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# CHILD WORK AND CHILD LABOR



- ✧ “Child” refers to any person below 18 years of age.
- ✧ “Child labor” refers to any work or economic activity performed by a child that subjects his/her health and safety or physical, mental or psychosocial development.
- ✧ “Working child” refers to any child engaged as follows:

i. when the child is below eighteen (18) years of age, in work or economic activity that is not child labor as defined in the immediately preceding paragraph; and

ii. when the child is below fifteen (15) years of age, (i) in work where he/she is directly under the responsibility of his/her parents or legal guardian and where only members of the child’s family are employed; or (ii) in public entertainment or information.

## Implementing Rules and Regulations, Republic Act No. 9231

Thus, it is important to distinguish between child work and child labor.

| CHILD WORK                                                                                       | CHILD LABOR                                                                                                     |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Work is appropriate to child’s age and mental capabilities                                       | Work burdens the child; too heavy for child’s age and capabilities                                              |
| Supervised by responsible and caring adults                                                      | Child works unsupervised or supervised by abusive adults                                                        |
| Limited hours of work; does not hinder the child from going to school, playing or resting        | Very long hours of work; child has limited or no time for school, play or rest                                  |
| Workplace is kept safe and child friendly, does not pose hazards to health and life of the child | Workplace poses hazards to child’s health and life                                                              |
| Child’s physical, emotional and mental well-being are nourished even in the work environment     | Child is subject to psychological, verbal, or physical/sexual abuse                                             |
| Child works voluntarily to participate in the family responsibility of maintaining the household | Child is forced by circumstances or by coercive individuals to work                                             |
| Child is justly compensated materially and psychologically                                       | Limited or no positive rewards for the child                                                                    |
| Child’s work is regulated by law or governed by family/community norms and values                | Child’s work is excluded from legislation, social security and benefits                                         |
| Child’s work serves as vehicle for social advancement and improvement in child’s quality of life | Child’s work is utilized for exploitative, subversive or clandestine operations or disguised illegal activities |





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# FACT SHEET 1

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 2001 SURVEY ON CHILDREN (Conducted by the National Statistics Office)



### CHILDREN COMPRISED ABOUT 31 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL POPULATION

A total of 24.9 million Filipino children 5-17 years old was recorded as of October 2001, an increase of 11.2 percent compared to the 22.4 million children in 1995.

The Filipino children, who comprised about 31 percent of the total population, were mainly rural-based (55.0%). Four in every ten children (41.1%) belonged to the age group 10-14 years old.

Male children outnumbered the female children at a ratio of 107 males per 100 females.

### ONE IN EVERY SIX CHILDREN 5-17 YEARS OLD WAS ENGAGED IN AN ECONOMIC ACTIVITY DURING THE PAST 12 MONTHS

Of the children 5-17 years old, 4.0 million (16.2%) were engaged in an economic activity during the period October 2000 to September 2001. This proportion of working children is slightly higher by 0.2 percentage point compared to the reported 3.6 million working children in 1995.

### FILIPINO WORKING CHILDREN WERE MORE LIKELY TO BE MALES, LIVING IN THE RURAL AREAS AND WHOSE MEDIAN AGE WAS 14 YEARS OLD

For all age groups and for both urban and rural areas, the number of economically active males exceeded the females. The sex ratio of rural-based working children was higher (191 males per 100 females) compared to that of their urban counterparts (139 males per 100 females).

More than two-thirds (69.8%) of the working children were found in the rural areas.

About 1.8 million children 15-17 years old worked during the past 12 months. This number represents more than one-third (36.9%) of the total children 15-17 years old and about 46 percent of the total working children 5-17 years old. Almost one in every 5 children 10-14 years

old (18.9%) and 2.5 percent of those younger than 10 years old were working.

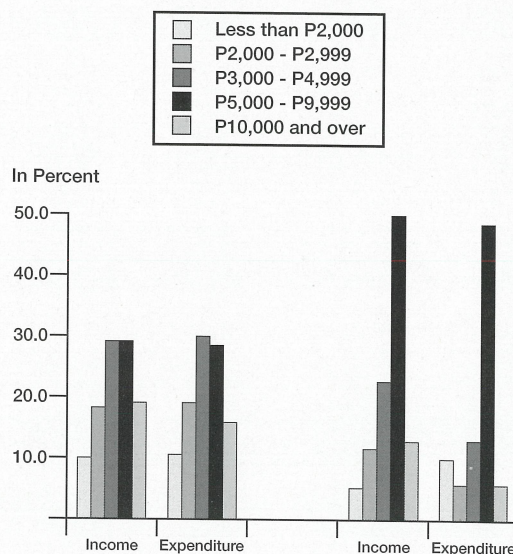
Urban-based working children were older than the rural-based. Working children in the urban areas recorded a median age of 15 years compared to 14 years for children in the rural areas.

### CHARACTERISTICS OF HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN

A total of 2.7 million out of the 10.4 million households (26.3%) have working children either in their own-household operated and/or in other household's business/enterprise, according to 2001 Survey on Children 5-17 Years Old. About 7.7 million households (73.7%), on other hand, have no working children.

In general, households with working children came from the rural areas with an average size of 6 members.

Proportion of Households With Children 5-17 Years Old, by Average Monthly Income and Expenditures, Philippines: October 2001



Source: NSO, 2001 Survey on Children







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# FACT SHEET 2



Households with working children earned and spent less than those with non-working children. More than half of the households with working children earned (54.6%) and spent (58.8%) an amount of less than P5,000 a month while more households with non-working children reported an average income (60.5%) and expenditure (54.6%) of P5,000 or more.

Almost 7 in every 10 households with working children had their own business/enterprise, mainly engaged in the agriculture (69.6%) and services (26.6%) sectors. Likewise, 61.6 percent of households with non-working children had their own business/enterprise, of which 47.7 percent and 45.5 percent were engaged in the agriculture and services sectors, respectively.

## TWO IN EVERY THREE WORKING CHILDREN ATTENDED SCHOOL

Of the 4.0 million working children, 2.6 million (65.9%) attended school during the school year 2001-2002 while 1.3 million (31.3%) engaged in gainful and other activities but not in schooling. (Table 1) This translates to a ratio of two school enrollees for every working child who was able to attend school.

School attendance was higher among working children living in the rural areas (67.0%) than the urban-based children (63.2%).

Working children who studied at the same time comprised mostly of male (59.6%) and with age between 10 and 14 years old (58.3%).

## ON THE AVERAGE, A WORKING CHILD WAS MORE LIKELY TO REPORT THAT HE HAD DIFFICULTY WORKING AND ATTENDING SCHOOL AT THE SAME TIME THAN ADMIT THAT HIS WORK HAS NEGATIVE EFFECT ON HIS SCHOOLING

Of the 2.6 million working children who attended school, 1.2 million or 44.8 percent admitted that they had difficulty working and studying at the same time while only 590 thousand or 22.3 percent reported that their work had negative effect on their schooling. (Tables 2 and 3) Rural-based and male working children were more likely to report their difficulties encountered and the effects of work on their school grades and attendance.

The most common problems or difficulties encountered by the 1.2 million working children were difficulty in catching-up with the lessons (52.1%); high cost of school supplies/books/transportation (47.9%); and distance of school from residence (40.0%). On the other hand, the most frequently reported negative effects of work on schooling of 590 thousand children were low grades (39.7%); absenteeism (30.2%); and tardiness (25.6%).

## MORE THAN 97 PERCENT OF THE WORKING CHILDREN REACHED AT LEAST ELEMENTARY LEVEL

About 3.9 million or 97.1 percent of working children completed grade level. (Table 4) The number of working children with no grade completed comprising 2.9 percent of 116 thousand is 0.1 percentage point higher compared to the result of the 1995 Survey on Child Labor.

Of those who had formal schooling, 40 percent (1.6 million) finished elementary grade levels I-V while more than half (2.3 million) were at least elementary graduates. Less than one percent (31 thousand) reached the college level.

Male working students were mostly elementary undergraduates while the females had at least some high school education. Working children in urban areas were more highly educated than the rural-based children. The proportion of urban-based working children who were at least high school graduates (high school graduates and college undergraduates) was more than half that of rural-based working children (11.4% and 5.4%, respectively).

## ONE IN EVERY THREE WORKING CHILDREN HAD STOPPED/DROPPED OUT OF SCHOOL

Of the 4.0 million working children, 1.5 million (36.5%) children admitted that they had stopped/dropped out of school. (Table 1) This is slightly lower than the proportion of parent/guardian respondents who positively identified their children to have been out of formal education. (For the purpose of the 2001 Survey on Children 5-17 Years Old, both working children and their parents/guardians were asked whether the working child had ever stopped/dropped out of school.)

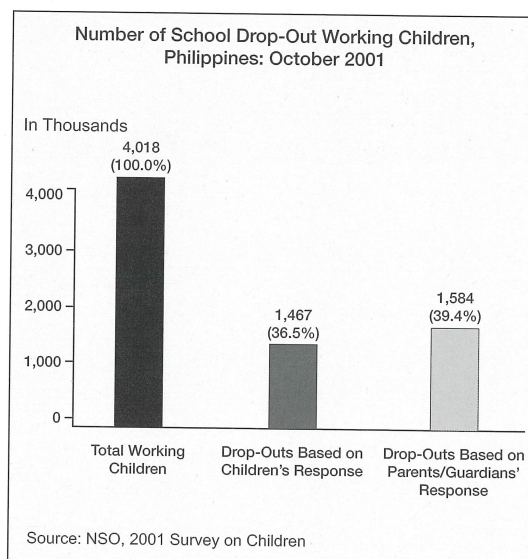






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# FACT SHEET 3



Majority of the working children who dropped out of school were rural-based (70.1%). Children belonging to the age group 15-17 had almost twice the probability of being a drop-out than those between 10 and 14 years of age. Male drop-outs outnumbered the females with a ratio of 2:1.

## LOSS OF INTEREST IN SCHOOLING AND INSUFFICIENT FAMILY/HOUSEHOLD INCOME WERE THE MAIN REASONS OF SCHOOL DROP-OUTS

The top two reasons why children stopped/dropped out of school were children's loss of interest in schooling and insufficient family/household income to support their education. (Table 2) This was revealed by both working children and adult respondents.

Loss of interest in schooling ranked as the number 1 reason among male drop-out working students according to both child and parent/guardian respondents. Females, on the other hand, stopped from schooling since they could not afford to go to school due to financial incapability of the family/household to support their education.

Younger children seemed to have high interest in schooling than the older ones as reported by a lower proportion of children 5-9 years old who were not interested in school (29.4%). Children in the oldest age group 15-17 years old reported higher proportion of the inability of their family to finance their education (31.7%).

## AGRICULTURE EMPLOYED ABOUT 60 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL WORKING CHILDREN 5-17 YEARS OLD

Based on the 2001 Survey on Children, about 2.3 million children 5-17 years old were farmers, hunters or fishermen during the past 12 months (October 2000 to September 2001). These children represent 58.5 percent of the 4.0 million working children 5-17 years old during the reference period; majority of which (2.0 million or 72.3%) were living in the rural areas.

More than two-thirds of the male working children (67.4% or 1.7 million) were engaged in agriculture, hunting, forestry and fishing compared to 42.9 percent (631 thousand) of their female counterpart.

## APPROXIMATELY 3 IN EVERY 10 WORKING CHILDREN, MOSTLY FEMALES, ENGAGED IN THE SERVICES SECTOR

A total of 1.3 million (31.7%) children 5-17 years old, mostly females (54.9%), were engaged in the service sectors.

More than half of these children were found working in the wholesale and retail, repair of motor vehicles and personal and household goods sector (747 thousand or 58.6%) while 18.1% percent (230 thousand), in private households with employed persons.

Almost 7 in every 10 children who worked in private households belonged to the 15-17 years old age group (68.7%).

## SEVENTY PERCENT OF CHILDREN WORKING IN INDUSTRIAL SECTORS WERE FOUND IN MANUFACTURING

The industrial sectors employed about 266 thousand or 6.6 percent of the total working children 5-17 years old. Manufacturing was recorded as major industry employing 70 percent (186 thousand) of the working children in the industrial sectors. Next in rank was construction where more than 1 in every 5 children can be found working (58 thousand or 21.9%).

More children from the urban areas than in the rural areas were likely to engage in these sectors (10.6% compared to 4.9%, respectively).