

Study of Effect of Work on Children's Health in an Urban Area in Cairo

Thesis

*Submitted for Partial Fulfillment of
Master's Degree in Pediatrics*

By

Wael Mostafa Dardeer Ahmed
M.B., B.Ch., Ain Shams University

Supervised by

Prof. Dr. Amani Osman Mahmoud

*Professor of Pediatrics
Faculty of Medicine - Ain Shams University*

Dr. Nayera Samy Mostafa

*Assistant Professor of Community,
Environmental and Occupational Medicine
Faculty of Medicine - Ain Shams University*

**Faculty of Medicine
Ain Shams University**

2018

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

قَالَ

سُبْحَانَكَ لَا يَعْلمُ لَنَا
إِلَّا مَا عَلَّمْتَنَا إِنَّكَ أَنْتَ
الْعَلِيمُ الْعَظِيمُ

صدق الله العظيم

سورة البقرة الآية: ٣٢

Acknowledgment

*First and foremost, I feel always indebted to **ALLAH**,
the Most Kind and Most Merciful.*

*I'd like to express my respectful thanks and
profound gratitude to **Prof. Dr. Amani
Osman Mahmoud**, Professor of Pediatrics -
Faculty of Medicine- Ain Shams University for her
keen guidance, kind supervision, valuable advice
and continuous encouragement, which made
possible the completion of this work.*

*I am also delighted to express my deepest
gratitude and thanks to **Dr. Mayera Samy
Mostafa**, Assistant Professor of Community,
Environmental and Occupational Medicine, Faculty
of Medicine, Ain Shams University, for his kind
care, continuous supervision, valuable instructions,
constant help and great assistance throughout this
work.*

*Last but not least my sincere thanks and
appreciation to all children participated in this
study.*

Wael Dardeer

Dedication

*To the great spirit of my Father
and my great Mother . . .*

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List of Abbreviations

Abb.	Full term
BDRC	Bangladesh Development Research Center
BMI	Body Mass Index
CDC.....	Centers for Disease Control
ILO	International Labour Organization
IPEC.....	International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour
NCHS	National Centre for Health Statistics
ODD	Oppositional defiant disorder
SD.....	Standard deviation
SPSS.....	Statistical Package for Social Sciences for Windows
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
WHO	World Health Organization

INTRODUCTION

A child is a girl or boy under the age of 18. This means that adolescents are involved in this definition (*ILO, 2011*).

Child labour can be defined as work done by children under 15 years that may prevent kids from attending school, such as unlimited or unrestricted domestic work, and is dangerous and has physical, mental and emotional effects on working children (*Humphries, 2010*).

Considerable differences exist between the many kinds of work children do. Some are difficult and demanding, others are more hazardous and even morally reprehensible. Children carry out a very wide range of tasks and activities when they work. More than 200 million children less than 14 years of age work worldwide, many of whom are employed in hazardous occupations and are doing the same type of work as adults (*Cooper and Rothstein, 1995*).

Over nine per cent of Egyptian children are involved in child labour, which translates to around 1.8 million underage workers between 5 and 17 years old, Egypt's official statistics body announced that most of them work in adverse working environments. Around two thirds of working children in Egypt are younger than 15 years of age with around 46 per cent between the ages of 12 and 14 (*WHO, 2011*).

Working in childhood is hazardous physically, mentally and socially (*Kalam and Shafiqul, 2007*).

More specifically, hazardous child labour is work in dangerous or unhealthy conditions that could result in a child being killed, or injured and/or made ill as a consequence of poor safety and health standards and working arrangements. Some injuries or ill health may result in permanent disability. Often health problems caused by working as a child labour may not develop or show up until the child is an adult. Hazardous child labour is the largest category of the worst forms of child labour with an estimated 115 million children, aged 5-17, working in dangerous conditions in sectors as diverse as agriculture, mining, construction, manufacturing, service industries, hotels, bars, restaurants, fast food establishments, and domestic service. It is found in both industrialised and developing countries (*ILO, 1999*).

Girls and boys often start carrying out hazardous work at very early ages. Worldwide, the ILO estimates that some 22, 000 children are killed at work every year. The numbers of those injured or made ill because of their work are not known. Child labourers are susceptible to all the dangers faced by adult workers when placed in the same situation. However, the work hazards and risks that affect adult workers can affect child labourers even more strongly. The results of lack of safety and health protection can often be more devastating and lasting for them. It can result in more fatal and non-fatal accidents,

permanent disabilities/ill health, and psychological/behavioural/emotional damage (*ILO, 1999*).

Working children reported more acute health complaints in general, and skin, ear, and musculoskeletal complaints in particular. These complaints could be associated with their jobs, which required handling of chemicals and assuming awkward postures. Musculoskeletal complaints were also reported among children working in agriculture, retail shops, or small industry (*Bartels, 2000*).

Working children may manifest anxiety, hopelessness and self-esteem inventory (*Reynolds and Richmond, 2000*).

In the present study, 200 boys aging 10-14 years old (*Feteha, 2011*), *stated that two thirds of working children in Egypt are younger than 15 years of age with around 46 per cent between the ages of 12 and 14*), divided into 2 groups; one working in an urban area (tenth district in Nasr City in Cairo), in small industrial shops and the other is non-working students in the same district.

Rationale of the study:

The current study was carried out to find the relation between child work on one side and physical and mental health effects on those working children. To our knowledge, no enough studies were done to assess the effect of work mentally and physically on Egyptian children, so this study is done to carry out the effect of work on children in an urban area in Cairo.

Research hypothesis:

Child work is related to negative physical and mental health effects on working children compared to non-working ones.

Research question:

Is there a relation between child work and negative physical and mental health effects on working children?

AIM OF THE WORK

- To determine the state of health of 10 to 14 years old working children in an urban area in Cairo.
- To find association between Child work and children's health in an urban area in Cairo.

Chapter 1

EPIDEMIOLOGY OF CHILD LABOUR

B Biologically, a child is a human between the stages of birth and puberty. The legal definition of child generally refers to a minor, otherwise known as a person younger than the age of majority. Child may also describe a relationship with a parent (such as sons and daughters of any age) or, metaphorically, an authority figure, or signify group membership in a clan, tribe, or religion; it can also signify being strongly affected by a specific time, place, or circumstance, as in "a child of nature" or "a child of the Sixties". There are many social issues that affect children, such as childhood education, bullying, child poverty, dysfunctional families, child labor, and in developing countries, hunger. Children can be raised by parents, by fosterers, guardians or partially raised in a day care center. Children generally have fewer rights than adults and are classed as unable to make serious decisions, and legally must always be under the care of a responsible adult (*Simon and Shuster, 2005*).