

# Pilot Survey on Child Labours

**Target Area: A radius of two Kilometers around Pyrabagan slum**

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**CIVILIAN WELFARE FOUNDATION**



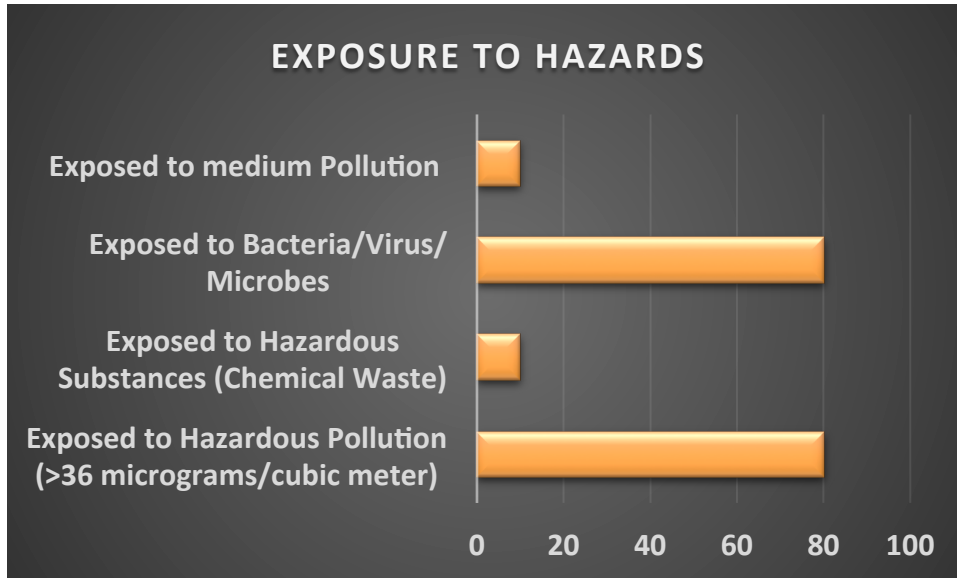
**Key Informants: Locals, Few notable people like teachers in the area, shop keepers**

**No of Case Studies: 35**

Child Labour-probably now one of the main drawbacks of our society. Reason of child labour-what can be the reason? Cheap labour- Yes. Minimum commitment, maximum benefit- this is exactly what child labour is. Just imagine the situation- a young child, rather a kid is going very happily to school. Wearing new uniform, new shoes, start of a new life. But on the other hand a kid is washing plates at a vender shop wearing a simple dress as possible, sometimes even torn one.

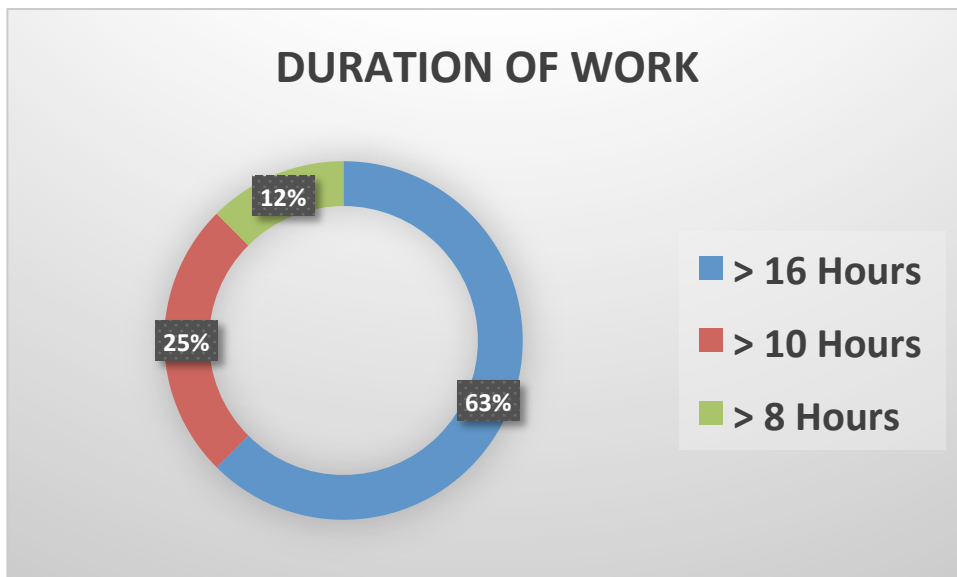
One may ask why this difference? Why a child would wash plates or serve food or even worse pick up garbage instead of going to schools or living a normal happy life what our children lead? Reason what this pilot study has shown us is in maximum place the economic situation to be held responsible. For example- a boy named Sonu Paswan picks up rubbish and gets 20 rupees

per day because he has 2 brothers and 3 sisters to feed. Every day the boy faces so many hazards the biggest being the city pollution.

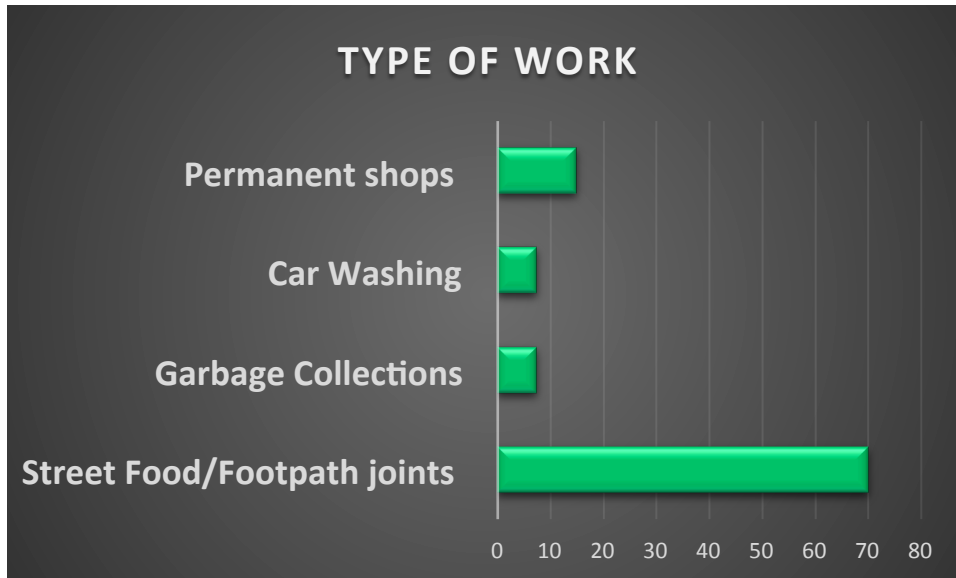


The above was just an example. There are several such examples. Like a 9 year old kid named Rahul Das was one such case. He has no dreams. But when he was persuaded by the interviewers about what he wants to be he said he wants to work in the same shop. The kid who should have been in school studying gets Rupees 50 per month. Is this justifiable? Another example the brother-sister Usha Yadav and Jishu sen. Usha, now 15, has been married for 1 year. And Jishu was paralysed for almost 10 to 11 long years. His dream is to be a famous actor like the Tollywood heartthrob Dev.

What is understood from the pilot study is that maximum of these children are happy about not going school, instead earning. They are happy in whatever condition they are in. They don't want any other thing. Rohit Adhikary, at 13 helps his parents at their food stall near Kalighat bridge. His parents said he is good at swimming and playing cricket. If given an opportunity he would



love to play for India. Ravi Kumar is another young boy from Bihar who works for 2 hours at his uncle's grocery store but gets nothing. He is studying in class 6 with a dream of becoming a doctor. But from the way he answered, it seemed like he has been forced to work. The uncle of his was very non-co-operative and rude.

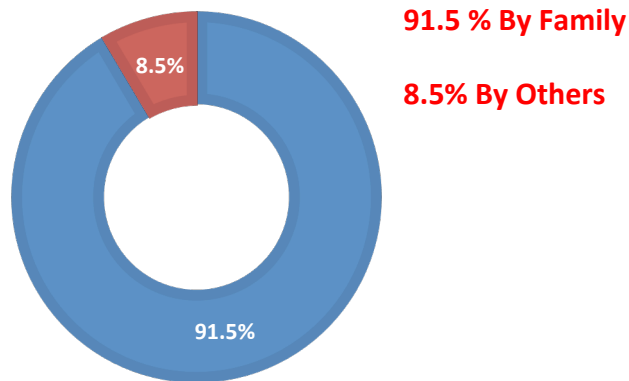


The examples are numerous. Some boys are there who have ran away from their houses, tore their books apart as they don't want to study. But here it is necessary to name one boy, a 14-year old boy named Vimlesh Gupta. For 2 years he has been washing taxis along with his dad. He comes every day from Subhash Gram, studies in class 10 and after working for 7-8 hours each day he studies with a dream of becoming a Chartered Accountant.

These dreams need to be fulfilled. But if they don't get fulfilled it doesn't matter that much right? Because their dreams are tend to be broken. Their dreams don't really matter to us- to our so-called civilized society which talks about civilization, about gap between rich and poor and so on. But these dreams should get fulfilled because they are not just dreams, they are the main reason for their surviving. We should do something for these children. Overnight nothing will happen. It will take time. But if we do not act now, we will never going to act. So people come on. Take your stand and make it count. Who can say it can be your stand alone that will make a difference into these children's life. So make it happen.

Probable Solution: For the last 1 month we are enrolling dropouts/child labour in that area in the nearby schools with a starter kit.

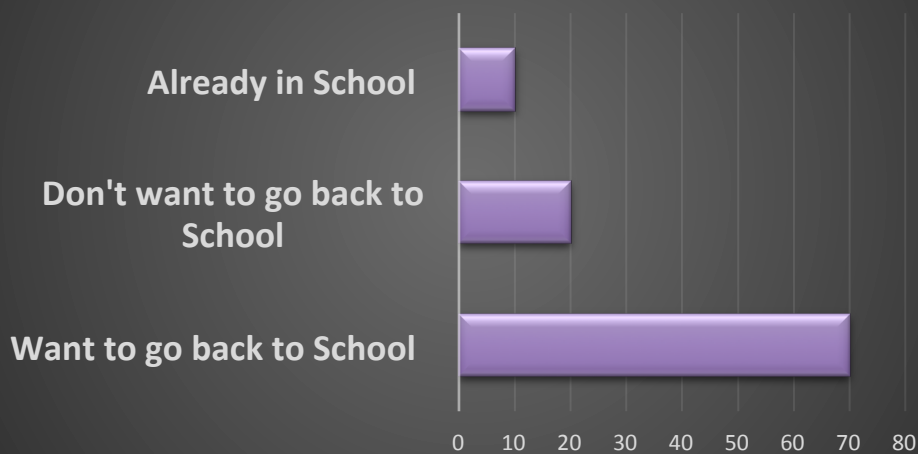
### CHILD LABOURS EMPLOYED BY



### Shocking Features from the pilot survey in the area:

1. Most of the employers are actually families of the child labour
2. Many families (around 67 %) which indulges in utilizing their sons/daughters as child labours have a monthly income above Rs 7000
3. Most of the child labours have a high exposure of hazardous pollution (above 36 micrograms per cubic meter) for more than 10 hours in a day.
4. The street food /food vendors are entirely dependent on Child labours in that area
5. Many of the child labours who have dropped out is still willing to go back to school
6. Most of them (93 %) don't have any time to even play

### PREFERENCES FOR SCHOOL



## Exposure to Hazardous Substances (percentage)

