



Group Development Pakistan

Myths about Child Domestic Labor

Employing children as domestic labourers is a form of abuse and a major cause of poverty in society. Child Domestic Labour is a violation of children's rights and it robs them of their childhood. It can also put children in grave danger. However, some people are trying to justify child labour. Yet, those justifications are often lame excuses or deep misunderstandings that ignore the reality of children engaged in labour.

Myth	Fact
"We reduce poverty in society by giving jobs to poor children".	Child domestic labourers are usually paid a meagre amount of money and are sometimes hired to repay their parents' debts. Additionally, child domestic labourers typically work long hours, do not have access to quality education such as vocational training programs, and do not learn any useful skills. Subsequently, child labourers' future employment prospects are compromised which increases the spread of poverty; those children do not earn enough to uplift their family's economic situation.
"Employers do not give any hard work to children labouring in their home. The children they have hired can play with their little ones and get all the toys that their parents cannot afford."	Children engaged in domestic labour are caring for the employer's children instead of playing with them. Overall, children engaged in domestic labour are given responsibilities ill-suited for their age and face serious discrimination: they are always in the situation of an employee who has to follow instructions to "please" the other child and do not avail their fundamental right to play.
"Children engaged in domestic labour live in much better conditions in their employers' home than in their own. They get appropriate food and adequate rest."	Children engaged in domestic labour are at higher risk of physical, emotional, and even sexual abuse. While labouring, they may get burnt or injured; they have to carry heavy loads, operate electrical and gas appliances, and use household chemicals and sharp objects. Children engaged in domestic labour are separated from their families for long periods, are often inadequately fed and cared for, emotionally or medically, and are simply not allowed to behave like children anymore. Several cases of children being abused, tortured, or even killed demonstrate how Child Domestic Labour is harmful for children.

Myth

Fact

“We have borrowed a lot from the employer that has hired our child. If our children can work in his/her home, it will help us get rid of the debt.”

The traditional system of service from generation to generation to repay a debt is a form of modern slavery and is unconstitutional. Children raised in this system lose personal confidence, dignity, and free will. They are sacrificed and deprived of education and any economic opportunity. They are also highly vulnerable to abuse with no access to complaint or support mechanisms whatsoever.