

SOCIO-ECONOMIC FACTORS AFFECTING CHILD LABOR AND THE RELATED HAZARDS IN ASSIUT CITY, EGYPT

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Received 4/5/1999 , accepted 25/5 /1999

ABSTRACT :

This work aimed to study some socio-economic factors affecting childlabor in Assiut City, regarding familial and housing conditions of those children. Also, to shed light on work-related health hazards, as well as, work environment, in addition to identifying the main causes of school drop-out among those children. This study has been conducted at workplace of the studied children through personal interviews with every child alone. The study included 295 children, whose ages were 15 years or less. The study findings showed that (63.4%) of children were working (8-12 hours) daily, (41.7%) left school before completing the basic education for many reasons, including absence of desire to continue education, repeated failure, family carelessness, financial problems and death of parents. It is documented that more than half of school drop-outs (59.3%) were living in two-parent basic families. The study recommends that the already working children who forced early to labor due to adverse circumstances, should be covered by medical and social insurance, and abolishing their illiteracy and prohibiting children employment in hazardous work. Also, it recommends the necessity of total enrolment of all eligible children in basic compulsory education and reviewing the education system to make the school more attractive to children with the aim to minimize the school drop-outs .

INTRODUCTION:

Child labor is defined as: “Those children below 15 years of age who are employed for a minimum period of 5 hours a day by employers in an economically gainful activity” [1] . Child labor is more common in third world countries, where it is associated with the social and economic development of the societies. In 1988, the International Labor Organization (ILO) estimated that there are 100 million working children under the legal age [2] .

The Egyptian legislation has also regulated child labor which banning all forms of employment for children under twelve years of age, and forbidding children under fifteen from work, which is considered unsuitable for this age group. In addition, children under seventeen years of age are forbidden from working in hazardous crafts for the sake of their health and morals [3]. In Egypt, the estimated number of working children under 15 years was around 1,784,600 child [4]. This number represents about (16%) of the total number of children in the age group 6–15 years and (8%) of the total labor force in Egypt [5] .

However, child labor is considered as an important source of income for poor families. [6]. In the early developmental stage, children are more liable to occupational hazards. This may be due to lack of their attention span, easy fatigability, poor judgement, in addition to some psychosocial factors as inequity of pay, lack of job security, problems in relationships at work and long hours of work. In addition to children exploitation, where they are asked or forced to engage in hazardous jobs, which

create many health problems that may even cripple their adult life [7, 8].

As well as, the working environment in small enterprises is usually of low standard, particularly as regard general hygiene, safety, water sanitation, sewage system, floors and stairs are in poor condition, blocked or absent fire exits also rest and eating areas are not available [4]. All these factors might have an impact on the health of children. In addition, many accidents occur from unsuitable and heavy equipment that children use during their work. This included injuries, crushing, falling or dermatosis, which results from the continuous friction of the machine tool used. High incidence of work injuries are reported due to lack of proper maintenance of old machines or lack of training program [7,8].

Also, the educational system suffers from various problems, one of these problems is the inability of the school system to accommodate all school age children. Another issue is absenteeism, with large numbers of children dropping out of school before completing their compulsory education [3, 9].

So, in 1996, the Convention of Egyptian Children Rights was declared by President Mubarak, To protect child against exploitation, which might affect his social life and personality development [10].

Aim of the study:

The present study aimed to:

- Study some socio-economic factors that may affect child labor in Assiut City.
- Shed light on the work environment of the studied children.
- Highlight the craft- related health hazards among working children.
- Identify the main causes of school dropping out among working children.

EXPERIMENTAL :

Material and Methods:

Settings:

The study was carried out in some industrial workshops and other work places in Assiut City, where these workshops are collected mainly in three locations, namely they are Al-Sadat, El-Berka and Sharea El-Bandar. These workshops and crafts included car repair, carpenting, car keeping and other jobs such as coffee shops & bicycle repair.

Sampling :

All workshops in the three studied areas were listed, and all eligible children working at these workshops were recruited in this study. The present study included 295 children (aged 15 years or less), working on regular basis, some of them were still attached to school and working only during summer vacation.

Tools:

After reviewing the relevant literature, a

proper questionnaire was designed by the investigators to collect the relevant information about the child, his family and the work environment such as: personal data (name, age, level of education and with whom the child live, as well as, family profile such as parents' education, occupation, family size, housing conditions and occupational features; which included; age at the beginning of working, duration of working, working hours/day, weekend vacation, weekly income, work hazards, health habits and practices such as smoking in addition to causes of school dropout.

Methods :

1-A Pilot study was carried out for testing the variables and validity of the questionnaire, as a result of the pilot study, the necessary modifications in the sheet was done.

2- Data collection :

Permission was obtained from the workshop masters, where they informed about the time of the visit and the purpose of the study to obtain their approval and cooperation to interview the child at the work place.

Data were collected during the period from beginning of July, 1998 to the end of September 1998. The interviews were conducted at the workplace, where each child was interviewed individually and reassured that the information obtained will be confidential and used only for the purpose of the research.

RESULTS:

Table (1) presents the distribution of working children by some socio-economic characteristics. It is shown that more than half of the studied children (54.2%) were in the age group (12–15 years), while (43.4%) of them were in the age group (6<12 years) and only (2.4 %) of them were under 6 years old.

As regard the educational status of children, it was found that (26.8%) of them were illiterate, (41.7%) left school before completing the basic education, and approximately one third of them (29.2%) still attaching school.

The table also illustrated that (68.1%) of children were living with their parents, while only (4.1%) of them were living with their relatives. Most of children (75.6%) had family size ranged from 6–10 persons, while (20.7%) of them had family size ranged from 1–5 persons, and only minority (3.7%) had family size more than 10 members, with mean family size (7.2 ± 2.0).

Regarding father’s education, it was clear that illiteracy counted a higher percentage (71.5%) among fathers of working children and only (19.3%) of them had primary level of education, while preparatory and secondary education of fathers represents (4.4% & 4.7%) respectively.

On relation to father’s occupation, it was found that (21.7%) of them had skilled work, (32.5%) had non skilled work, (18%) of them were employees while the unemployed and died fathers were (5.4%) & (18.3%) respectively.

Table (1): Distribution of working children by some socio-economic characteristics in Assiut City, Egypt

Characteristics	No.	%
1- Age (year):		
- < 6	7	2.4
- 6 – < 12	128	43.4
- 12 – 15	160	54.2
2- Educational status :		
- Under age of education	7	2.4
- Illiterate	79	26.8
- Left school before completing basic education	123	41.7
- Still attaching school	86	29.2
3- With whom the child live :		
- Parents	201	68.1
- Father only	27	9.2
- Mother only	55	18.6
- Relatives	12	4.1
4- Family size:-		
- 1– 5	61	20.7
- 6–10	223	75.6
- > 10	11	3.7
Mean ± SD	7.2 ± 2.0	
5- Father’s education :		
- Illiterate	211	71.5
- Primary level	57	19.3
- Preparatory level	13	4.4
- Secondary level	14	4.7
6-Father’s occupation :		
- Employee	53	18.0
- Skilled work	64	21.7
- Non skilled work	96	32.5
- Unemployed	16	5.4
- Retired	12	4.1
- Died	54	18.3
7- Mother’s education :		
- Illiterate	273	92.5
- Primary level	15	5.1
- Preparatory level	5	1.7
- Secondary level	2	0.7
8- Mother’s occupation :		
- House wife	224	75.9
- Skilled work	10	3.4
- Non skilled work	26	8.8
- Employee	5	1.7
- Died	30	10.2
Total	295	100

In addition, table (1) also illustrated that vast majority of working children mothers (92.5%) were illiterate, (75.9%) of them were house wives while very small number (1.7%) of them were employees, and the rest of mothers

(10.2%) were died.

Table (2) showed the distribution of working children by their housing conditions. It was clear that approximately half of children's households (47.8%) consist of two rooms, (14.2%) consist of just one room, about one quarter of children's households (26.4%) consist of three rooms, and only (11.5%) consist of more than three rooms. It is also shown that moderate proportion of children's households were supplied with piped water, latrines and electricity (88.1% & 92.2% and 89.8%) respectively.

Table (2): Distribution of working children by housing conditions in Assiut City, Egypt

Housing Conditions	No.	%
1- Number of rooms		
- One room	42	14.2
- Two rooms	141	47.8
- Three rooms	78	26.4
- More than three rooms	34	11.5
2- Availability of piped water:-		
- Yes	260	88.1
- No	35	11.9
3- Availability of latrine :		
- Yes	272	92.2
- No	23	7.8
4- Availability of electricity:-		
- Yes	265	89.8
- No	30	10.2
Total	295	100

Table (3) presents the relationship between family size of the studied children and the available number of rooms in their households.

Table (3) : The relationship between family size and number of rooms at households of working children in Assiut City, Egypt

Number of rooms	Family size						Total	
	1-5 persons n = 61		6-10 persons n = 223		> 10 persons n = 11		No.	%
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%		
- One room	16	26.2	26	11.7	-	-	42	14.2
- Two rooms	26	42.6	113	50.7	2	18.2	141	47.8
- Three rooms	16	26.2	60	26.9	2	18.2	78	26.4
- > three rooms	3	4.9	24	10.8	7	63.6	34	11.5
- Total	61	20.7	223	75.6	11	3.7	295	100.0

It is clear from the table that the family size of about three quarters of studied children (75.6%) consist of (6-10) persons, while (20.7%) of families consist of (1-5) persons, and only minority of families (3.7%) consist of more than 10 persons. It is also shown that (14.2%) of studied families live in just one room, compared with (47.8%) who live in two rooms, (26.4%) live in three rooms, and (11.5%) live in households of more than three rooms. With more details, it is illustrated that (5.4%) of families composed of (1-5) persons live in one room compared with (8.8%) who live in two rooms, (5.4%) live in three rooms, and just (1.0%) of those families live in households of more than three rooms. On the other hand, it is shown that (8.8%) of families composed of (6-10) persons, live in just one room, compared with (38.3%) of families who live in two rooms, (20.3%) live in three rooms, and (8.1%) live in households of more than three rooms. Lastly, it is clear that there are no families composed of more than 10 persons, live in one room, and only just two families (0.7%) live in two rooms, and the same proportion live in three rooms, and 7 families (2.4%) live in more than three rooms.

Table (4) presents the distribution of working children among working varieties. It was found that about three quarters of children (75.9%) were working in car repair workshops, compared with (14.2%) working in carpentering workshops, while minority of them (2.4%) were working in car keeping and collection of fees from customers, and (7.5%) of children were working in other crafts such as coffee shops and bicycle repair. It is recognized that more than half of working children (56.9%) had experienced occupational hazards such as wounds, fractures, burns, eye injury, and other casualties such as joint sprain toxicity and suffocation.

The present study revealed that most of working children (78%) were satisfied with their work, on the other hand (18.6%) were dissatisfied, while minority (3.4%) couldn't decide.

In relation to the salary of working children per week. The study illustrated that (46.8%) of working children had a salary ranged from 11–20 pounds per week, (43.0 %) had a salary ranged from 3–10 pounds per week, and only (10.2%) of working children had a salary of more than 20 pounds/week. The mean salary of working children per week in Assiut City is L.E. 13.5 ± 6.1 .

As regard the working hours and weekend vacation, the table showed that (63.4%) of children, working 8–12 hours per day, (20.0%) work more than 12 hours per day, and only (16.6%) work less than 8 hours per day. It is also shown that only (80%) of working children had the privilege of weekend vacation. As

regard the smoking habit among working children, the present study showed that (42.4%) of them were smokers.

Table (4): Distribution of working children by working conditions in Assiut City, Egypt

Items	No.	%
1- Type of work		
- Car repairing	224	75.9
- Car keeping	7	2.4
- Carpentering	42	14.2
- Other jobs *	22	7.5
Total	295	100.0
2- Occupational hazards:-		
- Yes	104	35.3
- No	167	56.6
- Don't remember	24	8.1
Total	295	100.0
3- Type of hazard:-		
- Wounds	65	62.5
- Fractures	16	15.4
- Burns	13	12.5
- Eye injury	6	5.8
- Others	4	3.8
Total	104	100.0
4- Job satisfaction:-		
- Yes	230	78.0
- No	55	18.6
- Don't know	10	3.4
Total	295	100.0
5- Salary / week (pound):-		
- 3 – 10 L.E.	127	43.0
- 11– 20 L.E.	138	46.8
- > 20 L.E.	30	10.2
Total	295	100.0
Mean \pm SD	13.5 \pm 6.1	
6- Working hours / day:-		
- < 8 hours	49	16.6
- 8 – 12 hours	187	63.4
- > 12 hours	59	20.0
Total	295	100.0
7- Week-end / vacation:-		
- Yes	236	80.0
- No	59	20.0
Total	295	100.0
8- Smoking:		
- Yes	125	42.4
- No	170	57.6
Total	295	100.0

* Other jobs = coffee shops & bicycle repair.

Table (5) presents the relationship between

type of work and associated hazards in Assiut City workshops. It is clear from this table that 104 working children, out of the 295 studied subjects experienced work-related accidents, so the incidence rate of work-related accidents is (35.3%).

It is illustrated from the table that car repairing is the most hazardous job in this study, where it contributed by (77.9%) of total accidents, followed by carpenting (13.5%) and the other jobs such as working in coffee shops & bicycle repair (8.%).

The study showed that wounds were the most frequent casualties (62.5%), followed by fractures (15.4%), then burns (12.5%), eye injury (5.8%) and lastly other types of casualties such as joint sprain, toxicity and suffocation which composed (8.6%). It is also shown that car repairing was associated with (72.3%) of wounds, compared, with (93.8%) of fractures, (84.6%) of burns, (100.0%) of eye injuries and (50.0%) of other casualties such as joint sprain, toxicity and suffocation.

Table (5): The relationship between type of work and related hazards in workshops of Assiut City, Egypt (n = 104)

Type of work	Related hazards											
	Wounds		Fractures		Burns		Eye injury		Others**		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
1- Car repairing	47	72.3	15	93.8	11	84.6	6	100	2	50	81	77.9
2- Carpenting	10	15.4	1	6.2	1	7.7	-	-	2	50	14	13.5
3- Other jobs*	8	12.3	0	-	1	7.7	-	-	-	-	9	8.6
Total	65	62.5	16	15.4	13	12.5	6	5.8	4	3.8	104	100.0

* Other jobs include: Bicycle repair & Coffee shops.

** Other hazards include: joint sprain, toxicity and suffocation.

It is shown from table (6) that 123 out of the 295 studied children (41.7%) left school before completing their compulsory education due to many reasons. About one quarter of children (24.4%) left the school because they didn't have the desire for education, the same proportion (24.4%) because their families were suffering from financial problems, (23.6%) because of repeated failure, (8.1%) because of family carelessness, (7.3%) because of parents' death, while (12.2 %) left school because of more than one reason.

When those school leavers, asked about

their desire to re-join the school if they have the opportunity, about half of them (50.4%) replied yes.

Table(6): Distribution of working children by causes of leaving school and the desire to re-join it in Assiut City, Egypt (N=123)

Items	No.	%
Causes of leaving school :		
- Don't have the desire for education	30	24.4
- Repeated failure	29	23.6
- Family carelessness	10	8.1
- Financial problems	30	24.4
- Parents' death	9	7.3
- More than one cause	15	12.2
Desire to re-join the school :		
- Yes	62	50.4
- No	39	31.7
- Don't know	22	17.9

Total **123** **100.0**

Table (7) presents the relationship between causes of leaving school and fathers' occupation of working children. It is clear from this table that children who reported that they don't have the desire for education, composed about one quarter of school leavers (24.4%), nearly similar proportion reported that they left school because of repeated failure (23.6%), and also similar proportion (24.4%) left school to help their families in life expenses, compared with (8.1%) who left school because of family carelessness, (7.3%) because of parents' death and (12.2%) due to more than one cause. It is illustrated from this table that (30.1%) of school leavers, had fathers with skilled jobs, compared with (26.0%) whose fathers were unemployed, (15.4%) of fathers were non-skilled workers, (13.0%) were died, (9.8%) were employees and lastly (5.7%) of those children, their fathers were retired. It is shown that one-third of children (33.3%) of employees fathers left school because they didn't have the desire for education, (27.0%) of children of skilled work fathers left school to help their

families in life expenses, (36.8%) of non skilled fathers, left school because of repeated failure, (34.4%) of unemployed fathers left school to help their families financially, (42.9%) of children of retired fathers left school due to family carelessness, and (43.8%) of children of died fathers left school because of many reasons.

Table (8) presents the relationship between causes of leaving school and with whom the working child live. It is obvious from this table that majority of school leavers (59.3%) were living with their parents (father & mother), compared with (19.5%) who live with their fathers only, (15.4%) living with mother only and (5.7%) were living with their relatives. It is also illustrated from table (8) that (32.9%) of those who left school because they didn't have the desire for education were living with their parents, while (37.5%) of those who live with father only, left school to help their families in life expenses, and (26.3%) of those who live with mother only, left school due to repeated failure, and (71.4%) of children who live with their relatives, left school due to many reasons .

Table (7): The relationship between causes of leaving school and father's occupation among working children in Assiut City, Egypt (N=123)

Causes of leaving school	Father's occupation													
	Employee		Skilled work		Non skilled work		Unemployed		Retired		Died		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
1- Don't have the desire for education	4	33.3	8	21.6	7	36.8	6	18.8	3	42.9	2	12.5	30	24.4
2- Repeated failure	3	25.0	8	21.6	7	36.8	9	28.1	-	-	2	12.5	29	23.6
3- Family's carelessness	-	-	7	18.9	-	-	-	-	3	42.9	-	-	10	8.1
4- Help the family financially	4	33.3	10	27.0	1	5.3	11	34.4	1	14.3	3	18.8	30	24.4
5- Parents' death	1	8.3	1	2.7	1	5.3	4	12.5	-	-	2	12.5	9	7.3
6- More than one cause	-	-	3	8.2	3	15.8	2	6.3	-	-	7	43.8	15	12.2
Total	12	9.8	37	30.1	19	15.4	32	26.0	7	5.7	16	13	123	100

Table (8): The relationship between causes of leaving school and with whom the working child live in Assiut City, Egypt (N=123)

Causes of leaving school	With Whom the Child Live?									
	With Parents		With Father only		With Mother only		With relatives		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
1- Don't have the desire for education	24	32.9	4	16.7	2	10.5	-	-	30	24.4
2- Repeated failure	20	27.4	3	12.5	5	26.3	1	14.3	29	23.6
3- Family carelessness	7	9.6	1	4.2	2	10.5	-	-	10	8.1
4- Help the family financially	16	21.9	9	37.5	4	21.0	1	14.3	30	24.4
5- Parents' death	-	-	7	29.2	2	10.5	-	-	9	7.3
6- More than one cause	6	8.2	-	-	4	21.1	5	71.4	15	12.2
Total	73	59.3	24	19.5	19	15.4	7	5.7	123	100

DISCUSSION:

In spite of the very strict frame regulated by the Egyptian Law for the Child Labor, yet this problem is continuously increasing. Some authors [11,12] reported that work opportunities for boys increased greatly due to the proliferation of small industrial workshops, a phenomenon, which has continued through the present. Susan et al. [13] stated that a combination of economic and social factors are responsible for the increasing prevalence of child labor. The results of the current study confirm these statements, as on examining the families' background of the studied children, it revealed that most of children were belonging to large families with average family size of about seven individuals, (7.2±2.0), table (1). These findings are consistent with those obtained by Soliman & Justice [4,14]. Concerning the occupation of the children's fathers, Azer and Ramzy [15], stated that the professional background and experience of father can affect the profession and even the social orientations for their children. Results of the present study indicated that about half of fathers of studied

children had skilled or non-skilled jobs (54.3%), while Lashine et al. [16] found that (77.4%) of the fathers of working children were laborers.

Family stability is also of great importance in the perpetuation of child labor. This is obvious from the results of the present study, where only (68.1%) of studied children were living with their parents, and about one third of them (31.9%) were living in non-stable family circumstances, either with one parent or with relatives. It is also illustrated from the findings of this study that (18.3%) of working children were fatherless and (10.3%) of them were motherless. Such adverse circumstances pushed those miserable children to live either with one parent or with relatives. These findings are in agreement with the findings of Soliman and Taylors [4,17], who recorded that death of one or both parents was among the reasons of child labor and separation from his family. The level of education of the parents is also another important factor influencing child labor. In the present study, the illiteracy was prevalent among parents of working children. This

denotes the value placed by those parents on work rather than education, as a mean to improve their economic status. These findings are in line with those obtained by Soliman [4]. Another factor leading to child labor where many studies like those of the National Council for Education & Scientific Research and Technology, Lashine et al, Walter and Briggs [16,18,19], reported that low educational performance of the child and desire to increase family income were the main causes for child labor, similar findings were indicated in the present study where majority of working children were either illiterate or left school before completing basic education. Every young person who leaves school too early fails to receive viable work skills. A National Survey included 9128 adolescents, aged (10-19 years), concluded that (31%) of males working adolescents were out of school [20].

Although the Egyptian Child Labor Law [10], bans the employment of children who are less than 14 years of age (Article 64), this legislation is difficult to be enforced completely. The results of the present study revealed that some working children (2.4%) were under 6 years, while (43.4%) were under 12. Regarding the working hours, the results of the current study showed that about two thirds of working children (63.4%) are working (8–12 hours) per day, while Azer and Ramzy [15], reported that the daily working hours of children in their study ranged between (10–12 hours) per day, on the other hand, Lashine et al. [16], reported 9 hours and more. Concerning the salary received by the working children of the present study, the findings showed that the average

salary was L.E. 13.5±6.1 per week.

In developing countries of Latin America, The International Labor Organization Report [21], documented that between 45- 50 percent of Wage-earning children were belonging to (10- 14 age group). But even when the children receive some form of remuneration for their work, it is invariably lower than adult earnings, even when they work the same or even longer hours than the adults. The Article No. 66 of the Child Labor Law "states that young persons (14 years and above) should not work for more than six hours a day". The working hours should be braked by one or more meal and rest breaks, not less than one hour. In addition, they should not work extra time or during weekends or public holidays. However, the findings of this study revealed that workshop masters didn't follow the Child Labor Law' Regulations, where vast majority of children (83.4%) were working 8 hours and more/day, and (20%) of working children didn't have weekend vacation. This results are in the line with those obtained by Soliman [4]. Concerning the occupational hazards faced by the studied children, the results revealed that more than one third of children (35.3%) exposed to any sort of casualty in the form of wounds, fractures, burns , eye injury and others. These results point out the greater risk of child labor. In accordance Knight et al. [22] found that (19%) of his studied working children injured in jobs, while Banerjee [23], reported (23%). Hidayet et al. [11], reported that working children are facing hazardous exposures in car repair and chemical or mechanical workshops in the form of smokes, fumes, spray, dust or petroleum products, threatening their skin,

lung, ears and or immune system. Exposure of working children to occupational hazards may be due to lack of orientation prior employment/lack of training, lack of attention span of young children, unavailability of protective equipment and use of sharp and unsuitable instruments in their work.

In Addition, the present study revealed that (42.4%) of children were smokers. The recent reports proved that smoking has a large effect on young age. It increases the heart and respiratory rates, cause anorexia and increase the child's liability to get cancer [7,24]. Results denotes that work plays a role in stimulating early smoking, since the young children imitate their adult peers in such a habit and they have the money to purchase tobacco.

In addition, the results of this study indicated that (41.7%) of children left school before completing their basic education due to many reasons including financial problems, repeated failure, family carelessness, absence of the child desire for education and death of parents. These findings go hand in hand with those obtained by Soliman [4], who reported that more than half of working children leave school due to many reasons including financial problems, failure in scholastic achievement, to support their families and severe punishment at school.

This study concluded that social and economical troubles are the main causes of child labor, especially familial factors such as family disruption, poverty and economic stress.

Children who enter the labor force usually carry out work that is supposed to be done by adults, while they do not yet possess the

physical and mental capabilities needed for these jobs. So, they are most probably exposed to a lot of hazards from such work as well as they leave their schools.

Conclusions & recommendations :

The present study concluded the following :

- 1-The working children in Assiut City are belonging to families of poor socioeconomic status.
- 2-Child-labor is common in Assiut City.
- 3-School drop-out is a big problem, especially among working children.
- 4-The mean week salary of working children in Assiut City is L.E. 13.5±6.1.
- 5-Vast majority of working children in Assiut, work daily (8-12 hours or more).
- 6-Smoking is a common habit among working children in Assiut.
- 7-Car- repair is the most hazardous craft in industrial workshops of Assiut City.

Wounds are the most common causalities associated with studied crafts, and so we recommend the following :

- 1-The issue of child labor should be adopted and gain support of both governmental and non-governmental organizations to raise the community awareness about its undesired consequences.
- 2-Children who are actually involved in the labor force, should be covered by medical and social insurance, abolish their illiteracy, prohibit their employment in hazardous work.
- 3-Enrolment of all eligible children in basic education, as much as possible.
- 4-Enforcement of the Egyptian Child Labor

Law No.12 [10], with special emphasis on (Articles 64– 69).

5-Reviewing the education system to make the school more attractive to children with the aim to minimize the school drop-out.

6-Further large-scale and in-depth studies are needed to determine the magnitude of child labor problem in Assiut and its impact on children' health .

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العوامل الاجتماعية والاقتصادية التي تؤثر على عمالة الأطفال والمخاطر المرتبطة بها في مدينة أسيوط - مصر

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كان الهدف من هذا البحث هو دراسة بعض العوامل الاجتماعية والاقتصادية التي تؤثر على عمالة الأطفال في مدينة أسيوط من حيث الظروف الأسرية والمعيشية لهؤلاء الأطفال وكذا إلقاء الضوء على بيئة العمل والمخاطر المهنية المرتبطة بالعمل والتي قد يتعرض لها الأطفال العاملون ، وأيضاً معرفة الأسباب الرئيسية لتسرب الأطفال من الدراسة . هذا وقد أجريت هذه الدراسة في مكان عمل الأطفال حيث جرت مقابلة شخصية لكل طفل على حده . وقد شملت هذه الدراسة ٢٩٥ طفلاً ممن تتراوح أعمارهم ما بين ٦- ١٥ سنة . كان بعض هؤلاء الأطفال لا يزالون ملتحقين بالدراسة بجانب مزاوتهم للعمل . وقد أوضحت نتائج هذه الدراسة أن (٦٣,٤%) من هؤلاء الأطفال يعملون ما بين (٨ - ١٢) ساعة يوميا و أن (٤١,٧%) من هؤلاء الأطفال العاملين قد تركوا المدرسة لأسباب عديدة منها عدم الرغبة في التعلم ، الرسوب المتكرر ، عدم اهتمام الأسرة بالتعليم ، الضائقة المالية التي تعاني منها الأسرة ، موت أحد الأبوين أو كليهما . وقد أثبتت الدراسة أن معظم الأطفال الذين تركوا المدرسة كانوا يعيشون مع والديهم . وقد أوصت الدراسة بضرورة تغطية هؤلاء الأطفال الذين دفعتهم ظروفهم الغير مواتية إلى سوق العمل مبكراً بمظلة التأمين الصحى والاجتماعي لحمايتهم من الأخطار التي يتعرضون لها أثناء العمل ، وكذا محو أميتهم ومنع اشتغالهم بالأعمال الخطرة وإعادة النظر في العملية التعليمية لجعل المدرسة مكاناً محبباً للأطفال حتى تقل عملية التسرب من المدرسة .