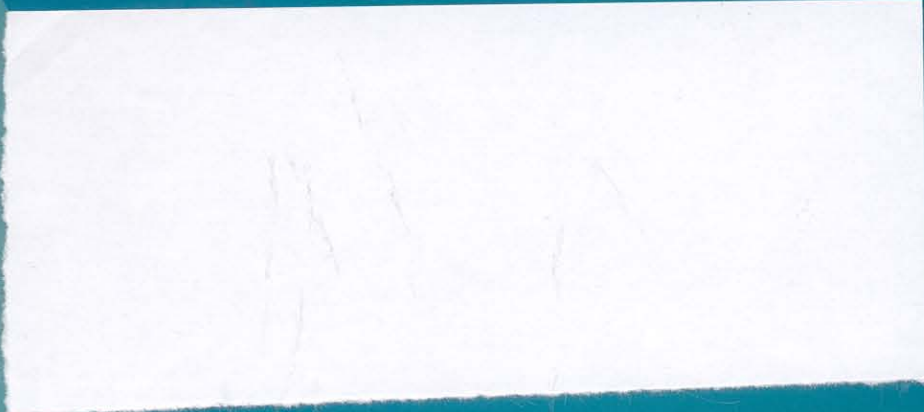NATIONAL STATISTICAL OFFICE OF MONGOLIA

REPORT
OF NATIONAL CHILD LABOUR SURVEY
2002-2003

ULAANBAATAR
2004

CONTENTS

List of statistical tables and graphs

ABBREVIATIONS

ADB	Asian Development Bank
NCAM	National Child Activities Module
DPSDD	Data Processing and Software Development Department
ERO	Employment Registration Office
ILO	International Labour Organizations
IPEC	International Programme for Eradchication of Child Labour
IMPS	Integrated Microcomputer Processing System
LFS	Labour Force Survey
LFPR	Labour force participation rate
MEBSD	Macroeconomic and Business Statistics Department
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NSO	National Statistical Office
SNA	System of National Accounting
UN	United Nations
PHC	Population and Housing Census
PSSD	Population and Social Statistics Department
PSU	Primary Sampling Unit
SSU	Secondary Sampling Unit

Survey rounds

1st quarter	**October-December, 2002**
2nd quarter	**January-March, 2003**
3rd quarter	**April-June, 2003**
4th quarter	**July-September, 2003**

Glossary of Acronyms

Definition of Mongolian words:

Aimag	*Province*
Soum	*County*
Bagh	*Lowest administrative unit in aimag*
Khoroo	*Lowest administrative unit in Ulaanbaatar*
Ger	*Traditional round felt tent*
Dzud	*Winter disaster*
Khangai	*Name of one of 5 regions in Mongolia*

FOREWORD

Child labour has emerged as one of the negative phenomena in Mongolia during its transition period towards a market economy system is child labor. As committed to implementation of UN Convention on Child Rights in 1990, ILO Convention 182 on Worst Forms of Child Labour in 2000 and ILO Convention 138 on Minimum Age for Employment in 2002, Mongolia has been paying special attention to development and implementation of a national policy for eradication of child labour and combating the child work in difficult and harmful conditions and worst forms of child labour. In connection with this, there is an increasing demand for accurate data and information on scope, distribution and nature of child labour. And in response to this need, in September 2002, the Government of Mongolia and International Labour Organization established an agreement on conducting a National Child Labour Survey in Mongolia. The specific feature of this survey lies in its attachment to then planned national labour force survey under the framework of ADB supported technical assistance: Improving Social Statistics in consideration of their time and nature consistency as well as cost efficiency. Accordingly, the concerned parties agreed to conduct the surveys together since October 2002.

National Child Labour Survey is of significant importance as it provides data set on child labour and activities reflecting important aspects such as child economic activities, child work and labour, their scope and nature based on the information which was collected by the ILO common concept and methodology on labour statistics and child labour.

We believe that the survey offers valuable data and information for accurate definition of children at risk or engaged in labour , improvement of legislative environment to protect the rights of working children and development of a national policy on combating and eradicating the child labour and worst forms of child labour.

In the same time the survey proposes some conclusions and recommendations which would be useful in policy making and implementation on improvement of information system and methodology of child labour and combating and eradication of the environment which leads to child labour and worst forms of child labour.

P.Byambatseren
Chairman National Statistical Office

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

For the first time ever Mongolia conducted an incorporated national Labour Force Survey and Child Labour Survey on seasonal basis to capture child employment and work in labour market in the country. The survey aimed at collecting detailed set of data such as numbers of working children, working conditions and consequences for making in-depth analysis of child labour in Mongolia. The end objective of the survey was to create data base on child labour, build the national capacity for data collection on child labour in accordance with ILO methodology to benefit the policy making and implementation against child labour and incorporation of the data into ILO data bases so that Mongolia is reflected in global and regional reports on this subject.

It is our great pleasure to express our deep thanks to International Labour Organization and International Programme for Eradication of Child Labour and Norwegian Government for their technical and funding assistance respectively. We would like to deliver sincere thanks to Consultant of International Labour Organization /International Programme for Eradication of Child Labour Mr Bijoy Raychaudhuri for his expertise assistance in methodology development, data analysis and reporting and National Programme Manager of Ms N.Mongolmaa for her coordination during the survey conduct.

Special thanks also go to Ms Davaakhuu, Secretary of Labour Force Survey Working Group and Seniour Officer of Population and Social Statistics Department of the NSO, Ms N.Doljinsuren, Mr Ts.Garid, Mr D.Nasandelger, Ms Z.Nansalmaa and Mr M.Luvsan for their valuable contribution to the successful implementation of the survey. We would like to acknowledge the inputs of members of steering committee of the survey and members of NSO Chairman's council all of whom make valuable comments during the questionnaire development and report production. In the same time, we are pleased to thank all the officers of central and local statistical offices who were actively engaged in the arrangement and implementation of field work of the survey and local administrative staff who showed useful support in the conduct of the survey.

P.Byambatseren
Chairman National Statistical Office

CHAPTER I

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

National Child Labour Survey is a large scale national survey which collected a wide range of data on child labour in compliance with the common definition and methodology by International Labour Organization. The survey captured the children of Mongolia aged 5-17.

Child population aged 5-17 years

The total number of children in age group 5-17 years was estimated at 679049, of which 53.1 percent were in the urban area and 46.9 percent were in the rural area. By age group classification, 31.2 percent were aged between 5-9 years, 43.4 percent were between 10-14 years, and 25.4 percent were in the 15-17 years age group. Out of the total estimated child population aged 5-17 years, 51.2 percent were boys and 48.8 percent were girls.

Education level of children

The survey finds that of the total child population, 19.2 percent is not educated, mostly in the age group 5-9 years, and that may be explained by the fact that official age of entry to primary school is 7 years. However, of some concern is the fact that 8 percent of children in the ages 10-17 years are not educated. Similarly, about one-quarter (24.2 percent) of the child population had studied less than primary level, of which almost 44 percent are in the ages 10-17 years.

There are not many differences by gender among the children in educational levels, except that while 2.9 percent of the boys aged 10-17 years are in the 'not educated' category, the relative magnitude for girls in the same age-group is only 1.5 percent. Again, for the age group 15-17 years, the respective percentages in Grade 4-8 and Grade 9-10 are 51.5 and 6.7 for girls, against corresponding percentages of 48.6 and 4.5 for boys. These numbers are indications that the educational level of girls has a tendency to be higher than for boys at similar ages.

Schooling and activity status of children

Total children are classified in terms of (i) children attending school and (ii) those not attending school. Each category is next sub-divided into (i) those in any economic activity (with possibility of also doing some housekeeping activities or domestic chores), (ii) those in housekeeping activities (and no economic activities), (iii) those in schooling only, and (iv) those who are idle (or inactive, including children if this age group who are sick/ disabled etc.)

The majority or almost 74.6 percent of 676911 children in ages 5-17 years are attending school. By age groups, the percentage children attending school is 70.6 percent for 7-9 years, 93.7 percent for 10-14 years and 78.7 percent for 15-17 years.

Most children (74.8 percent), whether studying or not studying, are contributing to housekeeping activities.   It is possible that many of the children classified by their main status of economic activity, may also be performing some domestic chores. The highest percentage of children in housekeeping duties is at the age group 10-14 years, for both boys and for girls.

About 10 percent of all children aged 5-17 years are engaged in economic activities, that is, are working children, with the proportion being 11.6 percent for boys and 7.7 percent for girls. The percentage of boys engaged in economic activity is higher than for girls at each age group. The largest percentage of children engaged in economic activity is at the age group 15-17 years. 7.3 percent of the children were idle children or those who are not studying, not working, or not doing any household chores.

Of the all children, about 8 percent are engaged in schooling only. Of all children attending school, those attending only school (and not performing any economic activities, or housekeeping activities) form about 11 percent, while those also engaged in economic activity constitute 4.7 percent. The vast majority or 84.2 percent of school attending children carry out housekeeping activities in addition to school studies. Of the children not attending school, 24.3 percent are engaged in economic activity (may be also doing some household chores) 47.0 percent are doing housekeeping activities only. The percentage of children attending school and also engaged in economic activity for age groups 10-14 years and 15-17 years are 5.0 and 7.2 for boys respectively and 3.6 and 5.8 for girls respectively. The percentage of children not attending school and engaged in economic activity for the respective age groups are 53.8 and 63.2 for boys and 33.8 and 55.4 for girls.

The percent of children engaged in household activities decreases with household size, and that maybe because of the presence of more adult members to perform the chores. The percent of children attending school also rises with household size, but a causal relationship should not be the report indicates that 70,215 children or 10.3 percent of the children aged 5-17 years are living away from their households for more than 6 months. By sector of residence, the corresponding percentage for rural areas is 20 percent (63,546 against 318,299) and for urban areas is much lower at 1.8 percent (6,669 against 331,397). This reflects mainly the absence of schooling facilities in the rural areas, as over 95.5 percent of the rural children were away for the purpose of studying. The urban children staying away from their households were also mostly studying, but the relative percent was about 84.4 percent only. Of major concern is that of the children from urban areas, the whereabouts of over 10 percent was neither study nor work. Especially in Ulaanbaatar, this percentage is 21.4 (152 against 711). These could be children of whom the exact whereabouts are not precisely known, and it might be useful to investigate the activity status of this group of children more intensively in a follow-up study. 2.3 percent of the children staying away from their households provided the reason of working. By location of origin, the corresponding percentages are 4.9 for urban areas (with no such indication in Ulaanbaatar) and 2.1 percent for rural areas.

Reasons for child not attending school

A total 171,677 or 25.4 percent children aged 5-17 years were not attending school. Of these, 45.9 percent children in the age group 5-6 years. The survey found that other important factors that discourage children from attending school are lack of interest in studies, the necessity of having to work to add to household income, and the high cost of schooling. There were no significant differences by gender in regard to reason for non-attendance. It was interesting to find out that for the age groups of 10-14 years and 15-17 years, the reason to help with household chores was very high percentage, at 20.6 and 29.4 respectively. Reason to work in order to add to household income was at 8.3 percent and 18.5 percent for the respective age groups. The reason for being sick or disabled constitutes 21.7 percent and 8.6 percent for those age groups respectively.

Economic activity of children

It should be noted that children at work is a broad concept that encompasses most productive activities by children. The term 'economic activity' includes self-employed or working for an employer, both paid and unpaid work, causal and regular work, illegal work, as well as work in the formal and informal sectors. It is the internationally agreed standard on measurement of work and employment[1].

Activity status of children[2]

For the purpose of estimation of working children in the age group 5 to 17 years the report adopted the following three activity status classification at two levels: a) at work in economic activity, b) not engaged in economic activity and c) neither at work nor at school. At each level of classification, the activity statuses are exhaustive and mutually exclusive so that each and every child would be classified in one and only in one status. According to this scheme the classification into the category "at work in economic activity" takes precedence over the "at school" category. Thus children combining work and school has been classified as "at work" at the basic level of the classification, but identified separately at the second level of the classification. "At school" implies that the child is to be considered as attending a regular educational institution during the reference week. It is worthwhile to note that two scenarios have been considered for estimation of working children namely (a) at work only and (b) both at work and at school. Work of a domestic nature (household chores) performed by children in their own household have been considered as non-economic activities and thus outside the 'production boundary' as defined by UN-SNA1993 for measuring GDP. Therefore, estimates of working children do not include children engaged only in non-economic activities.

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[1]   *Surveys of Economically Active Population, Employment, Unemployment and Underemployment,* Appendix ILO, Geneva, 1990.
[2]   *Every Child Counts-New Global Estimates on Child Labour*, ILO/ IPEC-SIMPOC, Geneva, April 2002.

The report classifies economic activity of children as *currently active* (in terms of the past reference week), or as *usually active* (in terms of the past reference 12 months). For convenience, only current status of activity is considered for further/in depth analysis classification purposes.[3]

Child work rate and current activity status

The total economically active child population between 5 and 17 years by current activity status was estimated at 68580 during 2002-03. The overall child work rate in Mongolia is 10.1 percent. For the child population of aged 5-14 years, CWR is 7.2 percent, but is considerably higher for the age group 15-17 years at 18.5 percent. These numbers are logical, as at the ages 15-16 under Mongolian law limited engagement in economic activity is possible.

It is also observed that CWR is higher for boys than for girls at all age groups. For ages 5-14, the percent of boys at work is 8.7 percent, against 5.7 percent for girls. The CWR for those in the age group 15-17 years is 22.1 percent for boys and 14.9 for girls.

Of the total of 68580 children at work by current status of economic activity, 2851 children were not at work in the survey week. Some of these 2851 children might also have been away from work on holiday, or leave, and so the detailed characteristics of working children in Mongolia are available for 65729 children.

Of the 65729 children currently at work, 22.3 percent were in the age group 5-9 years, 31.1 percent and 46.6 percent were in the age groups of 10-14 and 15-17 respectively. Among the girls currently at work the percentage is slightly higher in the age group of 15-17 years (48.2) as compared to boys (45.6) and slightly lower in the age group 10-14 (28.2) as compared to boys (32.9). The similar situation is observed in the percentage distribution of girls and boys who are self-employed or unpaid family workers in relation to age groups when classified.

Of the 65729 working children by current status of economic activity in the reference week, only 706 were in a wage job, and the overwhelming majority of 65203 were self-employed or were unpaid workers in family or household enterprises. By age group and sex breakdown, boys (452) outnumbered girls (254) in wage jobs, as well as in self-employed/unpaid worker category where against 39955 boys the survey identified only 25068 girl workers.

As is to be expected most of the children in wage jobs (566) were in the age group 15-17 years. Although some boys (140) aged 10-14 years were in a wage job, among girls only those in the age group 15-17 years were in paid employment. It is also noted that on average, children aged 15-17 years, both boys and girls, in wage jobs worked, on average, over 50 hours per week, which is much higher than the threshold applied by ILO in assigning 'child labour' status.[4] In fact, it is observed that 50 hours per week is also higher than the average hours per week that adults engaged in wage jobs had been working; however, some caution is advised in making

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[3]   The definitions and explanation of activity status is explained further in Chapter V.
[4]   See definition of Child Labour in Chapter II Section 6.

definitive conclusions because of the very low number of children in wage jobs. It is also revealed that the average hours of work per week in the self-employed/ unpaid worker category was higher for boys than for girls, at each age group. The percent breakdown of child workers by age group was broadly similar for boys and girls.

By the urban-rural breakdown of the child worker population, it is seen that most of the child workers or about 90.0 percent are in rural areas (61686 against 6894). As is to be expected, most of the children in wage jobs are located in the urban sector. Taking into account the relatively less number of child workers in urban areas, the percent of urban child workers in wage jobs is about 8.4 percent. In comparison, only 0.2 percent of rural child workers are in wage jobs. Another notable rural-urban difference in respect of working children is that the percent of children belonging to the age group 5-9 years is almost 23.9 percent in rural areas, against just over only 8.1 percent for urban child workers.

In regard to hours of work per week of the unpaid family workers, the child worker in rural areas has to work longer than his/her urban counterpart at each age group; the only exception being for the girl child workers group in age 5-9 years, but because of the small sample size of this group, the result may be unreliable. As regards percent distribution by age group within a given sector, it is observed that the percent of working children for the age group 5-9 years is lower in urban areas (11.1 percent) than in rural areas (25.6 percent). The reverse is the situation for the age group 15-17 years, where the percent of child workers in that age in urban areas at 52.3 percent is higher than in rural areas where it is 43.9 percent. Part of the reason for these findings could be the higher presence of schooling and work opportunities in the urban areas. It is revealed that the distribution of child workers by gender is similar for all age groups and for rural-urban sectors at around 60 percent for males and 40 percent for females.

The data shows that some children have commenced working in an economic activity from a rather early age. For example, in respect of the 15320 child workers aged 5-9 years, almost one-third (31.2 percent) had already worked for 2-3 years, and the scenario is almost the same for both girls and boys. Similarly, for child workers in the age group 15-17 years, 6.9 percent of both males and females had worked for more than 10 years. In fact, there is no marked distinction between male and female child workers in the pattern of duration of past work in primary occupation.

A shortcoming of the LFS-cum-NCLS is the lack of adequate investigation into the socio-economic characteristics of the households surveyed. It is noted in the report that poverty could be important in the context of an observed phenomenon like children at work. With the available information on household monthly income, an attempt was made to compare the patterns for working children (who may or may not be studying at the same time) with that of children studying only. It is noted that there is no significant divergence on account of the gender of the child worker. However, some difference between working children and children only studying is observed in respect of the percent distribution of age groups within a particular income group. Since for any one category (that is, working children, or those only studying) the percent

distributions across monthly household income groups are very similar whether for total, or by male/female breakdown, it implies that household income has not much impact on whether or not children fall into either category. What is thus evident is that those children who are only studying are concentrated in the age groups 7-9 years and 10-14 years, after which the numbers taper off. In other words, children are more focused on studies only up to primary and middle school levels, and they might commence on combining work and schooling thereafter.

Education level of working children

The education level of working children is found to be of concern. 10.5 percent of the currently working children aged 10-14 years are not educated at all. For the children currently at work aged 15-17 years, 8.8 percent and 9.2 percent are not educated and do not have primary education respectively. The report shows that working children seem to be lagging in education as of those aged 15-17 years about one-half of them (47 percent) are in primary grades, while in normal course they should have been at minimum in the Grade 4-8 category. There is no noticeable gender disparity, except that for children aged 15-17 years, the percent of working girls in that age group at Grades 9-10 is 5.8 percent against a corresponding figure of 1.4 percent for the boys at work.

Hours spent by children in non-school activities

The data indicates that almost one-half of the children (47.1 percent) spend less than 10 hours per week in own household non-economic activities, and only 16.8 percent spend more than 25 hours in such household chores. There is, however, a gender bias in the sense that among girls, 21.1 percent of those assigned such domestic chores spend more than 25 hours weekly in own household non-economic activities, while for boys the corresponding percentage is only 12.7 percent.

Children in the youngest age group of 5-9 years contribute to a significant part of household non-economic duties, although almost 70 percent of them spend less than 9 hours per week in these activities. The assigned responsibility for household chores increases, on average, for a higher age group. Thus, for the age group 10-14 years, about one-half (50.2 percent) devote 10-41 hours per week, while for older children aged 15-17 years almost two-thirds (63.7 percent) have to allocate a similar time span. At the very high levels of weekly household duties, that is, for over 42 hours per week, it is seen that 16704 girls are so engaged is more than twice the number of boys which is 7771. Most of the children engaged in heavy household non-economic activities, in respect of both boys and girls, are in the age groups 10-14 and 15-17.

It is observed that most children (61.9 percent) work (economic activity) between 10 and 41 hours per week. The time spent weekly in work generally rises with the age group. It is also noted that at the most intensive work level, the percent among boys aged 15-17 years engaged in

more than 42 hours weekly is 41.5 percent against 26 percent for girls. In accordance with the ongoing ILO guidelines to measure 'child labour'

Economic activities by children

The survey provides that the estimated number of currently working children in is 68580. Most children (91.7 percent) are in the agriculture, hunting and fishing sector. Other important branches of economic activity are wholesale and retail trade (4.6 percent), followed by manufacturing (1.0 percent), mining and quarrying (0.8 percent), and restaurants and hotels (0.5 percent). There is no major difference between the sectors in which boys and girls find work, except that relative to boys, in respect of girls, mining and quarrying is of lesser importance, and restaurants and hotels is of higher promise as a sector of employment. In terms of distribution by age group, it is noted that among the major branches of economic activity, employment is more balanced in the agriculture sector (23.8 percent is of age group 5-9 years, 30.7 percent is aged 10-14 years, and 45.5 percent is at 15-17 years). However, in the other major branches of economic activity, children engaged are concentrated in the age group 10-14 and 15-17 years [because of the relatively small numbers, the conclusions should not be deemed as very reliable.]

Working children by status in employment

As by the status in employment of currently economically active children by major branch of economic activity in their primary (main) occupation, the majority of children (about 90 percent) are unpaid family worker, and the next in importance is the category of own account worker (8.2 percent). Paid employees are found mostly in manufacturing, mining and quarrying, construction, and in public administration. No significant difference on account of gender is observed.

Working children by occupational groups

By current status of economic activity in primary occupation, it is observed that most children (90.8 percent) are engaged as agricultural workers. Next in importance are those working as services and shop assistants (4.1 percent), followed by elementary services (2.7 percent) and crafts and trade (1.6 percent). Total child workers, as well as boys and girls, have an identical distribution pattern. By age group categories, it is seen that the youngest 5-9 years are engaged almost solely as agricultural workers, and a few as services and shop assistants. In other occupational groups, older children are preferred. By usual status of economic activity, the distribution of children by occupational groups is almost similar to the current status.

Monthly income of children who are paid employees

It is also notable that at the highest salary level, over one-third of paid employee child workers also attended school. Lastly, there is no marked gender differential, except that at the highest income tier the absence of girls can be noted. Due to small numbers caution is advised in interpreting the information.

Children in non-economic activities

It has been observed that most children are engaged in some form of non-economic activities in their own household. Children do a wide variety of household chores and any one child might have been engaged in a multiple of non-economic activities within the household. The most common household tasks are cooking/ serving food, and is followed by cleaning utensils/ house, fetching water for drinking and washing, fetching fuel and preparing firewood, washing clothes/ laundry, and shopping for household. In these domestic chores, the percent of children engaged ranged from over 76.4 percent for cooking/ serving food, and over 74.1 percent for cleaning utensils/ house, to over 21.1 percent in shopping for the household.

In respect of fetching water for drinking and washing, and fetching fuel and preparing firewood, the tables show that more boys than girls are assigned these tasks. This could be due to the fact that these are physically strenuous tasks, involving perhaps going substantial distances on foot, so that boys are considered more suitable, and therefore assigned the task. The other important household activity is shopping for the household, and here a mixed picture emerges.

Given the large number of children who are engaged in fetching water for drinking and washing, and fetching fuel and preparing firewood, a separate tabulation was prepared to assess the work done, by time spent in the activity in terms of hours per week, age group and sex. The reason is that very strictly by SNA 1993, these two activities should be deemed as economic activities that fall within ISCO-88 (International Standard Classification of Occupations) under Group 6210 (Subsistence Agricultural and Fishery workers). However, national practices differ in computation of GDP and the inclusion of these two activities for the purpose.

Child labour estimates for Mongolia

Child labour is a narrower concept than children who are at work, that is, the "economically active children". As noted in Chapter II, for the purpose of estimation of child labour in Mongolia, based on ILO Conventions Nos. 138 and 182, child labour is defined as follows:

ages 5-9   = all children at work in economic activity;

plus ages 10-14 = all children at work in economic activities [less those in light work, say, 2 hours on average per day]

plus ages 15-17 = all children in hazardous work and other worst forms of child labour [since the Mongolia NCLS 2002-03 does not identified WFCL sectors, or what constitutes hazardous work, for the lack of an internationally acceptable criteria, the only criteria to identify hazardous work for this age group is work that, even if non-hazardous, is 43 or more hours per week]

For determining the subset of 'child labour' from within children who are engaged in economic activities, the survey used the only criteria available, which is based on the hours of work. According to this criteria, out of 65729 economically active children, 38857 children (59.1 percent) may be termed as being in the category of child labour. As a percent of total children in Mongolia, child labour on this basis would constitute 5.7 percent (38857 of 679049) of all children aged 5-17 years estimated by the survey. The survey indicates that of these 38857 children in child labour, 25445 (65.5 percent) are boys and 13411 (34.5 percent) are girls. There is also differentiation by gender at extent of child labour for children in the age group 15-17 years, and for males the share of child labour among economically active children is 41.5 percent (7648 of 18442) against the corresponding proportion of 26 percent (3182 of 12217) in respect of female children.

It should be noted that this estimate of child labour is an underestimate of the real situation prevailing in the country, since children who are living independently and not with households, such as, the street children and those staying in institutions are covered by the LFS-cum-NCLS. Furthermore, children who are engaged in the worst forms of child labour are a hidden group and, again, cannot be captured by household-based surveys. Again, due to non-availability of guidelines on what constitutes hazardous industries and hazardous occupations in non-hazardous industries, child labour on the basis of those working under such conditions has not been estimated.

Reasons for engaging in economic activities

According to the survey, about 20%(13509) of the total children(68580) engaged in economic activities lived outside the household. The most of the working children (7452 of 13509, or 55 percent) cite 'contribute to household income' as the primary underlying reason for them to go to engage in economic activities. Among children who are also studying, this response is provided by 61.9 percent (3685 of 5952) of them, while for those not studying the corresponding number is 49.8 percent (3767 of 7557). Next in importance is 'gaining work experience and skills' which is indicated as the main reason for engaging in economic activities by 22.3 percent (3017 of 13509) of the children: for children also studying this reply is given by 19 percent (1128 of 5952) while it is 25 percent (1889 of 7557) for those not studying. Interestingly, even among those children not currently studying, a few indicate their main reason for working as 'earn to cover cost of schooling'. Another primary reason indicated by some children to explain their work status is the desire to 'support self and be independent.

Age at which children started working outside the household

Children who informed that they had commenced being economically active while still below age 10 years, constituted over 15 percent (2094 of 13509). The modal age group[5] (34.5 percent) was 10-12 years, although the ages 13-14 and 15-17 were also significant at 25 percent

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[5]   The age group with highest number of children.

each as the starting age for children at work. By criteria of, both, whether or not children are studying at a school/ training institute, and whether or not children are staying away from home, there are no notable variations among age groups and gender.

Location of work place

Over 40 percent of the working children replied that they had worked on pasture/ farming land. Next in importance was the employer's home (29.1 percent) and was followed by shops/ market place (13.7 percent), while mining site (4.2 percent) was in the fourth place. Streets, factory premises and construction sites were of relatively minor importance. Diversification in the work place commences after children reach age 10 years, and recruitment of children in factories, as expected, is mostly for the age group 15-17 years. Another notable fact is that for boys, work at mining sites is usually by those in the age group 10-14 years only.

Supervision at work

Regarding supervision of working children at the work place, it is mostly (for over three-quarters of the children, by total, as well as for girls and boys) by an adult who is also a relative. It is interesting, however, that in the total of children, as also for those aged over 10 years (whether girl or boy), there were 2.9 point more children(12.6%) who reported that they worked by themselves without supervision than those who mentioned of supervision by a non-relative adult. It implies, perhaps, of children being self-employed in the informal sector increasingly from ages 10 onwards. Of the working children, 88.3 percent reported being satisfied with work conditions. Of those children unhappy with work place conditions, by far the main reason was of having to work in extreme climatic conditions (very hot or very cold weather). Some of the other factors contributing to unsatisfactory work places were exposure to dust, noise, or harmful substances. Most children (99 percent) responded that they had no stress at the work place, and of those experiencing some stress, the factors were verbal abuse, being robbed of earnings, and uncaring attitude of the employer.

Frequency of working late hours

Working late hours (that is, in evenings and nights) was reported by about 20 percent of working children. It is observed that only children aged 10 and over had to work late, and for the age group 15-17 years, more than one-quarter did actually work late when required to do so. The frequency of working late hours was mostly 1-3 times in the past 30 days. However, there were also children who had reported working in the evenings and nights with higher frequency, including alarmingly, girls in the age group 15-17 years.

Being sick injured or injured due to work

Most economically engaged children staying outside the household (about 98.8 percent) reported that they had not been ever sick or injured due to work in the past 12 months. However,

1.2 percent did get sick or were injured due to work. Of the children injured or been sick, 79 percent are in the age group of 10-14 years, especially the percentage is high for boys in this age group. Majority of the injuries or sickness required treatment. The cost of treatment was borne mainly by parents. The economic sectors in which children suffered injury or became sick at work were, namely, 'agriculture, hunting and fishery', and 'wholesale and retail trade' of which about one-third were severe enough to require hospitalization, and another one-third even caused temporary incapacitation. However, it should also be noted that about 26.4 percent of all injuries and sicknesses due to work were not considered as of a serious nature.

What earnings by children are spent on

It is observed that for 51.7 percent of working children, earnings are spent to support the family. Another 37.2 percent of child workers reported that their earnings were spent partly to support their family and partly on themselves. The proportion of child workers who reported any savings from their earnings was negligible (0.4 percent), while 6.4 percent reported that all earnings were expended on themselves. There is no perceptible differentiation by gender, however, within girls, the proportion of girls spending their earnings fully on family support is higher than the corresponding share among boys doing so.

Consequence to child and household of child not working

It is important to note that 42.8 percent of the working children responded that there would be no impact on themselves or their households should they not be working. Of those reporting an adverse impact, most (over one-half of those reporting an adverse impact) confirmed that the standard of living of their household will fall, and in fact, a significant proportion (about one in twenty of those reporting an adverse impact) informed that the household would have no source of income. Other important reasons are that the child would lose out on work experience, and that the household business would be affected.

Child work rate across regions

For all children taken as a whole, the child employment rate is highest at 18.6 percent for the West region, and the Khangai region is a close second at 15.3 percent. The child employment rate is lowest for Ulaanbaatar at less than 1 percent, and for both the East and Central regions it is over 7.2 and 7.8 percent. By age groups the child employment rates across regions follow a pattern similar to that of total children. Within each region, the employment rate generally rises with the age group, and the sole exceptions are for the age group 10 – 14 years in the Central and West.

Seasonal variations in child work

Significant variations are observed in the engagement of child workers across the quarters, and the minimum level of child workers are in the first quarter, with the second lowest being in the second quarter. It should be mentioned that the quarters in the survey do not match

with the natural quarters(Page ix, please see the survey quarters). The first and second quarters reflecting the coldest months might imply minimal child work. The peak intake of child workers in the fourth quarter may be explained by most suitable time for work as well as the need to prepare well in advance and stock up for the long harsh winter months that commence in October. For the first quarter when the level of child workers is minimal, working children in the age group 15-17(62.3%) vastly outnumber those in the lower age groups. Compared to other seasons engagement of more children particularly young children in work in April to September might be attributed to school vacation during this period.

Rural and urban child workers in relation to seasonal fluctuations

Almost 90 percent of child workers are in rural areas. Among male child workers, the percent of those from urban areas is 10.9 percent (4558 of 41874) while the corresponding percent of girl workers from urban areas is 8.7 percent (2336 of 26706).

It is interesting to note that while for total children maximum employment is in the fourth quarter, in respect of urban areas peak child work time is reflected in the third quarter.

On gender basis, it is noted that the variation between quarters of female child workers follows the overall trend, but for male child workers, the maximum is recorded for the third quarter. There are more child workers in the fourth quarter than in the third quarter, but as with boys, the number is sharply down in the fourth quarter than the preceding quarter. A sharp increase in rural girl child workers noted between the third and fourth quarters.

CHAPTER II

INTRODUCTION

General background

Mongolia is a land-locked country situated in the north-eastern part of Asia. It is bounded by China in the south, the Russian Federation in the north. The land area of Mongolia is 1.5641 million square kilometers with a population 2.504 million (2003), and therefore the country has one of lowest densities in the world with about 1.5 persons per square kilometer. The country is geographically and administratively divided into Ulaanbaatar (the capital), and 4 regions. The Central region includes the *aimags* (provinces) Darkhan-Uul, Selenge, Dundgovi, Tuv, Umnugovi, Dornogovi, and Govisumber and while the East region comprises the *aimags* Khentii, Dornod, and Sukhbaatar. The Khangai region is made up of *aimags* Arkhangai, Uvurkhangai, Bulgan, Orkhon, Bayankhongor, and Khuvsgul, whereas the West region has *aimags* Bayan-Ulgii, Uvs, Hovd, Govi-Altai and Zavhan.

The past decade has been a time of change for Mongolia from a centrally planned to a market economy, and progress has been remarkable in many areas. The country adopted a new constitution that embraces principles of democracy and private ownership, and has become one of the most open economies in North-East Asia. Towards this objective, Mongolia has implemented vigorous steps towards liberalization and deregulation of administrative prices, exchange rates and interest rates, and the establishment of a two-tier banking system. All these measures are geared towards reducing the share of the government and the public sector in economic production activities, and opening the doors for individual initiative, which has played an important part in restructuring of the economy.

To promote the role of the private sector in the country, Mongolia has adopted several steps in recent years, with the assistance of the donor community. Some of these measures include restructuring public enterprises, providing credits for private-sector initiatives, developing an insolvency law, supporting micro-finance schemes, and promoting foreign investment. Today, Mongolia's private sector produces more than 70 percent of the country's total output. However, the private sector still needs stronger support of the government in form of a legal coherence and stability, land reform, and secure property rights.

The average annual growth of GDP in the four years of 1996-1999 was 3.3% whereas it dropped to 2.9% from 2000 to 2003. This is related to natural disasters such as zud(severe winters) and droughts recurring in the past several winters that killed about 11 million livestock and substantial fall in the livestock industry. Added value by 1995 constant price in agriculture, forestry and hunting sector reduced by 18.7 billion in 2002, however, it increased back by 9.1 billion MNT. Similarly, the value added by constant price in the livestock sector dropped by

17.6 billion MNT in 2002 since the previous year, however, it rose by 3.9 billion MNT in 2003. This shows an increase of livestock head by 1.5 million and normalization of the output.

1996-1999 were the years of experiencing the collapse of industrial output , however, 200-2003 saw an increase to 5.9% in the average growth including 12.3% of growth in manufacturing industry. This also shows a restoration and normalization of the industry.

In 2003, GDP rose by 5.6% since the previous year which mainly resulted from the growth in construction, financial transaction, transport, warehouse, wholesale and retail trades.

With intensified cashmere, meat and meat processing as well as gold mining industries the manufacturing and mining production are likely to grow in the immediate future. As well, the service sector which occupies a largest percentage is on the rise in the capital city and will expand further capitalizing on increasing demand.

Although economic growth has helped to improve living standards and raise incomes, per capita GDP in Mongolia is still at a relatively low level of about US$400. In addition, despite gains in per capita income, inequality has widened as a result of the uneven distribution of the benefits of the economic transition. Moreover, economic growth, although positive, is rather slow, as the economy is constrained by its heavy dependence upon mineral resources and animal husbandry, and efforts are required to become more diversified. Another aspect of the unbalanced distribution of benefits in Mongolia is that while the transition process has boosted the economy, market forces have increased the disparity between the living standards of rural and urban populations.

An estimated one-third of the population of Mongolia now lives below the poverty line. Of these, the urban poor are especially vulnerable, given the higher cost of housing and food in cities like Ulaanbaatar. Furthermore, being homeless in Mongolia is potentially life threatening, as winter is extremely harsh. According to a recent report, the incidence of poverty in terms of the national poverty lines for 1998 in rural Mongolia was 32.6 percent against 39.4 percent for the urban areas in the country.[6] Again, there is evidence that the incidence of poverty is particularly high in large households, and in those headed by a woman. Insufficient economic growth, unemployment, and underemployment are the primary causes of poverty.

According to the 2000 Census of population, 95.4 percent of urban children aged 10 to 14 attend schools, and the rate is 78.1 percent for children living in rural areas. While Mongolia has had one of the highest literacy rates, developments in the past few years have taken an increasing number of poor and rural children away from schools, causing an increase in illiteracy among the younger population. It is encouraging that the country has higher tertiary enrollment rates for women than men, but gender inequalities persist as women are underrepresented in private sector management and in the top echelons of government.

Child labour in Mongolia

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[6]   *Economic and Social Survey for Asia and the Pacific 2004*, UN-ESCAP (2002, United Nations, New York), Table III.4, pg. 248.

The problem of child labour in Mongolia emerged as an important social issue during the economic transition to a market economy, which started at the beginning of the 1990s. The social and economic impact of the economic and political reforms on the people of Mongolia was sudden and difficult, particularly as the society had a fairly well developed social services infrastructure in the past that made access to education and health care virtually universal. Erosion of such and other social safety nets with the shift away from centralized planning resulted in often breakdown of the family structure. This made a large section of the population vulnerable, with low expectations for the future. The situation in the country was reflected in increasing poverty, rural to urban migration, growing unemployment particularly in urban areas, an expanding informal sector, and increasing numbers of female-headed households. According to the Living Standards Measurement Survey 1998 by the National Statistical Office (NSO) of Mongolia, around 35 percent of the population was living in poverty.

Widespread impoverishment, combined with cultural and traditional acceptance of child engaged in work, and demand for cheap labour has resulted in children taking up economic activities at an early age in several parts of the country. The lack of adequate schooling opportunities accentuated the search by children for work that brought in some income. In fact, there is evidence that of the children aged between 8 and 15 years, about 13.5 percent are not attending compulsory schooling.

However, statistics to provide a comprehensive nation-wide picture of the extent and nature of child labour in Mongolia has been lacking. NSO, in cooperation with UNICEF conducted a national survey on Child and Development in 2000, which revealed that 1.4 percent of the children aged between 5-14 years is engaged in paid labour for someone other than a family member. The results of the NSO Population and Housing Census conducted in 2000 revealed that 17.3 percent of children aged 15 years are working, of which most were in agriculture. A few limited sector and/ or area specific rapid assessments have also been carried out, but the information provided by various sources cannot be compared or generalized because of different purposes and methodologies employed. Therefore, it is difficult to derive a nationwide estimate of the magnitude of children who are working with the existing information.

Accordingly, Government of Mongolia and the International Labour Organization (ILO) entered into an agreement in September 2002 on technical and financial assistance to the NSO to carry out a National Child Labour Survey (NCLS) of Mongolia. The support was extended within the framework of the Statistical Information and Monitoring Programme on Child Labour (SIMPOC) of ILO's International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC). The NSO, as a component of a project on improving social statistics in the country with the financial assistance of the Asian Development Bank (ADB), was also implementing a national household-based labour force survey at about the same time. It was thus decided to combine a Child Activities Module (CAM) to the Labour Force Survey (LFS), and apply the LFS data collection questionnaire to all household members aged 5 years and above. Such an approach was favoured as it presented a cost effective way to collect all the information, and in what could be potentially a self-sustaining method for the future.

The objectives of the survey

The NCLS (that is, LFS + CAM) is designed as a household-based survey, investigating activities of children, defined for the NCLS purposes as those aged between 5 and 17 years. The strategic objectives of the NCLS are to generate quantitative data on child activities (including schooling, economic and non-economic activities) in Mongolia, and to begin the process of establishing a database containing both quantitative and qualitative information on the activities of children. It is expected that the information generated will be used for evaluating and monitoring the child labour situation at local, provincial and national levels; reporting on trends; and analysis aimed at determining causes of child labour.

By applying the (LFS + NCAM) questionnaire, it was expected that the required information would be generated in a two-pronged approach. First, a large part of the data would be collected through personal interviews with the heads of the household (or a responsible and knowledgeable adult member of the household). Such a person would be asked questions regarding the general demographic and economic characteristics of each of the household members, including the activities of children. The second part of the interview would be directed to the children themselves, about their activities (including schooling), working conditions, reasons for them to be at work, their perception about working, and future plans.

More specifically, the NCLS was expected to achieve the following:

1. To collect and analyse information on the character, nature, size, and reasons for child labour in Mongolia, and to determine the conditions of work and their effects on the health, education and normal development of the working child. Questions were incorporated in the survey form to inquire about the different aspects of working children and their families, including:
   - demographic and socio-economic characteristics of the population: levels of education and training (enrollments and attendance), occupations and skill-levels, hours of work, earnings and other working and living conditions;
   - characteristics of the sectors where children are working: economic sectors where children are employed,
   - where and how long the children have been working and the factors that lead children to work or families to put children to work.[7]
   - the perceptions of the parents/guardians, children and employers about child labour;
   - participation in programmes with a positive impact on the elimination of child labour;
   - status of working children's health and welfare in terms of their working conditions; and
   - regional and seasonal variations, if any, in children's economic activities.

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[6]   Please see definition of 'work' in Chapter II.

2. To establish a quantitative information system (database) on child labour in Mongolia which will be updated as and when new information becomes available through additional surveys and other administrative records.

3. To increase the capacity of the NSO of Mongolia in the collection of quantitative information, which is critical for planning actions against child labour, through the adoption of ILO's survey methods.

4. To provide a comprehensive analysis of the state of Mongolia's working children through identification of priority groups, patterns and analysis of working conditions and their effects on working children, which should provide inputs towards developing policies and action programmes for the elimination of child labour.

5. To produce, present and disseminate to the Government, employers' and workers' organisations, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and the general public, a comprehensive Report on the National Child Labour Survey in Mongolia, giving the highlights of the statistical findings and results of the in-depth analysis, thereby enhancing the knowledge and understanding required to promote a sustainable campaign against the practice.

6. To integrate the Mongolia data into the ILO's child labour database so that Mongolia may be included in regional and global trend reports on child labour.

Contents of the report

The report provides comprehensive information on all activities of children in the age group 5 to 17 years who are living with households in Mongolia, and children are broadly classified as –

- attending school only (no other activity);
- attending school and also engaged in economic activity;
- attending school and also engaged in non-economic activity;
- attending school and also engaged in economic and non-economic activity;
- engaged in economic activity only;
- engaged in non-economic activity only;
- engaged both in economic and non-economic activities;
- not attending school and
- not attending school and also not engaged in any economic and/or non-economic activities.

The report comprises of nine chapters. The titles of the chapters and their contents are as follows:

Chapter I: Executive Summary

Chapter II: Introduction

Chapter III: Survey Methodology, Concepts and Definitions

Chapter IV: Characteristics of Households and Survey Population

Chapter V: Characteristics of Child Population

Chapter VI: Estimates and Characteristics of Working Children

Chapter VII: Child Labour and Consequences of Child Work.

Chapter VIII: Regional and Seasonal Variations in Child Work

Chapter IX: Summary and Conclusions

Chapter I presents an overview of the survey and Chapter II provides a brief general background of the country that includes demographics, health, education and economy. Justification and objectives of the survey, and the outline of the report are also presented in this chapter. Chapter III presents a description of survey methodologies, sampling design, definitions and concepts and the reliability of estimates. Some important characteristics of households and the survey population based from estimates derived from the LFS (which was conducted jointly with the NCLS) are presented in Chapter IV, while the findings of the survey on the child population is contained in Chapter V. Chapter VI provides the estimates and other relevant information by hours worked, occupation and industry of work, for working children, by both current and usual status of employment. Some estimates of 'child labour' by the definition applied to it in ILO Global Estimates of Child Labour 2002[8], and important related issues such as the causes and consequences of child work, as well as the perception of parents/guardians are presented in Chapter VII. Chapter VIII contains the available information from the survey on seasonal and regional variations in children's economic activities. The conclusions from the survey findings and suggested policy recommendations to combat child labour are provided in Chapter IX.

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[8]   *Every Child Counts: New Global Estimates of Child Labour*, ILO, Geneva, April 2002.

CHAPTER III

SURVEY METHODOLOGY, CONCEPTS AND DEFINITIONS

3.1   Introduction to the chapter

This chapter deals with survey methodology, field survey preparations, and common concepts and definitions used in the Mongolia National Child Labour Survey (NCLS) 2002-03. Details of the scope and coverage of the NCLS 2002-03, the sampling design and estimation procedure, and matters of questionnaire development, training of enumerators and supervisors, interviewer's training manual, data processing, and reliability of estimates are briefly discussed in this chapter.

3.2   Scope and coverage of the survey

The Mongolia NCLS 2002-03 was conducted, jointly with the LFS, to provide reliable estimates of child labour at national, urban and rural levels, as well as by regions. The NCLS covered the child population aged 5 to 17 years living in the households, while children living in the streets or institutions such as prisons, orphanages or welfare centers are excluded. This is a stand-alone survey and the sample size and the coverage of the survey were such that it could furnish fairly reliable key estimates by regions of the country. The survey has been designed to obtain estimates on as many variables or parameters as possible, particularly in relation to the economic and non-economic activities of the children in the age group 5-17 years under the usual circumstances. Being a household-based national level survey, it has not been able to capture children in the WFCL (worst forms of child labour) sectors, as well as children who are on their own and living in public places.

The NCLS, being part of the LFS, follows the sampling design adopted for the LFS. Considering the socio-economic stratification of the main items canvassed through the survey, the NCLS was designed to provide estimators on the characteristics of children and child activities, including child labour, based on a nationwide sample of 12,800 households, and computed for the 9 strata, namely Ulaanbaatar, and the urban and rural areas of each the 4 regions (Central, East, West and Khangai) into which Mongolia is divided. One-fourth of the sample allocated to each stratum was taken up for data collection through field visits to the households in each quarterly (3-month) round of the survey. Most of the report relates to national level estimates in respect of the 12-month period of the survey. However, some estimates are based on the quarterly rounds of the survey in order to capture the seasonal differences, if any.

The LFS-cum-NCLS sample was constructed on the basis of sampling frame provided by the Mongolia population Census 2000, and the updating of the households' roster in the selected enumeration areas (EAs). The institutional facilities such as hostels, army barracks, boarding houses, etc. were excluded from the frame. Details of the sampling plan is available in the

Mongolia LFS 2002-03 Report, and summary details of the sample allocation of 12,800 households by urban-rural areas, and by Ulaanbaatar and the four regions is given in Table 3.1. Table 3.2 provides the sample allocation for each quarter. The survey data collection period was the period October 2002 to September 2003.

As is evident from the tables, a two stage stratified random sampling design was adopted with *baghs* (census EAs) as primary sampling units (PSUs) and households as secondary sampling units (SSUs). The frame which had *baghs* grouped by district and province in effect provided an implicit stratification for the PSUs for the probability proportional to size systematic random sampling procedure adopted in the selection of the PSUs. 10 households were randomly selected from within each selected EA by a randomized process.

Table 3.1 Allocation of sample to strata

| No. | Region | Sector | | | | Total | |
| | | Urban | | Rural | | | |
		No.of EAs	No. of households	No.of EAs	No. of households	No.of EAs	No. of households
1	Ulaanbaatar	320	3,200	--	----	320	3,200
2	Central	80	800	160	1,600	240	2,400
3	East	80	800	160	1,600	240	2,400
4	West	80	800	160	1,600	240	2,400
5	Khangai	80	800	160	1,600	240	2,400
	Total	640	6,400	640	6,400	1,280	12,800

Table 3.2 Number of EAs and households for interview in each quarter

| No. | Region | Sector | | | | Total | |
| | | Urban | | Rural | | | |
		No.of EAs	No. of households	No.of EAs	No. of households	No.of EAs	No. of households
1	Ulaanbaatar	80	800	--	---	80	800
2	Central	20	200	40	400	60	600
3	East	20	200	40	400	60	600
4	West	20	200	40	400	60	600
5	Khangai	20	200	40	400	60	600
	Total	160	1600	160	1600	320	3,200

However, due to non-response/ absence of sampled households, the actual enumerated number was less than 10 households in a few EAs, and 12,787 households were finally covered by the survey.

3.3   Estimation procedure

Most of the estimators that computed from the survey are ratio estimates but frequently estimates of stratum totals are required for use by policy makers and administrators. The estimation procedures are set out below9.

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[9]   For full details of the estimation procedure please consult the Mongolia Labour Force Survey Report 2002-03 from which this section is drawn.

3.3.1 Design Weights

The design weights are used to compensate for differences in the selection probabilities, with weights inversely proportional to the selection probability.

The probability of selection of jth household in normal size PSU's and blocks in the hth domain is

$$p_h^{(i)} \times p_h^{(j/i)} = p_h^{(ij)}$$
$$\text{where} \quad p_h^{(i)} = a_h M_{hi} / M_h$$

$$\text{and} \quad p_h^{(j/i)} = n_h / M_{hi}^*$$

Thus the design weights w_{hij} for households are

$$w_{hij} = 1 / p_h^{(ij)}$$

$$= \frac{M_h \times M_{hi}^*}{a_h \times M_{hi} \times n_h}$$

The design for LFS-cum-NCLS is not self-weighting and therefore it is necessary to compute weight for each PSU (that is, EA) selected in the sample and these weights have to be used in the estimation procedure.

3.3.2 Estimation procedure for household information

The estimate of the stratum total of a characteristic y is given by the formula.

$$\hat{Y}_h = \sum_i \sum_j w_{hij} \, y_{hij} \qquad \text{for} \quad \begin{aligned} i &= 1, 2, 3, \ldots \ldots a_h \\ j &= 1, 2, 3, \ldots \ldots n_{hi} \end{aligned}$$

where

$\hat{Y}_h$ = estimate of characteristic y for stratum h

y_{hij} = any characteristic of person k in household j in sample enumeration area i in stratum h

n_{hi} = number of sample households in enumeration area i

a_h = number of sample enumeration areas in stratum h

w_{hij} = $1 / f_h$

f_h = $1 / w_{hij}$

The estimate for the total for all 9 strata Y was computed as the sum of the estimates for each domain, that is,

$$\hat{Y} = \sum \hat{Y}_h \qquad h = 1, 2, 3, ...9.$$

Most of the estimators to be computed from the LFS-cum-NCLS are in the form of averages and proportions. In general these estimators are combined ratio estimators which take the form set out below. The estimated stratum mean is a ratio and it is given by

$$r_h = \frac{\hat{Y}_h}{\hat{X}_h} = \frac{\sum_i \sum_j w_{hij}\, y_{hij}}{\sum_i \sum_j w_{hij}\, x_{hij}}$$

where

$y_{hij},\ a_h,\ n_{hi},\ w_{hij}$ are as defined earlier.

and $x_{hij} = 1$ for $j = 1, 2, 3,...........n_{hi}$
$i = 1, 2, 3,...........a_h$

The population mean is also a ratio r which is estimated by the following formula.

$$r = \frac{\sum_h \sum_i \sum_j w_{hij}\, y_{hij}}{\sum_h \sum_i \sum_j w_{hij}\, x_{hij}}$$

3.3.3 Estimation of Variances and Standard Errors

The computation procedure also requires to establish the procedure for assessing the precision or reliability of the survey estimates.

The variances of the ratio estimates will be of the form:

$$\operatorname{var}(r) = \frac{1}{X^2} \sum (1 - f_h)\, (a_h / a_h - 1) \sum \left(z_{hi}^2 - z_h^2 / a_h \right)$$

where

$r = y / x$

$y_{hi} = \sum_j w_{hij}\, y_{hij}$

$x_{hi} = \sum_j w_{hij}\, x_{hij} = \sum_j w_{hij}\, x_{hij}$

$r = \sum\sum\sum w_{hij}\, y_{hij} / \sum\sum\sum w_{hij}\, x_{hij}$

$\hat{x}^2 = X^2 = \left(\sum\sum\sum w_{hij}\, x_{hij} \right)^2$

$$\begin{matrix} & & & \text{h i j} \\ z_{hi} & = & y_{hi} & - & r\, x_{hi} \end{matrix}$$

a_h = number of sample enumeration areas from stratum **h**

w_{hij} = weight for each individual in the sample household

The variance of ratio estimate r_h in stratum **h** is of the form:

$$\text{var}\,(r_h) \ = \ (1 \,/\, x_h{}^2)(1 - f_h)\ (a_h \,/\, a_h - 1)\ \Sigma\,(z_{hi}{}^2 - z_h{}^2 \,/\, a_h)$$

where:

$$\overset{\wedge}{X_h} = x_h \ = \ \underset{i\ j}{\Sigma\Sigma}\ w_{hij}\,x_{hij}$$

and f_h, a_h, and z_{hi} are as defined earlier.

The standard error of a survey estimate provides a measure of how far the survey estimate is likely to vary from the true population value, that is, parameter as a result of having collected the data on a sample basis rather through a complete census. The standard error **se(r)** of a survey estimate is by definition

$$\text{se}(\,r\,) \ = \ \text{var}(\,r\,)^{1/2}$$

The relative standard error or coefficient of variation **cv**, on the other hand, provides a measure of the relative variance of a survey estimate; that is the magnitude of the estimated sampling error relative to the magnitude of the estimate itself. Since **cv** that is expressed as a proportional error, it enables comparison of the relative reliability or precision with which different types of survey characteristics have been measured, such as averages and ratios, where direct comparisons of standard errors are uninformative since the magnitude of the standard error is dependent upon the magnitude of the estimate. Computationally, the coefficient of variation is calculated as

$$\text{cv}\,(\,r\,) \ = \ \text{se}\,(\,r\,)\,/\,r.$$

Since only a sample of EAs were included in the LFS-cum-NCLS the estimates prepared from the survey are subject to sampling errors. The sampling error indicates the extent to which an estimate from the survey would vary by chance because only a sample of EAs is included rather than all the EAs into which the country is divided. The sample size and survey design determine the magnitude of sampling errors and in respect of some items the sampling errors are expected to be high and the users are cautioned to note this fact in using the data.

3.4   Field survey preparations

Preparations for field survey included questionnaire development, training of survey personnel, data collection arrangements, publicity and sensitization campaign, and data processing arrangements.

3.4.1   Questionnaire development

Questionnaire for the LFS-cum-NCLS was developed through a process of discussion, details of which are available in the Mongolia LFS 2002-03 Report. The NSO set up a Steering Group for the survey which organized a series of meetings and consultations with the representatives of the concerned Ministries and Departments, national and international non-governmental organizations, UNICEF, employers and workers representatives. The purpose was to obtain their views on what items of information useful for policy purposes that should be attempted for capture through the survey questionnaire. The intention was to accommodate as much of the stake-holders' interests as was practicable within the constraints of available resources to NSO. The finalized questionnaire is annexed this report.

3.4.2   Training of survey personnel

For proper conduct of this important nationwide survey, an intensive training programme was arranged by NSO for all survey personnel (supervisors and enumerators) early in October 2002. Training was provided to enable adequate understanding of the concepts and definitions applied in the context of child labour information gathering, the structure of the questionnaire, and on the reporting and administrative arrangements in the implementation of the survey. The training was centralized, in that all supervisors and enumerators (who were all NSO staff members, although a few had been contracted specifically for this survey) involved in the survey were trained together. The first part of the training programme was devoted to an explanation and discussion of the questionnaire, concepts and definitions of item on which data was to be collected, and on data collection procedures. The second part dealt with field training on filling of questionnaire and data collection through field visits followed by discussion and evaluation of field testing experience. Verbatim type of training manuals were prepared for both the LFS and the NCLS, and issued to all field survey personnel to consult on clarification of concepts and definitions and for problems faced during field activities.

3.4.3   Data collection and supervision

The survey was conducted in 1,280 enumeration areas (EAs) spread all over the country. The EA maps, house listing forms and quarterly computer sample selection sheets were supplied to enumerators and supervisors for survey work. An enumerator's kit-bag was provided to each and every enumerator and supervisor which contained all survey logistics (questionnaires, interviewer's manual, maps, sample list, pencil, pen, eraser, cutters etc.). Officers of the NSO were involved in the supervision of field work.

3.4.4 Publicity and sensitization campaign

A publicity and sensitization campaign was carried out prior to the field work for creating awareness among the public in general and for getting cooperation of concerned households, in particular, at the time of data collection. An appropriate communication from the Chairman of the NSO highlighting the objectives of the survey, and requesting cooperation of the households was sent to the households selected for the sample. Local administrations were informed well ahead of the field work to obtain their cooperation.

3.4.5 Data processing arrangements

Preliminary checking of entries in the filled-in questionnaires was done by the supervisors and enumerators at field level. Thorough manual editing of the questionnaires was carried out by the NSO, as also coding of occupations and industry, and of other items, such as, geo-codes and open-ended answers, in accordance with their respective code lists.

The edited and coded questionnaires were sent to the data processing unit of NSO and computer edit was done to check internal consistency, omissions and errors. The statistical tables were produced by NSO to reflect all the information collected by the survey, and each individual record was tallied and expanded using sample weights to obtain the national estimate. The weights were calculated on the basis of the estimated population as on 1 April 2003.

3.5 Sample weights, standard errors and limitations

To evaluate the reliability of estimates, especially the key parameters of the Mongolia NCLS 2002-03, the standard errors and co-efficient of variation are given in Table 3.3 below.

It may be noted that of a total of 676,911 children in the age group 5 to 17 years who were surveyed by the NCLS 2002-03, an estimated 68,580 children in that age group were found to be working in some form, that is, were engaged in economic activity. Thus, about 10.1 percent of Mongolian children aged 5 -17 years were identified as working children by NCLS 2002-03.

**Table 3.3   Estimate of standard errors and confidence interval,
working children aged 5-17 years**

Variables	Estimate	Standard errors	C.V (%)	95% confidence interval		Design effect (%)	No. of observ- ations
				Lower	Upper		
Total working children	**68,580**	**3,969**	**5.79**	**60,801**	**76,359**	**5.71**	**15,176**
Sex							
Boys	41,874	2,433	5.81	37,104	46,643	3.37	7,787
Girls	26,706	1,950	7.30	22,885	30,528	3.31	7,693
Residence							
Urban	6,894	876	12.71	5,177	8,611	2.51	7,483
Rural	61,686	3,871	6.28	54,099	69,274	5.97	7,693
Region							
West	27,053	2,727	10.08	21,708	32,399	6.40	3,573

Khangai	26,231	2,587	9.86	21,161	31,302	5.93	2,954
Central	9,858	1,114	11.30	7,674	12,042	2.86	2,808
East	3,904	465	11.91	2,993	4,815	1.24	2,482
UB	1,533	407	26.57	735	2,332	2.43	3,359
Age group							
05-09	15,320	1,659	10.83	12,068	18,571	4.11	4,823
10-14	21,407	1,721	8.04	18,034	24,779	3.19	6,527
15-17	31,854	1,615	5.07	28,689	35,018	1.92	3,826
School attendance (working children)							
Attending school	24,815	2,589	10.43	19,742	29,889	6.26	3,949
Not attending school	43,765	2,394	5.47	39,072	48,458	3.13	11,227

The Mongolia NCLS 2002-03 has the following data limitations:

1.   Estimates by 'region' of working children should be used with due caution because of relatively higher coefficient of variation. [It therefore follows that for greater use to policy makers, any follow-up Mongolia NCLS survey should have sufficiently large sample size to generate robust estimates at even the *aimag* levels.]

2.   Similar caution is required on working children by 'occupation' and 'industry' because of the relatively small sample size. Therefore, some of the cells have very small values, that is, they do not contain an adequate number of children, to generate reliable estimates.

3.   The NCLS, being household-based, excludes children who are staying in institutions like hostel/ residences etc., as also children who are on their own (or have run away from their homes for a variety of reasons) and living independently in public places.

4.   Child workers cannot be identified by whether or not they work in WFCL sectors. Supplementary data collection exercises will be required for the purpose.

3.6   Concepts and definitions

Child : A child is defined as an individual under the age of 18 years based on the 1989 UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the ILO Convention on the worst forms of Child Labour 1999 (No. 182). Since it is commonly accepted that a child under five years of age is too young to be engaged in work or to start schooling it considers only the child population aged 5-17 for the purpose of NCLS as well as for estimates.

Age: Age is measured by number of completed years at last birthday. For example, a person aged 25 years, 10 months and 18 days is been recorded as 25 years.

Child age groups: Child age groups for estimates from the Mongolia NCLS 2002-03 commonly used are 5-9, 10-14 and 15-17.

Work/Economic Activity: Work is defined in terms of economic activity based on the U.N. System of National Accounts, Revision 1993 (SNA 1993), which covers all market production and certain types of non-market production, including production and processing of primary production for own consumption, in family business, own account construction, and other production of fixed assets for own use. Such activities may be paid or unpaid, and could be in the formal or informal sector, and in urban or rural areas. For example, children engaged in unpaid activities in a market-oriented establishment operated by a relative living in the same household are considered as working in an economic activity. Also, children working in someone else's household [say, as domestic help] are considered as economically active. However, <u>children engaged in domestic chores within their own household are not considered as economically active</u>.

Non-economic Activity: Activities of a domestic nature (household chores) performed by children in their own households are considered as non-economic activities. It can be dis-aggregated by the following:
- Clean, decorate and maintain dwelling, including small repairs;
- Use, clean, service and repair household durables, vehicles or other goods;
- Prepare and serve meals for household;
- Care of siblings of household;
- Care for sick, infants or old people of household; and
- Transportation of household members or their goods.

Employed: A person doing <u>one hour of work during the reference week</u> is classified as **employed** and at work in an economic activity during that week. It includes people who are a job, but who are temporarily absent due to illness, vacation, etc. The reference week is also termed as the ***current status*** of employment or unemployment. A longer reference period, which in this survey is the past 12 months, is applied for determining the ***usual status*** in economic activity.

Household: A household consists of one or more persons living together in a group in the same house or compound, that is, sleeping most nights of the week in the same house and usually sharing at least one daily meal. It is important to note that a member of a household need not be a relative of the main family by blood or marriage. For example, a boarder or a domestic servant who sleeps in the same house most nights of the week and shares meals with the family, is a member of the household. It is possible for a household to consist of just one person. A group of unrelated persons living together can also comprise a household.

Head of Household: Every household must have a head. In a one-person household, that person is the head. The person recognized as the head of household by other members of the household, should be accepted as the head. This applies especially in cases where a group of unrelated persons share a dwelling. The person running a guesthouse or similar establishment is considered the head of household.

Survey year (Reference year): The survey year was defined on the data collection period from 1 October 2002 to 30 September 2003.

Child labour : Child labour is based on the ILO Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No.138) which represents the most comprehensive and authoritative international definition of minimum age for admission to employment or work, implying "economic activity". Child labour as referred to in the NCLS consists of all children under 18 years of age who are economically active except (i) those who are under five years old and (ii) those between 10-14 years old who spend less than 14 hours a week on their jobs, unless their activities or occupations are hazardous by nature or circumstance.[10] Added to this are 15-17 year old children in WFCL (including hazardous work and work of 43 hours and more per week, even in non-hazardous industry/ occupation, which may be considered as hazardous). This principle has been applied for measuring child labour of the country, as based on the NCLS data.

Working/ economically active/ employed children: The words "working children", "economically active children" and "employed children" are synonymous by definition in the NCLS 2002-03. Children who were working one or more hours for pay or profit or working without pay in a family farm or enterprise or organisation during the reference period or found not working but had a job or business from which he/she was temporarily absent during the reference period (last 7 days) is a working child in case of current activity status. In the case of usual status, children who were involved in economic activity for the major part of the previous year, as judged by the respondent.

Idle/ inactive children: Children who were not engaged in any economic activity, that is, those children engaged in household chores only were treated as economically inactive and remained outside the scope of working children.

Self-employed children: Children working for his/her own farm or non-farm enterprise for profit.

Employer: A self-employed person who may employ one or more persons on pay in a commercial or industrial enterprise. A person engaging someone for domestic services only was not considered as an employer for the purpose of this survey.

Unpaid family worker: A person who works at least one hour in the reference period (other than household work) without pay in a family operated farm or in business owned/operated by the household head or other members of the household to whom he/she is related by kinship, marriage, adoption or dependency. The treatment of unpaid family worker is of particular importance in agriculture, including fishery and livestock, as in most cases, such holdings are operated on a household basis and members of the household take part in agricultural production. Unpaid family workers who worked at least one or more hours during the reference period, were considered as a part of the working children or child labour.

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[10]   The LFS-cum-NCLS, being the first ever for Mongolia, did not inquire into whether or not the child worker is working in a hazardous industry, or in a hazardous occupation within a non-hazardous industry, since what is 'hazardous' is not precisely defined for industries and occupations in Mongolia.

Unemployed: Persons who, during the reference period were (a) without work; (b) currently available for work; and (c) seeking work.

Economically active population: Sum total of employed and unemployed persons, which is also the labour force in the country. In a country the labour force is identical to the economically active population, and the words can be used interchangeably.

Child activity rate/economic participation rate: The ratio of the number of economically active children to the population of age 5-14 years or 5-17 years expressed in percentage.

Hours worked: Total number of hours worked during the reference period (past week) of the survey. For a child holding more than one job hour worked is the total of hours worked for all jobs.

Occupation: Type of economic activity which a person usually pursues to earn income in cash or kind. If a child worked in more than one occupation, that occupation in which maximum working hours were spent was regarded as the main occupation. If equal time is spent in two occupations the main occupation was that which provided the larger share of income.

Industry: Includes all types of establishments or business in which persons are engaged in producing or distributing goods and services during the reference period. The classification of the industry was adopted from International Standard Industrial Classification Revision (ISIC Rev….).

Hazardous work: Hazardous work by children is any activity or occupation which by its nature or type has, or leads to, adverse effects on the child's safety, health (physical or mental), and moral development. Hazards could also derive from excessive workload, physical conditions of work and/or work intensity in terms of the duration or hours of work even where the activity or occupation is known to be non-hazardous or safe. Thus, any child below the age of 18 and working 43 hours or more a week was considered to be in a hazardous work.

Worst forms of child labour (WFCL): The unconditional worst forms of child labour includes:

- all forms of slavery or practices similar to slavery, such as sale and trafficking of children, debt bondage and serfdom and forced or compulsory labour, including forced or compulsory recruitment of children for use in armed conflict;

- the use, procuring or offering of a child for prostitution, for the production of pornography or pornographic performance;

- the use, procuring or offering of a child for illicit activities, particularly for the production and trafficking of drugs as defined in the relevant international treaties.

CHAPTER IV

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SURVEY POPULATION

4.1   Introduction to the chapter

This chapter provides an overview of the demographic characteristics, the household characteristics, and education and training for the entire surveyed population of Mongolia. These three aspects are important, along with other attributes of the prevailing socio-economic situation of the country, in determining the incidence of children engaged in work. In regard to demography, the geographical distribution of the population, and the age-sex composition of the population are observed, while for household characteristics focus is on female-headed household which is an important factor in analysis of poverty and child welfare. On education, educational attainment, school attendance, and literacy rates are reviewed. The chapter is drawn from the Report of the Labour Force Survey of Mongolia 2002-2003, since a single questionnaire was applied to the LFS-cum-NCLS.

4.2   Demographic characteristics

The LFS-cum-NCLS of Mongolia 2002-2003 elicited data on the basic demographic characteristics of the population including age, sex, household composition, school attendance, educational attainment and marital status. As the survey adopted a stratified random sampling design, the estimates for these demographic characteristics are available separately for the urban and rural sectors, for the capital city of Ulaanbaatar and for the *four* geographic zones into which the rest of the country is divided. A sample from all 4 quarters for the survey[11] was considered as adequate to prepare estimates for these different sectors. Thus detailed tables classifying the characteristics by sector and region were prepared based on data from a complete survey and less disaggregated tables were prepared from data based on different rounds of the survey. The need to study seasonal variations in important characteristics was a consideration in preparing some detailed tables based on data from quarterly rounds.

4.2.1   Geographic distribution of population

The LFS-cum-NCLS 2002-03 estimated the total population of Mongolia on 31 March 2003 as 2.403 million, including 174,000 persons who had been away from their households for periods exceeding 6 months. The households had reported that these persons were members of their households. This population had resided in 568,800 households. Accordingly the average household size is 4.2 household members per household. This estimate of the Mongolian population had excluded those that had resided in institutional living quarters such as boarding

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[11]   The survey was conducted over a 12-month period and divided into the quarter of October-December 2002, and in 2003 for the 3 quarters of January-March, April-June, and July-September.

houses, army barracks, prisons, hospitals, etc. The spatial distribution of population and households by sector and region is presented in Table 4.1.

An estimated 1.256 million or 52.3 percent of the population had resided in urban areas. The average household size was higher in the rural sector at 4.4 members per household. Nearly 30 percent of the households were in Ulaanbaatar but the average household size was lower at 3.9 members per household. The population was unevenly divided among the regions with only 8.4 percent of the population residing in the Eastern Region.

Table 4.1 Total household population

Sector/ Region	Number of Households		Enumerated Population	Temporarily Living Away	Total Household Population		Average Household Size
	(Number)	(%)	(Number)	(Number)	(Number)	%	
Urban	311,000	54.7	1,198,300	57,800	1,256,100	52.3	4.0
Rural	257,800	45.3	1,030,500	116,200	1,146,700	47.7	4.4
Central	114,700	20.2	445,300	36,300	481,600	20.0	4.2
East	48,500	8.5	173,000	29,900	203,000	8.4	4.2
West	97,900	17.2	425,500	40,200	465,700	19.4	4.8
Khangai	138,900	24.4	541,800	55,800	597,600	24.9	4.3
Ulaanbaatar	168,800	29.7	643,200	11,800	654,900	27.3	3.9
Mongolia	**568,800**	**100**	**2,228,800**	**174,000**	**2,402,800**	**100.0**	**4.2**

The Census of Population 2000 had enumerated the total population of Mongolia as 2.373 million including those residing in institutional living quarters that was enumerated as 35,855. Thus, according to the Census 2000, the population enumerated in private households had amounted to 2.338 million who had resided in 541,000 private households. The average size of households in the Census 2000 was 4.3 persons per household. The population statistics compiled from administrative sources through *aimags* had estimated the total population of Mongolia in 2003 at 2.488 million including the population living away from home and also including those residing in institutional living quarters.

The LFS-cum-NCLS had excluded the institutional living quarters. The survey also excluded household members, who were accepted by the surveyed households as their members, if they had temporarily resided away from the household for a period exceeding 6 months. The distribution of the population that had been temporarily residing away from households broken down by sector and region is shown in Table 4.2.

Table 4.2 Households that had household members living away from the household for more than 6 months by sector and region

Section/ Region	Number of HH	Number of HH members	Population who were living away from HH	Attended school/ training	Employed	Other
Urban	36,500	131,400	57,800	32,200	19,100	6,500
Rural	64,600	245,500	116,200	88,800	15,500	11,900
Central	20,800	75,000	36,300	25,000	8,000	3,300
East	15,400	52,000	29,900	21,800	5,400	2,800
West	24,700	106,600	40,200	28,700	5,900	5,600
Khangai	31,600	113,200	55,800	42,200	8,100	5,500
Ulaanbaatar	8,600	30,100	11,700	3,300	7,200	1,200
Mongolia	**101,100**	**376,900**	**174,000**	**121,000**	**34,600**	**18,400**

Approximately 1 out of 5 households had one or more of their members temporarily residing away from their households. The inclusion or exclusion of persons who were treated by households as members, but who had not resided in the households for a duration that exceeded 6 months which amounts to about 7 percent of the total population, have a bearing on the geographical distribution of the population and average household size. Furthermore, the number of persons who were studying in educational and training institutions residing outside their households was estimated at 121,000 and an additional 34,600 persons had been at work residing outside their own households. The survey did not collect information in respect of persons who had resided away from their households for periods exceeding 6 months. Thus, the tables presented in this report are based on the enumerated population that had excluded the persons living in institutional living quarters as well as the population that had resided temporarily away from the households for periods exceeding 6 months. This lowering of the magnitude of the estimated population should be noted in analyzing the survey data. The breakdown of the enumerated population by sector and region is given in Table 4.3.

Table 4.3 Distribution of population enumerated in households by sector and region

Sector/ Region	Number of Households		Average House hold Size	Both Sexes		Males	Females
	(Number)	(%)		(Number)	%	%	%
Urban	311,000	54.7	3.9	1,198,300	100.0	48.9	51.1
Rural	257,800	45.3	4.0	1,030,500	100.0	50.5	49.5
Central	114,700	20.2	3.9	445,300	100.0	49.6	50.4
East	48,500	8.5	3.6	173,000	100.0	50.8	49.2
West	97,900	17.2	4.3	425,500	100.0	50.2	49.8
Khangai	138,900	24.4	3.9	541,800	100.0	49.9	50.1
Ulaanbaatar	168,800	29.7	3.8	643,200	100.0	48.7	51.3
Mongolia	**568,800**	**100.0**	**3.9**	**2,228,800**	**100.0**	**49.6**	**50.4**

4.2.2 Age-sex distribution

The age-sex distribution of the population is shown in Table 4.4. The percentage of infants and children in the age group 0-14 years was estimated at 30.9 percent comprising 32.1 percent male and 29.8 percent female children. The survey had reported the working age population between 15 - 64 years as 65.3 percent of the total population. The population aged 65 years and over amounted to 3.8 percent of the total population.

Table 4.4: Distribution of the population by age and sex, all Mongolia

Age Group	Both Sexes		Male		Female		Sex Ratio M:F
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	
00 – 04	182,700	8.2	94,100	8.5	88,600	7.9	106.2
05 – 09	212,100	9.5	109,200	9.9	102,900	9.2	106.1
10 – 14	294,800	13.2	152,000	13.7	142,800	12.7	106.4
15 – 19	265,300	11.9	134,700	12.2	130,600	11.6	103.1
20 – 24	191,500	8.6	96,000	8.7	95,500	8.5	100.5
25 – 29	178,500	8	87,000	7.9	91,500	8.1	95.1
30 – 34	175,200	7.9	84,100	7.6	91,100	8.1	92.3
35 – 39	171,000	7.7	79,700	7.2	91,300	8.1	87.3
40 – 44	161,600	7.2	76,800	6.9	84,800	7.6	90.6
45 – 49	116,000	5.2	57,000	5.2	59,000	5.2	96.6
50 – 54	76,600	3.4	35,900	3.2	40,700	3.6	88.2
55 – 59	58,400	2.6	27,800	2.5	30,600	2.7	90.8
60 – 64	59,700	2.7	31,700	2.9	28,000	2.5	113.2
65 – 69	34,200	1.5	16,400	1.5	17,800	1.6	92.1
70 +	51,200	2.3	23,700	2.1	27,500	2.4	86.2
All age groups	**2,228,800**	**100.0**	**1,106,100**	**100.0**	**1,122,700**	**100.0**	**98.5**

In contrast to the survey, the Census of Population 2000 had reported the proportion aged 0-14 years as 35.8 percent and the population aged over 65 years as 3.5 percent. The exclusion of the household population who had been temporarily living outside the households for periods in excess of 6 months had thus contributed to a lowering of the percentage of children and youth. The reason is that almost 121,000 or nearly 70 percent of persons who were excluded from the enumeration, were those attending school or training programmes. Table 4.4 also shows that the sex ratio is less than 100 beyond the age group 20-24 years (except in the age group 60-64 years) due to excess male mortality. The Census of Population 2000 had also reported this position in the age distribution of the population.

4.3 Household composition

The distribution of households by household size, sector and region is shown in Table 4.5. The distribution of household size reported through the survey had been lowered by the exclusion of household members who had temporarily absented themselves from the households for different reasons. There were 6.5 percent one-person households in Mongolia. The

percentage of very large households with 8 or more members is estimated as 2.8 percent for the country as a whole, with the percentage ranging from a low of 1.7 for the East region to 4.2 for the West region. The survey shows that large households with 6 or more members formed less than 1 out of 6 households.

Table 4.5 Percentage distribution of households by household size

Household size	All Mongolia	By areas		By regions				
		Urban	Rural	Central	East	West	Khangai	UB
1	6.5	6.8	6.2	6.5	8.6	4.2	6.8	7.1
2	13.8	13.9	13.7	15.1	18.2	10.6	12.6	14.6
3	21.4	22.5	20.2	21.5	24.3	17.8	21.2	22.9
4	25.4	25.6	25.2	24.8	24.0	22.8	27.6	26.0
5	17.0	17.0	17.1	17.0	14.0	20.7	17.6	15.4
6	8.5	7.9	9.3	7.9	6.2	13.5	7.6	7.5
7	4.4	3.8	5.0	4.1	3.1	6.2	4.2	3.9
8+	2.8	2.5	3.3	3.1	1.7	4.2	2.4	2.5
All sizes	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
Total of all households	**568,800**	**311,000**	**257,800**	**114,700**	**48,500**	**97,900**	**138,900**	**168,800**
Average hhold size*	**3.9**	**3.9**	**4.0**	**3.9**	**3.6**	**4.3**	**3.9**	**3.8**

* excluding members temporarily absent

4.3.1   Female Headed Households

The survey has estimated the proportion of female-headed households as 16.4 percent of all households and this percentage declines to 11.9 percent in the rural sector. Table 4.6 presents the sectoral distribution of female-headed households classified by household size. It is notable that female-headed households had fewer household members. The percentage of female-headed households decreases with increase in household size from 44 percent of all households with a single member household to less than 1 out of 5 households with 3 household members. Of the households that had 3 members, about 1 in 4 households in the urban sector and 1 in 8 households in the rural sector were headed by females. It is also observed that only 7.9 percent of households that had 4 or more members were female headed.

Table 4.6 Percentage of female headed households among total households, by household size

Household size	Female- headed Households		
	Both sectors	Urban	Rural
	percent distribution	percent distribution	percent distribution
1	44.1	44.8	43.2
2	30.1	36.0	22.8
3	18.7	23.6	12.1
4	9.7	12.5	6.2
5	9.0	11.0	6.6
6	9.0	12.0	5.8
7	8.7	10.9	6.8
8+	7.9	14.5	2.0
All households	16.4	20.2	11.9

Table 4.7 Distribution of female headed households by household size

Household Size	Female- headed Households		
	Both Sectors	Urban	Rural
1	17.5	15.1	22.6
2	25.3	24.8	26.2
3	24.4	26.3	20.5
4	15.0	15.9	13.2
5	9.4	9.3	9.5
6	4.7	4.7	4.6
7	2.3	2.1	2.8
8+	1.4	1.8	0.5
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**

The distribution of female-headed households by household size is given in Table 4.7 and it is seen that almost one-half of such female-headed households are of size 2 or 3 members, although single person female-headed households are about one-sixth.

4.4   Education and training

Participation in economic activity, the occupational profile and the type of occupation expected depends on education and training. The survey compiled information on the educational attainment of the population. In addition information was also collected on current school attendance as well as on literacy.

4.4.1   Educational attainment

The working age population aged 15 years and over classified by highest educational attainment is given in Table 4.8. A noteworthy feature of the educational profile of the population is the broad similarity in the educational attainments of males and females in both the urban and rural sectors. In both sectors, it is observed that the educational attainments of females are marginally higher than that of males.

Table 4.8 shows, moreover, that 4.6 percent of males and 5.0 percent of females have had no schooling, and a further 17.8 percent of males and 16.2 percent of females had only a primary education. Thus, one out of five persons aged 15 and over have had no schooling or only a primary education. In the rural sector these proportions are higher with nearly 8 percent having had no schooling, and a further 25.3 percent to 28.6 percent having had only a primary education. On the other hand, the table also shows that 1 out of 8 persons were university graduates, and as much as 20.0 percent of the urban population has had a degree or a post graduate education. However, in the rural sector this percentage was less than 3.0 percent. In fact, the sectoral breakdown of the population by educational attainment reflects the lower educational levels of the rural population.

**Table 4.8   Percentage distribution of educational attainment of
the population aged 15 years and over**

Educational Attainment	Mongolia			Urban		Rural	
	Both	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
None	4.8	4.6	5.0	2.0	2.6	7.8	8.1
Primary	16.9	17.8	16.2	8.7	9.1	28.6	25.3
Incomplete secondary	27.7	30.4	25.1	23.4	18.0	38.8	34.3
Completed secondary	24.3	22.9	25.7	31.1	31.7	13.1	17.8
Initial Technical/ Vocational	5.0	5.6	4.5	6.5	5.0	4.5	3.9
Technical/ Vocational/ Diploma	9.3	7.2	11.2	9.5	13.9	4.5	7.7
University Graduate	11.9	11.4	12.3	18.8	19.6	2.6	2.8
All attainments (%)	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
Total population of age-group 15+	**1,539,200**	**750,800**	**788,400**	**408,600**	**446,500**	**342,200**	**341,900**

4.4.2   Current school attendance

The survey had estimated that 79.1 percent of the population aged 7-19 years comprising 76.7 percent males and 81.6 percent females were attending the formal school system. The delay in enrollment of children after reaching the minimum age for entry has depressed these enrollment rates presented in Table 4.9.

A noteworthy feature that is observed in school attendance, is the higher enrollment rates of girls over those of boys in both the urban and rural sectors. While the enrollment rates of boys and girls are similar in the first few years of schooling in the urban areas they begin to diverge when they reach 10 years. In the rural sector enrollment rates of girls are higher than that of males from the age of admission through secondary education. In fact, the enrollment rates of teenage girls are significantly higher than those of teenage boys in the rural sector, which is not usually the case in many developing countries. This may be related to the notion that boys can survive in whatever condition whereas the girls will have a difficult life unless they have education.

One possible reason for male children to drop out of school is to help in livestock farming activities in the rural areas and pressure to find work in a deteriorating unemployment situation among educated youth are said to be the causative factors that contributed to the enrollment patterns reflected in the data. In the urban areas, the school retention rates remain as high as 90.0 percent of teenage boys and girls at 16 years but these rates are considerably lower in the rural sector confirming high dropping out of school in the late teens of both male and female children.

Table 4.9 Current school enrolment rates of children aged 7–19 years by sector and sex (percent)

| Age in completed years | Children currently attending school | | | | | | | | |
| | Mongolia | | | Urban | | | Rural | | |
	Both	Male	Female	Both	Male	Female	Both	Male	Female
7	39.4	38.2	40.7	51.3	48.2	54.5	29.5	30.1	28.9
8	81.0	80.2	81.8	88.5	89.3	87.7	73.8	71.4	76.2
9	94.8	94.2	95.5	97.9	99.4	96.3	91.7	89.0	94.6
10	96.8	95.7	97.7	98.7	98.5	98.8	94.6	92.6	96.6
11	95.8	95.2	96.3	97.9	97.5	98.5	92.8	92.2	93.4
12	94.9	93.0	97.2	98.7	98.2	99.3	90.0	85.9	94.6
13	92.1	90.8	93.5	97.0	97.1	97.0	85.2	82.2	88.7
14	90.3	87.9	92.7	96.6	96.2	97.0	81.4	76.9	86.4
15	86.9	83.8	89.8	95.7	94.9	96.5	76.1	70.4	81.6
16	78.3	74.4	82.4	91.9	90.5	93.4	59.7	53.0	66.9
17	70.5	65.4	75.8	87.2	83.2	91.2	50.5	43.8	57.3
18	47.8	43.5	52.2	67.1	62.7	71.4	25.2	22.1	28.5
19	41.3	37.1	46.2	61.2	58.3	64.3	15.6	10.6	21.5
Enrolment rate (07 -19 years)	**79.1**	**76.7**	**81.6**	**88.6**	**87.5**	**89.7**	**67.6**	**63.8**	**71.7**
School enrolments	**545,500**	**270,400**	**275,100**	**333,900**	**167,900**	**166,000**	**211,600**	**102,500**	**109,100**
Total population (07–19 years)	**689,800**	**352,600**	**337,200**	**377,100**	**192,000**	**185,100**	**312,700**	**160,600**	**152,100**

4.4.3 Literacy

For the purpose of the survey literacy was defined as the ability to read and write a simple message. A person is considered literate if he or she can both read and write a simple message in any language or dialect. A person who is capable of reading only his own name or numbers or can read, but not write and vice versa is not considered literate. The adult literacy rate is defined as the percentage of persons 15 years old and over who could read and write a simple message in any language from the total population 15 years old and over.

For Mongolia as a whole, both males and females had the same literacy rate of about 97 percent. A marginally higher literacy rate of 97.8 percent was reported in the Census of Population 2000. This slightly lower survey estimate reported in the survey could have resulted from the exclusion of literate persons who were temporarily residing away from home for periods exceeding 6 months for educational and employment purposes.

Table 4.10 Adult literacy rates (percent) by sector and region

Sector/Region	Both sexes	Males	Females
Urban	98.5	98.7	98.3
Rural	95.0	94.9	95.0
Central	97.1	96.9	97.3
East	95.1	95.5	94.7
West	94.7	94.8	94.6
Khangai	96.4	96.5	96.4
Ulaanbaatar	98.9	99.1	98.7

All Mongolia		96.9		97.0		96.9		

Table 4.11   Adult literacy rates (percent) by age and sector

Age Group	Mongolia			Urban			Rural		
	Both	**Male**	**Female**	**Both**	**Male**	**Female**	**Both**	**Male**	**Female**
15 – 24	97.3	96.8	97.8	99.3	99.2	99.4	94.8	93.9	95.9
25 – 34	99.0	98.7	99.2	99.6	99.5	99.7	98.2	97.9	98.6
35 – 44	98.9	98.7	99.1	99.5	99.4	99.6	98.0	97.7	98.2
45 – 54	98.3	98.6	98.1	99.4	99.5	99.2	97.0	97.4	96.6
55 – 64	95.3	96.4	94.3	97.7	98.4	96.9	92.1	93.7	90.4
65+	78.0	81.4	74.9	84.8	88.4	81.9	69.4	73.6	65.2
All age groups	**96.9**	**97.0**	**96.9**	**98.5**	**98.7**	**98.3**	**95.0**	**94.9**	**95.0**

Table 4.11 shows that the literacy rates in the urban areas are about 3 percentage points higher than the literacy rate in the rural areas where it dips to 95 percent which rate itself is high. Table 4.11 shows that literacy rates are high among both male and female population with literacy rates exceeding 90 up to 64 years.

CHAPTER V

CHARACTERISTICS OF CHILD POPULATION

5.1   Introduction to the chapter

This chapter contains details of some important characteristics of the child population aged from 5 to 17 years, as the main focus of the Mongolia NCLS was to investigate the economic and non-economic activities of children in this age group. Therefore, the child population characteristics as estimated by the NCLS are presented and include (i) child population by age group, gender and sector of residence (urban/ rural) (ii) children by gender and level of education, (iii) child population by current status of attending school, (v) reasons of not attending school. The details are available in the relevant statistical tables in the appendix. The work-related characteristics of the employed children are presented in the next chapter.

5.2   Child population aged 5-17 years

The estimated child population by age-group, gender and sector of residence (urban/ rural) is presented in Table 5.1. The total number of children in age group 5-17 years as on 31 March 2003 was estimated at 679049, of which 360750 (53.1 percent) were in the urban sector and 318299 (46.9 percent) in the rural sector. By age group classification, 212145 (31.2 percent) were aged between 5-9 years, 294841 (43.4 percent) were between 10-14 years, and 172063 (25.4 percent) were in the 15-17 years age group(Table 5.1). Out of the total estimated child population aged 5-17 years, 347652 (51.2 percent) were boys and 331397 (48.8 percent) were girls.

Table 5.1 Child population aged 5 to17 years by age-group, gender and sector of residence

(as on 31 March 2003)

Age group	Both sectors			Urban			Rural		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Total population (all ages)	**2228829**	**1106133**	**1122695**	**1198320**	**585996**	**612324**	**1030509**	**520137**	**510372**
of which:									
5-9	212145	109205	102940	97575	50591	46984	114570	58614	55956
10-14	294841	151999	142843	167360	86365	80995	127482	65634	61848
15-17	172063	86449	85614	95816	47976	47839	76247	38472	37775
Total 5-17	**679049**	**347652**	**331397**	**360750**	**184932**	**175818**	**318299**	**162720**	**155579**

Note: Population estimates are based on enumerated survey population without age-sex adjustment or smoothing.

Details of the percentage distribution of children by age group and by gender are given, respectively, in Table 5.1a and Table 5.1b.

Table 5.1a Child population aged 5 to17 years by age-group, gender and sector of residence (percent distribution by age-group)

Age group	Both sectors			Urban			Rural		
	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls
Total 5-17	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
of which:									
5-9	31.2	31.4	31.1	27.0	27.4	26.7	36.0	36.0	36.0
10-14	43.4	43.7	43.1	46.4	46.7	46.1	40.1	40.3	39.8
15-17	25.3	24.9	25.8	26.6	25.9	27.2	24.0	23.6	24.3

Table 5.1b Child population aged 5 to17 years by age-group, gender and sector of residence (percent distribution by gender)

Age group	Both sectors			Urban			Rural		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Total 5-17	**100.0**	**49.6**	**50.4**	**100.0**	**48.9**	**51.1**	**100.0**	**50.5**	**49.5**
of which:									
5-9	100.0	51.5	48.5	100.0	51.8	48.2	100.0	51.2	48.8
10-14	100.0	51.6	48.4	100.0	51.6	48.4	100.0	51.5	48.5
15-17	100.0	50.2	49.8	100.0	50.1	49.9	100.0	50.5	49.5
Total 5-17	**100.0**	**51.2**	**48.8**	**100.0**	**51.3**	**48.7**	**100.0**	**51.1**	**48.9**

From Table 5.2 it is observed that there is fairly close correspondence between the estimates of children (by similar age groups) from the LFS-cum-NCLS, and the population record by the end of 2003. In fact, for all children in the age group 5-17 years, which is the focus of the NCLS, the percent share in total population is almost the same by both estimation procedures. As explained before, the lower estimate in absolute number from the LFS-cum-NCLS is because, being a household based survey, it excluded children staying in hostel/ dormitories and other institutions (including work place sites and remand homes), as also the homeless children who live by themselves in public areas.

Table 5.2 Comparison of the age profiles of survey respondents and population

Age-group	Mongolia population (end-2002 estimate from Census 2000 projection)		Persons surveyed (Oct 2002-Oct 2003)	
Total population (all ages)	**2,442,544** (as % of total):		**2,228,829** (as % of total):	
of which :				
5 – 9 years	256,684	10.5	212,145	9.5
10 – 14 years	313,242	12.8	294,841	13.2
15 – 17 years	177,512	7.3	172,063	7.7
Children 5 –17 years population	747,438	30.6	679,049	30.4

5.3 Education level of children aged 5-17 years

The education level of children aged 5 to 17 years by age group and gender is presented in Table 5.3 below. The percentage distribution by age group and by education level are given, respectively, in Table 5.3a and Table 5.3b.

Table 5.3 Children aged 5-17 years by education level, age group and sex

Age group/sex	Total	Not educated	Less than primary	Grade			Technical/ vocational
				Primary	Grade 4-8	Grade 9-10	
Total children M+F	**676911***	**129984**	**163531**	**280116**	**92860**	**9660**	**761**
of which: 5-9 yrs	211441	119651	91790	0	0	0	0
10-14 yrs	293964	6225	67872	212816	7051	0	0
15-17 yrs	171506	4108	3869	67300	85809	9660	761
Total male	346867	69811	81695	145396	45604	3904	457
5-9 yrs	108945	62823	46122	0	0	0	0
10-14 yrs	151656	4288	33242	110414	3712	0	0
15-17 yrs	86266	2699	2332	34982	41892	3904	457
Total female	330045	60173	81835	134720	47256	5756	304
5-9 yrs	102496	56828	45668	0	0	0	0
10-14 yrs	142309	1937	34630	102402	3339	0	0
15-17 yrs	85240	1408	1537	32317	43917	5756	304

Table 5.3a Children aged 5-17 years by education level, age group and sex

Age group/sex	Total	Not educated	Less than primary	Grade			Technical/ vocational
				Primary	Grade 4-8	Grade 9-10	
Total children M+F	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
of which: 5-9 yrs	31.2	92.0	56.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
10-14 yrs	43.4	4.8	41.5	76.0	7.6	0.0	0.0
15-17 yrs	25.4	3.2	2.4	24.0	92.4	100.0	100.0
Total male	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
5-9 yrs	31.4	90.0	56.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
10-14 yrs	43.7	6.1	40.7	75.9	8.1	0.0	0.0
15-17 yrs	24.9	3.9	2.8	24.1	91.9	100.0	100.0
Total female	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
5-9 yrs	31.1	94.4	55.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
10-14 yrs	43.1	3.2	42.3	76.0	7.1	0.0	0.0
15-17 yrs	25.8	2.3	1.9	24.0	92.9	100.0	100.0

Table 5.3b   Children aged 5-17 years by education level, age group and sex

Age group/sex	Total	Not educated	Less than primary	Grade			Technical/ vocational
				Primary	**Grade 4-8**	**Grade 9-10**	
Total children M+F	**100.0**	19.2	24.4	41.3	13.6	1.4	0.1
of which: 5-9 yrs	**100.0**	56.6	43.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
10-14 yrs	**100.0**	2.1	23.1	73.4	2.4	0.0	0.0
15-17 yrs	**100.0**	2.4	2.3	39.2	50.1	5.6	0.4
Total male	**100.0**	20.1	23.6	41.9	13.1	1.2	0.1
5-9 yrs	**100.0**	57.7	42.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
10-14 yrs	**100.0**	2.8	21.9	72.8	2.5	0.0	0.0
15-17 yrs	**100.0**	3.1	2.7	40.6	48.6	4.5	0.5
Total female	**100.0**	18.2	24.8	40.8	14.3	1.8	0.1
5-9 yrs	**100.0**	55.4	44.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
10-14 yrs	**100.0**	1.4	24.3	72.0	2.3	0.0	0.0
15-17 yrs	**100.0**	1.7	1.8	37.9	51.5	6.7	0.4

The survey finds that of the total child population, 19.2 percent is not educated, mostly in the age group 5-9 years, and that may be explained by the fact that official age of entry to primary school is 7 years. However, of some concern is the fact that 8 percent of children in the ages 10-17 years are not educated. Similarly, about one-quarter (24.4 percent) of the child population had studied less than primary level, of which almost 44 percent are in the ages 10–17 years.

There are not many differences by gender among the children in educational levels, except that while 2.9 percent of the boys aged 10-17 years are in the 'not educated' category, the relative magnitude for girls in the same age-group is only 1.5 percent. Again, for the age group 15-17 years, the respective percentages in Grade 4-8 and Grade 9-10 are 51.5 and 6.7 for girls, against corresponding percentages of 48.6 and 4.5 for boys. These numbers are indications that the educational level of girls has a tendency to be higher than for boys at similar ages.

5.4   Schooling and activity status of children

This section classifies children aged 5 to 17 years in terms of their school attendance status, and by economic activities (work) and/or non-economic activities (not at work) that they might have been engaged in during 2002-03. In Chapter III, it was noted under definitions that economic activity may be classified as *current* (in terms of the past reference week), or as *usual* (in terms of the past reference 12 months). For convenience, only current status of activity is considered for classification purposes.[12] Thus, (i) total children are classified in terms of (ii) children attending school and (iii) those not attending school. Each category is next sub-divided into (a) those in any economic activity (with possibility of also doing some housekeeping activities or domestic chores), (ii) those in housekeeping activities (and no economic activities),

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[12]   The definitions and explanation of activity status is explained further in Chapter V.

(iii) those in schooling only, and (iv) those who are idle (or inactive, including children if this age group who are sick/ disabled etc.)

Table 5.4 provides details of children 5-17 years by schooling status during the reference week, by age group and sex. It is evident from Table 5.4 that the majority of children within these ages are attending school. Of the 676911 children in this age group, almost 74.6 percent, that is, 505234 children are attending school. By age groups, the percentage children attending school is highest for 10 -14 years at 93.7 percent. Of the children aged 15-17 years in school attendance, 52.3 % (70632 out of 135064) are girls and 47.7% (64433) are boys.

Table 5.4 also indicates the sub-division of the total child population aged 5-17 years by the activity categories of economic activity, housekeeping activities only (or, domestic chores), schooling only, and idleness. Table 5.4a and Table 5.4b which are derived from Table 5.4 indicate, respectively, the percentage distribution of children 5-17 years by schooling and work status during the reference week by age group, and by main activity.

It is seen that most children, whether studying or not studying, are contributing to housekeeping activities. For all children in the age group 5-17 years taken together, at least 74.8 percent do some form of housekeeping activity, since it is possible that many of the children who have been classified by their main status of economic activity, may also be performing some domestic chores.[13] The percentage of children who do some form of housekeeping activity is 78.1 for all female children against 71.6 for male children. Table 5.4 also demonstrates that in every age group, the percent of girls engaged in housekeeping activities is higher than for boys.

Table 5.4b also reveals that about 10 percent of all children between the ages 5 and 17 are engaged in economic activities, that is, are working children, with the proportion being 11.6 percent for boys and 7.7 percent for girls. In fact, in regard to economic activities, the percent of boys so engaged is higher than for girls at each age group. It is notable, that the highest percentage of children in housekeeping duties is at the age group 10-14 years, for both boys and for girls. However, the largest percentage of children engaged in work (economic activity) is observed at the age group 15-17 years.

For the category of idle children, that is those children who are not studying, not working, or not doing any household chores, the share of this category among all children is 7.3 percent (Table 5.4b). There are no observed gender differences, although as is to be expected, over three-fourths of them (for both boys and for girls) are in the lowest age group of 5-6 years when they are too young to either go to school or for work.

For the category of children in schooling only, the percentage share is about 8.2 percent of all children in the age group 5-17 years taken together. Of all children attending school, those attending only school (and not performing any economic activities, or housekeeping activities)

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[13]   It is seen later in Chapter V that the number of children aged 5 – 17 years engaged in housekeeping activities is 576,414 (Table 5.19) comprising of 506,284 (Table 4.4) in housekeeping activities only, and 61,130 (Table 5.20) working children who also carry out do some housekeeping duties.

form about 11 percent, while those also doing work constitute 4.7 percent. The vast majority of school children (84.2 percent) carry out housekeeping activities in addition to school studies.

Table 5.5 provides information on the distribution of children in the age group 5-17 years in regard to their schooling and work status by size of household and sex of household heads. Table 5.5a gives the related percentage distribution by activity status. It is noted that when the household size is large, that is, 7-8 persons and 9 persons or more, the percent of children engaged in household activities decreases with household size, and that maybe because of the presence of more adult members to perform the chores. The percent of children attending school also rises with household size, but a causal relationship should not be ascribed as that could be because most of the children at the higher ages belong in fact to large households. By sex of household heads, although one-eighth of the children (86763 out of 676911) belong to female-headed households, there are no significant differences to note in regard to children's activity status.

Table 5.4   Children 5 – 17 years by schooling and work status during reference week, by age group and sex

Age group/ Sex	Total child population					Attending school				Not attending school			
	Total	Economic Activity*	Housekeeping activity only	Schooling only	Idle	Total	Economic Activity*	Housekeeping activity only	Schooling only	Total	Economic Activity*	Housekeeping activity only	Idle
Total children	**676911**	**65729**	**506284**	**55647**	**49251**	**505234**	**23931**	**425656**	**55647**	**171677**	**41798**	**80628**	**49251**
5-6	82302	5523	37908	545	38325	3483	0	2937	545	78819	5523	34971	38325
7-9	129139	9110	93163	19061	7805	91127	3295	68771	19061	38013	5815	24392	7805
10-14	293964	20436	243657	28140	1731	275560	11871	235550	28140	18404	8565	8108	1731
15-17	171506	30660	131556	7901	1390	135064	8765	118399	7901	36442	21895	13158	1390
Male children	**346867**	**40406**	**248523**	**30292**	**27646**	**252049**	**13378**	**208379**	**30292**	**94818**	**27028**	**40144**	**27646**
5-6	43181	3240	18285	206	21451	1797	0	1591	206	41384	3240	16694	21451
7-9	65764	5422	46183	9819	4339	45895	1753	34323	9819	19868	3669	11860	4339
10-14	151656	13302	121747	15602	1004	139924	6991	117331	15602	11731	6311	4416	1004
15-17	86266	18442	62307	4665	852	64433	4634	55134	4665	21834	13809	7173	852
Female children	**330045**	**25323**	**257761**	**25356**	**21605**	**253185**	**10553**	**217277**	**25356**	**76860**	**14770**	**40485**	**21605**
5-6	39120	2283	19622	340	16875	1686	0	1346	340	37434	2283	18276	16875
7-9	63376	3688	46980	9242	3466	45231	1542	34447	9242	18145	2146	12532	3466
10-14	142309	7134	121910	12538	727	135636	4880	118219	12538	6673	2255	3691	727
15-17	85240	12217	69249	3236	538	70632	4131	63264	3236	14608	8086	5985	538

* Some children engaged in economic activities may be also doing some housekeeping activities.

Table 5.4a   Children 5-17 years by schooling and work status during reference week, by age group and sex

(percentage distribution by age group)

Age group/ Sex	Total child population					Attending school				Not attending school			
	Total	Economic Activity*	Housekeeping activity only	Schooling only	Idle	Total	Economic activity*	Housekeeping activity only	Schooling only	Total	Economic activity*	Housekeeping activity only	Idle
Total children	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
5-6	12.2	8.4	7.5	1.0	77.8	0.7	0.0	0.7	1.0	45.9	13.2	43.4	77.8
7-9	19.1	13.9	18.4	34.3	15.8	18.0	13.8	16.2	34.3	22.1	13.9	30.3	15.8
10-14	43.4	31.1	48.1	50.6	3.5	54.5	49.6	55.3	50.6	10.7	20.5	10.1	3.5
15-17	25.3	46.6	26.0	14.2	2.8	26.7	36.6	27.8	14.2	21.2	52.4	16.3	2.8
Male children	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
5-6	12.4	8.0	7.4	0.7	77.6	0.7	0.0	0.8	0.7	43.6	12.0	41.6	77.6
7-9	19.0	13.4	18.6	32.4	15.7	18.2	13.1	16.5	32.4	21.0	13.6	29.5	15.7
10-14	43.7	32.9	49.0	51.5	3.6	55.5	52.3	56.3	51.5	12.4	23.3	11.0	3.6
15-17	24.9	45.6	25.1	15.4	3.1	25.6	34.6	26.5	15.4	23.0	51.1	17.9	3.1
Female children	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
5-6	11.9	9.0	7.6	1.3	78.1	0.7	0.0	0.6	1.3	48.7	15.5	45.1	78.1
7-9	19.2	14.6	18.2	36.5	16.0	17.9	14.6	15.9	36.5	23.6	14.5	31.0	16.0
10-14	43.1	28.2	47.3	49.4	3.4	53.6	46.2	54.4	49.4	8.7	15.3	9.1	3.4
15-17	25.8	48.2	26.9	12.8	2.5	27.9	39.1	29.1	12.8	19.0	54.7	14.8	2.5

* Some children engaged in economic activities may be also doing some housekeeping activities.

Table 5.4b Children 5 –17 years by schooling and work status during reference week, by age group and sex

(percentage distribution by activity)

Age group/ Sex	Total child population					Attending school				Not attending school			
	Total	Economic activity*	Housekeeping activity only	Schooling only	Idle	Total	Economic activity*	Housekeeping activity only	Schooling only	Total	Economic activity*	Housekeeping activity only	Idle
Total children	**100.0**	**9.7**	**74.8**	**8.2**	**7.3**	**100.0**	**4.7**	**84.2**	**11.0**	**100.0**	**24.3**	**47.0**	**28.7**
5-6	100.0	6.7	46.1	0.7	46.6	100.0	0.0	84.3	15.7	100.0	7.0	44.4	48.6
7-9	100.0	7.1	72.1	14.8	6.0	100.0	3.6	75.5	20.9	100.0	15.3	64.2	20.5
10-14	100.0	7.0	82.9	9.6	0.6	100.0	4.3	85.5	10.2	100.0	46.5	44.1	9.4
15-17	100.0	17.9	76.7	4.6	0.8	100.0	6.5	87.7	5.8	100.0	60.1	36.1	3.8
Male children	**100.0**	**11.6**	**71.6**	**8.7**	**8.0**	**100.0**	**5.3**	**82.7**	**12.0**	**100.0**	**28.5**	**42.3**	**29.2**
5-6	100.0	7.5	42.3	0.5	49.7	100.0	0.0	88.5	11.5	100.0	7.8	40.3	51.8
7-9	100.0	8.2	70.2	14.9	6.6	100.0	3.8	74.8	21.4	100.0	18.5	59.7	21.8
10-14	100.0	8.8	80.3	10.3	0.7	100.0	5.0	83.9	11.2	100.0	53.8	37.6	8.6
15-17	100.0	21.4	72.2	5.4	1.0	100.0	7.2	85.6	7.2	100.0	63.2	32.9	3.9
Female children	**100.0**	**7.7**	**78.1**	**7.7**	**6.5**	**100.0**	**4.2**	**85.8**	**10.0**	**100.0**	**19.2**	**52.7**	**28.1**
5-6	100.0	5.8	50.2	0.9	43.1	100.0	0.0	79.8	20.2	100.0	6.1	48.8	45.1
7-9	100.0	5.8	74.1	14.6	5.5	100.0	3.4	76.2	20.4	100.0	11.8	69.1	19.1
10-14	100.0	5.0	85.7	8.8	0.5	100.0	3.6	87.2	9.2	100.0	33.8	55.3	10.9
15-17	100.0	14.3	81.2	3.8	0.6	100.0	5.8	89.6	4.6	100.0	55.4	41.0	3.7

* Some children engaged in economic activities may be also doing some housekeeping activities.

Table 5.5   Children by schooling and work status during reference week by household size and sex of household head

Household size/ sex of h.hold head	Total child population					Attending school				Not attending school			
	Total	Economic activity*	Housekeeping activity only	Schooling only	Idle	Total	Economic activity*	Housekeeping activity	Schooling only	Total	Economic activity*	Housekeeping activity only	Idle
All households:	**676911**	**65729**	**506284**	**55647**	**49251**	**505234**	**23931**	**425656**	**55647**	**171677**	**41798**	**80628**	**49251**
<3	14671	1221	12030	716	703	11640	282	10643	716	3030	939	1388	703
3-4	242994	20562	182850	17915	21666	173970	5959	150095	17915	69024	14602	32755	21666
5-6	296469	28834	225444	24501	17689	228339	11091	192747	24501	68130	17744	32697	17689
7-8	98319	12107	69834	9276	7102	73753	5311	59166	9276	24566	6796	10668	7102
9+	24460	3005	16126	3239	2091	17532	1288	13005	3239	6928	1716	3121	2091
Male headed	**590149**	**58903**	**437969**	**49489**	**43788**	**437871**	**21759**	**366623**	**49489**	**152278**	**37144**	**71346**	**43788**
<3	4261	471	3357	225	209	3317	98	2994	225	944	372	363	209
3-4	200103	18084	147101	15460	19458	140072	5234	119379	15460	60031	12850	27722	19458
5-6	271994	26036	207362	22527	16069	209609	10059	177022	22527	62386	15977	30339	16069
7-8	92198	11675	65524	8561	6438	68962	5184	55217	8561	23236	6491	10307	6438
9+	21592	2637	14625	2716	1614	15911	1184	12011	2716	5681	1453	2614	1614
Female headed	**86763**	**6826**	**68315**	**6159**	**5463**	**67363**	**2172**	**59033**	**6159**	**19399**	**4654**	**9282**	**5463**
<3	10410	750	8674	491	495	8323	183	7649	491	2086	567	1025	495
3-4	42890	2478	35749	2455	2208	33898	726	30717	2455	8993	1752	5032	2208
5-6	24474	2798	18083	1974	1619	18730	1032	15725	1974	5744	1766	2358	1619
7-8	6120	432	4309	715	664	4791	127	3949	715	1329	305	360	664
9+	2868	368	1500	523	477	1621	105	993	523	1248	264	507	477

Some children engaged in economic activities may be also doing some housekeeping activities.

Table 5.5a Children 5 –17 years by schooling and work status during reference week by household size and sex of household head

(percentage distribution by activity status)

Household size/ sex of h.hold head	Total child population					Attending school				Not attending school			
	Total	Economic activity*	Housekeeping activity only	Schooling only	Idle	Total	Economic activity*	Housekeeping activity	Schooling only	Total	Economic activity*	Housekeeping activity only	Idle
All households:	**100.0**	**9.7**	**74.8**	**8.2**	**7.3**	**100.0**	**4.7**	**84.2**	**11.0**	**100.0**	**24.3**	**47.0**	**28.7**
<3	**100.0**	8.3	82.0	4.9	4.8	**100.0**	2.4	91.4	6.2	**100.0**	31.0	45.8	23.2
3-4	**100.0**	8.5	75.2	7.4	8.9	**100.0**	3.4	86.3	10.3	**100.0**	21.2	47.5	31.4
5-6	**100.0**	9.7	76.0	8.3	6.0	**100.0**	4.9	84.4	10.7	**100.0**	26.0	48.0	26.0
7-8	**100.0**	12.3	71.0	9.4	7.2	**100.0**	7.2	80.2	12.6	**100.0**	27.7	43.4	28.9
9+	**100.0**	12.3	65.9	13.2	8.5	**100.0**	7.3	74.2	18.5	**100.0**	24.8	45.0	30.2
Male headed	**100.0**	**10.0**	**74.2**	**8.4**	**7.4**	**100.0**	**5.0**	**83.7**	**11.3**	**100.0**	**24.4**	**46.9**	**28.8**
<3	**100.0**	11.0	78.8	5.3	4.9	**100.0**	3.0	90.3	6.8	**100.0**	39.4	38.5	22.1
3-4	**100.0**	9.0	73.5	7.7	9.7	**100.0**	3.7	85.2	11.0	**100.0**	21.4	46.2	32.4
5-6	**100.0**	9.6	76.2	8.3	5.9	**100.0**	4.8	84.5	10.7	**100.0**	25.6	48.6	25.8
7-8	**100.0**	12.7	71.1	9.3	7.0	**100.0**	7.5	80.1	12.4	**100.0**	27.9	44.4	27.7
9+	**100.0**	12.2	67.7	12.6	7.5	**100.0**	7.4	75.5	17.1	**100.0**	25.6	46.0	28.4
Female headed	**100.0**	**7.9**	**78.7**	**7.1**	**6.3**	**100.0**	**3.2**	**87.6**	**9.1**	**100.0**	**24.0**	**47.8**	**28.2**
<3	**100.0**	7.2	83.3	4.7	4.8	**100.0**	2.2	91.9	5.9	**100.0**	27.2	49.1	23.7
3-4	**100.0**	5.8	83.4	5.7	5.1	**100.0**	2.1	90.6	7.2	**100.0**	19.5	56.0	24.6
5-6	**100.0**	11.4	73.9	8.1	6.6	**100.0**	5.5	84.0	10.5	**100.0**	30.8	41.1	28.2
7-8	**100.0**	7.1	70.4	11.7	10.8	**100.0**	2.7	82.4	14.9	**100.0**	22.9	27.1	49.9
9+	**100.0**	12.8	52.3	18.2	16.6	**100.0**	6.5	61.3	32.3	**100.0**	21.1	40.6	38.3

* Some children engaged in economic activities may be also doing some housekeeping activities.

5.5   Children living away from households

Table 5.6 gives the information on children 5-17 years of age who are living away from their households for more than 6 months, and what such children might be engaged in. The numbers indicate that the total number of such children is 70,215. Compared to the survey population of 679,049 children in the relevant age group, this forms about 10 percent. By sector of residence, the corresponding percentage for rural areas is 90.5 percent (63,546) and for urban areas is much lower at 9.5 percent (6,669).

Table 5.6 Number of children 5-17 years living away from the household
for more than 6 months

Region	Total number of children	of whom :		
		studying	working	other
TOTAL	**70215**	**66341**	**1636**	**2238**
Ulaanbaatar	711	559	0	152
Aimag Centres	5958	5069	325	563
Urban :	*6669*	*5628*	*325*	*715*
Som Centres	9544	8630	465	450
Rural	54002	52082	846	1073
Rural :	*63546*	*60712*	*1311*	*1523*

Table 5.6a Number of children 5-17 years living away from the household
for more than 6 months

(percentage distribution by activity)

Region	Total number of children	of whom :		
		studying	working	other
TOTAL	**100.0**	**94.5**	**2.3**	**3.2**
Ulaanbaatar	100.0	78.6	0.0	21.4
Aimag Centres	100.0	85.1	5.5	9.4
Urban :	**100.0**	**84.4**	**4.9**	**10.7**
Som Centres	100.0	90.4	4.9	4.7
Rural	100.0	96.4	1.6	2.0
Rural :	**100.0**	**95.5**	**2.1**	**2.4**

This reflects mainly the absence of schooling facilities in the rural areas, as Table 5.6a indicates that of the children belonging to rural areas, 95.5 percent were away for the purpose of studying. The urban children staying away from their households were also mostly studying, but the relative percent was about 84.4 percent. Of major concern is that of the children from urban areas, the whereabouts of 4.9% was for work and over 10 percent was neither study nor work. These could be children of whom the exact whereabouts are not precisely known, and it might be useful to investigate the activity status of this group of children more intensively in a follow-up study.

5.6   Reasons for child not attending school

From Table 5.4 it was observed that over 25.4 percent (171,677 out of 676,911) of children in the age group 5 to 17 years were not attending school. Table 5.7 presents information on the range of reasons why children are not attending school. It is seen that those children not attending school are composed of 94,574(55.1%) boys and 77,082(44.9%) girls

It is of interest to note that for those children not going to school, the numbers (and proportion) decrease progressively with an increase in age grouping from 5-6 years to 7-9 years, and then to 10-14 years, in the total, and also for both boys and girls (Table 5.7a). However, the number of children not attending school rises sharply for children who are aged 15-17 years as compared to those in age group 10-14 years. In fact, although 15-17 years age group is still school going age, those not attending school is almost double that of those not going to school. For girls, the change in number is more acute, and the number not attending school rises from 6,673 who are aged 10-14 years to 14,608 who are 15-17 years. For boys, the corresponding numbers are an increase from 11,731 aged 10-14 years to 21,834 who are 15-17 years old.

Of 171677 children of 5-17 years(including 94818 boys and 76860 girls) who were not in schooling, 64.3% or 110432 are under school-age. Of the school–age children, 24008 quit the schooling driven by the need of contributing to household income and housekeeping duties, 8289 by inability to pay for schooling cost, 8435 by sickness and disability and 14140 by a school distance and lack of interest and 6352 by other reasons.

Graph 1   Children aged 5-17 years classified by main reason for not attending school
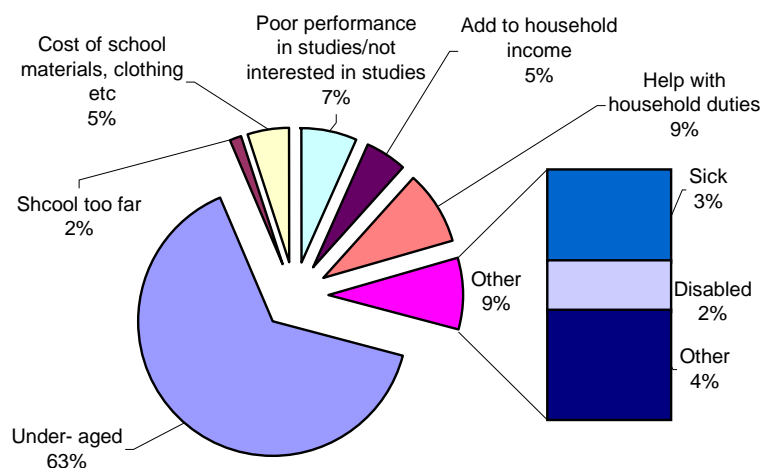
Table 5.7   Children 5-17 years who are not attending school/ training institution by reason for not attending, age group and sex

Age group / Sex	Total children not attending school	Reason for not attending school/ training institution								
		Underage	School too far	Cost of schooling too high	Poor performance/ not interested in studies	Work to add to household income	Help with household chores	Sick	Disabled	Other reasons
Total children	**171656**	**110432**	**2804**	**8289**	**11336**	**8502**	**15506**	**5488**	**2947**	**6352**
5-6	78499	77194	585	315	0	0	129	0	0	276
7-9	38177	32968	363	805	645	237	844	838	438	1038
10-14	18521	99	751	3291	3713	1525	3814	2525	1480	1324
15-17	36459	171	1105	3877	6978	6741	10719	2125	1029	3714
Male children	**94574**	**57271**	**1685**	**4700**	**7364**	**5622**	**9861**	**2679**	**1945**	**3448**
5-6	41139	40366	325	136	0	0	129	0	0	183
7-9	19753	16730	273	493	344	172	458	340	269	674
10-14	11849	57	427	1940	2508	1243	2554	1346	1059	715
15-17	21834	117	660	2131	4512	4207	6720	994	616	1876
Female children	**77082**	**53161**	**1120**	**3588**	**3972**	**2881**	**5645**	**2809**	**1002**	**2904**
5-6	37360	36827	261	179	0	0	0	0	0	93
7-9	18424	16238	90	312	301	65	386	499	169	364
10-14	6673	42	324	1351	1205	282	1259	1179	421	609
15-17	14626	53	445	1746	2466	2534	4000	1131	412	1838

Table 5.7a   Children 5-17 years who are not attending school/ training institution by reason for not attending, age group and sex

(percentage distribution by age groups)

Age group / Sex	Total children not attending school	Reason for not attending school/ training institution								
		Underage	School too far	Cost of schooling too high	Poor performance/ not interested in studies	Work to add to household income	Help with household chores	Sick	Disabled	Other reasons
Total children:	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
5-6	45.7	69.9	20.9	3.8	0.0	0.0	0.8	0.0	0.0	4.3
7-9	22.2	29.9	12.9	9.7	5.7	2.8	5.4	15.3	14.9	16.3
10-14	10.8	0.1	26.8	39.7	32.8	17.9	24.6	46.0	50.2	20.8
15-17	21.2	0.2	39.4	46.8	61.6	79.3	69.1	38.7	34.9	58.5
Male children:	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
5-6	43.5	70.5	19.3	2.9	0.0	0.0	1.3	0.0	0.0	5.3
7-9	20.9	29.2	16.2	10.5	4.7	3.1	4.6	12.7	13.8	19.6
10-14	12.5	0.1	25.3	41.3	34.1	22.1	25.9	50.2	54.5	20.7
15-17	23.1	0.2	39.2	45.3	61.3	74.8	68.1	37.1	31.7	54.4
Female children	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
5-6	48.5	69.3	23.3	5.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.2
7-9	23.9	30.5	8.1	8.7	7.6	2.3	6.8	17.8	16.8	12.5
10-14	8.7	0.1	28.9	37.7	30.3	9.8	22.3	42.0	42.0	21.0
15-17	19.0	0.1	39.7	48.7	62.1	88.0	70.9	40.3	41.1	63.3

Table 5.7b Children 5-17 years who are not attending school/ training institution by reason for not attending, age group and sex

(percentage distribution of reason for non-attendance)

Age group / Sex	Total children not attending school	Reason for not attending school/ training institution								
		Underage	School too far	Cost of schooling too high	Poor performance/ not interested in studies	Work to add to household income	Help with household chores	Sick	Disabled	Other reasons
Total children	**100.0**	**64.3**	**1.6**	**4.8**	**6.6**	**5.0**	**9.0**	**3.2**	**1.7**	**3.7**
5-6	100.0	98.3	0.7	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.4
7-9	100.0	86.4	1.0	2.1	1.7	0.6	2.2	2.2	1.1	2.7
10-14	100.0	0.5	4.1	17.8	20.0	8.2	20.6	13.6	8.0	7.1
15-17	100.0	0.5	3.0	10.6	19.1	18.5	29.4	5.8	2.8	10.2
Male children	**100.0**	**60.6**	**1.8**	**5.0**	**7.8**	**5.9**	**10.4**	**2.8**	**2.1**	**3.6**
5-6	100.0	98.1	0.8	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.4
7-9	100.0	84.7	1.4	2.5	1.7	0.9	2.3	1.7	1.4	3.4
10-14	100.0	0.5	3.6	16.4	21.2	10.5	21.6	11.4	8.9	6.0
15-17	100.0	0.5	3.0	9.8	20.7	19.3	30.8	4.6	2.8	8.6
Female children	**100.0**	**69.0**	**1.5**	**4.7**	**5.2**	**3.7**	**7.3**	**3.6**	**1.3**	**3.8**
5-6	100.0	98.6	0.7	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3
7-9	100.0	88.1	0.5	1.7	1.6	0.4	2.1	2.7	0.9	2.0
10-14	100.0	0.6	4.9	20.3	18.1	4.2	18.9	17.7	6.3	9.1
15-17	100.0	0.4	3.0	11.9	16.9	17.3	27.3	7.7	2.8	12.6

CHAPTER VI

ESTIMATES AND CHARACTERISTICS OF WORKING CHILDREN

6.1   Introduction to the chapter

This chapter deals in detail with information from the survey on Mongolian children aged 5 to 17 years who were at work during 2002-03. The number of children at work (or engaged in economic activity) is estimated by, both, usual activity status and current activity status. For classification of children gender, place of residence (rural/ urban areas), and the age groups, 5-9, 10-14 and 15-17 have been used. The chapter also reports on the non-economic activities of children, as it was observed in Chapter V that most of the children, whether attending school or not attending, are engaged in housekeeping activities (or domestic chores).

As indicated earlier in Chapter III, the economic activity status is defined as follows:

- *usual* activity status with a reference period of 12 months preceding the day of survey enumeration.

- *current* activity status with a reference period of 7 days preceding the day of survey enumeration.

Furthermore, it should be noted that children at work is a broad concept that encompasses most productive activities by children. The term 'economic activity' includes self-employed or working for an employer, both paid and unpaid work, causal and regular work, illegal work, as well as work in the formal and informal sectors. It is the internationally agreed standard on measurement of work and employment[14].

6.2   Activity status of children[15]

A simple activity status classification has been adopted for the purpose of estimation of working children in the age group 5 to 17 years. The activity status is defined in terms of three categories at two levels:

1.   At work in economic activity
    a.   At work only (and not attending school, but may, or may not, be doing some housekeeping activities also)
    b.   At work and at school (and may, or may not, be doing some housekeeping activities also)

2.   Not engaged in economic activity

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[14] *Surveys of Economically Active Population, Employment, Unemployment and Underemployment,* Appendix ILO, Geneva, 1990.
[15] *Every Child Counts-New Global Estimates on Child Labour*, ILO/ IPEC-SIMPOC, Geneva, April 2002.

a.   Only at school

b.   At school and in housekeeping activities

3.   Neither at work nor at school

a.   Housekeeping activities only

b.   Idle/ Inactive (including children who are sick/ disabled etc.)

At each level of classification, the activity statuses are exhaustive and mutually exclusive so that each and every child would be classified in one and only in one status. According to this scheme the classification into the category "at work in economic activity" takes precedence over the "at school" category. Thus children combining work and school has been classified as "at work" at the basic level of the classification, but identified separately at the second level of the classification. "At school" implies that the child is to be considered as attending a regular educational institution during the reference week. It is worthwhile to note that two scenarios have been considered for estimation of working children namely (a) at work only and (b) both at work and at school. Work of a domestic nature (household chores) performed by children in their own household have been considered as non-economic activities and thus outside the 'production boundary' as defined by UN-SNA1993 for measuring GDP. Therefore, estimates of working children do not include children engaged only in non-economic activities.

6.3   Child work rate and current activity status

The distribution of children aged 5 to17 years under current activity status by gender has been presented in Table 6.1. This information has been drawn from Table 5.4 and rearranged to highlight the distribution of child activities by those who are working, and those who are not working. This is so illustrated as the focus of this chapter is on children who are working, and on children who are not at work (that is, those in non-economic activities, schooling only, and idle/ inactive).

Table 6.1 Children aged 5 to 17 years by current activity status and gender

Age group/ sex	Total children aged 5-17 years	Children at work (in economic activity)*			Children not at work			
					Not engaged in economic activity (but at school)		Neither at work nor at school	
		Working children total**	Only at work	At work and at school	Only at school	School and at non-economic activity	Only non-economic activity	Idle/ inactive
Total	676911	65729	41798	23931	55647	425656	80628	49251
Male	346867	40406	27028	13378	30292	208379	40144	27646
Female	330045	25323	14770	10553	25356	217277	40485	21605

*   Some children engaged in economic activities may also be doing some household chores
**   excludes 2851 working children aged 5-17 years not at work in the survey week and could not be sub-divided by columns (4) and (5).

The total economically active child population between 5 and 17 years by current activity status was estimated at 68580 during 2002-03. Table 6.2 indicates that the overall child work rate (CWR) in Mongolia is 10.1 percent, which implies that the proportion of children not at work or not

economically active is almost 90 percent. For the child population of aged 5-14 years, CWR is 7.2 percent, but is considerably higher for the age group 15-17 years at 18.5 percent. These numbers are logical, as at the ages 15-16 under Mongolian law limited engagement in economic activity is possible.

It is also observed from Table 6.2 also that CWR is higher for boys than for girls at all age groups. For ages 5-14, the percent of boys at work is 8.7 percent, against 5.7 percent for girls. The CWR for those in the age group 15-17 years is 22.1 percent for boys and 14.9 for girls.

Graph 2 Number of children 5-17 years in current status employment by age group and sex
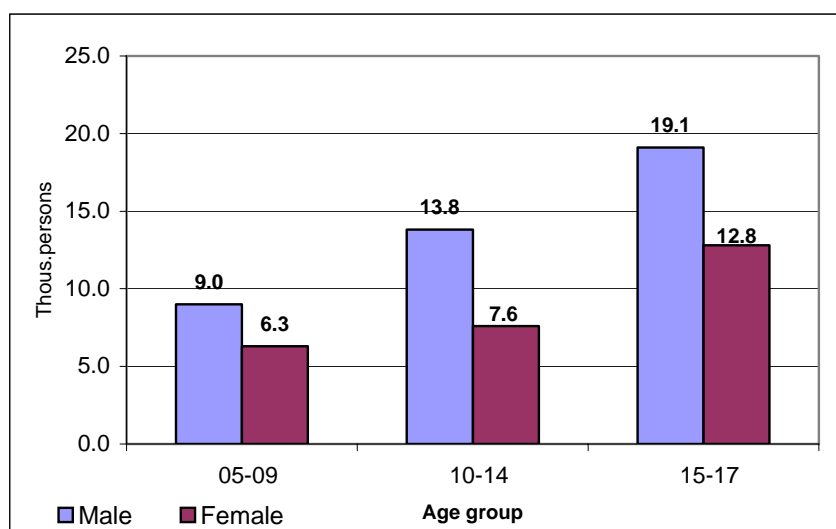
Table 6.2   Child work rate by gender and age group

Gender and age group	Total number of children	Number of children at work	Child work rate (%)
All children aged 5-17			
Total (5 –17)	679049**	68580	10.10
05-09	212145	15320	7.22
10-14	294841	21407	7.26
05-14	*506986*	*36727*	*7.24*
15-17	172063	31854	18.51
Boys aged 5-17			
Total (5 –17)	347652	41874	12.04
05-09	109205	9005	8.24
10-14	151999	13762	9.05
05-14	*261204*	*22767*	*8.72*
15-17	86449	19107	22.10

Gender and age group	Total number of children	Number of children at work	Child work rate (%)
Girls aged 5-17			
Total (5 –17)	331397	26706	8.06
05-09	102940	6315	6.13
10-14	142843	7645	5.35
05-14	*245783*	*13960*	*5.68*
15-17	85614	12746	14.89

*   Some totals may not add up precisely because of rounding-off.

** This number is different from 'total children' indicated in Col.(2) of Table 6.1 because

2,138 children did not respond to the questionnaire

The number of children in current employment status, by type of employment and average hours of work per week in main occupation, is given in Table 6.3. The table shows that of the total of 68580 children at work by current status of economic activity, 2851 children were not at work in the survey week.

Table 6.3   Number of children 5-17 years in current status employment by (i) age group, (ii) type of employment, (iii) average hours of work per week, and (iv) sex

Age Group/ Sex	Total	Number of persons in current status employment				Average hours of work per week in primary occupation	
		Not at work in survey week	Currently at work	In wage job	Self employed/ Unpaid family worker	In wage job	Self employed/ Unpaid family worker
Total working population	**899282**	**63712**	**835570**	**297996**	**537574**	**44.8**	**44.4**
Total children -	*68580*	*2851*	*65729*	*706*	*65023*	not available	not available
of which : 5-9 yrs	15320	687	14633	0	14633	-	14.8
10-14 yrs	21407	971	20436	140	20296	18.4	25.4
15-17 yrs	31854	1194	30660	566	30094	50.7	37.3
Male total -	*41874*	*1468*	*40406*	*451*	*39955*	not available	not available
of which : 5-9 yrs	9005	343	8662	0	8662	-	16.0
10-14 yrs	13762	459	13302	140	13162	18.4	27.5
15-17 yrs	19107	665	18442	311	18131	49.5	40.7
Female total -	*26706*	*1384*	*25323*	*254*	*25068*	not available	not available
of which : 5-9 yrs	6315	343	5971	0	5971	-	12.9
10-14 yrs	7645	511	7134	0	7134	-	21.6
15-17 yrs	12746	529	12217	254	11963	52.5	32.1

Table 6.3a   Number of children 5 –17 years in current status employment by (i) age group/ sex, (ii) type of employment, (iii) average hours of work per week, and (iv) urban-rural sector breakdown

Age Group/ Sex	Total	Number of persons in current status employment				Average hours of work per week in primary occupation	
		Not at work in survey week	Currently at work	In wage job	Self employed/ Unpaid family worker	In wage job	Self employed/ Unpaid family worker
Urban	**6894**	**178**	**6716**	**580**	**6136**	not available	not available
of which : 5-9 yrs	560	0	560	0	560	-	16.2
10-14 yrs	2662	126	2537	140	2396	18.4	17.0
15-17 yrs	3672	52	3620	440	3180	50.7	32.3
Male total -	*4558*	*178*	*4380*	*362*	*4018*	not available	not available
of which : 5-9 yrs	328	0	328	0	328	-	12.5
10-14 yrs	2004	126	1878	140	1738	18.4	17.3
15-17 yrs	2226	52	2174	222	1952	49.5	33.2
Female total -	*2336*	*0*	*2336*	*218*	*2118*	not available	not available
of which : 5-9 yrs	231	0	231	0	231	-	21.4
10-14 yrs	659	0	659	0	659	-	16.2
15-17 yrs	1446	0	1446	218	1228	51.9	30.8
Rural	**61686**	**2673**	**59013**	**126**	**58887**	not available	not available
of which : 5-9 yrs	14760	687	14073	0	14073	-	14.7
10-14 yrs	18745	845	17900	0	17900	-	26.6
15-17 yrs	28182	1142	27040	126	26914	50.6	37.9
Male total -	*37316*	*1290*	*36026*	*90*	*35937*	not available	not available
of which : 5-9 yrs	8676	343	8333	0	8333	-	16.2
10-14 yrs	11758	334	11424	0	11424	-	29.1
15-17 yrs	16882	613	16269	90	16179	48.5	41.6
Female total -	*24370*	*1384*	*22986*	*36*	*22950*	not available	not available
of which : 5-9 yrs	6083	343	5740	0	5740	-	12.6
10-14 yrs	6987	511	6475	0	6475	-	22.1
15-17 yrs	11300	529	10771	36	10735	56.0	32.3

So the detailed characteristics of working children in Mongolia are available for 65729 children.

Table 6.3 shows that of the 65729 working children by current status of economic activity in the reference week, only 706 were in a wage job, and the overwhelming majority of 65023 were self-employed or were unpaid workers in family or household enterprises. By age group and sex breakdown, boys (452) outnumbered girls (254) in wage jobs, as well as in self-employed/unpaid worker category where against 39955 boys the survey identified only 25068 girl workers. As is to be expected most of the children in wage jobs (566) were in the age group 15-17 years. Although some boys (140) aged 10-14 years were in a wage job, among girls only those in the age group 15-17 years were in paid employment. It is also noted from Table 6.3 that on average, children aged 15-17 years, both boys and girls, in wage jobs worked, on average, 50-52 hours per week, which is much higher than the threshold applied by ILO in assigning 'child labour' status.[16] In fact, it is observed from the table that 50 hours per week is also higher than the average hours per week that adults engaged in wage jobs had been working; however, some caution is advised in making definitive conclusions because of the very low number of children in wage jobs. Table 6.3 also reveals that the average hours of work per week in the self-employed/ unpaid worker category was higher for boys than for girls, at each age group. The percent breakdown of child workers by age group was broadly similar for boys and girls.

Table 6.3a gives the urban-rural breakdown of the child worker population, and it is seen that most of the child workers are in rural areas (61686) against 6894 in urban areas. As is to be expected, most of the children in wage jobs are located in the urban sector. Taking into account the relatively less number of child workers in urban areas, the percent of urban child workers in wage jobs is about 8.4 percent. In comparison, only 0.2 percent of rural child workers are in wage jobs. Another notable rural-urban difference in respect of working children is that the percent of children belonging to the age group 5-9 years is almost 24 percent in rural areas, against just over only 8.1 percent for urban child workers.

The percent distribution of child workers in current status employment, by type of employment is provided in Table 6.3b, while Table 6.3c illustrates the percent distribution of child workers by age group.

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[16]   See definition of Child Labour in Chapter II Section 6.

Table 6.3b Children 5-17 years in current status employment by (i) age group, (ii) type of employment and (iii) sex

(percent distribution by type of employment)

Age Group/ Sex	Total	Number of persons in current status employment			
		Not at work in survey week	Currently at work	In wage job	Self employed/ Unpaid family worker
Total working population	**100.0**	**7.1**	**92.9**	**35.7**	**64.3**
Child working population	**100.0**	**4.2**	**95.8**	**1.1**	**98.9**
of which : 5-9 yrs	100.0	4.5	95.5	0.0	100.0
10-14 yrs	100.0	4.5	95.5	0.7	99.3
15-17 yrs	100.0	3.7	96.3	1.8	98.2
Male total -	*100.0*	*3.5*	*96.5*	*1.1*	*98.9*
of which : 5-9 yrs	100.0	3.8	96.2	0.0	100.0
10-14 yrs	100.0	3.3	96.7	1.1	98.9
15-17 yrs	100.0	3.5	96.5	1.7	98.3
Female total -	*100.0*	*5.2*	*94.8*	*1.0*	*99.0*
of which : 5-9 yrs	100.0	5.4	94.6	0.0	100.0
10-14 yrs	100.0	6.7	93.3	0.0	100.0
15-17 yrs	100.0	4.2	95.8	2.1	97.9

Table 6.3c Children 5 – 17 years in current status employment by (i) age group, (ii) type of employment and (iii) sex

(percent distribution by age group)

Persons in current status employment

Age Group/ Sex	Total	Not at work in survey week	Currently at work	In wage job	Self employed/ Unpaid family worker
Total children -	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
of which : 5-9 yrs	22.3	24.1	22.3	0.0	22.5
10-14 yrs	31.2	34.0	31.1	19.8	31.2
15-17 yrs	46.4	41.9	46.6	80.2	46.3
Male total -	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*
of which : 5-9 yrs	21.5	23.4	21.4	0.0	21.7
10-14 yrs	32.9	31.3	32.9	31.0	32.9
15-17 yrs	45.6	45.3	45.6	69.0	45.4
Female total -	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*
of which : 5-9 yrs	23.6	24.8	23.6	0.0	23.8
10-14 yrs	28.6	36.9	28.2	0.0	28.5
15-17 yrs	47.7	38.3	48.2	100.0	47.7

Table 6.4 Number of child unpaid family workers by (i) age group, (ii) rural – urban sector, (iii) average hours of work per week, and (iv) sex

Age Group/ Sex	Number of persons engaged as unpaid family workers on current status employment				Average hours of work per week in primary occupation	
	Not at work in survey week	Currently engaged			Male	Female
		Total	Male	Female		
Total unpaid family workers	**8639**	**239628**	**100976**	**138651**	**40.2**	**34.9**
Total children -	*2020*	*59657*	*36382*	*23276*	not available	not available
of which : 5-9 yrs	687	14514	8585	5929	16.1	13.4
10-14 yrs	782	18510	11808	6702	27.9	22.8
15-17 yrs	552	26633	15989	10645	39.4	31.6

Urban	*51*	*5047*	*3278*	*1769*	not available	not available
5-9 yrs	0	560	328	231	12.5	21.4
10-14 yrs	51	1850	1250	600	20.2	20.4
15-17 yrs	0	2638	1700	938	28.1	28.3
Rural	*1969*	*54610*	*33103*	*21507*	not available	not available
5-9 yrs	687	13954	8256	5698	16.2	13.1
10-14 yrs	731	16660	10558	6102	28.9	23.1
15-17 yrs	552	23996	14289	9707	40.7	32.0

Table 6.4a Child unpaid family workers by (i) age group, (ii) rural – urban sector and (iv) sex

(percent distribution)

Age Group/ Sex	Persons engaged as unpaid family workers on current status employment (percent distribution by age group)				Persons engaged as unpaid family workers on current status employment (percent distribution by sex)	
	Not at work in survey week	Currently engaged			Male	Female
		Total	Male	Female		
Total unpaid family workers					**42.1**	**57.9**
Total children -	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**61.0**	**39.0**
of which : 5-9 yrs	34.0	24.3	23.6	25.5	59.1	40.9
10-14 yrs	38.7	31.0	32.5	28.8	63.8	36.2
15-17 yrs	27.3	44.6	43.9	45.7	60.0	40.0
Urban	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*65.0*	*35.0*
5-9 yrs	0.0	11.1	10.0	13.1	58.7	41.3
10-14 yrs	100.0	36.6	38.1	33.9	67.6	32.4
15-17 yrs	0.0	52.3	51.9	53.0	64.5	35.5
Rural	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*60.6*	*39.4*
5-9 yrs	34.9	25.6	24.9	26.5	59.2	40.8
10-14 yrs	37.1	30.5	31.9	28.4	63.4	36.6

| 15-17 yrs | 28.0 | 43.9 | 43.2 | 45.1 | 59.5 | 40.5 |

Table 6.4 provides details on the number of children working as unpaid family workers by current status employment, in respect of breakdown by their age group, rural-urban areas spread, sex, and hours worked per week in each category. The percent distribution of such child unpaid workers by age group, and by sex is given in Table 6.4a. The numbers indicate that in regard to hours of work per week, the child worker in rural areas has to work longer than his/her urban counterpart at each age group; the only exception being for the girl child workers group in age 5-9 years, but because of the small sample size of this group, the result may be unreliable. As regards percent distribution by age group within a given sector, it is observed that the percent of working children for the age group 5-9 years is lower in urban areas (11.1 percent) than in rural areas (25.6 percent). The reverse is the situation for the age group 15-17 years, where the percent of child workers in that age in urban areas at 52.3 percent is higher than in rural areas where it is 43.9 percent. Part of the reason for these findings could be the higher presence of primary schooling and work opportunities in the urban areas. Table 6.4a also reveals that the distribution of child workers by gender is remarkably almost similar for all age groups and for rural-urban sectors at around 60 percent for males and 40 percent for females.

Table 6.5 indicates the duration of employment of currently working children aged 5-17 years in their primary occupation by age group and sex. Table 6.5a illustrates the relative situation in terms of percentages. The data shows that some children have indeed commenced working in an economic activity from a rather early age. For example, in respect of the 15320 child workers aged 5-9 years, almost one-third (31.2 percent) had already worked for 2-3 years, and the scenario is almost the same for both girls and boys. Similarly, for child workers in the age group 15-17 years, 6.9 percent of both males and females had worked for more than 10 years. In fact, there is no marked distinction between male and female child workers in the pattern of duration of past work in primary occupation.

Table 6.5 Duration of employment of currently working children aged 5-17 years in their primary occupation by age group and sex

Age group/ Sex	Currently employed at work	Duration of employment in primary occupation				
		less than 1 year	2-3 years	3-4 years	5-9 years	10 + years
Total working population	**899282**	**87445**	**92348**	**143208**	**196995**	**379286**
Total children -	**68580**	**23553**	**18470**	**17193**	**7161**	**2203**
of which : 5-9 yrs	15320	9986	4782	551	0	0

10-14 yrs	21407	7051	6090	7247	1019	0
15-17 yrs	31854	6516	7597	9395	6143	2203
Male	*41874*	*13961*	*11170*	*10926*	*4617*	*1200*
of which : 5-9 yrs	9005	5792	2950	263	0	0
10-14 yrs	13762	4508	3428	5041	785	0
15-17 yrs	19107	3661	4792	5623	3832	1200
Female	*26706*	*9592*	*7300*	*6267*	*2544*	*1003*
of which : 5-9 yrs	6315	4194	1832	289	0	0
10-14 yrs	7645	2543	2663	2206	234	0
15-17 yrs	12746	2855	2806	3772	2310	1003

Table 6.5a Duration of employment of currently working children aged 5-17 years in their primary occupation by age group and sex

(percent distribution by duration of employment)

Age group/ Sex	Currently employed at work	Duration of employment in primary occupation				
		less than 1 year	2-3 years	3-4 years	5-9 years	10 + years
Total working population	**100.0**	**9.7**	**10.3**	**15.9**	**21.9**	**42.2**
Total children -	**100.0**	**34.3**	**26.9**	**25.1**	**10.4**	**3.2**
of which : 5-9 yrs	100.0	65.2	31.2	3.6	0.0	0.0
10-14 yrs	100.0	32.9	28.4	33.9	4.8	0.0
15-17 yrs	100.0	20.5	23.8	29.5	19.3	6.9
Male	**100.0**	**33.3**	**26.7**	**26.1**	**11.0**	**2.9**
of which : 5-9 yrs	100.0	64.3	32.8	2.9	0.0	0.0
10-14 yrs	100.0	32.8	24.9	36.6	5.7	0.0
15-17 yrs	100.0	19.2	25.1	29.4	20.1	6.3
Female	**100.0**	**35.9**	**27.3**	**23.5**	**9.5**	**3.8**
of which : 5-9 yrs	100.0	66.4	29.0	4.6	0.0	0.0
10-14 yrs	100.0	33.3	34.8	28.9	3.1	0.0
15-17 yrs	100.0	22.4	22.0	29.6	18.1	7.9

6.4   Education level of working children

Education is very important in the study of child labour, as children of the age group 5-17 years should ideally be engaged in study and related activities that contribute to the normal and healthy development of the child into a responsible adult. In fact, it has been observed in many countries that lack of adequate schooling opportunities, and/or a conducive environment at home for the child to pursue his/her studies has been a major factor contributing to the existence of child workers.

A shortcoming of the LFS-cum-NCLS is the lack of adequate investigation into the socio-economic characteristics of the households surveyed. It was noted in Chapter II that poverty could be important in the context of an observed phenomenon like children at work. With the available information household monthly income, an attempt was made to compare the patterns for working children (who may or may not be studying at the same time) with that of children studying only. The tabulations are provided in Table 6.6, and it is noted that there is no significant divergence on account of the gender of the child worker.

However, some difference between working children and children only studying is observed from Table 6.6 in respect of the percent distribution of age groups within a particular income group. Since for any one category (that is, working children, or those only studying) the percent distributions across monthly household income groups are very similar whether for total, or by male/female breakdown, it implies that household income has not much impact on whether or not children fall into either category. What is thus evident from Table 6.6 is that those children who are only studying are concentrated in the age groups 7-9 years and 10-14 years, after which the numbers taper off. In other words, children are more focused on studies only up to primary and middle school levels, and they might commence on combining work and schooling thereafter. In regard to working children as a group, the observation in Table 6.6 confirms an earlier finding [Table 6.3c] that over 22.3 percent of working children are aged 5-9 years, while those in the age groups 10-14 and 15-17 years constitute, respectively, 31.2 and 46.5 percent of children at work.

Table 6.7 and Table 6.7a give, respectively, the statistics and the percentage distribution by educational level, of currently employed children by education level, age group and sex. It is evident that working children seem to be lagging in education as of those aged 15-17 years

about one-half of them (47 percent) are in primary grades, while in normal course they should have been at minimum in the Grade 4-8 category. Furthermore, for the age group 5-9 years over three-fourths (76.6 percent) have not been to school, but that could be partly explained by the official age of entry to primary school in Mongolia which is 8 years. There is no noticeable gender disparity, except that for children aged 15-17 years, the percent of working girls in that age group at Grades 9-10 is 5.8 percent against a corresponding figure of 1.4 percent for the boys at work.

Table 6.6   Percentage distribution by household monthly income and age group of (i) working children and (ii) children only studying

Household monthly income (Tgs)/ Age Group	Working children					Studying only				
	Total	5-6	7-9	10-14	15-17	Total	5-6	7-9	10-14	15-17
Total number	**68580**	**5809**	**9511**	**21407**	**31854**	**55486**	**545**	**19004**	**28140**	**7796**
Average	100.0	8.5	13.9	31.2	46.4	100.0	1.0	34.3	50.7	14.1
less 5001	100.0	3.5	8.5	27.2	60.9	100.0	0.7	30.5	57.2	11.5
5001-10000	100.0	9.7	15.3	33.5	41.5	100.0	0.0	25.8	51.3	22.8
10001-20000	100.0	10.8	15.6	33.0	40.6	100.0	0.0	50.7	42.7	6.6
20001-30000	100.0	8.6	20.1	28.5	42.9	100.0	0.0	22.0	56.1	21.9
30001-40000	100.0	8.8	14.7	34.4	42.1	100.0	2.0	32.0	47.4	18.6
40001-50000	100.0	11.2	15.5	35.9	37.4	100.0	1.3	41.1	38.2	19.3
50001-100000	100.0	10.2	12.9	31.2	45.7	100.0	0.4	38.8	46.1	14.6
more than 100000	100.0	11.5	14.0	33.5	41.0	100.0	5.1	41.3	44.5	9.1
Male (Total number)	**41874**	**3411**	**5594**	**13762**	**19107**	**30255**	**206**	**9819**	**15602**	**4629**
Average	100.0	8.1	13.4	32.9	45.6	100.0	0.7	32.5	51.6	15.3
less 5001	100.0	3.9	8.2	30.8	57.1	100.0	0.6	29.2	58.3	11.9
5001-10000	100.0	9.0	17.5	31.3	42.3	100.0	0.0	16.2	73.2	10.6
10001-20000	100.0	11.2	15.8	40.2	32.8	100.0	0.0	52.6	37.3	10.2
20001-30000	100.0	6.7	22.2	26.8	44.5	100.0	0.0	13.5	63.6	22.9
30001-40000	100.0	11.1	13.2	26.7	49.0	100.0	0.0	29.8	55.3	15.0
40001-50000	100.0	13.0	11.0	40.3	35.7	100.0	2.3	34.1	38.2	25.4
50001-100000	100.0	8.2	10.5	35.1	46.3	100.0	0.0	39.2	41.8	18.9
more than 100000	100.0	7.4	16.4	37.3	39.0	100.0	3.2	47.7	42.4	6.8
Female (Total number)	**26706**	**2398**	**3917**	**7645**	**12746**	**25230**	**340**	**9185**	**12538**	**3168**
Average	100.0	9.0	14.7	28.6	47.7	100.0	1.3	36.4	49.7	12.6
less 5001	100.0	2.8	8.9	21.3	67.0	100.0	0.9	32.2	55.8	11.1
5001-10000	100.0	10.8	11.8	37.1	40.3	100.0	0.0	36.8	26.3	36.8
10001-20000	100.0	10.2	15.5	22.0	52.4	100.0	0.0	49.1	47.5	3.4
20001-30000	100.0	11.8	16.8	31.2	40.3	100.0	0.0	31.5	47.8	20.7

30001-40000	100.0	4.5	17.4	49.0	29.0	100.0	4.1	34.4	39.0	22.4
40001-50000	100.0	8.9	21.1	30.4	39.6	100.0	0.0	50.5	38.2	11.3
50001-100000	100.0	13.2	16.3	25.6	45.0	100.0	0.9	38.4	51.1	9.7
more than 100000	100.0	19.7	9.2	26.1	45.0	100.0	7.1	34.7	46.7	11.5

Table 6.7 Currently employed children by education level, age group and sex

Age group / Sex	Currently employed at work	Not educated	Less than primary	Grade			Technical/ Vocational
				Primary	Grade 4-8	Grade 9-10	
Total working population	**835570**	**32906**	**20379**	**140645**	**219368**	**171839**	**43160**
Total children -	**65729**	**16065**	**11391**	**26755**	**10456**	**970**	**92**
of which : 5-9 yrs	14633	11211	3422	0	0	0	0
10-14 yrs	20436	2152	5134	12343	807	0	0
15-17 yrs	30660	2701	2835	14412	9648	970	92
Male	*40406*	*10148*	*7154*	*16569*	*6175*	*267*	*92*
5-9 yrs	8662	6782	1880	0	0	0	0
10-14 yrs	13302	1497	3341	7964	501	0	0
15-17 yrs	18442	1869	1933	8605	5675	267	92

Female	*25323*	*5917*	*4237*	*10186*	*4280*	*703*	*0*
5-9 yrs	5971	4430	1542	0	0	0	0
10-14 yrs	7134	655	1794	4379	307	0	0
15-17 yrs	12217	832	902	5807	3974	703	0

Table 6.7a   Currently employed children by education level, age group and sex

(percent distribution by educational level)

Age group / Sex	Currently employed at work	Not educated	Less than primary	Grade			Technical/ Vocational
				Primary	Grade 4-8	Grade 9-10	
Total working population	**100.0**	**3.9**	**2.4**	**16.8**	**26.3**	**20.6**	**5.2**
Total children	**100.0**	**24.4**	**17.3**	**40.7**	**15.9**	**1.5**	**0.1**
of which : 5-9 yrs	100.0	76.6	23.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
10-14 yrs	100.0	10.5	25.1	60.4	3.9	0.0	0.0
15-17 yrs	100.0	8.8	9.2	47.0	31.5	3.2	0.3
Male	*100.0*	*25.1*	*17.7*	*41.0*	*15.3*	*0.7*	*0.2*
5-9 yrs	100.0	78.3	21.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
10-14 yrs	100.0	11.3	25.1	59.9	3.8	0.0	0.0
15-17 yrs	100.0	10.1	10.5	46.7	30.8	1.4	0.5
Female	*100.0*	*23.4*	*16.7*	*40.2*	*16.9*	*2.8*	*0.0*
5-9 yrs	100.0	74.2	25.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
10-14 yrs	100.0	9.2	25.1	61.4	4.3	0.0	0.0
15-17 yrs	100.0	6.8	7.4	47.5	32.5	5.8	0.0

6.5   Hours spent by children in non-school activities

Non-school activities [with schooling being inclusive of child development activities like art and games which are usually part of school activities] of children are reflected in:

(i)   being engaged in economic activity, including –

(a) only in economic activity,

(b) in economic activity plus housekeeping activities; and

(ii)   being engaged in only housekeeping activities.

The hours per week spent by children in own household non-economic activities (household chores) by age group and sex is given in Table 6.8. The data indicates that almost one-half of the children (47.1 percent) spend less than 10 hours per week in own household non-economic activities, and only 16.8 percent spend more than 25 hours in such household chores. There is, however, a gender bias in the sense that among girls, 21.1 percent of those assigned such domestic chores spend more than 25 hours weekly in own household non-economic activities, while for boys the corresponding percentage is only 12.7 percent.   The numbers in Table 6.8 also reveal that children in the youngest age group of 5-9 years contribute to a significant part of household non-economic duties, although almost 70 percent of them spend less than 9 hours per week in these activities. The assigned responsibility for household chores increases, on average, for a higher age group. Thus, for the age group 10-14 years, about one-half (50.2 percent) devote 10-41 hours per week, while for older children aged 15-17 years almost two-thirds (63.7 percent) have to allocate a similar time span. At the very high levels of weekly household duties, that is, for over 42 hours per week, it is seen that 16704 girls are so engaged is more than twice the number of boys which is 7771. Most of the children engaged in heavy household non-economic activities, in respect of both boys and girls, are in the age groups 10-14 and 15-17.

Details of hours spend weekly by children in economic activities, by age group and sex are given in Table 6.9. This table is interesting as a measure of 'child labour' identified by ongoing ILO guidelines is possible from the details provided.[17] It is observed that most children (58.9 percent) work between 10 and 41 hours per week. The time spent weekly in work generally rises with the age group. It is also noted that at the most intensive work level, the percent among boys aged 15-17 years engaged in more than 42 hours weekly is 41.5 percent against 26 percent

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[17]   The 'child labour' discussion is in Chapter VI. Reference to Table 5.10 will be made at that stage also.

for girls. Tables 6.8 and 6.9 could imply that within a household, for children at higher are groups, household duties are assigned to girls while boys are encouraged to seek work.

**Table 6.8 Children by hours of work per week spent in own household
non-economic activities, and by age group and sex**

Hours spent per week/ Sex	Children in own household non-economic activities		Age group					
			5-9 years	10-14 years	15- 17 years	5-9 years	10-14 years	15- 17 years
	Total number	Percent by hours spent	Percentage distribution by hours spent in non-economic activities			Distribution by age-group in numbers		
Total children :	**567414**	**100.0**	**144782**	**262709**	**159923**	**144782**	**262709**	**159923**
less than 5 hrs	124059	21.9	44.4	17.6	8.4	64250	46328	13481
5 – 9 hrs	142726	25.2	25.4	28.3	19.8	36833	74216	31677
10 – 14 hrs	94216	16.6	12.5	18.0	18.1	18117	47185	28913
15 – 24 hrs	110682	19.5	11.6	20.0	25.8	16787	52572	41323
25 – 34 hrs	53577	9.4	3.8	9.2	14.9	5443	24229	23905
35 – 41 hrs	17680	3.1	1.3	3.0	4.9	1848	7971	7860
42 – 48 hrs	10278	1.8	0.4	1.9	2.9	594	4989	4694
49 – 55 hrs	5584	1.0	0.3	0.9	1.8	431	2292	2861
56 hrs and more	8614	1.5	0.3	1.1	3.3	479	2927	5208

Male children	**285465**	**100.0**	**72643**	**133930**	**78892**	**72643**	**133930**	**78892**
less than 5 hrs	72395	25.4	44.8	22.3	12.6	32512	29914	9969
5 – 9 hrs	78901	27.6	25.9	30.0	25.2	18843	40164	19895
10 – 14 hrs	47958	16.8	12.5	17.6	19.4	9071	23618	15268
15 – 24 hrs	50133	17.6	11.7	17.5	23.1	8484	23387	18261
25 – 34 hrs	20590	7.2	3.4	7.2	10.8	2461	9611	8518
35 – 41 hrs	7718	2.7	1.0	2.6	4.4	733	3502	3484
42 – 48 hrs	3937	1.4	0.4	1.5	2.1	258	2027	1652
49 – 55 hrs	1656	0.6	0.1	0.6	1.0	75	820	761
56 hrs and more	2178	0.8	0.3	0.7	1.4	204	889	1085
Female children	**281949**	**100.0**	**72139**	**128779**	**81031**	**72139**	**128779**	**81031**
less than 5 hrs	51664	18.3	44.0	12.7	4.3	31738	16414	3512
5 – 9 hrs	63826	22.6	24.9	26.4	14.5	17990	34052	11783
10 – 14 hrs	46257	16.4	12.5	18.3	16.8	9046	23567	13645
15 – 24 hrs	60549	21.5	11.5	22.7	28.5	8302	29184	23062
25 – 34 hrs	32988	11.7	4.1	11.4	19.0	2982	14618	15387
35 – 41 hrs	9961	3.5	1.5	3.5	5.4	1115	4469	4377
42 – 48 hrs	6340	2.2	0.5	2.3	3.8	335	2963	3042
49 – 55 hrs	3928	1.4	0.5	1.1	2.6	355	1473	2100
56 hrs and more	6436	2.3	0.4	1.6	5.1	275	2038	4123

**Table 6.9 Children by hours of work per week spent in economic activities,
and by age group and sex**

Hours spent per week / Sex	Children in economic activities		Age group					
			5-9 years	10-14 years	15- 17 years	5-9 years	10-14 years	15- 17 years
	Total number	Percent by hours spent	Percentage distribution by hours spent in economic activities			Distribution by age-group in number		
Total children :	**65729**	**100.0**	**14633**	**20436**	**30660**	**14633**	**20436**	**30660**
less than 5 hrs	3924	6.0	11.8	6.7	2.7	1723	1374	827
5 – 9 hrs	6827	10.4	24.0	9.4	4.5	3518	1923	1387
10 – 14 hrs	11054	16.8	31.9	18.3	8.6	4671	3746	2637
15 – 24 hrs	13083	19.9	18.2	23.2	18.5	2664	4741	5678
25 – 34 hrs	7918	12.0	5.9	15.1	12.9	866	3086	3966
35 – 41 hrs	8628	13.1	4.6	12.8	17.4	668	2626	5334
42 – 48 hrs	1664	2.5	0.6	2.4	3.5	93	492	1079
49 – 55 hrs	2751	4.2	0.6	2.5	7.0	87	511	2153
56 hrs and more	9879	15.0	2.3	9.5	24.8	343	1937	7599
Male children	**40406**	**100.0**	**8662**	**13302**	**18442**	**8662**	**13302**	**18442**
less than 5 hrs	2068	5.1	8.1	6.8	2.5	700	899	468
5 – 9 hrs	3857	9.5	26.1	8.7	2.3	2264	1160	433
10 – 14 hrs	5965	14.8	28.8	15.8	7.4	2495	2108	1363
15 – 24 hrs	7134	17.7	19.4	20.6	14.8	1676	2734	2724
25 – 34 hrs	5160	12.8	6.8	17.7	12.1	588	2348	2224
35 – 41 hrs	5746	14.2	5.7	12.5	19.4	495	1669	3582
42 – 48 hrs	1274	3.2	1.1	2.9	4.3	93	383	797
49 – 55 hrs	1878	4.6	0.6	2.8	7.9	51	375	1452
56 hrs and more	7324	18.1	3.5	12.2	29.3	299	1626	5399
Female children	**25323**	**100.0**	**5971**	**7134**	**12217**	**5971**	**7134**	**12217**
less than 5 hrs	1856	7.3	17.1	6.7	2.9	1023	475	359
5 – 9 hrs	2971	11.7	21.0	10.7	7.8	1254	763	954

10 – 14 hrs	5089	20.1	36.4	23.0	10.4	2176	1639	1274
15 – 24 hrs	5948	23.5	16.5	28.1	24.2	988	2007	2954
25 – 34 hrs	2757	10.9	4.6	10.3	14.3	278	738	1742
35 – 41 hrs	2883	11.4	2.9	13.4	14.3	173	957	1752
42 – 48 hrs	390	1.5	0.0	1.5	2.3	0	109	281
49 – 55 hrs	873	3.4	0.6	1.9	5.7	36	136	701
56 hrs and more	2555	10.1	0.7	4.4	18.0	44	311	2200

6.6 Children seeking work

Information on children seeking work is provided in Tables 6.10 and 6.11. This is an important issue since, by definition, economically active children would include those who are at work, and those seeking work and are available for work, if offered. The inferences from these tables should, however, be made with caution as the numbers are relatively small. Table 6.10 indicates that most of children seeking work are in the rural sector, although, as a percent of children at work, the percent for urban areas is higher. As should be expected, most are in the age group 15-17 years. It is also noted that more boys were seeking work than girls. Table 6.11 indicates that while one-third of such children had been seeking work for more than 3 years, over one-half (57 percent) had been searching work for more than a year.

Table 6.10 Children by availability for more work in reference week, by age group, urban-rural sector and sex

Age group/ Sex	Total number of working children	Availability for more work				Not Avail-able	Percent distribution of children seeking work by age group	
		Available					Urban	Rural
		Total		Urban	Rural			
		Number seeking work	Working children in relevant group (%)					
Total children:	**68580**	**2443**	**3.6**	**377**	**2067**	**66137**	**100.0**	**100.0**
5-9	15320	0	0.0	0	0	15320	0.0	0.0

10-14	21407	262	1.2	75	188	21145	19.8	9.1
15-17	31854	2181	6.8	302	1879	29673	80.2	90.9
Male children	**41874**	**1509**	**3.6**	**262**	**1247**	**40365**	**100.0**	**100.0**
5-9	9005	0	0.0	0	0	9005	0.0	0.0
10-14	13762	237	1.7	50	188	13524	19.0	15.0
15-17	19107	1271	6.7	212	1060	17836	81.0	85.0
Female children	**26706**	**935**	**3.5**	**115**	**820**	**25772**	**100.0**	**100.0**
5-9	6315	0	0.0	0	0	6315	0.0	0.0
10-14	7645	25	0.3	25	0	7620	21.6	0.0
15-17	12746	910	7.1	90	820	11837	78.4	100.0

**Table 6.11 Children available for more work in reference week
by duration of employment search**

Duration of seeking/ searching work	Number of children searching for more work			Percentage distribution by duration of search		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Total children :	**2443**	**1509**	**935**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
less than 1 month	42	42	0	1.7	2.8	0.0
1 – 2 months	157	114	42	6.4	7.6	4.5
3 – 6 months	500	178	323	20.5	11.8	34.5
7 – 11 months	336	179	157	13.8	11.9	16.8
1 – 2 years	591	411	180	24.2	27.2	19.3
3 years or more	817	584	233	33.4	38.7	24.9

6.7   Economic activities by children

This section provides details of information from the survey on the economic activities of children, by both current and usual status. It was noted earlier that the number of currently working children in Mongolia as estimated by the NCLS is 68580. The number of working children by usual status of economic activity was estimated as 48936 by the NCLS.

6.7.1   Working children by branch of economic activity

Table 6.12 on economically active children by major branch of economic activity in current primary occupation by age group and sex, illustrates that most children (91.7 percent) are in the agriculture, hunting and fishing sector. Other important branches of economic activity (work) are wholesale and retail trade (4.6 percent), followed by manufacturing (1.0 percent), mining and quarrying (0.8 percent), and restaurants and hotels (0.5 percent).

Graph 3 Distribution of working children aged 5-17 years by industrial sector
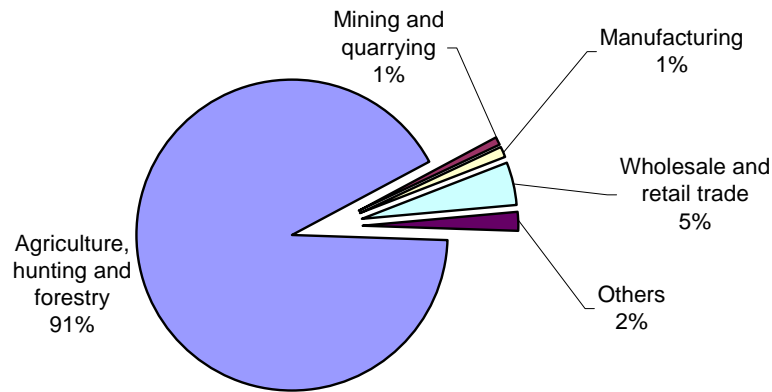
There is no major difference between the sectors in which boys and girls find work, except that relative to boys, in respect of girls, mining and quarrying is of lesser importance, and restaurants and hotels is of higher promise as a sector of employment. Also, girls do not seek work in the construction sector, whereas for boys, it has some importance. In terms of distribution by age group, it is noted that among the major branches of economic activity, employment is more balanced in the agriculture sector (23.8 percent is of age group 5-9 years, 30.7 percent is aged 10-14 years, and 45.5 percent is at 15-17 years). However, in the other major branches of economic activity, children engaged are concentrated in the age group 10-14 and 15-17 years [of course, again, because of the relatively small numbers, the conclusions should not be deemed as very reliable.]

Table 6.13 gives the corresponding statistics for working children by usual status of economic activity in Mongolia, and the observations made on working children for Table 6.12 are applicable for Table 6.13 also. The only difference is that renting business, which finds place in Table 6.12 is not a branch where children may be working by usual status.

6.7.2   Working children by status in employment

The status in employment of currently economically active children by major branch of economic activity in their primary (main) occupation and by gender classification is given in Table 6.14, while Table 6.14a gives the percent distribution by status in employment, and by main branch of economic activity. The numbers indicate that the majority of children (about 90 percent) are unpaid family worker, and the next in importance is the category of own account worker (8 percent). Paid employees are less than 2 percent, and are found mostly in manufacturing, mining and quarrying, construction, and in public administration. No significant difference on account of gender is observed.

Table 6.15 and 6.15a contain statistics from the survey on the status in employment of economically active children by major branch of economic activity in their usual primary (main) occupation and by gender classification. The percentage distribution of usually economically active children by status in employment is almost identical to Table 6.14a.

Table 6.12 Economically active children by major branch of economic activity in CURRENT primary occupation, age group and sex

Age group/ Sex	Total currently working children	Major branch of economic activity										
		Agriculture hunting and forestry	Mining and quarrying	Manufac-turing	Construc-tion	Wholesale and retail trade	Restaurant and hotels	Transportation and communication	Renting business	Public administration	Other community	Private household
Number of children :												
Total children	**68580**	**62880**	**552**	**701**	**217**	**3148**	**353**	**185**	**132**	**88**	**291**	**34**
5-9	15320	14972	42	33	0	272	0	0	0	0	0	0
10-14	21407	19324	265	135	53	1259	150	0	132	38	50	0
15-17	31854	28584	244	533	163	1616	203	185	0	50	241	34
Male children	**41874**	**38409**	**380**	**344**	**217**	**1766**	**146**	**185**	**99**	**88**	**223**	**17**
5-9	9005	8811	42	33	0	118	0	0	0	0	0	0
10-14	13762	12283	208	85	53	888	57	0	99	38	50	0
15-17	19107	17315	130	226	163	760	88	185	0	50	173	17
Female children	**26706**	**24471**	**172**	**357**	**0**	**1381**	**207**	**0**	**33**	**0**	**68**	**17**
5-9	6315	6161	0	0	0	154	0	0	0	0	0	0
10-14	7645	7041	57	50	0	371	93	0	33	0	0	0
15-17	12746	11269	114	307	0	856	114	0	0	0	68	17

Percentage of children : distribution by age group

Total children :	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
5-9	22.3	23.8	7.7	4.7	0.0	8.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
10-14	31.2	30.7	48.1	19.3	24.5	40.0	42.5	0.0	100.0	43.0	17.2	0.0
15-17	46.4	45.5	44.2	76.0	75.5	51.3	57.5	100.0	0.0	57.0	82.8	100.0
Male children	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
5-9	21.5	22.9	11.1	9.6	0.0	6.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
10-14	32.9	32.0	54.8	24.8	24.5	50.3	39.3	0.0	100.0	43.0	22.5	0.0
15-17	45.6	45.1	34.1	65.6	75.5	43.0	60.7	100.0	0.0	57.0	77.5	100.0
Female children	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**-**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**-**	**100.0**	**-**	**100.0**	**100.0**
5-9	23.6	25.2	0.0	0.0	-	11.1	0.0	-	0.0	-	0.0	0.0
10-14	28.6	28.8	33.3	14.0	-	26.9	44.8	-	100.0	-	0.0	0.0
15-17	47.7	46.1	66.7	86.0	-	62.0	55.2	-	0.0	-	100.0	100.0

Table 6.13   Economically active children by major branch of economic activity in USUAL primary occupation, age group and sex

Age group/ Sex	Major branch of economic activity										
	Total usually working children	Agriculture hunting and forestry	Mining and quarrying	Manufac- turing	Construc- tion	Wholesale and retail trade	Restaurant and hotels	Transportation and communication	Public administration	Other community	Private household
Number of children :											
Total children	**48936**	**45898**	**166**	**502**	**163**	**1673**	**88**	**33**	**88**	**291**	**34**
5-9	9017	8796	0	33	0	188	0	0	0	0	0
10-14	13274	12604	72	33	0	477	0	0	37.76	50	0
15-17	26646	24498	93	436	163	1009	88	33	49.98	241	34
Male children	**30977**	**28961**	**166**	**195**	**163**	**1043**	**88**	**33**	**88**	**223**	**17**
5-9	5533	5381	0	33	0	118	0	0	0	0	0
10-14	8800	8242	72	33	0	365	0	0	37.76	50	0
15-17	16645	15338	93	129	163	559	88	33	49.98	173	17
Female children	**17959**	**16936**	**0**	**307**	**0**	**630**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**68**	**17**
5-9	3484	3415	0	0	0	69	0	0	0	0	0
10-14	4474	4362	0	0	0	112	0	0	0	0	0
15-17	10001	9159	0	307	0	449	0	0	0	68	17
Total children :	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
5-9	18.4	19.2	0.0	6.6	0.0	11.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

10-14	27.1	27.5	43.7	6.6	0.0	28.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	17.2	0.0
15-17	54.4	53.4	56.3	86.8	100.0	60.3	100.0	100.0	37.6	82.8	100.0
Male children	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
5-9	17.9	17.4	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
10-14	28.4	28.5	43.7	16.9	0.0	35.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	22.5	0.0
15-17	53.7	53.0	56.3	66.1	100.0	53.6	100.0	100.0	100.0	77.5	100.0
Female children	**100.0**	**100.0**	-	**100.0**	-	**100.0**	-	-	-	**100.0**	**100.0**
5-9	19.4	19.0	-	0.0	-	0.4	-	-	-	0.0	0.0
10-14	24.9	25.8	-	0.0	-	17.7	-	-	-	0.0	0.0
15-17	55.7	54.1	-	100.0	-	71.3	-	-	-	100.0	100.0

Table 6.14 Economically active children by major branch of economic activity in CURRENT primary occupation, status in employment and sex

Status in employment/ Sex	Total currently working children	Major branch of economic activity										
		Agriculture hunting and forestry	Mining and quarrying	Manufactur-ing	Construct-ion	Wholesale and retail trade	Restaurant and hotels	Transport and commu-nications	Renting business	Public administra-tion	Community and social services	Private households
Total children :	**68580**	**62880**	**552**	**701**	**217**	**3148**	**353**	**185**	**132**	**88**	**291**	**34**
Paid employee on contract	694	0	0	249	163	50	0	0	0	88	144	0
Paid employee in civil law	460	124	36	157	0	0	93	0	0	0	50	0
Employer	36	36	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Own account worker	5652	5109	202	18	0	236	0	0	0	0	52	34
Unpaid family worker	61677	57550	313	277	53	2862	260	185	132	0	45	0
Other	61	61	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Male children :	**41874**	**38409**	**380**	**344**	**217**	**1766**	**146**	**185**	**99**	**88**	**223**	**17**
Paid employee on contract	440	0	0	113	163	0	0	0	0	88	76	0
Paid employee in civil law	139	0	36	52	0	0	0	0	0	0	50	0
Employer	36	36	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Own account worker	3819	3396	202	18	0	133	0	0	0	0	52	17
Unpaid family worker	37379	34916	142	161	53	1633	146	185	99	0	45	0
Other	61	61	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Female children :	**26706**	**24471**	**172**	**357**	**0**	**1381**	**207**	**0**	**33**	**0**	**68**	**17**
Paid employee on contract	254	0	0	136	0	50	0	0	0	0	68	0
Paid employee in civil law	322	124	0	105	0	0	93	0	0	0	0	0
Own account worker	1832	1713	0	0	0	102	0	0	0	0	0	17
Unpaid family worker	24298	22634	172	116	0	1229	114	0	33	0	0	0

Table 6.14a Economically active children by major branch of economic activity in CURRENT primary occupation, status in employment and sex

(percent distribution)

Status in employment/ Sex	Total currently working children	Major branch of economic activity										
		Agriculture hunting and forestry	Mining and quarrying	Manufactur-ing	Construct-ion	Wholesale and retail trade	Restaurant and hotels	Transport and commu-nications	Renting business	Public administra-tion	Community and social services	Private households
Percent distribution by main branch of economic activity:												
Total children :	**100.0**	**91.7**	**0.8**	**1.0**	**0.3**	**4.6**	**0.5**	**0.3**	**0.2**	**0.1**	**0.4**	**0.1**
Male children :	**100.0**	**91.7**	**0.9**	**0.8**	**0.5**	**4.2**	**0.3**	**0.4**	**0.2**	**0.2**	**0.5**	**0.0**
Female children :	**100.0**	**91.6**	**0.6**	**1.3**	**0.0**	**5.2**	**0.8**	**0.0**	**0.1**	**0.0**	**0.3**	**0.1**
Percent distribution by status in employment:												
Total children :	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
Paid employee on contract	1.0	0.0	0.0	35.6	75.5	1.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	49.5	0.0
Paid employee in civil law	0.7	0.2	6.6	22.4	0.0	0.0	26.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	17.2	0.0
Employer	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Own account worker	8.2	8.1	36.6	2.6	0.0	7.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	18.0	100.0
Unpaid family worker	89.9	91.5	56.8	39.5	24.5	90.9	73.7	100.0	100.0	0.0	15.3	0.0
Other	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Male children :	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**-**
Paid employee on contract	1.1	0.0	0.0	32.8	75.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	34.1	-
Paid employee in civil law	0.3	0.0	9.5	15.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	22.5	-
Employer	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-
Own account worker	9.1	8.8	53.2	5.3	0.0	7.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	23.5	-
Unpaid family worker	89.3	90.9	37.3	46.7	24.5	92.4	100.0	100.0	100.0	0.0	20.0	-
Other	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-
Female children :	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**-**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**-**	**100.0**	**-**	**100.0**	**100.0**
Paid employee on contract	1.0	0.0	0.0	38.2	-	3.6	0.0	-	0.0	-	100.0	0.0
Paid employee in civil law	1.2	0.5	0.0	29.3	-	0.0	44.8	-	0.0	-	0.0	0.0
Own account worker	6.9	7.0	0.0	0.0	-	7.4	0.0	-	0.0	-	0.0	100.0
Unpaid family worker	91.0	92.5	100.0	32.5	-	89.0	55.2	-	100.0	-	0.0	0.0

Table 6.15 Economically active children by major branch of economic activity in USUAL primary occupation, status in employment and sex

(number)

Status in employment/ Sex	Total currently working children	Major branch of economic activity									
		Agriculture hunting and forestry	Mining and quarrying	Manufactur-ing	Construct-ion	Wholesale and retail trade	Restaurant and hotels	Transport and commu-nications	Public administration	Community and social services	Private households
Total children :	**48936**	**45898**	**166**	**502**	**163**	**1673**	**88**	**33**	**88**	**291**	**34**
Paid employee on contract	642	0	0	197	163	50	0	0	88	144	0
Paid employee in civil law	136	36	0	0	0	50	0	0	0	50	0
Employer	36	36	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Own account worker	3872	2989	166	105	0	481	0	0	0	97	34
Unpaid family worker	44250	42837	0	200	0	1091	88	33	0	0	0
Male children :	**30977**	**28961**	**166**	**195**	**163**	**1043**	**88**	**33**	**88**	**223**	**17**
Paid employee on contract	388	0	0	61	163	0	0	0	88	76	0
Paid employee in civil law	136	36	0	0	0	50	0	0	0	50	0
Employer	36	36	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Own account worker	2745	2086	166	0	0	379	0	0	0	97	17
Unpaid family worker	27672	26803	0	134	0	613	88	33	0	0	0
Female children :	**17959**	**16936**	**0**	**307**	**0**	**630**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**68**	**17**
Paid employee on contract	254	0	0	136	0	50	0	0	0	68	0
Paid employee in civil law	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Own account worker	1127	903	0	105	0	102	0	0	0	0	17
Unpaid family worker	16578	16034	0	66	0	478	0	0	0	0	0

Table 6.15a   Economically active children by major branch of economic activity in USUAL primary occupation, status in employment and sex

(percent distribution)

Status in Employment/ Sex	Total currently working children	Major branch of economic activity									
		Agriculture hunting and forestry	Mining and quarrying	Manufactur-ing	Construct-ion	Wholesale and retail trade	Restaurant and hotels	Transport and commu-nications	Public administration	Community and social services	Private households
Percent distribution by main branch of economic activity:											
Total children :	**100.0**	**93.7**	**0.3**	**1.0**	**0.3**	**3.4**	**0.2**	**0.1**	**0.2**	**0.6**	**0.1**
Male children :	**100.0**	**93.4**	**0.5**	**0.6**	**0.5**	**3.4**	**0.3**	**0.1**	**0.3**	**0.7**	**0.1**
Female children :	**100.0**	**94.3**	**0.0**	**1.7**	**0.0**	**3.5**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.4**	**0.1**
Total children :	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
Paid employee on contract	1.3	0.0	0.0	39.3	100.0	3.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	49.5	0.0
Paid employee in civil law	0.3	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	17.2	0.0
Employer	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Own account worker	7.9	6.5	100.0	20.8	0.0	28.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	33.3	100.0
Unpaid family worker	90.4	93.3	0.0	39.9	0.0	65.2	100.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Male children :	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
Paid employee on contract	1.3	0.0	0.0	31.2	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	34.1	0.0
Paid employee in civil law	0.4	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	22.5	0.0
Employer	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Own account worker	8.9	7.2	100.0	0.0	0.0	36.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	43.5	100.0
Unpaid family worker	89.3	92.5	0.0	68.8	0.0	58.8	100.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Female children :	**100.0**	**100.0**	**-**	**100.0**	**-**	**100.0**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**100.0**	**100.0**
Paid employee on contract	1.4	0.0	-	44.4	-	7.9	-	-	-	100.0	0.0
Paid employee in civil law	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Own account worker	6.3	5.3	-	34.1	-	16.2	-	-	-	0.0	100.0
Unpaid family worker	92.3	94.7	-	21.5	-	75.8	-	-	-	0.0	0.0

Table 6.16 Children in major occupational group in CURRENT primary occupation by age group and sex

Age group/ Sex	Total economically active children	Major occupation group (numbers)							
		Professional services	Technical personnel	Clerks, etc.	Services and shop	Agriculture	Craft and trade	Machinery	Elementary services
Total children:	**68580**	**208**	**50**	**33**	**2839**	**62237**	**1105**	**239**	**1869**
5-9	15320	0	0	0	188	15057	0	33	42
10-14	21407	38	50	33	1100	19237	401	33	514
15-17	31854	171	0	0	1551	27943	704	173	1313
Male children:	**41874**	**208**	**50**	**33**	**1526**	**38050**	**692**	**123**	**1191**
5-9	9005	0	0	0	118	8811	0	33	42
10-14	13762	38	50	33	725	12211	294	33	378
15-17	19107	171	0	0	683	17027	398	57	771
Female children:	**26706**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**1313**	**24187**	**413**	**116**	**678**
5-9	6315	0	0	0	69	6245	0	0	0
10-14	7645	0	0	0	376	7026	107	0	137
15-17	12746	0	0	0	868	10916	305	116	541
Percent distribution by age group :									
Total children:	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
5-9	22.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	6.6	24.2	0.0	13.8	2.3
10-14	31.2	18.1	100.0	100.0	38.8	30.9	36.3	13.8	27.5
15-17	46.4	81.9	0.0	0.0	54.6	44.9	63.7	72.4	70.2
Male children:	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
5-9	21.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	7.8	23.2	0.0	27.0	3.6
10-14	32.9	18.1	100.0	100.0	47.5	32.1	42.4	27.0	31.7
15-17	45.6	81.9	0.0	0.0	44.7	44.7	57.6	46.0	64.7
Female children:	**100.0**	-	-	-	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
5-9	23.6	-	-	-	5.3	25.8	0.0	0.0	0.0
10-14	28.6	-	-	-	28.6	29.0	26.0	0.0	20.2
15-17	47.7	-	-	-	66.1	45.1	74.0	100.0	79.8
Percent distribution by major occupational group :									
Total children:	**100.0**	**0.3**	**0.1**	**0.0**	**4.1**	**90.8**	**1.6**	**0.3**	**2.7**
Male children:	**100.0**	**0.5**	**0.1**	**0.1**	**3.6**	**90.9**	**1.7**	**0.3**	**2.8**
Female children:	**100.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**4.9**	**90.6**	**1.5**	**0.4**	**2.5**

Table 6.17   Children in major occupational group in USUAL primary occupation by age group and sex

Age group/ Sex	Total economically active children	Major occupation group (numbers)						
		Professional services	Technical personnel	Services and shop	Agriculture	Craft and trade	Machinery	Elementary services
Total children:	**48936**	**208**	**50**	**1195**	**45054**	**755**	**239**	**1435**
5-9	9017	0	0	188	8796	0	33	0
10-14	13274	38	50	267	12523	197	33	166
15-17	26646	171	0	740	23735	558	173	1269
Male children:	**30977**	**208**	**50**	**620**	**28485**	**601**	**123**	**890**
5-9	5533	0	0	118	5381	0	33	0
10-14	8800	38	50	198	8175	197	33	109
15-17	16645	171	0	303	14929	404	57	781
Female children:	**17959**	**0**	**0**	**575**	**16568**	**155**	**116**	**545**
5-9	3484	0	0	69	3415	0	0	0
10-14	4474	0	0	69	4347	0	0	57
15-17	10001	0	0	436	8806	155	116	488
Percent distribution by age group :								
Total children:	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
5-9	18.4	0.0	0.0	15.7	19.5	0.0	13.8	0.0
10-14	27.1	18.1	100.0	22.4	27.8	26.1	13.8	11.6
15-17	54.4	81.9	0.0	61.9	52.7	73.9	72.4	88.4
Male children:	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
5-9	17.9	0.0	0.0	19.1	18.9	0.0	-	0.0
10-14	28.4	18.1	100.0	31.9	28.7	32.8	-	12.2
15-17	53.7	81.9	0.0	49.0	52.4	67.2	-	87.8
Female children:	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
5-9	19.4	-	-	12.1	20.6	0.0	0.0	0.0
10-14	24.9	-	-	12.1	26.2	0.0	0.0	10.5
15-17	55.7	-	-	75.9	53.2	100.0	100.0	89.5
Percent distribution by major occupational group :								
Total children:	**100**	**0.4**	**0.1**	**2.4**	**92.1**	**1.5**	**0.5**	**2.9**
Male children:	**100**	**0.7**	**0.2**	**2.0**	**92.0**	**1.9**	**0.4**	**2.9**
Female children:	**100**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**3.2**	**92.3**	**0.9**	**0.6**	**3.0**

6.7.3   Working children by occupational groups

The distribution of working children by current status of economic activity in primary occupation, by major occupational groups and by age group and sex is provided in Table 6.16. It is observed that most children (90.8 percent) are engaged as agricultural workers, and this is to be expected given that most children were found to be working in that branch of economic activity. Next in importance are those working as services and shop assistants (4.1 percent), followed by elementary services (2.7 percent) and crafts and trade (1.6 percent). Total child workers, as well as boys and girls, have an identical distribution pattern. By age group categories, it is seen that the youngest 5-9 years are engaged almost solely as agricultural workers, and a few as services and shop assistants. In other occupational groups, older children are preferred.

Graph 4 Currently employed children aged 5-17 years by occupation distribution
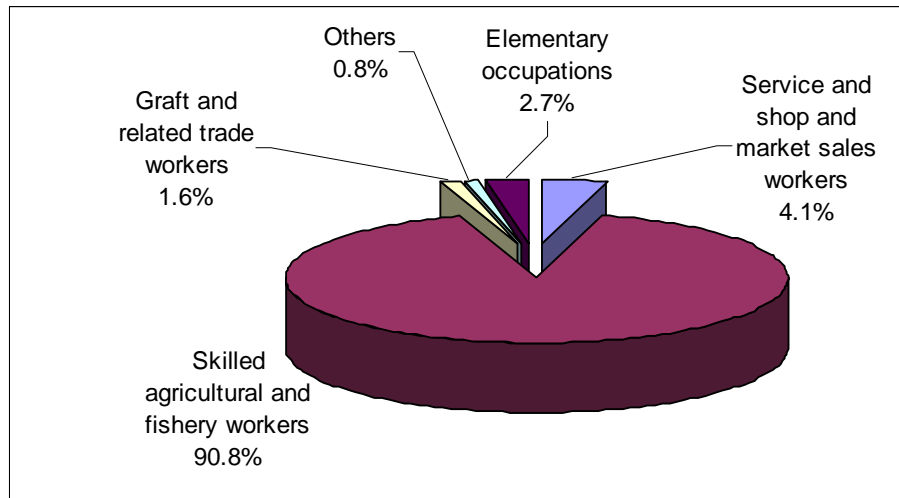
The corresponding statistics for children by usual status of economic activity is provided in Table 6.17. It is readily observed that the information on the distribution of children by occupational groups in Table 6.17 is almost similar to that provided in Table 6.16.

6.7.4 Monthly income of children who are paid employees

The pattern of monthly income of children who are paid employees is given in Table 6.18. Due to small numbers caution is advised in interpreting the information. Most of children in wage job (76.5%) are not attending school. Of the children in wage job and at the same time studying 84.2% earn up to 5000MNT and the remaining 15.8% are paid over 26000MNT. The latter represent one third of the children with the highest income. There is no substantial gender disparity, except for the children with income more than 26000MNT per month are all boys.

Table 6.18 Monthly income of children who are paid employees
in current primary occupation

Amount of earnings (cash and kind) in past month in tugrik	Working as paid employees :					
	Number			Percent distribution by monthly earnings group		
	Total	Attending school	Not attending school	Total	Attending school	Not attending school
Total children :	**994**	**234**	**760**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
less than 5000	382	197	184	38.4	84.5	24.3
6000 - 10000	220	0	220	22.2	0.0	29.0
11000 - 15000	109	0	109	10.9	0.0	14.3
16000 - 20000	136	0	136	13.7	0.0	17.9
21000 - 25000	50	0	50	5.0	0.0	6.6
26000 and more	97	36	61	9.8	15.5	8.0
Male children :	**542**	**141**	**402**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
less than 5000	184	105	80	34.0	74.3	19.9
6000 - 10000	66	0	66	12.2	0.0	16.5
11000 - 15000	109	0	109	20.0	0.0	27.1
16000 - 20000	86	0	86	15.9	0.0	21.5
26000 and more	97	36	61	17.9	25.7	15.1
Female children :	**452**	**93**	**359**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
less than 5000	197	93	105	43.7	100.0	29.1
6000 - 10000	154	0	154	34.2	0.0	43.0
16000 - 20000	50	0	50	11.1	0.0	13.9
21000 - 25000	50	0	50	11.1	0.0	13.9

Table 6.19   Children currently engaged in household (non-economic) activities, by type of
in the household, age group and sex

Age group/ Sex	Total number in household activity	Type of non-economic activities done in the household**								
		Cooking / serving food for household	Cleaning utensils/ house	Washing clothes/ laundering	Minor household repairs	Shopping for household	Knitting and sewing	Fetching water for drinking and washing	Fetching fuel and preparing firewood	Caring for the old and sick
Total :	**567414**	**433775**	**420379**	**259995**	**33717**	**119818**	**32650**	**300449**	**265133**	**12965**
5-9	144782	106846	97384	21729	2945	16341	1802	57159	58641	1878
10-14	262709	200809	201377	128413	13471	59315	14559	150267	123350	5958
15-17	159923	126120	121618	109853	17301	44161	16289	93023	83143	5129
Male :	**285465**	**191011**	**178340**	**101801**	**26107**	**52303**	**5923**	**176324**	**160657**	**5073**
5-9	72643	48928	43737	7724	2068	7691	423	33868	34240	932
10-14	133930	89808	87335	49724	10246	27291	3174	88972	75475	2357
15-17	78892	52274	47268	44352	13793	17322	2326	53484	50941	1783
Female :	**281949**	**242764**	**242039**	**158194**	**7611**	**67514**	**26727**	**124125**	**104477**	**7892**
5-9	72139	57918	53647	14005	877	8650	1379	23291	24400	946
10-14	128779	111001	114043	78688	3225	32025	11384	61295	47875	3600
15-17	81031	73845	74349	65500	3509	26839	13963	39539	32201	3346

** Please note that any one child might have been engaged in a multiple of non-economic activities.

Table 6.20   Children currently engaged in household (non-economic) activities, by type of
in the household, age group and sex

(percent of total children so

Age group/ Sex	Total number in household activity	Type of non-economic activities done in the household**								
		Cooking / serving food for household	Cleaning utensils/ house	Washing clothes/ laundering	Minor household repairs	Shopping for household	Knitting and sewing	Fetching water for drinking and washing	Fetching fuel and preparing firewood	Caring for the old and sick
Total :	**n.a.***	**76.4**	**74.1**	**45.8**	**5.9**	**21.1**	**5.8**	**53.0**	**46.7**	**2.3**
5-9	n.a.*	73.8	67.3	15.0	2.0	11.3	1.2	39.5	40.5	1.3
10-14	n.a.*	76.4	76.7	48.9	5.1	22.6	5.5	57.2	47.0	2.3
15-17	n.a.*	78.9	76.0	68.7	10.8	27.6	10.2	58.2	52.0	3.2
Male :	**n.a.***	**66.9**	**62.5**	**35.7**	**9.1**	**18.3**	**2.1**	**61.8**	**56.3**	**1.8**
5-9	n.a.*	67.4	60.2	10.6	2.8	10.6	0.6	46.6	47.1	1.3
10-14	n.a.*	67.1	65.2	37.1	7.7	20.4	2.4	66.4	56.4	1.8

15-17	n.a.*	66.3	59.9	56.2	17.5	22.0	2.9	67.8	64.6	2.3
Female :	**n.a.***	**86.1**	**85.8**	**56.1**	**2.7**	**23.9**	**9.5**	**44.0**	**37.1**	**2.8**
5-9	n.a.*	80.3	74.4	19.4	1.2	12.0	1.9	32.3	33.8	1.3
10-14	n.a.*	86.2	88.6	61.1	2.5	24.9	8.8	47.6	37.2	2.8
15-17	n.a.*	91.1	91.8	80.8	4.3	33.1	17.2	48.8	39.7	4.1

* n.a.= not available.   ** Please note that any one child might have been engaged in a multiple of non-economic activities.

6.8   Children in non-economic activities

It has been observed that most children are engaged in some form of non-economic activities in their own household. This section investigates the range of non-economic activities that children were absorbed in and the distribution by age group and sex. Accordingly, Table 6.19 gives the data on children so engaged by type of work done in the household. It is seen that children do a wide variety of household chores, such as:

i.   Cooking / serving food for the household

ii.   Cleaning utensils/ house

iii.   Washing clothes/ laundering

iv.   Minor household repairs

v.   Shopping for the household

vi.   Knitting and sewing

vii.   Fetching water for drinking and washing

viii.   Fetching fuel and preparing firewood

ix.   Caring for the old and sick

x.   Looking after children/ siblings

xi.   Caring for household pets, etc.

xii.   Voluntary/ community services without pay

It should be that noted any one child might have been engaged in a multiple of non-economic activities within the household. The percent distribution is given in Table 20.

The most common household tasks are cooking/ serving food, and is followed by cleaning utensils/ house, fetching water for drinking and washing, fetching fuel and preparing firewood, washing clothes/ laundry, and shopping for household. In these domestic chores, the percent of

children engaged ranged from over 76.4 percent for cooking/ serving food, and 74.1 percent for cleaning utensils/ house, to 21.1 percent in shopping for the household.

There are also noticeable variations in the distribution of children among the type of household non-economic activity done, on the basis of difference in gender and age groups. In the major household tasks, the percent of girls (and also the absolute number of girls) who are required to cook/ serve food, as well as clean utensils/ house, is higher than the percent (and number) of boys who have to perform the same tasks. Furthermore, for these two most important household activities, it is noted that the percent of female children so engaged rises with the age group. This is perhaps partly due to prevailing social norms in which women are traditionally assigned the tasks of cooking and cleaning within the household.

Table 6.21 Distribution from within children engaged in non-economic activities,
of those children in fetching fuel and preparing firewood and water for drinking,
by age group, sex, and time spent in this particular activity

Children in non-economic activities			Children from column (2) engaged in fetching fuel and preparing firewood and/or water for drinking				
Hours spent per week in non-economic activities	Total children doing non-economic activities	Doing only non-economic activities	Doing both economic and non-economic activities	Hours spent per week in fetching fuel and/ or water	Total children in fetching fuel and/ or drinking water	5-9 years	10-14 years	15-17 years
Total	**567414**	**506284**	**61130**	**Total**	**346443**	**77345**	**166050**	**103048**
<5	117355	116772	583	<5	189142	51364	90840	46938
5 - 9	130764	129412	1352	5 - 9	93196	16280	44871	32045
10 - 14	86600	82716	3884	10 - 14	37811	5676	18384	13750
15 - 24	105003	95696	9307	15 - 24	22359	3477	10035	8847
25 - 34	56257	46455	9802	25 - 34	3017	378	1380	1259
35 - 42	24527	17487	7040	35 - 42	798	171	497	130
43 - 48	10849	6317	4532	43 - 48	42	0	0	42
49 - 55	9720	4785	4935	49 - 55	42	0	42	0
56 +	26339	6643	19696	56 +	36	0	0	36
				Male:	**198744**	**43918**	**96238**	**58588**
				<5	97986	27877	47888	22220
				5 - 9	57958	10169	27680	20109
				10 - 14	25034	3430	12100	9503
				15 - 24	14929	2078	6916	5934
				25 - 34	1998	228	1114	657
				35 - 42	718	135	497	86
				43 - 48	42	0	0	42
				49 - 55	42	0	42	0
				56 +	36	0	0	36
				Female:	**147699**	**33427**	**69812**	**44460**
				<5	91157	23486	42952	24719
				5 - 9	35238	6110	17191	11936
				10 - 14	12777	2246	6284	4247
				15 - 24	7430	1398	3119	2913
				25 - 34	1018	150	266	602
				35 - 42	80	36	0	43
				43 +	0	0	0	0

In respect of fetching water for drinking and washing, and fetching fuel and preparing firewood, the tables show that more boys than girls are assigned these tasks. This could be due to the fact that these are physically strenuous tasks, involving perhaps going substantial distances on foot, so that boys are considered more suitable, and therefore assigned the task. The other important household activity is shopping for the household, and here a mixed picture emerges.

It is seen that for some household duties, such as, minor household repairs and knitting and sewing, which involve some minimum skill levels, older children are preferred. On the other hand, in tasks like looking after children where skills are not important, younger children seem to be better suited.

Given the large number of children who are engaged in fetching water for drinking and washing, and fetching fuel and preparing firewood, a separate tabulation was prepared to assess the work done, by time spent in the activity in terms of hours per week, age group and sex. The reason is that very strictly by SNA 1993, these two activities should be deemed as economic activities that fall within ISCO-88 (International Standard Classification of Occupations) under Group 6210 (Subsistence Agricultural and Fishery workers). However, national practices differ in computation of GDP and the inclusion of these two activities for the purpose. Table 6.21 contains the relevant information.

If fetching water for drinking and washing, and fetching fuel and preparing firewood are indeed deemed as economic activities, the number of working children in Mongolia, as well as those who could be classified as being 'child labour' would rise significantly. By ILO guidelines and the definition of child labour in Chapter III[18], from Table 6.21 it would then appear that all 89377 children including 77345 children aged 5-9 years engaged in these activities, 11954 children aged 10-14 years and spending more than 14 hours per week in performing these tasks, as also 78 children in the age group 15-17 spending in excess of 43 hours weekly on these tasks, would be categorized as 'child labour'.

These numbers are in addition to the child labour from among the currently economically active children, an issue to be discussed in the next chapter.

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[18]   Child labour as referred to in the NCLS consists of all children under 18 years of age who are economically active except (i) those who are under 5 years of age and (ii) those between 10-14 years old who spend less than 14 hours a week on their jobs, unless their activities or occupations are hazardous by nature or circumstance. Added to this are 15-17 year old children in WFCL (including hazardous work and work of 43 hours and more per week, even in non-hazardous industry/ occupation, which may be considered as hazardous).

CHAPTER VII

CHILD LABOUR, CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES OF CHILD WORK

7.1   Introduction to the chapter

With Mongolia having adopted ILO Conventions 138 and 182, the provisions in labour laws in the country are more or less in line with the relevant ILO Conventions that set different age standards for admission to work on the basis of the nature of the occupation. However, as is the situation in other countries, legislation alone is not sufficient to address the complexities of child labour, and it is essential to develop social and economic measures simultaneously to address issues of poverty and inequality that are often at the root of the problem. For the purpose, it is useful to study the reasons compelling children to seek work, and the dangers that children are exposed to while at work are important matters for investigation so that suitable policies to benefit children may be evolved.

This chapter will discuss the issue of the magnitude of working children, and of child labour, on the basis of the findings from the Mongolia NCLS presented in Chapter VI. An analysis of the data from the survey will also be made in order to identify the causes and consequences of why children are engaged in the economic and the non-economic activities that they have been doing in Mongolia. The respective perceptions of working and non-working children on the reasons of why they are engaged in economic and non-economic activities is examined, as also matters relating to the health hazards from working, and time spent by working children for recreation. In addition, information on how working children view their working is provided.

7.2   Child labour estimates for Mongolia

Child labour is a narrower concept than children who are at work, that is, the "economically active children". As noted in Chapter III, for the purpose of estimation of child labour in Mongolia, based on ILO Conventions Nos. 138 and 182, child labour is defined as follows:

ages 5-9   = all children at work in economic activity;

plus ages 10-14 = all children at work in economic activities [less those in light
                 work, say, 2 hours on average per week]

plus ages 15-17 = all children in hazardous work and other worst forms of child labour
                 [since the Mongolia NCLS 2002-03 does not identified WFCL sectors, or
                 what constitutes hazardous work, for the lack of an internationally

acceptable criteria, the only criteria to identify hazardous work for this age group is work that, even if non-hazardous, is 43 or more hours per week]

This section deals with the child labour estimates for Mongolia by age group and gender obtained on the basis of current activity status based on the data from NCLS 2002-03 which are given in Table 7.1.

Table 7.1 Child labour in Mongolia based on hours of work spent in economic activities, and by age group and sex

Hours of work per week in activity/ Sex	Total children in economic activity	Age group :		
		5-9 years	10-14 years	15-17 years
Total child workers:	**65729**	**14633**	**20436**	**30660**
less than 5 hrs	3924	1723	1374	827
5 – 9 hrs	6827	3518	1923	1387
10 – 14 hrs	11054	4671	3746	2637
15 – 24 hrs	13083	2664	4741	5678
25 – 34 hrs	7918	866	3086	3966
35 – 42 hrs	8628	668	2626	5334
43 – 48 hrs	1664	93	492	1079
49 – 55 hrs	2751	87	511	2153
56 hrs and more	9879	343	1937	7599
of which child labour (total) =		*14633*	*13393*	*10831*
Male :	**40406**	**8662**	**13302**	**18442**
less than 5 hrs	2068	700	899	468
5 – 9 hrs	3857	2264	1160	433
10 – 14 hrs	5965	2495	2108	1363
15 – 24 hrs	7134	1676	2734	2724
25 – 34 hrs	5160	588	2348	2224
35 – 42 hrs	5746	495	1669	3582
43 – 48 hrs	1274	93	383	797
49 – 55 hrs	1878	51	375	1452
56 hrs and more	7324	299	1626	5399
of which child labour (male) =		*8662*	*9135*	*7648*
Female :	**25323**	**5971**	**7134**	**12217**
less than 5 hrs	1856	1023	475	359
5 – 9 hrs	2971	1254	763	954
10 – 14 hrs	5089	2176	1639	1274
15 – 24 hrs	5948	988	2007	2954
25 – 34 hrs	2757	278	738	1742
35 – 42 hrs	2883	173	957	1752
43 – 48 hrs	390	0	109	281
49 – 55 hrs	873	36	136	701
56 hrs and more	2555	44	311	2200
of which child labour (female) =		*5971*	*4258*	*3182*

Table 7.2 Child labour in Mongolia based on hours of work spent in children in fetching fuel and preparing firewood and water for drinking[19], by age group and sex[20]

Hours of work per week in activity/ Sex	Total children in fetching fuel and/ or drinking water	Age group :		
		5-9 years	10-14 years	15-17 years
Total child workers:	**346443**	**77345**	**166050**	**103048**
less than 5 hrs	189142	51364	90840	46938
5 – 9 hrs	93196	16280	44871	32045
10 – 14 hrs	37811	5676	18384	13750
15 – 24 hrs	22359	3477	10035	8847
25 – 34 hrs	3017	378	1380	1259
35 – 42 hrs	798	171	497	130
43 – 48 hrs	42	0	0	42
49 – 55 hrs	42	0	42	0
56 hrs and more	36	0	0	36
of which child labour (total) =		*77345*	*11954*	*78*
Male :	**198744**	**43918**	**96238**	**58588**
less than 5 hrs	97986	27877	47888	22220
5 – 9 hrs	57958	10169	27680	20109
10 – 14 hrs	25034	3430	12100	9503
15 – 24 hrs	14929	2078	6916	5934
25 – 34 hrs	1998	228	1114	657
35 – 42 hrs	718	135	497	86
43 – 48 hrs	42	0	0	42
49 – 55 hrs	42	0	42	0
56 hrs and more	36	0	0	36
of which child labour (male) =		*43918*	*8569*	*78*
Female :	**147699**	**33427**	**69812**	**44460**
less than 5 hrs	91157	23486	42952	24719
5 – 9 hrs	35238	6110	17191	11936
10 – 14 hrs	12777	2246	6284	4247
15 – 24 hrs	7430	1398	3119	2913
25 – 34 hrs	1018	150	266	602
35 – 42 hrs	80	36	0	43
43 hrs and more	0	0	0	0
of which child labour (female) =		*33427*	*3385*	*0*

Since the only criteria available for determining the subset of 'child labour' from within children who are engaged in economic activities, is on the basis of hours of work, in Table 7.1 the shaded area indicates the extent of 'child labour'. It is seen that of the 65729 economically active children, 38857 children (59.1 percent) may be termed as being in the category of child labour. As a percent of total children in Mongolia, child labour on this basis would constitute 5.7 percent (38857 of 679049) of all children aged 5-17 years estimated by the survey. Table 7.1 also indicates that of these 38857 children in child labour, 25445 (65.5 percent) are boys and 13411 (34.5 percent) are

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[19]   Very strictly by SNA 1993, these two activities (fetching fuel and preparing firewood, and fetching water for drinking) should be deemed as economic activities that fall within ISCO-88 (International Standard Classification of Occupations) under Group 6210 (Subsistence Agricultural and Fishery workers). However, national practices differ in computation of GDP and the inclusion of these two activities for the purpose.

[20]   *Note*: Some of these children might also be in economic activities, and included in 'child labour' estimate on the basis of their engagement in economic activities. So the numbers in Table 7.1 and Table 7.2 **may not be added**.

girls. As a share of the economically active children, in regard to boys at work, child labour constitutes 63 percent (25445 of 40406), which is higher than 53 percent (13411 of 25323) for working girls. There is also differentiation by gender at extent of child labour for children in the age group 15-17 years, and for males the share of child labour among economically active children is 41.5 percent (7648 of 18442) against the corresponding proportion of 26 percent (3182 of 12217) in respect of female children.

It should be noted that this estimate of child labour is an underestimate of the real situation prevailing in the country, since children who are living independently and not with households, such as, the street children and those staying in institutions are covered by the LFS-cum-NCLS. Furthermore, children who are engaged in the worst forms of child labour are a hidden group and, again, cannot be captured by household-based surveys. Again, due to non-availability of guidelines on what constitutes hazardous industries and hazardous occupations in non-hazardous industries, child labour on the basis of those working under such conditions has not been estimated.

By SNA 1993, in circumstances where provision of water for drinking and fuel for cooking is not readily made available by public authorities, the value of water fetched for drinking purposes, and of fuel fetched and firewood prepared, may be included in the estimation of the GDP. Although in the LFS-cum-NCLS these have been termed as non-economic activities, it was felt that an analysis of the time spent by children in these two activities be made separately since such a situation would seem to prevail in large parts of rural Mongolia, and even some urban pockets. Table 7.2 indicates the dimension of children so engaged in terms of hours spent weekly in these activities. On this basis, of the 346443 children reporting having been taken up in (either or both) fetching fuel and preparing firewood, and fetching water for drinking, it is observed that in relation to age and hours spent criteria, 89377 children may be deemed to be in the category of 'child labour'. It is important to note that the estimates of Table 7.2 are provided for drawing attention to policy purposes of time spent by children in these two activities, and not to add to the country child labour estimates. It is also clarified that the estimates of child labour from Table 7.1 and Table 7.2 may not be added, as some of the children in Table 7.2 might also be engaged in economic activities.

7.3   Reasons for children to engage in non-school activities

7.3.1   Reasons for engaging in economic activities

As the survey suggests of the total working children, about 20% (13509 of 68580) are engaged in economic activity outside household. The main reason as to why children go to work (that is, engage in economic activities) outside household is analyzed in Table 7.3 in terms of their age group and sex, based on the responses received during the NCLS. Table 7.3a provides the percent distribution by reason for working, and Table 7.3b gives the percent distribution by age group.

Graph 5 **Distribution of working children aged 5-17 years, by main reason for engaging in any work other than in household economic activity**
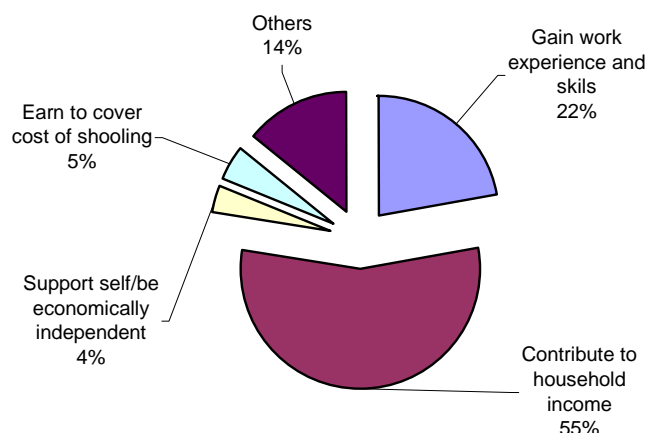
As seen in the graph above a majority of the children(7452 of 13509 or 55.2%) are engaged in economic activity to contribute to household income. Among children who are also studying, this response is provided by 61.9 percent (3685 of 5952) of them, while for those not studying the corresponding number is 49.8 percent (3767 of 7567). Next in importance is 'gaining work experience and skills' which is indicated as the main reason for engaging in economic activities by 22 percent (3017 of 13509) of the children: for children also studying this reply is given by 19 percent (1128 of 5952) while it is 25 percent (1889 of 7557) for those not studying. Interestingly, even among those children not currently studying, a few indicate their main reason for working as 'earn to cover cost of schooling'. Another primary reason indicated by some children to explain their work status is the desire to 'support self and be independent'.

Table 7.3 a highlights a few gender differentials in regard to their main reason for working. As regards the need to 'gain experience and skills' boys and girls who have so responded are 24.2 percent and 18.6 percent, respectively, while for 'earn to cover cost of schooling' the corresponding numbers for male and female children are 2.7 percent and 8.7 percent. For the reason of 'contribute to household income' there is no observed major gender differential. Most of the responding working children fall in the age group 10-17 years, and Table 7.3b indicates that except for the reason 'earn to cover cost of schooling' in which the percent of total children so responding is highest for age group 10-14 years, for all other main reasons the majority of children so replying are in the age group 15-17 years. Between the categories of children who are studying, and those who are not studying, from the tables there is no observed major variation in the relative importance of the main underlying reason for engaging in economic activities.

7.3.2   Reasons for engaging in non-economic activities

The main reasons as to why children engage in non-economic activities (household chores) in their own household is analyzed in Table 7.4.[21] The responses have been tabulated in terms of the age group and sex of responding children. Table 7.4a provides the percent distribution by reason for engaging in such non-economic activities, and Table 7.4b gives the percent distribution by age group.

From Table 7.4 it is readily evident that for the vast majority of children the main reason is to 'help parents. For the total of children engaged in non-economic activities in own household, this reply is cited by 86.6 percent (279981 of 323275) and Table 7.4a

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[21]   Please note that domestic work performed in another household falls in the category of economic activities.

Table 7.3 Children by main reason for engaging in work by age group and sex

Age group /Sex	All children						Children who are studying						Children who are not studying					
	Total	Gain work experience and skills	Contribute to household income	Support self and be independent	Earn to cover cost of schooling	Other reasons	Total	Gain work experience and skills	Contribute to household income	Support self and be independent	Earn to cover cost of schooling	Other reasons	Total	Gain work experience and skills	Contribute to household income	Support self and be independent	Earn to cover cost of schooling	Other reasons
Total:	**13509**	**3017**	**7452**	**495**	**639**	**1906**	**5952**	**1128**	**3685**	**247**	**339**	**553**	**7557**	**1889**	**3767**	**249**	**300**	**1354**
5-6	17	0	0	0	0	17	0	0	0	0	0	0	17	0	0	0	0	17
7-9	292	17	173	0	0	102	17	17	0	0	0	0	275	0	173	0	0	102
10-14	4342	1172	2258	0	325	588	2907	565	1815	0	216	311	1435	607	443	0	109	277
15-17	8858	1828	5021	495	314	1199	3028	546	1870	247	123	242	5830	1282	3151	249	191	957
Male:	**8971**	**2173**	**4886**	**306**	**244**	**1362**	**3976**	**869**	**2476**	**90**	**99**	**442**	**4994**	**1304**	**2410**	**215**	**145**	**920**
5-6	17	0	0	0	0	17	0	0	0	0	0	0	17	0	0	0	0	17
7-9	250	17	173	0	0	60	17	17	0	0	0	0	233	0	173	0	0	60
10-14	3122	949	1518	0	175	481	1974	463	1184	0	66	261	1148	486	333	0	109	220
15-17	5582	1207	3195	306	69	805	1985	389	1291	90	33	182	3597	818	1904	215	36	623
Female	**4539**	**844**	**2566**	**189**	**395**	**544**	**1976**	**259**	**1209**	**156**	**240**	**110**	**2563**	**585**	**1357**	**33**	**155**	**434**
5-6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7-9	42	0	0	0	0	42	0	0	0	0	0	0	42	0	0	0	0	42
10-14	1220	223	740	0	150	107	933	102	630	0	150	50	288	121	110	0	0	57
15-17	3276	621	1826	189	245	395	1043	157	579	156	90	61	2233	464	1247	33	155	334

Table 7.3a   Children by main reason for engaging in work by age group and sex

(percent distribution by reason for working)

Age group /Sex	All children						Children who are studying						Children who are not studying					
	Total	Gain work experience and skills	Contribute to household income	Support self and be independent	Earn to cover cost of schooling	Other reasons	Total	Gain work experience and skills	Contribute to household income	Support self and be independent	Earn to cover cost of schooling	Other reasons	Total	Gain work experience and skills	Contribute to household income	Support self and be independent	Earn to cover cost of schooling	Other reasons
Total:	**100.0**	**22.3**	**55.2**	**3.7**	**4.7**	**14.1**	**44.1**	**8.4**	**27.3**	**1.8**	**2.5**	**4.1**	**55.9**	**14.0**	**27.9**	**1.8**	**2.2**	**10.0**
5-6	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0
7-9	100.0	5.9	59.2	0.0	0.0	34.9	5.9	5.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	94.1	0.0	59.2	0.0	0.0	34.9
10-14	100.0	27.0	52.0	0.0	7.5	13.5	66.9	13.0	41.8	0.0	5.0	7.2	33.1	14.0	10.2	0.0	2.5	6.4
15-17	100.0	20.6	56.7	5.6	3.5	13.5	34.2	6.2	21.1	2.8	1.4	2.7	65.8	14.5	35.6	2.8	2.2	10.8
Male:	**100.0**	**24.2**	**54.5**	**3.4**	**2.7**	**15.2**	**44.3**	**9.7**	**27.6**	**1.0**	**1.1**	**4.9**	**55.7**	**14.5**	**26.9**	**2.4**	**1.6**	**10.3**
5-6	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0
7-9	100.0	6.9	69.3	0.0	0.0	23.8	6.9	6.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	93.1	0.0	69.3	0.0	0.0	23.8
10-14	100.0	30.4	48.6	0.0	5.6	15.4	63.2	14.8	37.9	0.0	2.1	8.3	36.8	15.6	10.7	0.0	3.5	7.0
15-17	100.0	21.6	57.2	5.5	1.2	14.4	35.6	7.0	23.1	1.6	0.6	3.3	64.4	14.7	34.1	3.9	0.6	11.2
Female	**100.0**	**18.6**	**56.5**	**4.2**	**8.7**	**12.0**	**43.5**	**5.7**	**26.6**	**3.4**	**5.3**	**2.4**	**56.5**	**12.9**	**29.9**	**0.7**	**3.4**	**9.6**
5-6	--	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
7-9	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0
10-14	100.0	18.3	60.6	0.0	12.3	8.8	76.4	8.4	51.7	0.0	12.3	4.1	23.6	9.9	9.0	0.0	0.0	4.7
15-17	100.0	19.0	55.7	5.8	7.5	12.1	31.8	4.8	17.7	4.8	2.8	1.8	68.2	14.2	38.1	1.0	4.7	10.2

Table 7.3b Children by main reason for engaging in work by age group and sex

(percent distribution by age group)

Age group /Sex	All children						Children who are studying						Children who are not studying					
	Total	Gain work experience and skills	Contribute to household income	Support self and be independent	Earn to cover cost of schooling	Other reasons	Total	Gain work experience and skills	Contribute to household income	Support self and be independent	Earn to cover cost of schooling	Other reasons	Total	Gain work experience and skills	Contribute to household income	Support self and be independent	Earn to cover cost of schooling	Other reasons
Total:	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
5-6	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.3
7-9	2.2	0.6	2.3	0.0	0.0	5.3	0.3	1.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.6	0.0	4.6	0.0	0.0	7.5
10-14	32.1	38.8	30.3	0.0	50.8	30.8	48.8	50.1	49.3	0.0	63.7	56.2	19.0	32.1	11.8	0.0	36.3	20.5
15-17	65.6	60.6	67.4	100.0	49.2	62.9	50.9	48.4	50.7	100.0	36.3	43.8	77.1	67.9	83.7	100.0	63.7	70.7
Male:	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
5-6	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.9
7-9	2.8	0.8	3.5	0.0	0.0	4.4	0.4	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.7	0.0	7.2	0.0	0.0	6.5
10-14	34.8	43.7	31.1	0.0	71.6	35.3	49.6	53.3	47.8	0.0	66.7	58.9	23.0	37.2	13.8	0.0	75.0	23.9
15-17	62.2	55.5	65.4	100.0	28.4	59.1	49.9	44.7	52.2	100.0	33.3	41.1	72.0	62.8	79.0	100.0	25.0	67.7
Female	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
5-6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
7-9	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	7.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	9.8
10-14	26.9	26.4	28.8	0.0	38.0	19.7	47.2	39.4	52.1	0.0	62.5	45.2	11.2	20.7	8.1	0.0	0.0	13.2
15-17	72.2	73.6	71.2	100.0	62.0	72.5	52.8	60.6	47.9	100.0	37.5	54.8	87.1	79.3	91.9	100.0	100.0	77.1

Table 7.4 Children by main reason for engaging in own household non-economic activities, by age group and sex

Age group /Sex	All children						Children who are studying						Children who are not studying					
	Total	Gain experience and skills	Help parents	Shortage of adult family members	Forced by parents	Other reasons	Total	Gain experience and skills	Help parents	Shortage of adult family members	Forced by parents	Other reasons	Total	Gain experience and skills	Help parents	Shortage of adult family members	Forced by parents	Other reasons
Total:	**323275**	**23517**	**279981**	**15436**	**2735**	**1606**	**234472**	**15222**	**208312**	**8352**	**2168**	**418**	**88803**	**8295**	**71668**	**7083**	**568**	**1188**
5-6	25702	2320	22430	590	95	267	590	17	572	0	0	0	25113	2303	21857	590	95	267
7-9	56565	3387	50449	1927	652	151	37649	2341	33705	1051	552	0	18916	1047	16744	876	100	151
10-14	142562	9752	124995	6033	1374	408	128214	8069	114248	4409	1274	214	14348	1683	10747	1624	100	194
15-17	98446	8058	82107	6886	615	780	68019	4795	59787	2892	341	204	30426	3262	22320	3994	273	576
Male:	**168506**	**12639**	**145427**	**7912**	**1500**	**1029**	**118012**	**7594**	**105108**	**3833**	**1273**	**204**	**50494**	**5044**	**40319**	**4079**	**227**	**825**
5-6	13607	1167	11977	317	53	93	190	0	190	0	0	0	13418	1167	11788	317	53	93
7-9	28737	1775	25497	1004	309	151	19480	1098	17485	588	309	0	9256	678	8012	416	0	151
10-14	75025	5559	65331	3020	806	309	65539	4330	58299	2088	706	114	9486	1229	7031	931	100	194
15-17	51137	4137	42621	3571	332	476	32803	2166	29133	1156	258	89	18334	1970	13488	2415	74	386
Female	**154769**	**10879**	**134553**	**7524**	**1236**	**578**	**116460**	**7628**	**103204**	**4519**	**895**	**214**	**38309**	**3251**	**31349**	**3005**	**341**	**364**
5-6	12095	1153	10452	273	42	174	400	17	383	0	0	0	11695	1136	10070	273	42	174
7-9	27829	1612	24951	922	343	0	18169	1243	16220	463	243	0	9660	369	8732	460	100	0
10-14	67537	4193	59664	3013	568	100	62675	3739	55949	2320	568	100	4862	454	3716	693	0	0
15-17	47308	3921	39486	3315	283	304	35216	2629	30653	1736	84	114	12092	1292	8832	1579	199	190

**Table 7.4a Children by main reason for engaging in own household non-economic activities,
by age group and sex**

(percent distribution by reason)

Age group /Sex	All children						Children who are studying						Children who are not studying					
	Total	Gain experience and skills	Help parents	Shortage of adult family members	Forced by parents	Other reasons	Total	Gain experience and skills	Help parents	Shortage of adult family members	Forced by parents	Other reasons	Total	Gain experience and skills	Help parents	Shortage of adult family members	Forced by parents	Other reasons
Total:	**100.0**	**7.3**	**86.6**	**4.8**	**0.8**	**0.5**	**100.0**	**6.5**	**88.8**	**3.6**	**0.9**	**0.2**	**100.0**	**9.3**	**80.7**	**8.0**	**0.6**	**1.3**
5-6	100.0	9.0	87.3	2.3	0.4	1.0	100.0	2.9	97.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	9.2	87.0	2.3	0.4	1.1
7-9	100.0	6.0	89.2	3.4	1.2	0.3	100.0	6.2	89.5	2.8	1.5	0.0	100.0	5.5	88.5	4.6	0.5	0.8
10-14	100.0	6.8	87.7	4.2	1.0	0.3	100.0	6.3	89.1	3.4	1.0	0.2	100.0	11.7	74.9	11.3	0.7	1.4
15-17	100.0	8.2	83.4	7.0	0.6	0.8	100.0	7.0	87.9	4.3	0.5	0.3	100.0	10.7	73.4	13.1	0.9	1.9
Male:	**100.0**	**7.5**	**86.3**	**4.7**	**0.9**	**0.6**	**100.0**	**6.4**	**89.1**	**3.2**	**1.1**	**0.2**	**100.0**	**10.0**	**79.8**	**8.1**	**0.4**	**1.6**
5-6	100.0	8.6	88.0	2.3	0.4	0.7	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	8.7	87.9	2.4	0.4	0.7
7-9	100.0	6.2	88.7	3.5	1.1	0.5	100.0	5.6	89.8	3.0	1.6	0.0	100.0	7.3	86.6	4.5	0.0	1.6
10-14	100.0	7.4	87.1	4.0	1.1	0.4	100.0	6.6	89.0	3.2	1.1	0.2	100.0	13.0	74.1	9.8	1.0	2.0
15-17	100.0	8.1	83.3	7.0	0.6	0.9	100.0	6.6	88.8	3.5	0.8	0.3	100.0	10.7	73.6	13.2	0.4	2.1
Female	**100.0**	**7.0**	**86.9**	**4.9**	**0.8**	**0.4**	**100.0**	**6.5**	**88.6**	**3.9**	**0.8**	**0.2**	**100.0**	**8.5**	**81.8**	**7.8**	**0.9**	**0.9**
5-6	100.0	9.5	86.4	2.3	0.3	1.4	100.0	4.3	95.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	9.7	86.1	2.3	0.4	1.5
7-9	100.0	5.8	89.7	3.3	1.2	0.0	100.0	6.8	89.3	2.5	1.3	0.0	100.0	3.8	90.4	4.8	1.0	0.0
10-14	100.0	6.2	88.3	4.5	0.8	0.1	100.0	6.0	89.3	3.7	0.9	0.2	100.0	9.3	76.4	14.2	0.0	0.0
15-17	100.0	8.3	83.5	7.0	0.6	0.6	100.0	7.5	87.0	4.9	0.2	0.3	100.0	10.7	73.0	13.1	1.6	1.6

**Table 7.4b Children by main reason for engaging in own household non-economic activities,
by age group and sex**

(percent distribution by age group)

Age group /Sex	All children						Children who are studying						Children who are not studying					
	Total	Gain experience and skills	Help parents	Shortage of adult family members	Forced by parents	Other reasons	Total	Gain experience and skills	Help parents	Shortage of adult family members	Forced by parents	Other reasons	Total	Gain experience and skills	Help parents	Shortage of adult family members	Forced by parents	Other reasons
Total:	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
5-6	8.0	9.9	8.0	3.8	3.5	16.6	0.3	0.1	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	28.3	27.8	30.5	8.3	16.8	22.5
7-9	17.5	14.4	18.0	12.5	23.8	9.4	16.1	15.4	16.2	12.6	25.5	0.0	21.3	12.6	23.4	12.4	17.5	12.7
10-14	44.1	41.5	44.6	39.1	50.2	25.4	54.7	53.0	54.8	52.8	58.8	51.2	16.2	20.3	15.0	22.9	17.5	16.4
15-17	30.5	34.3	29.3	44.6	22.5	48.5	29.0	31.5	28.7	34.6	15.7	48.8	34.3	39.3	31.1	56.4	48.2	48.5
Male:	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
5-6	8.1	9.2	8.2	4.0	3.5	9.1	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	26.6	23.1	29.2	7.8	23.3	11.3
7-9	17.1	14.0	17.5	12.7	20.6	14.6	16.5	14.5	16.6	15.4	24.3	0.0	18.3	13.4	19.9	10.2	0.0	18.3
10-14	44.5	44.0	44.9	38.2	53.7	30.0	55.5	57.0	55.5	54.5	55.5	56.2	18.8	24.4	17.4	22.8	43.9	23.6
15-17	30.3	32.7	29.3	45.1	22.1	46.2	27.8	28.5	27.7	30.2	20.2	43.8	36.3	39.1	33.5	59.2	32.8	46.8
Female	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
5-6	7.8	10.6	7.8	3.6	3.4	30.1	0.3	0.2	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	30.5	34.9	32.1	9.1	12.4	47.8
7-9	18.0	14.8	18.5	12.3	27.8	0.0	15.6	16.3	15.7	10.2	27.2	0.0	25.2	11.4	27.9	15.3	29.2	0.0
10-14	43.6	38.5	44.3	40.0	45.9	17.2	53.8	49.0	54.2	51.3	63.5	46.5	12.7	14.0	11.9	23.0	0.0	0.0
15-17	30.6	36.0	29.3	44.1	22.9	52.6	30.2	34.5	29.7	38.4	9.3	53.5	31.6	39.7	28.2	52.6	58.4	52.2

confirms that there is hardly any gender differential in this regard. The next most important reasons are those of 'gain experience and skills' (7.3 percent) and 'shortage of adult family members' (4.8 percent). Only a very small proportion (0.8 percent) indicate 'forced by parents' as the primary reason for engaging in such household/ domestic chores and duties. Table 7.4a again indicates no major gender variation.

By Table 7.4a it is also noted that the pattern of responses provided by children who are also studying, and by those not studying currently, is broadly similar. Only minor variations in the percent shares of children providing a particular major reason is observed. For example, 'help parents' is still the overwhelming response, but in the case of children who are also studying the percent of them so responding is 88.8 percent against 80.7 percent for those children who are not studying. Again, the second most quoted main reason is 'gain experience and skill' and the percent of children so responding are 6.5 percent of children who are studying, and 9.3 percent of those not studying.

Table 7.4b gives the percent distribution by age groups, and it is seen that of the total children performing own household chores/ domestic duties, those aged 5-6 years are 8 percent and those in the age group 7-9 years constitute 17.5 percent. Thus, over one-quarter of the children in the age group 5-17 years engaged in non-economic

Table 7.5   Children by age at which they start to engage in work

(number)

Age group/ Sex	Children at work	whether studying at a school/ training institute :		whether staying away from home :	
		yes	no	yes	no
Total children :	**13509**	**5952**	**7557**	**1548**	**11961**
5-6	532	315	218	82	450
7-9	1562	797	766	272	1290
10-12	4674	2262	2412	358	4316
13-14	3387	1624	1763	357	3030
15-17	3353	954	2399	479	2874
Male children :	**8971**	**3976**	**4994**	**1045**	**7926**
5-6	362	170	193	82	280
7-9	1064	486	578	143	921
10-12	3541	1662	1879	274	3268
13-14	2080	991	1088	224	1856
15-17	1924	667	1257	322	1601
Female children :	**4539**	**1976**	**2563**	**503**	**4036**
5-6	170	145	25	0	170
7-9	498	311	188	129	369
10-12	1133	600	533	85	1049
13-14	1307	632	675	133	1175
15-17	1430	288	1142	157	1273

Table 7.5a Children by age at which they start to engage in work

(percent distribution by study and stay status)

Age group/ Sex	Children at work	whether studying at a school/ training institute :		whether staying away from home :	
		yes	no	yes	no
Total children :	**100.0**	**44.1**	**55.9**	**11.5**	**88.5**
5-6	100.0	59.1	40.9	15.4	84.6
7-9	100.0	51.0	49.0	17.4	82.6
10-12	100.0	48.4	51.6	7.7	92.3
13-14	100.0	47.9	52.1	10.5	89.5
15-17	100.0	28.5	71.5	14.3	85.7
Male children :	**100.0**	**44.3**	**55.7**	**11.7**	**88.3**
5-6	100.0	46.9	53.1	22.6	77.4
7-9	100.0	45.7	54.3	13.5	86.5
10-12	100.0	46.9	53.1	7.7	92.3
13-14	100.0	47.7	52.3	10.8	89.2
15-17	100.0	34.7	65.3	16.8	83.2
Female children :	**100.0**	**43.5**	**56.5**	**11.1**	**88.9**
5-6	100.0	85.3	14.7	0.0	100.0
7-9	100.0	62.3	37.7	25.9	74.1
10-12	100.0	52.9	47.1	7.5	92.5
13-14	100.0	48.4	51.6	10.1	89.9
15-17	100.0	20.1	79.9	11.0	89.0

Table 7.5b Children by age at which they start to engage in work

(percent distribution by age group)

Age group/ Sex	Children at work	whether studying at a school/ training institute :		whether staying away from home :	
		yes	no	yes	no
Total children :	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
5-6	3.9	5.3	2.9	5.3	3.8
7-9	11.6	13.4	10.1	17.6	10.8
10-12	34.6	38.0	31.9	23.1	36.1
13-14	25.1	27.3	23.3	23.0	25.3
15-17	24.8	16.0	31.7	31.0	24.0
Male children :	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
5-6	4.0	4.3	3.9	7.9	3.5
7-9	11.9	12.2	11.6	13.7	11.6
10-12	39.5	41.8	37.6	26.2	41.2
13-14	23.2	24.9	21.8	21.4	23.4
15-17	21.4	16.8	25.2	30.8	20.2
Female children :	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
5-6	3.7	7.3	1.0	0.0	4.2
7-9	11.0	15.7	7.3	25.7	9.2
10-12	25.0	30.4	20.8	16.8	26.0
13-14	28.8	32.0	26.3	26.4	29.1
15-17	31.5	14.6	44.6	31.2	31.5

activities are aged below 10 years. This pattern is broadly same for boys and girls. Table
7.4b reveals that for children in the age groups 5-6 years (usually not studying) some have

responded that the main reason for spending time in non-economic activities in own household is being 'forced by parents'. This main reason has also been cited by some of the older children, even among those attending school.

7.4   Age at which children start activities

The age at which children commence working (become economically active), and being engaged in non-economic activities within own household is given in Table 7.5 and Table 7.6, respectively.

Table 7.5 differentiates among the economically active children on two basis: (a) between those who are studying at a school/ obtaining training at an institute, and those who are not, and (b) by whether or not the child is staying away from home or not. The distinction was made to check if any differences in behaviour, by age group and gender, could be ascertained due to these characteristics. Table 7.5a gives the percent distribution by study and stay status, while Table 7.5b gives the percent distribution by age group.

It is observed from Table 7.5 and Table 7.5b that of those currently working children who had responded to the survey, a sizeable number had started at the youngest age groups. Together, those children who informed that they had commenced being economically active while still below age 10 years, constituted 15.5 percent (2094 of 13509). The modal age group[22] (34.6 percent) was 10-12 years, although the ages 13-14 and 15-17 were also significant at 25 percent each as the starting age for children at work. By criteria of, both, whether or not children are studying at a school/ training institute, and whether or not children are staying away from home, there are no notable variations among age groups and gender.

Table 7.5a indicates that for all responding children taken together, most (71.5 percent) who start work in the age group 15-17 years do not attend school, that is, perhaps they enter into full time jobs after middle school. At other age groups where children commence working, the percentage of children attending school is sharply down to 47.9 percent of those aged 13-14 years. For the highest age group of 15-17 for children starting on work, the situation is different, and against about 35 percent of boys attending school, that for girls is only 20 percent. This could be indicative of relatively more girls than boys moving into full time work. Table 7.5 also illustrates that most children who work stay at home (88.5 percent in the aggregate) and no distinctive variations in the behaviour pattern are noted, either across age groups, or between gender.

Among non-school activities, most children engage in own household non-economic activities, and Table 7.6 provides details of the age group at which children are first assigned such tasks by their parents/guardians. The most striking information revealed by the table is that most (almost 90 percent) of the children start on household

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[22]   The age group with highest number of children.

chores at the very tender age groups 5-6 years and 7-9 years. Combining with information from Table 7.2, it is noted that of children in these youngest age groups, about 22 percent (77345 of 346443) have the fairly hard tasks of fetching water for drinking, and fetching fuel and preparing firewood assigned to them.

Table 7.6 Children by age at which they start to engage in own household non-economic activities

Age group/ Sex	Children engaged in own household non-economic activities	whether studying at a school/ training institute :					
		number		percent distribution by numbers		percent distribution by age group	
		yes	no	yes	no	yes	no
Total children :	**323,275**	**234,472**	**88,803**	**72.5**	**27.5**	**100.0**	**100.0**
5-6	131,288	80,958	50,330	61.7	38.3	34.5	56.7
7-9	157,996	129,327	28,669	81.9	18.1	55.2	32.3
10-12	23,882	17,096	6,786	71.6	28.4	7.3	7.6
13-14	7,393	5,488	1,905	74.2	25.8	2.3	2.1
15-17	2,717	1,604	1,113	59.0	41.0	0.7	1.3
Male children :	**168,506**	**118,012**	**50,494**	**70.0**	**30.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
5-6	69,253	40,715	28,538	58.8	41.2	34.5	56.5
7-9	80,537	64,669	15,868	80.3	19.7	54.8	31.4
10-12	13,134	8,981	4,153	68.4	31.6	7.6	8.2
13-14	3,899	2,522	1,377	64.7	35.3	2.1	2.7
15-17	1,684	1,125	559	66.8	33.2	1.0	1.1
Female children :	**154,769**	**116,460**	**38,309**	**75.2**	**24.8**	**100.0**	**100.0**
5-6	62,035	40,243	21,792	64.9	35.1	34.6	56.9
7-9	77,459	64,658	12,801	83.5	16.5	55.5	33.4
10-12	10,748	8,115	2,633	75.5	24.5	7.0	6.9
13-14	3,493	2,966	528	84.9	15.1	2.5	1.4
15-17	1,033	479	554	46.4	53.6	0.4	1.4

Table 7.6 also provides the distribution of children by sex, and by whether or not they are studying at a school/training institute. The numbers indicate that for total children, a little less than three-quarters (72.5 percent) attend school, and those not attending is 27.5 percent. It is useful to note that at the age groups 7-14 which normally reflects the ages for attending primary and middle school, the percent of school going children is in the range of 71-81 percent. For the lowest and highest age groups for starting household duties, the share of school going children is about 60 percent. There are no perceptible differences across age groups. However, by gender it is generally observed that the percent of girls attending school is slightly than of boys (except at age group 15-17 years[23]).

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[23] The conclusion for the age group 15-17 years has, however, to be interpreted with caution because of the relatively low absolute values which might incur higher standard errors of the estimate).

7.5   Characteristics of children's work places

Information on location of children's work places, who supervises the children at work, and whether or not children find their work conditions satisfactory, are provided in Table 7.7. The information on the13509 respondent children are classified by gender and age groups also. While the distribution of the 13509 respondent children by number given in Table 7.7, the percent distribution by various attributes of place of work, supervision at work, and satisfaction with work conditions are provided in Table 7.7a. Other important attributes of children's work places are, namely, stress at the work place, use of tools/materials for safety, frequency of working late hours, and being sick or injured due to work. The latter set of characteristics related to working children is dealt with by the data in Table 7.8 (in terms of distribution of respondent children by numbers) and in Table 7.8a (in terms of percent distribution by work place characteristics).

7.5.1   Location of work place

Taking the total of all children as a whole, most (41.4 percent) replied that they had worked on pasture/ farming land. Next in importance was the employer's home (29.1 percent) and was followed by shops/ market place (13.7 percent), while mining site (4.2 percent) was in the fourth place. Streets, factory premises and construction sites were of relatively minor importance.

Graph 6 Distribution of working children aged 5-17 years, by place of work
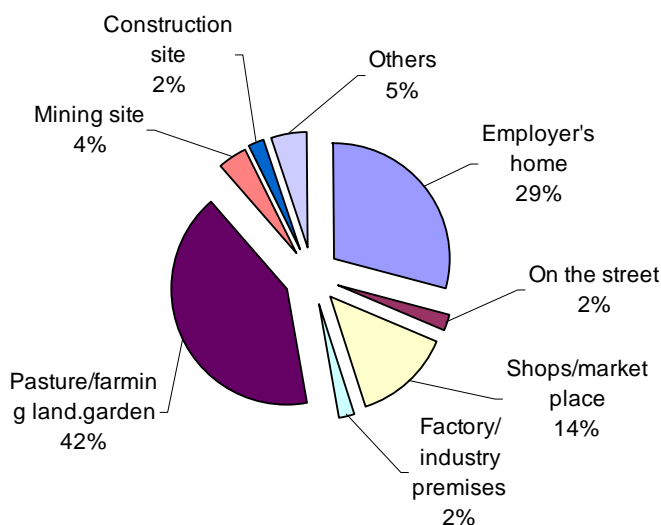
There are no major gender differentials, except it is observed that girls do not work on streets or at construction sites. By gender, 50.2% of all girls and boys work on farm premises and 49.8% of boys work in employer's home. Diversification in the work

place commences after children reach age 10 years, and recruitment of children in factories, as expected, is mostly for the age group 15-17 years. Another notable fact is that for boys, work at mining sites is usually by those in the age group 10-14 years only.

7.5.2   Supervision at work

Regarding supervision of working children at the work place, it is mostly (for over three-quarters of the children, by total, as well as for girls and boys) by an adult who is also a relative. It is interesting, however, that in the total of children, as also for those aged over 10 years (whether girl or boy), there were more children(12.6%) who reported that they worked by themselves without supervision than those who mentioned of supervision by a non-relative adult. It implies, perhaps, of children being self-employed in the informal sector increasingly from ages 10 onwards.

7.5.3   Satisfaction with work conditions

Concerning satisfaction with work place conditions, 88.3 percent reported being satisfied with work conditions. Of those children unhappy with work place conditions, by far the main reason was of having to work in extreme climatic conditions (very hot or very cold weather). Some of the other factors contributing to unsatisfactory work places were exposure to dust, noise, or harmful substances.

7.5.4   Stress at work

Most children (99 percent) responded that they had no stress at the work place, and of those experiencing some stress, the factors were verbal abuse, being robbed of earnings, and uncaring attitude of the employer.

7.5.5   Use of tools/material for safety

70.7 percent of the children reported that they did not use tools or materials for safety at the workplace. Because of the small sample size, it is difficult to make any significant judgement. However, for working children of age groups 10-14 and 15-17 years (the ages at which diversification of work commences), a linking of the occupations and industry of activity by whether or not tools/materials for safety are used might have been more revealing.

7.5.6   Frequency of working late hours

Working late hours (that is, in evenings and nights) was reported by about 20 percent of working children. It is observed from Table 7.8a that only children aged 10 and over had to work late, and for the age group 15-17 years, more than one-quarter did actually work late when required to do so. The frequency of working late hours was mostly 1-3 times in the past 30 days. However, there were also children who had reported working in the evenings and nights with higher frequency, including alarmingly, girls in the age group 15-17 years.

7.5.7   Being sick injured or injured due to work

Most economically engaged children (98.8 percent) reported that they had not been ever sick or injured due to work in the past 12 months. However, 1.2 percent did get sick or were injured due to work, and Table 7.10a examines which branch/division of economic activity such children were engaged in. Again, it is observed that the cost of treatment   was   borne   mainly   by   parents   rather   than   employers.

Table 7.7 Children by sex, age-groups, and by (i) place of work, (ii) supervision at work, and (iii) satisfaction with work conditions

Attributes	Total working children					Male					Female			
	Total children	5-6 yrs	7-9 yrs	10-14 yrs	15-17 yrs	Total children	5-6 yrs	7-9 yrs	10-14 yrs	15-17 yrs	Total children	7-9 yrs	10-14 yrs	15-17 yrs
Place of work :	**13509**	**17**	**292**	**4342**	**8858**	**8971**	**17**	**250**	**3122**	**5582**	**4539**	**42**	**1220**	**3276**
Employer's home	3932	0	133	1306	2493	2970	0	133	1071	1767	962	0	236	726
On the street	292	0	0	117	175	292	0	0	117	175	0	0	0	0
Shops/ market place	1845	0	0	614	1230	935	0	0	299	636	910	0	315	595
Factory premises	303	0	0	38	265	135	0	0	38	97	168	0	0	168
Pasture/ farming land	5593	17	159	1606	3810	3460	17	117	1080	2246	2133	42	527	1564
Mining site	567	0	0	350	217	329	0	0	292	36	238	0	57	181
Construction site	284	0	0	95	189	284	0	0	95	189	0	0	0	0
Others [not classified]	694	0	0	215	479	566	0	0	129	437	128	0	85	42
Supervision at work :	**13509**	**17**	**292**	**4342**	**8858**	**8971**	**17**	**250**	**3122**	**5582**	**4539**	**42**	**1220**	**3276**
Adult who is relative	10501	17	235	3314	6934	6979	17	193	2342	4428	3521	42	973	2506
Non-relative adult	1309	0	57	333	919	980	0	57	333	590	328	0	0	328
By self/ no supervision	1700	0	0	695	1005	1011	0	0	448	564	689	0	248	441
Satisfaction with work conditions :	**13509**	**17**	**292**	**4342**	**8858**	**8971**	**17**	**250**	**3122**	**5582**	**4539**	**42**	**1220**	**3276**
Satisfied	11925	17	235	3925	7747	7982	17	193	2952	4820	3943	42	973	2927
Not satisfied due to -	1585	0	57	417	1110	989	0	57	170	762	596	0	247	349
Hot\cold	649	0	57	170	422	466	0	57	128	281	183	0	42	141
Dust	214	0	0	75	138	181	0	0	42	138	33	0	33	0
Noise	133	0	0	0	133	133	0	0	0	133	0	0	0	0
Harmful substances	114	0	0	0	114	57	0	0	0	57	57	0	0	57
Other	474	0	0	172	303	152	0	0	0	152	322	0	172	151

Table 7.7a Children by sex, age-groups, and by (i) place of work, (ii) supervision at work, and (iii) satisfaction with work conditions

(percent distribution by attribute)

Attributes	Total working children					Male					Female			
	Total children	5-6 yrs	7-9 yrs	10-14 yrs	15-17 yrs	Total children	5-6 yrs	7-9 yrs	10-14 yrs	15-17 yrs	Total children	7-9 yrs	10-14 yrs	15-17 yrs
Place of work :	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
Employer's home	29.1	0.0	45.6	30.1	28.1	33.1	0.0	53.3	34.3	31.6	21.2	0.0	19.3	22.2
On the street	2.2	0.0	0.0	2.7	2.0	3.3	0.0	0.0	3.8	3.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Shops/ market place	13.7	0.0	0.0	14.1	13.9	10.4	0.0	0.0	9.6	11.4	20.1	0.0	25.8	18.2
Factory premises	2.2	0.0	0.0	0.9	3.0	1.5	0.0	0.0	1.2	1.7	3.7	0.0	0.0	5.1
Pasture/ farming land	41.4	100.0	54.4	37.0	43.0	38.6	100.0	46.7	34.6	40.2	47.0	100.0	43.2	47.7
Mining site	4.2	0.0	0.0	8.1	2.5	3.7	0.0	0.0	9.4	0.6	5.2	0.0	4.7	5.5
Construction site	2.1	0.0	0.0	2.2	2.1	3.2	0.0	0.0	3.1	3.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Others [not classified]	5.1	0.0	0.0	4.9	5.4	6.3	0.0	0.0	4.1	7.8	2.8	0.0	7.0	1.3
Supervision at work :														
Adult who is relative	77.7	100.0	80.4	76.3	78.3	77.8	100.0	77.1	75.0	79.3	77.6	100.0	79.7	76.5
Non-relative adult	9.7	0.0	19.6	7.7	10.4	10.9	0.0	22.9	10.7	10.6	7.2	0.0	0.0	10.0
By self/ no supervision	12.6	0.0	0.0	16.0	11.3	11.3	0.0	0.0	14.3	10.1	15.2	0.0	20.3	13.5
Satisfaction with work conditions :														
Satisfied	88.3	100.0	80.4	90.4	87.5	89.0	100.0	77.1	94.6	86.4	86.9	100.0	79.8	89.3
Not satisfied	11.7	0.0	19.6	9.6	12.5	11.0	0.0	22.9	5.4	13.6	13.1	0.0	20.2	10.7

Table 7.8 Children by sex, age-groups, and by (i) stress at work, (ii) use of tools/ materials for safety,
(iii) frequency of working late hours, and (iv) being sick or injured due to work

Attributes	Total working children					Male					Female			
	Total	5-6 yrs	7-9 yrs	10-14 yrs	15-17 yrs	Total	5-6 yrs	7-9 yrs	10-14 yrs	15-17 yrs	Total	7-9 yrs	10-14 yrs	15-17 yrs
Total :	**13509**	**17**	**292**	**4342**	**8858**	**8971**	**17**	**250**	**3122**	**5582**	**4539**	**42**	**1220**	**3276**
Stress at work place :														
No stress	13369	17	292	4292	8768	8864	17	250	3072	5525	4506	42	1220	3243
Have stress	140	0	0	50	90	107	0	0	50	57	33	0	0	33
due to -														
Verbal abuse	90	0	0	0	90	57	0	0	0	57	33	0	0	33
Uncaring attitude	57	0	0	0	57	57	0	0	0	57	0	0	0	0
Being robbed of earnings	57	0	0	0	57	57	0	0	0	57	0	0	0	0
Other factors	83	0	0	50	33	50	0	0	50	0	33	0	0	33
Use of tools/ materials for safety :														
Yes	3959	0	133	1465	2360	2522	0	133	1134	1255	1437	0	332	1105
No	9550	17	159	2877	6497	6449	17	117	1988	4327	3102	42	889	2171
Frequency of working in evenings and nights during past 30 days :														
Never	10699	17	292	3870	6519	7180	17	250	2781	4131	3519	42	1089	2388
1 - 3 times	1983	0	0	315	1669	1185	0	0	183	1002	798	0	132	667
4 – 7 times	409	0	0	107	301	334	0	0	107	227	74	0	0	74
8 times or more	419	0	0	50	369	272	0	0	50	222	147	0	0	147
Being sick or injured due to work in past 12 months :														
Yes	160	0	0	127	33	127	0	0	127	0	33	0	0	33
No	13349	17	292	4215	8825	8844	17	250	2995	5582	4506	42	1220	3243

Table 7.8a Children by sex, age-groups, and by (i) stress at work, (ii) use of tools/ materials for safety,
(iii) frequency of working late hours, and (iv) being sick or injured due to work

(percentage distribution by attribute)

Attributes	Total working children					Male					Female			
	Total	5-6 yrs	7-9 yrs	10-14 yrs	15-17 yrs	Total	5-6 yrs	7-9 yrs	10-14 yrs	15-17 yrs	Total	7-9 yrs	10-14 yrs	15-17 yrs
Total :	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
Stress at work place :														
No stress	99.0	100.0	100.0	98.8	99.0	98.8	100.0	100.0	98.4	99.0	99.3	100.0	100.0	99.0
Have stress	1.0	0.0	0.0	1.2	1.0	1.2	0.0	0.0	1.6	1.0	0.7	0.0	0.0	1.0
Use of tools/ materials for safety :														
Yes	29.3	0.0	45.6	33.7	26.6	28.1	0.0	53.3	36.3	22.5	31.7	0.0	27.2	33.7
No	70.7	100.0	54.4	66.3	73.4	71.9	100.0	46.7	63.7	77.5	68.3	100.0	72.8	66.3
Frequency of working in evenings and nights during past 30 days :														
Never	79.2	100.0	100.0	89.1	73.6	80.0	100.0	100.0	89.1	74.0	77.5	100.0	89.2	72.9
1 - 3 times	14.7	0.0	0.0	7.3	18.8	13.2	0.0	0.0	5.9	17.9	17.6	0.0	10.8	20.3
4 – 7 times	3.0	0.0	0.0	2.5	3.4	3.7	0.0	0.0	3.4	4.1	1.6	0.0	0.0	2.3
8 times or more	3.1	0.0	0.0	1.2	4.2	3.0	0.0	0.0	1.6	4.0	3.2	0.0	0.0	4.5
Being sick or injured due to work in past 12 months :														
Yes	1.2	0.0	0.0	2.9	0.4	1.4	0.0	0.0	4.1	0.0	0.7	0.0	0.0	1.0
No	98.8	100.0	100.0	97.1	99.6	98.6	100.0	100.0	95.9	100.0	99.3	100.0	100.0	99.0

Table 7.9   Children by sex, age-groups, and by (i) who provides cost of medical treatment,
(ii) what earnings are spent on, and (iii) consequence to child and household of child not working

Attributes	Total working children					Male					Female			
	Total	5-6 yrs	7-9 yrs	10-14 yrs	15-17 yrs	Total	5-6 yrs	7-9 yrs	10-14 yrs	15-17 yrs	Total	7-9 yrs	10-14 yrs	15-17 yrs
Total	**13509**	**17**	**292**	**4342**	**8858**	**8971**	**17**	**250**	**3122**	**5582**	**4539**	**42**	**1220**	**3276**
Cost of medical treatment [for working children only]:														
Treatment required	160	-	-	127	33	127	-	-	127	-	33	-	-	33
Paid by employers	42	-	-	42	0	42	-	-	42	-	0	-	-	0
Paid by parents	118	-	-	85	33	85	-	-	85	-	33	-	-	33
What earnings are spent on :														
To support family	6986	0	143	2209	4634	4254	0	101	1416	2737	2732	42	792	1898
Partly to support family and partly for self	5022	0	74	1601	3346	3585	0	74	1286	2225	1437	0	316	1122
Save	59	0	0	0	59	59	0	0	0	59	0	0	0	0
Spend all on self	868	0	0	370	498	648	0	0	277	372	220	0	93	126
Others [not classified]	574	17	74	162	320	425	17	74	143	190	149	0	19	130
Consequence to child and household of child not working :														
No impact	5783	17	159	1484	4122	3947	17	117	1089	2724	1836	42	395	1398
Adverse impact -	7726	0	133	2858	4735	5023	0	133	2033	2857	2703	0	825	1878
Fall in standard of living of household	4030	0	59	1439	2533	2660	0	59	964	1638	1371	0	475	895
Household will have not have any source of income	664	0	57	261	346	433	0	57	261	114	231	0	0	231
Household business will be affected	685	0	0	310	376	394	0	0	199	194	292	0	110	181
Child will lose work experience	1922	0	0	757	1166	1166	0	0	517	649	756	0	239	517
Others [not classified]	425	0	17	92	316	371	0	17	92	262	53	0	0	53

**Table 7.9a Children by sex, age-groups, and by (i) who provides cost of medical treatment,
(ii) what earnings are spent on, and (iii) consequence to child and household of child not working**

(percentage distribution by attribute)

Attributes	Total working children					Male					Female			
	Total	5-6 yrs	7-9 yrs	10-14 yrs	15-17 yrs	Total	5-6 yrs	7-9 yrs	10-14 yrs	15-17 yrs	Total	7-9 yrs	10-14 yrs	15-17 yrs
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Cost of medical treatment [for working children only]:														
Treatment required	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*
Paid by employers	26.5	-	-	33.3	0.0	33.3	-	-	33.3	-	0.0	-	-	0.0
Paid by parents	73.5	-	-	66.7	100.0	66.7	-	-	66.7	-	100.0	-	-	100.0
What earnings are spent on :														
To support family	51.7	0.0	49.0	50.9	52.3	47.4	0.0	40.4	45.4	49.0	60.2	100.0	64.9	57.9
Partly to support family and partly for self	37.2	0.0	25.5	36.9	37.8	40.0	0.0	29.8	41.2	39.9	31.7	0.0	25.9	34.2
Save	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Spend all on self	6.4	0.0	0.0	8.5	5.6	7.2	0.0	0.0	8.9	6.7	4.8	0.0	7.7	3.9
Others [not classified]	4.2	100.0	25.5	3.7	3.6	4.7	100.0	29.8	4.6	3.4	3.3	0.0	1.6	4.0
Consequence to child and household of child not working :														
No impact	*42.8*	*100.0*	*54.4*	*34.2*	*46.5*	*44.0*	*100.0*	*46.7*	*34.9*	*48.8*	*40.4*	*100.0*	*32.4*	*42.7*
Adverse impact -	*57.2*	*0.0*	*45.6*	*65.8*	*53.5*	*56.0*	*0.0*	*53.3*	*65.1*	*51.2*	*59.6*	*0.0*	*67.6*	*57.3*
Fall in standard of living of household	29.8	0.0	20.1	33.1	28.6	29.7	0.0	23.5	30.9	29.3	30.2	0.0	39.0	27.3
Household will have not have any source of income	4.9	0.0	19.6	6.0	3.9	4.8	0.0	22.9	8.4	2.0	5.1	0.0	0.0	7.1
Household business will be affected	5.1	0.0	0.0	7.1	4.2	4.4	0.0	0.0	6.4	3.5	6.4	0.0	9.0	5.5
Child will lose work experience	14.2	0.0	0.0	17.4	13.2	13.0	0.0	0.0	16.6	11.6	16.7	0.0	19.6	15.8
Others [not classified]	3.1	0.0	5.9	2.1	3.6	4.1	0.0	6.9	2.9	4.7	1.2	0.0	0.0	1.6

7.6   Additional characteristics of working children

In this section, a few additional attributes of working children are examined. The most important of these are the use made of children's earnings, and the consequence to the child and household of the child not working. The information from the NCLS on these two issues is compiled in Table 7.9 and the percent distribution by attribute is given in Table 7.9a. As noted earlier, the major/branch division of economic activity in which children are liable to get sick or be injured is important, and Table 7.10 provides the data as also on the seriousness of the most recent injury suffered at work.

7.6.1   What earnings by children are spent on

It is observed that for over one-half (51.7 percent) of working children, earnings are spent to support the family(Table 7.9a). Another 37.2 percent of child workers reported that their earnings were spent partly to support their family and partly on themselves. The proportion of child workers who reported any savings from their earnings was negligible (0.4 percent), while 6.4 percent reported that all earnings were expended on themselves. There is no perceptible differentiation by gender, or between the age groups 10-14 and 15-17 years in which most of the working children respondents belong to. However, it is noted that within girls, the proportion of girls spending their earnings fully on family support is higher than the corresponding share among boys doing so.

7.6.2   Consequence to child and household of child not working

It is important to note from Table 7.9a that 42.8 percent of the working children responded that there would be no impact on themselves or their households should they not be working. Of those reporting an adverse impact, most (over one-half of those reporting an adverse impact) confirmed that the standard of living of their household will fall, and in fact, a significant proportion (one in every twenty of those reporting an adverse impact) informed that the household would have no source of income. Other important reasons are that the child would lose out on work experience, and that the household business would be affected.

7.6.3   Children injured/ sick due to work by economic activity

The economic sectors in which children suffered injury or became sick at work were, namely, 'agriculture, hunting and fishery', and 'wholesale and retail trade'. Most cases were reported in 'agriculture, hunting and fishery' (127 cases of 160), of which about one-third were severe enough to require hospitalization, and another one-third even caused temporary incapacitation. However, it should also be noted that about 26.3 percent of all injuries and sicknesses due to work were not considered as of a serious nature.

**Table 7.10 Children in major branch/division of economic activity,
by (i) type of injuries/illnesses suffered at work, and
(ii) seriousness of most recent injury/illness at work**

Type of illness/ seriousness of most recent injury	Number of children injured/ sick from being at work place			Branch of economic activity					
				Wholesale and retail trade			Agriculture, hunting and forestry		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Type of injury :	**160**	**127**	**33**	**33**	**0**	**33**	**127**	**127**	**0**
Not seriously sick	42	42	0	0	0	0	42	42	0
Others	118	85	33	33	0	33	85	85	0
Seriousness of most recent injury suffered at work :									
Total :	**160**	**127**	**33**	**33**	**0**	**33**	**127**	**127**	**0**
Consulted doctor	75	42	33	33	0	33	42	42	0
Needed hospitalisation	42	42	0	0	0	0	42	42	0
Temporarily incapacitated	42	42	0	0	0	0	42	42	0

**Table 7.10a Children in major branch/division of economic activity,
by (i) type of injuries/illnesses suffered at work, and
(ii) seriousness of most recent injury/illness at work**

(percentage distribution by illness/ injury)

Type of illness/ seriousness of most recent injury	Number of children injured/ sick from being at work place			Branch of economic activity					
				Wholesale and retail trade			Agriculture, hunting and forestry		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Type of injury :	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**-**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**-**
Not seriously sick	26.4	33.3	-	-	-	0.0	33.3	33.3	-
Others	73.6	66.7	100.0	100.0	-	100.0	66.7	66.7	-
Seriousness of most recent injury suffered at work :									
Total :	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**-**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**-**
Consulted doctor	47.1	33.3	100.0	100.0	-	100.0	33.3	33.3	-
Needed hospitalisation	26.5	33.3	0.0	0.0	-	0.0	33.3	33.3	-
Temporarily incapacitated	26.4	33.3	0.0	0.0	-	0.0	33.3	33.3	-

7.7   Children and leisure time

Free time for children to pursue their own interests is a very important component of their development into responsible adults in society. Accordingly, in Table 7.11 data on total Mongolian children in the age group 5-17 years and the average amount of free time per day accruing to them are put together. The percentage distribution by hours of daily free time is given in Table 7.11a. The hours of free time per day for the economically active children is given in Table 7.12, and these working children are divided into those only working and not studying, and those who are both working and studying. The percent distribution by age group is provided in Table 7.12a.

It is observed that the vast majority of all Mongolian children aged 5-17 years (99.6 percent) have daily free time that ranges from about 10 percent enjoying 1-2 hours per day to about 5 percent enjoying even 11 hours and more per day. Most of the children (almost 70 percent) enjoy between 3 and 6 hours of free time daily, with 3-4 hours daily being the free time availability that has the maximum number of children. There are no significant gender variations, but by age group categories it is observed that at higher age groups there is a distinct tendency for an increase in the percent of children with less daily free time. Thus, for age groups 5-6 years and 7-9 years the modal daily free time is 5-6 hours, but for age groups 10-14 years and 15-17 years the modal daily free time is 3-4 hours. Again, while for the age group 5-6 years the percent of children is with 1-2 hours daily free time is about 4 percent, and for those with 7-8 hours free time daily is around 21 percent, for the age group 15-17 years, the corresponding percentages are about 18 percent and 7 percent, respectively. It should be noted that although very few children (79 of 82302) aged 5-6 years reported that they did not have any free time, for the highest child age group of 15-17 years those without any free time to enjoy constituted 0.9 percent (1485 of 171506).

Availability of free time per day to the children at work is provided in Table 7.12. For the purpose the total of children at work who had responded to the survey (13509) have been further classified as (i) those who are only working and not studying (7557), and (ii) those who are both working and studying (5952). The first notable issue from Table 7.12 is that for the group of children who are both working and studying, the maximum daily free time is 7-8 hours daily, and that too is enjoyed by less than 1.5 percent (112 of 7557) of this category of working children. In contrast, about 10 percent (761 of 7557) children who are only working and not studying enjoy 9 hours and more of daily free time. It is also useful to note that of those children only working and not studying about 6 percent (450 of 7557) have no free time, while for those who are both working and studying the corresponding share of children with no free time is just about 1 percent (59 of 5952). It is interesting that for the group of children who are only working

Table 7.11 Total children by sex, age-group, and average hours of free time per day

Age group / Sex	Total children	Children with NO free time	Children having free time	Average hours of free time per day :						
				1-2	3-4	5-6	7-8	9-10	11-12	13+
Total:	**676304**	**2789**	**673514**	**65533**	**248515**	**217640**	**77407**	**30018**	**12134**	**22267**
5-6	82060	79	81982	3289	14558	29238	17810	10390	2629	4067
7-9	129006	252	128754	7404	38180	48321	19445	7435	2823	5146
10-14	293672	973	292699	23941	117629	100978	28198	8571	4044	9338
15-17	171566	1485	170080	30899	78148	39103	11955	3622	2639	3715
Male:	**346133**	**1502**	**344632**	**32858**	**124246**	**112904**	**40368**	**17040**	**5822**	**11392**
5-6	43014	79	42936	1780	6967	15871	9358	5733	1157	2069
7-9	65527	57	65469	3636	18618	25838	9345	3990	1349	2693
10-14	151302	712	150591	11973	59680	51493	15536	5258	1905	4746
15-17	86290	654	85635	15469	38981	19702	6128	2060	1411	1884
Female:	**330171**	**1288**	**328883**	**32675**	**124269**	**104736**	**37039**	**12977**	**6312**	**10875**
5-6	39046	0	39046	1509	7591	13367	8452	4658	1471	1999
7-9	63479	195	63284	3768	19562	22482	10099	3445	1474	2454
10-14	142370	262	142108	11968	57949	49485	12661	3313	2138	4592
15-17	85276	831	84445	15430	39167	19401	5826	1562	1228	1831

Table 7.11a Total children by sex, age-group, and average hours of free time per day

(percentage distribution by hours of free time per day)

Age group / Sex	Total children		Children with NO free time	Children having free time	Average hours of free time per day :						
	number	percent			1-2	3-4	5-6	7-8	9-10	11-12	13+
Total:	**676304**	100.0	0.4	99.6	9.7	36.9	32.3	11.5	4.5	1.8	3.3
5-6	82060	100.0	0.1	99.9	4.0	17.8	35.7	21.7	12.7	3.2	5.0
7-9	129006	100.0	0.2	99.8	5.8	29.7	37.5	15.1	5.8	2.2	4.0
10-14	293672	100.0	0.3	99.7	8.2	40.2	34.5	9.6	2.9	1.4	3.2
15-17	171566	100.0	0.9	99.1	18.2	45.9	23.0	7.0	2.1	1.6	2.2
Male:	**346133**	100.0	0.4	99.6	9.5	36.1	32.8	11.7	4.9	1.7	3.3
5-6	43014	100.0	0.2	99.8	4.1	16.2	37.0	21.8	13.4	2.7	4.8
7-9	65527	100.0	0.1	99.9	5.6	28.4	39.5	14.3	6.1	2.1	4.1
10-14	151302	100.0	0.5	99.5	8.0	39.6	34.2	10.3	3.5	1.3	3.2
15-17	86290	100.0	0.8	99.2	18.1	45.5	23.0	7.2	2.4	1.6	2.2
Female:	**330171**	100.0	0.4	99.6	9.9	37.8	31.8	11.3	3.9	1.9	3.3
5-6	39046	100.0	0.0	100.0	3.9	19.4	34.2	21.6	11.9	3.8	5.1
7-9	63479	100.0	0.3	99.7	6.0	30.9	35.5	16.0	5.4	2.3	3.9
10-14	142370	100.0	0.2	99.8	8.4	40.8	34.8	8.9	2.3	1.5	3.2
15-17	85276	100.0	1.0	99.0	18.3	46.4	23.0	6.9	1.8	1.5	2.2

Table 7.12   Children by study and work status and by average hours of free time per day, age-group, and sex

Age group / Sex	Total children	Children with NO free time	Children having free time	Average hours of free time per day :						
				1-2	3-4	5-6	7-8	9-10	11-12	13+
Only working and not studying :										
Total:	**7557**	**450**	**7108**	**3475**	**2180**	**580**	**112**	**592**	**127**	**42**
5-6	17	0	17	0	0	17	0	0	0	0
7-9	275	0	275	0	117	158	0	0	0	0
10-14	1435	65	1370	492	555	117	36	127	42	0
15-17	5830	384	5446	2982	1508	288	75	465	85	42
Male:	**4994**	**148**	**4847**	**2196**	**1415**	**481**	**79**	**508**	**127**	**42**
5-6	17	0	17	0	0	17	0	0	0	0
7-9	233	0	233	0	74	158	0	0	0	0
10-14	1148	65	1082	399	461	17	36	127	42	0
15-17	3597	82	3515	1797	880	288	42	381	85	42
Female:	**2563**	**302**	**2261**	**1279**	**765**	**100**	**33**	**85**	**0**	**0**
7-9	42	0	42	0	42	0	0	0	0	0
10-14	288	0	288	93	95	100	0	0	0	0
15-17	2233	302	1931	1185	628	0	33	85	0	0
Both studying and working :										
Total:	**5952**	**59**	**5893**	**963**	**3374**	**1179**	**377**			
7-9	17	0	17	17	0	0	0			
10-14	2907	59	2848	435	1629	457	327			
15-17	3028	0	3028	510	1745	723	50			
Male:	**3976**	**59**	**3918**	**582**	**2332**	**745**	**259**			
7-9	17	0	17	17	0	0	0			
10-14	1974	59	1916	289	1160	257	209			
15-17	1985	0	1985	276	1171	487	50			
Female:	**1976**	**0**	**1976**	**381**	**1042**	**434**	**118**			
10-14	933	0	933	147	469	199	118			
15-17	1043	0	1043	234	573	235	0			

Table 7.12a Children by study and work status and by average hours of free time per day, age-group, and sex

(percentage distribution by age group)

Age group / Sex	Total children		Children with NO free time	Children with free time	Average hours of free time per day :						
	number	percent			1-2	3-4	5-6	7-8	9-10	11-12	13+
Only working and not studying :											
Total:	**7557**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
5-6	17	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	3.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
7-9	275	3.6	0.0	3.9	0.0	5.4	27.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
10-14	1435	19.0	14.5	19.3	14.2	25.5	20.1	32.4	21.4	33.3	0.0
15-17	5830	77.1	85.5	76.6	85.8	69.2	49.6	67.6	78.6	66.7	100.0
Male:	**4994**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
5-6	17	0.3	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.0	3.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
7-9	233	4.7	0.0	4.8	0.0	5.3	32.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
10-14	1148	23.0	44.3	22.3	18.2	32.6	3.6	46.1	25.0	33.3	0.0
15-17	3597	72.0	55.7	72.5	81.8	62.2	59.9	53.9	75.0	66.7	100.0
Female:	**2563**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	-	-
7-9	42	1.7	0.0	1.9	0.0	5.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	-	-
10-14	288	11.2	0.0	12.7	7.3	12.4	100.0	0.0	0.0	-	-
15-17	2233	87.1	100.0	85.4	92.7	82.1	0.0	100.0	100.0	-	-
Both studying and working :											
Total:	**5952**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**-**	**-**	**-**
7-9	17	0.3	0.0	0.3	1.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	-	-	-
10-14	2907	48.8	100.0	48.3	45.2	48.3	38.7	86.7	-	-	-
15-17	3028	50.9	0.0	51.4	53.0	51.7	61.3	13.3	-	-	-
Male:	**3976**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**-**	**-**	**-**
7-9	17	0.4	0.0	0.4	3.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-	-	-
10-14	1974	49.6	100.0	48.9	49.6	49.8	34.6	80.7	-	-	-
15-17	1985	49.9	0.0	50.7	47.5	50.2	65.4	19.3	-	-	-
Female:	**1976**	**100.0**	**-**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**-**	**-**	**-**
10-14	933	47.2	-	47.2	38.5	45.0	45.8	100.0	-	-	-
15-17	1043	52.8	-	52.8	61.5	55.0	54.2	0.0	-	-	-

and not studying, most of the children without free time are girls in the age group 15-17 years (302 of 450).

Table 7.12 also indicates that there is a slight difference in the pattern of daily free time availability between the two categories of working children. For those only working and not studying, the modal daily free time availability is 1-2 hours, while for those both studying and working, the relevant mode is 3-4 hours of daily free time.

CHAPTER VIII

REGIONAL AND SEASONAL VARIATIONS IN CHILD WORK

8.1 Introduction to the chapter

The sampling design of the Mongolia LFS-cum-NCLS 2002-03 was set to collect data over the 12 month period from October 2002 till September 2003 split into four successive quarterly periods. Furthermore, the country was stratified into 5 regions, of which 4 regions (except Ulaanbaatar) were again split into rural and urban areas. In this chapter, therefore, the regional and seasonal variations in the prevalence of working children are examined.[24] The inferences for some of the regions, particularly for Ulaanbaatar and the East region, should be interpreted with caution because of the relatively small sample size which might incur standard errors that cannot be totally ignored.

8.2 Regional variations in children at work

Table 8.1 provides information on the number of children in current status employment by regions, and classified further by sex and age groups. The total number of children as estimated in the survey by regions, and similarly classified by sex and age groups is also provided.

8.2.1 Child work rate across regions

Table 8.2 provides the child work rate by regions, and sub-classified by sex and age groups. It is noted that for all children taken as a whole, the child work rate is highest at 18.6 percent for the West region, and the Khangai region is a close second at 15.3 percent. The child work rate is lowest for Ulaanbaatar at less than 1 percent, and for both the East and Central regions it is 7.2-7.8 percent in each. Within each region, it is observed that the work rate generally rises with the age group, and the sole exceptions are for the age group 10-14 years in the Central and West

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[24]   Due to the sampling design, variations across *aimags* (which would have been even more useful for policy purposes) cannot be ascertained.

Table 8.1 Number of children in current status employment by regions, age group and sex

Age Group/ Sex	Number of children in current status employment by regions						Number of estimated children in survey by regions					
	Total	Ulaan-baatar	East	Central	West	Khangai	Total	Ulaan-baatar	East	Central	West	Khangai
Total children -	*68580*	*1533*	*3904*	*9858*	*27053*	*26231*	*679050*	*176535*	*50182*	*136149*	*145201*	*170983*
of which : 5-9 yrs	15320	69	440	2096	8584	4130	212145	47597	17006	39252	52450	55839
10-14 yrs	21407	458	1149	2703	8067	9030	294841	82405	20547	61061	58623	72206
15-17 yrs	31854	1006	2315	5058	10403	13072	172063	46532	12628	35837	34127	42938
Male total -	*41874*	*935*	*2505*	*6231*	*16223*	*15979*	*347653*	*90644*	*26453*	*70154*	*73886*	*86515*
of which : 5-9 yrs	9005	0	246	1127	5070	2562	109205	24933	8664	20795	26603	28210
10-14 yrs	13762	308	753	1822	5061	5817	151999	42971	11059	31391	29579	36999
15-17 yrs	19107	627	1507	3282	6093	7600	86449	22740	6730	17968	17704	21306
Female total -	*26706*	*598*	*1399*	*3626*	*10830*	*10253*	*331397*	*85891*	*23729*	*65995*	*71315*	*84468*
of which : 5-9 yrs	6315	69	195	969	3514	1568	102940	22665	8343	18456	25848	27629
10-14 yrs	7645	150	396	881	3006	3213	142843	39433	9488	29670	29044	35207
15-17 yrs	12746	379	809	1777	4310	5472	85614	23793	5898	17869	16423	21632

Table 8.2 Working children as percent of total children in the regions (percent)

Age group/ Sex	Total	Ulaanbaatar	East	Central	West	Khangai
Total children -	**10.1**	**0.9**	**7.8**	**7.2**	**18.6**	**15.3**
Of which : 5-9 yrs	7.2	0.1	2.6	5.3	16.4	7.4
10-14 yrs	7.3	0.6	5.6	4.4	13.8	12.5
15-17 yrs	18.5	2.2	18.3	14.1	30.5	30.4
Male total -	*12.0*	*1.0*	*9.5*	*8.9*	*22.0*	*18.5*
Of which : 5-9 yrs	8.2	0.0	2.8	5.4	19.1	9.1
10-14 yrs	9.1	0.7	6.8	5.8	17.1	15.7
15-17 yrs	22.1	2.8	22.4	18.3	34.4	35.7
Female total -	*8.1*	*0.7*	*5.9*	*5.5*	*15.2*	*12.1*
of which : 5-9 yrs	6.1	0.3	2.3	5.2	13.6	5.7
10-14 yrs	5.4	0.4	4.2	3.0	10.3	9.1
15-17 yrs	14.9	1.6	13.7	9.9	26.2	25.3

regions only where a decline is observed in relation to the work rate for those children aged 5-9 years. As is to be expected, in the total, and for each region, the work rate for children aged 15-17 years is much higher than for other age groups. In fact, for the West and Khangai regions which demonstrate the highest incidence of working children, the work rate in both regions for those aged 15-17 years is over 30 percent. For the West region, it is notable that the child work rate for those aged 5-9 years is 16.4 percent, and for children at ages 10-14 years is 13.8 percent.

By gender, the behavior pattern of male and female children across regions and age groups, as regards the work rate, remains similar to that for total children. However, it is interesting to note that for each region and almost all age groups, the absolute value of the work rate for male children is higher than for female children. Table 8.2 also illustrates that the gender work rate differentials are especially large for the group of older children aged 15-17 years.

8.2.2   Distribution of child workers across regions

The percent distribution of the absolute number of child workers across regions is given in Table 8.3a. It is easily noted from the table that for children as a whole, as well as for male and female children, the highest numbers of child workers are located in the West region, with Khangai a close second. The third largest number of child workers are in the Central region, and the least in Ulaanbaatar. The distribution of child workers by age group and sex reveals an almost identical distribution pattern, except that for the lowest age group 5-9 years, for both girls and boys, the number of child workers in the West region is twice as many as that in the Khangai region. For other age

groups, relative differences between the numbers in the West and Khangai region are not so large. When the distributional changes across age are observed in Table 8.3a it is noted that in Ulaanbaatar and the East region (those regions with least numbers of children) the working children are mostly in age group 10-14 years and 15-17 years. For the West region which has the maximum number of child workers, the distribution across age groups is much less noticeable. This, in a way, confirms that a significant number of children aged 5-9 years are engaged in economic activities, and policy should seek to withdraw such children from the work force as a major step in combating child labour.

Graph 7 **Currently employed children aged 5-17 years by region and sex**
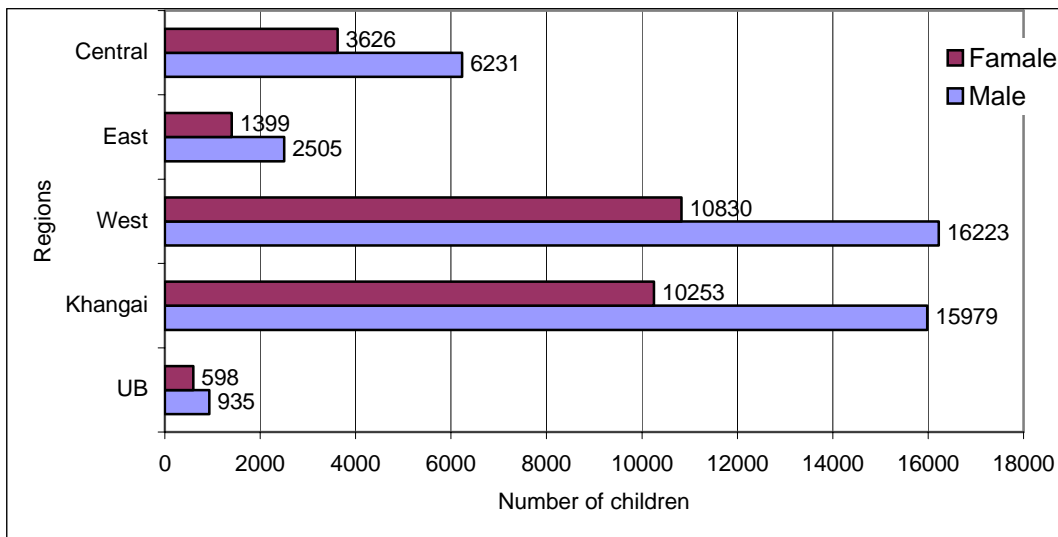
Table 8.3 Distribution across regions of children in current status employment, by age group and sex

(percent)

Age Group/ Sex	Total	Children in current status employment by regions				
		Ulaanbaatar	East	Central	West	Khangai
Total children -	**100.0**	**2.2**	**5.7**	**14.4**	**39.4**	**38.2**
of which : 5-9 yrs	100.0	0.5	2.9	13.7	56.0	27.0
10-14 yrs	100.0	2.1	5.4	12.6	37.7	42.2
15-17 yrs	100.0	3.2	7.3	15.9	32.7	41.0
Male total -	*100.0*	*2.2*	*6.0*	*14.9*	*38.7*	*38.2*
of which : 5-9 yrs	100.0	0.0	2.7	12.5	56.3	28.4
10-14 yrs	100.0	2.2	5.5	13.2	36.8	42.3
15-17 yrs	100.0	3.3	7.9	17.2	31.9	39.8
Female total -	*100.0*	*2.2*	*5.2*	*13.6*	*40.6*	*38.4*
of which : 5-9 yrs	100.0	1.1	3.1	15.3	55.7	24.8
10-14 yrs	100.0	2.0	5.2	11.5	39.3	42.0

15-17 yrs	100.0	3.0	6.3	13.9	33.8	42.9

Table 8.3a Distribution across regions of children in current status employment, by age groups, by regions and sex

(percent)

Age Group/ Sex	Total	Number of persons in current status employment by regions				
		Ulaanbaatar	East	Central	West	Khangai
Total children -	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
of which : 5-9 yrs	22.3	4.5	11.3	21.3	31.7	15.7
10-14 yrs	31.2	29.9	29.4	27.4	29.8	34.4
15-17 yrs	46.4	65.6	59.3	51.3	38.5	49.8
Male total -	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*
of which : 5-9 yrs	21.5	0.0	9.8	18.1	31.3	16.0
10-14 yrs	32.9	33.0	30.0	29.2	31.2	36.4
15-17 yrs	45.6	67.0	60.1	52.7	37.6	47.6
Female total -	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*
of which : 5-9 yrs	23.6	11.6	13.9	26.7	32.5	15.3
10-14 yrs	28.6	25.1	28.3	24.3	27.8	31.3
15-17 yrs	47.7	63.3	57.8	49.0	39.8	53.4

8.3   Seasonal variations in child work

Table 8.4a and Table 8.4b provide, respectively, the absolute number and the percent distribution across age groups of children in current status employment, by the 4 quarters (3-month survey periods) during which the LFS-cum-NCLS was conducted. This gives the seasonal variation in child work for Mongolia, with the reference period for the first quarter being October – December 2002 and for the last quarter as July – September 2003. Significant variations are observed in the engagement of child workers across the quarters, and the minimum level of child workers are in the first quarter, with the second lowest being in the second quarter(Graph 8).   This can be explained by the fact that the first and second quarters reflecting the coldest months are those when outdoor work can only be minimal. The peak intake of child workers in the fourth quarter may be explained by the need to prepare well in advance and stock up for the long harsh winter months that commence in October.

There are no significant gender differentials, and for total children, as well as for boys and girls separately, the percent distribution of working children across age groups is not very marked between quarters. For the first quarter when the level of child workers is minimal, working children in the age group 15-17 vastly outnumber those in the lower age groups. Even for the second quarter when level of child workers is relatively low (as compared to the third and fourth quarters), children in age group

15-17 years constitute just under one-half of the child workers. This implies that in the months of April to September, more children, especially of younger ages, join in the workforce than they do so in the leaner months. In this process, the distribution of child workers among the age groups in the third and fourth quarters is less concentrated, and in fact, the percent distribution among groups is quite evenly balanced. This is readily seen from Table 8.4b.

Graph 8 **Number of employed children by sex and quarters**

	Mongolia	I quarter	II quarter	III quarter	IV quarter
■ Boys	41.9	27.1	35.6	53.6	52.4
□ Girls	26.7	14.3	22.5	32.2	39.5
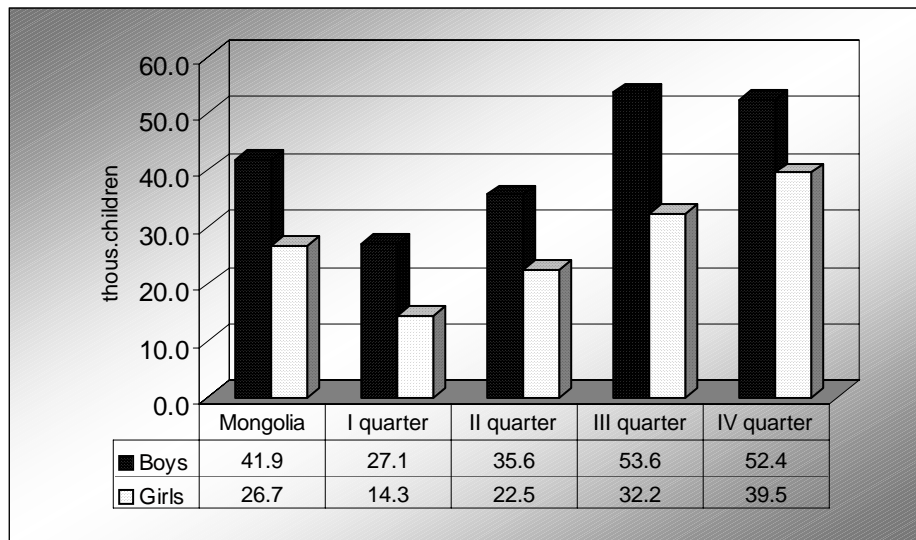
Table 8.4 Children in current status employment by quarters, age group and sex

Age Group/ Sex	Total (Annual)	Number of children in current status employment by quarters			
		Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
Total children -	*68580*	*41403*	*58097*	*85753*	*91946*
of which : 5-9 yrs	15320	4912	14126	22232	20697
10-14 yrs	21407	10696	15422	28992	31932
15-17 yrs	31854	25795	28549	34529	39317
Male total -	*41874*	*27086*	*35623*	*53597*	*52436*
of which : 5-9 yrs	9005	2923	7971	13443	12150
10-14 yrs	13762	7571	9995	19087	19103
15-17 yrs	19107	16592	17657	21066	21183
Female total -	*26706*	*14318*	*22474*	*32156*	*39509*
of which : 5-9 yrs	6315	1989	6155	8788	8547
10-14 yrs	7645	3126	5427	9904	12829
15-17 yrs	12746	9203	10892	13464	18133

Table 8.4a Children in current status employment by quarters, age group and sex
(percent distribution by age group within a quarter)

Age Group/ Sex	Total (Annual)	Children in current status employment by quarters			
		Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
Total children -	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*
of which : 5-9 yrs	22.3	11.9	24.3	25.9	22.5
10-14 yrs	31.2	25.8	26.5	33.8	34.7
15-17 yrs	46.4	62.3	49.1	40.3	42.8
Male total -	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*
of which : 5-9 yrs	21.5	10.8	22.4	25.1	23.2
10-14 yrs	32.9	28.0	28.1	35.6	36.4
15-17 yrs	45.6	61.3	49.6	39.3	40.4
Female total -	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*
of which : 5-9 yrs	23.6	13.9	27.4	27.3	21.6
10-14 yrs	28.6	21.8	24.1	30.8	32.5
15-17 yrs	47.7	64.3	48.5	41.9	45.9

Table 8.5 Children in current status employment by rural/urban areas, quarters and sex

Age Group/ Sex	Total (Annual)	Number of children in current status employment by quarters			
		Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
Total children	*68580*	*41404*	*58097*	*85753*	*91946*
Urban	**6894**	**5447**	**6804**	**9064**	**6204**
capital city	1533	1383	593	2666	1505
aimag center	5361	4064	6212	6398	4699
Rural	**61686**	**35957**	**51292**	**76689**	**85743**
sum center	5841	1872	5285	7301	8789
rural	55845	34085	46007	69388	76954
Male total -	*41874*	*27086*	*35623*	*53597*	*52437*
of which : Urban	4558	3435	4753	6175	3701
Rural	37316	23651	30870	47422	48736
Female total -	*26706*	*14318*	*22473*	*32156*	*39509*
of which : Urban	2336	2012	2051	2889	2503
Rural	24370	12306	20422	29267	37006

8.4   Distribution of child workers between rural and urban areas

8.4.1   Rural and urban child workers in relation to seasonal fluctuations

The distribution of child workers in current status employment by rural-urban areas and by quarters is given by Table 8.5. Among male child workers, the percent of those from urban areas is 10.9 percent while the corresponding percent of girl workers from urban areas is 8.7 percent.

It is interesting to note that while for total children maximum employment is in the fourth quarter, in respect of urban areas peak child work time is reflected in the third quarter, that is, the 3-month period April – June. In fact, the data reveals that for urban areas child work in the second quarter (which is second lowest for total children) records the second highest score. The numbers in the Table 8.5 also indicate a marked contraction in the number of child workers in the capital city, Ulanbaatar, during the second quarter.

Since most child workers are from rural areas, the aberration in urban child work behaviour in relation to the total does not have much impact on the rural child work pattern which follows the pattern of total children. Thus, rural child workers are at a minimum observed level in the first quarter, and highest in the fourth quarter, and a rise in the number of rural child workers is noted as time progresses through the second and third quarter.

On gender basis, it is noted that the variation between quarters of female child workers follows the overall trend, but for male child workers, the maximum is recorded for the third quarter. Partly this is due to a sharp contraction in the number of urban male child workers for the fourth quarter in relation to the third quarter, while for urban rural child workers the observed increase between the third and fourth quarters is marginal. In the latter regard, it is noted that Table 8.5 records a sharp increase in rural girl child workers between the third and fourth quarters.

8.4.2   Rural and urban child workers in relation to regional variations

Table 8.6 gives estimates from the NCLS on the breakdown by urban and rural areas of child workers in the five regions of Mongolia. The percentage distribution across urban and rural areas is provided in Table 8.6a. It is seen from the tables that almost 90 percent of total child workers are in rural areas, and by regions, the highest levels of rural child workers are in the West and Khangai regions with, respectively, 94.5 and 93 percent. It had been noted earlier that the West and Khangai regions are those with the maximum concentrations of child workers. Table 8.6a also indicates that the share of urban child workers in the total, as also on gender basis, is higher for the East and Central regions, as compared to the West and Khangai regions.

Lastly, it is seen from Table 8.6b that Ulanbaatar, the Central, West and Khangai regions, each have about 22 percent (or an even higher share) of the total child urban workers, and the East region has only 7.5 percent. In respect of rural child workers, these are concentrated in the West (41.4 percent) and Khangai (39,6 percent) regions. The remaining rural child workers are distributed between the Central (13.5 percent) and East (5.5 percent) regions. Similar regional patterns are followed in the distribution of child workers by gender basis.

**Table 8.6 Number of children in current status employment by regions,
rural-urban areas and sex**

Age Group/ Sex	Total	Number of children in current status employment by regions				
		Ulaanbaatar	East	Central	West	Khangai
Total children -	**68580**	**1533**	**3904**	**9858**	**27053**	**26231**
of which :						
Urban	6894	1533	518	1518	1500	1825
Rural	61686	0	3387	8340	25554	24406
Male total -	**41874**	**935**	**2505**	**6231**	**16223**	**15979**
of which :						
Urban	4558	935	306	1091	1103	1122
Rural	37316	0	2199	5140	15120	14856
Female total -	**26706**	**598**	**1399**	**3626**	**10830**	**10253**
of which :						
Urban	2336	598	212	427	396	703
Rural	24370	0	1187	3200	10434	9550

**Table 8.6a   Percent distribution across rural –urban areas of children in
current status employment by regions and sex**

Age Group/ Sex	Total	Number of children in current status employment by regions				
		Ulaanbaatar	East	Central	West	Khangai
Total children -	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
of which :						
Urban	10.1	100.0	13.3	15.4	5.5	7.0
Rural	89.9	0.0	86.7	84.6	94.5	93.0
Male total -	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*
of which :						
Urban	10.9	100.0	12.2	17.5	6.8	7.0
Rural	89.1	0.0	87.8	82.5	93.2	93.0
Female total -	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*
of which :						
Urban	8.7	100.0	15.2	11.8	3.7	6.9
Rural	91.3	0.0	84.8	88.2	96.3	93.1

**Table 8.6b   Percent distribution across regions of children in
current status employment by urban-rural areas and sex**

Age Group/ Sex	Total	Number of children in current status employment by regions				
		Ulaanbaatar	East	Central	West	Khangai
Total children -	**100.0**	**2.2**	**5.7**	**14.4**	**39.4**	**38.2**
of which :						
Urban	100.0	22.2	7.5	22.0	21.8	26.5
Rural	100.0	0.0	5.5	13.5	41.4	39.6
Male total -	*100.0*	*2.2*	*6.0*	*14.9*	*38.7*	*38.2*

of which :						
Urban	100.0	20.5	6.7	23.9	24.2	24.6
Rural	100.0	0.0	5.9	13.8	40.5	39.8
Female total -	**100.0**	**2.2**	**5.2**	**13.6**	**40.6**	**38.4**
of which :						
Urban	100.0	25.6	9.1	18.3	17.0	30.1
Rural	100.0	0.0	4.9	13.1	42.8	39.2

CHAPTER IX

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

9.1   Summary of findings

This chapter presents the summary findings of the NCLS 2002-03, particularly on working children, that is, children who are engaged in economic activity. Information is summarized on their major characteristics such as: (i) the total working children and of those who may be classified as child labour, (ii) the composition of working children by age groups, sex, and regions, and (iii) working children by occupation, branch of economic activity and status in employment. A few main aspects of children engaged in non-economic activities, some conclusions from the survey, and policy recommendations for combating child labour are provided.

9.2 Children engaged in economic activities

Table 9.1 provides information on children aged 5-17 years, and how many of them are economically active (that is, at work) as estimated by the NCLS 2002-03.

Table 9.1 Child population, economically active children by current work status, and sector of residence

(as on 31 March 2003)

Age group	Both sectors			Urban			Rural		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Total children 5-17: of which	**679049**	**347652**	**331397**	**360750**	**184932**	**175818**	**318299**	**162720**	**155579**
5-9	212145	109205	102940	97575	50591	46984	114570	58614	55956
10-14	294841	151999	142843	167360	86365	80995	127482	65634	61848
15-17	172063	86449	85614	95816	47976	47839	76247	38472	37775
Economically active children 5-17: of which	**68580**	**41874**	**26706**	**6894**	**4558**	**2336**	**61686**	**37316**	**24370**
5-9	15320	9005	6315	560	328	231	14760	8676	6083
10-14	21407	13762	7645	2662	2004	659	18745	11758	6987
15-17	31854	19107	12746	3672	2226	1446	28182	16882	11300
Child work rate (%)	**10.10**	**12.04**	**8.06**	**1.91**	**2.46**	**1.33**	**19.39**	**22.93**	**15.66**

The NCLS estimated the number of economically active children in Mongolia to be 68580 out of a total child population of 679049, which reflects a child work rate of 10.1 percent. The child work rate (CWR) is higher for boys than for girls, and this disparity pattern (that is, CWR-boys higher than CWR-girls) holds in both the urban and the rural areas. There is, moreover, a very significant difference in the child work rate by urban area and rural area, with the former being only 1.9 against 19.4 in the rural areas. In fact, in rural area, the CWR for boys is 22.9 which implies that nearly one in every four boys in rural Mongolia is engaged in some form of economic activity.

Table 9.2 Children in current status employment by type of employment, child labour, and average hours of work per week

Age Group/ Sex	Total in current status employ- ment	Not at work in survey week	Currently at work			Estimated child labour population	Average hours of work per week in primary occupation	
			Total	In wage job	Self- employed /Unpaid family worker(UFW)		In wage job	Self- employed /Unpaid family worker(UFW)
Total children -	*68580*	*2851*	*65729*	*706*	*65023*	*38857*	not available	not available
of which : 5-9 yrs	15320	687	14633	0	14633	14633	-	14.8
10-14 yrs	21407	971	20436	140	20296	13393	18.4	25.4
15-17 yrs	31854	1194	30660	566	30094	10831	50.7	37.3
Male total -	*41874*	*1468*	*40406*	*451*	*39955*	*25445*	not available	not available
of which : 5-9 yrs	9005	343	8662	0	8662	8662	-	16.0
10-14 yrs	13762	459	13302	140	13162	9135	18.4	27.5
15-17 yrs	19107	665	18442	311	18131	7648	49.5	40.7
Female total -	*26706*	*1384*	*25323*	*254*	*25068*	*13411*	not available	not available
of which : 5-9 yrs	6315	343	5971	0	5971	5971	-	12.9
10-14 yrs	7645	511	7134	0	7134	4258	-	21.6
15-17 yrs	12746	529	12217	254	11963	3182	52.5	32.1

It is seen from the NCLS estimates (Table 9.2) that most child workers are self-employed or working as unpaid worker in family enterprise or in household industry, and only a small fraction are in paid employment (wage job). It is also observed that several children work long hours and start working from a very early age. Thus, of the 68580 working children, 38857 (56.7 percent) fall into the category of child labor, based on the criteria for child labour in terms of age and hours of work per week. It is also noted that particularly in wage jobs, children aged 15-17 years work on average more than 50 hours, which is much higher than the threshold of 43 hours of work that sets the child labour norm for those in the age group 15-17 years. Furthermore, against the threshold of 14 hours of light work permissible for 10-14 year olds (to avoid being classified under child labour), the average hours per week by children of that age group in self-employment or as unpaid family worker in 27.5 hours for boys and 21.6 hours for girls.

Table 9.3 Children by main reason for engaging in economic activities

Age group /Sex	Children in economic activities responding to the survey questions					
	Total	Gain work experience and skills	Contribute to household income	Support self and be independent	Earn to cover cost of schooling	Other reasons
Total number:	**13509**	**3017**	**7452**	**495**	**639**	**1906**
Percent distribution:						
Total	**100.0**	**22.3**	**55.2**	**3.7**	**4.7**	**14.1**
5-6	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0
7-9	100.0	5.9	59.2	0.0	0.0	34.9
10-14	100.0	27.0	52.0	0.0	7.5	13.5
15-17	100.0	20.6	56.7	5.6	3.5	13.5
Male :	**100.0**	**24.2**	**54.5**	**3.4**	**2.7**	**15.2**
Female :	**100.0**	**18.6**	**56.5**	**4.2**	**8.7**	**12.0**

Table 9.4 Economically active children by major branch of economic activity in current primary occupation and status in employment

Age group/ Sex	Major branch of economic activity							
	Total currently working children	Agriculture hunting and forestry	Mining and quarrying	Manufac-turing	Construc-tion	Wholesale and retail trade	Restaurant and hotels	Others
Number of working children :								
Total children	**68580**	**62880**	**552**	**701**	**217**	**3148**	**353**	**729**
5-9	15320	14972	42	33	0	272	0	0
10-14	21407	19324	265	135	53	1259	150	221
15-17	31854	28584	244	533	163	1616	203	511
Percent distribution by branch of economic activity:								
Total:	**100.0**	**91.7**	**0.8**	**1.0**	**0.3**	**4.6**	**0.5**	**1.1**
Male:	**100.0**	**91.7**	**0.9**	**0.8**	**0.5**	**4.2**	**0.3**	**1.6**
Female:	**100.0**	**91.6**	**0.6**	**1.3**	**0.0**	**5.2**	**0.8**	**0.5**
Status in employment of working children:								
Total children :	**68580**	**62880**	**552**	**701**	**217**	**3148**	**353**	**729**
Paid employee on contract	**694**	0	0	249	163	50	0	232
Paid employee in civil law	**460**	124	36	157	0	0	93	50
Employer	**36**	36	0	0	0	0	0	0
Own account worker	**5652**	5109	202	18	0	236	0	87
Unpaid family worker	**61677**	57550	313	277	53	2862	260	362
Other	**61**	61	0	0	0	0	0	0

** *Note* : Totals may not add up due to rounding off

Regarding the main underlying reason on why children seek work (Table 9.3) the NCLS estimates that 55.2 percent do so for contributing to household income, and around 22.3 percent to gain work experience and skills. A little under 5 percent of children work to cover the cost of their

schooling, and here a noticeable gender variation is noted with 2.7 percent of boys citing this factor as the main reason against 8.7 percent of girls.

The overwhelming proportion (91.7 percent) of child workers are engaged in the branch of economic activity 'agriculture, hunting and fishery', and next in importance (4.6 percent) is 'wholesale and retail trade' (Table 9.4). Other economic activities that children engage in manufacturing, mining and quarrying, construction, and restaurants and hotels. It is also seen that by status in employment, most children are unpaid family worker, and following in importance is own account worker. Children as paid employees on contract is very low in absolute value, but is the third most common employment status. Concerning major occupations groups in which working children can be classified, following from the branch of economic activities that children are engaged in, most are in agriculture (90.8 percent), with services and shops (4.1 percent) and craft and trade (1.6 percent) as of second and third most importance (Table 9.5).

9.3   Non-economic activities by children

It is seen that most children have to perform some domestic chores within their own households, and these are termed as non-economic activities. The NCLS has estimated that of the total of 679049 children aged 5-17 years in Mongolia, 567414 children (83.6 percent) performed some non-economic activity in their own households. These children could have also been studying or not studying, as also been working (engaged in economic activities) or not working. The NCLS established that such non-economic in own household were wide ranging, and a large proportion of the children engaged in more than one household duty.

The most important of non-economic activities were cooking/ serving food, cleaning utensils/ house, fetching water for drinking and washing, fetching fuel and preparing firewood, washing clothes, and shopping for household (Table 9.6). Of lesser importance were looking after children, caring for household pets, and knitting and sewing.

Table 9.5 Children in major occupational group in current primary occupation

Age group/ Sex	Total economically active children	Major occupation group (numbers)							
		Professional services	Technical personnel	Clerks, etc.	Services and shop	Agriculture	Craft and trade	Machinery	Elementary services
Total children:	**68580**	**208**	**50**	**33**	**2839**	**62237**	**1105**	**239**	**1869**
5-9	15320	0	0	0	188	15057	0	33	42
10-14	21407	38	50	33	1100	19237	401	33	514
15-17	31854	171	0	0	1551	27943	704	173	1313
Percent distribution by major occupational group									
Total :	**100.0**	**0.3**	**0.1**	**0.0**	**4.1**	**90.8**	**1.6**	**0.3**	**2.7**
Male :	**100.0**	**0.5**	**0.1**	**0.1**	**3.6**	**90.9**	**1.7**	**0.3**	**2.8**
Female :	**100.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**4.9**	**90.6**	**1.5**	**0.4**	**2.5**

Table 9.6 Children currently engaged in household (non-economic) activities by type of work done in own household

Age group/ Sex	Total number in household activity	Type of non-economic activities done in own household**											
		Cooking / serving food for household	Cleaning utensils/ house	Washing clothes/ laundering	Minor household repairs	Shopping for household	Knitting and sewing	Fetching water for drinking and washing	Fetching fuel and preparing firewood	Caring for the old and sick	Looking after children	Caring for household pets, etc.	Voluntary/ community services without pay
Total number:	**567414**	**433775**	**420379**	**259995**	**33717**	**119818**	**32650**	**300449**	**265133**	**12965**	**46127**	**36513**	**34027**
5-9	144782	106846	97384	21729	2945	16341	1802	57159	58641	1878	17927	7761	4328
10-14	262709	200809	201377	128413	13471	59315	14559	150267	123350	5958	19523	17821	18096
15-17	159923	126120	121618	109853	17301	44161	16289	93023	83143	5129	8677	10931	11603
Percent distribution by type of work done:													
Total :	not available	76.4	74.1	45.8	5.9	21.1	5.8	53.0	46.7	2.3	8.1	6.4	6.0
Male :	not available	66.9	62.5	35.7	9.1	18.3	2.1	61.8	56.3	1.8	6.5	7.6	5.9
Female :	not available	86.1	85.8	56.1	2.7	23.9	9.5	44.0	37.1	2.8	9.8	5.3	6.1

** Please note that any one child might have been engaged in a multiple of non-economic activities

9.4   Regional distribution of working children

In the distribution of working children, large variations are observed across regions. For all children taken together, while the child work rate (CWR) has the national average value of 10.1 percent, across regions the CWR varied from a low of 0.9 for Ulaanbaatar to a high of 18.6 for the West Region. Even in Khangai the CWR was at a relatively high level of 15.3 percent. Since next to the capital city, Ulanbaatar, these are

Table 9.8 – Distribution of working children by main regions

Age Group/ Sex	Number of children in current status employment by regions					
	Total	Ulaanbaatar	East	Central	West	Khangai
Total children -	**68580**	**1533**	**3904**	**9858**	**27053**	**26231**
of which : 5-9 yrs	15320	69	440	2096	8584	4130
10-14 yrs	21407	458	1149	2703	8067	9030
15-17 yrs	31854	1006	2315	5058	10403	13072
Child work rate (percent):						
Total children -	**10.1**	**0.9**	**7.8**	**7.2**	**18.6**	**15.3**
of which : 5-9 yrs	7.2	0.1	2.6	5.3	16.4	7.4
10-14 yrs	7.3	0.6	5.6	4.4	13.8	12.5
15-17 yrs	18.5	2.2	18.3	14.1	30.5	30.4

two regions with the largest child populations, it becomes a matter of concern. In fact, it is observed that in the West region, as many as 16.4 percent of the children in the youngest age group 5-9 years are working.

9.5   Conclusions and Policy Recommendations

9.5.1   Findings of NCLS 2002-03

The Mongolia NCLS 2002-03 has provided evidence of significant prevalence of the phenomenon of children aged between 5 and 17 years engaged in economic activities. At an age when they should be primarily devoted to schooling and other associated activities leading to their development into responsible adults, the survey finds that a large proportion of the economically active children are actually at work for very long hours. Only a few, and mostly in the upper age group of children aged 15-17 years are in a paid job, and most of the others are in unpaid work in family enterprises or household economic activity.

Sections 9.2 to 9.4 above have elaborated further on the highlights of the NCLS 2002-03 findings.

9.5.2   Shortcomings of NCLS 2002-03

The NCLS 2002-03 estimate of working children in Mongolia, it must be noted, is an underestimate, as the survey was household-based. Therefore, NCLS 2002-03 excluded children

living independently or in a group with other children with no fixed address (that is, what is commonly referred to as street children) who are a substantial number in urban areas and in the capital city. Children living in institutions and dormitories were also excluded, and some of them could possibly be at work too.

In addition, children who are working in what are called the 'worst forms of child labour (WFCL)' sectors (prostitution and other illicit activities) are excluded from the survey as these kinds of work are conducted clandestinely, and such activities are not revealed easily. The NCLS data has, therefore, to be supplemented by special studies in the form of rapid assessments, or baseline surveys, of these WFCL sectors in areas where such activities are commonly known to exist. Only then will a complete picture of the child labour situation in Mongolia emerge.

It would have been useful to have known the familial background of working children, and for the purpose any future NCLS must solicit a variety of information on the socioeconomic living conditions and environment of the households in which they live. This is important to link the family circumstances to child work, and identify any causal factors that compel children to engage in work. Furthermore, to further facilitate the design of national child labour policy, the sampling design should be based on a large enough sample to make viable estimates of working children by aimags.

9.5.3 Suggestions on policy to combat child labour

It is encouraging that Government of Mongolia is committed to develop and implement a national policy to completely eliminate child labour, to protect children from hazardous work and other WFCL, and has set the minimum age for employment and working hours limits, taking the children's physical and mental development into consideration. Thus, the Government has recognized the problem of child labour in the country and has provided a legal framework that provides protection to child workers. Mongolia is one of the IPEC participating countries since 1999, and is a party to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child since 1990. The country ratified in October 2000 the ILO Convention 182 on Worst Forms of Child Labour, and in October 2002 the ILO Convention 138 on Minimum Age. Furthermore, although the minimum age of employment is 16 years, and 15 years for selected occupations, the Labour Law of Mongolia restricts working hours to a maximum of 30 hours per week for employees aged 14-15 years, and a maximum of 36 hours per week for employees aged 16-17 years.

The transition period had greatly contributed to appearance of such social issues as child labour, and neglected and abused children. Government policy will need to address the special needs of those children who have been neglected, who live in poor families with no income, or those who have been forced to work and who are exploited by adults. The policy would have to be directed at getting back such children to schools, and educating them on life skills in order to enable them to develop into fully capable citizens. It would have to be strengthened by a legal

environment that enables elimination of the conditions that encourage child labour, prohibits and eliminates the intolerable forms of child labour, and enforces combat against adults who exploit children.

In addition to establishing laws and regulations, and ensuring their effective enforcement and implementation, with the development and opening up of Mongolia, some additional aspects will need policy attention. One area of attention would be prevention of child abuse and involvement of children in sex tourism, taking into consideration possible negative consequences of the expanding tourism industry. Given the large rural areas, there may be need to reflect on the possibility of child labour existing in the agricultural and mining sectors. Trafficking of children into China, with which Mongolia has a long border is another worrisome area.

There is also need to strengthen the labour inspection and monitoring mechanism. For the purpose the feasibility of perhaps involving society (particularly, ILO constituents like employer association and trade unions), non-governmental organizations (NGOs), social workers, and administrative units of the government at various levels to monitor the enforcement of laws designed to protect the child from being exploited. In this regard, increased public awareness, especially of parents/guardians and employers, of the national laws and regulations to prevent child abuse is essential.

Since education is of prime importance in child development, increased access to education and improvement in the quality of the education is required to make schooling the more attractive option to work. This should be supplemented by action to support prevention and decrease in school dropout, re-enrollment of school dropouts, and provision of non-formal education opportunities. There should also be available opportunities for vocational training, and transfer of children involved in intolerable forms of child labour to safer forms of work.

Child labour is most often the consequence of poverty within the household, and an indirect policy to combat child labour could take the form of socio-economic measures to alleviate poverty. These could take the form of creating opportunities to increase family income, and eliminating conditions where essential family expenditure is dependent on income the work by the child.

Last, but not in the least, the information system on the child labour situation in the country needs to be regularly updated. In this context, it should be useful to include the most important and useful statistics on child labour in the regular programme of data collection by the national statistical system.

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