

**Research Report for
Baseline Survey of Children in Sugar Cane Plantation and
Commercially and Sexually Exploited Children in Davao Province**

by

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Research Report for Baseline Survey of Children in Sugar Cane Plantation and Commercially and Sexually Exploited Children in Davao Province

Chapter I Introduction

The Philippine Government demonstrated its commitment to eliminate the worst forms of child labour by ratifying ILO Convention No. 182 and acting quickly to undertake a Time-Bound Programme (TBP). This commitment is expressed in the goal of National Programme Against Child Labour, which aims to reduce the worst form of child labour by 75 per cent by the year 2015. It is further evidenced in concrete terms by the support and collaboration provided by government and non-governmental partner agencies in the TBP preparatory activities.

A Time-Bound Programme is a framework, within which a set of tightly integrated and coordinated policies and programmes to prevent and eliminate a country's worst forms of child labour are implemented by various partners within a fixed period of time, and with well-defined targets. The TBP emphasizes the importance of identifying the root causes of child labour, such as those set out in the Medium-Term Philippine Development Plan. In particular, the TBP emphasizes the importance of forming linkages with economic and social policies and programmes to combat poverty and promote universal basic education and social mobilization.

The International Labour Organization (ILO), through its International Programme for the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC) is implementing a project "Supporting the Time Bound Programme of the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour in the Philippines" from 2002-2006. The Project is the result of consultations involving the ILO's tripartite constituents, NGOs and civil society. This was presented and approved by the National Child Labour Committee in July 2002.

The Project's main goal is to support the National Programme Against Child Labour in achieving its aim of reducing the Worst Form of Child Labour by 75 per cent by the year 2015. The two main objectives of the project are: (a) to strengthen the enabling environment by improving the national policy and programme environment against the worst forms of child labour; and (b) to reduce the incidence of worst forms of child labour through direct action in support of child labourers and their families. The project focuses on six priority target groups" child domestic workers, children in prostitution, pyrotechnics, deep-sea fishing, small-scale mining and quarrying and children engaged in agricultural work on sugar cane plantations, across eight provinces including: Camarines Norte, Bulacan, Cebu, Davao, Negros Oriental, Negros Occidental, Iloilo and the National Capital Region. The Project targets 44,500 child labourers and siblings below the age of 18. The first task is to identify these children so they can be withdrawn and prevented from hazardous work. Their families will be provided with direct services including appropriate education and training alternatives.

According to the National Statistics Office of the Philippines, there is an estimated 4 million working children, of which over 2.5 million are child labourers employed in hazardous environments. To find and remove children from the worst forms of child

labour, the quality and accessibility of information on child labour must be improved. This calls for improved systems of surveillance, specifically the Comprehensive Child Labour Monitoring System. Toward this end, the project needs to gather information through participatory methods. This research is conducted in Davao Province to provide baseline information for children in sugar cane plantation (CSCP) and commercially and sexually exploited children (CSEC).

Objectives of the study

The main aim of this research is to identify child workers and their siblings as project beneficiaries. The specific objectives are as follows:

- a) to present a profile of all children 5 to 17 years old in two municipalities of Davao del Sur;
- b) to present profile of children in sugar cane plantation in Davao del Sur; and
- c) to describe the current living situation of commercially and sexually exploited children in Davao City.

Methodology

This portion of the report contains the following: locale of the study, unit of analysis, sampling, data collection, data management, management of the project and presentation of results.

Locale of the study

1. Davao del Sur

The areas covered in the Province of Davao del Sur are the towns of Kiblawan and Hagonoy. Davao del Sur is located in southeastern Mindanao. It is bounded on the north by Davao del Norte, on the east by Davao Gulf, on the west by Cotabato Province, Sultan Kudarat and South Cotabato, and on the south by the Mindanao Sea.

The demand for coconut, abaca fiber and sugar in the world market in the 20th century transformed Davao del Sur into an agricultural province. By popular terminology, the province is called "Coconut Country" because coconut is its major commercial crop. The province however has other major crops such as corn, rice, bananas, cacao, ramie, coffee and sugarcane.

The two towns of Hagonoy and Kiblawan were selected because they have large tracts of land planted with sugar cane.

Kiblawan has 29 barangays out of which 12 were selected: Bagong Negros, Balasiao, Cogon Bacaca, Dapok, Ihan, Lati-an, Manual, Maraga-a, Panaglib, Pasig, San Isidro and Sto. Nino.

In Hagonoy, nine out of 21 barangays were covered as follows: Clib, La Union, Lanuro, Lapulabao, Mahayahay, Maliit Digos, New Quezon, Sacub and San Isidro.

In 1995, Hagonoy has a total of 41,752 population. The average population growth rate of the municipality had gradually increased from 1960 to 1980 censal years of

1.26 per cent in 1970, 2.65 per cent in 1975 and 3.23 per cent in 1980 (Table 1). These gradual increases could be attributed to the establishment of agri-industries in the municipality like the Davao Sugar Central Company, Inc. (DASUCECO), the Guihing Agricultural Development Corporation (GADECO) and Cocoa Investors Inc. (CII). These companies recruited workers with special skills in their respective operations from outside of the municipality and the province who later have permanently resided in the municipality. The other factors that partly contributed to the increase were the unstable peace and order condition prevailing in the other parts of the province at the time and the boom in sugar, commercial bananas, and cacao industries.

Table 1. Population of Kiblawan and Hagonoy covered in the survey

Municipalities	Number of households	Number of sample barangays	Number of children 5-17 years old	Number of children in sugar cane plantation		
				Total	Male	Female
Hagonoy	1,278	9	3,026	337	242	95
Kiblawan	1,915	12	4,655	983	613	370
Total	3,193	21	7,681	1,320	855	465

2. Davao City

Davao City, with a population of 1,006,840 as projected for the year 2000, is the major city in Mindanao. It has three districts, 180 barangays and has an area of 2,443,61. It has an average annual population growth rate of 3,22 per cent. It is economically booming as characterized by the establishment of new commercial centers and infrastructures.

It is considered as the biggest and most progressive business center in Mindanao. This city is considered as the melting pot of people from different provinces in Mindanao. It was awarded the cleanest and greenest city in the Philippines and the 18th livable city in Asia. This gives people incentives to move in to Davao City. It is the first city in the country which enacted Children's Development Code (1994) as well as the Women's Development Code (1997).

Unit of analysis

Two types of unit of analysis are targeted for this study, as follows:

1. Children in sugar cane plantation - Davao del Sur

All children 5 to 17 years old working in sugar cane plantations in the municipalities of Hagonoy and Kiblawan.

2. Commercially and sexually exploited children in Davao City

Children in prostitution refer to children, whether male or female, who for money, profit or any other consideration, or due to coercion or influence of any adult, syndicate or group, indulge in sexual intercourse or lascivious conduct. These

include performing in obscene exhibitions or indecent shows, whether live or in video or film, and for the production of pornography or for pornographic performances.

Sampling

Children in sugar cane plantation in Davao City (CSCP)

In order to get the incidence of child labour in the sugar cane areas, the barangays in each municipality were chosen using random sampling. The last three barangays in the list, however, were replaced with barangays, which will be covered for the ILO intervention phase as targeted by the Kamalayan Development Foundation. Two areas were also replaced as suggested by local government officials due to uncertain peace and order situation.

Twenty-one barangays from the two municipalities of Davao del Sur, specifically Hagonoy and Kiblawan were covered. Complete enumeration of all households was done for each of these barangays.

A total of 3,193 households with children 5 to 17 years old were covered for the survey, out of which 7,681 children were identified. A screening form was used to determine if a household has a child 5 to 17 years old. Households without such children were not included in the survey. Out of 7,681 children 5-17 years old, 1,320 were working in sugar cane plantations, with 64.8 per cent males and 35.2 per cent females. These data are shown in Table 1. Table 2 shows the list of barangays covered for Hagonoy and Kiblawan disaggregated by sex.

Table 2. Number of children in sugar cane plantation by area and by sex

	Total	Male	Female
Hagonoy	337	242	95
Clib	22	13	9
La Union	16	11	5
Lanuro	10	10	-
Lapulabao	9	7	2
Mahayahay	91	77	14
Maliit Digos	65	40	25
New Quezon	63	44	19
Sacrib	49	28	21
Tologan	12	12	-
Kiblawan	983	613	370
Bagong Negros	13	10	3
Balasio	120	72	48
Cogon-Bacaca	79	57	22
Dapok	15	10	5
Ihan	131	72	59
Latian	156	85	71
Manual	72	51	21
Maragaa	100	70	30
Panaglib	75	50	25
Pasig	54	39	15
San Isidro	62	43	19
Santo Nino	106	54	52

Commercially and sexually exploited children (CSEC)

For boys and girls in prostitution, there was difficulty in identifying barangays where they reside. As expected, they tended to be mobile, seasonal and underground. For some of them, their families and household members did not know they were engaged in prostitution, hence out of the targeted quota sample of 600, only 404 children or 67.3 per cent were covered for the interview. Some children gave fictitious names and addresses. Data collection for this disadvantaged group was done in close coordination with NGOs like Tambayan, Talikala, and the PO-Lawig Bubai. These PO/NGO's are the organizations in Davao City that are implementing various projects for women and children in prostitution. The researchers have had a long history of working with these organizations, as development co-workers in gender and reproductive health. Snowball sampling or referrals from other organizations and individuals and other possible key informants were relied upon to find these children.

Data collection

The research used the survey as its main research tool for data collection. The primary objective of the survey is to conduct a two-page census of child workers in sugar cane plantation in two selected municipalities in Davao del Sur and a target number of commercially and sexually exploited children in Davao City.

Survey tool: Questionnaire

For Phase One, the ILO/IPEC provided a pre-coded questionnaire for: (i) a child questionnaire (for CSEC); and (ii) a parent's questionnaire (for CSCP), respectively. The pre-coded, questionnaires were used to collect information on a variety of modules: demographic and socio-economic background of the children and their families, their educational status and their current working conditions. This instrument was field tested in San Andres Bukid, Makati City in October 2003.

The topics included in the questionnaire for children in sugar cane plantation are as follows:

- a) Household characteristics – sex and age distribution of household members.
- b) Education of household members 5-17 years old – highest education level completed, whether child is currently enrolled in school, reasons for not currently enrolled in school.
- c) Economic characteristics of household members 5-17 years old – whether child has a job or business during the past six months, sector of work, class of work, type of work, whether the household has children 5-17 years old currently working outside of their municipality.

On the other hand, the topics for respondents in commercially and sexually exploited children are as follows:

- a) Demographic characteristics of the child – age, sex, education, reasons for not being currently in school.

- b) Economic situation of the child and his/her family whether family owns a house, main work done by family to make a living.
- c) Current living situation of the child and his/her family whether parents are alive, whether child is living with parents, place of origin of the child prior to his/her present place of residence, reasons why the child is separated from parents, sources of assistance or support in one's work within the past six months.

Enumerators training manual

A comprehensive and operational training as well as data collection manual for enumerators and supervisors was developed by the ILO's Baseline Research Coordinator for the purpose of data collection. In the manual, definitions and concepts of various terms used in the questionnaires would be reflected. Particular attention was paid to gender issues such as sex disaggregation of data) and to age issues (age-disaggregation of data). Data collection procedures, rapport building and responsibility of enumerators/supervisors in view of collecting reliable information from the respondents were clearly spelt out in the manual.

Training for field workers

A two-day training for fieldworkers was held on December 7 and 8, 2003. The first day started with a holistic presentation of ILO vision, mission and goals at the global level followed by ILO regional and national efforts and strategies in addressing major issues in child labour, in particular, the elimination of the worst forms of child labour. The presentation was done by Vicente Magallanes, the ILO Field Coordinator for Davao. This was very useful in highlighting the role and rationale of the research to be conducted. After this part, the overview of the research was presented: objectives, methodology and timetable. Then the various tools for data collection were carefully taken up by the researchers.

Ethics in Research was also discussed highlighting the issues of respect for person, privacy, confidentiality, informed consent (oral) as well as honesty and commitment of the researchers and enumerators to come up with quality and accurate data.

The second day of the training started with a pretest in an urban poor area after which feed backing of the results were conducted. This was followed by planning for fieldwork. The enumerators for sugar cane farms worked in pairs by barangay and agreed to help other pairs who would need reinforcement in complying with complete enumeration of the households in their areas. Two of the enumerators come from the same province: one is a member of the Tagakaolo tribe and the other a Bagobo. These two enumerators were assigned to the Lumad communities.

Knowing the major difficulty of finding and getting children to agree to the interview, the four CSEC enumerators agreed to work as one team. Their planning included the importance of holding meetings with relevant organizations, groups and individuals who could help them in their search for children engaged in different forms of prostitution.

Fieldwork for children in sugar cane plantation

One field supervisor and 13 enumerators were hired on a full time basis. They were housed in a boarding house of Kiblawan poblacion, the first area of coverage. Seven of the 13 enumerators are staff of Kamalayan Foundation. In terms of sex distribution of enumerators, seven are males and six are females. Quality performance, teamwork and participatory decision making served as the guiding principles of these field workers.

To assist them in facilitating entry to the communities and easy location of respondents in each barangay, a local guide in each barangay, usually a barangay health worker, assisted the enumerators. Some of them were fortunate to be assigned in the lowlands. But for most of them, they experienced difficult and long journeys (as far as 15 kilometers round trip) under the heat of the sun and heavy rains. Carrying packed lunch, spare shirts and questionnaires, they waded the rivers, crossed makeshift bridges and made treks to remote upland, barangays.

The field supervisor did the initial editing of thousands of interview schedules. He also coordinated with the barangay officials, facilitated nightly meetings and made visits to the field. The researchers had also been with the enumerators in the field doing interviews, spot checking as well as editing and participating in their nightly meetings and assessment. The ILO Field Coordinator had also visited Kiblawan during the time of data collection. Fieldwork in Davao del Sur started from December 10 to 23, then continued in December 26 to 28.

Fieldwork for commercially and sexually exploited children

The interview of children in prostitution likewise started on December 10. Four enumerators were hired on a full time basis. They are members of NGOs working for prostituted women and children, as follows: Tambayan, Talikala and Lwaig Bubai. They relied mainly on referrals and contacts made for them by other organizations, groups and individuals. At least five meetings were held by the researchers with the fieldworkers to deal with problems and concerns in the field such as difficulty of getting the children to agree to the interview. There were times when, despite previous arrangements with the children and/or their contact, not a single respondent could be found. The enumerators started their work at seven in the evening and worked until two in the morning. They walked the streets back and forth trying to find prospective respondents. They also entered establishments and ordered drinks to enable them to connect with the young children entertainers. Aside from holding meetings with the enumerators of CSEC, the researchers edited the completed survey schedules, conducted interviews, made observations and assisted in getting referrals or contacts. The interview which started on December 10 lasted until January 5, 2004.

Data management

Filled-up questionnaires were edited three times: first editing was done by the interviewers, second editing by the field supervisor and third editing by the researchers. This is to check the consistency and quality before encoding into computer. The staff in-charge for data encoding were trained in CS Pro (Census

Survey Programme). Data encoding was done locally while data processing and generation of tables were done in Manila by research consultants hired by ILO for this purpose.

Management of the project

This research project was based at Ateneo de Davao University, managed by three part-time researchers and three part-time office staff.

Field persons and training of enumerators: The researchers conducted a training for the project's enumerators, field supervisors and encoders. Particular attention was given to the sensitivity required in interviewing children. All researchers participated directly in actual field operations at different levels. In particular, the researchers did the following fieldwork activities:

- Facilitated entry and stay of field supervisor and enumerators in the area;
- Connected with local government officials, plantation management and other key persons in the area;
- Supervised data collection;
- Conducted some interviews in the project site;
- Conducted spot checking; and
- Did editing of completed questionnaires.

In the hiring of enumerators, priority was given to qualified and well-motivated female and male candidates. A two-day training workshop was organized upon hiring of the enumerators. Resource persons for training were the research team members and the ILO Field Coordinator for Davao Province.

External partners and potential users of the data: For the baseline surveys, there was a number of external partners whose assistance were sought especially in data collection:

NGOs and CBOs such as Talikala, Lawig Bubai and Tambayan for Children in prostitution as well as the Consortium of Eight NGOs on Child Labour in Davao City. Kamalayan Development Foundation was also involved.

Presentation of results

The main findings of this Phase I research were presented at the Marco Polo Hotel, Davao City on February 18, 2004. The participants included the local government officials of Hagonoy and Kiblawan, representatives of other local government units, representatives from government line agencies, members of the academe, NGOs and religious groups. The whole day session ended with the collaborative formulation of the criteria for the target beneficiaries which comprise the working children and their siblings.

Chapter II Data analysis

This chapter contains the analysis of data collected. It is divided into three parts. The first part covers the results for all children 5-17 years old. The second part presents the data analysis for working children in sugar cane plantation (CSCP) while the third part presents the results for commercially and sexually exploited children (CSEC).

Part I. All children 5-17 years old

This part presents the findings about all children covered in the survey within the age range of 5 to 17 years. The arranged data are based in Table 3 up to 27. The following topics are presented:

1. Household population with children 5 to 17 years old
2. Age distribution
3. Working children
4. Education
5. Working children by class of work
6. Working children by sector of work
7. Place of work

1. Household population with children 5 to 17 years old

The survey covered 21 barangays: nine in Hagonoy and 12 in Kiblawan. All in all, 3,193 households with 5 to 17 years old were included comprising 17,778 individuals. This gives an average household size of 5.6 or 6, as shown in Table 3.

Table 3. Household population

Total number of households with children 5 to 17 years old	3,193
Total population	17,778
Average household size	5.6 or 6

2. Age distribution

Age distribution of all children 5 to 17 years old, by sex and by area.

Table 4 shows that percentage distribution of children by singular age ranged from 7 per cent (16 years old) to 8.6 per cent (12 years old) depicting an almost equal distribution from 5 to 17 years old. The average age was 11 years. There was slightly more boys (52.2 per cent) than girls (47.8 per cent). With respect to sex proportion by singular age, the males slightly dominated the females except for ages 9, 11, 15 and 16. At the age 17, 56.8 per cent are males, only 43.2 per cent are females.

Table 4. Children 5-17 years old by age and by sex

Age	Total		Male		Female		Proportion by sex (%)	
	f	%	f	%	f	%	Male	Female
5	545	7.1	281	7.0	264	7.2	51.6	48.4
6	574	7.5	304	7.6	270	7.4	53.0	47.0
7	569	7.4	308	7.7	261	7.1	54.1	45.9
8	593	7.7	315	7.9	278	7.6	53.1	46.9
9	601	7.8	300	7.5	301	8.2	49.9	50.1
10	628	8.2	342	8.5	286	7.8	54.5	45.5
11	613	8.0	303	7.6	310	8.4	49.4	50.6
12	657	8.6	349	8.7	308	8.4	53.1	46.9
13	632	8.2	323	8.1	309	8.4	51.1	48.9
14	564	7.3	297	7.4	267	7.3	52.7	47.3
15	583	7.6	289	7.2	294	8.0	49.6	50.4
16	537	7.0	267	6.7	270	7.4	49.7	50.3
17	585	7.6	332	8.3	253	6.9	56.8	43.2
Total	7,681	100	4,010	100	3,671	100		
% of total	100		52.2		47.8		52.2	47.8
Average	11.0		11.0		11.0			

In terms of age group (Table 5), most of the children belonged to the age bracket 10-14 with 3,094 (40.3 per cent) and followed by age bracket 5-9 with 2,882 (or 37.5 per cent). With respect to the age bracket by sex, most of the male population comprised the age bracket 10-14 with 1,614 (or 40.2 per cent), a trend similar to females with 1,480 (or 40.3 per cent).

Table 5. Children 5-17 years old by age group and by sex

Age group	Total		Male		Female		Proportion by sex (%)	
	f	%	f	%	f	%	Male	Female
5-9	2,882	37.5	1,508	37.6	1,374	37.4	52.3	47.7
10-14	3,094	40.3	1,614	40.2	1,480	40.3	52.2	47.8
15-17	1,705	22.2	888	22.1	817	22.3	52.1	47.9
Total	7,681	100	4,010	100	3,671	100		
% of total	100		52.2		47.8			

In terms of area, Hagonoy has 3,026 or 39.4 per cent of children 5 to 17 years old while Kiblawan has 4,665 (or 60.6 per cent). This is because there are more barangays covered in Kiblawan (12 barangays) than in Hagonoy (only nine barangays) as shown in Table 6.

In terms of sex distribution per area, there was slightly more males in Kiblawan (52.6 per cent) than in Hagonoy (51.6 per cent) as shown in Table 7.

Table 6. Children 5-17 years old by age group and by area

Age group	Total		Hagonoy		Kiblawan	
	f	%	f	%	f	%
5-9	2,882	37.5	1,174	38.8	1,708	36.7
10-14	3,094	40.3	1,202	39.7	1,892	40.6
15-17	1,705	22.2	650	21.5	1,055	22.7
Total	7,681	100	3,026	100	4,655	100
% of total	100		39.4		60.6	

Table 7. Children 5-17 years old by area and by sex

Area	Total		Male		Female		Proportion by sex (%)	
	f	%	f	%	f	%	Male	Female
Hagonoy	3,026	39.4	1,562	39.0	1,464	39.9	51.6	48.4
Kiblawan	4,655	60.6	2,448	61.0	2,207	60.1	52.6	47.4
Total	7,681	100	4,010	100	3,671	100		
% of total	100		52.2		47.8			

3. Working children

Child labour is widely practiced that it is accepted by many as part of the natural order of things. For families in the rural areas, child labour was equated with child work, excused with the agreement that work is good for children and a means of helping families. Parents do not recognize this as a problem (ILO Report VI (1) p. 6). For destitute parents such as those in the rural areas, the employment of their children is considered one of the few options left and is regarded as unavoidable due to extreme poverty. In fact before the actual survey was undertaken, there were local officials who expressed concern that parents might not report child labour for fear that their children would be prevented from working.

A growing body of knowledge has shown that working children are disadvantaged in many ways. There is evidence that early involvement of children in work can have serious health and developmental consequences. They may grow up shorter and lighter and they maybe more susceptible to infectious diseases, injuries and other work- place related injuries. (ILO Report VI (1) p. 6).

During data collection for this survey, the researchers have seen children undertaking heavy work such as carrying heavy loads of sugar cane during harvest seemingly too big and heavy for their age. The young boys were cutting sugar cane using hard tools designed for adults. They did this work under the heat of the sun or under heavy rains.

Working status, by sex, by area and by age

Table 8 shows that 32.2 per cent of all children 5 to 17 years old were working. This is the incidence of child labour in these two municipalities. This means that one out of three children 5-17 years old was working. In proportion to the municipality's

children population of 5 to 17 years old, Kiblawan has 35.2 per cent of child labour while Hagonoy has 27.7 per cent. There were more working children in Kiblawan (35.2 per cent) than in Hagonoy (27.7 per cent).

Table 8. Children 5-17 years old by area and by working status

Area	Total		Working		Non-working		Proportion by working status (%)	
	f	%	f	%	f	%	Working	Non-working
Hagonoy	3,026	39.4	837	33.8	2,189	42.0	27.7	72.3
Kiblawan	4,655	60.6	1,637	66.2	3,018	58.0	35.2	64.8
Total	7,681	100	2,474	100	5,207	100		
% of total	100		32.2		67.8			

It should be noted that some of the research enumerator heard that some of the community members were briefed by local government officials not to report about child labour because this is illegal. To a certain extent, this figure on incidence of child labour might have been underreported.

The working children comprised 2,474 (or 32.2 per cent) of the total population: 1,637 (or 66.2 per cent) in Kiblawan and 837 (or 33.8 per cent) in Hagonoy. By sex, the male population is 1,490 (or 60.2 per cent) while the female population is 326 (or 33.1 per cent) as shown in Table 9. The percentage of male participation in child labour tends to be higher compared to females as shown by male-female proportion. The dominance of males among working children reflects the cultural bias that boys are more capable of doing the heavy and tedious job in sugar cane plantation, aside from the notion that men ought to be the income earners.

Table 9. Working children by area and by sex

Area	Total		Male		Female		Proportion by sex (%)	
	f	%	f	%	f	%	Male	Female
Hagonoy	837	33.8	511	34.3	326	33.1	61.1	38.9
Kiblawan	1,637	66.2	979	65.7	658	66.9	59.8	40.2
Total	2,474	100	1,490	100	984	100		
% of total	100		60.2		39.8			

In terms of working children by age distribution, data in Table 10 show that the higher the age, the higher is its percentage to total working children. For instance, those who were five years old comprised 1 per cent, six years old was 1.2 per cent, 10 years old was 6.8 per cent, 15 years old was 12.34 per cent while 17 years old was the highest at 15.23 per cent.

By age group, the largest percentage of working children were within 10-14 years old with 46.8 per cent, followed by those children 15 to 17 with 40.2 per cent. The proportion of male children working in sugar cane farms tended to go higher with increasing age groups within 5 to 9 years old: 55.1 per cent were males within 15 to 17. The male proportion went higher with 61.1 per cent as shown in Table 11. On the average, the boys were slightly older than the girls (13.3 and 13.1 respectively).

Table 10. Working children 5-17 years old by age and by sex

Age	Total		Male		Female		Proportion by sex (%)	
	f	%	f	%	f	%	Male	Female
5	24	1.0	15	1.0	9	0.9	62.5	37.5
6	30	1.2	13	0.9	17	1.7	43.3	56.7
7	65	2.6	38	2.6	27	2.7	58.5	41.5
8	86	3.5	50	3.4	36	3.7	58.1	41.9
9	116	4.7	61	4.1	55	5.6	52.6	47.4
10	167	6.8	104	7.0	63	6.4	62.3	37.7
11	194	7.8	106	7.1	88	8.9	54.6	45.4
12	235	9.5	148	9.9	87	8.8	63.0	37.0
13	281	11.4	165	11.1	116	11.8	58.7	41.3
14	281	11.4	182	12.2	99	10.1	64.8	35.2
15	304	12.3	179	12.0	125	12.7	58.9	41.1
16	314	12.7	189	12.7	125	12.7	60.2	39.8
17	377	15.2	240	16.1	137	13.9	63.7	36.3
Total	2,474	100	1,490	100	984	100		
% of total	100		60.2		39.8			
Average age	13.2		13.3		13.1			
Age group	Total		Male		Female		Proportion by sex (%)	
	f	%	f	%	f	%	Male	Female
5-9	321	13.0	177	11.9	144	14.6	55.1	44.9
10-14	1,158	46.8	705	47.3	453	46.0	60.9	39.1
15-17	995	40.2	608	40.8	387	39.3	61.1	38.9
Total	2,474	100	1,490	100	984	100		
% of total	100		60.2		39.8			

Table 11. Working children 5-17 years old by age group and by area

Age group	Total		Hagonoy		Kiblawan	
	f	%	f	%	f	%
5-9	321	13.0	99	11.8	222	13.6
10-14	1,158	46.8	389	46.5	769	47.0
15-17	995	40.2	349	41.7	646	39.5
Total	2,474	100	837	100	1,637	100
% of total	100		33.8		66.2	

Table 12 shows that there was a similar distribution of working children by age group in Hagonoy and Kiblawan, except that Kiblawan had a slightly higher percentage of child labour belonging to five to nine years with 13.6 per cent while Hagonoy has 11.8 per cent.

Table 12. Children currently enrolled

	f	%
Total number of children currently enrolled	5,781	75.3
Total number of children not currently enrolled	1,900	24.7
Total	7,681	100

4. Education

The right to education is one important issue when it comes to child labour because chances are, the child's participation in school tends to be hampered by the need to help augment the family income. Many children from poor families ultimately face a dilemma: whether to continue schooling or to work to be able to contribute to the family income. Child labour is physically and mentally exhausting for young ages of 5 to 17. While there was an attempt to avail of free public elementary and secondary education, it is slowly pulled down by the need to help family members. The succeeding tables show the distribution of respondents according to characteristics related to education.

The demand for education is illustrated by the number of children currently enrolled comprising 75.3 per cent as shown in Table 12. This also means that one out four children 5-17 years old were not currently enrolled (24.7 per cent). Majority were in Grade 1 to 4 with 2,552 (or 44.1 per cent), shown in Table 13. The data in Table 14 shows that there was slightly more girls (50.5 per cent) than boys (49.5 per cent) who were currently enrolled. This same table further shows that there were slightly more females in higher levels. For instance, 29.4 per cent of the girls were in high school while among the boys, there were only 23.8 per cent.

Table 13. Total number of children currently enrolled by grade/year

Grade/Year	n = 5,781	
	f	%
Pre-school	550	9.5
Grade 1-4	2,552	44.1
Grade 5-6	1,069	18.5
First-Second year high school	907	15.7
Third-Fourth year high school	635	11.0
First-Third year college	68	1.2

Table 14. Children currently enrolled by grade/year and by sex

Grade/Year	n	Male		Female	
		f	%	f	%
Pre-school	550	294	10.3	256	8.8
Grade 1-4	2,552	1,341	46.9	1,211	41.4
Grade 5-6	1,069	510	17.8	559	19.1
First-Second year high school	907	418	14.6	489	16.7
Third-Fourth year high school	635	264	9.2	371	12.7
First-Third year college	68	32	1.1	36	1.2
Total	5,781	2,859	100	2,922	100
% of total	100	49.5		50.5	

In Table 15, Grade 1 to 4 to have the highest number of enrollees in both municipalities: 971 (or 42.6 per cent) in Hagonoy and 1,581 (or 45.2 per cent) in Kiblawan. Overall, of the 5,781 currently enrolled children, 2,282 (39.5 per cent) were in Hagonoy and 3,499 (or 60.5 per cent) in Kiblawan.

Table 15. Children currently enrolled by grade/year and by area

Grade/Year	n	Area			
		Hagonoy		Kiblawan	
		f	%	f	%
Pre-school	550	231	10.1	319	9.1
Grade 1-4	2,552	971	42.6	1,581	45.2
Grade 5-6	1,069	435	19.1	634	18.1
First-Second year high school	907	359	15.7	548	15.7
Third-Fourth year high school	635	252	11.0	383	10.9
First-Third year college	68	34	1.5	34	1.0
Total	5,781	2,282	100	3,499	100
% of total	100	39.5		60.5	

Working children by education

Table 16 shows that out of the 2,474 working children 1,422 (or 57.5 per cent) were enrolled during the time of the survey indicating a significantly large proportion of working children who dropped out of school to be able to work (42.5 per cent). Table 17 shows that of the 1,422 working children who were enrolled, majority were in Grade 1 to 4 with 474 (or 33.6 per cent). Only 19 or 1.3 per cent were in college. Among the currently enrolled working children 55.3 per cent are male and 4.7 per cent are females. However in terms of proportion to total population by sex, there were more girls than boys in school (64.6 per cent and 52.8 per cent, respectively).

Table 16. Working children currently enrolled and not currently enrolled

			Male		Female	
	f	%	f	%	f	%
Working children currently enrolled	1,422	57.5	786	52.8	636	64.6
Working children not currently enrolled	1,052	42.5	704	47.2	348	35.4
Total	2,474	100	1490	100	984	100

With regards to the educational aspect of children two major trends are evident: first, more children were in elementary level than in secondary level. Second, there is a declining enrollment as the educational level progresses. In the Municipality of Hagonoy, the seasonal farm production affects the attendance of school children in areas where sugarcane and other agri-exist. The Municipal web document says: "The seasonal nature of agricultural farm production forced some families to let their children quit or stop schooling in all levels of education as shown in decreasing number of school children finishing elementary, secondary, and tertiary education. The main reason is for the children to assist their families in farm chores to earn extra income." (www.elgu.nec.gov.ph/community/hagonoy-dds).

Table 17. Working children currently enrolled by grade/year and by sex

Grade/Year	n	Male		Female	
		f	%	f	%
Pre-school	25	16	2.0	9	1.4
Grade 1-4	474	266	33.8	208	32.7
Grade 5-6	348	200	25.4	148	23.3
First-Second year high school	344	183	23.3	161	25.3
Third-Fourth year high school	212	112	14.2	100	15.7
First-Third year college	19	9	1.1	10	1.6
Total	1,422	786	100	636	100
% of total	100	55.3		44.7	
% to total males-1,490		52.8		64.6	
% to total females-984					

Table 18. Working children currently enrolled by grade/year and by area

Grade/Year	n	Area			
		Hagonoy		Kiblawan	
		f	%	f	%
Pre-school	25	9	2.0	16	1.7
Grade 1 - 4	474	130	28.3	344	35.7
Grade 5 - 6	348	114	24.8	234	24.3
First-Second year high school	344	119	25.9	225	23.4
Third-Fourth year high school	212	75	16.3	137	14.2
First-Third year college	19	12	2.6	7	0.7
Total	1,422	459	100	963	100
% of total	100	32.3		67.7	

Age distribution by current grade in school

The data in Table 19 show that there were many children who were either too young or too old for their current grade in school. There were 22 children who were enrolled in Grade IV and yet they were just eight years old. They must have started Grade I at five years old. However the same table points out that there were much more children too old for their current grade or year level. For instance, 28.6 per cent of those in Grade I were eight years old and over. There were 18 children 10 years old and over who were in this first grade with the oldest at 14 years old. This trend where a significant proportion were over aged for their current grade is found in the other grade/year levels.

Ideally, Grade II pupils should be 8 or 9 years old. However, 17.4 per cent of those in Grade II are ten years old and higher. There are 9 children who are 13 years old and yet they are still in Grade II.

In Grade III, about 9 per cent were 12 years old and higher. In this third grade there were 15 kids who were 14 years old and higher with the oldest at 17 years old.

Table19. Age distribution by current grade in school by area

Age	Pre-school	Grade I	Grade II	Grade III	Grade IV	Grade V	Grade VI	First year high school	Second year high school	Third year high school	Fourth year high school	First-third year college	Tech. Voc.	Not Currently enrolled
5	212	31												302
6	268	153	14											139
7	50	316	122	8										73
8	10	125	263	124	22									49
9	6	36	107	259	133	16								44
10		22	57	125	238	110	27							49
11		8	27	56	107	198	142	12						62
12		6	14	31	59	104	224	107	17					94
13		3	9	11	29	47	96	169	105	17				145
14		1		7	10	21	42	87	145	77	7			167
15				3	8	3	18	56	80	150	54	2		209
16		1		4	1	3	11	23	43	70	133	18		229
17		702		1	1	2	5	25	38	47	80	47	1	338
No answer	4						565							
Total	550	702	613	629	608	504	565	479	428	361	274	67	1	1900

Male

Age	Pre-school	Grade I	Grade II	Grade III	Grade IV	Grade V	Grade VI	First year high school	Second year high school	Third year high school	Fourth year high school	First-third year college	Tech. Voc.	Not Currently enrolled
5	105	14												162
6	152	68	6											78
7	25	164	67	5										47
8	7	69	145	56	10									28
9	4	23	59	120	61	8								25
10		13	37	75	115	55	14							33
11		6	23	29	57	83	60	5						40
12	1	3	12	21	31	56	99	46	12					68
13	294	2	6	5	13	31	48	73	52	8				85
14		1		6	9	14	21	42	58	34	5			107
15				2	3	1	7	28	34	61	21	1		131
16				4		1	6	11	20	27	46	18		144
17				1		1	5	17	20	22	40	23		203
No answer							565							
Total	294	363	613	629	608	504	565	222	196	152	112	32		1151

Female

Age	Pre-school	Grade I	Grade II	Grade III	Grade IV	Grade V	Grade VI	First year high school	Second year high school	Third year high school	Fourth year high school	First-third year college	Tech. Voc.	Not Currently enrolled
5	107	17												140
6	116	85	8											61
7	25	152	55	3										26
8	3	56	118	68	12									21
9	2	13	48	139	72	8								19
10	0	9	20	50	123	55	13							16
11	1	2	4	27	50	115	82	7						22
12	0	3	2	10	28	48	125	61	5					26
13	1	1	3	6	16	16	48	96	53	9				60
14	255	0		1	1	7	21	45	87	43	2			60
15		0		1	5	2	11	28	46	89	33	1		78
16		1			1	2	5	12	23	43	87	10		85
17					1	1	0	8	18	25	40	24	1	135
No answer	1						565							
Total	256	339	258	305	309	254	305	257	232	209	162	35	1	749

In the secondary level, the same trend is observed: 104 out 479 first year student representing 21.7 per cent were 15 years old and higher, with 25 of these quite overaged at 17 to be in first year high school.

In terms of comparison by sex and its proportion to their number, more boys than girls who were overaged in their current grade/year level.

Reasons for not currently enrolled in school

Out of 7,681 children 5 to 17 years old, 1900 or 24.7 per cent were not currently enrolled with 10.6 per cent males and 39.4 per cent females. The male children are more susceptible to drop out from school compared to females as the work in the farms demand more physical strength. Traditionally, the male children provide the bulk of heavy labour in the sugar cane and other farms.

Table 20 provides the reasons why the children dropped out of school. The top three reasons why children were not currently enrolled were as follows: (a) not interested in schooling (29 per cent); (b) high cost of schooling (21.7 per cent); and (c) too young to go to school (18.3 per cent). The need to help augment income was cited by 6.8 per cent of the respondents while “the school is too far” was reported by 4.8 per cent.

One major problem in upland areas is the absence of transportation to enable the children to go to school everyday. The major factor why young children were not in school: the absence of transport services. This is also one of the reasons why most far- flung and upland barangays have no teachers.

Table 20. Reasons for not currently enrolled in school (n = 1,900)

Reasons	Total		Male		Female	
	f	%	f	%	f	%
Child not interested in schooling	550	29.0	392	34.1	158	21.1
High cost of schooling	412	21.7	220	19.1	192	25.6
Too young to be in school	347	18.3	192	16.7	155	20.7
Helping to augment family income	129	6.8	82	7.1	47	6.3
Cannot cope with demands of school	108	5.7	66	5.7	42	5.6
School is too far	92	4.8	54	4.7	38	5.1
Too old to go to school	58	3.1	36	3.1	22	2.9
Disability, illness	53	2.8	33	2.9	20	2.7
No school available	25	1.3	13	1.1	12	1.6
Teacher is not supportive	23	1.2	18	1.6	5	0.7
Working in own business	13	0.7	3	0.3	10	1.3
Helping in housekeeping	10	0.5	5	0.4	5	0.7
Helping in family enterprise	2	0.1	1	0.1	1	0.1
Other reasons	78	4.1	36	3.1	42	5.6
Total	1,900	100	1,151	100	749	100
% of total			60.6		39.4	

One parent in the upland areas said, *“Most children here are over aged when they start school. Young children cannot withstand the long travel on foot everyday. In my case, I sent my children to Grade I when they were eight, at this age, one can cope walking abreast with older children”*.

The absence of transportation must be one of the reasons why children in far barangay lose interest in schooling and why some parents consider their children too young to go to school. Consequently, this explains why some children were overaged given their current grade/year level.

5. Working children by class of work

The class of work as shown in Table 21, reveals the type of work where children were engaged. Of the total 2,474 working children, 1,408 or 56.9 per cent were working in private farms and establishments. Those who were working as unpaid workers in family farm accounted for 29.7 per cent. The others were working in private households (7.3 per cent) and working as paid workers in family farms (3.6 per cent).

Table 21. Working children 5-17 years old by class of work

Class of work	f	%
Working in private establishment	1,408	56.9
Working as unpaid worker in family farm	735	29.7
Working in private household	181	7.3
Working as paid worker in family farm or business	89	3.6
Self-employed	40	1.6
Employee in own farm or business	17	0.7
Working in government	4	0.2
Total	2,474	100

As to the class of work by sex (Table 22) there were more males working in private establishments with 61.5 per cent. Among the females, this comprised 49.9 per cent. There was an equal proportion of boys and girls working as unpaid worker in family owned farms (29.7 per cent). Expectedly, female participation was much higher in private household with (15.4 per cent) as compared to males with only 1.9 per cent. Again, it bares the social reality that women's role are reserved for domestic or household chores.

Table 22. Working children 5-17 years old by class of work and by sex

Class of work	Male		Female	
	f	%	f	%
Working in private establishment	917	61.5	491	49.9
Working as unpaid worker in family farm	443	29.7	292	29.7
Working in private household	29	1.9	152	15.4
Working as paid worker in family farm or business	56	3.8	33	3.4
Self-employed	30	2.0	10	1.0
Employee in own farm or business	13	0.9	4	0.4
Working in government	2	0.1	2	0.2
Total	1,490	100	984	100

Kiblawan had 1,637 working children and Hagonoy, 837 as shown in Table 23. The two areas have very similar distribution of children in terms of class of work where working children were concentrated in private farms/establishments and as unpaid workers in family farm.

Table 23. Working children 5-17 years old by class of work and by area

Class of work	Area			
	Hagonoy		Kiblawan	
	f	%	f	%
Working in private establishment	465	55.6	943	57.6
Working as unpaid worker in family farm	246	29.4	489	29.9
Working in private household	72	8.6	109	6.7
Working as paid worker in family farm or business	35	4.2	54	3.3
Self-employed	14	1.7	26	1.6
Employee in own farm or business	2	0.2	15	0.9
Working in government	3	0.4	1	0.1
Total	837	100	1,637	100

6. Working children by sector of work

Out of 2,474 working children (Table 24), the highest percentage (or 53.4 per cent) were working in sugarcane plantations with a proportion 64.8 per cent males as against 35.2 per cent females. This is followed by those other agriculture or farms with 32.9 per cent. The participation of children in labour is also dictated by common culture of Filipino society. More male children were engaged in farm work. The girls, on the other hand, comprised the majority in domestic work (82.5 per cent) or in wholesale and retail (56.6 per cent) a role that they learned as extension of their household chores.

Table 24. Working children 5-17 years old by sector of work and by sex

Sector	Total		Male		Female		Proportion by sex (%)	
	f	%	f	%	f	%	Male	Female
Sugar cane plantation	1,320	53.4	855	57.4	465	47.3	64.8	35.2
Other agri (corn, coconut, etc.)	813	32.9	510	34.2	303	30.8	62.7	37.3
Domestic work	183	7.4	32	2.1	151	15.3	17.5	82.5
Wholesale and retail	53	2.1	23	1.5	30	3.0	43.4	56.6
Others	105	4.2	70	4.7	35	3.6	66.7	33.3
Total	2,474	100	1,490	100	984	100	60.2	39.8

Table 25. Place of work by area and by sex

Hagonoy								
Sector	Total		Male		Female		Proportion by sex (%)	
	f	%	f	%	f	%	Male	Female
Sugar cane plantation	337	40.3	242	47.4	95	29.1	71.8	28.2
Other agri (corn, coconut, etc.)	353	42.2	215	42.1	138	42.3	60.9	39.1
Domestic work	74	8.8	14	2.7	60	18.4	18.9	81.1
Wholesale and retail	25	3.0	7	1.4	18	5.5	28.0	72.0
Others	48	5.7	33	6.5	15	4.6	68.8	31.3
Total	837	100	511	100	326	100	61.1	38.9
KIBLAWAN								
Sugar cane plantation	983	60.0	613	62.6	370	56.2	62.4	37.6
Other agri (corn, coconut, etc.)	460	28.1	295	30.1	165	25.1	64.1	35.9
Domestic work	109	6.7	18	1.8	91	13.8	16.5	83.5
Wholesale and retail	28	1.7	16	1.6	12	1.8	57.1	42.9
Others	57	3.5	37	3.8	20	3.0	64.9	35.1
Total	1,637	100	979	100	658	100	59.8	40.2

7. Place of work

Place of work is shown in Table 26 and Table 27. Of the total 2,474 working children, 44.7 per cent were working in sugar plantations while 32.4 per cent worked in family owned farms. Male participation was also dominant in three places of work: other farms or plantations (67.8 per cent), sugar plantations (64.3 per cent), and family farm (61.6 per cent). The female children on the other hand were dominant only in employer's house with 81.7 per cent.

Table 26. Working children by place of work and by sex

Place of work	Total		Male		Female		Proportion by sex	
	f	%	f	%	f	%	Male	Female
Sugar plantation	1,106	44.7	711	47.7	395	40.1	64.3	35.7
Own family farm	802	32.4	494	33.2	308	31.3	61.6	38.4
Other farms/plantations	267	10.8	181	12.1	86	8.7	67.8	32.2
Employer's house	186	7.5	34	2.3	152	15.4	18.3	81.7
Others	113	4.6	70	4.7	43	4.4	61.9	38.1
Total	2,474	100	1,490	100	984	100	60.2	39.8

In Hagonoy, majority were working in sugar plantations and owned family farms, with an equal percentage of 32.4 per cent (Table 27). Sugarcane plantations are normally located in the elevated portion because the lowlands were deemed suitable for coconut and rice production. Rice production is prevalent in areas where there is water supply such as irrigation facilities.

Table. 27. Working children by place of work, by sex and by area

Hagonoy						
Place of work	Total		Male		Female	
	f	%	f	%	f	%
Sugar plantation	272	32.5	196	38.4	76	23.3
Own family farm	272	32.5	158	30.9	114	35.0
Other farms/plantations	163	19.5	107	20.9	56	17.2
Employer's house	74	8.8	17	3.3	57	17.5
Others	56	6.7	33	6.5	23	7.1
Total	837	100	511	100	326	100
Kiblawan						
Sugar plantation	834	50.9	515	52.6	319	48.5
Own family farm	530	32.4	336	34.3	194	29.5
Other farms/plantations	104	6.4	74	7.6	30	4.6
Employer's house	112	6.8	17	1.7	95	14.4
Others	57	3.5	37	3.8	20	3.0
Total	1,637	100	979	100	658	100

The highest percentage of child labour in place of work was in sugarcane plantations with 38.4 per cent owned family farms (30.9 per cent) and other farms (20.9 per cent). On the other hand, female children's place of work was highest in own family farm (35 per cent), sugar plantation (23.3 per cent) and employers house 17.5 per cent.

In Kiblawan, of the total of 1,637 working children, their dominant places of work were in sugarcane plantations comprising 50.9 per cent and own family farm (32.4 per cent). As further shown in Table 27, the employer's house remained to be most favored place for working female children with 14.4 per cent as against 1.7 per cent for male children.

Part II. Children in sugar cane plantation (CSCP)

This second part of the findings provides data mainly on the characteristics of children in sugar cane plantation (CSCP). The following topics are included: distribution of working children by area, age distribution, sex distribution, and number of children currently enrolled, current grade/years, and reasons for not currently enrolled, sector, class of work and place of work. The data presented in this portion are based on Table 28 up to Table 40.

1. Working children by area, by age and by sex

Table 28 shows that out of 2,474 working children, 1,320 or 53.4 per cent were identified as children working in sugar cane plantation. There was significantly more of these children in Kiblawan (74.5 per cent) than in Hagonoy (25.5 per cent). This means that three out of four identified children in sugar cane plantation were working in Kiblawan. It should be noted that there was also a significant proportion of female children working in sugar cane fields accounting for 28.2 per cent in Hagonoy and 37.6 per cent in Kiblawan. On the whole, 35.2 per cent are females which translate to one female out of three children working in sugar cane farms.

Area	Total	Working		CSCP		Sex distribution by area			
						Male		Female	
	f	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%
Hagonoy	3,026	837	33.8	337	25.5	242	71.8	95	28.2
Kiblawan	4,655	1,637	66.2	983	74.5	613	62.4	370	37.6
Total	7,681	2,474	100.0	1,320	100.0	855	64.8	465	35.2
% of total		32.2		53.4					

Table 28. Proportion of CSCP to total population of children 5-17 years old by sex

A significant number of children began to work at an earlier age. Rural children, both boys and girls, were found to begin their economic activity at an early stage, 5 to 9 years of age. Table 29-31 shows age distribution of boys and girls working in sugar cane. The data show that despite their young age, 13.4 per cent of them were within the age bracket of 5 to 9. A little more than half were within 15 to 19 years old comprising 50.8 per cent (Table 31).

Table 29. Age distribution of CSCP to total population of children 5-17 years old by sex

Age	Total of working children		CSCP		
	f	%	Total	Male	Female
5	24	1.0	7	5	2
6	30	1.2	15	6	9
7	65	2.6	33	21	12
8	86	3.5	54	33	21
9	116	4.7	66	36	30
10	167	6.8	92	56	36
11	194	7.8	115	68	47
12	235	9.5	134	89	45
13	281	11.4	164	101	63
14	281	11.4	166	108	58
15	304	12.3	154	101	53
16	314	12.7	156	110	46
17	377	15.2	164	121	43
Total	2,474	100	1,320	855	465
% of total	100		53.4	64.8	35.2
Average age	13.2		13.0	13.2	12.7

Table 30. Age distribution of CSCP to total working children 5-17 years old by age and by sex

Age	Total		Area					
	f	%	Hagonoy			Kiblawan		
			Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
5	7	0.5	1	1	0	6	4	2
6	15	1.1	3	1	2	12	5	7
7	33	2.5	7	3	4	26	18	8
8	54	4.1	11	9	2	43	24	19
9	66	5.0	12	4	8	54	32	22
10	92	7.0	22	13	9	70	43	27
11	115	8.7	23	14	9	92	54	38
12	134	10.2	33	24	9	101	65	36
13	164	12.4	43	35	8	121	66	55
14	166	12.6	45	38	7	121	70	51
15	154	11.7	38	23	15	116	78	38
16	156	11.8	46	32	14	110	78	32
17	164	12.4	53	45	8	111	76	35
Total	1,320	100	337	242	95	983	613	370
% of total	100			71.8	28.2		62.4	37.6
Average age	13.0		13.4	13.7	12.8	12.9	13.1	12.7

There is a different trend however. The number of boys working in sugar cane was increasing with age as shown in Table 29-30. At age five there were five boys and steadily increasing up to age 17 (121 boys). On the other hand, the number of girls was increasing from age five (two girls) reaching the maximum number at age 13 (63 girls), then the number of girls started to decline up to age 17 (43 girls). This needs further probing as to its explanation for the decline of girls working in the field once they reach the adolescent period. This trend holds true in both Hagonoy and Kiblawan (Table 30). More specifically in Kiblawan, there were 55 girls at age 13 but there were only 35 girls at age 17. In Hagonoy, there were 15 girls at age 15 and only eight girls at age 17.

On the whole, the average age was 13.2 years for boys. The girls were slightly younger with the average of 12.7 years.

In terms of area, the boys working in sugar farms in Kiblawan were a little younger showing an average of 13.1, in Hagonoy, it is 13.7.

Table 31. CSCP by age group, by area and by sex

Age	Total		Hagonoy			Kiblawan		
	f	%	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
5-9	175	13.3	34	18	16	141	83	58
10-14	671	50.8	166	124	42	505	298	207
15-17	474	35.9	137	100	37	337	232	105
Total	1,320	100	337	242	95	983	613	370

2. Education

Table 32 shows that 61.9 per cent of the working children were currently enrolled while 38.1 per cent were not. This translates to about 6 out of 10 working children in sugar cane who were not schooling at the time of the survey. In proportion to their population, there was significantly more girls than boys who were studying.

Table 32. CSCP currently enrolled

	f	%
CSCP currently enrolled	817	61.9
CSCP not currently enrolled	503	38.1
Total	1,320	100

Currently enrolled by grade/year

Out of 817 working children who were currently enrolled at the time of the survey, the biggest percentage was in the primary level (Grade 1 to 4) accounting for 33.8 per cent followed by those who were in the first two years in high school (25.7 per cent). Out of 164 children who were 17 years old, only two were reported to be enrolled in college, as shown in Table 33.

Table 33. CSCP by current grade/year

Grade/Year	f	%
Pre-school	12	1.5
Grade 1-4	276	33.8
Grade 5-6	201	24.6
First-Second year high school	210	25.7
Third-Fourth year high school	116	14.2
First-Third year college	2	0.2
Total	817	100

CSCP currently enrolled by area and by sex

In Hagonoy as shown in Table 34, the working children were closely concentrated in three grades levels: the first two years in high school (28.7 per cent), Grade 5 to 6 (26.6 per cent) and Grade 1 to 4 (26.1 per cent). Only one was in college. On the other hand, in Kiblawan, the largest percentages of the working children were concentrated in Grade 10 to 4 with 36.1 per cent. Those in the first two years in high school comprised 24.8 per cent, closely followed by those in Grade 5 to 6 (24 per cent).

Table 34. CSCP currently enrolled by grade/year and by sex

Hagonoy						
Grade/Year	f	%	Proportion by sex			
			Male		Female	
			f	%	f	%
Pre-school	2	1.1	1	50.0	1	50.0
Grade 1-4	49	26.1	27	55.1	22	44.9
Grade 5-6	50	26.6	33	66.0	17	34.0
First-Second year high school	54	28.7	35	64.8	19	35.2
Third-Fourth year high school	32	17.0	19	59.4	13	40.6
First-Third year college	1	0.5	0	0.0	1	100.0
Total	188		115		73	
% of total		100	61.2		38.8	
% Total male population (242)			47.5			
% Total female population (95)					76.8	
Kiblawan						
Pre-school	10	1.6	7	70.0	3	30.0
Grade 1-4	227	36.1	134	59.0	93	41.0
Grade 5-6	151	24.0	91	60.3	60	39.7
First-Second year high school	156	24.8	83	53.2	73	46.8
Third-Fourth year high school	84	13.3	49	58.3	35	41.7
First-Third year college	1	0.2	1	100	0	0
Total	629		365		264	
% of total		100	58.0		42.0	
% Total male population (613)			59.5			
% Total female population (370)					71.4	

It is useful to analyze the proportion of girls and boys currently in school. In Hagonoy, less than half of the boys or 47.52 per cent (115 out of 242) were studying in comparison to the girls where three fourths or 76.84 per cent were in school

(73 out of 95). In Kiblawan on the other hand, 59.5 per cent of the boys (365 out of 613) were studying while a higher percentage of the girls comprising 71.4 per cent (264 out of 370) were in school. This is shown in Table 34.

CSCP not currently enrolled by area and by sex

Because of its relatively larger population, Kiblawan has more proportion of working children who were not in school comprising 70.4 per cent with Hagonoy, 29.6 per cent. In terms of proportion by sex per area, a much greater percentage of the male children in both areas were not currently enrolled with 85.2 per cent in Hagonoy and 70.1 per cent in Kiblawan. These data are shown in Table 35.

Table 35. CSCP not currently enrolled by area and by sex

Area	n	%	Proportion by sex			
			Male		Female	
			f	%	f	%
Hagonoy	149	29.6	127	85.2	22	14.8
Kiblawan	354	70.4	248	70.1	106	29.9
Total	503	100	375		128	

Reasons for not currently enrolled in school

There is a total of 503 children who were not enrolled as shown in Table 36. Two major reasons were cited for this: the child is not interested in schooling (35 per cent), and high cost of schooling (31.4 per cent). All the children were in public schools and the tuition is free. The high cost mentioned here is in terms of school allowance, cost of school projects, contributions and other requirements. The respondents also cited that the children had to help in augmenting family income (9.7 per cent). It is significant that there were more respondents who cited on the need of their male children to help augment family income reinforcing the dominant productive role assigned to men at an early age.

Some 5.2 per cent reported that these children were too old to go to school. It was highlighted during the interview that there are children who go to school at a later age because the school is too far. In particular, for the children in the upland areas, they have to hike as far as eight kilometers back and forth in a day. It was also reported that in one barangay, they found it difficult to keep their teacher to continue her/his service because of absence of transport. There are a few families who own a horse so they travel on horseback. But for the majority, they travel on foot. This is one of the reasons why the children eventually lose interest in schooling.

Another parent described their situation in the farm. *“Due to extreme poverty, children have to work with parents. Because basic needs like food and education could not be adequately met, the children have to help in the farm. Eventually, they lose interest in schooling. A few years after dropping out of school, they realize that they are too old to go back to school”.* (Cogon Bacaca, Kiblawan).

Table 36 Reasons for not currently enrolled in school (n=503)

Reasons	Total		Hagonoy			Kiblawan		
	f	%	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Child not interested in schooling	176	35.0	57	53	4	119	97	22
High cost of schooling	158	31.4	47	39	8	111	68	43
Helping to augment family income	49	9.7	15	12	3	34	21	13
Cannot cope with demands of school	28	5.6	10	6	4	18	12	6
Too old to go to school	26	5.2	2	2	0	24	15	9
School is too far	16	3.2	6	5	1	10	6	4
Teacher is not supportive	12	2.4	1	1	0	11	9	2
Too young to be in school	9	1.8	2	2	0	7	5	2
Disability, illness	9	1.8	3	3	0	6	5	1
No school available	4	0.8	1	1	0	3	2	1
Working in own business	4	0.8	2	1	1	2	2	0
Other reasons	12	2.4	3	2	1	9	6	3
Total	503	100	149	127	22	354	248	106
% of total			29.6			70.4		

Some 5.2 per cent reported that these children were too old to go to school. It was highlighted during the interview that there are children who go to school at a later age because the school is too far. In particular, for the children in the upland areas, they have to hike as far as eight kilometers back and forth in a day. It was also reported that in one barangay, they found it difficult to keep their teacher to continue her/his service because of absence of transport. There are a few families who own a horse so they travel on horseback. But for the majority, they travel on foot. This is one of the reasons why the children eventually lose interest in schooling.

Another parent described their situation in the farm. *“Due to extreme poverty, children have to work with parents. Because basic needs like food and education could not be adequately met, the children have to help in the farm. Eventually, they lose interest in schooling. A few years after dropping out of school, they realize that they are too old to go back to school”*. (Cogon Bacaca, Kiblawan).

The other parents shared the following issues and concerns related to education:

“Children hitchhiked back and forth in sugar haulers (big carrier trucks) to avoid the long walk. There is no electricity”. (Latian, Kiblawan).

“If children do not work, they would go hungry”. (Balasiao, Kiblawan).

“Some children had to stop schooling at early age because the school is very far and the roads are very difficult during rainy days”. (Ihan, Kiblawan).

“Many families especially the Lumad are mobile. They move from one place to another to work. After a while, they return to their place. They have very few stuff or belongings which they bring along with them.”
(Bagong Negros, Kiblawan).

Such experiences are evident especially for remote areas where there are no education and transportation facilities. The children must walk long distance to attend school. Consequently, a significant number drops out after a few years in primary school.

3. CSCP by municipality and barangay

Hagonoy

Table 37 shows that in Hagonoy, out of 3,026 children 5-17 years old, 837 or 27.8 per cent were working. This is considered as the incidence of working children in this municipality. On the other hand, 337 or 40.3 per cent of such child labour was found in sugar cane plantation.

In terms of sex distribution, 71.8 per cent are males as shown in Table 37. This is equivalent to ten working children in sugar cane farms: seven are boys and three are girls.

Table 37. CSCP in Hagonoy

	f
Children 5-17 years old	3,026
Non-working children 5-17 years old	2,189
Working children 5-17 years old	837
Working children 5-17 years old in sugar cane plantation	337

The five highest percentage in proportion to their total number of working children were reported to be in the barangays of Sacub (42.3 per cent), followed by Clib (33.1 per cent), Maliit Digos (32.8 per cent), New Quezon (28.4 per cent) and Mahayahay (27.6 per cent). Lanuro being predominantly an upland area, had the lowest proportion of working children in sugar cane farms comprising only 12.4 per cent.

On the other hand, in terms of child labour in sugar cane farms, the highest numbers were found in Mahayahay (91), Maliit Digos (65); New Quezon (63) and Sacub (49). Lanuro and Tologan had the lowest (10 and 12, respectively). Some 11.7 per cent of the working children in Hagonoy were working in other agricultural-related work (corn, mango, rice, hog-raising and others). Those in domestic work comprised 2.4 per cent.

In the municipality of Hagonoy, there were more children working in non-sugar farms than sugar farms in the barangays of Sacub, Lanuro, Lapulabao and Tologan.

Kiblawan

In the case of Kiblawan, Table 38 shows that out of 4,655 children 5-17 years old, 1,637 or 35.2 per cent were working. This represents the incidence of child labour in this area. This is higher than in Hagonoy who reported 27.7 per cent incidence of child labour. Out of 1,637 working children, 60 per cent were working in sugar farms. This is also higher than in Hagonoy who reported 40.3 per cent.

Table 38. CSCP in Hagonoy by barangay, by sector and by sex

Barangay	Total	Working children		Sugarcane			Domestic work	Other agri.
		f	% of total in the barangay	Total	Male	Female		
Clib	136	45	33.1	22	13	9	5	16
La Union	143	31	21.7	16	11	5	2	8
Lanuro	322	40	12.4	10	10	0	6	15
Lapulabao	433	75	17.3	9	7	2	6	41
Mahayahay	490	135	27.6	91	77	14	15	18
Maliit Digos	259	85	32.8	65	40	25	4	12
New Quezon	299	85	28.4	63	44	19	11	3
Sacub	634	268	42.3	49	28	21	17	193
Tologan	310	73	23.5	12	12	0	8	47
Total	3,026	837		337	242	95	74	353
% of total		27.7		40.3	71.8	28.2	2.4	11.7

More male children than female children were working in sugar cane farms (62.4 per cent and 37.6 per cent respectively) in this municipality.

Those children working in other agricultural farms (corn, rice, coconut, coffee, mango, and others) comprised 28.1 per cent and those in domestic work, 6.6 per cent.

The five highest percentage in proportion to their total number of working children were found in Maragaa (55.7 per cent), Ihan (50.2 per cent), Latian (49.6 per cent), Sto. Niño (47 per cent) and Balasiao (46.3 per cent). On the other hand, Bagong Negros and Dapok reported the lowest percentage of children working in sugar farms (13.9 per cent, and 14.4 per cent respectively.).

In Kiblawan, there were more children working in non-sugar farms than sugar farms in the areas of Bagong Negros, Balasiao and Ihan.

4. Class of work

On the whole, slightly more than four-fifths per cent) of child labour were working in privately owned agricultural farms (sugar cane, corn, rice, coconut, mango, banana and other crops). About



one out of seven (or 14.8 per cent) were working as unpaid worker in farms owned by their parents or family a practice prevalent in rice and corn farms. In terms of proportion by sex, the male children dominated in all class of work as shown in Table 39.

Table 39. CSCP in Kiblawan

	f
Children 5-17 years old	4,655
Non-working children 5-17 years old	3,018
Working children 5-17 years old	1,637
Working children 5-17 years old in sugar cane plantation	983

In Hagonoy, majority of the children in sugar farms were working in privately owned farms, accounting for 77.7 per cent. The other children were working in small sugar cane farms owned by their parents comprising 16.3 per cent.

In Kiblawan, a similar trend is found where 81.7 per cent of the children were working in privately owned sugar farms. Those working unpaid in family own farms comprised 14.2 per cent while those working as paid worker in owned sugar farm consisted 2.7 per cent.

Table 40. CSCP in Kiblawan by barangay, by sector and by sex

Barangay	Total	Working children		Sugar cane			Domestic work	Other agri.
		f	% of total in the barangay	Total	Male	Female		
Bagong Negros	332	46	13.9	13	10	3	3	28
Balasio	572	265	46.3	120	72	48	14	123
Cogon-Bacaca	633	138	21.8	79	57	22	16	30
Dapok	229	33	14.4	15	10	5	7	3
Ihan	683	343	50.2	131	72	59	19	182
Latian	403	200	49.6	156	85	71	6	26
Manual	273	87	31.9	72	51	21	0	4
Maraga-a	363	121	55.7	100	70	30	9	8
Panaglib	458	105	22.9	75	50	25	24	3
Pasig	228	90	39.5	54	39	15	6	22
San Isidro	211	82	38.9	62	43	19	3	15
Santo Nino	270	127	47.0	106	54	52	2	16
Total	4,655	1,637		983	613	370	109	460
% of total		35.2		60	62.4	37.6	6.6	28.1

There are big sugar cane plantations in these two municipalities controlled by big commercial plantations and those owned by other individuals and local government officials. One practice that prevails in most areas is the leasing of lands, big and small for commercial plantation. It was mentioned that during harvest, when supply of local labour is not enough, such plantation owners bring in outside labour.



If I will not work, we would go hungry.

Some respondents lived on farms owned by other private individuals. They claimed that to be able to continue living for free in such lands, they have to work in their sugar farms without pay. This serves as their payment for living on such private land.

During the interview, it was mentioned by some respondents that for these children who worked in their own sugar cane farms owned by their families, the spouse and children do not get paid. Their labour is their own contribution to their own farm. They justify that all the proceeds from the farm are spent for household consumption and other expenses in the farm.

Work in sugar plantation is seasonal. Peak time occurs during planting and harvesting. During this busy time, most households in surrounding areas are empty at daytime. Everybody works: mother, father and children toil in the fields, maximizing the opportunity to earn higher because work is seasonal. The children help in harvesting and loading. The very young children are left in the care of older siblings, usually girls, while the parents and older siblings work. Children help cut the sugar cane. Then they pile the cut sugar cane, bind them with a rope and carry such loads on their heads and walk their way to the hauling truck. On the truck, some children wait for such loads and arrange them filling the whole body of the truck to its full capacity. It was reported that the children are paid by the weight or quantity of sugar cane they collected. For instance they were reportedly paid Php1.00 per bundle that they load into the waiting truck.

After harvest in the sugar plantation, the children with their parents, worked in other non sugar farms doing "hormal", that is, weeding, clearing or planting. They get paid on a daily basis, e.g. Php60 to Php80 per day depending on the prevailing price of the crop.

5. Sector of work



I am supposed to be in school

In Hagonoy, the largest percentage of working male children were engaged in sugar plantation work (38.4 per cent). A significant percentage of the boys worked in their own family farms (30.9 per cent) as well as in other farms (20.9 per cent). Among the working female children, the highest percentage were engaged in their own family farms.

In Kiblawan, the largest percentage of boys and girls (52.6 per cent and 48.5 per cent) were working in sugar cane farms as shown in Table 25.

I am tired, I don't like to go to school.

6. Place of work

In terms of place of work, more than four-fifths of child labour's place of work were in sugar cane plantations comprising 82.7 per cent. Those working in own family farms consisted of 15.6 per cent. There was slightly more respondents in Kiblawan who cited sugar cane farms as the children's place of work.



The whole situation of child labour in sugar cane farms depicts the feudal land holding system that exists in these municipalities where majority of the tillers of the soil are either landless or marginal (very small-scale) landowners are found co-existing with a few but very large private land owners and one or two companies controlling huge commercial plantations through the lease system. Lease system is a prevalent practice of landholding whereby the land owner rents out his/her farmland to the company for a certain period (e.g. five years) at an agreed price per year. When residents were asked why this practice prevails, they reported that this is one way for families to get hold of a big amount of money at one time because they are usually paid in lump sum.

This reality of child labour in these rural areas implies the need for comprehensive, multi sectoral package of interventions in order to prevent and eliminate child labour exploitation.

Part III. Commercially and sexually exploited children (CSEC)

This third part of the report contains the analysis for children in prostitution. It is comprised of two parts. The first part presents the children's selected background characteristics while the second part contains their current living situation.

1. Background characteristics of the children

This portion has the following information: type of work or classification of respondents, sex, age, current grade/year level by age and reasons for not currently attending school.

Classification of respondents

Many of the respondents led a working pattern that allowed them to move freely from place to place either as strikers, or freelancer/street based, or street-based, hence many of the respondents were engaged in different types of work in prostitution. This arrangement likewise allowed them to be with peers in a free spirited lifestyle with minimal guidance and supervision from significant authorities like parents or elder relatives. The fun and leisure derived from this camaraderie and freedom of movement seemed to provide them their desired social acceptance and fulfillment. As noted in one study, "during adolescence, children are usually more comfortable to discuss their feelings with peers than with adult family members. It is also the stage when they become wary of authority figures because of their strong desire for independence. (DSWD and UNICEF, 1998:39).

The paradigm of leisure, fun and freedom configured by the respondents from this otherwise exploitative and abusive reality may tend to render everything as normal in their quest for survival. Their seeming inability to draw the distinction between this paradoxical realities may render the rescue and rehabilitation process greatly challenging.

The two most-mentioned type of work by most of the children in prostitution were as striker (34.4 per cent) and freelancer/street-based (21.3 per cent). The male children who were engaged as service boys accounted for 11.1 per cent. The other respondents were engaged as striker/barter (4.2 per cent), “akyat barko” (2.7 per cent). During the presentation of these findings to multi-sectoral audience, it was mentioned that there were other forms of prostitution engaged in by the children such as “sampaguita girls,” pick up girls, and prostitution through the internet (e.g. chatting with the use of web-cam) and other types. However, due to difficulty in identifying and convincing such children to agree for an interview, these other types were not covered. This only shows that different forms of children in prostitution have recently evolved in different forms.

Children in prostitution are classified according to how they practice their trade. The following are some of their descriptions:

1. “Akyat barko” are those who render sexual services to foreign seafarers. They may stay two to seven days or more in a ship performing both domestic work and sex work a part of a “package deal”. They also work along the streets at times when there are no ships.
2. Freelancer/Street-based refers to those who work not only in establishments but also on the streets.
3. “Buntog” refers to young girls who are members of gangs rendering sexual services for free among their members or as requested by their leader. Usually, they end up as freelancers or GRO once they need money.
4. Service boys refer to young boys who usually provide sexual services to male gays.
5. ProstiTUTION is a recent term that refers to the trade resorted to by a female student who offers her body for money to support herself in school (Baustista, 2001:84).
6. GROs are women who entertain customers in establishments. Not all GROs engage in sex work.
7. Barter is sex exchanged for money or goods (an example is “Bolinao Girls”- women who exchange services for some kilos of fish; they are usually found along the beaches).

Table 41. CSCP by class of work and by sex

Class of work	Total		Proportion by sex			
			Male		Female	
	f	%	f	%	f	%
Working in private establishment	1,065	80.7	688	64.6	377	35.4
Working as unpaid worker in family farm	195	14.8	127	65.1	68	34.9
Working in private household	1	0.1	1	100.0	0	0.0
Working as paid worker in family farm or business	44	3.3	27	61.4	17	38.6
Self-employed	8	0.6	6	75.0	2	25.0
Employer in own farm or business	5	0.4	5	100.0	0	0.0
Working in government	2	0.2	1	50.0	1	50.0
Total	1,320	100	855		465	

Table 42. CSCP class of work by area and by sex

Hagonoy						
Class of work	Total		Proportion by sex			
			Male		Female	
	f	%	f	%	f	%
Working in private establishment	262	77.7	190	72.5	72	27.5
Working as unpaid worker in family farm	55	16.3	40	72.7	15	27.3
Working in private household	1	0.3	1	100.0	0	0.0
Working as paid worker in family farm or business	17	5.0	10	58.8	7	41.2
Self-employed	1	0.3	0	0.0	1	100.0
Working in government	1	0.3	1	100.0	0	0.0
Total	337	100	242		95	
Kiblawan						
Working in private establishment	803	81.7	498	62.0	305	38.0
Working as unpaid worker in family farm	140	14.2	87	62.1	53	37.9
Working as paid worker in family farm or business	27	2.7	17	63.0	10	37.0
Self-employed	7	0.7	6	85.7	1	14.3
Employer in own farm or business	5	0.5	5	100.0	0	0.0
Working in government	1	0.1	0	0.0	1	100.0
Total	983	100	613		370	

CSEC by age and by sex

The respondents were largely children given the average age of 15.1 years. “Article 1 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) establishes that the definition of “child” is every human being below the age of eighteen years unless, under the law applicable to the child, majority is attained earlier” (Agosin, 2001:155). The eldest among them was 17 years (21.8 per cent) and the youngest was 8 years (0.2 per cent). On the average, the girls were slightly younger than the boys (female is 15.3 years and male is 14.8 years). This finding shows a younger set of commercially and sexually exploited children than those who were earlier interviewed in another study where average age at that time in 1998 was 16.7 years (DSWD and UNICEF, 1998:35).

This data point to some of the facts in child prostitution. The sexual exploitation experienced by these children in particular, of girls, is borne of social and cultural conditions that predisposed their adult counterparts to a similar predicament. Children in prostitution is a situation where on account of unequal power relations, persons were sexually abused regardless of their age and sex.

CSEC by age group and by sex

The children's young age may have worsened their situation. They have great difficulties negotiating for their interest and asserting for their rights in the face of an adult partner. It is necessary therefore that, "child labour must be approached first and foremost as a specific exploitation of one or the other gender; its exploitation is not in the abstract" (del Rosario in Illo & Ofreneo, 1999:05).

Majority of the respondents (67.3 per cent) were in the age bracket of 15 to 17 years, as shown in Table 42. This same trend is noted for both sexes except that there were more males in the younger age range of 10-14 years consisting of 40.6 per cent as compared to that of females with 28.6 per cent. The youngest was a male respondent, only 8 years old. This seems to indicate that the males were initiated into the trade at a much earlier age than females.

Being engaged in the sex trade exposes the children to the following life- threatening situations that may result to serious and irreversible physical and psycho-emotional damage on them. First, having multiple sexual partners may lead to harmful consequences such as sexually transmitted infections, unwanted pregnancy, abortion, substance abuse and the worst consequence, death.

Second, driven by the instinct for self-preservation, respondents may acquire problematic survival mechanisms that could diminish their prospect of becoming productive members of society. This may include the development of a "hustler mentality", one where deceit and extortion may be viewed as necessary for survival. Besides, treating sex as a means of economic and social mobility devoid of human emotions (HAIN as cited in DSWD and UNICEF, 1998:45).

Third, 'children become vulnerable' to physical pain and injury, especially when they are maltreated by sadistic customers.' At a tender age they learn to smoke, take drugs and suffer from low self- esteem." Likewise they acquire distorted sense of values, largely as a consequence of the exposure to a materialistic worldview where even people can be bought". (Dionela and Di Giovanni as cited in DSWD and UNICEF, 1998; 45).

Table 43. Sector of work

Place of work	Total		Hagonoy						Kiblawan					
			Total		Male		Female		Total		Male		Female	
	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%
Sugar-cane plantation	1,091	82.7	267	79.2	192	80.0	75	78.9	824	83.8	507	82.7	317	85.7
Other farms plantation	16	1.2	5	1.5	3	1.3	2	2.1	11	1.1	8	1.3	3	0.8
Own family farm	206	15.6	63	18.7	45	18.8	18	19.0	143	14.6	93	15.2	50	13.5
Others	7	0.5	2	0.6	0	0	0	0	5	0.5	5	0.8	0	0
Total	1,320	100	337	100	240	100	95	100	983	100	613	100	370	100

CSEC currently enrolled and not currently enrolled in school by age and by sex

About three-fourths of the respondents (72.27 per cent) were not currently enrolled as shown in Table 44. Less than thirty per cent of them (26.7 per cent) were currently enrolled. This implies that majority of them were deprived of one of the most basic human right essential to becoming a more productive member of society, the right to education. In terms of proportion by sex, a slightly higher percentage of the boys were studying (29.7 per cent) as compared to the girls (26.8 per cent).

CSEC currently enrolled by age

Most of those who were currently enrolled were 14 years old (30.6 per cent) followed by those who were 15 years old (26.9 per cent). Nearly twenty per cent of them (19.4 per cent) were 13 years old. Correspondingly these respondents should be in second, third year and first year high school.

The data in Table 45 further show that there was a significantly large number of children who were overaged given their current grade. For instance, in Grade V, which should ideally be the grade level for eleven years old, there were eight children who were 13 years old and over. There were seven children in Grade VI who were 15 years old. One 14 year old child was enrolled in Grade I; another five children of this same age enrolled in Grade II and III. One child 16 years old was enrolled in Grade IV. Very clearly, these overaged children may be feeling out of place in a grade level where the majority are much below their age.

On the whole, such data reveal that a significant number of respondents who were studying were in fact, in the year level much below their age.

CSEC not currently enrolled by age group and by sex

Majority of the respondents who were not currently enrolled (74.3 per cent) were in the age range 15-17 years as shown in Table 46. Ideally, these respondents should be in Third year or Fourth year High school and First Year College. The youngest respondent aged 8 years was among those not currently enrolled. As cited earlier, being out of school have deleterious effects on the development of the children's personality, talent and mental and physical abilities as cited earlier.

While majority of both sexes who were not currently enrolled were in ages 15-17 years, a noticeably high percentage of males (33.3 per cent) were in ages 10-14 years. This difference between the sexes has to be noted in formulating appropriate educational intervention.

CSEC not currently enrolled by age and highest educational level completed

Table 47 shows that many of the respondents failed to reach an educational attainment at par with their age. This data is indicative of the society's failure to ensure that these respondents enjoy their right to education progressively and on the basis of equal opportunity.

For instance, six out of seven respondents ranging 11 to 15 years old have finished only the first grade. Eleven of those within 12 to 16 years old completed a mere Grade II. There were fifteen of these children within 11 to 17 who reached only Grade III. The rest of the data glaringly show that a large percentage of these children who dropped out of school are too old to go back to school. This finding should be taken into consideration especially for interventions related to education. Many of these over aged children may not last long in a class of children who are significantly much younger than them.

Reasons for not currently attending school by sex

Peer influence weighed heavily on the respondents' decision not to pursue schooling as reported by 25.6 per cent. This reason is overwhelmingly reported by the boys (72.2 per cent) than by the girls (3.4 per cent). Perhaps the fun, acceptance and freedom they enjoyed in the company of peers enticed them to have unlimited time with them. The second reason (comprising 17.1 per cent) of which the first one may also have a bearing is "child not interested in school/training." It shall be noted that more male respondents shared this reason than the females (24.4 per cent and 9.6 per cent respectively). High cost of schooling as a major impediment was the third most mentioned reason for dropping out of school as reported by 17.1 per cent, with more boys citing this issue (23.3 per cent and 9.6 per cent respectively). The fourth most mentioned reason was the need to "help augment their family income." There were more female respondents (11.9 per cent) than their male counterpart (7.8 per cent). The other reasons were largely significantly related to issues and concerns related to family: ran away from home, always scolded by family members, the parents got separated, family problem, parents not interested in sending children to school, act of rebellion and other family-related reasons. These reasons cited above should be taken into consideration when planning and implementing intervention programs for such group of children.

These reasons indicate that a complex of psycho- social, emotional and economic considerations stand in the way of the respondents' decision to go to school. It shall be noted that among the four, only one reason "high cost of education" can be addressed by a straightforward scholarship programme. But the proposition of making education more accessible to them might be outweighed by peer influence, the family's demand for the respondents' income as well as other problems in the family. All of these issues have to be reckoned with in restoring their interest to attend school. One big challenge is how to conceptualize an intervention that would

be attractive to these children who seemed to be used to a life that is fully unstructured and carefree.

1. Current living situation of the children

The second part presents the current living situation of the children in terms of: children's family owning a house, main work done by family to make a living, whether parents are alive, whether CSEC are currently living with their parents, current place of residence, persons currently living with them, companion in coming to present place of residence, reasons for separating from family and sources of assistance or support for problems related to work.

CSEC by family owning/not owning a house by sex

Majority of the respondents' family (68.6 per cent) owned a house. This trend was shared by both sexes (girls, 71.7 per cent and boys, 61.7 per cent) although it is noticeable that the percentage of male respondents with families not owning a house outnumbers that of the female by about ten (38.3 per cent and 28.3 per cent respectively). Perhaps this is one factor that would help explain why there are more male respondents living on the streets. This issue however, needs further investigation.

Main work done by family to make a living

The impoverished condition of the many respondents and their families is evidenced by the source of living they depend on. The largest percentage of them (28.2 per cent) depended on wage earning activities in the non-agri business sector for a living. Some 17.6 per cent reported that their parents were managers in business. The others depended on varied sources such as farming, pension, church work, driving, vending and other agricultural work. Some 12 of them reported their parents earned a living by begging for sustenance (mendicancy). This explains the claim of some respondents that their earnings help augment their family's income. Although this is not supposed to be expected from children, yet they are pushed by circumstances to do so. Herein lies the uncanny connection between economic poverty and the exploitation of male and female children. Viewed as a human capital, they are treated as potential earners. But equipped with limited abilities and burdened by prior predisposing abuse experiences, these children in the flesh trade become exposed to various risks and hazards. In such a case when the system has transformed the bodies of these children into commodities, the money earned by them to augment family income ceased to be derived from labour, a rightful property, but from a severely dehumanizing, exploitative and abusive market transaction that has destroyed children's future. This finding confirms what UNICEF has stated in its *State of the World's Children 1997: Focus on Child Labour*, that poverty and inequity are significant factors that force children to work.

“Where society is characterized by poverty and inequity, the incidence of child labour is likely to increase, as does the risk that it is exploitative. For poor families, the small contribution of a child's income or assistance at home that allows the parents to work can make the difference between hunger and a bare sufficiency.” (Agosin, 2001:163).

CSEC reporting about their parents

Majority of the respondents (77.7 per cent), reported that their parents are living as shown in Table 51. This was reported by a higher number of female respondents than by male respondents. This also implies that there are still parents who can be traced and tapped as possible partners for future intervention.

Among the boys, about 1 out of 4 has a parent or both parents deceased. On the other hand, those who lost their father is twice as much as those who lost their mother (13.1 per cent and 7.7 per cent respectively). The loss of one or both parents could have resulted to severe displacement of children (emotional, financial and physical) which resulted to their eventual engagement in commodified sex at a very early age.

Whether CSEC were currently living with their parents

Nearly 60 per cent of the respondents (58.7 per cent) lived with their parents (Table 52). This pattern is true for both sexes (boys, 59.4 per cent and girls, 58.3 per cent). This implies parent's knowledge of their child's involvement in this activity. Perhaps for some, such illicit work was with the consent of parents since they help provide for their family's needs.

The parent's probable knowledge of their children's work highlights the need for a well-studied and comprehensive package of intervention for these peculiarly exploited children.

CSEC by place of residence/abode

Most of the respondents were slum-dwellers (46.1 per cent) as indicated in Table 53. It is significant to note that between the sexes, a large percentage comprising 36.5 per cent of the boys lived on the streets, compared to only 5.2 per cent of the girls. The other children were provided with a place to stay by their employer, for instance, those working in establishments such as GROs.

CSEC reporting persons currently living with them

For those children who reported they were not living with their parents, they were asked "who are living with you now?"

A significant percentage of respondents lived with their family members and relatives (35.3 per cent) and fellow child workers (29.9 per cent). It shall be noted that there were more male respondents who lived with their peers than the female respondents (boys, 38.5 per cent and girls, 26 per cent) as pointed out in Table 54.

The reality of the respondents living with their peers might make it difficult to withdraw these children from their current condition. This again poses a major challenge to the type of intervention to be provided.

CSEC reporting companion in coming to present place of residence

Table 55 shows that in coming to their present place of residence, the largest percentage reported they came without the consent of their parents as cited by 34.7 per cent. This indicates that many of these respondents have stowed away from their parents and families. However, a significant percentage came as well with the knowledge of their parents (24 per cent). The others landed in their present place of residence accompanied by their friends (18.6 per cent), siblings (8.4 per cent), boyfriend (5.4 per cent), relatives and other persons known to them. Only two of the children reported they were accompanied by their recruiter.

Number of respondents reporting reasons for separating from parents/family

There were varied reasons expressed by respondents for having separated from their families. The three most frequently mentioned reasons include, "beaten by step father/ mother" (13.8 per cent), "being abused by father/mother/relatives" (13.2 per cent), and "they came to earn income" (9.6 per cent). The other reasons shared were the following: "there was no one to look after them, "the parents sent me away," "always scolded", "parents separated" and "no one to talk with". These responses indicate that these children were earlier subjected to violence and that these children fled home to avoid being subjected to violence only to end up in a much violent and exploitative condition. The other reasons were directly related to poverty and to family problems: parents separated, forced marriage, family problems, abandoned by parents, strict parents, mother got married and a host of other reasons. These data are shown in Table 56.

Whether CSEC sought assistance or support for problems related to their work

About three-fourths of the respondents (73.5 per cent) shared that they have sought the assistance of others when they had encountered problems related to their work as presented in Table 57. Though the trend was true for both sexes, there were more girls (73.5 per cent) who did so than the boys (60.2 per cent). Perhaps the common notion that it is mostly females who engage in such activities made it easy for girls to easily reach out for assistance whenever the need arises. Moreover, many of the available services were perceived to be primarily for women, hence, girls tend to be more open than males in seeking for help

Sources from whom respondents sought assistance/support

Generally, many of the respondents sought assistance from their relatives (27.9 per cent). There seemed to be slight gender difference in preference for source of support. More females consulted their relatives (41.4 per cent) and friends (25.9 per cent) while almost a similar percentage of males sought assistance from their relatives (36.4 per cent) and friends (33.8 per cent).

On the whole, poverty, deprivation, and abuse experiences are key factors that have contributed to the growing number of children in prostitution. However, parents' ignorance, family breakdowns and perhaps media influence have also been multiplying the magnitude of prostituted children. The next phase of this study should

come up with a comprehensive situational analysis of children in prostitution to be able to come up with appropriate interventions for them and their families.

Chapter III

Summary of findings and recommendations

This last part of the report contains the summary of findings for the following topics: (a) all children 5 to 17 years old; (b) children in sugar cane plantation; and (c) commercially and sexually exploited children. The last part provides some recommendations.

Part I. All children 5 to 17 years old

1. Twenty-one barangays were covered (9 in Hagonoy and 12 in Kiblawan).
2. 3,193 households with children five to 17 were covered comprising 17,778 individuals giving an average household size of 5.6 or 6.
3. Out of 3,193 households, 7,681 were children within 5 to 17 years old, an average of 2.4 or 2 per household.
4. There was slightly more boys than girls (52.2 per cent and 47.8 per cent respectively).
5. Two-thirds of such children were in Kiblawan (60.6 per cent), the rest were in Hagonoy (39.40 per cent).
6. The largest percentage of working children were within 10 to 14 years old (40 per cent).
7. Some 32.2 per cent of these children were working, with more males (60.2 per cent) than females.
8. The higher the age, the higher is the percentage to total number of working children.
9. One fourth of these 7,681 children were not studying (24.7 per cent).
10. The largest percentage of those studying were within Grades 1 to 4 (44.1 per cent)
11. In proportion to their numbers, there were more girls than boys who were currently enrolled.
12. Out of 2,474 children who were working, 42.5 per cent were not currently enrolled.
13. The five most mentioned reasons for not studying were as follows; (a) the child is not interested in schooling; (b) high cost of schooling; (c) too young to be in school; (d) the child helps to augment family income; and (e) the child cannot cope with demands of the school.

14. About three fifths (56.9 per cent) of the working children were working in privately owned farms. This is followed by those working as unpaid workers in family owned farms.
15. More than half of the working children work in the sugar cane plantation while 32.9 per cent were engaged in other farms (coconut, corn, rice, coffee, mango, banana and other crops).
16. The most mentioned place of work was sugar plantation (44.7 per cent) followed by family owned farms (32.6 per cent).

Part II. Children in sugar cane plantation

1. Out of 2,474 working children, 53.4 per cent were working in sugar cane plantation.
2. There was significantly more child labour in sugar farms in the municipality of Kiblawan (74.5 per cent) than in Hagonoy (25.5 per cent).
3. Some 35.2 per cent per cent of these children are females.
4. The number of boys in sugar cane farms was increasing with age. On the other hand, the number of girls started to decline after age 13 in Kiblawan and after age 15 in Hagonoy.
5. The average for boys is 13.2, while for girls, it is 12.7.
6. Proportionally, there were more girls in school than boys. In Hagonoy, 47.5 per cent of the boys were studying while there was 76.8 per cent among the girls. In Kiblawan, 59.5 per cent of the boys were in school in comparison to the girls with 71.4 per cent.
7. The biggest percentage of these in-school children were in the primary level with 33.8 per cent. Only two were in college.
8. More than one-third (38 per cent) of these children were not enrolled.
9. Two major reasons were cited for not being in school: the child is not interested in schooling (35 per cent) and high cost of schooling (31.4 per cent).
10. Children living in remote areas must walk long distance to attend school.
11. In Hagonoy, 40.3 per cent of child labour was found in sugar cane plantations. The five highest percentage of children working in sugar farms were in Sacub (42.3 per cent), Clib (33.1 per cent), Maliit Digos (32.8 per cent), New Quezon (28.6 per cent) and Mahayahay (27.6 per cent).
12. In Kiblawan, 60 per cent of child labour is found in sugar cane farms. The five highest percentage of child labour in sugar cane plantation were in Maragaa

(55.7 per cent), Ihan (50.2 per cent), Latian (49.6 per cent), Sto. Niño (47 per cent) and Balasiao (46.3 per cent).

13. There were more boys than girls working in sugar cane farms with a ratio of 2:1.
14. In terms of class of work, majority of the children in both areas were working in privately owned agricultural farms (sugar cane, corn, coconut, mango and other crops) as reported by 80.7 per cent. Some 14.8 per cent were unpaid workers in family owned farms comprising 80.7 per cent.
15. The most-mentioned place of work was the sugar cane plantation (82.7 per cent).

Part III. Commercially and sexually exploited children

1. The most-mentioned type of work of children in prostitution were reported to be: striker (34.4per cent), free-lancer/ street-based (21.3 per cent) and service boys (11.1 per cent).
2. The average age of the boys in prostitution was slightly lower than those with the girls (14.8 and 15. 3 years, respectively).
3. Two-thirds (67.3 per cent) were within 15 to 17 years.
4. About three out of four of these children (72.7 per cent) were not studying during the time of the survey. A slightly higher percentage of the boys were in school comprising 29.7 per cent as compared to the girls with 26.8 per cent.
5. For those who were in school, a significantly large number of them were quite overage given their current grade level.
6. For those who have dropped out of school, a significant number have completed grade/year levels much below their age.
7. About two-thirds of the children comprising 68.6 per cent reported that their parents owned a house.
8. The largest percentage of the respondents' families depended on wage earning activities followed those engaged in business (28.2 per cent and 17.6 per cent respectively).
9. About one out of four children has lost one or both parents.
10. Nearly three-fifths of the children lived with their parents.
11. Most of the respondents lived in the slum areas (46.1per cent) implying their poverty situation.

12. The largest percentage landed in their present place of residence without knowledge of their parents comprising 34.7 per cent implying a large number who stowed away.
13. The three most mentioned reasons for separating from their family were as follows: (a.) beaten by parents (12.8 per cent); (b) abused by parents/relatives (13.2 per cent); and (c) to earn income (9.6 per cent).
14. About three fourths (73.5 per cent) have sought the assistance or support of others when the children encountered problems related to their work.
15. The most sought after source of assistance were the relatives (29.7 per cent), friends (10.4 per cent) and service providers.

IV. Recommendations

1. Enrollment dwindled as age progresses with the 17 year old posting the lowest enrolment in both CSCP and CSEC. The children's reasons for not going to school are overlapping with inadequacy of income, lack of educational opportunities and high cost of schooling being cited by children in sugar farms while peer influence, family problems, inadequacy of income and loss of interest being cited by children in prostitution. Programme interventions related to education should address such concerns in collaboration with parents, teachers, and children and concerned NGOs and institutions. An alternative type of educational program should be designed for children who are mobile and overaged, In particular for CSEC educational interventions, a workable mechanism with receiving schools for monitoring of sponsored children should be set-up. It shall be recognized that the prospective scholars are different from their peers on account of their work related experiences. Hence, the requirement for special attention and nurturing care is along lines of sustaining their interest and helping them cope with social pressures until they are able to take control of themselves. An appropriate and relevant alternative educational program for children who may not opt for a formal schooling should be prepared taking into consideration the children's context such as history of abuse or being overaged given their current grade and family structures.
2. A child's withdrawal from work should be accompanied by a whole range of supportive resources. This is especially important for children who have been prostituted or have been living and working on the streets without their families or without any stable social environment. In addition to education and training, health services and nutrition, other children need to be provided with intensive counselling, health services and legal aid. If necessary, intervention for their parents and siblings has to be extended as well.
3. In finding an institution that can take charge of planning and implementing a comprehensive package of interventions, there is an observed scarcity of government institutions, academe or NGO's capable of extending the needed services and protection to working children, even with the assurance of external financial support. In this regard, institutions who would be assigned to implement the intervention should be provided with capacity-building in implementing an

integrated set of interventions. Skills building should include knowledge and skills in implementing interdisciplinary, gender sensitive, culture sensitive and ethically-sensitive courses of action for children in hazardous work.

4. The issue of child labour cannot be viewed in isolation. Increasing poverty, inequitable distribution of land, lack of people-centered and sustainable development programmes, poor access to resources for the under-privileged sectors are some of the factors responsible for child labour proliferation. Efforts to reduce or eliminate child labour should address such root causes of child labour. (Voice of Child Workers, 1995:13).
5. The next phase of the research should capture voices of the children, their siblings and their parents or families in order to get comprehensive information regarding the situation and problems of children who work in the most difficult circumstances such as the Commercially and Sexually Exploited Children and Children in Sugar Cane Plantations. Hence aside from a comprehensive survey, other qualitative methods in data collection should be employed such as focus group discussion and in-depth interview.
6. All agencies and institutions, government or non-government should strengthen their capacity in designing, implementing, monitoring, evaluating interventions addressing children in hazardous work. Participation of other sectors such as the private sector should be encouraged. All such interventions should undergo a process whereby the children and their families as well as other concerned NGOs and institutions are actively participating.

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