already been adjusted from my share of sale proceeds. Maybe, it would be possible to pay back a part of the rest of the TK 3,500 (51 USD) by the time we are withdrawn from the sea. Then, the final account will show how much I can carry home after adjustment of the advance in full.

8. If so, how was this debt incurred?

Fishing is our only livelihood. But we cannot fish in the deep seas throughout the year. Nor do we know of any other work to do. So, we are to borrow from *Mohajan* to sustain us during the off-season. The situation becomes more compelling when we encounter any natural or health hazard. This year, I had to take a bigger sum of loan from [REDACTED] after *Sidr*.

9. What are your working conditions? Are there dangerous tools, machinery, fumes, or other physical risks?

You cannot imagine how risky it is to be in a boat roaming in deep sea. First, our living space is too small. We cannot sleep together. Second, the noises of the roaring sea and the trawler engine compel us to speak loudly when any communication with coworkers is needed. The risks of robbery, cyclone, sinking of boats, non-functioning of trawler engine, and getting lost in the deep seas are always there.

10. Are you beaten/abused by the employer?

No, usually not.

11. Are you threatened by the employer if certain job tasks are not performed? What kind of threats?

We work in a team by ourselves. The [REDACTED] is not there with us in the sea. Whatever we do, we do under the command of our leader. If anything too bad happens, our leader scolds us for correction, and that is surely not in any way insulting.

12. Does your employer provide food and shelter? If so, do you have enough to eat?

Yes, food and other necessities are supplied by [REDACTED]. But the costs thereof are billed and finally adjusted from our shares.

13. Are you able to leave your workplaces at will?

No, not at all during the time we are at sea. The decision to join a team is absolutely upon the person concerned. But once you're in the team, there is no scope for any personal decision. This doubly true when one takes advances, either from [REDACTED] or the fisherman leader. Such a borrower is under conventional obligation to work in the boat until the debt is fully recovered.

14. How far away is your home? How did you get here (to this place of employment)?

My village home is in the district of [REDACTED], which is about 60Km from [REDACTED]. We usually board on the trawler at [REDACTED] and come by bus. Once we are set for sea, we all live in the boat all throughout the fishing season.

15. How old are you?

Thirty five (35) years old.

16. What is your education level?

Read up to the fifth grade level.

17. (Whether the person is male/female)

Male.

Interview No. 04

Sector: Deep Sea Fishing

Interviewee's Name: ██████████, Deep Sea Fisherman

Location of Interview: ██████████ ██████████ ██████████, ██████████ ██████████ ██████████, Chittagong District

Date of Interview: March 10 and 13, 2008

Time of Interview: 10:30 to 14:00 hrs and 10:00 to 15:00 hrs

Family Description: ██████████ is 17 years old. He can only write his name. His father, ██████████ ██████████, is 57 years old. He was also a deep-sea fisherman. ██████████ mother is ██████████. She is a housewife and 45 years old. ██████████ has two sisters, ██████████ who is 22 and ██████████, 14 years old. He also has one brother named ██████████, who is 9 years old. ██████████ ██████████ is married and ██████████ is studying in 7th grade. ██████████ does not go to school, and works instead in a tea stall.

Interview Notes:

1. In what occupations/activities do/did you/the child victim(s) work?

██████████ ██████████ is engaged in deep sea fishing in a group.

2. What good(s) do you/they produce?

He catches fishes like hilsa, loitty, rup chanda and lotkon, among others.

3. What tasks do you/they perform?

██████████ performs the tasks as follows:

- Casting and pulling of nets
- Collection of fishes caught in the nets
- Cooking for the group
- Transporting the caught fishes to the shore by a small boat.

4. Who is your/their employer?

██████████ ██████████, a fish wholesaler from ██████████.

5. How did you/they come to be involved in these occupations/activities?

██████████ father was a deep-sea fisherman. At present, his father is very old and unable to work anymore. Moreover, a disastrous cyclone has swept away all their belongings—his father's boat and fishing net as well. After that, his father, ██████████ ██████████, had to take loans from ██████████ ██████████ and got trapped into the *Dadan* (debt bondage). Then, in 2000, ██████████ and his father took a TK 15,000 (219 USD) loan from ██████████ to meet the wedding expenses of his sister, ██████████. Due to extreme poverty and overburdening loans, ██████████ father was forced to send him as his replacement in the group working for ██████████ ██████████.

6. Are you/they paid for their work? If so, how? (i.e., cash, in-kind)

██████████ is paid in cash according to the quantity of fish he catches. However, his employer cuts off 50 to 70 percent of his pay to adjust for the advance he was given, or cuts a portion of his pay as a repayment of the loans that he has lent to him. ██████████ usually earns TK 120 to 150 (1.75 to 2.19 USD) a day, but his employer cuts off the major part of it and he receives not more than TK 40 to 50 (0.58 to 0.73 USD) each day.

7. Do you/the child owe a debt to your employer that you work to pay back?

■■■■ has to take loans from his employer, ■■■■, to meet his family's expenses, which are adjusted from his salary on an installment basis.

8. If so, how was this debt incurred?

Since there is none except himself to earn for his family, he is compelled to borrow from his employer to meet the expenses of any crisis. No matter how frantically ■■■■ tries to repay his debt, he is never able to repay the loan in full. So, he has to continue fishing for ■■■■ year after year, even at the lower pay compared to other fishermen.

9. What are your/their working conditions? Are there dangerous tools, machinery, fumes, or other physical risks?

Deep-sea fishermen are exposed to the worst risks; rough and wild sea roars, storms and swells, being robbed off by pirates, and seclusion from their family.

■■■■ works in a group consisting of five to six members. They must go 30 to 35km deep into the sea, using a 15x5-feet engine boat very light and small as a deep sea transport. The boat that ■■■■ group uses does not have any shade. Therefore, working in monsoon rains and under the direct hot sun during summers is very hard.

■■■■ has to hold the oars, which is very hard work for a teenage boy. In addition, he often cuts his hands while pulling the fishing nets. Very often, he gets hurt while starting the boat engine with a handle.

Furthermore, ■■■■ and other members of the group have to be at the sea for 4 to 5 days at a stretch. They eat and sleep on the boat. It is a very uncomfortable situation to live in for several days. Due to working with the salty water of the sea, their hands and legs become white; like those of a dead person.

The most dangerous situation is when there is a sudden storm in the deep sea. During such storm, there are no ways to escape it and come back to the shore. The boat can sink at any time. There is no telecommunication system in such boats that ■■■■ group uses. Therefore, they cannot take any precautions before a storm.

It is very common for pirates to attack such fishermen groups. When this occurs, they must give all they have caught to the pirates; moreover, fishermen are often brutally beaten and injured by them. Instances of being killed by pirates are not uncommon.

10. Are you/the child beaten/abused by the employer?

In the peak season of fishing, the work pressure is high. During these seasons, workers like ■■■■ have to work beyond their normal ability. Whenever they cannot perform well, their employers mistreat them; beating and scolding them quite frequently.

11. Are you/they threatened by the employer if certain job tasks are not performed? What kinds of threats?

Fishermen are expected to sell all of their fishes [their catch] to their employers; if they do not, very often the employers' people threaten them and press them hard to repay the loans they have taken from the wholesalers/trawler owners.

12. Does your employer provide food and shelter? If so, do you/they have enough to eat?

The fish wholesalers provide the fishermen with boats and food. But the costs of food supplied are subsequently adjusted and subtracted from fish sale proceeds.

13. Are you/they able to leave your/their workplaces at will?

The fishermen are not held captive or imprisoned by their employers. However, they are always in debt bondage. Fishermen have to take advances or loans from their employers to meet their family's expenses; loans which they can never totally repay. Thus, they get trapped in a debt bondage to their employers. This scenario is the same for [REDACTED] and his family.

14. How far away is your/the child's home? How did you/they get here (to this place of employment)?

[REDACTED] lives within a half kilometer to the seashore. The other fishermen also live nearby.

15. How old are you/they?

[REDACTED] is about 17 years old.

16. What is your/their educational level?

[REDACTED] never went to school. He can only write his name.

Interview No. 05

Sector: Steel Furniture Making

Interviewee's Name: [REDACTED], Painting helper

Organizational Affiliation: A steel furniture-making factory

Brief description of the organization: Contract supplier of steel-made items

Date of Interview: March 15, 2008

Time of Interview: 09:30 to 12:30 hrs

Location of Interview: [REDACTED]

Interview Notes:

1. In what occupations/activities the victim(s) work?

Painting

2. What good(s) do you/they produce?

Chemical spray painting of steel furniture.

3. What tasks do you/they perform?

- Rubbing/cleaning
- Mixing and pasting of pudding
- Mixing of color and chemical agents
- Spraying of paints

4. Who is your/their employer?

Name: [REDACTED], Factory owner and contract supplier of steel-made items

Address [REDACTED]

5. How did you get involved in these occupations/activities?

[REDACTED] father got married to a second woman and fled away from Khulna, abandoning his first wife, [REDACTED] mother. [REDACTED] and his [REDACTED] are now living with his [REDACTED]; sharing a small room in a slum [REDACTED]. His [REDACTED] is a domestic aid, barely surviving with her meager income and absolutely unable to feed them. So it is that poverty pushed him into the job.

6. Are you paid for the work? If so, how? (i.e., cash, in-kind)

Yes, he is paid TK 1,200 (17.50 USD) per month.

7. Do you owe debt to your employer that you work to pay back?

Yes, his mother took an amount of TK 4,000 (58 USD) in advance on the condition that the advance be recovered at the rate of TK 400 (6 USD) per month from [REDACTED] salary. He is, therefore, at the moment receiving TK 800 (12 USD) per month.

8. If so, how was this debt incurred?

When [REDACTED] father disappeared all of a sudden, his mother fervently searched for him for about three months, incurring a good amount of traveling costs. She borrowed some cash from one neighbor and continued to buy food from a grocer on credit. But soon, the grocer denied to give her any more on credit and pressed her hard to pay all her dues. Finding no alternative, [REDACTED] mother appealed to the workshop owner to take her son to work for him and requested for TK 5,000 in advance. She was given TK 4,000 (58 USD), under the condition mentioned

above.

9. What are your working conditions? Are there dangerous tools, machinery, fumes, or other physical risks?

The work place environment is not so good. Exposures to toxic chemicals, gases, color dusts, irritating sounds, and pungent smells, are very prevalent. Handling of steel/tin plates and hammers, among other tools, involves the risk of physical injury, and inhalation of the sprayed colors are a direct health hazard that he is constantly subjected to.

10. Are you beaten/abused by the employer?

No, the owner of the workshop is a kind-hearted man. He does not usually misbehave with [REDACTED].

11. Are you threatened by the employer if certain job tasks are not performed? What kind of threats?

As [REDACTED] has no experience, he is physically unable to perform some activities and prone to mistakes, due to being a child and the childish attention he sometimes devotes to the job. His employer scolds him for major mistakes or negligence, and at times reminds him of the advance money taken by his mother.

12. Does your employer provide food and shelter? If so, do you have enough to eat?

No, [REDACTED] takes food with his mother. At times, his employer gives him a tip, to buy some light snacks in the evening when the work load is heavy and they must work extra time after nightfall.

13. Are you able to leave your workplaces at will?

No, [REDACTED] cannot even think of leaving his master until the advance is fully repaid.

14. How far away is your home? How did you get here (to this place of employment)?

The slum in which [REDACTED] lives with his [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] is [REDACTED] to his work place.

15. How old are you/they?

About 10 years old.

16. What is your/their education level?

[REDACTED] can only sign his name.

17. (Whether the person is male/female)

Male.

Interview No. 06

Sector: Brick-Kiln Production

Interviewee's Name: [REDACTED], Child Laborer

Organizational Affiliation: [REDACTED]

Date of Interview: March 15, 2008

Time of Interview: 11:00 to 13:30 hrs

Location of Interview: [REDACTED], Khulna District

Interview Notes:

[REDACTED], aged approximately 14, is the only son of a female worker of the [REDACTED], [REDACTED]. His employer's name is [REDACTED]. He is from Village [REDACTED] Khulna District. [REDACTED] has never been to school, in part because there is no school around his home—a makeshift house near the brick kiln, where his mother and maternal grandmother live together. His father abandoned the family and got married to another woman.

[REDACTED] started assisting his mother 2 years ago when he was 12 years old. He assists his mother with cutting clay paste into small sizes for a standard brick and carries those small clay balls to his mother and grandmother, who form the balls into brick sizes. Then he carries the raw bricks and puts them in fashioned rows for sun drying. These activities are not too demanding, but he does get tired when trying to keep up with the pace set by his mother and grandmother.

[REDACTED] works 7 to 8 hours a day in three shifts. The first shift starts at 7:00 and continues to 9:00. Then they take breakfast and rest until 10:00. The second shift ranges from 10:00 to 12:30. The post-lunch shift begins at 15:00 and continues to 17:30 and, at times, to 18:00.

[REDACTED] works primarily because he and his family need the money. His employer provides his family with a free, shabby makeshift house, though they pay advances to sustain the house during the offseason. [REDACTED] and his mother took an advance of TK 4,000 (58 USD) this year. To repay this advance, their weekly wages are lowered to the rate of TK 25 (0.36 USD) per thousand bricks produced by his mother and grandmother.

Interview No. 07

Sector: Chumki Work (Needle Embroidery)

Interviewee's Name: ██████████, Child Worker

Date of Interview: March 21, 2008

Time of Interview: 09:00 to 11:00 hrs

Location of Interview: ██████████, Dhaka City

Interview Notes:

1. In what occupations/activities do the victim(s) work?

██████ has been doing *chumki* work (needle embroidery) for 4 years.

2. What good(s) do you/they produce?

Embroidered Saris, Panjabis, Shsalwar, kamiz, etc.

3. What tasks do you/they perform?

Needle work.

4. Who is your/their employer?

Name: ██████████ chumki work contractor

Address: ██████████, Dhaka

5. How did you get involved in these occupations/activities?

██████ is the eldest of five children of a Bihari man, named ██████████ living in a small room in the ██████████. His father, ██████████, is Night Guard of a private enterprise in the same locality. The ██████████ income is inadequate for a family of seven, so ██████████ has to work. Because Biharis normally don't go outside the Bihari community for work, ██████████ entered a chumki house as an apprentice 4 years ago. The chumki house is near their home.

6. Are you paid for the work? If so, how? (i.e., cash, in-kind)

Yes, he presently earns TK 700 (10 USD) to TK 1000 (14.50 USD) per week. During his apprenticeship (one year), ██████████ was not paid.

7. Do you owe debt to your employer that you work to pay back?

No.

8. If so, how was this debt incurred?

Not applicable.

9. What are your working conditions? Are there dangerous tools, machinery, fumes, or other physical risks?

Needle work is simple but monotonous. The overall work environment is not good. He has to work together with many other coworkers in a narrow room (12x15 feet) that is poorly ventilated. He works all day long sitting on the floor and has been suffering from waist pain for the last year.

10. Are you beaten/abused by the employer?

No.

11. Are you threatened by the employer if certain job tasks are not performed? What kind of threats?

If deadlines are not met or the work is subpar or deviates from the design, the employer cuts down the contract rate. Sometimes the contract is withdrawn or the employer threatens that no additional contracts will be offered.

12. Does your employer provide food and shelter? If so, do you have enough to eat?

No.

13. Are you able to leave your workplaces at will?

Yes, but only after full delivery of the assignment under any given contract.

14. How far away is your home? How did you get here (to this place of employment)?

It is a quarter kilometer away from his work place.

15. How old are you?

About 14 years.

16. What is your education level?

Reads up to 5th grade level.

17. (Whether the person is male/female)

Male.

Interview No. 08

Sector: Chumki Work (Needle Embroidery)

Interviewee's Name: [REDACTED]

Official Position: Chumki work contractor and owner of *chumki* work factory

Organizational Affiliation: [REDACTED]

Brief description of the organization: It is a privately owned trading house which does *chumki* work on Saris, Panjabis, Shsalwar, kamiz, lehenga, scruffs, etc.

Date of Interview: March 21, 2008

Time of Interview: 11:00 to 12:30 hrs

Location of Interview: [REDACTED]

Interview Notes:

1. Where do Chumki workers generally come from?

Mostly from Mirpur and Mohammad Bihari colonies.

2. Are there child workers among them?

Yes, over 20 percent of total workers are under age 14.

3. What do they do?

They do *chumki* work on Saris, Panjabis, Shsalwar, kamiz, lehenga, scruffs, etc.

4. Who employs them?

The majority of the child workers accompany a family member working on a per-piece contract basis. During *Eid* time or when any big order is obtained by any contractor/trader, some workers are employed on a weekly basis by contractors/traders who operate *chumki* houses in the area.

5. How do/did they get involved in these occupations/activities?

Mostly they follow the footsteps of any elder family member. Some come with fellow workers from their neighborhoods. Though not a significant number, some come from outside districts like Rangpur, Comilla, Shariatpur, and Faridpur.

6. Are they paid for the work? If so, how? (i.e., cash, in-kind)

Yes, they receive payments based on their work volume and designs. Efficient and skillful workers earn TK 1,000 (14.60 USD) to TK 1,500 (21.90 USD) per week. There are apprentices who are not paid until their work reaches a standard level. Some workers need 2 or 3 years to learn the skill.

7. Are the Chumki workers given any advance money by their employer that they need to pay back by working for them?

Generally not, but when a worker is well-known to a contractor/trader and any special circumstances arise compelling the worker to seek some money in advance, employers are not all deaf to such requests. But the general rule is payment after delivery of completed tasks.

8. If so, how was this debt incurred?

If any advance is given, adjustment of the amount is mutually decided by the giver and taker.

9. What dangers do Chumki workers face in their work places? Are there dangerous tools, machinery, fumes, or other physical risks?

No, there is no big physical hardship involved in this activity. But long hours of work sitting on

the floors may cause physical pain and/or deformity in the long run. Since the work place is crowded in most of the enterprises, workers are susceptible to skin or any other contiguous diseases.

10. Are you aware of beating/abuse of workers by the employer?

No.

11. Do employers provide food and shelter to workers?

No. Workers all live on their own.

13. Can workers leave any employer at their will?

Yes, if there is no other obligation, and nothing left over from any given contract.

14. How far do the workers come from and how do they get here (to this place of employment)?

The majority live in the nearby slums, and just come on foot. Workers from the Mohammadpur area come by bus and then travel on foot from the nearby bus stop

15. How old are the majority workers?

In the age range of 15 to 35 years

16. What is your education level?

I read up to 8th grade level.

17. (Whether the person is male/female)

Male.

Interview No. 09

Sector: Chumki Work (Needle Embroidery)

Interviewee's Name: [REDACTED]

Official Position: [REDACTED] weaving factory owner

Organizational Affiliation: N/A

Brief description of the organization: N/A

Date of Interview: March 25, 2008

Time of Interview: 05:00 to 06:30 hrs

Location of Interview: [REDACTED]

Interview Notes:

1. Where do the Chumki workers generally come from?

About 80 percent of workers live in this area, 5 to 6 percent come from Mohammad Bihari colonies and the rest from different parts of the country.

2. Are there child/forced laborers in this occupation?

There are child workers; maybe 20 to 25 percent of workers are age 14 or below. There is no forced labor, as such.

3. What do they do?

They do *chumki* work on Saris, Panjabis, Shsalwar, kamiz, lehenga, scruffs, etc.

4. Who employs them?

A significant number of workers do this work on a lot contract basis. Rates of work depend on the design and intensity of needed needle-work and skills. But there are instances in which workers are employed on fixed wage basis.

5. How do/did they get involved in these occupations/activities?

Mostly, they follow in the footsteps of any elder family member. Some come with fellow workers from their neighborhoods.

6. Are they paid for the work? If so, how? (i.e., cash, in-kind)

Yes, workers are paid in cash immediately after delivery of their contract work.

7. Are the Chumki workers given any advance money by their employer that they need to pay back by working for them?

No.

8. What dangers do Chumki workers face in their work places? Are there dangerous tools, machinery, fumes, or other physical risks?

There is no such danger.

10. Are you aware of beating/abuse of workers by the employer?

No.

11. Do employers provide food and shelter to workers?

No. Food and shelter must be gotten on their own.

13. Can workers leave any employer at their will?

Yes, if there is nothing left over for any given contract.

14. How far do the workers come from and how do they get here (to this place of employment)?

The majority come on foot. Workers from distant areas like Mohammadpur come by bus.

15. How old are the majority of workers?

Mostly, they are adult workers.

Interview No. 10

Sector: Salt Production

Interviewee's Name: ██████████, Child Laborer

Organizational Affiliation: ██████████

Brief description of the organization: It is a salt refinery and manufacturing industry called ██████████, owned by ██████████.

Date of Interview: March 12, 2008

Time of Interview: 11:30 hrs

Location of Interview: ██████████.

Family Description: ██████████ (██████) is the sixth of ten children; his parents have four sons and six daughters. ██████████ father cannot work due to his old age. His eldest brother works in Saudi Arabia and is the main income earner in the family; however, he is also not in a good position to send enough money. So, the overall condition of ██████████ family is not good. They are living under extreme poverty and for that reason ██████████ was forced to leave school for work.

██████████ gets TK 80 (1.67 USD) per day, which he gives to his mother. His mother returns him TK 20 (0.29 USD) every day for his lunch and *tiffin* (or snack). Below, the details of the interview with ██████████ are presented.

Interview Notes:

1. In what occupations/activities do/did you/the child victim(s) work?

As a child laborer, ██████████ is engaged in a salt refinery and manufacturing plant as a worker on daily wage basis.

2. What good(s) do you/they produce?

The child labor is involved in the production of salt.

3. What tasks do you/they perform?

██████████ carries buckets of crude salt to the factory.

4. Who is your/their employer?

The employer is ██████████, a salt-carrying contractor.

5. How did you/they come to be involved in these occupations/activities?

Poverty being the main push factor, it was ██████████ mother who asked him to give up schooling after his completion of primary level schooling, and to look for a job. Mr. ██████████ induced ██████████ to work on his team. Finding no other better job, ██████████ responded positively to ██████████ proposal.

6. Are you/they paid for their work? If so, how? (i.e., cash, in-kind)

██████████ is paid TK 80 (1.67 USD) in cash per day.

7. Do you owe a debt to the employer that you work to pay back?

No.

8. If so, how was this debt incurred?

Not Applicable.

9. What are your/their working conditions? Are there dangerous tools, machinery, fumes, or other physical risks?

The conditions under which [REDACTED] works are not hygienic. The floors of the factory always remain wet, so there is always a possibility of an electrical short-circuit due to the wet conditions. He is to work in a noisy environment, as there is always the sound of big machines. The noise in the factory may affect the ears and hearing of the child laborer in the future. There are no dangerous machines, or tools, or fumes, but the child may become affected by diseases like skin disease, or infections of the palms or feet due to their immersion in salt water.

10. Are you/beaten/abused by the employer?

Yes. [REDACTED] is abused by the employer. His employer is unkind and scolds them all, very often for trivial faults or any negligence of duty.

11. Are you/they threatened by the employer if certain job tasks are not performed? What kinds of threats?

The employer threatens to not pay for any job if they are not working speedily enough or are reluctant to do the work.

12. Does your employer provide food and shelter? If so, do you/they have enough to eat?

No. The employer does not provide any food or shelter to any laborer. [REDACTED] has to arrange for his own food and shelter.

13. Are you/they able to leave your/their workplaces at will?

The child workers can leave their jobs at their own will, but there is a kind of pressure from their employer that sometimes forces them not to quit. If they want to leave, they have to perform or finish their assigned tasks. If they want to leave their job in the middle of the work, then they receive half of their salary. Often due to a lack of electric supply, if the daily production target is not fulfilled, then the child laborers have to accomplish the unfinished tasks the next day. Unless they fall sick, they are not entitled to leave the job.

14. How far away is your/the child's home? How did you/they get here (to this place of employment)?

[REDACTED] home is only [REDACTED] yards away from the factory. He comes to the factory on foot every day.

15. How old are you?

[REDACTED] is 13 years old.

16. What is your education level?

[REDACTED] has passed the sixth grade.

17. (Whether the person is male/female)

The respondent is a boy.

Interview No. 11

Sector: Ready Made Garments–RMG (sub-contract level)

Interviewee's Name: [REDACTED], Child Laborer

Organizational Affiliation: [REDACTED] Ltd.

Brief description of the organization: [REDACTED] is a reputable, privately owned garments factory engaged in the export of ready-made garments (t-shirts, shirts, jeans, pants, etc.).

Date of Interview: March 25, 2008

Time of Interview: 18:00 to 20:30 hrs

Location of Interview: [REDACTED]

Family Description: [REDACTED] family consists of his father, mother, four brothers and two sisters. His father is engaged in carpentry in Dhaka and his mother is a housewife. All of his brothers are presently working in garments factories. The elder sister can read up to fifth grade, and a younger sister is now studying in first grade.

[REDACTED] s family profile							
SL	Name	Relation	Age	Sex	Education	Present activity	
1	Mr. [REDACTED]	Father	58	Male	Literate	Carpenter	
2	Ms. [REDACTED]	Mother	43	Female	Literate	Housewife	
3	Mr. [REDACTED]	Brother	25	Male	3rd Grade	Operator, Garments	
4	Ms. [REDACTED]	Sister	22	Female	5th Grade	Housewife	
5	Mr. [REDACTED]	Brother	20	Male	5th Grade	Operator, Garments	
6	Mr. [REDACTED]	Self	15	Male	Literate	Operator, Garments	
7	Ms. [REDACTED]	Sister	9	Female	2nd grade	Student	
8	Mr. [REDACTED]	Brother	6	Male	1st Grade	Student	

Interview Notes:

1. In what occupations/activities do/did you/the child victim(s) work?

[REDACTED] is working in [REDACTED] as an operator. At first, he was engaged as a helper in April 2007. After working for 7 months, he received a promotion from helper to operator.

2. What good(s) do you/they produce?

[REDACTED] is a sewing machine operator, sewing t-shirts, shirts, jeans, pants, etc.

3. What tasks do you/they perform?

As an operator, [REDACTED] is engaged in the following tasks:

- sewing pants, t-shirts, etc.
- ironing (if he does not have any work in hand)
- folding the ready-made shirts, pants, t-shirts, etc.
- loading the filled cartons into the lorries (5 ton trucks).

4. Who is your/their employer?

The owner of the company is [REDACTED], Managing Director of [REDACTED]

5. How did you/they come to be involved in these occupations/activities?

[REDACTED] came to Dhaka with his father. First, he was engaged in a garage as a helper. After 15 to

16 days, he left the job and went to the [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] with one of his relatives. Since then, he has been working there.

6. Are you/they paid for their work? If so, how? (i.e., cash, in-kind)

[REDACTED] starting salary was TK 1,400 (20 USD). At present, he is working as an operator. He is receiving TK 2,000 (29 USD) per month. Additionally, he earns TK 10 (0.14 USD) for working overtime.

Generally, in the garment industries, the salary structure of a helper is limited to TK 1,000 to 1,500 (14.60 to 21.90 USD) per month. The salary of an operator starts at TK 1,600 (23.35 USD) and can go up to TK 3,000 (43.80 USD).

7. Do you/the child owe a debt to your employer that you work to pay back?

No. [REDACTED] does not owe any debts to the employer. If he needs money, he takes it from his father.

8. If so, how was this debt incurred?

Not applicable.

9. What are your/their working conditions? Are there dangerous tools, machinery, fumes, or other physical risks?

The environment of the workplace is moderate. Fifty-eight (58) workers work in a 1,500-square-foot room. The room has adequate lighting, and there are 27 sewing machines and four vapor irons. However, there is no ventilation. It has 4 to 5 fans to blow out the hot air. The workers feel too much warmth during the hot season. The child laborer does not need to use any dangerous machinery, although a sewing machine is harmful for the child if he does not use it carefully. Iron machines can also be very harmful for him. Toilet facilities are available. There is only one tube-well as a source of water.

10. Are you/the child beaten/abused by the employer?

No.

11. Are you/they threatened by the employer if certain job tasks are not performed? What kind of threats?

The child laborer faces many obstacles, for example:

- The management authority rebukes him if he does not accomplish his job properly, but he is not subject to any physical torture.
- He is often rebuked by the Production Manager (PM).
- Sometimes, he receives his payment late.

12. Does your employer provide food and shelter? If so, do you/they have enough to eat?

There is no arrangement for food and lodging. However, the authority gives some refreshments (bread, banana, biscuits, etc.) during the overtime. The child lives with his elder sister near the factory. He receives a 1-hour break (from 01:00 p.m. to 02:00 p.m.) for lunch. He returns to the factory at 02:00 p.m. after having his lunch.

13. Are you/they able to leave your/their workplaces at will?

Every worker can leave the job at will. There is no obstacle against it. However, the management does not usually let the skilled workers leave because it is hard to get skilled workers. For this reason, when a worker leaves the workplace, it is after receiving their monthly salary and without informing the authority.

14. How far away is your/the child's home? How did you/they get here (to this place of employment)?

The child's workplace is very near to his home. It takes him 15 to 20 minutes to travel to the workplace on foot.

15. How old are you?

The child is 15 years old.

16. What is your education level?

The child was admitted into first grade, but he did not pass the examination.

17. (Whether the person is male/female)

The respondent is a boy.

Interview No.- 12

Sector: Ship Breaking

Interviewee's Name: [REDACTED], Shipbreaking laborer

Organizational Affiliation: [REDACTED]

Date of Interview: March 08, 2008

Time of Interview: 09:30 to 12:30 hrs

Location of Interview: [REDACTED] Chittagong District

Family Description: [REDACTED] has a family of three members. His wife [REDACTED] is [REDACTED], and his daughter [REDACTED] [REDACTED] years old. [REDACTED] is a housewife, and [REDACTED] goes to school. She studies in first grade. [REDACTED] father, [REDACTED], died [REDACTED] years ago. His mother lives with his brother in [REDACTED].

Present Condition: [REDACTED] lost his left leg in an accident at work in the ship-breaking yard 18 months ago. At present, he cannot work as a regular laborer as he did before. He has no option left but to help his colleagues at work by attending their various requests. He does miscellaneous petty work for them. In return, he receives a very little amount of money at the end of the month from them. In this situation, it is quite difficult for him to maintain his family.

Interview Notes:

In what occupations/activities do/did you/the child victim(s) work?

This person was a ship-breaking laborer. Now, he does odd jobs at the ship yard.

2. What good(s) do you/they produce?

He was involved in cutting the pieces of iron from the dismantled ships to produce scrap iron for the re-rolling mills. He had an accident at his workplace and lost his leg. At present, he is involved in helping the laborers in the ship-breaking yard.

3. What tasks do you/they perform?

He used to load and unload the scrap irons. Now, as he has lost his leg, he sings out the rhythmic calls for the iron carriers to keep them in a uniform march. They march to his calls while carrying the heavy load of scrap iron on their shoulders. Besides this, his colleagues also ask him to do miscellaneous petty work. He tries to meet their requests in return for monthly pay.

4. Who is your/their employer?

[REDACTED] [REDACTED], a foreman at the yard, employed him in ship breaking.

5. How did you/they come to be involved in these occupations/activities?

He came to [REDACTED] from the village of [REDACTED] at [REDACTED] [REDACTED] in the [REDACTED] district. Before joining the ship-breaking yard, he was a farmer in his village. Due to river erosion, he lost his small piece of cropland and home. He could find no work in the village to support his family. In severe poverty, he had to look for alternatives. In search of livelihood, he then came to [REDACTED] with his cousin [REDACTED] [REDACTED] who is a foreman in a ship-breaking yard, and joined with him. At the time that he was brought to work by his [REDACTED], the foreman, gave him TK 1,500 (22 USD) as an advance. This is the custom for recruiting laborers in the ship-breaking yard. The yard owner gives an advance to the laborer, as per his needs and through the foreman, and thus binds him into debt bondage. The company pays for transportation costs.

6. Are you/they paid for their work? If so, how? (i.e., cash, in-kind)

He joined the yard at a wage of TK 80 (1.17 USD) for 8 hours a day. He received the wage on the 5th and 10th day of the month from the foreman. The foreman receives it from the yard owner. The foreman then cuts out a certain amount of money as repayment of the advance paid to him when he was brought to the yard. He also cuts out the cost of food from his wage bill. For the 2 or 3 months after he joined the yard, he could not work overtime as he was a newcomer. After that, he started working overtime. He used to receive TK 10 (0.15 USD) an hour for the overtime. In this way, he was able to save TK 500 (7.30 USD) from his first year of work, and TK 1,500 to 2,000 (22 to 29 USD) from the second year.

After the accident, he was unable to work as before. At present, he helps his former colleagues in their work. He gets TK 20 to 30 (0.30 to 0.43 USD) per month from each of his colleagues that he helps. In this way, he manages to earn TK 1,400 to 1,500 (20 to 22 USD) a month. Moreover, his colleagues provide him with food and shelter.

7. Do you/they owe a debt to your employer that you work to pay back?

Currently, he does not owe any debts to the company. But the usual practice in a ship-breaking yard is for the company to provide loans to the laborers as per their needs. This is considered an advance for their work. The company usually cuts the advance from the laborers' monthly wages. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] initially owed some money to the company, which was adjusted from his wage bills. At the time of his accident, he owed TK 500 to 600 (7.30 USD to 8.76 USD) to the company, which the company has since written off.

8. If so, how was this debt incurred?

Usually, the debt is incurred when the laborers take an advance from the foreman at the time of joining.

9. What are your/their working conditions? Are there dangerous tools, machinery, fumes, or other physical risks?

By any standards, the demolition of ships is a dirty and dangerous work. Very often, workers face accidents and get injured. Ship breaking carries high risks. The hazards linked to ship breaking broadly fall into two categories: intoxication by dangerous substances and accidents in the yards. Explosions from leftover gas and fumes in the tanks are the primary cause of accidents. Another major cause of accidents is workers falling from the ships, as they are working with no safety measures. Any unmindful act can cause serious injury to the laborers. They may cut their hands and other parts of their bodies as a result.

10. Are you/the child beaten/abused by the employer?

The laborers are usually not beaten or abused by the employer.

11. Are you/they threatened by the employer if certain job tasks are not performed? What kind of threats?

The laborers are not threatened in any way if they are unable to perform some of their tasks, but they are often retrenched (make a reduction in their work, it results to financial damage as they will earn less or shifted them to other sections, or kept them out of work for some days without payment, etc).

12. Does your employer provide food and shelter? If so, do you/they have enough to eat?

The ship-breaking yard foremen provide the laborers with boarding but no food. A group of about 45 to 50 laborers live in a 360-square-foot room. They arrange for the food by themselves and prepare the food themselves.

13. Are you/they able to leave your/their workplaces at will?

Generally, the workers at times cannot leave their work place, as they are bound by debts. If the debt is fully paid to the foreman, they can leave at their will.

14. How far away is your/the child's home? How did you/they get here (to this place of employment)?

■■■■■ ■■■■■ ■■■■ lives in the laborers' shelter (called a mess hall), which is rented by the foreman. The mess hall is alongside the old ■■■■■■.

15. How old are you?

■■■■■ ■■■■■ ■■■■ is now 40 years old.

16. What is your education level?

He can only sign his name.

17. (Whether the person is male/female)

■■■■■ ■■■■■ is a male.

Interview No. 13

Sector: Leather Tanning

Interviewee's Name: ██████████, Child Laborer

Organizational Affiliation: ██████████

Brief description of the organization: ██████████ Factory is a privately owned leather tanning plant, owned by ██████████, and situated at ██████████ in Dhaka.

Date of Interview: March 22, 2008 and March 23, 2008

Time of Interview: 10:30 to 13:30 hrs and 16:30 to 19:15 hrs

Location of Interview: ██████████, Dhaka City

Family Description: The description of ██████████ family is given below; it shows that his family consists of a father, a mother, and two sons engaged in tannery industry. ██████████ family profile is given below.

SL	Name	Relation	Age	Sex	Education	Present activity
1	Md. ██████████	Self	16	Male	4th Grade	Tannery child laborer
2	Mr. ██████████	Father	55	Male	Illiterate	Disabled
3	Ms. ██████████	Mother	50	Female	Illiterate	Housewife
4	Md. ██████████	Brother	20	Male	Can read and write	Tannery laborer

Interview Notes:

1. In what occupations/activities do/did you/the child victim(s) work?

The child laborer is engaged in making the raw materials for leather goods.

2. What good(s) do you/they produce?

Tanned leather.

3. What tasks do you/they perform?

██████████ performs the following tasks:

- works with a fleshing machine
- makes white-blue (a tanning substance)
- works with a sewing machine (sew pieces of leather)
- extracts moisture from the hides
- mixes chemicals
- does hydraulic ironing
- works in drying hides.

4. Who is your/their employer?

Proprietor: Mr. ██████████, ██████████, Dhaka

5. How did you/they come to be involved in these occupations/activities?

The child laborer comes from a poverty-stricken family. His mother is a housewife and his father is incapable of doing anything. His family cannot survive with his elder brother's income alone. ██████████ elder brother was engaged in the same job for a long time, and so ██████████ became inspired by his elder brother to engage in this particular job himself.

6. Are you/they paid for their work? If so, how? (i.e., cash, in-kind)

Yes. [REDACTED] receives payment on a bi-weekly basis at the rate of TK 40 (0.58 USD) per day. He works daily from 09.00 a.m. to 05.00 p.m. In addition to his routine work, he can also do overtime, for which he receives TK 5 (0.07USD) per hour.

7. Do you/the child owe a debt to your employer that you work to pay back?

No.

8. If so, how was this debt incurred?

Not applicable.

9. What are your/their working conditions? Are there dangerous tools, machinery, fumes, or other physical risks?

The factory has a hazardous working environment, for example:

- [REDACTED] must work with machines at the factory that are in dangerous working condition. Two fingers of his hand have been cut due to using the machines in such dangerous condition.
- The work environment is also dangerous and unhygienic, characterized by pungent and bad odors.
- He must handle chemicals bare handed; spots have grown on his palms and he now suffers from Eczema.
- There is noise pollution and the workers have difficulty with their hearing.
- He sometimes feels dizziness.
- He is experiencing problems with his eyes.
- He must, always, work by standing.

10. Are you/the child beaten/abused by the employer?

Yes. He is mentally and verbally abused. For example, the management often rebukes him verbally, in an insulting manner, and sometimes he receives his payment late.

11. Are you/they threatened by the employer if certain job tasks are not performed? What kind of threats?

The child faces an adverse mental situation. If he cannot perform his job properly, he is often rebuked by the management, wages from his salary are deducted, and management sometimes gives him his salary late.

12. Does your employer provide food and shelter? If so, do you/they have enough to eat?

There is no arrangement for food and lodging for doing the job in the tannery sector.

13. Are you/they able to leave your/their workplaces at will?

He can leave the job whenever he wishes.

14. How far away is your/the child's home? How did you/they get here (to this place of employment)?

The workplace is very near to his home. He gets to his workplace by walking.

15. How old are you?

He is 16 years old.

16. What is your education level?

He has read up to fourth grade level classes.

17. (Whether the person is male/female)

Male.

Interview No. 14

Sector: Fish Processing and Drying

Interviewee's Name: ██████████, Child Laborer

Organizational Affiliation: ██████████

Brief description of the organization: '██████████' is a dry fish processing factory located in ██████████, in Cox's Bazaar district.

Date of Interview: March 13, 2008

Time of Interview: 11:00 hrs

Location of Interview: ██████████, Cox's Bazaar District

Family Description & Background: ██████████, a boy of 12, works in a fish-drying place in ██████████. He is a boy from a poor family, consisting of the following members:

SL	Name	Relation	Age	Sex	Education	Present Activity
1.	Mr. ██████████	Self	12	Male	Illiterate	Works in dry fish processing
2.	Mr. ██████████	Brother	12	Male	5th Grade	N/A
3.	██████████	Sister	8	Female	3rd Grade	N/A
4.	██████████	Brother	5	Male	Illiterate	N/A
5.	Mr. ██████████	Father	36	Male	Illiterate	Fisherman
6.	██████████	Mother	28	Female	Illiterate	Housewife

██████████ father is a fisherman, mother is a housewife, and both of his parents are illiterate. His brothers, ██████████, ██████████ and ██████████, go to school. His only sister, ██████████, is 8 years old and goes to school

His father earns TK 6,000 (87 USD) every 8 months; this is not sufficient for the family. Thus, ██████████ was compelled to work, giving up schooling. Present price inflations throughout the country have made their living more miserable. Details of his interview are presented below:

Interview Notes:

1. In what occupations/activities do/did you/the child victim(s) work?

██████████ is engaged in dry fish processing and working as a contract laborer in that sector.

2. What good(s) do you/they produce?

The child is engaged in drying and processing fish.

3. What tasks do you/they perform?

He performs the task of sorting fishes according to species and size, for drying.

4. Who is your/their employer?

██████████ employer is a neighbor, Mr. ██████████, a labor contractor.

5. How did you/they come to be involved in these occupations/activities?

Mr. ██████████ brought him to this profession. Being a neighbor of ██████████ family, Mr. ██████████ noted their poverty

and proposed to his family that he give him a job at his factory. [REDACTED] has come to be employed at that job in this manner.

6. Are you/they paid for their work? If so, how? (i.e., cash, in-kind)

[REDACTED] is not paid on a daily or monthly basis. Instead, he has been working for a 9-month contract for TK 7,000 (102 USD). This consolidated amount is paid in cash by installment to [REDACTED] parents.

7. Do you/the child owes a debt to your employer that you work to pay back?

Yes. The child laborer [REDACTED] owes a debt to his employer amounting to TK 7,000 (102 USD), which [REDACTED] family received before [REDACTED] started to work. This amount of money will to be repaid by [REDACTED] through his providing labor for 9 months, or by his family. If [REDACTED], for any reason, is unable to serve or quits the job, then the family has to refund the money to the employer.

8. If so, how was this debt incurred?

This represents a typical case of induced indebtedness. Fish processors hunt for cheap child laborers and propose advance payment to poor families. [REDACTED] became involved in the debt due to their poverty, and partly through being induced by his employer.

9. What are your/their working conditions? Are there dangerous tools, machinery, fumes, or other physical risks?

All laborers, including child laborers, work under open sky, in humid and hot temperature. The environment of the fishing factory is not hygienic; it has extremely foul smells, overwhelming the entire area. No dangerous machines are used, but to some extent, there is a physical risk of fish bones penetrating through the skin or to the organs of the body.

10. Are you/the child beaten/abused by the employer?

There is no instance of beating or physical abuse by [REDACTED] employer. Though sometimes, the employer scolds him if he ignores his work.

11. Are you/they threatened by the employer if certain job tasks are not performed? What kind of threats?

As a contract laborer, [REDACTED] is bound to work. If any work or task is ignored or neglected, sometimes the employer scolds him, but not overly.

12. Does your employer provide food and shelter? If so, do you/they have enough to eat?

The employer has brought [REDACTED] for a contract period of 9 months and bears all his basic expenses, including three meals a day and a shabby bed to sleep in within the factory. The food provided is not so good in substance nor enough in quantity.

13. Are you/they able to leave your/their workplaces at will?

He cannot leave the job at his will. He is bound to work for 9 months. He cannot quit the job until and unless his debt (*dadon*) is repaid. If he is sick during the contract period, he is to work extra days beyond the 9 months contracted period, or into the next season.

14. How far away is your/the child's home? How did you/they get here (to this place of employment)?

[REDACTED] workplace is located half a kilometer away from his home. He travels there on foot.

15. How old are you?

[REDACTED] is 12 years old at present.

16. What is your education level?

He is illiterate.

17. (Whether the person is male/female)

Boy.

Interview No.- 15

Sector: Gul Making—Chewing Dust of Tobacco

Interviewee's Name: [REDACTED], Child Laborer

Organizational Affiliation: [REDACTED]

Brief description of the organization: [REDACTED] Factory is located at the [REDACTED] under the [REDACTED] in [REDACTED] district; it is one of the biggest factories in the [REDACTED] area.

Date of Interview: March 12 and 13, 2008

Time of Interview: 14:00 to 19:00 hrs and 15:00 to 19:30 hrs

Location of Interview: [REDACTED]

Family Description: The family of Md. [REDACTED] consists of six members, including two children working in bidi (a locally made cheap cigarette) and *gul*-making factories. His father is a hotel cook, and his mother and eldest sister are also engaged in bidi-making. Most of the family members are illiterate. Below is a brief profile of [REDACTED] family:

SL	Name	Relation	Age	Sex	Education	Present Activity
1.	Md. [REDACTED]	Father	45	Male	Illiterate	Cook
2.	[REDACTED]	Mother	36	Female	Illiterate	Engaged in bidi making
3.	[REDACTED]	Sister	14	Female	Illiterate	Engaged in bidi making
4.	Md. [REDACTED]	Self	10	Male	Class I	Works at a <i>gul</i> factory
5.	[REDACTED]	Brother	8	Male	Illiterate	Nothing/None
6.	[REDACTED]	Sister	5	Female	Does not go to school	None

Interview Notes:

1. In what occupations/activities do/did you/the child victim(s) work?

Processing dry dust of tobacco into *gul* (a chewing intoxicant).

2. What good(s) do you/they produce?

Gul.

3. What tasks do you/they perform?

The child performs the following selected tasks:

- filling small cans with *gul*
- putting the lid covers on the cans
- putting labels on the cans
- packaging.

4. Who is your/their employer?

[REDACTED]
Proprietor: Md. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

5. How did you/they come to be involved in these occupations/activities?

Due to economic hardship and lack of any other job opportunities in the area, [REDACTED] was compelled to engage himself at the *gul* factory to help his family.

6. Are you/they paid for their work? If so, how? (i.e., cash, in-kind)

The workers receive payments in cash, generally on daily basis. [REDACTED] gets TK 30 to 40 (0.43 to 0.58 USD) daily. He works 4 to 5 days per week at the factory.

7. Do you/the child owes a debt to your employer that you work to pay back?

No. The child does not owe any debt to the employer.

8. If so, how was this debt incurred?

Not applicable.

9. What are your/their working conditions? Are there dangerous tools, machinery, fumes, or other physical risks?

The working conditions in the *gul* factory are described as follows:

- a) When one enters into the *gul* factory, he experiences giddiness.
- b) The laborers must work in a hot and congested environment.
- c) When the dust from *gul* are inhaled, one feels like coughing
- d) A type of chemical is mixed with *gul*, which creates an extreme burning sensation to the skin.
- e) When the dust from *gul* falls into someone's eyes, it creates an intense burning sensation to the eyes.

10. Are you/the child beaten/abused by the employer?

If the child cannot maintain the expected quality of work, the employer rebukes them.

11. Are you/they threatened by the employer if certain job tasks are not performed? What kind of threats?

If the child fails to perform his task on time, then he does not get paid his wage on that day. He must work from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. every day. The employer hurls abusive language if expected output is not delivered on time.

12. Does your employer provide food and shelter? If so, do you/they have enough to eat?

No. There is no such system.

13. Are you/they able to leave your/their workplaces at will?

Yes. Any worker can leave the workplace at his own will.

14. How far away is your/the child's home? How did you/they get here (to this place of employment)?

[REDACTED] workplace is half a kilometer away from his home. He travels there on foot regularly.

15. How old are you?

[REDACTED] is 10 years old.

16. What is your education level?

First grade.

17. (Whether the person is male/female)

A boy.

Interview No. 16

Sector: Wooden Furniture, Carpentry

Interviewee's Name: Md. [REDACTED] Child Laborer—helper

Organizational Affiliation: [REDACTED]

Date of Interview: March 12, 13, and 14, 2008

Time of Interview: 14:00 hrs (on 3/12), 15:00 hrs (on 3/13), and 13:00 hrs (on 3/14)

Location of Interview: [REDACTED] Chittagong City

Family description: The family consists of father, mother, three sons and one daughter. The father is 59 years old and engaged in farming. The mother is a housewife. [REDACTED] two elder brothers are working with their father in cultivation. His sister got married 2 years ago.

SL	Name	Relation	Age	Sex	Education	Present activity
1	[REDACTED]	Father	59	Male	3rd Grade	Farmer
2	[REDACTED]	Mother	42	Female	5th Grade	Housewife
3	Mr. [REDACTED]	Brother	25	Male	7th Grade	Farmer
4	Mr. [REDACTED]	Brother	18	Male	5th Grade	Farmer
5	Ms. [REDACTED]	Sister	22	Female	7th Grade	Housewife
6	Mr. [REDACTED]	Self	15	Male	3rd Grade	Carpenter

Interview Notes:

1. In what occupations/activities do/did you/the child victim(s) work?

He is learning carpentry work.

2. What good(s) do you/they produce?

Wooden furniture.

3. What tasks do you/they perform?

He performs the tasks of unloading sliced wood, finishing/polishing wood, and sweeping/cleaning the floor, etc.

4. Who is your/their employer?

Mr. [REDACTED], owner of a restaurant, introduced him with Mr. [REDACTED], the proprietor of the furniture shop where he now works.

5. How did you/they come to be involved in these occupations/activities?

Poverty pushed him to this profession. His uncle, Mr. [REDACTED], is a restaurant worker in Chittagong City who brought him and introduced to the owner of the furniture shop.

6. Are you/they paid for their work? If so, how? (i.e., cash, in-kind)

He receives TK 70 (1.02 USD) per day in cash.

7. Do you/the child owe a debt to your employer that you work to pay back?

No.

8. If so, how was this debt incurred?

Not applicable.

9. What are your/their working conditions? Are there dangerous tools, machinery, fumes, or other physical risks?

Working conditions are not bad, though the shop is always dusty as it is located right on the road side. Sometimes, the smell of a chemical used for burnishing wood causes nostril itching or irritation.

10. Are you/the child beaten/abused by the employer?

Not very common. He is sometimes scolded for mistakes.

11. Are you/they threatened by the employer if certain job tasks are not performed? What kind of threats?

If certain tasks are not completed adequately, the employer rebukes him for that. But it is not viewed in any way bad for an apprentice-learner like him, because it is for correction and teaching.

12. Does your employer provide food and shelter? If so, do you/they have enough to eat?

■■■■■ lives in the shop. The employer allows him to leave the shop, and the child-laborer has to buy food from a hotel or cook it himself.

13. Are you/they able to leave your/their workplaces at will?

There is no obligation binding him to stay. He can leave at his own will. However, his employer always pays him his wages late, keeping back some of his due amount, so that the worker cannot leave.

14. How far away is your/the child's home? How did you/they get here (to this place of employment)?

He lives in the shop.

15. How old are you?

The child is 15 years old.

16. What is your education level?

He passed third grade.

17. (Whether the person is male/female)

Male.

Interview No. 17

Sector: Plastic Products

Interviewee's Name: Md. [REDACTED], Child Laborer

Organizational Affiliation: [REDACTED]

Brief description of the organization: [REDACTED] is a privately owned plastic goods manufacturing factory, located at the [REDACTED] in [REDACTED].

Date of Interview: March 14, 2008

Time of Interview: 10:30 hrs and 19:30 hrs

Location of Interview: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Municipal Area

Family description: Md. [REDACTED] family consists of five members, including him. [REDACTED] father is a rickshaw puller and his mother is a housewife. Both of his parents are illiterate. His brother, Md. [REDACTED], is also a child laborer who works in the same plastic factory. His only sister, [REDACTED], is 6 years old and goes to school.

SL	Name	Relation	Age	Sex	Education	Present Activity
1.	Md. [REDACTED]	Self	13	Male	3rd Grade	Works at plastic factory
2.	Md. [REDACTED]	Brother	16	Male	3rd Grade	Works at plastic factory
3.	[REDACTED]	Sister	6	Female	1st Grade	Goes to School
4.	Md. [REDACTED]	Father	42	Male	Illiterate	Rickshaw puller
5.	[REDACTED]	Mother	36	Female	Illiterate	Housewife

Interview Notes:

1. In what occupations/activities do/did you/the child victim(s) work?

The child is engaged in the production of plastic products.

2. What good(s) do you/they produce?

Plastic items such as bowls, mugs, jugs, etc.

3. What tasks do you/they perform?

The child performs the following tasks:

- packaging
- preparing cartons
- carrying packages from one place to another place.

4. Who is your/their employer?

M/S [REDACTED]

Proprietor: Md. [REDACTED]

5. How did you/they come to be involved in these occupations/activities?

The child started to work to help his family financially because their family cannot survive with the bare income earned by his father. After working for some time at the workshop, one of his sisters-in-law found an

opportunity for him to work at the plastic factory. He has been working here for the past 1 year.

6. Are you/they paid for their work? If so, how? (i.e., cash, in-kind)

He and his brother work at the [REDACTED]. The child, [REDACTED], receives payment of TK 250 (3.65 USD) in cash, on a weekly basis. Together both of them earn TK 500 (7.29 USD) per week. Moreover, the owner of the factory pays them a bonus equal to 1 month's salary once a year, during the *Eid*. Sometimes, the owner gives him TK 10 to 20 (0.14 to 0.29 USD) for having tea and *tiffin* (a snack).

7. Do you/the child owe a debt to your employer that you work to pay back?

No. The child is not indebted to the employer.

8. If so, how was this debt incurred?

Not applicable.

9. What are your/their working conditions? Are there dangerous tools, machinery, fumes, or other physical risks?

The child does not have to handle dangerous machines. But he is subject to the physical hazards, as mentioned below:

- He has to carry heavy goods on his shoulder
- He has to work standing for quite a long time
- He works from 8:30 a.m. in the morning to 7:00 p.m. in the evening
- He has to work in a hot environment inside the factory.

10. Are you/the child beaten/abused by the employer?

Sometimes the child becomes the victim of mental and physical abuse, for example:

- The management hurls abusive words at him if he makes any mistakes.
- After the end of his duty, the employer forces him to work for 2 to 3 hours extra, without any payment for the overtime work.

11. Are you/they threatened by the employer if certain job tasks are not performed? What kind of threats?

The child has to face different kinds of adverse situations from the employer if he fails to perform any job correctly. For example, if he fails to show up on time, he has to work an extra 2 to 3 hours after his shift is over, without pay; the employer rebukes him if he makes any mistakes.

12. Does your employer provide food and shelter? If so, do you/they have enough to eat?

There is no arrangement for food or lodging inside the factory. But off and on, the employer pays him TK 10 to 20 (0.14 to 0.29 USD) for *tiffin*. Moreover, he does not get adequate time for lunch.

13. Are you/they able to leave your/their workplaces at will?

If he wishes, the child can leave his job.

14. How far away is your/the child's home? How did you/they get here (to this place of employment)?

The child's workplace is 2km away from his home. He travels there on foot.

15. How old are you?

[REDACTED] is 13 years old.

16. What is your education level?

He has passed the third grade.

17. (Whether the person is male/female)

The respondent is a boy.

Interview No. 18

Sector: Steel Re-rolling

Interviewee's Name: Md. [REDACTED], Child Laborer

Organizational Affiliation: [REDACTED]

Brief description of the organization: [REDACTED] is a privately owned mill, established before the independence of Bangladesh, located in the [REDACTED] within the Chittagong district, where manufactured products are sold in different parts of the country.

Date of Interview: March 11, 2008

Time of Interview: 16:30 hrs

Location of Interview: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Chittagong City

Family Description: [REDACTED] father is a farmer and his mother is a housewife. Both of his parents are illiterate. His brother, Mr. [REDACTED], is also a laborer, who works at a packaging factory. His only sister, [REDACTED] [REDACTED], is 19 years old. A brief family profile of Md. [REDACTED] is presented below.

SL	Name	Relation	Age	Sex	Education	Present Activity
1.	Md. [REDACTED]	Self	15	Male	3rd Grade	Works at [REDACTED], Chittagong
2.	Mr. [REDACTED]	Brother	25	Male	5th Grade	Works at a carton factory in Chittagong
3.	[REDACTED]	Sister	19	Female	Illiterate	Housewife
4.	Md. [REDACTED]	Father	55	Male	Illiterate	Agriculture
5.	[REDACTED]	Mother	43	Female	Illiterate	Hosewife

Present condition: His father earns from his small farm land, and his elder brother contributes to the family. [REDACTED] contributes to his family by providing TK 1,000 to 1,500 (14.60 to 21.90 USD) per month. His family is very poor. The present price inflations are severely affecting their standard of living and they are seriously concerned about it.

Interview Notes:

1. In what occupations/activities do/did you/the child victim(s) work?

A steel re-rolling factory worker.

2. What good(s) do you/they produce?

The mill produces different types of steel items like deformed bars, angles, channels, plane bars, spring steel, etc.

3. What tasks do you/they perform?

Laborers like [REDACTED] performs the following tasks:

- unloading metal scraps from trucks
- bending the finished rods and carrying them to stores
- making small pieces of scrap metal by using a gas cutter.

4. Who is your/their employer?

The mill owner, though [REDACTED] answers to a supervisor in this factory.

5. How did you/they come to be involved in these occupations/activities?

Another worker hailing from his village introduced ██████ to the factory supervisor, and thus he got the job.

6. Are you/they paid for their work? If so, how? (i.e., cash, in-kind)

██████ is paid on an hourly basis. He gets TK 8 (0.11 USD) per hour. ██████ works 12 hours in a day, either from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., or from 8:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m.; his work shift alternates every week.

7. Do you/the child owes a debt to your employer that you work to pay back?

No.

8. If so, how was this debt incurred?

Not applicable.

9. What are your/their working conditions? Are there dangerous tools, machinery, fumes, or other physical risks?

The working condition in ██████ is good. There is an open space through which air can easily pass. There are sufficient toilet facilities, separate rooms for lunch and dinner, uninterrupted electric supply, etc. They need not go inside the space for scrap melting. However, they do have to bend hot rods and sometimes the workers suffer physical injuries, even though they wear gloves and shield glasses.

10. Are you/the child beaten/abused by the employer?

No, unless something very irregular happens.

11. Are you/they threatened by the employer if certain job tasks are not performed? What kind of threats?

The employer sometimes rebukes him if he makes any mistakes or cannot perform his duties.

12. Does your employer provide food and shelter? If so, do you/they have enough to eat?

No. The employer provides neither food nor shelter.

13. Are you/they able to leave your/their workplaces at will?

If he wishes, he can quit his job.

14. How far away is your/the child's home? How did you/they get here (to this place of employment)?

It takes only 5 minutes to reach the workplace from his home. He goes there on foot.

15. How old are you?

██████ is 15 years old.

16. What is your education level?

He has passed third grade.

17. (Whether the person is male/female)

Male.

Interview No. 19

Sector: Handloom Weaving

Interviewee's Name: ██████████, Child Laborer

Organizational Affiliation ██████████

Brief description of the organization: ██████████ was established in ██████████, is owned by ██████████, and has a total number of 121 handlooms.

Date of Interview: March 16, 2008

Time of Interview: 07:00 to 10:00 hrs

Location of Interview: ██████████, Sirajganj District.

Interview Notes:

1. In what occupations/activities do/did you/the child victim(s) work?

██████████ is engaged in handloom weaving.

2. What good(s) do you/they produce?

He weaves sarees.

3. What tasks do you/they perform?

Weaving.

4. Who is your/their employer?

██████████ is owned by ██████████ ██████████ ██████████ ██████████, his employer.

5. How did you/they come to be involved in these occupations/activities?

One of his neighbors works in a handloom factory. He managed to get ██████████ a job here.

6. Are you/they paid for their work? If so, how? (i.e., cash, in-kind)

██████████ receives wages in cash, depending on the number of sarees he produces. On average, he makes TK 1,000 (14.60 USD) per week. In the handloom sector, the workers can generally work for only 7 to 8 months; the rest of the year, they have to sit idle. Weaving on handlooms is tiresome and a worker cannot weave more than 1 month at a stretch. He has to rest for a week after a month's job. Additionally, it takes at least 4 to 5 days to prepare the handloom for a particular design. For all of these, reasons, the weavers cannot work all the year long. ██████████ faces this same kind of reality.

7. Do you/the child owe a debt to your employer that you work to pay back?

No. ██████████ does not owe any debt to his employer.

8. If so, how was this debt incurred?

Not applicable.

9. What are your/their working conditions? Are there dangerous tools, machinery, fumes, or other physical risks?

██████████ does not have to work with any dangerous tools or machines, but he does face some labor-intensive physical problems. He feels pain in his wrist, waist, and backbone, as he has to work sitting all day long. His work also causes tremendous pressure on his eyes. Added to that, he is exposed to the particles of threads generated from running loom, which enter the nose and lungs continuously.

10. Are you/the child beaten/abused by the employer?

No.

11. Are you/they threatened by the employer if certain job tasks are not performed? What kind of threats?

██████ does face some adverse situations in his workplace. In the peak season, he works under tremendous pressure and always has to complete his tasks on time. If he makes any kind of mistake in weaving, he does not receive his wage for that particular piece of cloth.

12. Does your employer provide food and shelter? If so, do you/they have enough to eat?

The employer does not pay for food but arranges for boarding for the weavers who come to work from distant villages or other districts. The weavers do not have enough room for accommodations, and sleep in a very congested space. The weavers have to pay for their own meals.

13. Are you/they able to leave your/their workplaces at will?

The weavers have the ability to quit their work at will. ██████, likewise, can quit the job whenever he wishes.

14. How far away is your/the child's home? How did you/they get here (to this place of employment)?

██████ lives at the boarding place his employer provides for the weavers. The boarding rooms are just beside the weaving plant.

15. How old are you?

He is 16 years old.

16. What is your education level?

██████ studied up to fourth grade.

17. (Whether the person is male/female)

He is a male weaver.

Interview No. 20

Sector: Handloom Weaving

Interviewee's Name: ██████████, Child Laborer

Organizational Affiliation: ██████████

Brief description of the organization: ██████████ was established in 1975. It is owned by ██████████, and has a total number of 121 handlooms.

Date of Interview: March 17, 2008

Time of Interview: 09:00 to 14:00 hrs

Location of Interview: ██████████, Sirajganj District

Family Description & Background: ██████████, a girl aged 13, is daughter of weaver Md. ██████████. She has been working as an apprentice in the same factory, the ██████████. Her mother, ██████████, is a housewife. Since her father is the only breadwinner in the family and no other source of income is available, they are facing hardship. So, her father brought her to his workplace to help him. One hidden purpose for getting her trained in this line of work is that it might add to her qualifications for marriage.

Interview Notes:

1. In what occupations/activities do/did you/the child victim(s) work?

Weaving of cloth sarees.

2. What good(s) do you/they produce?

As a helper in the process of weaving sarees, ██████████ herself does not produce any complete product, but rather, assists in making the cloth.

3. What tasks do you/they perform?

██████████ is primarily engaged in spinning thread, and supplies prepared bobbins to the other weavers.

4. Who is your/their employer?

Proprietor of ██████████, of ██████████, Sirajganj District.

5. How did you/they come to be involved in these occupations/activities?

██████████ father is a weaver who works in the factory, and brought her there with the dual purpose of helping him and getting her trained as a future income earner.

6. Are you/they paid for their work? If so, how? (i.e., cash, in-kind)

██████████ works on a piece-work contract basis, earning TK 2.75 (0.04 USD) for spinning and preparing one bobbin of thread. She earns TK 245 to 250 (3.57 to 3.65 USD) per week, and receives her wages in cash on Thursdays.

7. Do you/the child owe a debt to your employer that you work to pay back?

No. ██████████ does not owe any debt to her employer.

8. If so, how was this debt incurred?

Not applicable.

9. What are your/their working conditions? Are there dangerous tools, machinery, fumes, or other physical risks?

She does not work with any dangerous machines or tools. However, she does have to work standing.

10. Are you/the child beaten/abused by the employer?

She has never been physically beaten or abused.

11. Are you/they threatened by the employer if certain job tasks are not performed? What kind of threats?

She is rebuked by the factory supervisor if her work is not up to standard.

12. Does your employer provide food and shelter? If so, do you/they have enough to eat?

No, there is no such arrangement for food or lodging for workers who perform the job of spinning.

13. Are you/they able to leave your/their workplaces at will?

She can give up the job at her will.

14. How far away is your/the child's home? How did you/they get here (to this place of employment)?

Her workplace is 2km away from her home.

15. How old are you?

██████ is about 13 years old.

16. What is your education level?

She has passed fifth grade.

17. (Whether the person is male/female)

A girl.

Interview No. 21

Sector: Bidi Making

Interviewee's Name: ██████████, Child Laborer

Organizational Affiliation: ██████████

Brief description of the organization: The ██████████ is one of the largest bidi factories, located at ██████████ in Rangpur district.

Date of Interview: March 10 and 12, 2008

Time of Interview: 15:00 to 19:00 hrs and 16:00 to 20:00 hrs, respectively

Location of Interview: ██████████

Rangpur District

Researcher's Note/Comment: ██████████ family, consisting of a mother, one daughter and one son, are all engaged in bidi making within their home. The mother is about 60 years of age, and the kids are respectively 13 and 12 years old. Currently, the family of the child laborer is in very deplorable condition. Even they cannot manage two square meals a day.

Interview Notes:

1. In what occupations/activities do/did you/the child victim(s) work?

The child is engaged in bidi making.

2. What good(s) do you/they produce?

Bidi (locally made, cheap cigarettes).

3. What tasks do you/they perform?

The child selectively performs the following tasks:

- making packets
- filling in tobacco
- closing the opening of a bidi.

4. Who is your/their employer?

██████████ Factory in ██████████, Rangpur; Proprietor: ██████████.

5. How did you/they come to be involved in these occupations/activities?

The child's father died 2 years ago; he was a 'numbered' (registered with an registration ID) bidi worker with a membership in the workers association. It is a rule that if a numbered member dies, the numbered token is retained for any family member, if so desired by the family head. Since it is the only source of income for their family, the wife of the deceased worker claimed the numbered token, and so started working, along with her daughter and son. Her son works within the factory premises, and she herself and her daughter work at home.

6. Are you/they paid for their work? If so, how? (i.e., cash, in-kind)

The bidi workers receive payments in cash after delivery of the allotted quota. Some workers receive payments on a daily basis after finishing their daily work.

7. Do you/the child owe a debt to your employer that you work to pay back?

No. The child is not indebted to the owner of the factory.

8. If so, how was this debt incurred?

Not applicable.

9. What are your/their working conditions? Are there dangerous tools, machinery, fumes, or other physical risks?

The child laborers do not have to use any dangerous machines. However, working conditions are not optimal for [REDACTED]. A large number of laborers must work within small premises, sitting on the floor. Boys and girls have to work together. The rooms they work in are not well ventilated and there is no fan. Toilet facilities are poor; there are only three toilets for 500 workers. The work place is noisy due to crushing machines and humming noises like a bazaar.

10. Are you/the child beaten/abused by the employer?

Management staff often hurls abusive language at them. Moreover, the supervisor or officer-in-charge regularly withholds TK 2 (0.02 USD) from him on the pretext that the child's work is not satisfactory.

11. Are you/they threatened by the employer if certain job tasks are not performed? What kind of threats?

If he fails to fulfill the given quota, his payment is withheld on that day. This puts him under great pressure.

12. Does your employer provide food and shelter? If so, do you/they have enough to eat?

There is no food or lodging system for the bidi workers at the factory. Incredibly, they do not even get any time off for lunch. After finishing their work, the workers return home and take their supper only.

13. Are you/they able to leave your/their workplaces at will?

Leaving the job is the choice of the person concerned.

14. How far away is your/the child's home? How did you/they get here (to this place of employment)?

The child's workplace is nearly 1km away from his home. He travels to his workplace on foot.

15. How old are you?

The child is 12 years old.

16. What is your education level?

The child is absolutely illiterate.

17. (Whether the person is male/female)

The child laborer is a boy.

Interview No. 22

Sector: Soap Making

Interviewee's Name: [REDACTED], Daily Child Laborer

Organizational Affiliation: [REDACTED]

Brief description of the organization: [REDACTED] is a privately owned factory located at [REDACTED].

Date of Interview: March 22, 2008

Time of Interview: 11:30 hrs

Location of Interview: [REDACTED]

Interview Notes:

1. In what occupations/activities do/did you/the child victim(s) work?

[REDACTED] is involved as a daily laborer in the soap factory.

2. What good(s) do you/they produce?

He is engaged in manufacturing soaps.

3. What tasks do you/they perform?

- Mixing raw materials and making paste in pans
- Pouring pastes into dices
- Pasting labels or packaging
- Carrying cartons to stores or delivery sites.

4. Who is your/their employer?

The proprietor of the [REDACTED].

5. How did you/they come to be involved in these occupations/activities?

He came to this profession through his elder brother-in-law, who works in a trading house in the same area.

6. Are you/they paid for their work? If so, how? (i.e., cash, in-kind)

[REDACTED] is paid on daily basis. He receives TK 65 (0.95 USD) for one pan of finished soaps, and earns TK 130 to 150 (1.90 to 2.19 USD) per day.

7. Do you/the child owe a debt to your employer that you work to pay back?

No.

8. If so, how was this debt incurred?

Not applicable.

9. What are your/their working conditions? Are there dangerous tools, machinery, fumes, or other physical risks?

The working condition in the soap factory is unhygienic and congested. There is no severe physical risk other than direct exposure to chemicals.

10. Are you/the child beaten/abused by the employer?

The children are not beaten or abused physically. Sometimes, they are scolded by the employer if work is not done properly.

11. Are you/they threatened by the employer if certain job tasks are not performed? What kind of threats?

They are not threatened by the employer. But since they work on a temporary basis without any appointment or written document, they are always under pressure mentally of being retrenched (withdraw tasks which leads to financial damage as they will earn less) or losing their job.

12. Does your employer provide food and shelter? If so, do you/they have enough to eat?

The workers have arranged for their own food and shelter on a daily basis. However, annually a feast is arranged for all workers.

13. Are you/they able to leave your/their workplaces at will?

Yes, they can leave the work.

14. How far away is your/the child's home? How did you/they get here (to this place of employment)?

The child's present residence is about 1km away from the factory. He walks to and from his workplace.

15. How old are you?

The child is 17 years old.

16. What is your education level?

The child is illiterate.

17. (Whether the person is male/female)

The child laborer is a male.

Interview No. 23

Sector: Shoe-Making

Interviewee's Name: ██████████, Apprentice Shoe Maker

Organizational Affiliation: ██████████

Brief description of the organization: ██████████ is a privately owned hand-made shoe factory in ██████████, where eight laborers work in a 12-foot-long, 11-foot-wide, and 10-foot-high room; another similar room has been divided into two levels by a wooden ceiling, reducing each floor height to 5 feet, in which 10 to 12 laborers work in the 5-foot-high upper stairs.

Date of Interview: March 22, 2008

Time of Interview: 11:00 hrs

Location of Interview: ██████████, Dhaka City

Background: ██████████, a young man of 16, joined ██████████ about 2 years ago. He works as an apprentice in this small, hand-made shoe factory, located in the old part of Dhaka City. His neighbor, ██████████, a shoe maker from the factory, brought him there and appointed him as his assistant on the condition that ██████████ would learn the skill in 1 year and then be able to work independently. ██████████ had to pay ██████████ TK 3,000 (44 USD) for this arrangement. But ██████████ is, in fact, trapped. ██████████ is taking his time, seemingly unwilling to pass on the necessary expertise to ██████████ that would allow him to be able to work independently. Regardless, he cannot leave ██████████ at this stage, because to do so, he would have to again pay another TK 2,000 to 3,000 (29 to 44 USD) apprenticeship fee to another skilled worker in order to finish learning. He cannot afford to do that. Thus, he is bound to continuing with ██████████ until such time as ██████████ is ready to recommend him to a shoe factory owner.

Presently, ██████████ provides ██████████ with food and shelter, and occasionally gives him TK 10 to 20 (0.14 to 0.29 USD) to meet his personal expenses, but receives no other regular salary for working 18-hour days.

Interview Notes:

1. In what occupations/activities do/did you/the child victim(s) work?

██████████ has been working in ██████████ for 2 years as an apprentice and assistant to the senior show maker, ██████████. ██████████ used to work as a domestic worker before he joined this shoe factory.

2. What good(s) do you/they produce?

██████████ company is a producer and wholesaler of hand-made leather shoes. The company operates in local markets.

3. What tasks do you/they perform?

██████████ does not have any particular job. He is basically an apprentice. Among his tasks, he cuts leather, trims rubbers for making shoe soles, and puts chemical glue (which is noxious and potentially toxic. Repeated exposure to this, especially in a closed environment, would be very dangerous even for an adult) on rubber soles to paste it to the leather part of the shoe. Sometimes he sews the shoes. He has to do everything his employer ██████████ asks him to do. He usually starts working at 9 a.m. and continues up until the middle of the night. He only receives breaks for his meals, twice a day.

4. Who is your/their employer?

In small shoe factories in Dhaka, the recruitment practice is that the senior workers employ child workers to assist them. In this particular case, ██████████, a shoe-manufacturing worker for ██████████ employs ██████████.

5. How did you/they come to be involved in these occupations/activities?

██████, ██████ neighbor, a shoe-manufacturing worker, convinced his father to send ██████ to work with him in the shoe factory where he works. ██████ also told his father that it would take only 1 year for ██████ to become a full-fledged shoe manufacturing worker. He said that after 1 year, ██████ would be able to draw a handsome salary from his company. In return, ██████ took TK 3,000 (44 USD) from ██████ father for arranging the apprenticeship for ██████. This is how ██████ became involved in this occupation.

6. Are you/they paid for their work? If so, how? (i.e., cash, in-kind)

The child workers in the shoe factories are never paid for their work. However, the factory owners provide them with food and boarding, giving them breakfast and two meals a day. Sometimes they are given TK 10 to 20 (0.14 to 0.29 USD) to meet their minimum personal expenses.

In contrast, the technicians and shoe-manufacturing workers are paid in cash. They usually earn TK 4,000 to 5,000 (58 to 73 USD) per month.

7. Do you/the child owes a debt to your employer that you work to pay back?

Generally, the child workers do not owe money to their employer that they have to pay back by working for them. Rather, they are to pay an apprenticeship fee to their seniors.

8. If so, how was this debt incurred?

Not applicable.

9. What are your/their working conditions? Are there dangerous tools, machinery, fumes, or other physical risks?

The working environment in the shoe factory is very unhealthy and hazardous, many laborers work in a very tiny and overcrowded room. In the ██████ ██████ factory, ██████ and ██████ work in a 5-foot-high room. The workers cannot even stand up straight in the room, and the place is so congested that they cannot even move properly. The workers have to work 15 to 16 hours per day under such conditions. It naturally creates severe physical and physiological pressure on them.

Children have to work with sharp and pointed tools. Very often, they cut their fingers. Besides, they suffer from various types of skin diseases. The chemical glues used in shoe making cause breathing problems. Heart disease is very common among the shoe factory workers.

10. Are you/the child beaten/abused by the employer?

Yes. If any apprentice worker tries to flee, then beating is inevitable. Very often, the child workers are kept under lock and key so that they cannot leave the factory. Sometimes, the children are even kept in chains.

11. Are you/they threatened by the employer if certain job tasks are not performed? What kind of threats?

Whenever the child workers cannot perform as per their employers' direction, they are verbally and physically abused. They are threatened with being fired at once. Sometimes, their employers stop providing them food. Moreover, when they ask their seniors to teach them how to make shoes, the child workers receive harsh, ill words from them.

12. Does your employer provide food and shelter? If so, do you/they have enough to eat?

██████ employer ██████, provides him with breakfast and two meals a day. A female cook, appointed by the factory workers, cooks the lunch and dinner at her home and then delivers them to the workers at the factory. She receives TK 15 (0.22 USD) per meal on average. The main dish is always boiled rice. The quantity is sometimes enough for ██████. He is allowed to sleep in the factory room.

13. Are you/they able to leave your/their workplaces at will?

No, apprentice workers cannot leave the factory at their will. Instances of chaining them by the legs are not uncommon. Sometimes, they are kept under lock and key in the factory room.

There are other similar scenarios for the practice of bonded laborers in the shoe factory. The factory owners very often hold back the wages of the senior workers for 4 to 5 months so that they will not leave the factory to join another. Very naturally, these workers cannot leave the factory because they would have to leave their wages behind, and that would produce complete financial damage to them.

14. How far away is your/the child's home? How did you/they get here (to this place of employment)?

After working until 3 o'clock in the morning, the child workers sleep in the factory rooms until 7 or 8 o'clock in the morning.

15. How old are you?

██████████ is 16 years old.

16. What is your education level?

██████████ never went to school. However, he can write his name.

17. (Whether the person is male/female)

Male.

Name: [REDACTED]
Fathers Name: [REDACTED] li

Union: [REDACTED]

5. How did you/they come to be involved in these occupations/activities?

Because, there is no other industry in the area, there is no other employment for them to work in other than as agricultural labor.

6. Are you/they paid for their work? If so, how? (i.e., cash, in-kind)

He receives his wages in cash. However, because of the fact that his labor is sold in advance, the wage rate for him is far below the average market rate. For example, he receives BDT 250 to 300 only (3.65 to 4.41 USD) for cutting paddy; whereas, the regular market wage for doing the same job is double that, or BDT 500 to 700 (7.36 to 10.30 USD) per 33 decimal/one bigha (Indian/Bangladeshi land measurement system) of land. For weeding, he receives BDT 150 (2.2 USD) per 33 decimal; whereas, the regular wage for the same job is BDT 200 to 210 (or 2.94 to 3.09 USD).

7. Do you/the child owes a debt to your employer that you work to pay back?

Yes. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] is caught in a vicious cycle of debt. Every year he has to borrow from the landowners he works for. Because of the adjusted made for the advances from his wages, payable for work done during the peak seasons, he does not actually receive enough money to maintain his family even during the peak seasons of work. The result is his perpetual indebtedness to some landowners in the neighborhood, and working for them at lower wage rates in return.

8. If so, how was this debt incurred?

To meet his family's expenses, he had to take money as a loan from the local landowners. Moreover, to meet the expenses of his daughter's wedding and his medical costs for a stomach operation, he had to ask for a loan from local NGOs and fell into the vicious cycle of debt.

9. What are your/their working conditions? Are there dangerous tools, machinery, fumes, or other physical risks?

The interviewee does not have to work in dangerous situations, but there are other forms of danger in his work. In the peak season, he has to work 15 to 18 hours at a stretch. As a result, he faints from time to time due to malnutrition and dehydration. His employer does not pay for his medical expenses.

10. Are you/the child beaten/abused by the employer?

Since he has taken loans from different employers, he has to work for all of them. Usually, the paddy ripens at the same time in all the crop fields. When he works for one employer, the others come and pressure him to work for them as well. For this reason, he has to work from 5 o'clock in the morning to 12 o'clock at night. As a result, he goes through tremendous mental and physical pressure.

11. Are you/they threatened by the employer if certain job tasks are not performed? What kind of threats?

As he has to work for all the employers from whom he has taken advances, he cannot keep his word regarding the schedule he promises. Frequently, he misses the deadlines of given tasks and the employers verbally abuse him to the fullest extent.

12. Does your employer provide food and shelter? If so, do you/they have enough to eat?

The employers do not provide him with food or boarding. Sometimes, however, some employers do give him one-half kilogram of rice as a humanitarian consideration.

13. Are you/they able to leave your/their workplaces at will?

The interviewee cannot take leave at his will. Since he has taken loans from the employers, he has to pay them back by working during peak seasons.

14. How far away is your/the child's home? How did you/they get here (to this place of employment)?

The landowners he works for have land spreading over 5km around his present residence. He walks to the fields.

15. How old are you?

He is about 60 years old.

16. What is your education level?

He is illiterate.

17. (Whether the person is male/female)

Male.

Site Visit Notes—Researchers' Observations

Bangladesh

Conducted by Services and Solutions International (SSI)

Shrimp Farming

The shrimp farms in the southwestern coastal region of Bangladesh, spread over all the districts of Bagerhat, Barguna, Khulna, Mongla, and Satkhira. There are 20 to 25 large shrimp farms at Mongla which are approximately 66,000 decimals (British measurement system) each. The researchers visited 12 shrimp farms in Khulna districts at Koira, Dumuria, Paikgachha, and Tala *upazila* in the Satkhira district, all in Khulna Division, where large-scale farms and numerous owner-operated small and marginal farms can be found. Two of the farms visited are as big as 23,100–24,750 and 27,555 decimals, respectively; the other 10 are small shrimp farms. The researchers also visited Khulna Galda Chingri Hatchery at Dumuria. An estimated area of about 145,000 hectares is under shrimp cultivation¹⁴ in the Khulna Division, and about 900,000 people are engaged in different activities, including—

- Making mud boundary and initial earth works—which entails building mud boundaries, surrounding the shrimp farming area, and containing a shallow water level locally called *ghers*—to keep the water static and prevent it from draining out.
- Routine maintenance/repairing of the *gher* borders.
- Guarding.
- Feeding.
- Fishing.
- Marketing/Transporting.

The researchers have observed that while most of shrimp farming activities in the shrimp farms they visited are performed by casual laborers under a specified short period based on a verbal contract, some workers are permanent. These workers are engaged in activities, such as guarding, feeding, and routine maintenance/repairing of the *gher* borders. These laborers are employed on a fixed-term yearly basis and are required to live in small huts within the farm area permanently; such workers are on 24-hour duty and are not allowed to leave during their contract period. No child/forced labor was found in the visited shrimp farms.

¹⁴ An area of 130,000 hectares is under Bagda cultivation, and 15,000 hectares are under Golda cultivation. Bagda and Golda are types of shrimps.

Shrimp Processing

The researchers visited 13 shrimp processing factories in Khulna City, but were not permitted to enter. However, they managed to speak to several workers from two of these factories. One of the two is the Lockpur Shrimp Processing Company at Char Rupsha, Rupsha Thana in Khulna district. The researchers also visited the office of [REDACTED] (researchers could not provide a full name)-[REDACTED] a local nongovernmental organization (NGO) working in the sector, located in Khulna City.

The factories were visited to investigate the working conditions in shrimp processing factories around Khulna City, along the eastern bank of the Bhairab River, where there are 60 factories (24 big and 36 small) offering seasonal employment opportunities for about 20,000 laborers.

While the *aratdars* (wholesalers)/subcontractors do some preliminary processing before delivering the collected shrimps to the mainstream processing factories, the major activities the workers perform to process shrimp are as follows:

- Collection/procurement
- Washing/cleaning
- Weighing
- Chopping off heads and shell
- Sorting/Grading
- Icing and packaging.

Then the trained regular workers of the mainstream processing factories complete the actual processing work.

There is no forced labor as such, and the mainstream processing factories are also presently child labor free. However, the researchers estimated that 70 to 75 percent of shrimp processing activities are actually done by the subcontractors/*aratdars*, who use temporary workers engaged on a piece-work contract basis to complete most of their activities. More than 80 percent of the shrimp processing workers are women. Their ages range from 15 to 45 years. Sometimes, it happens that a child accompanying a mother helps with some activities; but such cases are rare and enterprise owners usually discourage bringing children to workplaces.

The laborers usually work 12 hours a day, with a 30-minute lunch break. Since a 24-hour workday is divided into two shifts—from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., and the night shift from 8:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m.—the laborers work day and night shifts every alternate week. They are paid monthly or daily. The laborers who work independently, on a piece-work basis, usually are paid per kilogram of shrimp. Whereas long hours of work, 12 to 14 hours a day, is a common phenomenon, the laborers under contractors usually work during the night, starting from 8:00 p.m., and they continue working until the collected stock in any *arat* or factory is finished. The work shift may be prolonged for 24 hours or more during the peak season.

Based on the researchers' observation, the overall work environment in the mainstream factories is good—unlike the environment in most of the subcontractors' premises. At times, too many workers have to work in limited spaces, both in the *arats* and factories, particularly during the peak season. Workplaces are usually insufficiently lighted and poorly ventilated, thus the consequential bad odor. Floors are always wet, with no sitting arrangement for workers; many workers have to work standing all day. Many workers are exposed to cold temperature or handle

ice barehanded. These factors have lasting detrimental impact on the physical and mental health of the workers.

Deep Sea Fishing

Deep sea fishing is an important sector offering employment opportunities to a huge number of people living in the coastal districts of Chittagong, Cox's Bazar, Barisal, Bhola, Barguna, Patuakhali, Khulna, Satkhira, Shariatput, and Gopalganj. Most of the fishermen in the above areas are illiterate.

The researchers visited seven sites in the coastal region of Khulna Division. They went to the

[REDACTED] in Khulna City, [REDACTED] Patharghata *upazila* in Barguna district. They also [REDACTED] in Khulna district, [REDACTED] at Patharghata.

In Chittagong Division, the researchers visited two sites: [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] at Jahanabad, [REDACTED] in Chittagong district. They also visited [REDACTED] in the locale.

Some locations were also visited to understand the real-life conditions of the fishermen communities of both the Chittagong and Khulna regions. The researchers talked to the following the informants:

- About 26 *aratdar* (wholesalers)/moneylenders, *arat*, and Market Management Committee representatives
- Three or four Fish Traders Association and Fishing Trawler Owners' Association leaders
- Eight fishermen community leaders
- Four trawler and net owners
- Two fishermen's family members
- About 13 to 14 ordinary fishermen
- About 18 to 20 people in various professions related to deep sea fishing
- Three children working in the deep sea fishing sector
- Parents of a child laborer engaged in deep sea fishing
- One social worker.

The deep sea fishermen cast and pull fishing nets, collect and preserve fish, and repair and dry nets. They receive a share of the net sale proceeds of fish caught during fishing season.

It is extremely risky to be in a boat roaming in deep sea.¹⁵ The living space is too small for all the fishermen to share a sleeping area. Some boats, as the researchers have observed, do not have any shade; workers are directly exposed to rain and to the sun in the summer. Also, the noises of sea roars and the trawler engine compel the fishermen to speak loud when communicating with their coworkers. The risks of robbery, cyclone, sinking, a malfunctioning trawler engine, and getting

¹⁵ Practically, it was not possible for the interviewers to accompany the deep sea fishermen to the sea to make firsthand observations regarding the process of deep sea fishing. However, understanding is obtained through in-depth discussion with experts who have practical experience in deep sea fishing and its process.

lost in the deep sea and being secluded from family are the common hazards that fishermen potentially face.

It was understood that the most dangerous situation is a sudden storm in the deep sea. There is no way for the people on board to escape the storm and return to the shore. The boat can sink at any time, even in heavy winds. The researchers found that there is no telecommunication system in such boats. Therefore, the fishermen cannot be warned about the storm beforehand and take any precautions.

The researchers observed that children are also involved in the process. They are usually taken to the *chars*. They live there in the makeshift huts and load/unload or grade fish. They also engage in gathering and storing the catches. In the trawlers, some of the children cook; some of them collect fish from the nets or drain water from the trawlers. The children engaged on small boats for transporting the catches from the *chars* to the wholesalers market usually drain water from the boat.

Steel Furniture Making Workshop

There are two areas in Khulna City where steel furniture are made and sold: one at Khulna KDA Railway Market, in front of Khulna New Market, and the other at both sides of Shonadanga Road in Khulana city. The steel furniture making workshops are usually behind or very near the shops. The researchers visited 12 such workshop/shops in both the above areas. The overall work environment in such workshops is not good. The workers are generally exposed to hazardous conditions: chemical spray, gas, color dusts, irritating sounds, and bad smell. Workers are also expected to handle heavy steel sheets/bars, tins, hammers, etc. The risk of physical injury is always there. Inhalation of sprayed color is a direct health hazard to which the workers are subjected.

The steel furniture produced in the factories visited are usually beds, *almirah* (cabinets), showcases, chest-up drawers, trunks/chests, meat safes, and racks with doors to keep pots, plates, and the like in the kitchen.

Child workers usually help the senior workers in steel–furniture-making workshops. They are engaged in rubbing/cleaning, mixing and pasting pudding, mixing color and chemical agents, and spraying paints. They work on a monthly salary basis. The researchers minutely observed a child worker painting an *almirah* in a workshop/shop at the Khulna Development Authority (KDA) Railway Market.

Brick-Kiln/Brick Production

The researchers have visited eight brick-kiln sites in Khulna district at [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and at Rupsha *upazila*. They visited one brick kiln at [REDACTED], four at [REDACTED] (one of the four sites is [REDACTED], where the interviews were taken), and three brick kilns at Rupsha *upazila* in Khulna district.

[REDACTED] is about 5 kilometers [REDACTED] [REDACTED], where there are 40 to 45 brick kilns employing about 7,000 laborers. Based on rough calculations provided by the researchers, 80 percent of those laborers are male, 15 percent are female, and 5 percent are children.

In all the brick kilns visited, the researchers observed that maintaining the speed required to keep up with those formatting the clay balls into raw bricks is tiresome. Poverty is the main reason

why workers are subtly forced to work for their employer, who provides them a shabby makeshift house to live in cost-free and pays advances to sustain them during the off season.

The researchers also observed that the children at the brick kiln usually help their mothers by carrying molds of earth to dice it up as bricks. They then carry the unbaked bricks to the rows of bricks laid on the ground for sunburn. Some of the child workers at the brick kilns are also involved in carrying the sunburn bricks to the furnaces for baking.

The laborers include children who work 7 to 8 hours a day, in three phases. The first phase starts at 7:00 a.m. and continues until 9:00 a.m. Then they eat breakfast and rest until to 10:00 a.m. The second phase ranges from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., before lunch. The post-lunch shift begins at 3:00 p.m. and continues until 5:30 p.m.; at times it will continue until 6:00 p.m. The laborers are paid on a weekly basis.

Chumki Works (Embroidery, Saree)

The researchers visited three embroidery factories at [REDACTED] at [REDACTED] in Dhaka City, which are designated for *chumki* works. One of these factories is [REDACTED], where the interviews occurred. It is a privately owned trading house, which does *chumki* work on *sarees*, *panjabis*, *shalwar*, *kamiz*, *lehenga*, scruffs, etc. The researchers also visited the [REDACTED] at [REDACTED] in Dhaka; they visited two *saree* factories. They formally interviewed the owner of a Benarashi *saree*-weaving factory. As the researchers observed in the factories visited, most of the efficient *chumki* workers and Benarashi weavers are Biharis/Pakistanis (people who got stuck in Bangladesh after the liberation war), coming from refugee camps like Mohammadpur Geneva Camp, Mirpur Muslim Camp, and Mohammadpur Town Hall Camp. Some migrant workers from Rangpur, Dinajpur, Shariatpur, Faridpur, and Comilla districts are also working in the [REDACTED]. The researchers understood from their discussions with the people connected to this sector and from overall observation and rough estimation that about 10,000 to 15,000 workers are presently engaged in *chumki* works, mostly on a piece-work contract basis. Both children and adults were observed working in the *chumki* works and Benarashi *saree*-weaving factories. Workers receive payments based on their work volume and designs on a weekly payment basis in *chumki* works. A significant number of workers in the Benarashi weaving factories work on a lot contract basis. Some are on fixed wage basis. All of these workers do needle work per design. No forced labor was found in the factories visited. However, 20 to 25 percent of the workers are age 14 or under.

Based on the researchers' observations, the overall work environment is not good. The factory rooms are very congested. Workers work together in a narrow room, usually 12 x 15 feet, devoid of good ventilation facilities. They have to work all day while sitting on the floor. Most of the workers are suffering from waist pain from such working conditions. It also causes deformity in the long run.

Salt Production

Salt production in Bangladesh is mainly concentrated in the Cox's Bazar and Banskhalī *upazilas* of Chittagong district. The research team visited one of the most well-known areas for salt refinery industries, the Islampur industrial area in the Cox's Bazar district, which is 250 km away from Chittagong City. The majority of the population there is poor; also, in one way or another, they are related to the salt industries. Because crop cultivation is very limited in the area from excessive salinity, almost all lands are devoted to salt production.

The researchers visited one salt factory, [REDACTED]. It is a privately owned salt refinery and manufacturing factory. The researchers formally interviewed the owner of this factory and one of the child workers engaged in salt production at the factory.

The researchers estimated that about 40 percent of the child laborers are engaged in the production of salt in the Cox's Bazar region. Child laborers working in this sector are between the ages of 12 and 18. Both male and female child laborers are seen in this sector. The child workers are paid on a daily wage basis. The child laborers usually carry buckets of crude salt to the factory. They also hold buckets of salt (1 bucket = 10 kg) after refining and crushing the salt, which is then thrown to a particular hole containing water. The child laborers then collect this refined salt from the hole with small buckets, which they hand to other workers. Two child laborers hold one bucket of salt.

The work conditions observed in the salt refinery are unhygienic and dirty. The factory premises are always wet, so there is a possibility of electric short circuit. The workplace is noisy because of the loud sound of the machines, which can cause hearing loss. There are no dangerous machines, tools, or fumes, but child workers might get affected with skin diseases, such as infection of palms or feet from salt water. The children reported mental and psychological pressure. The work environment at the factory is congested. The workers are abused by their employers. The employer is unkind to the child workers and scolds them very often for trifling faults or any negligence to duty. Incidents of verbal abuse were reported to the researchers.

Ready-Made Garments (subcontract level)

The research team visited [REDACTED], located in [REDACTED], within the Metropolis of Dhaka.

[REDACTED] is a trading and manufacturing company engaged in exporting ready-made garments (t-shirt, shirts, jeans, etc.). It was established in [REDACTED]. It is located at the southern part of the Mirpur area under Dhaka City.

The environment of the workplace is moderate. Fifty-eight (58) workers work in a room that is approximately 1,500 square feet. The room is adequately lighted, and there are 27 sewing machines and four vapor irons. However, there is no ventilation. A toilet facility is available. The location has 4 or 5 fans to blow out hot air. There is only one tube-well as a source of water. The workers feel too hot during the peak summer days. The workers do not use any dangerous machinery except sewing and ironing machines.

Despite phenomenal improvement over the years, the working conditions in many factories, low wage rates, congested workspaces, and tiresome postures are the common concerns expressed by most of the garments workers.

Shipbreaking

Shipbreaking is mostly done in the Sitakunda area near the port city Chittagong. Sitakunda is an *upazila*, or administrative unit, of Chittagong district and one of the oldest sites of human habitation in Bangladesh. It is also the home of the country's first eco-park and of alternative energy projects, specifically wind energy and geothermal power.

Sitakunda *upazila* occupies an area of 483.97 square kilometers (186.86 square miles), which includes 61.61 square kilometers (23.79 square miles) of forest. It is bordered by Mirsharai on the north; Pahartali on the south; Faticckhari, Hathazari, and Panchlaish on the east; and the Sandwip Channel in the Bay of Bengal on the west.

Although Sitakunda is predominantly an agricultural area, it also has the largest shipbreaking industry in the world. The area features a cement factory, 12 jute mills, 6 textile mills, 10 rerolling mills, and 79 functional and defunct shipyards. The industry has been accused of neglecting worker rights, especially concerning work safety practices and child labor. It has been also accused of harming the environment, particularly by causing soil contamination. Sitakunda's ecosystems are further threatened by deforestation, over-fishing, and groundwater contamination. The *upazila* is also susceptible to natural hazards, such as earthquakes, cyclones, and storm surges. At present, there are more than 60 shipbreaking units in the area.

Shipbreaking is the process of dismantling an obsolete vessel's structure for scraps. The researchers visited four shipbreaking yards: [REDACTED] at [REDACTED], [REDACTED] at [REDACTED], [REDACTED] at [REDACTED], and [REDACTED] at [REDACTED]. All four are at Sitakunda *upazila* in Chittagong district. The researchers also visited the office of [REDACTED], a local NGO in the sector located at [REDACTED] in [REDACTED] and working in the shipbreaking sector.

The laborers work 11 hours a day; commonly, they work 25 days a month and mostly receive monthly wages paid in cash calculated on an hourly basis. At least 20 to 25 percent of the total workers in shipbreaking are children. They help the cutter-man in activities, such as lightening the gas flame, washing the iron from mud or sludge, going into the big pipes for cleaning the petroleum, loading pieces of irons, and pulling wire to bring the iron in the yards from the seashore; they also work in the ship to dismantle its outfitting.

The researchers observed that shipbreaking contaminates the coastal soil, sea waters, the environment, and the ecosystem of the area, mainly through the discharge of ammonia, burned oil, spillage, floatable grease balls, metal rust and various other disposal refuse materials together with the high turbidity of sea water.

The demolition of ships is a dirty and dangerous job by any standard, but safety measures are almost absent in these visited yards. Very often, workers face fatal accidents and are injured. Lack of safety equipment to protect the workers from accidents is evident to researchers; the laborers receive no compensation or no treatment after accidents. Many workers found working in these yards were previously injured.

Shipbreaking also carries high risks. The hazards linked to shipbreaking broadly fall into two categories: intoxication by dangerous substances and accidents in the yards. Explosion of gas and fumes in the tanks are the prime causes of accidents. Several burnout tanks were found in these yards. Another major cause of accidents: workers falling from the ships, as they are working with no safety measures. One laborer who lost one of his legs in such an accident was found in a yard helping others with their work. Many such accidents are reported as well. Any careless act can cause such a serious injury to the laborers. The laborers may also cut their hands and other body parts of their bodies on the job. The researchers found laborers working all day and were exposed to toxic chemicals, gases, and welding sparks, which are common health hazards in the yards visited. The shipbreaking workers are often wounded and burnt by the flame and iron; the risks were evident in the yards visited. The laborers also inhale smoke all day. As a result, they experience pain and a burning sensation inside their chests and stomachs, as many complained.

As the workers have very little income (11 *taka* for 1 hour; they work 11 hours a day and commonly work 25 days a month), they cannot see their families often.

Leather Tanning

The tanneries in Dhaka City are mainly in the Hazaribagh area [REDACTED]. Approximately 300 small and big tanneries are in the Hazaribagh area. Many of these tanneries have been operating for as long as 50 to 60 years. Nearly 15,000 workers work in these tanneries. Besides visiting some other tanneries, the researchers spent most of their time visiting the [REDACTED] at [REDACTED] in Dhaka City, where they conducted the interviews. [REDACTED] is a privately owned leather tanning plant.

The researchers observed that the working environment in most of the tanneries is poor. Common complaints include inadequate spaces and inappropriate working postures, wet and dirty premises, poor toilet facilities and ventilation, and a noisy environment. Among specific hazards, the following are common:

- Workers have to work with dangerous machines.
- The work premises are unhygienic, characterized by a bad smell.
- Workers have to handle chemicals barehanded.
- Workers are exposed to noise and a clumsy environment.
- Many of them have to work standing constantly.

The researchers observed that the risk of physical injury and adverse psychological effects cannot be ruled out altogether in the leather tanneries. No protection measures are present in these factories. The laborers also do not use any protection gear.

The laborers work at the fleshing machine and the sprit machine, make white-blue, sew and dye leather, and do the ironing. They receive their wages in cash every night. The child laborers work at the fleshing machine and the sewing machine, make white-blue, extract water from hides, mix chemicals, do hydraulic ironing, and wither hides. They receive their wages every night, as per daily rate. They are sometimes rebuked by their employers. All the laborers work from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. They sometimes work overtime.

Fish Processing/Drying

The research team visited [REDACTED] located at [REDACTED] on the northwestern side of [REDACTED], where modern preservation facilities and good infrastructure for transportation are absent. There is no land for cultivation. There are some salt fields. Most of the inhabitants are Muslims who have migrated from nearby [REDACTED]

The researchers visited one fish drying and processing factory—[REDACTED]—at [REDACTED], [REDACTED] in [REDACTED] district. They interviewed the owner and one of the child laborers.

The ages of the child workers in this profession range between 10 to 18 years. Boys and girls equally work in the fish drying and processing factories.

The child laborers actually perform the tasks of drying, sorting, segregating, and grading fish by species and size. Some are engaged in buying fish as well.

Besides the main tasks, the child laborers are bound to do other household work for the employers. To some extent, cases of debt bondage are evident. The employers give some amount of money to the family of the child laborers, and in return, they use the child laborers in their work.

The child laborers are not paid on a monthly basis but per contract for a period of 8 to 9 months. The consolidated amount is paid in cash by installment to their parents. Also, some workers are engaged during peak season on a daily wage basis.

The researchers observed that most of the laborers have to work outdoors, in humid and hot temperature. The environment is not hygienic, and a foul smell pervades the whole area. No dangerous machines are used, but to some extent, there is physical risk of fish bones penetrating parts of the body, as the laborers do not use any protection gear. The hot weather sometimes causes the child laborers to fall sick; the stench of dry fish also creates skin problems for the children's health. There is no instance of the employers beating or physically abusing the child workers. However, sometimes the employers scold them if they ignore their work.

Gul Making—Chewing Dust of Tobacco

The researcher visited [REDACTED] in the Rangpur district, which is a well-known tobacco production and processing area. There are many *bidi*- and *gul*-making factories in and around the [REDACTED]. There are 10 to 12 *gul* factories in the area. The research team collected information on the working conditions of the *gul*-making factories. The specific site visited was in a village named [REDACTED] situated within the [REDACTED], about 16 kilometers from the [REDACTED] town in the east. The researchers visited five or six factories. One is [REDACTED], one of the biggest factories in the [REDACTED] area, where the researchers interviewed a child worker. The researchers also visited the office of [REDACTED], a local NGO in the sector, located in the [REDACTED] area.

The majority the people of [REDACTED] work in the *bidi* and *gul* factories; their second most popular profession is agriculture. There is a high school and a primary school in the village.

Failing to compete with cigarettes, locally produced *bidi* production is gradually declining. The owners of the *bidi* factories have turned to *gul* manufacturing (according to [REDACTED] or Md. [REDACTED], a prominent person of the locality). The main raw material of *gul* is tobacco.

The researchers observed that the overall factory environment is not at all good. The workers suffer from giddiness (an actual physical ailment) due to the smell of raw and dust tobacco. One feels like coughing when exposed to itching tobacco dust and its strong smell. When the dust of *gul* falls into someone's eyes, it creates a burning sensation. Both male and female workers have to work in a very hot and congested environment and are exposed to some kinds of chemicals that cause a burning sensation on the skin. They have to work amidst the noise pollution created by the machines. The toilet facilities in the *gul* factories are inadequate.

The children, between the ages of 7 and 17, are found engaged at the *gul* factories visited. The percentage of child workers engaged in the *gul* factories at Haragachh is about 50 percent, 35 percent of them are boys and 15 percent are girls. As a whole, 70 percent are boys and

30 percent girls. They remain under pressure because of the contractual nature of the job. The employer rebukes them, but does not physically abuse them if they make mistakes; even the employer threatens to sack them. If child workers fail to perform their tasks on time, then they do not get their wages for that day. The employer verbally abuses them if the expected output is not delivered on time.

The child laborers in a *gul* factory are usually engaged in filling small cans with *gul*, putting the mouth covers on the cans, putting labels on the cans, and packaging them. All the workers get paid in cash, generally on a daily basis. The child laborers usually work 4 to 5 days a week. The laborers work from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. every day.

Wooden Furniture Carpentry

The researchers visited four wooden furniture factory/shops at different sites in Chittagong City. The enterprise where the interviews were conducted is [REDACTED], located in the [REDACTED] area under [REDACTED] in the Chittagong metropolitan city. In the [REDACTED] area, there are many shops, hotels, factories, etc. The researchers also visited three other wooden furniture factories/shops, one at [REDACTED] in Chittagong City, and the other two at [REDACTED] in Chittagong City.

[REDACTED] established in [REDACTED], is a factory/shop for manufacturing wood furniture, such as chairs, tables, and *almirah* (cabinets), where approximately 17 carpenters, including children, currently work.

The researchers observed that the furniture factory-cum-shops are dusty as it is right on the roadside. The wooden dust creates breathing problems for the workers. Sometimes, the smell of chemicals or oil used for burnishing wood causes nostril itching. There are sufficient arrangements for lighting and toilet/water facilities and the like in the factory-cum-shops visited.

Child labor is evident in such wooden furniture factories. Children usually are apprentices or work as helpers to the senior carpenters. They load and unload sliced wood, do the finishing/polishing of wood, do the sweeping/cleaning of the floor, etc. They help the senior carpenters to make chairs, tables, *alna*, etc. They make wood of the designed furniture smooth by rubbing and dyeing.

The child workers are not beaten or abused, but are sometimes scolded for mistakes. If certain tasks are not completed adequately, the employer rebukes them for that. All workers work from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. They are paid in cash on a daily basis.

Plastic Products

There are 10 to 12 plastic goods manufacturing factories at the [REDACTED] industrial area at [REDACTED], on the northeastern side of the [REDACTED] (Bogra Municipal Area). A total of 200 to 300 workers are engaged in these factories. Child labor is prevalent, and there is no trade union in the plastic sector. These plastic factories mainly produce buckets, bowls, mugs, jugs, jars, plates, pots, etc. The researchers visited three plastic factories in the area. One of these factories was [REDACTED], where the researchers interviewed a child worker. It is a privately owned plastic goods manufacturing factory. The researchers also visited the branch office of [REDACTED] a local NGO working in the sector, located at [REDACTED] in [REDACTED].

The researchers visited [REDACTED], which is under [REDACTED] of the [REDACTED] Municipality. People of different professions live in the area. Thirty percent of the population are businessmen, 40 percent are service holders, and 30 percent are workers/laborers. There are schools, colleges, and *madrassas* (Islamic schools) in the ward. The children from the laborers' families cannot go to school. Because of poverty, they have to work and earn to survive. For example, they get engaged in workshops, *bidi* making, and plastic and metal factories, as well as rickshaw pulling.

In the visited plastic factories, child workers are engaged in packaging, preparing cartons, and carrying packages from one place to another place. They receive payment in cash on a weekly basis.

The researchers observed that child workers face many mental and physical problems in the plastic factories. They do not have to handle dangerous machines, but they have to carry heavy loads, work standing or sitting for long hours (usually from 8:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.), and have to work in a hot environment inside the factory.

The working environment in the visited factories is not good at all, because the factories do not have enough space for the workers to work comfortably. These factories do not maintain a good environment, and in most cases are inadequately lighted, poorly ventilated, lacking in water supplies, and using unhygienic toilets. Children have to work in a noisy environment and with malodorous chemicals. The employers also hurl abusive words at the child workers if they make any mistakes and force them to work overtime.

Steel Rerolling (Metal Rods, Deformed Bars, Angles, Channels, Plane Bars, Metal Sheets)

The steel rerolling sector mainly produces metal rods used in construction that plays an important role in the infrastructure building of Bangladesh. The mills also manufacture different types of steel items, like deformed bars, angles, channels, plane bars, and metal sheets.

The team visited the [REDACTED] located near the port city of Chittagong, the second largest city in Bangladesh. Many factories and industries have been established in the area after the independence of the country. The city is surrounded by many hills and, on the south, the Bay of Bengal. Many mills, factories, hospitals, and mosques are located in the city. Eighty percent (80%) of the exports use the Chittagong Port.

[REDACTED] is the biggest steel mill, meeting the maximum demand in this sector. [REDACTED], a unit of the well-known [REDACTED], having 55 years experience in steel making, is a fully automatic steel rerolling mill. The mill was imported from [REDACTED] and established at the sea port of Chittagong. The founder of the group was late [REDACTED], and is now managed by his son [REDACTED] and other sons and nephews. [REDACTED] manufactures steel products that are sold in different parts of the country.

[REDACTED] is located at [REDACTED] in Chittagong City. The northern side of the factory is adjacent to high hills, the southern side is joined by a wide road, the western side is adjacent to a small factory, and the eastern side is adjacent to the [REDACTED] factory. The environment around the [REDACTED] factory compound is good. As there is a wide road adjacent to the

main factory, it is easier for the workers to travel. There is an open space around the factory. More than 300 workers are employed at [REDACTED].

As the researchers have observed, the working condition in [REDACTED] is good. There is an open space in the factory compound through which air can easily pass. There are sufficient toilet facilities, separate rooms for lunch and dinner, uninterrupted electric supply, etc. Yet, the factory area is hot, and workers face some difficulties for that reason. The workers do not need to get very close to the furnace to melt iron scrap, but they have to bend hot rods. Sometimes the workers suffer physical injuries, although they wear gloves and shield glasses.

However, the workers face physical pressure. For example, they have to carry heavy loads of scraps while unloading from the trucks. They have to work in a very hot environment, particularly while working with gas-powered cutting machines. While cutting big scraps with the gas-powered cutter, they may incur physical injury, burning skin by fire, etc.

There is no official child labor in [REDACTED], but child or adolescent workers are engaged in the factory. Usually their ages are falsified—increased in official documents. Child or adolescent workers unload scraps from trucks, bend the finished rods and carry them to stores, and make small pieces of scraps by gas cutter. They work 12 hours a day and are paid hourly. Other workers are paid daily, sometimes monthly. Their work schedule is 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.; their duty shift changes every alternate week. The employer sometimes rebukes them if they make mistakes or cannot perform their duty.

Handloom Weaving (Saree, Lungi, Napkins, and Handkerchiefs)

The researchers visited 10 to 15 handloom factories at [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED] *upazila* in Sirajganj district. Each factory consisted of 2 to 10 handlooms. One of the factories is [REDACTED], where the researchers conducted the formal interviews. [REDACTED], established in 1975, is owned by [REDACTED]; it has 121 handlooms. The researchers also visited the office of the [REDACTED], a local NGO in the sector located at [REDACTED], Belkuchi *upazila*, in Sirajganj district.

There are about 90,000 handlooms and 4,000 power looms (according to [REDACTED], a handloom factory owner) at [REDACTED] *upazila* in Sirajganj district. The number of power looms is increasing. [REDACTED] has easy access, by roads and rivers, to Dhaka and other cities of Bangladesh.

Saree, lungi (a large piece of cloth worn around the waist hanging to the foot instead of trousers), napkins, and other items (such as handkerchiefs) are produced in these handloom factories and supplied all over the country.

As the researchers gathered from their visits and discussions with the weavers, handloom weaving is a tiresome job; a worker cannot weave for more than a month at a stretch. They have to rest for a week after a month's job. In the handloom sector, the workers can generally work only 7 to 8 months for various unavoidable reasons. They work on a piece-work contract basis and receive their wages in cash weekly, depending on number of *sarees* they produce. If they make a mistake in the weaving, they do not get their wages for that particular piece of cloth. At times, penalties are imposed for serious defects.

In many factories, many workers have to work in a limited space, where they work day and night. The workers do not have to work with any dangerous tools or machines, but still they face some physical problems. Since they have to work sitting all day, pain in the wrist, waist, and backbone are the weavers' most common complaints. Weaving also causes tremendous pressure on their eyes. Furthermore, they are exposed to the particles of threads generated from running looms, which enter their nose continuously. Inhalation of cotton particles is a cause of chest/pulmonary diseases. Many of the workers have to work while standing up, which also causes physical problems. It is noisy when all the weavers start weaving. The toilet facilities are very poor in the visited factories, particularly for female workers. On average, there are only two toilets for 150 workers in these handloom factories.

Workers usually do the spinning, prepare design format, and supply bobbins to the weavers; some of them weave *sarees*. The child workers are not physically tortured or abused, but they are rebuked by the factory supervisor if their work is not up to the standard.

Bidi Making (locally made cheap cigarette)

The researchers visited seven or eight *bidi* factories in Haragachh *upazila* under the Rangpur district in the northern part of Bangladesh. One of these factories is the [REDACTED], where the researchers conducted an interview with a child laborer. [REDACTED] is one of the largest *bidi* factories located at [REDACTED] in Rangpur district. The researchers also visited the [REDACTED].

The *bidi* factories are concentrated at Haragachh, because tobacco is easily available there as a raw material and labor is very cheap. There are 35 large and small *bidi* factories, employing around 40,000 to 45,000 workers. There are also four workers' associations in the area.

Bidi production/making is the main profession of the inhabitants of the area; their second profession is agriculture. Approximately 5 percent of the total population are service holders, and 15 percent are engaged in small and medium businesses.

The workers in the factories visited have to work while sitting in congested rooms that are not well ventilated, are in a very hot environment, and are without fans. Toilet facilities are poor. There are only three toilets for 500 workers at [REDACTED]. The premises are noisy because of the sounds of the crushing machines and the humming noise that is like a bazaar. However, the workers in the *bidi* factories do not have to use any dangerous machines. Instances of physical torture are very few. Nevertheless, workers always feel some mental pressure to complete the daily quota. Both male and female workers sit and work together in the *bidi* factories.

Child workers are engaged in making packets, filling in tobacco, and closing the opening of *bidi*. Management staff often verbally abuse the workers. The *bidi* workers receive payment in cash after delivery of the allotted quota. Some workers receive payment daily after finishing their work.

Soap Making

The researchers visited one privately owned soap factory—[REDACTED]—located in [REDACTED] at [REDACTED] near [REDACTED]. It was established [REDACTED] years ago and is now run by its current owner. [REDACTED] is the brand name of its product.

There are 30 to 35 small-scale laundry soap factories in the [REDACTED] area. The researchers figured out—from keen observations, discussions with the soap factories experts, and rough estimations—that about 15,000 workers are directly involved and more than 10,000 are indirectly involved in soap-making factories in and around Dhaka City. Child labor is also evident in the soap factories. Most of the adult workers/child workers are males. The researchers have interviewed one of the child workers in [REDACTED] Factory.

At the soap factories, the child workers are engaged in mixing raw materials, making paste in pans, pouring paste into dices, shaping soaps by hands, pasting labels or packaging ready soaps, and carrying cartons to stores or delivery sites. They do not produce any complete product. They just help others. The children are not beaten or physically abused. Sometimes, they are scolded by the employer if work is not done properly. The workers are paid daily, depending on the proportion of their work.

The working condition in the soap factory is dirty, unhygienic, and congested. The factory premise is always wet. Waste from the boilers is spread all over the place. The laborers do not use hand gloves while handling chemicals. Therefore, there are severe physical risks from direct exposure to the chemicals in the soap factories.

Shoe Making

The researchers visited three shoe factories, [REDACTED], [REDACTED], and [REDACTED], at [REDACTED], [REDACTED] in the old part of Dhaka City. These are privately owned handmade shoe factories. Most of the small shoe factories in Dhaka City are housed in narrow, crowded rooms because of the higher rates of rentals. Usually in all such shoe factories, about eight workers work in a room that are about 12 feet long, 11 feet wide, and 10 feet high. Some of these rooms are divided into two levels by a wooden ceiling, reducing each floor height to 5 feet; about 10 or 12 workers work in the 5-foot tall upper level.

Child workers in shoe factories cut leather, trim rubbers for making shoe soles, put chemical glue on rubber soles to paste it to the leather part of the shoe, and fix shoe soles. Sometimes, they sew the shoes. They have to do everything their employers or senior shoe factory workers ask them to do. The child workers at the shoe factories are never paid for their work. However, the factory owners provide them with food and board. Workers at these factories usually start working at 9:00 a.m. and continue until midnight. They only get breaks for meals twice a day.

The working environment in the small shoe factories visited is very unhealthy and hazardous. There are fans and electric lamps in many rooms, but bathroom facilities are inadequate in almost all of the factories.

As some of the rooms visited are divided in half according to their height, creating two stories in one, the workers cannot even stand up inside the rooms. The working environment is suffocating. At [REDACTED], five child workers and 13 adult workers work in such conditions. The place is so congested that the workers cannot even move properly. In the factories visited, the workers—children and adults—have to work 15 or 16 hours a day in such conditions. It naturally creates severe physical and physiological pressure on them.

Children have to work with sharp and pointed tools to cut natural or synthetic leather. Very often, they cut their fingers, as they do not use any protection gear. Also, they suffer from various types of skin diseases. Chemical glues are used in shoe making, which cause breathing problems. Heart disease is very common among the shoe factory workers.

Agriculture

The researchers visited four sites at [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED] at [REDACTED] upazila in Thakurgaon district. They visited the residence of the [REDACTED]—a local government council member of [REDACTED]—and the [REDACTED]—a local NGO office—to take interviews. The researchers also visited houses of several agriculture laborers to witness their living conditions.

The researchers traced the existence of bonded labor in agriculture in a certain hilly pocket of Thakurgaon, the extreme northeastern border district of Bangladesh. The team visited [REDACTED] at [REDACTED] of [REDACTED] upazila in Thakurgaon district, about 500 kilometers away from Dhaka. The village is surrounded by Dinajpur district on the east, and Indian West Bengal on its west and south sides. This is a Himalayan plain land.

About 5,000 people live in the village. Agriculture is the main occupation for more than 80 percent of the population, including about 30 percent who are agricultural wage laborers.

The main crops produced in this village are paddy, wheat, maize, beans, jute, etc. Fruits grown are mango, jackfruit, papaya, litchi, watermelon, and banana. Based on observations and discussions with the local people, the researchers found that bonded labor is evident in producing all of these agricultural products (there are no survey statistics about how many people are involved in bonded labor). These laborers are engaged in ploughing and preparing land before plantation, planting/sowing, weeding and harvesting, and husking. Children usually help their parents, who work as agricultural wage laborers.

The researchers found from keen investigation that the employers pressure the laborers for more work. They do not accept any mistakes. They mistreat the laborers. The laborers have to work for several landowners at the same time, often facing unbearable pressure. The laborers work in the rain, high heat, mud, hunger, etc. In the peak season, very often the laborers have to work all night. They receive their wages in cash, but because their labor is sold in advance, their wage rate is actually far below the average market rate. They usually get involved in debt bondage cycle.

The agriculture laborers do not have to work in dangerous situations or use dangerous tools and machines, but there are other forms of danger in their work. During the peak season, they have to work 15 to 18 hours at a stretch, from 5:00 a.m. to midnight. Most of the works are physically tiresome. As a result, the laborers sometimes faint. Due to their hard labor, they fall sick very often; but they go without any medical treatment, as they cannot afford health care. The employer does not pay for their medical expenses.

Annotated Bibliography: Bangladesh

In-country Research and Data Collection on Forced Labor and Child Labor in the Production of Goods

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List of Acronyms

ACPR	Associates for Community and Population Research
ADB	Asian Development Bank
BBC	British Broadcasting Corporation
BBS	Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics
BIDS	Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies
BEHTRUWC	Basic Education for Hard to Reach Urban Working Children
BGMEA	Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association
BILS	The Bangladesh Institute of Labour Studies
BTUK	Bangladesh Trade Union Kendro
CEC	Centre for Education and Communication
CEACR	Committee of Experts on the Application
CPD	Centre for Policy Dialogue
IFHR	International Federation of Human Rights
ICLS	International Conference of Labour Statisticians
ILO	International Labour Organization
IPEC	International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour
ISPI	Italian Social Partners Initiative
NCLS	National Child Labour Survey
NGO	Nongovernmental Organization
NORAD	Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation
PEWFCL	Preventing and Eliminating the Worst Forms of Child Labour
SIMPOC	Statistical Information and Monitoring Programme
SSI	Services and Solutions International
TWC	Together with Working Children
UCW	Understanding Children's Work
UN	The United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USDOL	United States Department of Labor
YPSA	Young Power in Social Action

1. 20,000 trafficked a year (2006, September 07). The Daily Star. Retrieved March 13, 2008 from the World Wide Web: <http://www.thedailystar.net/2006/09/07/d60907060681.htm> (Electronic copy)

Source: News Article

Adult Trafficking: Domestic Labor, Sexual Exploitation

The news item asserts that the State of World Population Report 2006, published by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), observes that 10,000 to 20,000 people, mainly women, are trafficked from Bangladesh every year. According to the report, Bangladesh is one of the largest labor-exporting countries in South East Asia and South Asia. According to this article, women from Bangladesh and other countries ended up in the entertainment industry and red light districts in Middle Eastern countries or worked as exploited domestic workers. The news item does not discuss forced labor in the production of goods.

2. 3 lakh child home helps in Dhaka (2004, June 13). The Daily Star. Retrieved April 03, 2008 from the World Wide Web: <http://www.thedailystar.net/2004/06/13/d40613011010.htm> (Electronic copy)

Source: News Article

Child Labor: Domestic Labor, Sexual Exploitation

Child Trafficking: Unspecified Sector

Forced Child Labor: Domestic Labor

The news article cites a UNICEF press release that indicates an estimated three lakh (300,000) children in the capital Dhaka alone work as domestic help, one of the worst forms of child labor that exposes them to risks of sexual abuse, exploitation, and trafficking. The article quotes the Executive Director of UNICEF saying that not only are these children forced to work long, hard hours, they are at increased risk of sexual abuse and being trafficked within and across borders. More than 10 lakh (1 million) children are engaged in various forms of work, including as domestic help throughout the country, the article quotes the director of ILO Dhaka office. The article does not discuss child labor in the production of goods.

3. Abuse of domestic helps widespread, says study (2006, December 15). New Age. Retrieved April 05, 2008 from the World Wide Web: <http://www.newagebd.com/2006/dec/15/nat.html> (Electronic copy)

Source: News Article

Forced Labor: Domestic Work
Exploitive Adult Labor: Domestic Labor

This news report briefly discusses the Bangladesh Institute of Labour Studies (BILS) study on rights of domestic workers. The study is based on several hundred interviews of domestic workers in Bangladesh (age and gender are unspecified). According to the results of the interview study, it was determined that housemaids and domestic workers work long hours for menial pay. Additionally, a large percentage of domestic workers were subject to harmful conditions such as scolding, torture, depression, serious injuries, rape, and even death.

4. Aktar R. (2007, June 13). Stop hazardous child labour. The Daily Star. Retrieved March 10, 2008 from the World Wide Web:
<http://www.thedailystar.net/2007/06/13/d706131502146.htm> (Electronic copy)

Source: News Article

Bonded Child Labor: Unspecified Sector
Child Labor: Automobile Industry, Bidi (Hand Rolled Cigarette), Domestic Labor, Dried Fish, Salt Factory, Sexual Exploitation, Street Vending, Unspecified Sector
Forced Child Labor: Unspecified Sector

The article is written by the Assistant Director of Eradication of Child Labour Project in Bangladesh, Ministry of Labour and Employment in the Daily Star. It cites the National Labour survey conducted in 2003 and discusses various forms of hazardous child labor in Bangladesh, the causes behind it, and its harmful effects on a child's physical and mental health. It also recommends measures that should be implemented to remove hazardous child labor from the country.

The 2003 survey found that Bangladesh has 3.18 million child laborers. This article mentions children being involved in bidi production, automobile workshops, balloon factories, motor garages, domestic work, street vending, producing dried fish, salt production, prostitution, pornography, and forced and bonded labor (unspecified).

The article also notes the measures taken by the Government of Bangladesh to eradicate child labor. For instance, The Ministry of Labor and Employment has been implementing a project named Eradication of Hazardous Child Labor (2nd phase) Project in Bangladesh, which has the goal of removing 30,000 children from hazardous child labor and giving them skills.

5. Aman A. (2005, January 30). Out of Bidi factories, but now jobless—200 teenagers may return to hazardous work. The Daily Star. Retrieved April 03, 2008 from the World Wide Web:
<http://www.thedailystar.net/2005/01/30/d50130070377.htm> (Electronic copy)

Source: News Article

Child Labor: Bidi (Hand Rolled Cigarette)

The news item focuses on the lives of children who were removed from hazardous work in the bidi factories in Daulatpur upazila, the biggest tobacco producing and processing zone in Bangladesh. SETU, an NGO, removed 2,090 children and teenagers aged 5-17 years from bidi factories. Before launching the project, a survey by SETU found that at least 5,000 children were working at eight large bidi factories in Kushtia district. A total of 368 boys and girls aged 13 to 17 were trained in different vocations including tailoring, paper bag making, nursery raising, electrical work, elementary engineering. SETU and ILO worked together in 2001 to remove child labor from bidi factories in Bangladesh. Poverty may compel unemployed children to return to tobacco factories. In 2005, it was reported that at least 2,500 children were still working in eight tobacco factories in the district.

6. Amin Z. A. (2007, July 27). Modern slavery. The Daily Star. Retrieved March 10, 2008 from the World Wide Web:
<http://www.thedailystar.net/2007/07/27/d707271504109.htm> (Electronic copy)

Source: News Article

Adult Trafficking: Sexual Exploitation, Slavery, Sexual Exploitation

Bonded Labor: Unspecified sector

Child Trafficking: Camel Jockeying, Sexual Exploitation, Sexual Exploitation, Slavery

Forced Labor: Unspecified sector

Indentured Child Servitude: Unspecified sector

Indentured Adult Servitude: Unspecified sector

This news article states that Bangladesh is one of the main countries of origin for human trafficking. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) estimates that about 25,000 women and children are trafficked every year from Bangladesh to India, Pakistan, the Middle East, UAE, Europe, and United States. It is also a major location for transit to other regions. The main trafficking route is the Dhaka-Mumbai-Karachi-Dubai route. Bangladeshi nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) working on human rights estimate that 200 to 400 Bangladeshi women and children are trafficked to Pakistan every month; that an estimated 10,000 to 15,000 are trafficked to India annually, and that 70 to 80 women and children are trafficked to other countries. The article cites the UN Palermo Protocols stating that trafficking denotes exploitation, which includes the exploitation of prostitution of others, or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labor or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, sexual servitude, involuntary servitude, bonded labor, working as camel jockeys, and the removal of organs. However, the article does not link to any industries/goods to these labor practices.

7. Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS). (2006, July). Baseline Survey for Determining Hazardous Child Labour Sectors in Bangladesh 2005. Dhaka: Planning Division, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.

(Hardcopy: The researcher could only obtain the executive summary of this report)

Source: Government Organization

Child Labor: Agriculture, Battery Recharging, Carpentry, Domestic Labor, Metal Works, Saw Milling, Welding

This report estimates that of the 2.2 million workers in 45 targeted hazardous sectors in the country, 539,403 child workers aged 5 to 17 perform hazardous labor. They are engaged in various works at the national as well as the urban and rural levels. The report shows the percentage of the child workers engaged in such sectors of Bangladesh by age distribution (i.e., 5 to 9 years of age, 4 percent; 10 to 14 years of age, 48.6 percent; and 15 to 17 years of age, 47.4 percent). The report estimates that 62,756 children aged 5 to 11, 209,674 children aged 12 to 14, 249,184 children aged 15 to 17, and 521,614 children aged 5 to 17 are involved in hazardous child labors in Bangladesh. The sample size and coverage of the survey was such that it could furnish reliable key estimates of the child workers in selected sectors by administrative division and former districts in Bangladesh. Moreover, this report presents socioeconomic characteristics of the child workers and their families in selected sectors, including the nature and extent of exploitation and the hazards faced in their working environment. However, the report does not discuss the use of forced labor in the production of goods.

According to the survey, no children worked in ship breaking, manufacturing of cigarettes, manufacturing of pesticides, or fireworks manufacturing during the survey period. According to the study, child labor prevailed in hazardous establishments such as saw milling, battery recharging, welding, metal works, and carpentry. The report also states that children were verbally and physically abused in their workplaces.

Furthermore, the report notes that children routinely performed domestic work. The government occasionally brought criminal charges against employers who abused domestic servants. Under the law every child must attend school through grade five or the age of 10 years. However, there is no effective legal mechanism to enforce this provision, the report says. There was little enforcement of child labor legislation outside the garment export sector. Agriculture and other informal sectors where there was no government oversight employed most of the child laborer.

The report compiles and interprets data on the extent of child labor in selected sectors and its effects on education, health, and moral and spiritual development. The report also provide the socioeconomic background of the child workers, the hours worked and earnings, health care and safety measures, perceptions of their parents, and other data.

8. Bangladesh children toil to survive. (2008, April 14). Al Jazeera.net. Retrieved April 17, 2008 from the World Wide Web:
<http://english.aljazeera.net/NR/exeres/F1AE7554-93D8-4786-BA8D-33E60D2F8965.htm> (Electronic copy)

Source: News Article

Child Labor: Agricultural, Factory Work (goods not specified) Textile, Glass Factory, Service (Shop keeping)

The article reports that in Bangladesh, at least 5 million children are believed to be working illegally in the agricultural sector, shops, and factories. Child workers are cheap and plentiful. Children as young as eight begin their working life in factories, simply because they have no choice. For instance, a 10-year-old boy left school and started work at a glass factory in Dhaka. He works 16 hours a day in hot, dirty conditions with one day off a week. For that he earns just over \$1 a day. On top of the long hours and small pay, he has to travel for an hour by foot and boat to get to home from work. Another example mentions a raid at a textile factory in Dhaka that rescued workers as young as 10 years old.

Bangladesh is under international pressure to address child labor, the article notes. But many of those who criticize the country's inability to tackle child employment forget that families can only often survive because of the money their children earn. In Bangladesh, parents have to pay for the tutoring of boys over the age of 10, yet all Bangladeshi girls receive free education. Nonetheless, parents are still forced to send their daughters to work because of the need of basic food items, the report says. Many children find themselves exposed to long working hours, unsatisfactory working conditions, and back-breaking work loads. Placed in these conditions, millions of children in Bangladesh have found themselves vulnerable to exploitation with only dreams of school, the news says.

9. The Bangladesh Thematic Group on Trafficking. (2004). Revisiting the Human Trafficking Paradigm: The Bangladesh Experience Part 1: Trafficking of Adults. Geneva: International Organization for Migration. (Electronic copy)

Source: International Organization

Adult Trafficking: Domestic Labor, Industrial Work (goods not specified) Sexual Exploitation
Bonded Labor: Unspecified Sector

This study examines trafficking in and out of Bangladesh. Various factors are suggested to influence the demand for trafficked persons, and it reports that poverty in Bangladesh makes the population vulnerable to being trafficked. Adults are trafficked into the sex industry, domestic servitude, industrial work, and bonded labor. Persons trafficked out of Bangladesh are often placed in bonded labor or another exploitative situation.

10. Blanchet T., Biswas H. and Dabu M. H. (2006). Slaves for a Reason: Bonded Child Labor in the Dry Fish Industry. Dhaka: Save the Children Sweden-Denmark. (Hardcopy)

Source: International Organization.

Bonded Child Labor: Dry Fish Industry
Forced Child Labor: Dry Fish Industry

This book examines the lives of adolescent boys recruited to dry fish production on an isolated island in the Bay of Bengal. It documents the deceitful methods used by Chitragong *dalals* (broker) who recruit them for the fishermen. Transported to Dublar char, the boys (called *dulabhangas*) cannot escape the harsh milieu, the work pressure, the blows, and the insults. When dismissed without pay, they are powerless. Being outsiders to the fisher community, their claims carry no weight. Fines and levies paid to law enforcement agents by the fishermen are covered by these boys' cheap labor. The book examines the sometimes perverse consequences of interventions meant to protect children from abuse.

This study constitutes a part of a larger research effort examining attitudes toward social status, which can implicitly or explicitly sanction servitude in Bengali society. Some of these are no longer apparent; others continue from the past to the present, while a few are fairly recent. The treatment meted out to *dulabhangas* exemplifies modern day slavery.

11. BDNEWS24. (2nd October , 2005). Over 1m girl children trafficked in 3 decades. News Network. Retrieved April 07, 2008 from the World Wide Web: <http://www.newsnetwork-bd.com/UI/Public/NewsDetail.php?LogID=9820> (Electronic copy)

Source: News Article

Child Labor: Agriculture, Garment Industry, Domestic Labor, Sexual Exploitation
Child Trafficking: Commercial Sexual Exploitation
Forced Child Labor: Commercial Sexual Exploitation

The article reports that girls are forced to work in the sex industry. A survey by a voluntary organization found that 40 percent of the females forcibly engaged in the industry are under the age of 16, which is considered to be approximately 100,000. Over the last three decades, more than 1 million girl children were trafficked abroad to serve in the sex industry.

UNICEF says that about 74 percent of the working children in the rural areas in Bangladesh are engaged in agriculture, of which the girls are the majority, the article states. According to a labor force survey, 0.23 million girls aged 10 to 14 and 0.25 million aged 15 to 19 work as child laborers. More than 16 percent of these children work as domestic workers in homes and are under threat of physical and sexual abuse. Among the garments workers, girl workers are common, the article says.

12. Chowdhury A. F. H. and Islam M. Z. A. (N.D.). Bangladesh: Baseline Survey on

Child Labour Situation in Match Industry in Dhaka, Narayanganj, Chittagong and Bandarban Districts 2001. Dhaka: International Labour Office, IPEC, Project on Preventing and Eliminating the Worst Forms of Child Labour in Selected Formal and Informal Sectors. (Hardcopy)

Source: International Organization

Child Labor: Match Production

This is a combined report of the outcomes of a household-based baseline survey conducted in match industries in Dhaka and Narayanganj and in Chittagong and Bandarban Hill districts of the southeastern part of Bangladesh. The survey obtained pertinent information on the prevalent child labor situation, encompassing a range of data relating to their age at entry to work, time spent working by week and month, average income, enrollment in school, as well as health problems arising from the hazardous working conditions of match factory.

The baseline survey in Dhaka and Narayanganj identified 855 child match factory workers aged 5 to 17, of which 49.94 percent of them were male and 50.06 percent female belonging to a total of 611 households from Demra, Keraniganj, Shyampur, and Sutrapur *Thanas* (Police Station) of Dhaka District and Fatulla *Thana* of Narayanganj District. Children aged 5 to 12 comprises the highest proportion (47.84 percent) of the total child labor force in the match industries in Dhaka. The highest proportion among female child workers was aged 15 to 17. They constitute 51.05 percent of their age group working in four factories covered by the survey. The factories in the survey in Bandarban District had a large section of employees from the indigenous population—Chakma and mainly Marma. The survey in Chittagong found that most parents were extremely indifferent toward the proper development of their children. The article says that this is possibly a result of their lack of education and resources.

13. Fatmi N. E. (N.D.). Bangladesh: Baseline Survey on Child Labour Situation in Construction Industry in Narayanganj and Munshiganj Districts 2001. Dhaka: International Labour Office, IPEC, Project on Preventing and Eliminating the Worst Forms of Child Labour in Selected Formal and Informal Sectors. (Hardcopy)

Source: International Organization

Child Labor: Construction Work

This survey seeks to establish a benchmark scenario that facilitates an understanding of the working children, their particular socioeconomic background, the nature of the work they do, the characteristics of their work environment, and the compulsions and motivations that prompt and force the families of these children to send them to work under very trying circumstances in the construction sector in Bangladesh. Most work activities are concentrated in

the white stone crushing sector (35 percent), followed by brick breaking (25 percent), and carrying of crushed stones/brick (no information on the percentage available for carrying crushed stones/brick activities). On average, female workers account for 56 percent of all work in the construction sector.

14. Foundation for Research on Educational Planning and Development. (2003). A Baseline Survey of Street Children in Bangladesh. (Electronic copy)

Source: Government Agency

Child Labor: Begging, Domestic Labor, Paper Picking, Selling, Service (baggage carriers)

This report examines the employment of street children in Bangladesh and finds the majority of children work as beggars, coolies, domestic laborers, flower sellers, mintis, and paper pickers. Coolies and mintis are essentially baggage carriers, who can be hired at railway stations, bus terminals, and ferry docks. The former are generally registered with the authorities, while the latter are usually not.

15. Haque N. (2007, October 27). Child labour in Bangladesh. The Daily Star. Retrieved October 3, 2008 from the World Wide Web:
<http://www.thedailystar.net/law/2007/10/03/advocacy.htm> (Electronic copy)

Source: News Article

Child Labor: Agriculture, Assembling Boxes, Collecting Money, Garments, Factory Work, Metal Workshop, Mining, Quarrying, Services (Shoe Shining, Waiters, Tourist Guide), Tannery

This article states that child labor started in the agricultural sector and has spread over 430 sectors in Bangladesh, according to the Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar Forum. The article divides child labor in Bangladesh into three segments, namely child labor in general, hazardous child labor, and worst forms of child labor. The article discusses the forms in brief and focuses on a particular worst form of child labor increasing in prevalence in Bangladesh. It states that many Madrasha (school for religious study) children, mainly in the northern part of the country (e.g., Nilphamari district), are getting involved in collecting money for their survival and development of their Madrasha premises instead of attending classes.

The article states that according to the second “National Child Labour Survey (NCLS) 2002-03,” conducted by BBS, there are 4.9 million working children—14.2 percent of the total 35.06 million children aged 5 to 14. The total working child population aged 5 to 17 is estimated to be 7.9 million. The proportion of boy and girl child workers aged 5 to 17 years is 73.5 percent and 26.5 percent, respectively. The total number of working children aged 5 to 17 in rural areas is

estimated at 6.4 million compared with 1.5 million in urban areas. As many as 93.3 percent of all working children aged 5 to 17 operate in the informal sector. Agriculture engages 4.5 million (56.4 percent) of this group, while the services sector engages 2 million (25.9 percent) and industry 1.4 million (17.7 percent). A total of 1.3 million children are estimated to be working 43 hours or more per week. More boys than girls are engaged in this form of child labor (working 43 hours or more per week) across all age groups. The article summarizes the factors that generate child labor in Bangladesh and provides recommendations to eradicate child labor from the country. The article mentions the following sectors: agriculture, assembling boxes, collecting money, garments, factory work, metal workshop, mining, quarrying, shoe shining, waiters, tourist guide, and tannery.

16. Imams in Bangladesh Mobilize Against Human Trafficking. (2006, July 16). Retrieved November 29, 2006 from the World Wide Web: <http://www.humantrafficking.org/updates/385> (Electronic copy)

Source: NGO

Adult Trafficking: Unspecified Sector
Child Trafficking: Unspecified Sector

This article notes that partnerships between local nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) and local Imams have led to better cooperation and community mobilization related to the threat of trafficking of women and children in Bangladesh. These efforts have informed communities about the danger of trafficking during Friday prayer recitations, and have led to the establishment of community watch groups. This article does not mention child labor or forced labor in the production of goods.

17. International Labour Organization in Dhaka and IPEC. (2008, January). Child Labour Bangladesh: Child labour data country brief. Retrieved March 19, 2008 from the World Wide Web: <http://www.ilo.org/ipecinfo/product/viewProduct.do;jsessionid=0a038009ceec3ef15e5c47646aeaf71df9bfa824909.hkzFngTDP6WImQuUaNaLa3D3lN4K-xaIah8S-xyIn3uKmAiN-AnwbQbxaNvzaAmI-huKa30xgx95fjWTa3eIpkzFngTDP6WImQuxbN8Nbh4SahiK8OexhOaOgzX9i4j38QfznA5Pp7ftolbGmkTy?productId=7790> (Electronic Copy)

Source: International Organization

Child Labor: Agriculture, Factory Work, Industrial Sector, Mines, Transport of Goods, Tea Plantations, Shops and Commercial Establishments, Transportation, Light Work Activities, Services, Unspecified Hazardous Sector

The country profile describes child labor statistics derived from current data gathered from NCLS, conducted by BBS in 2002-03 and carried out within the framework of the “Statistical Information and Monitoring Programme (SIMPOC).” The document presents key child labor indicators derived from the survey. It also features the statistical figures of selected socioeconomic indicators regarding child labor in Bangladesh (source: *2004 data from UNDP human development report 2006*). It enlists the ratified conventions relating to child labor and relevant national legislations. The document contains a list of regulations of work for persons under age 18. It describes children’s activities by age (aged 5 to 14), gender, type of activity, and residence. It provides the results from SIMPOC-supported NCLS that indicates that 13.4 percent (4.7 million) of all children aged 5 to 14 work, which amounts to 18.5 percent (3.4 million) of boys and 7.8 percent (1.3 million) of girls in this age group. The document shows the distribution of working children by industry and age group. Among working children aged 5 to 14, approximately three out of every five are employed in the agricultural sector, 14.7 percent are employed in the industrial sector, and the remaining 23.3 percent work in services. The document also indicates the distribution of working children aged 5 to 14 by industry and sex and shows the distribution of working children of same age group by status in employment and gender. It also illustrates children’s average weekly working hours by age and gender. It presents the statistical figure on child labor and children’s education by economic activity versus children not in economic activity. The document also focuses on children’s activity status and household income level. Moreover, it provides information on the worst forms of child labor and enlists ratification of specific treaties. Furthermore, the document provides the lists of SIMPOC studies. The report mentions the following sectors: agriculture, factory work, industrial sector, mines, tea plantations, shops and commercial establishments, transportation, services, and unspecified hazardous sector.

18. Jensen K. B. (2007). Opportunities for Agency and Social Participation among Child Domestic Workers in Bangladesh. Children, Youth and Environments 17 (1): 175-197. Retrieved from the World Wide Web: http://www.colorado.edu/journals/cye/17_1/17_1_11_DomesticWorkers.pdf (Electronic copy)

Source: Academic Journal

Child Labor: Domestic Work

This paper explores the legal, political, institutional, and cultural context surrounding opportunities for agency and social participation with child domestic workers in Bangladesh. Opportunities are very limited for child domestic workers to make their own decisions regarding matters such as choosing employers, working hours, schooling, marriage, and how to spend their own salaries, the article says. Factors that limit their participation include cultural attitudes, workloads, and lack of suitable educational programs. Increasing the participation

of child domestic workers in society, and helping them to find their own agency in matters affecting their lives will require a comprehensive effort in many sectors and on many scales, the article emphasizes. The methodology of this study uses a combination of children interviews and review of literature. The paper does not mention child labor in the production of goods.

19. Karim A. H. M. Z. (N.D.). Bangladesh: Baseline Survey on Child Labour Situation in Leather Tannery Industries in Dhaka District 2001. Dhaka: International Labour Office, IPEC, Project on Preventing and Eliminating the Worst Forms of Child Labour in Selected Formal and Informal Sectors. (Hardcopy)

Source: International Organization

Child Labor: Leather Tannery

The study reveals that a total of 560 children aged 5 to 17 were at work in Hazaribag (an area in Dhaka Municipality Area equivalent to a county in USA) tannery factories of Dhaka city. In the study, factories are categorized in three different sizes based on the number of workers (i.e., large plants employed more than 100 laborers; medium-sized plants employed between 51 and 100 laborers; and small plants employed 50 or less laborers. Among these 560 children, 77 (13.75 percent) work in the large plants, 133 (23.75 percent) in the medium-sized tannery plants, and the remaining 350 (62.50 percent) in a number of small tanneries. All 560 children were boys who were then classified into three age-groups. Among them, the majority 398 (71.07 percent) were elder children aged 15 to 17. According to the data collected from multiple responses, children primarily engage in three main tasks, namely (1) soaking of raw skins (36.78 percent); (2) chemical possessing called “wet blue” (29.11 percent); and (3) dying (13.39 percent).

20. Karim A. H. M. Z., Islam M. Z., Farrukh O. (N.D.). Bangladesh: Baseline Survey on Child Labour Situation in Bidi Industry in Kushtia, Tangail and Rangpur District 2001. Dhaka: International Labour Office, International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC), Project on Preventing and Eliminating the Worst Forms of Child Labour in Selected Formal and Informal Sectors. (Hardcopy)

Source: International Organization

Child Labor: Bidi (Hand Rolled Cigarette)

The report presents findings of a baseline survey on the child labor situation in the bidi industries in the Kushtia, Tangail, and Rangpur districts of Bangladesh. The report notes that a total of 21,217 children work with bidis, 17,344 in Rangpur, 866 in Tangail, and 1,918 in Kushtia. The survey also shows that in such worst

form of child labor, 61.59 percent are boys and 38.41 percent are girls. Most of the working children are aged 5 to 12—about 66 percent of the total number of working children—followed by children aged 13 to 14 (20 percent) and children aged 15 to 17 years (13 percent). The highest proportion of female child workers are aged 13 to 14. The vulnerable group to the worst forms of child labor in this research includes the younger siblings of the child bidi laborers, and those of child bidi workers who do the job of bidi rolling only. It is found that each bidi-working household will have on average 0.91 (one) young sibling vulnerable to the worst forms of child labor. The survey shows that about 10,300 children were vulnerable to the worst forms of child labor. This includes workers rolling Bidi (58.12 percent), and the younger siblings (41.88%). It is likely that children engaged in bidi rolling are involved in other bidi activities such as filling and packing. The young siblings are also vulnerable as they accompany their mothers to the factories, and exposed to the unhealthy atmosphere inside the premises.

21. Khair S. (2004, Dec.). Bangladesh Child Domestic Workers in Dhaka City: Situation Analysis.

Dhaka: International Labour Office, IPEC, Project on Preventing and Eliminating the Worst Forms of Child Labour in Selected Formal and Informal Sectors. (Hardcopy: Only an executive summary is available)

Source: Government Organization – BBS

Child Labor: Domestic Labor

The study draws upon perceptions and experiences of child domestic workers (CDWs) and their employers in an attempt to explore the situation of children in domestic service. In this study, the average age of the CDWs was found to be 12 years. The CDWs in the study were predominantly female—of 5,092 CDWs, 1,118 or 22 percent were male and 3,974 or 78 percent were female. In Bangladesh, domestic work is commonly associated with “female work,” and as such, domestic workers are usually female. The report notes that there is evidence that girls often engage in the worst forms of child labor because of prevalent discrimination relegates them to an inferior status within society. Similarly, Bangladeshi society does not attach much value to services rendered by women, which also helps to legitimize exploitative practices toward females. The findings in the study paint a relatively positive picture of an occupation that is otherwise construed as catering to the most widespread and least researched abuse and exploitation of children. However, this does not necessarily indicate that all the findings of the study are justifiable, as in any research, the exercise was not without limitations. In the study, the possibility that some critical information may have been suppressed or simply evaded by the respondents cannot be ruled out entirely. The study does not discuss child labor in the production of goods.

22. Khan M. H. (2003a, August 29). Rights At Work—IV Beyond bondage—A BBC

documentary. The Daily Star. Retrieved April 15, 2008 from the World Wide Web: <http://www.thedailystar.net/2003/08/29/d30829150386.htm>
(Electronic copy)

Source: News Article

Child Labor: Book Binding
Bonded Labor: Agriculture (unspecified)

The BBC Bengali Section had broadcasted a special series of radio programs from August to September 30, 2003 built around the ILO Declaration of Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work. Each Thursday, the BBC focused on one of these principles and portrayed the present reality through “a day in the life” of a worker. An abridged version of the features was published as news features. This is the fourth episode in the series.

The news feature focuses on the hardship of the lives and the harsh working conditions of the ultra-poor agriculture laborers in Bangladesh. The widely accepted definitions of “forced labor” or “bonded labor” do not suit this group properly. However, they are exploited to the furthest extent and are bonded somehow, the feature explains. Some of these laborers migrate to the cities but for many, their dreams for better life remain unfulfilled. Once they return home and their earnings are spent, they start borrowing from the local moneylenders. If they default, the laborers and their entire families pay off the debt by working for free in the land owned by the moneylenders. The country’s labor laws allow trade unions to work only within “institutions.” Therefore, it is not possible to organize the farm workers because it cannot be proved that a certain employer employs them or they are employed in a certain institution.

The feature also focuses on child labor in dingy book binding factories. As a trainee, a child laborer performs hard work but receives no pay. For instance, a child laborer in such a factory carries large piles of printed papers from downstairs to upstairs all day long and only receives food and shelter.

23. Khan M. H. (2003b, August 23). Right At Work-III—Little hands and big dreams—
A BBC documentary. The Daily Star. Retrieved March 23, 2008 from the World Wide Web: <http://www.thedailystar.net/2003/08/22/d30822150682.htm>
(Electronic copy)

Source: News Feature

Child Labor: Agriculture, Battery Recycling, Balloon Factory, Garments,
Industrial Sector (unspecified), Service Sector, Unspecified Hazardous Sector

The article is an abridged version of the feature presentation of a special series of educational program on the ILO Declaration of Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work that the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) World Service Trust aired on its Bengali radio service. The fundamental principles are: freedom of association and right to collective bargaining, and freedom from discrimination, child labor, and forced labor. Each Thursday from August to September 30, 2003, BBC focused on one of these principles and portrayed the present reality through “a day in the life” of a worker. This was the third installment in the series.

The feature says that it is hard to determine the total number of children aged 5 to 17 employed in various sectors, often in hazardous trades, but researchers suggest that one in ten of the country’s labor force is under 14 and the figure is rising. They say that agriculture is by far the greatest consumer of child labor, while a significant number is employed in the industrial and service sectors. The article narrates individual case studies—the everyday situation of the working children, the environment they work in, and the locale they live in. For instance, a child apprenticeship in a balloon factory means low pay, no rights, frequent verbal abuse, and occasional spanking from the “Ostad” (teacher/trainer).

The feature states that Bangladesh has formulated a host of laws and ordinances to protect the wellbeing of the children, but a comprehensive law, intended to protect the rights of the working children, is yet to come, and these provisions are often ambiguous and conflicting. On the other hand, the garment sector of the country has effectively eliminated child labor. The industry transferred more than 10,000 children to schools and paid for their education and more than 2,000 children were trained in different skills and absorbed in the garment industry. Fourteen inspection teams, with members from ILO, are working round the clock to ensure that the garment industry remains free from child labor. On the contrary, a battery recycling plant owner said that when the government forbids employment of children, the families with the jobless child go hungry. The law itself is good, but one has to be practical. The employers understand the situation and respond to it accordingly, he said.

24. Mondal A. H. and Zohir S. C. (2002). Baseline study of indebtedness-induced labour exploitation in Tangail and Sirajganj Districts, Bangladesh. BIDS. Retrieved April 19, 2008 from the World Wide Web: http://www.bondedlabour.org/web/Display.asp?SubCat_id=18&ID=80 (Electronic copy: full report not available, only a summary)

Source: Government Organization

Exploitative Labor: Agricultural, Handloom Weaving, Commercial Sexual Exploitation.

The study report states that over-indebtedness can lead to labor exploitation. In this study on Bangladesh, three sectors are examined: agricultural sector in Sirajganj District, and the sex workers and handloom-weaving sector in Tangail District. Unequal access to and control over

resources and an unequal power balance within communities cause poor people to offer their services under exploitative conditions, the study finds.

25. Nearly 1cr children in hazardous work (2007, October 03). The Daily Star. Retrieved March 10, 2008 from the World Wide Web: <http://www.thedailystar.net/story.php?nid=6425> (Electronic Copy)

Source: News Article

Child labor: Unspecified Hazardous Sector

The news item reports that around one crore (10 million) children, 6 percent of the total population, are engaged in hazardous work, according to a 2-year study titled “Code of Conduct Towards Children in the Informal Sector” conducted by Dr. Abul Barakat, Professor of Economics at University of Dhaka, Bangladesh and organized by Children Sweden-Denmark along with an NGO, Together with Working Children (TWC). It also reports that the rate of children engaged in hazardous work is increasing faster than the growth rate of population. These children are engaged in 54 categories of hazardous work identified by the ILO, the news item says. No information on methodology is discussed.

26. Rahman A. and Shahin M. A. (2007, November 09). Shipbreaking Industry in Bangladesh Needs Modernization and Policy Planning. The Bangladesh Observer. Retrieved April 03, 2008 from the World Wide Web: <http://www.shipbreakingbd.info/Observer.pdf> (Electronic copy)

Source: News Article

Exploitive Adult Labor: Ship Breaking Industry, Unspecified Hazardous Sector
Child Labor: Ship Breaking Industry, Unspecified Hazardous Sector

The news column states that 40 years after the first yards opened, there are still no laws in Bangladesh specifically relating to ship breaking. There are no consolidated policies or strategies or guidelines in Bangladesh for ship dismantling, yet every year the Government collects almost 9 billion taka (131,314,973 USD) revenue from the ship breaking industry. The column also discusses the benefits the country receives from this sector. Despite the harsh conditions that the workers are employed under, this is an industry that employs more than 30,000 people directly and 250,000 more indirectly. It provides employment for some of the poorest people from the north of Bangladesh who would otherwise have no employment. Though ship breaking has earned a good reputation for being a profitable industry in developing countries, there are a number of human rights violation and environmental and human health hazards. On an average, one worker dies in the yards a week and everyday a worker is injured (*End of Life Ships; the Human Cost of Breaking Ships; Greenpeace, FIDH and YPSA; December 2005*).

The column discusses that the hazards linked to ship breaking broadly fall into two categories: intoxication by dangerous substances and job-site accidents. Consequently, workers suffer from lung problems that cause temporary loss of working capacity, and might lead to future complications. Occupational health and safety is clearly not a priority for the owners, and the workers desperate need for employment to support their families causes them to value their jobs more than their lives. The column notes that there are no treatment facilities or disability compensation provided to the ship breaking workers.

In addition to the health and safety issues, workers work extremely long hours for little pay. Despite these conditions, they are given no sick leave, annual leave, or overtime, and because they are hired on an hourly basis, they have no idea whether they will have work on the following day. Child workers are seen working in the most dangerous activities of the shipyard. There is no training offered or precautions taken before involving these workers in the ship breaking yards. Moreover, the principle of not transferring harm to developing countries is not being respected at the international level. Therefore, ship breaking activities are a threat to both the terrestrial and marine environment as well as to public health, the column concludes.

27. Rahman, S. (2004). Global Shift: Bangladesh Garment Industry in Perspective. Asian Affairs 26 (1), 75 – 91. (Electronic copy)

Source: Academic Journal

Exploitive Labor: Garments

In this discussion about the garment industry in Bangladesh, it is noted that in 2003 there was no legislated minimum wage requirement. Many garment workers are forced to work 14- to 16-hour days, and are subjected to adverse working conditions and occupational hazards that affect their health. The report does not specifically state that participation in the industry is forced.

28. Sattar P. (Social Development Initiative; 2006, January). Impact of over-indebtedness among Tea Plantation workers in Bangladesh. A Rapid Assessment. New Delhi: Centre for Education and Communication (CEC). Retrieved March 20, 2008 from the World Wide Web: http://www.bondedlabour.org/web/Display.asp?SubCat_id=18&ID=84 (Electronic copy: A full report is not available – only a two-line description on the website).

Source: Research and Publications Institute

Bonded Labor: Tea Plantation

This study assesses the existence, nature, and impact of over-indebtedness among tea plantation workers in Bangladesh.

29. Save the Children UK. (2005). Children's views and definitions of harmful work: implications for policies and practice. Dhaka: Author. (Electronic copy)

Source: NGO

Child Labor: Cigarettes, Fishing

This report draws on interviews with children to guide policy development in preventing the use of children in hazardous forms of labor. Children are subjected to compulsory overtime work, forced to work over night, and suffer beatings or abusive treatment, physical risks, and job insecurity. It is noted that, in the fishing industry, children are at risk of attacks by crocodiles, tigers, and snakes; and in the cigarette rolling industry, children are at risk of exposure to tobacco dust. The document does not discuss the use of forced labor in the production of products.

30. Thomas, H. (2002). Combating Trafficking of Women and Children in South Asia. Country Paper Bangladesh. Retrieved November 29, 2006 from the World Wide Web:

http://www.childtrafficking.com/Docs/adb_2002__trafficking_bangl.pdf .
(Electronic copy)

Source: International Organization

Adult Trafficking: Sexual Exploitation

Child Labor: Domestic Labor, Garments, Sexual Exploitation

Child Trafficking: Domestic Labor, Garments, Sexual Exploitation

This report written for the Asian Development Bank discusses the trafficking of women and girls in Bangladesh. The report notes that comprehensive studies on trafficking in Bangladesh have not been completed, which means that estimates on the size of the trafficked population are incomplete. The document mentions that young girls are trafficked within the country to work as domestic laborers and in the garment industry. Though the report does not specifically say that this labor is forced, it does note that anecdotal evidence has surfaced indicating that exploitive labor practices occur in the garment sector, though no comprehensive studies have yet to be conducted.

31. Uddin Md. Farid, Gupta D. S., Pramanik M. H. and Taiyab A. H. M. (2006, April). The perceptions on WFCL held by leaders and decision makers in Bangladesh and how these may affect policy reform. Dhaka: Services and Solutions International (SSI) and ILO. (Electronic copy)

Source: Consultancy Firm and International Organization

Child Labor: Agriculture (unspecified), Domestic Labor, Factory Work (products unspecified), Industry Work (products unspecified), Prostitution, Small Firms & Business

The study focused on the collection of perceptions or views on the worst forms child labor (WFCL) of the leaders and the decision-makers in Bangladesh starting from the top level to the grass roots level as well as the child laborers, their parents, and other stakeholders. The report also covered a thorough study on the existing literature on child labor, laws, acts, rules, and ordinances concerning child labor, and the UN conventions on child rights, child laborer, and related issues.

The report states that in Bangladesh most of the working children are engaged in informal sector, employed by private employers where there is little government control. The agriculture sector is the area where the largest number of working children is engaged. The others sectors are mainly domestic workers, prostitutes, factory workers, or those engaged in small firms or businesses. Many children work in a variety of industries.

32. Uddin Md. Farid, Siddiquee N. I., Ali Md. A. and Fisher K. J. (2005, June 07). Findings from the Impact Assessment Study in Bidi Sector. Dhaka: Services and Solutions International (SSI) and ILO. (Hardcopy)

Source: Consultancy Firm and International Organization

Child Labor: Bidi Factory

The study is a components of the final evaluation and was designed as an impact assessment study in the bidi sector of a major ILO project namely, "Prevention and Eliminating the Worst Forms of Child Labour in Selected Formal and Informal Sectors in Bangladesh" (BGD/00/p50/USA). The report notes that the bidi industry is concentrated in selected districts, notably Ranpur, Kushtia, and Tangail districts. A rapid, yet in-depth assessment of such measures as impact, effectiveness, changed life quality of the beneficiaries, potentially as a result of project interventions and changed working environment, changed economic well being, health status, and working environment, and future needs were the main focus of the study and analysis.

The study presents that 109 children aged 5 to 12, 45 children aged 13 to 14, 78 children aged 15 to 17, and 101 children aged 18 and older were engaged in bidi factories in Kushtia. In Rangpur, 716 children aged 5 to 12, 188 children aged 13 to 14, 290 children aged 15 to 17, 386 children aged 18 and older were engaged in the bidi factories. In Tangail, 82 children aged 5 to 12, 31 children aged 13 to 14, 32 aged 15 to 17, and 39 children aged 18 and older were involved in bidi production.

33. Uddin Md. Farid, Hossain M. Farhad and Hoque M. (2002). Situational Analysis of the Children Engaged in 26 Most Hazardous Occupations in Six Major Cities of Bangladesh. Dhaka: SSI and UNICEF-Bangladesh. (Hardcopy)

Source: Consultancy Firm and International Organization

Child Labor: Automobile/Engineering Workshops, Bangle Factory, Battery Factory, Bidi Factory, Biscuit Factory, Blacksmith/Plasto-metal, Brick/Stone Breaker, Carpentry, Construction, Fish Porters, Gas Burner Machine, Glass Factory, Plastic/Rubber Factory, Laundry Boy (Iron), Match Factory, Painting, Rickshaw/Van Puller, Saw Mills, Soap Factory, Services (Hotel Boy, Sweeper), Ship Breaking, Shrimp Processing, Steel Furniture, Tannery, Textile (Cloth Dyeing & Finishing), Welding

The study covers an area of about 42 thanas (police stations) and about 178 wards, including some of the unions from the outskirts of six major cities in Bangladesh. The study notes that in the surveyed areas, as per secondary/official and/or community source information, the estimated number of total workers involved in the selected 26 hazardous occupations is around 256,351, in which the proportion of child workers aged 8 to 14 is about 35.80 percent. The highest rate (43.52 percent) of child workers in the studied occupations was in Sylhet district followed by Barisal district (43.17 percent). The proportions in Dhaka and Chittagong, the two largest cities of the country, are 33.47 and 35.47 percent, respectively. The study mentions the following sectors/goods: Automobile/Engineering Workshops, Bangle Factory, Battery Factory, Bidi Factory, Biscuit Factory, Blacksmith/Plasto-metal, Brick/Stone Breaker, Carpentry, Construction, Fish Porters, Gas Burner Machine, Glass Factory, Plastic/Rubber Factory, Laundry Boy (Iron), Match Factory, Painting, Rickshaw/Van Puller, Saw Mills, Soap Factory, Services (Hotel Boy, Sweeper), Ship Breaking, Shrimp Processing, Steel Furniture, Tannery, Textile (Cloth Dyeing and Finishing), and Welding.

The survey reveals that 30 percent of the working population in these enterprise/organizations was children. However, percentage ranging from 19 percent in Chittagong to 38 percent in Rajshahi city, excluding the ship-breaking sector in Chittagong. If this sector is included, the percentage drops to 10 percent in Chittagong and the total percentage comes down to 21 percent.

34. Uddin U. Farid, Hossain S., Uddin K., et al. (2008, March 12) Empirical Evidences of Mental and Physical Effects on the Children Employed in 29 Hazardous Occupations within the Urban Informal Economic Sectors of Bangladesh. Dhaka: SSI and IPEC. (Electronic copy)

Source: Consultancy Firm and International Organization

Child Labor: Automobile Workshop, Engineering Workshop (welding/lathe machines), Tannery/Leather Dressing, Bidi making, Match Factory, Metal Painting/Vulcanizing, Carpentry, Tailoring/Weaving/Embroidery, Refrigerator/AC repairing, Biscuit/Bread Factory, Hotel/Restaurant, Oil/Flour/Rice Mills, Plumbing, Gold Smith/Imitation Jewelry, Fish/Shrimp Processing, Transport (tempo/bus/rickshaw/van etc.), Construction, Manufacturing of Pharmaceutical/Chemical Products, Domestic Work, Battery Breaking, Porter, Scavenger/ Waste Picker, Manufacturing of Plastic/Rubber Products, Poultry Dressing, Sale/Trafficking of Drugs, Manufacturing of Aluminum Products/Brassware, Laundry Worker, Show Making

This study is a methodological shift from the conventional approach of conducting studies on hazardous child labor (i.e., identifying hazardous work and sectors or mere statistical profiling of the rates of incidences by the sectors). This is an exclusively focused study on the degree of exposures to those hazards and associated health risks including the methodological efforts for scaling of the consequences of such hazards and risks on working children. It also attempts to cater to the long outstanding technical needs of developing practical and effective tools and methodologies for measuring multi-dimensional impacts of different hazardous child work under different conditions. This study is meant for developing appropriate tools and methodologies and validating those that measure the potential effects in terms of medical and psychological consequences. A total of 28 sectors were selected for the present study purpose.

35. Unchecked ship-breaking industry (2006, July 30). The Daily Star. Retrieved March 13, 2008 from the World Wide Web: <http://www.thedailystar.net/2006/07/30/d60730020121.htm> (Electronic copy)

Source: News Article

Bonded Labor: Ship Breaking

The editorial points out that the ship breaking industry has failed to address the safety of the workers, resulting in a thousand deaths and leaving ten times that number maimed. In spite of, the concerns raised by various quarters over the last several years, the operation of the ship breaking yards is unchanged. And the loss of lives of the poor workers who, without the benefit of any government safety net, are held like bonded labor, continues. There are no specific laws to ensure the minimum safety of the laborers who work in this hazardous environment, and the laws that exist are disregarded by the government agencies and the syndicate that controls this industry. It speaks volumes about the government indifference. While not making light of the contribution of the industry in providing jobs over the past 30 years, more than 30,000, and providing for the subsistence of a quarter of a million and raw material for our steel mills, it cannot be a provider as well as a destroyer at the same time, the editorial says.

36. Understanding Children's Work (UCW). (2007, September). Measuring child labour: Discussion note for country consultation in Bangladesh (Working Draft). Rome: ILO, UNICEF, The World Bank Group. Retrieved March 22, 2008 from the World Wide Web:
<http://www.ilo.org/ipeinfo/product/viewProduct.do?productId=5645>
(Electronic copy)

Source: International Organization

Child Labor: Agriculture (unspecified), Automobile Establishments, Battery Replacement/Recharging, Commercial Sexual Exploitation, Road Transport, Street Children, Welding

This note discusses some of the issues arising when attempting to define a statistical standard for child labor in the specific context of Bangladesh. It gives an overview of the measurement challenges encountered, of the empirical and other evidence that can be used to address such challenges, and of the implications in terms of child labor estimates. The note provided a technical background for the country consultations undertaken by ILO-IPEC and the Understanding Children's Work (UCW) with national counterparts in April 2007. The consultations included counterparts from BBS, Ministry of Planning, Ministry of Primary and Mass Education, Ministry of Labour and Employment, UNICEF, and Associates for Community and Population Research (ACPR), a research organization.

The report mentions various sectors including: Agriculture (unspecified), Automobile Establishments, Battery Replacement/Recharging, Commercial Sexual Exploitation, Road Transport, Street Children, and Welding.

The consultations promote discussion of child labor measurement and obtain feedback from national governments on the open questions. This feedback will constitute a relevant part of the process leading to the resolution that ILO will submit at the "International Conference of Labour Statisticians (ICLS)" in 2008. This revised version of the note reflects verbal feedback received during the consultations as well as subsequent written feedback on the original draft note received from BBS. The note should not, nonetheless, be construed as reflecting the official views of the Government of Bangladesh.

37. United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child. (2003). Consideration of Reports Submitted by States Parties Under Article 44 of the Convention Concluding Observations: Bangladesh. Retrieved March 23, 2007 from the World Wide Web:
[http://www.unhcr.ch/tbs/doc.nsf/898586b1dc7b4043c1256a450044f331/3ff4da770b9e9847c1256df3005a49f4/\\$FILE/G0344627.pdf](http://www.unhcr.ch/tbs/doc.nsf/898586b1dc7b4043c1256a450044f331/3ff4da770b9e9847c1256df3005a49f4/$FILE/G0344627.pdf)
(Electronic copy)

Source: International Organization

Child Labor: Agriculture, Domestic Labor, Sexual Exploitation, Unspecified Sector

Child Trafficking: Camel Jockeying, Domestic Labor, Sexual Exploitation

This document presents the Committee on the Rights of the Child's concerns regarding the status of children in Bangladesh. The report mentions that the Committee is concerned with the general acceptance of child labor throughout the country, but particularly in the sectors of agriculture, domestic labor, and sexual exploitation. The issue of child trafficking for work as camel jockeys, domestic laborers, and in sexual exploitation is also a primary concern of the Committee.

Despite areas in need of improvement, the Committee notes the achievement of the Government of Bangladesh in formulating and revising a National Plan of Action for Children, as well as the 2002 National Plan of Action to combat sexual abuse and exploitation, including trafficking.

38. UNICEF. (N.D.). Basic Education for Hard-to-Reach Urban Working Children.

Retrieved March 22, 2008 from the World Wide Web:

[http://www.unicef.org/bangladesh/Education_for_Working_Children_\(BEHTRU WC\).pdf](http://www.unicef.org/bangladesh/Education_for_Working_Children_(BEHTRU WC).pdf) (Electronic Copy)

Source: International Organization

Child Labor: Agriculture, Brick Chippers, Domestic Labor, Garment Factories, Service (Restaurants), Sexual Exploitation, Tannery, Unspecified Hazardous Sector, Waste collection

The document notes that 59.5 million of the population in Bangladesh is under 18 and 42.4 million are 5 to 17. Nearly 8 million children are economically active. There are 3.2 million child laborers, and 3.1 million children are involved in hazardous. Fifteen and 13 percent of boys and girls, respectively, have never been enrolled in school. The percentages for enrolment of boys and girls, respectively, by types of school are non-formal school 8 and 9 percent, Madrasa (Islamic school) 7 and 5 percent, and formal school 85 and 86 percent (*Source: State of the World's Children, 2007, National Bureau of Statistics, 2006*). The document also states that research indicates that children are involved in more than 400 types of work (200 for girls), with 47 of these identified as being hazardous (*UNICEF, ILO*). These children work an average of 8 to 12 hours a day. The picture is particularly bleak for working children and adolescents in urban slums. The report mentions the following sectors of child labor: agriculture, brick chippers, domestic labor, garment factories, service (restaurant work), sexual exploitation, tannery, unspecified hazardous sector, and waste collection.

The document states that one of the key issues distinguishing domestic labor from other types of child labor is the 24-hour nature of the job. This makes these children a *high-risk* group. The document says, case studies and information from adult domestic workers reveals that CDWs are victims of exploitation, racial discrimination, and various types of mistreatment and sexual abuse. Bangladesh lacks the legal and institutional framework necessary to adequately address the problem. The document also discusses the actions undertaken by UNICEF together with the Government of Bangladesh under a UNICEF-run project called “Basic Education for Hard to Reach Urban Working Children (BEHTRUWC).” It also discusses its impact of the actions.

39. *The United Nations Children's Fund Bangladesh (UNICEF). (2005). Situation analysis of Child Domestic Workers in Dhaka City (unpublished). Dhaka: Author. (Hardcopy)*

Source: International Organization

Child Labor: Domestic Labor

The report presents findings of a situation analysis of CDW in Dhaka city, the capital of Bangladesh. The report notes that 147,943 CDW exist in the city. The magnitude of CDWs in Dhaka city is 131,965. Of these, 121,036 (92 percent of all the CDWs) are full-time CDWs (locally known as ‘*bhanda*’) and the remaining are part time CDWs (‘*chuta*’). Nearly one-third of the households in Dhaka employ domestic workers (both adults and children). Nine percent of the households or every 11th household in Dhaka employs CDWs. Eighty-six percent of the CDWs are female. With regard to age group, 30 percent of the CDWs are aged 6 to 11 years and the rest are aged 12 to 16. The report delineates the socioeconomic profiles of the CDWs. The survey reveals that the average age of female CDWs is 12.42 years compared with 11.98 years for boys. The overall average age of the CDWs is 12.36 years. The report also describes the socioeconomic profiles of the parents of the CDWs and their employers. The report calls for policy advocacy and actions.

40. Young Power in Social Action (YPSA). (2005). Workers in shipbreaking Industries: A baseline survey of Chittagong (Bangladesh). Retrieved March 29, 2008 from the World Wide Web:
http://www.ypsa.org/publications/shipbreaking_baseline_survey.pdf

Source: NGO

Child Labor: Ship Breaking Industry
Exploitive Adult Labor: Ship Breaking Industry

This report is based on an analysis of existing information and experiences, including problems and issues raised by the laborers and staff in and outside the ship breaking yards. The report says that Bangladesh has the third largest ship

breaking industry in the world. The largest ships of the world are cut in the shipyards of Bangladesh. The ship breaking industry in Bangladesh has developed in Sitakund areas, Chittagong district. There are about 20 industries linked to ship breaking. There are about 20 ship breaking yards in Sitakund where thousands of laborers are working. The workers are all engaged in dangerous physical labor but they do not have safety equipment like helmets, goggles, gloves, boots, work suits, medical facilities, and moreover financial security. Over the last 20 years, more than 400 workers have been killed and 6,000 seriously injured according to the Bangladeshi media, the report notes. It also notes that the human rights are seriously violated in this industry. It also points out that the Government of Bangladesh has still not declared it officially an industry.

The report estimates that about 25,000 workers are engaged in the ship breaking industry. It states that majority of the laborer (40.75 percent) are aged 18 to 22 and only 1.13 percent are aged 46 to 50. The most important finding is that, as a whole, 10.94 percent of the laborers are children of all age groups and 89.06 percent are adult males including the age group of 46 to 50. The report explains that the young labor force is dominant in this sector. It also indicates that this less experienced and untrained labor force is forced to accept such jobs mainly due to poverty. The laborers in the yard are from 22 different districts in Bangladesh. The report estimates that 24.15 percent of the laborers are from Bogra and the others are mostly from the poverty-ridden areas of the North Bengal. The survey reveals that a huge number of laborers (46.42 percent) are illiterate and 43.02 percent of laborers are educated up to primary education. The report points out that 10.17 percent of laborers who works outside the ship breaking yard but in the sector are children, and 27.12 percent of such laborers are aged 18 to 22, 27.97 percent are aged 22 to 26, and 22.03 percent are aged 26 to 30. These are the major age groups of the labor outside the yard, the report estimates.

41. Zaman M. (2005, September 24). Light engineering, but heavy toll on childhood. New Age. Retrieved April 05, 2008 from the World Wide Web: <http://www.newagebd.com/2005/sep/24/front.htm> (Electronic copy)

Source: News Article

Child Labor: Light Engineering, Mechanical Work

The report notes that child labor is widely popular in the light engineering workshops across the country, and the captive workforce is exploited by longer and unpaid overtime working hours, underpaid salaries, and no health support. The actual figure of children working in the workshops is not available. However, according to the time-bound project of ILO, the number of working children in Bangladesh is 7.4 million, of which 1.3 million children endure the worst forms of child labor. The guardians also engage them in work to “save them from bad company,” the news reports.

42. Zannat M. (2005, June 12). World Day Against Child Labour Today—12.90 lakh

engaged in worst forms of child labour. The Daily Star. Retrieved April 03, 2008 from World Wide Web:
<http://www.thedailystar.net/2005/06/12/d50612060166.htm>
(Electronic copy)

Source: News Article

Child Labor: Bidi Factory, Construction, Domestic Labor, Garments, Glass Factory, Match Factory, Saw Mills, Seafood Industry, Service (Shop Keeping), Stone Breaking, Tannery, Unspecified Hazardous Sector

The news item points out that a total of 1.29 million children are engaged in hazardous child labor. It also states that according to NCLS 2002-2003, the number of boys engaged in hazardous child labor is 1.17 million, while the number of girls is 120,000. Of them, 6.7 percent are engaged in formal sector where as 93.3 percent are in various informal sectors. A research report on the State of Child Labour 2001, Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar Forum and UNICEF identified some 430 forms of child labor, the news reports. Among them, 67 are identified as hazardous. The research report labeled seven sectors, including bidi factory, match factory, seafood, and domestic help as excessively hazardous for children. Many children are also employed in bedding stores, stone breaking and construction, saw mills, glass and garment factories, tannery, and other economic activities. The news notes that most of the children come from poor families who engage in such hazardous work to support their families, risking security and health.

The children working in such hazardous sectors may develop anthracosis manifested by painful ulcer in the hands and feet, fever, severe weakness and toxic condition, dermatitis and fungal infection, digital and nail fold ulcer, diarrhea, anorexia or vomiting, according to a research conducted by the Department of Labour and IPEC/ ILO, the news reports. The news also focuses on the fact that around 300 to 400 children are engaged in some worst forms of child labor in the 200 tanneries in Hazaribag. These children are never recruited as permanent workers and deprived of all sorts of facilities, including a reasonable standard wage. The child workers are mainly employed for cheap labor. The news also presented a life sketch of a child worker in a leather tannery. However, the government and several NGOs rehabilitated some 30,000 children engaged in hazardous work, the report says.