

A Briefing on Child Labor

Overview of findings on Child Labour in South Asia

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A version of this presentation was made at:

World Vision India

Technical Approach for strengthening child participation and
protection systems

24-26 November 2014, Chennai



International
Labour
Organization

Child Labor in South Asia

Conservative estimates of child labor in South Asia
for the 5- 17 years age range
totals almost 17 million

Of this, the 5-14 years age range totals
over 10 million

The young, 5-11 year-old children, make up about
one-fifth of all child laborers in South Asia



Child Labor in South Asia

Country	% 5-14 yr old in child labor	Aged 5-14 years in child labor	% of 5-17 yr old in child labor	Total in child labor, aged 5-17 years
Afghanistan	No data	No data	No data	No data
Bangladesh	8.0	2,946,641	11.8	5,063,017
Bhutan ^(b)	17.8	28,838	14.5	29,726
India ^(c)	1.4	3,253,201	1.9	5,768,367
Maldives ^(d)	3.4	2,122	No data	No data
Nepal	28.6	1,782,992	26.2	2,034,880
Pakistan ^(e)	11.0	2,067,742	11.8	3,375,481
Sri Lanka	7.9	260,977	10.2	444,540



Child Labor in India

Table 1. Lower-bound estimate of child labour involvement, India

	(a) children 5-11 years in economic activity		(b) Children 12-14 excluding those in light work ⁽¹⁾		(c) Children 15-17 years in hazardous work ⁽¹⁾		(a)&(b)&(c) Total in child labour, 5-17 years ⁽¹⁾	
	% of total age group	No.	% of total age group	No.	% of total age group	No.	% of total age group	No.
Male	0.4	360,262	3.7	1,534,996	6.1	2,197,919	2.5	4,093,177
Female	0.3	240,801	3.2	1,117,142	1.1	317,247	1.2	1,675,190
Urban	0.6	242,936	2.5	478,458	4.4	798,444	2	1,519,838
Rural	0.3	358,127	3.9	2,173,680	3.6	1,716,722	1.9	4,248,529
Total	0.4	601,063	3.5	2,652,138	3.8	2,515,165	1.9	5,768,367

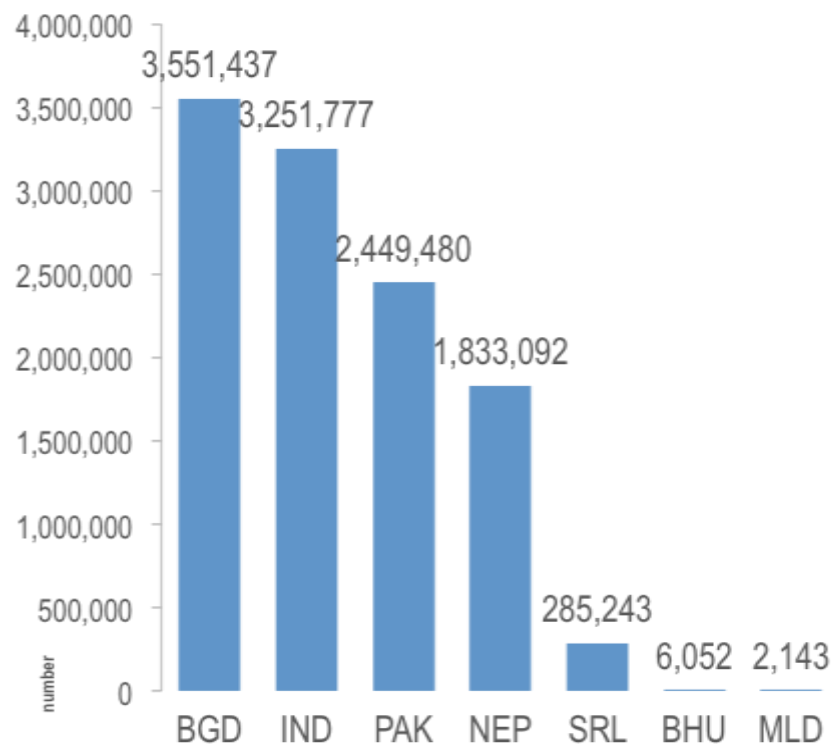
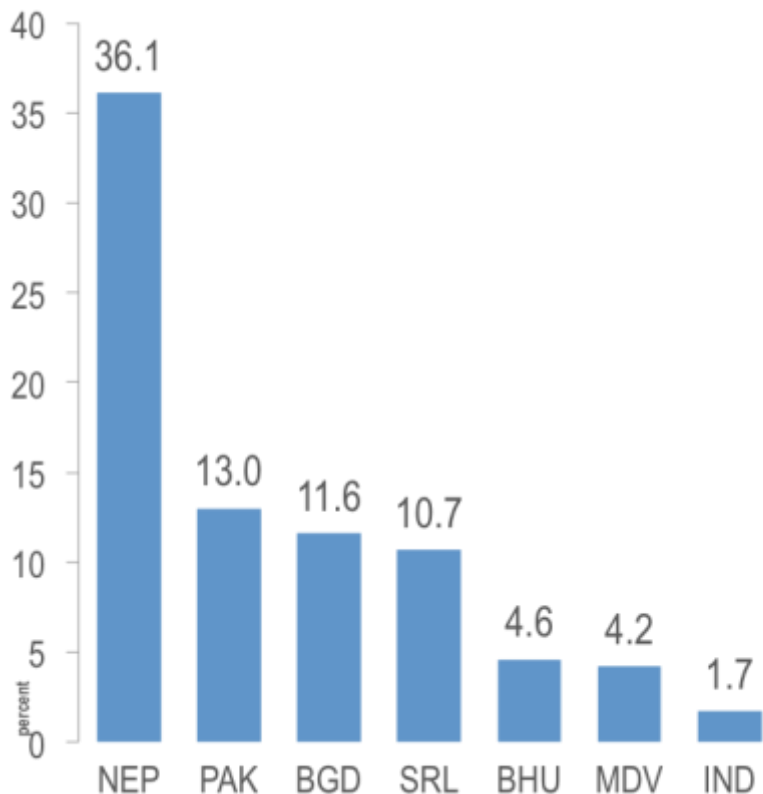
Note: (1) The survey do not collect information on working hours. For this reason, the group of children aged 12-14 and 15-17 are classified as child labourers only on the basis of their involvement in designated hazardous industries and hazardous occupations.

Source: UCW calculations based on India National Sample Survey (NSS), Round 68, 2011-2012



Children's involvement in employment* in South Asia

Remains common in many South Asia countries
(7 -14 yr old)

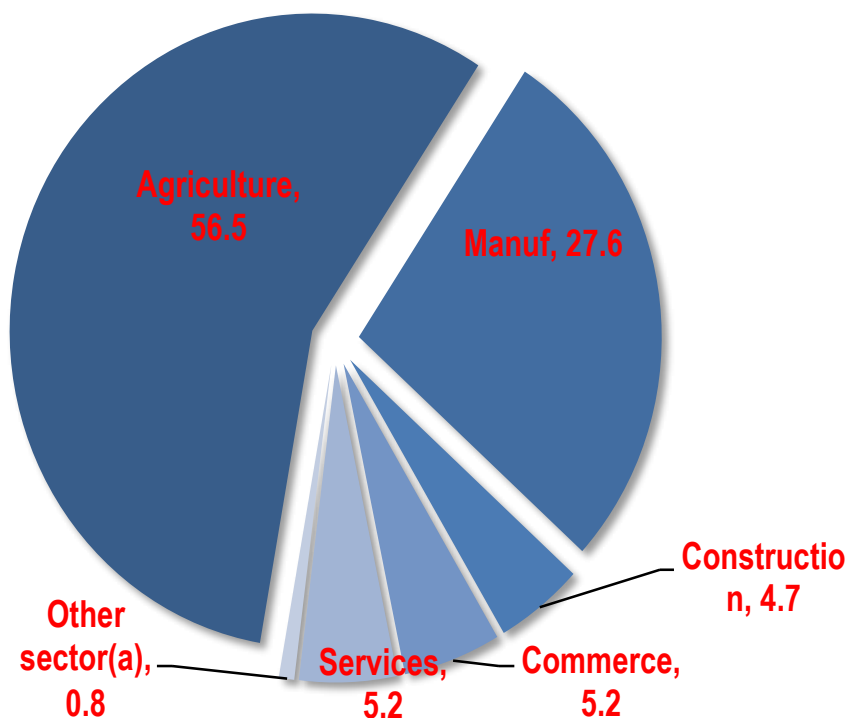


*Not all children in employment are in child labor, and not all child labor is captured in this data

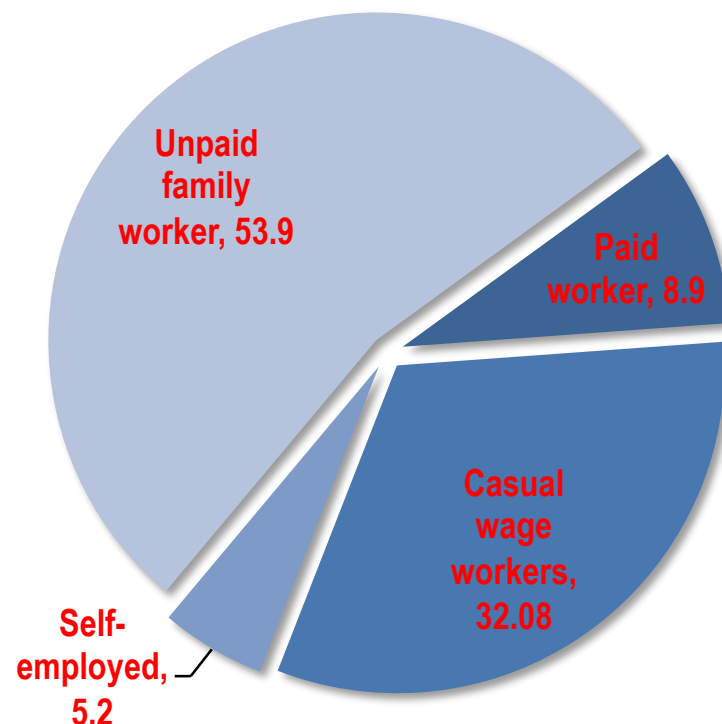
Status & Sector of children in employment in India

Table 1. Sector and status of children in employment, 7-14 yrs

(a) Sector of employment



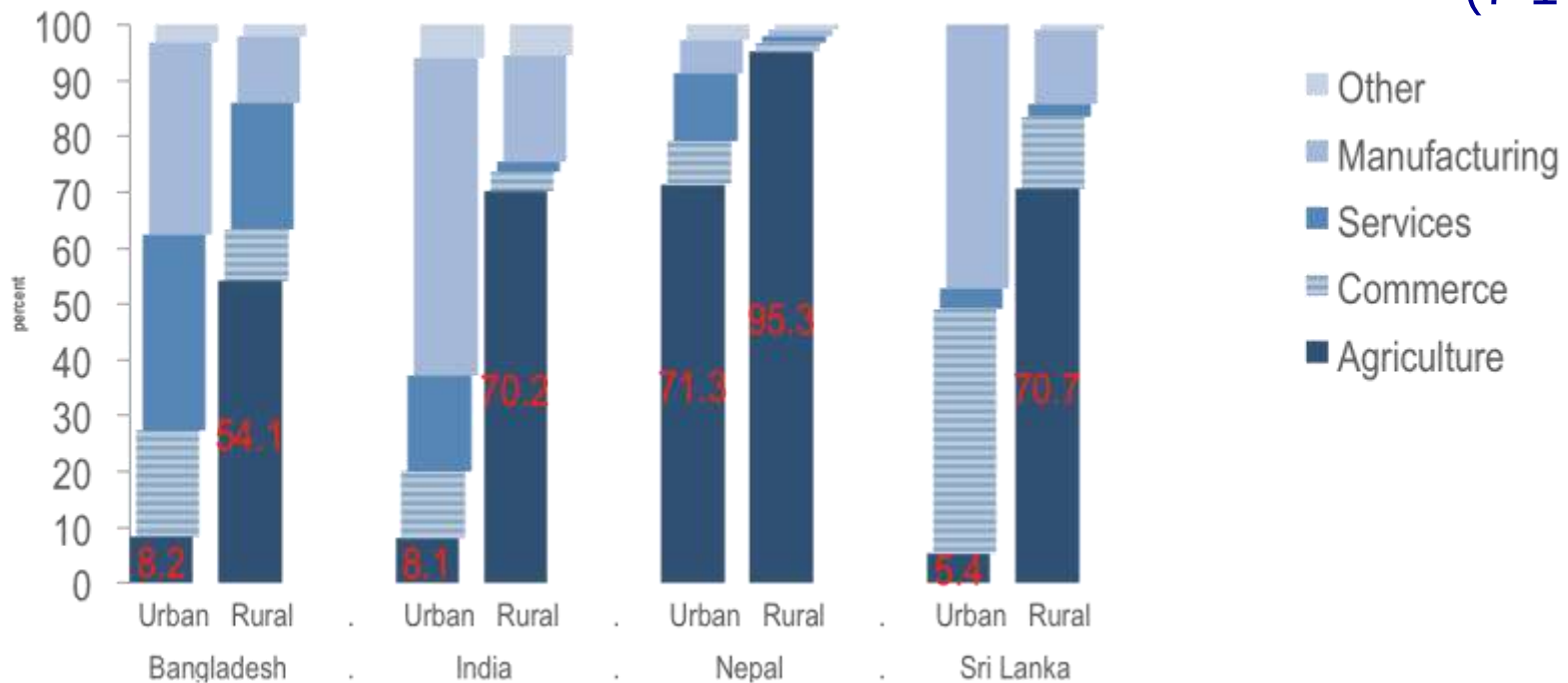
(b) Status in employment



Rural Areas – South Asia

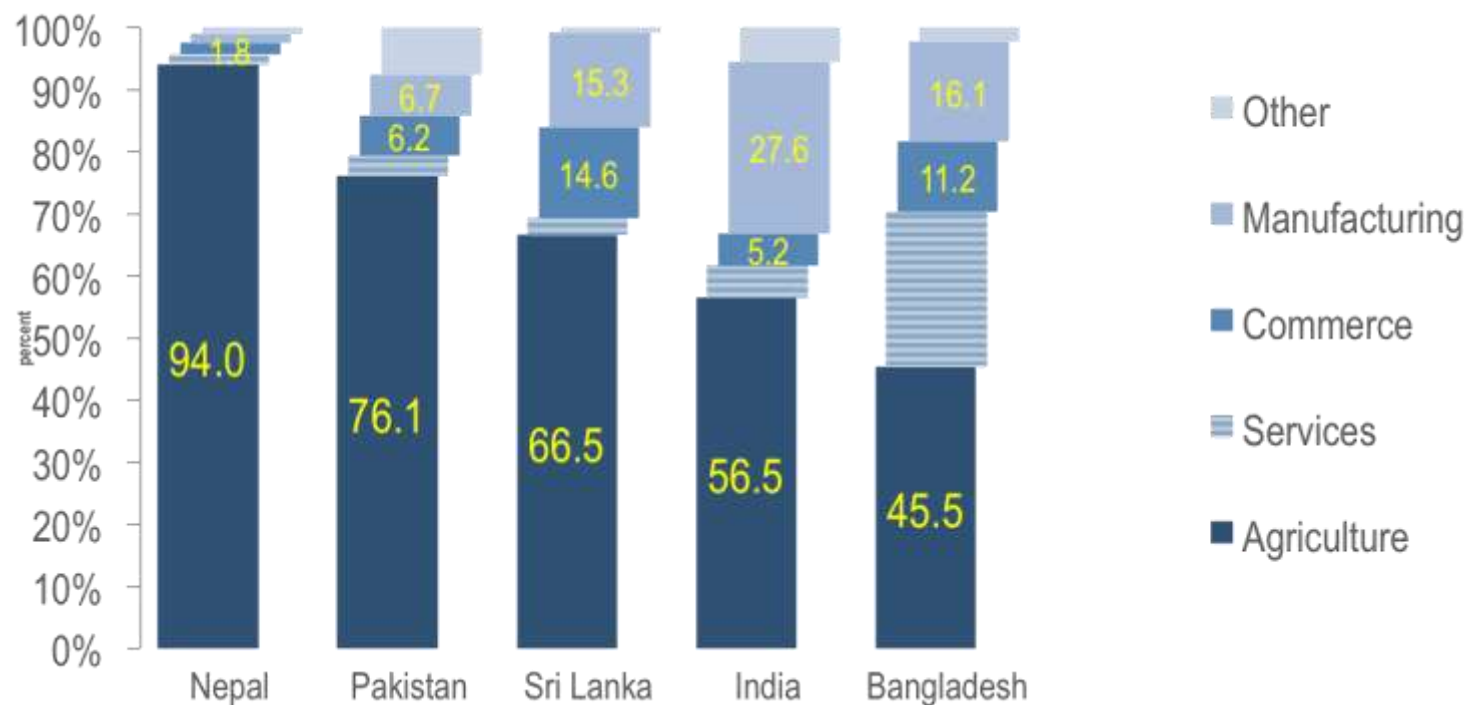
- Generally more likely to be employed
- less likely to be in school
- concentrated in the agriculture sector, and
- concentrated in family work

(7-14 yr old)



Agriculture – South Asia

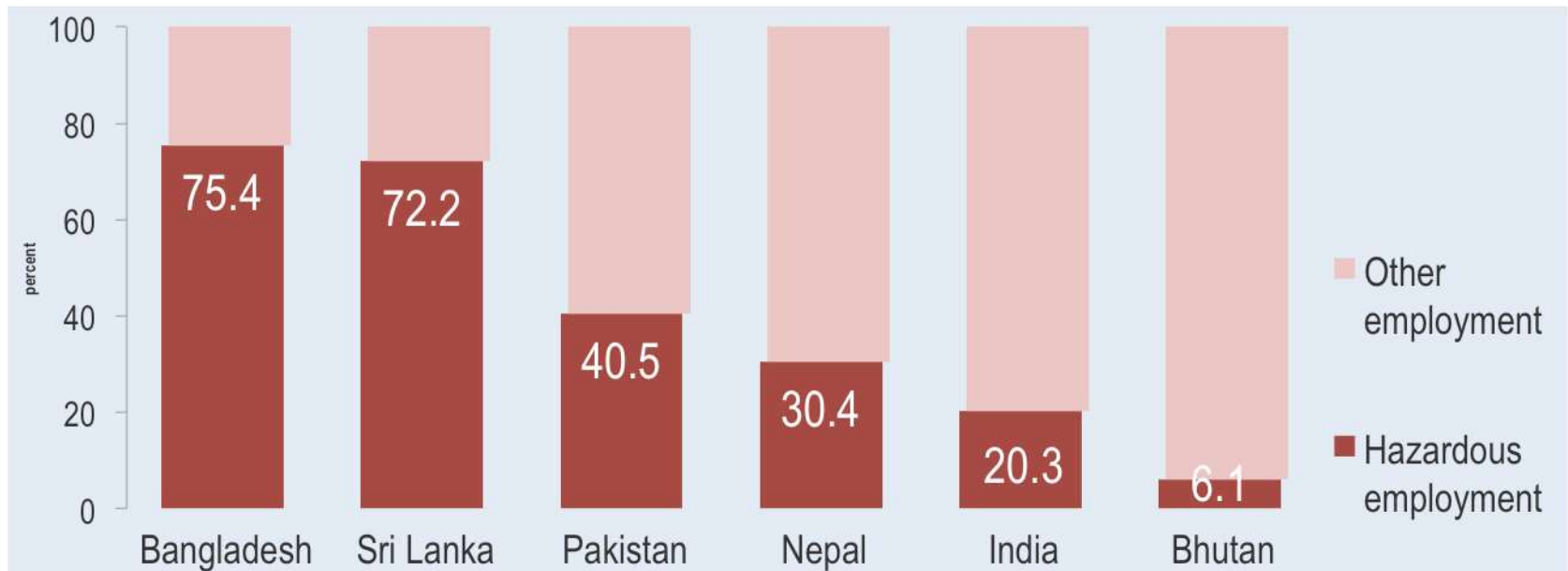
Absorbs the highest share of children in employment in every South Asian country (7-14 yr old)



Hazardous Work – South Asia

A substantial share of employment among 15-17 year olds is hazardous in nature

15 – 17 yr old



The 'inactive' children in India

India has more children who are reported neither working nor in school than children in employment

- Almost 18 million 7 to 17 yrs (7%) are inactive
- Almost 65 of these inactive children are girls, and
- 79.1 per cent live in rural areas







Thank you!

Acknowledgements:

- Source: UCW calculations based on national household surveys, and charts
- India Employment-Unemployment Survey –R68 201-12; Labor Force Surveys – Bangladesh (2005-06), Nepal (2008), Pakistan (2010-11), Bhutan – MICS (2010), Maldives -Demographic & Health Survey (2009)
- Photos: Sherin R. Khan

