

Baseline Survey on Child Workers in Battery Recharging/Recycling Sector, 2002-03

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Preface

Child labour particularly the worst forms of child labour is a matter of great concern in Bangladesh. The Government of Bangladesh has given due importance to the problem of child labour in the country, especially those in hazardous work, and is working with other organizations towards its elimination. Unfortunately, not much effort has so far been made to quantify the incidence and distribution of children engaged in hazardous work at the national and regional levels. To fill the knowledge gap relating to children in hazardous work as well as the worst forms of child labour, the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) has conducted the Baseline Survey on Working Children in Battery recharging/recycling establishments during 2002-03.

This survey has been undertaken by BBS under the framework of the National Child Labour Survey (NCLS) 2002-03. It may be noted that five national level baseline surveys were carried out in five selected sectors namely: (i) Battery recharging/recycling (ii) welding, (iii) street children, (iv) road transportation and (v) automobile workshops, during 2002-03.

This report is based on the findings of the baseline survey on child workers in battery recharging/recycling establishments of the country and it contains detailed information on the characteristics of battery recharging/recycling establishments and on the realities of the working children. I hope that the empirical data contained in the report will be useful to various stakeholders for combating child labour.

I would like to thank those who were intimately associated with the survey activities from conceptualization of the survey to its implementation. In particular, I appreciate the technical contributions and the tireless efforts of Mr. Md. Zobdul Hoque, Director, Industry and Labour Wing, BBS, and Ms. Sanjukta Mukherjee, Baseline Survey Specialist, SIMPOC, ILO-IPEC, Bangkok. Finally, I express my sincere thanks and gratitude to Mr. Gopal Bhattacharya, Director, ILO Area Office, Dhaka for financial assistance.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report summarizes the results of the baseline survey on child workers in battery recharging/recycling establishments in Bangladesh. This survey was conducted during September and October 2003. For the baseline survey on child workers in battery recharging/recycling establishments a total of 416 child workers were selected as samples from 416 sample establishments for the collection of data.

The baseline survey estimated a total of 12,207 battery recharging/recycling establishments all over Bangladesh. An estimated 34 percent of the battery- recharging establishments are found in Dhaka division. The survey also estimated a national total of 5,513 child workers aged 5-17 years in these 12,207 establishments. On an average 24.5 percent of all workers in these establishments were children who were all boys. Other notable findings are as follows:

Ownership of battery recharging establishments: About 5.2 percent of the establishments were owned by individuals or single proprietor while only 1.0 percent were owned or operated by partnership.

Proportion of child workers: Amongst the child workers in battery recharging establishments about 61 percent were aged 15-17 years followed by 33.8 percent in the age group 12-14 and only 5.3 percent were in 5-11 age bracket.

Status in employment: The majority of the child workers were engaged (36.1%) as unpaid apprentices (were paid only pocket money or conveyance). About 16 percent of the child workers were engaged as regular paid workers.

Level of education of child workers: As high as 48.2 percent of child workers were able to read while 47.9 percent were able to write. Only 7.9 percent children were reported as studying at the time of investigation.

Household size and literacy level of parents: Average household size of the child workers was 5.4. About 45.2 percent of fathers and 61.6 percent mothers of the child workers were unable to read and write a letter, that is, illiterate.

Homestead and agricultural land: About 95.5 percent households of the working children possessed homestead land and 61.7 percent had owned some agricultural lands. The majority of households of child workers were engaged (28.2%) in “small trading” as the main economic activity of household followed by 25.4 percent engaged as non-agricultural day labourers.

Average hours worked: About 36.9 percent of the working children worked 7-8 hours a day and 24.6 percent worked 9 to 10 hours. On an average, the child workers worked 8.2 hours a day.

Monthly income: As high as 65.8 percent of the child workers earned Tk. 301-500 per month followed by 12.4 percent with a monthly income of Tk. 100-300. Only 1.5 percent child workers earned Tk.1501 and more per month.

Modality of spending earnings and job satisfaction: The survey results indicate that 37.2 percent children contributed their total earnings to their family while a small proportion of working children used their earnings to meet their day-to-day expenses. Out of the

total working children only about 19 percent reported that they were satisfied with their wages while 81.2 percent were not satisfied at all.

Health problem and safety: About 23.4 percent of the total working children reported various types of health problems such as fever, burns, headache etc. during the reference period of the survey. Only 13.2 percent of total working children reported using protective gear for avoiding risk.

Child abuse: Out of 5513 working children, 824 or 15 percent were found to be abused by owners/employers at work place. Among the abused children a significant share (90.7%) were verbally rebuked/abused.

The notable survey findings regarding the working conditions of the children then are: (i) worked an average of 8.2 hours per day, (ii) worked 6 to 7 days in a week and (iii) worked with minimum wage/ remuneration (Tk. 313 per month). The baseline survey data confirms that the child workers in battery recharging/recycling establishments are subjected to exploitation.

Summary results of the baseline survey			
Sl. No.	Item/characteristics	Number	Percent
1.	Number of battery recharging/recycling establishments by ownership		
	Sole proprietorship	11624	95.2
	Family proprietorship	464	3.8
	Partnership	119	1.0
	Total	12207	100.0
2.	Number of battery recharging establishments by division		
	Dhaka	4148	34.0
	Chittagong	2025	16.6
	Rajshahi	3002	24.5
	Khulna	1680	13.8
	Sylhet	692	5.7
	Barisal	660	5.4
	Total	12207	100.0
3.	Owners/employers engaged in battery recharging work by duration (year)		
	<2	874	7.2
	2-3	2452	20.2
	4-5	2353	19.3
	6-10	3383	27.6
	11-15	1915	15.7
	15+	1227	10.0
	Total	12207	100.0
4.	Status in employment of child workers		
	Regular paid worker	892	16.2
	Paid apprentice	1339	24.3
	Unpaid apprentice	1993	36.1
	Unpaid family worker	1090	19.8
	Casual worker/day labourer	131	2.4
	Others/self-employed	65	1.2
	Total	5513	100.0
5.	Method of recruitment of child workers		
	Private contact	1515	27.5
	On first come basis	121	2.2
	Advance payment to parents	260	4.7

Summary results of the baseline survey			
Sl. No.	Item/characteristics	Number	Percent
	As per request of parents	3394	61.6
	Through labour contractors	16	0.3
	Others	205	3.7
	Total	5513	100.0
6.	Child worker's family having agricultural land		
	Having agri.land	3404	61.7
	No agri. land	2109	38.3
	Total	5513	100.0
7.	Child workers living with parents by place and type of accommodation		
	Own house in a slum	171	4.3
	Rented house in a slum	83	2.1
	Rented house elsewhere	142	3.5
	Own house	3620	89.7
	Others	16	0.4
	Total	4035	100.0
8.	Reasons of leaving permanent place of residence		
	Poverty/hunger	384	7.0
	Step father/mother	35	0.6
	Nobody to look after me	35	0.6
	I left alone	16	0.3
	Physically beaten/misbehaved	9	0.2
	Parents sent me/for earning	762	13.8
	For earning	473	8.6
	Not applicable (Not leaving)	3795	68.9
	Total	5513	100.0
9.	Child workers currently studying in formal/informal educational institutions		
	Studying in formal school	437	7.9
	Studying in informal school	-	-
	Not studying	5076	92.1
	Total	5513	100.0
10.	Child workers currently studying by level of education		
	Class I-V	133	30.6
	Class VI-VIII	59	13.6
	Class IX-X	35	8.2
	SSC and equivalent	33	7.7
	HSC or equivalent	126	28.9

Summary results of the baseline survey			
Sl. No.	Item/characteristics	Number	Percent
	Other technical education	48	11.0
	Total	437	100.0
11.	Child workers not currently studying but had ever been to school		
	Studied in formal school	2420	47.7
	Studied in informal school	9	0.2
	Not studied	2646	52.1
	Total	5076	100.0
12.	Child workers by daily hours of work		
	01-04 hrs	482	1.6
	05-06 hrs	843	4.6
	07-08 hrs	2036	39.1
	09-10 hrs	1351	42.0
	11-12 hrs	718	11.5
	12+ hrs	780	1.2
	Average hours/day	8.2	-
	Total	5513	100.0
13.	Child workers engaged by type of activity *		
	Recharging	4714	85.5
	Acid Filling	1268	23.0
	Battery repairing	2685	48.7
	Recycling work	320	5.8
	All types of work	1968	35.7
	Others	584	10.6
14.	Mode of payment of wages and salaries		
	Daily	1125	20.4
	Weekly	1952	35.4
	Monthly	1350	24.5
	Piece rate basis	424	7.7
	Conveyance	634	11.5
	Don't know	28	0.5
	Total	5513	100.0
15.	Child workers earned during last month (Tk.)		
	100-300	685	12.4
	301-500	3626	65.8
	501-750	461	8.3
	751-1000	378	6.9
	1001-1500	280	5.1
	1501+	81	1.5
	Total	5513	100.0

Summary results of the baseline survey			
Sl. No.	Item/characteristics	Number	Percent
16.	Nature of spending of income receipt*		
	Payment of house rent	243	4.4
	All earnings given to parents	766	13.9
	Partly earnings given to parents	1273	23.1
	Meet expenses	61	1.1
	Expenditure as pocket money	2128	38.6
	Payment of previous loan	336	6.1
	Expenditure for food	1488	27.0
	Purchase of clothing	1301	23.6
	Others	171	3.1
<i>Note: * Percentage total will not be 100 due to multiple answers.</i>			
17.	Present job satisfaction		
	Satisfied	4430	80.3
	Not satisfied	1083	19.7
	Total	5513	100.0
18.	Reasons of job satisfaction		
	Able to support family	1127	25.5
	To meet educational expenses	24	0.5
	To manage food	87	2.0
	Good income	515	11.6
	Good behaviour of employers	132	3.0
	Good working environment	31	0.7
	Be self-dependent not doing work	2503	56.5
	Others	7	0.2
	Total	4430	100.0
19.	Child workers previously engaged by type of work		
	Never worked before	4272	77.5
	Domestic work	28	0.5
	Auto mobile workshop	39	0.7
	Transport work	77	1.4
	Farming in own village	754	13.7
	Construction work	23	0.4
	Battery recharging/recycling	55	1.0
	Others	265	4.8
	Total	5513	100.0
20.	Child workers got injury/sick by type		
	Back pain due to heavy load	7	0.6
	Respiratory problem	42	3.3
	Fever	740	57.3

Summary results of the baseline survey			
Sl. No.	Item/characteristics	Number	Percent
	Burnt	193	15.0
	Headache	188	14.6
	Cough	16	1.3
	Stomach pain	26	2.0
	Others	76	5.9
	Total	1291	100.0
21.	Received treatment by number		
	Received treatment	1224	94.8
	Did not receive treatment	67	5.2
	Total	1291	100.0
22.	Received treatment by type		
	Allopathic	1182	96.5
	Homeopathic	33	2.7
	Unani/ayurvedic	9	0.8
	Total	1224	100.0
23.	Wear protection materials		
	Wear protection gear	730	13.2
	Did not wear protection gear	4783	86.8
	Total	5513	100.0
24.	Smoking habit		
	Smoking	342	6.2
	Not smoking	5171	93.8
	Total	5513	100.0
25.	Way of spending leisure time*		
	Watching television	2793	50.7
	Radio/listening songs	1062	19.3
	Playing/watching games	1108	20.1
	Gossiping with friends/relatives	895	16.2
	Work with family	554	10.0
	Nothing	464	8.4
	Others	247	4.5
26.	Knowledge about minimum age of work		
	Know	525	9.5
	Don't know	4988	90.5
	Total	5513	100.0
27.	Perception regarding education		
	Know	5041	91.4
	Don't know	472	8.6

Summary results of the baseline survey			
Sl. No.	Item/characteristics	Number	Percent
	Total	5513	100.0
28.	Reasons of disliking work		
	Often get sick due to hazardous work	74	6.9
	Unable to go to school	164	15.1
	Feeling too tired	158	14.6
	Do not like work/job	247	22.9
	Do not like employer/owner	9	0.9
	Less wages	198	18.3
	Working environment not good	221	20.4
	Others	9	0.9
	Total	1083	100.0
29.	Abused at work place		
	Abused	824	15.0
	Not abused	4689	85.0
	Total	5513	100.0
30.	Type of abuses		
	Beaten by owners /employers	52	6.4
	Sexually harassed	16	2.0
	Rebuked/misbehaviour	748	90.7
	Others	7	0.9
	Total	824	100.0

CHAPTER I: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the survey

Child labour is a major socio-economic problem in most developing countries including Bangladesh. It is also an important human rights issue facing the world. The child labour situation in Bangladesh cannot make much headway due to the fact that extreme poverty is forcing poor children to do all sorts of work including the hazardous ones. The government as well as the International Labour Organization (ILO) is deeply concerned about this problem. To obtain reliable data on the severity and dimension of child labour, the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) with the financial and technical support of ILO-SIMPOC, conducted a nation-wide household-based child labour survey (NCLS) in 2002-03. The BBS and ILO at the same time identified 13 sectors as the most hazardous ones and of them, the Technical Committee of NCLS prioritized 5 sectors of worst forms of child labour (WFCL) viz. i) welding, ii) automobile, iii) battery re-charging/re-cycling, iv) road transportation, and v) street children. The Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics was assigned to conduct the baseline survey on working children in battery re-charging /re-cycling sector in the country during 2002-03.

1.2 Justification of the survey

1.2.1 Global situation of child labour

According to ILO estimates, there were 211 million children aged 5 to 14 years engaged in economic activity in the world in 2000¹. This accounts for a little less than one-fifth of all children belonging to this age group. About 73 million working children are less than 10 years old and the total economically active child population 5 to 17 years of age was estimated at 352 million in 2000. These estimates show that there are no significant gender differences in the global incidence of children at work. It should be noted that the overall estimates of 211 million working children are exclusive of those children engaged in regular non-economic activities but inclusive of those living in parents' or guardians' households. The following table gives the global estimates of economically active children aged 5-17 years in 2000 by gender and age group.

¹ *The summarized text including statistical data presented in section 1.2.1 to 1.2.4 have been collected from ILO publication entitled "Every Child Counts: New Global Estimates on Child Labour", International Labour Office, Geneva, April 2002.*

**Table 1.1 Global estimates of economically active children aged 5-17 in 2000,
by gender and age group**

Gender and age group	Total population (million)	Children at work (million)	Work ratio (%)
Boys			
05-09	308.5	38.1	12.3
10-14	307.9	70.9	23.0
05-14	616.4	109.0	17.7
15-17	170.2	75.1	44.1
Boys, total	786.6	184.1	23.4
Girls			
05-09	291.8	35.0	12.0
10-14	291.3	66.8	22.9
05-14	583.1	101.8	17.5
15-17	161.8	65.8	40.7
Girls, total	744.9	167.6	22.5
Both genders			
05-09	600.2	73.1	12.2
10-14	599.2	137.7	23.0
05-14	1199.4	210.8	17.6
15-17	332.1	140.9	42.4
Total	1531.1	351.7	23.0

Source: New Global Estimates on Child Labour, International Labour Office, Geneva.

1.2.2 Comparison of 2000 results with 1996 estimates

In 1996 the ILO estimated that there were 250 million working children aged 5-14 across the world in 1995. This estimate was based on children at work in economic activity, except those in developed and transition economies for which data were not available at that time. If the old estimate of children at work in economic activity is compared with the new one, it is found that the number of working children has considerably decreased over a period of five years. The following table shows the global estimates of children aged 5-14 at work in economic activity as per the old (1995) and the new (2000) estimates.

Table 1.2 Children aged 5-14 at work in economic activity, 1995 and 2000

Benchmark year	Global estimate (million)	Work ratio (%)
1995	250	24.7
2000	210.8 (205.9)*	17.6(20.2)*

** Figures in brackets exclude developed and transition economies.*

1.2.3 Child labour

Child labour is a narrower concept than "economically active children". Based on ILO Convention No.138 and 182, child labour is defined as following:

in ages 5-11 = all children at work in economic activity;

in ages 12-14 = all children at work in economic activity minus those in light work;

in ages 15-17 = all children in hazardous work and other worst forms of child labour.

The ILO's report has also focused that there are 186 million child labour below the age of 15 across the world in 2000. From the following table, it is obvious that the economic activity and child labour are interlinked. About nine out of ten economically active children are reported to be in a child labour situation that requires to be eliminated as per ILO Convention No. 138 and 182.

Table 1.3 Children in economic activity, child labour and hazardous work, 2000

Gender and age group	Economically active children (EAC) (million)	Child labour (million)	Child labour as percent of EAC	Children in hazardous work (CHW) (million)	CHW as percent of EAC	CHW as percent of child labour
5-11	109.7	109.7	100.0	60.5	55.2	55.2
Boys	46.3	56.3	100.0	30.7	54.5	54.5
Girls	53.4	53.4	100.0	29.8	55.8	55.8
12-14	101.1	76.6	75.8	50.8	50.2	66.3
Boys	52.7	41.5	78.7	30.6	58.1	73.7
Girls	48.4	35.1	72.5	20.2	41.7	57.5
Total, 5-14	210.8	186.3	88.4	111.3	52.8	59.7
Boys	109.0	97.8	89.7	61.3	56.2	62.7
Girls	101.8	88.5	86.9	50.0	49.1	56.5
Total, 15-17	140.9	59.2	42.0	59.2	42.0	100
Boys	75.1	34.4	45.8	34.4	45.8	100
Girls	65.8	24.8	37.7	24.8	37.7	100
Total, 5-17	351.7	245.5	69.8	170.5	48.5	69.5
Boys	184.1	132.2	71.8	95.7	52.0	72.4
Girls	167.6	113.3	67.6	74.8	44.6	66.0

Source: New Global Estimates on Child Labour, International Labour Office, Geneva.

1.2.4 Children in hazardous work

Out of approximately 352 million economically active children aged 5 to 17, a little more than 246 million were engaged as child labour that requires elimination. Nearly 171 million of these children were found working in a hazardous situation in 2000. The following table shows the number of such children along with their gender distribution in 2000.

**Table 1.4 Children in hazardous work by age groups
and gender distribution, 2000**

Gender and age group	Children in hazardous work (million)	Gender distribution (%)
5-11	60.5	
Boys	30.7	50.7
Girls	29.8	49.3
12-14	50.8	
Boys	30.6	60.2
Girls	20.2	39.8
Total, 5-14	111.3	
Boys	61.3	55.1
Girls	50.0	44.9
15-17	59.2	
Boys	34.4	54.1
Girls	24.8	41.9
Total, 5-17	170.5	
Boys	95.7	56.1
Girls	74.8	43.9

Source: Every Child Counts: New Global Estimates on Child Labour, ILO-IPEC, Page 17

1.3 Child labour situation in Bangladesh

1.3.1 Estimate of child labour based on CLS, 1995-96

The Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) conducted, for the first time, a household-based Child Labour Survey (CLS) in 1995-96. The CLS sponsored by the IPEC-ILO Area office, Dhaka covered all children of ages 5 to 14 at work in economic activity. According to the CLS out of 34.4 million children there were about 6.6 million child workers aged 5-14 years.

Of those children engaged in economic activities 22.9 percent were sellers/vendors, 16.1 percent were factory workers, 5.7 percent were brick/stone breakers, 4.8 percent were agricultural workers, 2.3 percent were in crafts, 0.7 percent were in fish processing. About 0.4 percent children were beggars. Out of 31 million children between ages 5 and 14 years, 6.1 million were economically active, of which 1.9 million were between 5 and 9 years. Child workers represent about 12 percent of the total labour force in the country (ILO-IPEC, Rapid Assessment of Child Labour Situation in Bangladesh, 1996)

1.3.2 Estimate of child labour based on NCLS, 2002-03

According to the National Child Labour Survey 2002-03 (NCLS) carried out by Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, out of the total 42.4 million children between 5 and 17 years, 7.4 million have been recorded as economically active children and 3.1 million

have been estimated as child labour. The following table shows disaggregation of the number of children aged 5-17 years by economically active children, child labourers and children in hazardous work.

Table 1.5 Economically active children, child labour and children in hazardous work

(Number in 000)

Gender group & age group	Total children (TC)	Economically active children (EAC)	Child labour (CL)	Child labour as percent of EAC	Children in hazardous work (CHW)	CHW as percent of EAC	CHW as percent of child labour
5-9	18160	284	284	100.0	39	13.9	13.9
Boys	9340	180	180	100.0	27	14.8	14.8
Girls	8820	104	104	100.0	13	12.3	12.3
10-14	16903	4408	2158	48.9	515	11.7	23.9
Boys	8923	3192	1596	50.0	461	14.4	28.9
Girls	7980	1215	562	46.2	55	4.5	9.7
Total, 5-14	35063	4692	2442	53.0	555	11.8	22.7
Boys	18263	3372	1777	52.7	487	14.4	27.4
Girls	16800	1319	666	50.5	67	5.1	10.1
Total, 15-17	7324	2731	737	26.9	737	27.0	100.0
Boys	4426	2099	685	32.6	685	32.6	100.0
Girls	2899	632	52	8.3	52	8.3	100.0
Total, 5-17	42387	7423	3179	42.8	1291	17.4	40.6
Boys	22689	5471	2461	44.16	1172	21.4	47.6
Girls	19698	1952	718	36.8	120	6.1	16.7

Source: Report on National Child Labour Survey, 2002-03, BBS

1.3.3 Comparison of child labour estimates, 1996 and 2003

The terms “economically active children” and “child labour force” were used synonymously in the 1996 Child Labour Survey. In other words, all economically active children in the 1996 child labour survey were recorded as child labour. On the other hand, in the 2002-03 National Child Labour Survey (NCLS) the terms “economically active children” and “child labour” do not carry the same meaning. In 2002-03 NCLS, the definition of child labour is based on ILO Conventions No. 138 and 182 that requires elimination. Thus, the concept of child labour as applied in the NCLS may be seen in section 2.6 of chapter II. Whether or not an economically active child or a working child would be considered as child labour will depend on their age, hours of work, nature of work (hazardous or non-hazardous) etc. All child labour are economically active children but all economically active children are not considered as child labour. The

following table shows the number of children aged 5-14 years at work in economic activity as per 1996 and 2003 estimates.

**Table 1.6 Comparison of economically active and child labour estimates
aged 5-14 years**

Source and period	(Number in 000)				
	Total children	Working children	Economically active children/ child work force	Child labour	Work ratio
1995-96 CLS					
Total	34455	6304	6455	na	18.7
Boys	17862	3771	3856	na	21.6
Girls	16593	2533	2599	na	15.6
2002-03 NCLS					
Total	35063	4692	4810	3179	13.4
Boys	18263	3372	3446	2461	18.5
Girls	16800	1319	1364	718	7.8

Source: Child Labour Survey, 1995-96 and NCLS, 2002-03, na: not available.

Note : Based on current activity status.

It is clear from the above table that over the last seven years the child population in 5-14 age group has increased by 1.8 percent while the number of economically active children for the same age group has decreased by 25.5 percent. This certainly indicates a decrease in the growth rate of economically active children not only in percentage terms but also in absolute numbers (from 6455 to 4810). While comparing the 1996 CLS with the 2003 NCLS, it is also clear that the decrease in the growth rate of economically active children for girls is more rapid than that for boys. The following facts might have played a vital role in the reduction of child labour vis-a-vis working children:

- (i) Compulsory primary education, food/stipend for education programme launched by the Government is the single major cause of higher enrolment, particularly in primary school. Other poverty reduction programmes undertaken by the Government, NGOs and various international agencies also have had an encouraging effect on higher enrolment rate. The rapid decline in growth rate for female child labourers could also be attributed to two major policy initiatives, viz. (i) the female students up to class XII (12 grade) are exempted from paying tuition fees and (ii) all school books are provided for them free of cost. It is expected that these policies may lead to a comparatively higher rate of enrolment of female students than that of their male counterparts.
- (ii) Growing consciousness among parents/ guardians of children regarding the value of education is another reason for higher enrolment, particularly at the primary level.

The National Child Labour Survey, 2002-03 shows that while the majority of the child workers (6.0 million out of 7.4 million or 81.0 percent) are in rural areas, the concentration of child workers is significantly higher in urban areas, particularly in 6 metropolitan cities. The survey further reveals that most of the working children are engaged in agriculture (about 56.0 percent) and other informal sectors and that child labour in urban areas is more exploitative and hazardous than in rural areas.

1.3.4 Composition of estimates of child workers based on baseline surveys in selected WFCL sectors

The Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) conducted baseline surveys of working children in automobile and battery re-charging/re-cycling sectors and CSIP conducted baseline survey on welding sector during 2002-03. The estimated number of working children in these sectors along with the estimated number of working children based on NCLS 2002-03 are presented in Table 1.7 for comparison. The incidence of child workers in these three hazardous sectors may give an over-view of the gravity and size of the child workers along with these sectors.

Table 1.7 Comparison of the incidence of child workers according to baseline surveys and NCLS

Sector		Total persons engaged (i)	Adult workers (ii)	Child workers (iii)	Ratio of child workers to total workers (iv)=(iii)*100/(i)
1. BLS, 2002-03					
i)	Automobile	38050	22127	15923	41.8
ii)	Welding	117827	78796	39031	33.1
iii)	Battery recharging	22480	16967	5513	24.5
2. NCLS, 2002-03					
i)	Automobile *	na	na	37160	na
ii)	Welding *	na	na	15068	na

Note: * i. Automobile sector includes maintenance and repair of motor vehicles.

ii. Welding sector includes welding and repairing of iron and steel articles (BSIC 5265) and manufacturing of metal furniture and fixtures (BSIC 3615)

na = not available

1.4 Legal framework

The problem of child labour has long been recognized by the Government of Bangladesh and laws and regulations have been made with a view to protecting children at work. The Government of Bangladesh has also adopted a National Children Policy as a part of commitment to the children's right. Bangladesh has ratified the ILO convention (No. 182) on the "worst form of child labour" adopted in 1999. A 5-year National Plan of Action for Children (1997-2002) was also formulated. The Government has also committed itself to making efforts towards Universal Primary Education. In 1990 Bangladesh passed the Compulsory Primary Education Act and in 1993 the country established a compulsory primary education system for all children aged 6 years and above. In the same year, the Government started 'Stipend programme' for female students all over the country to attract poor children and their families for enrolment of children at the secondary school level.

The Government has recently introduced an attractive nationwide stipend programme through which cash money is given (Tk. 100 for one student from one family and Tk. 125 for two students from the same family per month). This programme has significantly increased school enrolment and attendance rate and reduced dropout rate. Despite numerous initiatives taken up by the Government, NGOs and various international agencies for the welfare of children, child labour continues to be a serious issue. The baseline surveys reveal that an estimated number of 39,031 children are working in welding establishments, 5,516 children in battery-recharging/re-cycling sector and 15,923 in automobile sector (Quick count survey carried out by BBS in Nov-Dec 2002).

In order to eliminate child labour, the role of the international agencies has always been creditable. The ILO-IPEC has been able to rehabilitate, through various action oriented programmes, a sizeable number of child workers particularly those working in hazardous occupations and industries. Some UN agencies including UNICEF are working for the welfare of working children. The ILO and UNICEF have also been working for the creation of more public awareness to stop child labour. These action-oriented programmes sponsored by ILO/UNICEF are being implemented by NGOs working in the country. Nevertheless, with donor's funding, the government has started some intervention programmes such as micro-credit, income generation, skill training, vocational training, training in health care towards the welfare of child labour with the goal of its gradual elimination.

1.5 Objectives of the survey

The main objective of the baseline survey is to estimate the incidence and distribution of child labour in battery re-charging/re-cycling sector using a probability based sample survey. This is the first effort to quantify child workers population in the battery re-charging sector. The size of the affected population will provide an idea of the magnitude of the problem and invite interventions to address it effectively. The specific objectives of the survey, therefore, are as follows:

- (i) to collect information on the incidence, distribution, character and nature of battery re-charging/re-cycling establishments in the country;
- (ii) to estimate the incidence and distribution of working children in battery re-charging sector by age, sex, education, residence etc;
- (iii) to assess the demographic and socio-economic characteristics of working children, their families, levels of education, training, occupations skill-levels, hours worked, working environment, average earnings/wages and living conditions;
- (iv) to collect information about the extent of exploitation and abuse at work and how they are safe physically and mentally at their workplace.
- (v) to know the perception of child workers themselves about their work and conditions.
- (vi) to estimate the number of working children who are engaged on a fulltime/part-time basis.
- (vii) to assess occupational risk and health hazards, injuries, diseases and extent of disabilities, of working children;
- (viii) to assess the migration status of the children during a specific reference period and the reasons for migration;
- (ix) to collect information about where and how long the children have been working and the factors that has forced children to work or families to put children to work;
- (x) to know the perception of the employers about child labour, regulations, laws and legislation relating to child labour etc.

CHAPTER II: SURVEY METHODOLOGY AND DATA COLLECTION

This chapter deals with survey methodology, data collection and common concepts and definitions used in this baseline survey. The scope and coverage of the survey are also described herein. The sampling design, preparation of survey instruments, data collection and data processing, training of enumerators/supervisors and reliability of estimates etc. have been briefly discussed in this chapter.

2.1 Scope and coverage of the survey

Scope: The survey has been conducted across the country to provide reliable national estimates of child workers aged 5-17 years who are currently working in battery re-charging/re-cycling establishments. The survey is also to provide a comprehensive estimate of incidence and distribution of working children in battery re-charging establishments. At the national level, the survey was designed to measure as many variables as possible, particularly on the number of working children, hours worked, health and safety, access to services etc. with special emphasis on child abuses that are inherent in the worst forms of child labour.

Coverage: The entire geographical area of the country was under the domain of the survey. In view of the fund and time constraints an optimum size of ultimate samples (working children) were studied ensuring reliable estimates of various parameters of the population.

The following key variables were considered for investigation:

- To assess socio-economic characteristics of the working children, their families and assets and work history, etc. and the factors influencing them to work;
- To collect information on the nature of work and its physical effects, hours of work, income earned, health and safety measures etc.; and
- To know the perceptions of the parents or guardians about their working youngsters as well as those of the children themselves and their employers.

2.2 Sampling design and selection of samples

2.2.1 Sampling design

The population universe (in this case the total number of battery re-charging/ re-cycling establishments in the country) is a pre-requisite to developing a statistically sound sample design for conducting any kind of sample survey or statistical enquiry. Due to lack of basic information from existing sources (both from secondary and primary sources) about the incidence and distribution of battery re-charging establishments or number of children working in this sector, it was not possible to develop the sampling design for the survey. So, in order to reduce the number of unknowns and to determine

the population universe, (that is, battery re-charging establishments), BBS carried out a complete enumeration/census of battery re-charging establishments (through quick count survey) throughout the country with names and addresses of the establishments including number of persons employed or engaged (both children and adults) in these establishments.

A complete count of battery re-charging establishments was conducted throughout the country in November and December, 2002.in order to prepare the sampling frame/universe. The BBS field staff from 483 Thana/Upazila Statistical offices and 23 Regional statistical offices totalling about 2,400 enumerators were mobilized for the enumeration of establishments/sites in 5 WFCL sectors throughout Bangladesh.² Once the sampling frame or universe was determined, the sampling design could then easily be derived on the basis of the sampling universe.

The enumeration provided the names and addresses of all the battery re-charging establishments, along with the number of persons engaged therein including child workers aged 5 to 17 years by urban and rural areas of the country. The enumeration further revealed that indicators such as the average number of child workers per establishment and the ratio of child workers to adult workers were fairly consistent throughout the regions as well as in the country which may be seen in Table 2.1.

² *Collected from Quick Count Survey documents (QCS) of BBS.*

Table 2.1 Total number of establishments and workers by regions

Region (Former district)	Total No. of establishments	Total No. of workers	Total No. of child workers
Dhaka	1247	2162	545
Mymensingh	564	951	214
Jamalpur	409	762	212
Kishoregonj	703	1095	322
Tangail	315	617	135
Faridpur	910	1558	353
Chittagong	399	1039	238
Khagrachhari	45	86	28
Bandarban	23	37	8
Rangamati	104	184	25
Comilla	1030	1929	448
Noakhali	424	833	195
Sylhet	692	1461	318
Rajshahi	539	1002	227
Bogra	446	729	151
Rangpur	1111	2126	586
Dinajpur	616	1070	241
Pabna	290	647	170
Khulna	676	1177	249
Jessore	739	1206	270
Kushtia	265	626	192
Barisal	446	801	261
Patuakhali	214	382	125
Total	12207	22480	5513

A complete listing of the battery re-charging establishments/shops (that is the incidence and distribution of the battery re-charging shops) and the child labourers throughout Bangladesh, as revealed by the enumeration, provided the parameters necessary to determine the sampling frame. The design of the sampling frame was crucial in order to have a representative sample which would allow us to estimate the number of child workers engaged in battery re-charging establishments throughout the country.

2.2.2 Stratification

Stratification was done with a view to obtaining estimates with smaller variance compared to estimates from unstratified samples. On the basis of this apriori information, the sampling universe was divided into the following 3 mutually exclusive strata.

- Urban Stratum I : 6 metropolitan/divisional cities of the country constituted urban stratum I;
- Urban Stratum II: 58 district towns/cities (district head-quarters/pourashavas) constituted urban stratum II, and
- Rural Stratum III: all areas except those included in stratum-I and stratum- II.

It is necessary to mention here that battery re-charging is primarily an urban activity and male children are found to be engaged in this industry. But now-a-days such activity has reached into small municipalities and semi-urban areas such as thana headquarters and other growth centres (haats and bazaars). To reflect the socio-economic characteristics of the working children in these small municipalities and rural areas, a proportional size of samples is allocated to stratum-III.

2.2.3 Sampling and allocation of samples

A two-stage stratified sampling has been followed for the survey. To ensure a nationally representative sample, upazila/thanas (the second lowest administrative units in Bangladesh) were used as frame for area sampling. For analytical purposes, the upazila/thana is the primary sampling unit (PSU). At the first stage, 50 percent of the total thanas/upazilas are selected randomly for stratum-I and stratum-II, and only 12.5 percent of upazila/thanas are selected for stratum-III. The reason for taking a smaller percentage of upazilas at stratum-III is that the incidence of establishments and working children in stratum-III is very low compared to stratum-I and stratum-II. At the same time the population (working children in battery re-charging establishments) in stratum III is more or less homogeneous in nature. At the second stage, within the selected domain (upazila/thana) battery re-charging shops were proportionately sampled (proportionate to the size of battery re-charging establishments in the thana/upazila) by using simple random sampling.

It should be noted that battery re-charging establishments with no working children were excluded from the sample. Child workers were selected as the ultimate units of enquiry for this survey, as it would provide better estimates of various unknown parameters of the target population. Once the establishment is selected for the survey, within each sampling site (battery recharging shop), simple random sampling has been followed for each site to select the working children for investigation. In order to facilitate the simple random sampling, an exhaustive list of all working children in each battery re-charging establishment was prepared in advance.

The baseline survey for the battery re-charging establishments would be an establishment-based survey and the working children therein would be the ultimate units of investigation. Thus, on the basis of the results of the QCS, our sample size was estimated at 416 battery re-charging establishments (establishments without working children are out of the scope as mentioned earlier). Table 2.2 below shows the distribution of sample size which allows us to estimate the incidence of child labour in battery re-charging sector. Please note that for our analytical purposes, the incidence and distributions are given at the division level in most tables. In other words, the 23 regions are aggregated into 6 divisions as follows:

- (i) **Dhaka Division** is constituted of: Dhaka, Tangail, Mymensingh, Faridpur, Kishoreganj, Jamalpur
- (ii) **Chittagong Division** is constituted of: Comilla, Chittagong, Noakhali, Rangamati, Bandarban, Khagrachhari
- (iii) **Rajshahi Division** is constituted of: Rajshahi, Pabna, Dinajpur, Rangpur, Bogra
- (iv) **Khulna Division** is constituted of: Khulna, Kushtia, Jessore
- (v) **Barisal Division**: Barisal, Patuakhali
- (vi) **Sylhet Division** is composed of Sylhet region.

2.2.4 Allocation of sample establishments

Allocations of battery re-charging establishments by strata and divisions are shown in the following table.

Table 2.2 Allocation of sample establishments by strata and divisions

Division	Stratum I	Stratum II	Stratum III	Total
Dhaka	20	35	82	137
Chittagong	10	20	39	69
Rajshahi	7	40	53	100
Khulna	5	18	32	55
Sylhet	5	9	13	27
Barisal	5	9	14	28
Total	52	131	233	416

The sampling scheme is PPS with proportional allocation within the three primary strata at two stages. The sample size of battery re-charging establishment is allocated proportionally to the number of battery re-charging establishments in each PSU. The first stage sampling is the selection of PSU by simple random sampling and the second stage is the proportional sampling of battery re-charging shops within the PSU. Finally, systematic random sampling of working children is done for each site to select working children for investigation.

In order to give due weight to the total number of working children and to the varying sizes of the battery re-charging/re-cycling establishment it was decided that the number of children interviewed should not be equal to the entire population of child workers in a particular battery re-charging shop. Thus, depending upon the size of inventory of child workers found in a battery re-charging establishment, the following rule of thumb was applied so that at least one child per establishment was to be randomly selected and interviewed, and sampling quota per establishment could not exceed 3 working children.

Selection of sample establishments and number of children interviewed: A sample of 416 establishments were selected for the study. For identifying the establishments which were to be studied in each stratum, the inventories of battery re-charging shops as

available from the quick count survey (QCS) have been used. The requisite number of battery re-charging shops were selected on the basis of simple random sampling. According to the inventory of battery re-charging/re-cycling establishments the average number of working children per establishment was about 0.24.

Respondents: For the purpose of the survey, two types of respondents were selected i.e. the working children in the battery re-charging establishment and their employers / owners were selected. A total number of 832 respondents were, therefore, interviewed. Out of 832 respondents, 416 were working children and 416 were employers / owners of the establishments. For obvious reason, the main respondents were the working children.

2.3 Preparation of survey instruments and training of survey personnel

2.3.1 Questionnaire and training manual

The draft questionnaire of this baseline survey was designed on the basis of the objectives of the survey. A child questionnaire and an employer questionnaire were designed to capture both qualitative and quantitative information. Field pretests were carried out in both big and small towns to finalize the questionnaire, develop instruction and training manuals, control forms, survey procedures etc. The pretest was conducted in different mahallas (areas) of Dhaka city, Tongi and Savar towns. The main objectives of the pretest like all other surveys of this kind were:

- i) to test the suitability and relevance of the survey questions;
- ii) to test and verify the coverage of items as per objectives of the survey;
- iii) to identify the questions which the respondents and enumerators find difficult to answer; and
- iv) to estimate the time required for filling of the questionnaire, etc.

The survey questionnaires and instruction manual were finalized on the basis of findings of the pretest and the suggestions / recommendations of SIMPOC experts and BBS personnel.

2.3.2 Training of survey personnel

Qualified and trained enumerators and supervisors were engaged for collecting data at field level. Intensive training was arranged for two days for the survey personnel (supervisors and enumerators) to carry out this survey. On the first day, classroom training was devoted to the questionnaires, concepts, definitions, use of identification map, data collection procedures and rapport building. The enumerators were also trained on interview techniques with special attention to sensitivity towards the child.

The second day of training was devoted to a field visit and methodologies of filling out questionnaires followed by discussion and evaluation of field work. A verbatim type training manual was prepared and issued to all of them so that they could consult it for any problems faced during field activities.

2.4 Data collection and data processing

The survey was conducted throughout the country. Establishment listing forms and computer sample selection sheet were supplied to the enumerators and supervisors for survey work which was done during October, 2003.

Preliminary checking of entries in the filled-in questionnaires was done by the supervisors and enumerators at field level. Thorough manual editing was carried out by trained editors. Geo-codes and open ended answers were coded in accordance with their respective code lists. The edited and coded questionnaires were processed using consistency and reliability testing software developed by computer experts. Computer editing was done to check internal inconsistency, omissions and errors, if any.

2.5 Response rate, weighting and reliability of estimate

Response rate: According to the sampling scheme 416 battery re-charging establishments with 416 children (one child from each sample establishment) working in those establishments were interviewed. While none of the owners/ employers of the establishments as well as the working children selected for investigation declined to give interview, in the case of some establishments, interviewers were required to visit several times to collect the required information. So, the response rate might be considered as 100 percent and non-response adjustment was not needed. Also, there was no non-coverage error due to disappearance or delineation of the selected establishments or due to absence of owner of any establishment.

However, there might be some response error for which the owner/possessor of establishments as well as working children are largely responsible. For obvious reasons, the owner of the establishments may be inclined to understate those facts that are directly related to exploitation of children and overstate those that are related to the welfare and safety of working children. On the other hand, employers of the working children may be reluctant to have child workers interviewed and children may also be afraid of some questions being put to them at place of work. It is also recognized that children may find uneasy to voice their real feelings in presence of their employers.

Weight: Although it is generally desirable to have only one common weight (self – weighting design) for all sample units, in practice, a set of weights are used very often. Mainly two categories of weights are used - one for the children and the other for the establishments. The rising factor assigned to children is used to estimate the number of child workers in the battery re-charging sector at the national level and therefore to make statistical inferences about this population from a sample. On the other hand, the rising factor assigned to establishments has been used to estimate the unknown parameters relating to establishments.

Each type of rising factor again has three contrivances – one each for stratum I, II and III. Thus, in total, there are six rising/expansion factors. Unknown parameters for working children as well as for establishments for each of the three strata have been estimated independently by using their respective rising factors. The estimated total for the three strata provides the national estimate. A set of weights instead of one common weight, were used because of the fact that one common weight can be used only if the

ultimate sampling units (working children in battery re-charging establishments) have the same overall probability of selection but in the case of this survey ultimate sampling units did not have the same overall probability of selection though they have *known non-zero probability* for selection.

Reliability of estimates: With regard to the reliability of the estimates, this sector-specific national level survey is the first of its type in Bangladesh and, therefore, the findings of this survey could not be compared with the trends and patterns known from previous studies/surveys. Nonetheless, as the survey is based on sound statistical methods using appropriate probability-based sampling frame where the units for interview are selected according to a *known non-zero probability* - this survey undoubtedly allowed making of statistical inference about the population. The primary feature of the statistical exercise carried out under this survey was to allow statistical inference at the national level from the probability-based sample of child workers in battery recharging sector.

2.6 Concepts and definitions

Battery re-charging/re-cycling: Such activities generally take place in urban centres. These can also be found in thana headquarters and other growth centres or big bazaars/market places within the thana/upazila. Battery re-charging activity includes repairing of battery, re-cycling of battery, acid and water charge by using necessary equipment and chemicals. The activity is done in a shop or a fixed premise and is commonly known as battery re-charging shop or "battery works" etc. This activity is not difficult to identify in the locality. This activity is also concentrated or localized in a particular place of the city/town.

Child: In Bangladesh there is no uniform definition of a child relating to minimum age. However, the following box gives the definition of a child in different laws relating to children.

Box 1: Definition of children

<i>Acts/Ordinances</i>	<i>Way of defining a child</i>
1. The Mines Act, 1923	Who has not completed his fifteenth year
2. The Children Act, 1933	Under the age of fifteen
3. The Employment of Children Act, 1938	Who has not completed his fifteenth year
4. The Tea Plantation Labour Ordinance, 1962	Who has not completed his fifteenth year
5. The Shops and Establishments Act, 1965	A person who has not completed twelve years of age
6. The Factories Act, 1995	A person who has not completed sixteen years of age
7. The Children Act, 1974	A person under the age of sixteen years.
8. National Children Policy, 1994	A person who has not completed fourteen years of age.

Based on the 1989 United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and the ILO Convention on the Worst Forms of Child Labour, 1999 (No.182), a child is defined as an individual under the age of 18 years. Under the purview of this survey, a person who has not completed 18 years of age has been categorised as a child. However, a child under five years of age is too young to be engaged in work or to start schooling. Only child population aged 5-17 have been considered for the purpose of the study.

Age: In this survey the age of an individual has been recorded in whole integer at last birthday. Thus for an individual whose age is recorded as 17 means that he has completed the age of 17 but has not completed the age of 18. For example, a person aged 13 years, 10 months and 15 days has been recorded as 13 years.

Child labour: What sort of work done by children should be considered as “child labour” is not easy to define. The Encyclopaedia of Social Sciences defines child labour as “when the business of wage earning or of participation in itself or family support, conflicts directly or indirectly with the business of growth and education, the result is child labour. Within the boundary of this survey all activities of a child which are detrimental to the health, education and normal development (physical and mental) of the child is considered as child labour.

Child work: Child work is different from child labour. Child work does not have any negative effect on the children’s development because it is either voluntary work, not a profit oriented activity or job within the households.

Worst forms of child labour: According to ILO Convention No. 182, the worst forms of child labour comprise:

- All forms of slavery or practices similar to slavery, such as the sale and trafficking of children, debt bondage and forced or compulsory labour, including forced or compulsory recruitment of children for use in armed conflict;
- The use, procurement or offering of a child for prostitution, production of pornography or photography or photographic performance;
- The use, procurement or offering of a child for illicit activities, in particular for the production and trafficking of drugs;
- Work which, by its nature or the circumstances in which it is carried out, is likely to harm the health, safety or morals of children;
- Work under ground, under water, at dangerous heights or in confined spaces;
- Work with dangerous machines, equipment and tools, or which involves the manual handling of machines or transport of heavy loads;
- Work in an unhealthy environment which may, for example, expose children to hazardous substances, agents or processes, or to temperatures, noise levels, or vibration damaging to their health.

Hazardous child labour: Hazard is defined as the capacity or potential of an object, substance or condition to produce a particular type of adverse effects to a person or a group of persons. Hazards are generally classified into five types, namely (i) Physical hazard, (ii) Chemical hazard, (iii) Biological hazard, (iv) Ergonomic hazard and (v) Safety hazard.

Physical hazards include noise, heat, light, radiation, vibration, dust and general housekeeping conditions. Chemical hazards are mist, fumes, smoke, liquid and solid materials, gas, vapour, and dust particles. Biological hazards are insects, bacteria, viruses, mite, parasites and other organisms. Ergonomic hazards are those pertaining to body poisons in undertaking different tasks and using tools or equipment, monotony, and boredom, repetitive movements, organizational or administrative issues and psycho-social dimension. Lastly, safety hazards are concerned with accidents, injuries, falls and slips etc.

The presence of any or all of the above in the working environment is considered hazardous and the children working there are known as hazardous child labour.

Exploitation: Child work is exploitative when children:

- Work too young (e.g. starting at 5 years) impeding access to education, and detrimental to their social and psychological development;
- Work too many hours;
- Work under excessive physical, social and psycho-social pressure
- Work for too little wage or remuneration;
- Work with too much responsibility placed on them with no time for play or recreation;
- Work in situations that inhibit their self confidence and self esteem; and
- Work as substitutes for adult labour.

The following box shows the difference between child labour and child worker:

Box 1: Differences between child worker and child labour

Child worker	Child labour
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• work is appropriate to child's age as well as physical and mental capabilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• work burdens the child; too heavy for child's capabilities
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• supervised by responsible and caring adults.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• child work unsupervised or supervised by abusive adults
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• limited hour of work, does not hinder the child from going to school, playing or resting.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• very long hours of work, child has limited or no time for school, play or rest
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• work place is kept safe and friendly, does not pose hazards to health and life of the child.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• workplace poses hazards to child's health and life.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• child's physical ,emotional and mental well-being nourished even in work environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• child is subjected to psychological, verbal, physical/ sexual abuse
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• child work is regulated by law or governed by family/ community norms and values.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• child work is excluded from legislation, social security and benefits.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• child work is utilised for purposes that are human and legal	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• child work is utilised for exploitative, subversive or disguised illegal activities

Other relevant definitions of terms used in the survey are as follows:

Employer: Employer is a self-employed person who may employ one or more persons in a commercial or industrial enterprise. A person employing non-productive workers, such as domestic servants, was not considered as an employer for the purpose of this survey.

Household: Household is defined as a person or group persons who live together in the same house or compound and share same kitchen. Household members are not necessarily related by blood or marriage.

Full-time employee: Full-time employee refers to a salaried worker whose services are engaged for the full working hours of the enterprise or establishment or organisation in which he/she works.

Casual worker/day labour: Casual worker/day labour refers to a wage earner whose services are solicited only for a periodic time intervals during the reference period.

Part-time employee: Part-time employee is a salaried worker whose services were for specified hours within the enterprise or establishment's working hours.

Paid apprentices: Paid apprentice is a learner of trade (jobs) who is paid some little amount in cash or kind by his/her employer. Unpaid apprentices like their paid counterparts, are learners of trade. However, unlike the former the unpaid apprentices receive no payments either in cash or kind for the services rendered to their employers.

Regular worker/employee: Regular worker/employee is one who has a regular employment and receives wages or salary from the enterprise or establishment or organisation to which he/she is attached for performing assigned work.

Hours worked: Hours worked are the total number of hours worked during the reference period of the survey. For a child holding more than one job hours worked are the total of hours worked for all jobs.

Occupation: Occupation is defined as a 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 the 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.

CHAPTER III: RESULTS OF THE BASELINE SURVEY

3.0 Introduction

This chapter presents the empirical findings of the baseline survey on working children in battery recharging/recycling establishments during 2002-03. It consists of three sections, namely:

- Section I: characteristics of battery recharging establishments including, data on incidence and distribution of the battery recharging establishments;
- Section II: household characteristics of the child battery recharging workers including household characteristics such as household size, main activity of household, land holding, occupation of parents, educational level of father and mother, etc. of the child battery recharging workers; and
- Section III: employment characteristics of child battery recharging workers which include their socio-demographic characteristics, their schooling and training, hours worked, earnings, living arrangement, reasons of work, working condition or work environment, time spent for recreation etc. Perception of the owners/employers about working children as well as children themselves about their future plan and attitude about work are also presented in this section.

Section I: Characteristics of battery recharging establishments

3.1 Battery recharging establishments

Battery recharging/recycling activities are mainly concentrated in urban and semi-urban areas. It is also found in thana/upazila headquarters and other growth centres and big market places within the thana/upazila. These activities include repairing/manufacturing of dry cell batteries as well as recycling of batteries by using necessary equipment and chemicals (acid and other reagents). Serious health and safety hazards are there at the battery recharging shops. Children working in battery recharging shops often suffer from exposure to chemicals, fumes and combustion. These activities are done in a shop or a fixed premise which is commonly known as battery recharging shop or battery works. Through the quick count survey conducted by BBS in 2002, the number of battery recharging establishments, the number of workers including child workers therein were collected from all the 6 divisions of the country which are given below:

Table 3.1a Battery recharging/recycling establishments and number of workers by division

Administrative division	Battery recharging establishments		Child workers		Total workers	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Dhaka	4170	34.2	1781	32.3	7145	31.8
Chittagong	1972	16.2	942	17.1	4108	18.3
Rajshahi	2888	23.6	1375	24.9	5574	24.8
Khulna	1659	13.6	711	12.9	3009	13.4
Sylhet	725	5.9	318	5.7	1461	6.5
Barisal	792	6.5	386	7.0	1183	5.2
Total	12207	100.0	5513	100.0	22480	100.0

It is further evident from the table that Dhaka division has the highest number of battery recharging establishments i.e. 34.2 percent while Sylhet division has the lowest number or 5.9 percent. In Bangladesh most of the battery recharging establishments are small scale ones in terms of employment size (less than 10 persons) as well as investment. So for obvious reason, these establishments are mainly owned by individuals of limited means.

Figure 1. Ownership of battery recharging establishments by division

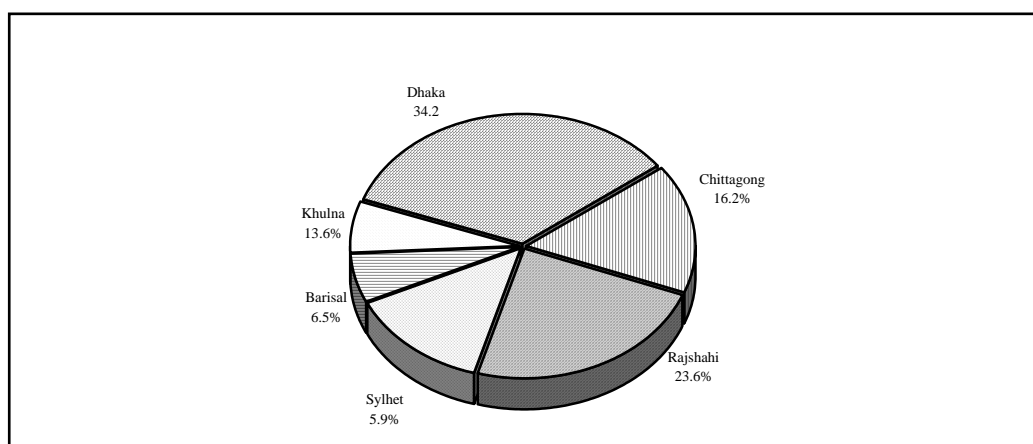


Table 3.1b shows the distribution of battery re-charging/recycling establishments by urban and rural areas. It is found that about 72 percent of the battery recharging

establishments are located in rural areas which refer to growth centres, big market places and most of the thana headquarters. Battery recharging activities predominate in rural areas because in the absence of electricity, recycled batteries are in great demand in rural areas mainly for operating television sets.

Table 3.1b Battery recharging establishments and number of workers by division

Locality	Battery establishment		Child workers	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Urban	3431	28.1	1873	34.0
Rural	8776	71.9	3640	66.0
Total	12207	100.0	5513	100.0

3.1.1 Ownership status

It is observed from the survey data that the owners of most of the battery recharging establishments are sole proprietors. A total of 95.2 percent establishments have single ownership while 3.8 percent and 1.0 percent establishments belong to family ownership and partnership respectively.

Table 3.2 Ownership of battery recharging establishments by division

Division	Total		Sole proprietorship		Family proprietorship		Partnership	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Dhaka	4148	100.0	4003	96.5	145	3.5	-	-
Chittagong	2025	100.0	1794	88.6	172	8.5	59	2.9
Rajshahi	3002	100.0	2882	96.0	60	2.0	60	2.0
Khulna	1680	100.0	1630	97.0	50	3.0	-	-
Sylhet	692	100.0	669	96.7	23	3.3	-	-
Barisal	660	100.0	646	97.8	14	2.2	-	-
Total	12207	100.0	11624	95.2	464	3.8	119	1.0

Note : Totals may slightly differ due to rounding

Table 3.3 below shows the distribution of owners/employers of battery recharging establishments by age groups.

Table 3.3 Distribution of owners/employers of battery recharging establishments by age groups

Age group	Number	Percent
15-19	156	1.3
20-24	553	4.5
25-29	2256	18.5
30-34	1814	14.9
35-39	2699	22.1
40-44	1707	14.0
45-49	1493	12.2
50-54	808	6.6
55-59	544	4.5
60-64	115	0.9
65+	57	0.5
Total	12207	100.0

It is found that the highest proportion (22.1%) of owners/employers of establishments belong to the age group 35-39 years while only 1.4 percent owners/employers belong to age group 60 and over.

3.2 Persons employed in battery recharging establishments

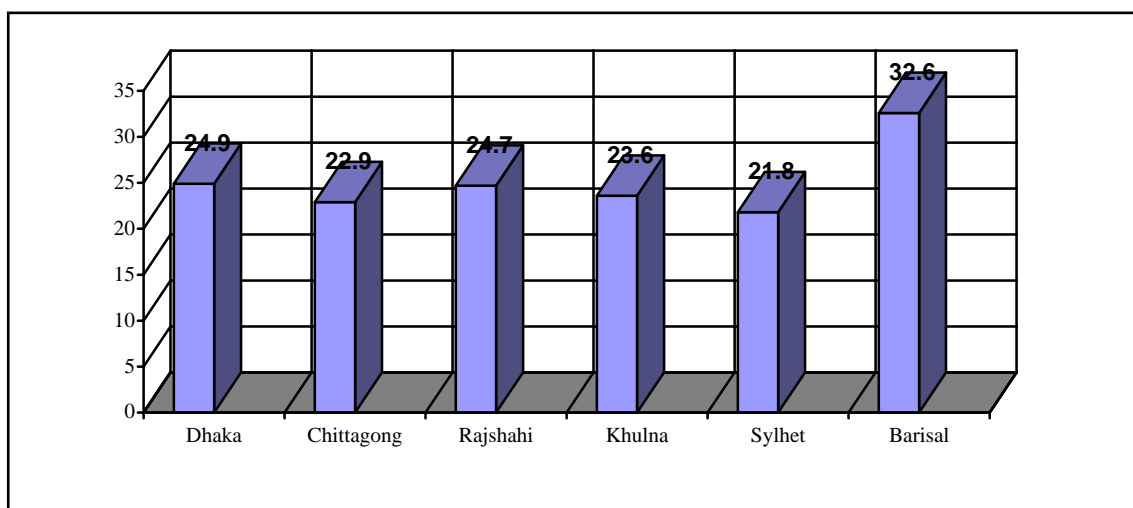
The enumeration by BBS revealed that a total of 22,480 persons are currently working in battery recharging establishments of which 5513 or 24.5 percent are children belonging to age group 5-17 years. It should also be mentioned here that amongst the working children only 292 are in the age group 5-11 years. Table 3.4 shows the distribution of working children by broad age group and administrative division.

Table 3.4 Distribution of working children by age group and division

Division	5-17 years		18 years and over		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Dhaka	1781	24.9	5364	75.1	7145	100.0
Chittatong	942	22.9	3166	77.1	4108	100.0
Rajshahi	1375	24.7	4199	75.3	5574	100.0
Khulna	711	23.6	2298	76.4	3009	100.0
Sylhet	318	21.8	1143	78.2	1461	100.0
Barisal	386	32.6	797	67.4	1183	100.0
Total	5513	24.5	16967	75.5	22480	100.0

The above table shows that the highest proportion of working children aged 5-17 years are found in Barisal division reflecting an unusual trend as compared to other divisions. The proportion of working children in battery recharging establishments in five divisions excluding Barisal exhibits a fairly similar trend. About one-fourth of the total working children aged 5-17 years are in Dhaka division followed by Rajshahi and Chittagong division. Figure 2 shows the incidence and distribution of child workers in battery recharging sector by division.

Figure 2. Proportion of child workers in battery recharging sector by division



3.2.1 Child workers

The following table shows that a large proportion of the working children of all age groups are found in individual ownership establishments followed by family ownership. As regards the age group, the picture is somewhat different. Around sixty percent of the total working children are in the age group 15-17 years followed by 12-14 age group.

Table 3.5 Child workers aged 5-17 years in battery recharging establishments by age group and type of ownership

Age group	Individual ownership		Family ownership		Partnership		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
5-11	285	97.6	7	2.4	-	-	292	100.0
12-14	1757	94.4	75	4.0	29	1.6	1862	100.0
15-17	3184	94.8	152	4.5	21	0.7	3358	100.0
Total	5227	94.8	235	4.3	51	0.9	5513	100.0

The distribution of child workers by age groups, ownership of establishments and also by urban-rural areas may be seen in the relevant statistical table at the appendix.

Table 3.6 Distribution of child workers in battery recharging establishments

Age group	Total		Urban		Rural	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
05-11	292	5.3	89	4.8	203	5.6
12-14	1862	33.8	773	41.3	1088	29.9
15-17	3358	60.9	1010	53.9	2348	64.5
Total	5513	100.0	1873	100.0	3640	100.0

A closer look at the age distribution of child workers in the first two age groups indicates that about two-fifths of the total employed children are in age groups 5-11 and 12-14. Table 3.6 shows that there are about 2154 very young children aged 5-14 years at work in battery recharging establishments. It is also revealed in the above table that 24.5 percent of all the workers in battery recharging establishments are children.

3.3 Reasons of employing child workers and method of recruitment

As to the reasons for recruitment of child workers 63.2 percent of owners have referred to obedience by child workers as the main reason for recruitment, while 37.4 percent, 35.0 percent and 34.4 percent owners have mentioned ‘work can be made as and when required’, ‘pay less wages’ and ‘do good work’ respectively as principal reasons.

Table 3.7 Reasons of employing child workers as reported by owners/employers

Reasons of recruiting	Number of responses	Percent
For good work	1895	34.4
Suitable for work	577	10.5
No trade union problem	205	3.7
Pay less wages / less costly	1927	35.0
Obedient	3485	63.2
Work can be made as and when required	2063	37.4
Others	260	4.7

Note: Due to multiple answers, the percentage total will not equal to 100.

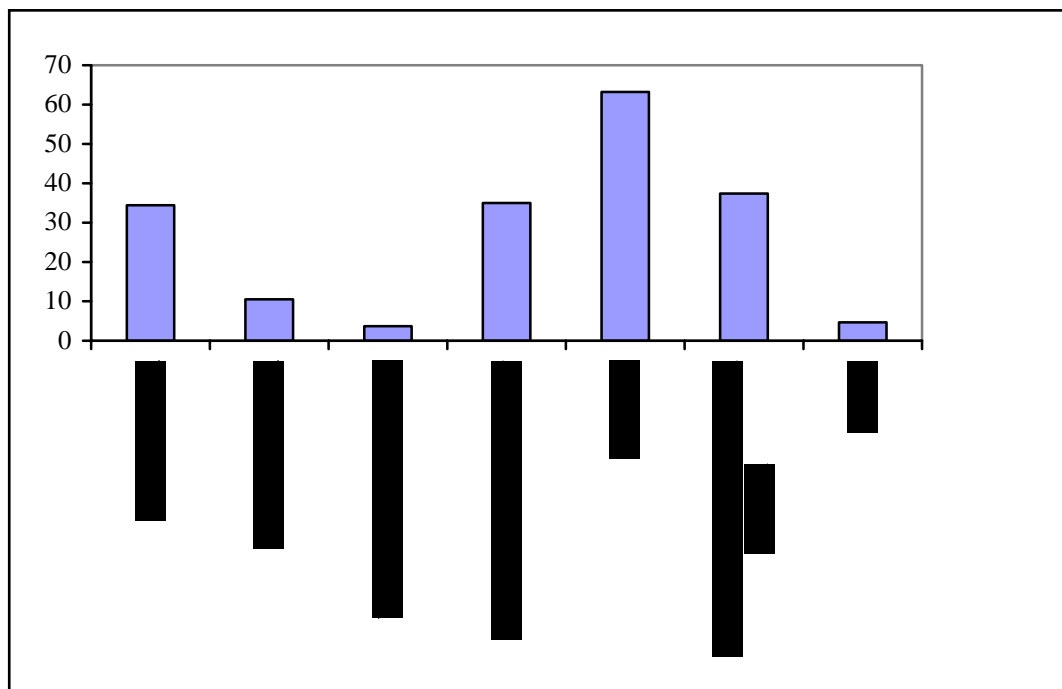
In most cases, recruitments have taken place as per request of parents (61.6 percent of 5513 cases). Recruitments through private contact have happened in 27.5 percent cases

while recruitments through advance payments to parents have occurred in 4.7 percent of the total cases. The remaining cases of recruitments are quite negligible.

Table 3.8 Methods of recruitment of child workers

Method of recruitment	Number	Percent
Private contact	1515	27.5
On first come basis	121	2.2
Advance payment to parents / guardians	260	4.7
As per request of parents / guardians	3394	61.6
Through labour contractors	16	0.3
Others	205	3.7
Total	5513	100.0

Figure 3. Reasons of employing child workers (percent)



3.3.1 Owners/employers by duration in battery recharging business

The table below shows the duration of owners'/employers' engagement in the battery recharging business. In the case of 27.6 percent establishments, the owners have started their business during the last 6-10 years and 20.2 percent owners have started their

business within the last 2-3 years. It is also observed from the data that a total of 1227 owners of the establishments i.e. only 10.0 percent have started their battery recharging business more than 15 years ago and they are still in the business.

Table 3.9 Owners/employers engaged in battery recharging business/work by duration and type of ownership

Duration of engagement in business (year)	Total		Sole proprietorship		Family proprietorship		Partnership	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<2	874	7.2	800	6.9	74	16.2	-	-
2-3	2452	20.2	2369	20.4	82	17.9	-	-
4-5	2353	19.3	2222	19.1	73	16.0	57	50.0
6-10	3383	27.6	3202	27.5	139	30.4	41	40.0
11-15	1915	15.7	1841	15.8	73	16.0	-	-
15+	1227	10.0	1194	10.3	16	3.5	16	10.0
Total	12207	100.0	11631	100.0	460	100.0	115	100.0

3.4 Working hours and mode of payment of wages and salaries

A total of 1915 or 34.7 percent establishments have reported their working hours as between 43 and 59 hours, 33.3 percent and 15 percent establishments have their working hours above 60 and between 36 and 42 hours respectively.

Table 3.10 Weekly hours worked and number of days worked by type of ownership (employers'/owners' view)

Type of ownership	Weekly hours worked (hours)						Number of days worked		
	Total	<25	25-35	36-42	43-59	60+	5	6	7
Sole proprietor	5232	462	460	769	1803	1736	614	2609	2009
Family proprietor	229	-	16	42	112	57	26	117	85
Partnership	52	-	-	16	-	35	-	18	33
Total	5513	462	476	829	1915	1830	640	2745	2128
Percent	100.0	8.4	8.6	15.0	34.7	33.3	11.6	49.8	38.6

Note : '-' denote nil

In the case of number of days worked per week, the child workers worked six days in 49.8 percent, seven days in 38.6 percent and five days in 11.6 percent establishments.

3.4.1 Mode of payment of wages and salaries

As to mode of payment 33.4 percent child workers are paid on monthly basis, 13.2 percent are paid on weekly basis and 47.0 percent are paid only conveyance or pocket money.

Table 3.11 Mode of payment to child workers

Mode of payment	Number	Percent
Daily	737	13.7
Weekly	729	13.2
Monthly	1842	33.4
Piece rate basis	126	2.3
Conveyance/pocket money	2589	47.0

Note: Due to multiple answers, the percentage total will not be 100.

Again, it may be noted in the table that about 13.7 percent and 2.3 percent child workers are paid on daily basis and piece rate basis respectively.

Section II: Household characteristics of working children

3.5 Socio-economic characteristics of households

It is necessary to identify the child workers working in battery recharging establishments by the type of their families and their socio-economic backgrounds. This section provides household characteristics of working children, their residency status and level of their education. Household characteristics mainly refer to household size, main activity of household, occupational status of parents, level of education of father and mother, and ownership of household agricultural land. The following tables show these positions in greater details.

Table 3.12 Distribution of household size of child workers

Household size (No. of person per household)	Number	Percent
1-3	517	9.4
4	1166	21.1
5	1409	25.5
6	1218	22.0
7	559	10.1
8	372	6.7
9	102	1.9
10+	176	3.3
Total	5513	100.0
Average household size (No.)	-	5.4

The above table shows that the average size of household of the working children in battery recharging establishments is 5.4 while the national average stands at 4.9 according to population census 2001.

3.5.1 Level of education of parents

The data on level of education of fathers and mothers of the child workers are presented in Table 3.13. It is observed that about 45.2 percent of fathers and 61.6 percent of mothers are illiterate and 9.8 percent fathers and 5.7 percent mothers are without formal education but they can read and write a letter. About 24.9 percent fathers (which is the highest number) have passed primary level education, 9.9 percent have junior secondary level education (grade 6 to 8) and only 0.7 percent or 33 fathers have secondary level education. On the other hand 24.6 percent mothers of the working children possess primary level education and 5.4 percent have junior secondary level education.

Table 3.13 Level of education of fathers and mothers of child workers

Level of education of fathers/mothers	Father		Mother	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
No education/cannot read or write a letter	2153	45.2	3320	61.6
No formal education but can read and write	466	9.8	305	5.7
Class I-V	1187	24.9	1324	24.6
Class VI-VIII	472	9.9	293	5.4
Class IX-X	267	5.6	76	1.4
SSC and equivalent	160	3.5	31	0.6
HSC and equivalent	33	0.7	9	0.2
Technical education	7	0.1	-	-
Too young for schooling	9	0.2	-	-
Others	9	0.2	26	0.5
Total	4767	100.0	5387	100.0

It is observed from the table that the number of fathers having no education i.e. illiterate stands at 2153 or 45.2 percent as against 61.6 percent mothers.

3.6 Ownership of household agricultural land

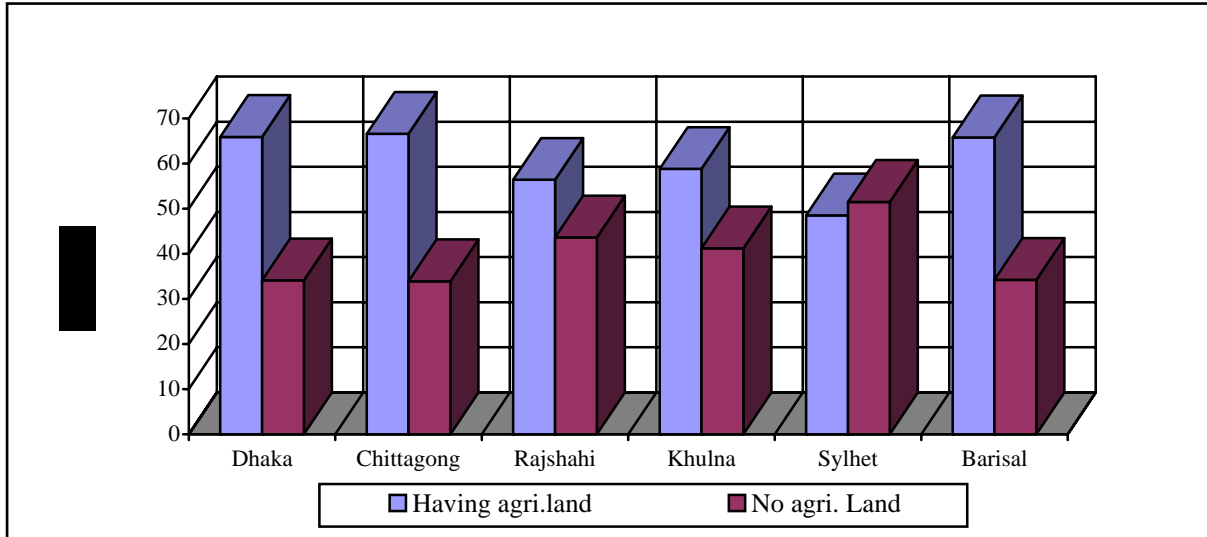
Table 3.14 shows that a total of 3404 or 61.7 percent families of child workers possess agricultural land while 2109 families or 38.3 percent of the total number of families are without any agricultural land.

Table 3.14 Child worker's family having agricultural land by division

Characteristics	Total		Dhaka	Chittagong	Rajshahi	Khulna	Sylhet	Barisal
	Number	Percent						
Having agricultural land	3404	61.7	1229	599	736	436	164	238
No agricultural land	2109	38.3	635	300	569	305	174	124
Total	5513	100.0	1864	899	1305	741	338	362

It also reveals that Dhaka division is reported to have the highest number of families possessing agricultural land (65.7 percent) while Sylhet division has the lowest (48.5 percent) of such families.

Figure 4. Child worker's family having agricultural land by division



3.7 Main economic activity of households and occupation of parents

The data in Table 3.15 shows that out of the total 4767 fathers of the working children 33.3 percent are engaged as agriculture day labourers as against 22.3 percent fathers employed as non-agricultural day labourers. About 10.7 percent fathers are engaged as workers in battery recharging establishments.

Table 3.15 Occupation of fathers and mothers of working children

Main occupation	Father		Mother	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Agricultural day labourer	1587	33.3	16	0.3
Non-agricultural day labourer	1067	22.3	54	1.0
Service	105	2.2	11	0.2
Battery recharging	507	10.7	-	-
Unable to work/disabled	143	3.0	-	-
Unemployed	54	1.1	-	-
Small trading	1073	22.5	6	0.1
Household work	110	2.3	5258	97.6
Others	125	2.6	42	0.8
Total	4767	100.0	5387	100.0

As regards mother's occupation, nearly 98 percent are engaged in household work or household chores. Only in the case of 54 child workers' families, 1.0 percent mothers are found engaged in economic activity as non-agricultural day labourers.

Table 3.16 Distribution of child workers households by main activity

Main activity of household / families of child workers	Number of household	Percent
Own or tenant farming	1156	21.0
Agricultural day labourer	915	16.3
Non-agricultural day labourer	1398	25.4
Small trading	1544	28.2
Manufacturing	69	1.3
Nothing/unemployed	59	1.1
Others	370	6.7
Total	5513	100.0

As regards the main economic activity of the households as reported by child workers about 28.2 percent households have mentioned small trading as their main activity. Some 25.4 percent households have reported their main activity as non-agriculture day labourers and only 1.3 percent child workers reported manufacturing as the main activity of their households.

3.8 Living place of working children

It is observed from the survey results that some child workers are living with their parents at different places and some are not living with their parents as shown in Tables 3.17 to Table 3.19. Out of the total 5513 working children 4035 or 73.2 percent are living with their parents while 26.8 percent are living with others or alone (See Table 28 at appendix).

Table 3.17 Child workers living with parents by place and type of accommodation

Place and type of accommodation	Number	Percent
Own house in slum	171	4.3
Rented house in slum	83	2.1
Rented house elsewhere	142	3.5
Own house	3620	89.7
Others	16	0.4
Total	4035	100.0

About 90 percent of the child workers are living in their own houses, 4.3 percent are living in their own slum houses, 3.5 percent live in rented houses elsewhere and 2.1

percent are living in rented slum houses. Again, in the case of child workers not living with their parents, about 84 percent of them are living in accommodation provided by employers, 7.3 percent are in rented slum houses and 9.2 percent are living in other places. Other places refer to relatives' houses, rented houses other than slums, etc.

Table 3.18 Child workers not living with parents by place and type of accommodation

Place and type of accommodation	Number	Percent
Own house in slum	-	-
Rented house in slum	107	7.3
Employer's accommodation/inside shop	1234	83.5
Street/abandoned places	-	-
Others	136	9.2
Total	1478	100.0

3.8.1 Reasons for leaving permanent place of residence

Table 3.19 shows that 8.6 percent of child workers have left their permanent residence for earning, 13.8 percent for parent's compliance and 7 percent due to hunger. On the other hand, only 0.2 percent child workers left their houses for being abused by their step fathers/mothers and 0.6 percent left their original home because there was none to look after them. It may be mentioned that only about 31 percent have left their permanent residence for reasons stated above and the rest 69 percent have not abandoned their permanent residence.

Table 3.19 Child workers who left their permanent place of residence by reasons

Reasons of leaving	Number	Percent
Poverty/hunger	384	7.0
Step father/mother	35	0.6
Nobody to look after	35	0.6
I left alone	16	0.3
Physically beaten/misbehaved	9	0.2
Parents sent me	762	13.8
For earning	473	8.6
Not applicable (not leaving)	3795	68.9
Total	5513	100.0

3.8.2 Level of education of children

While estimating the educational status of child workers two cases frequently happen one is 'not currently studying' and the other is 'studying.' The following tables give the picture in more details.

Table 3.20 Child workers currently in formal/informal educational institutions

Educational status	Number	Percent
Studying in formal school	437	7.9
Studying in informal school	-	-
Not studying	5076	92.1
Total	5513	100.0

In addition to their work 92.1 percent child workers are not studying in any institution whatsoever. Only 7.9 percent of them are studying in formal school.

Figure 5. Child workers currently studying in formal educational institutions

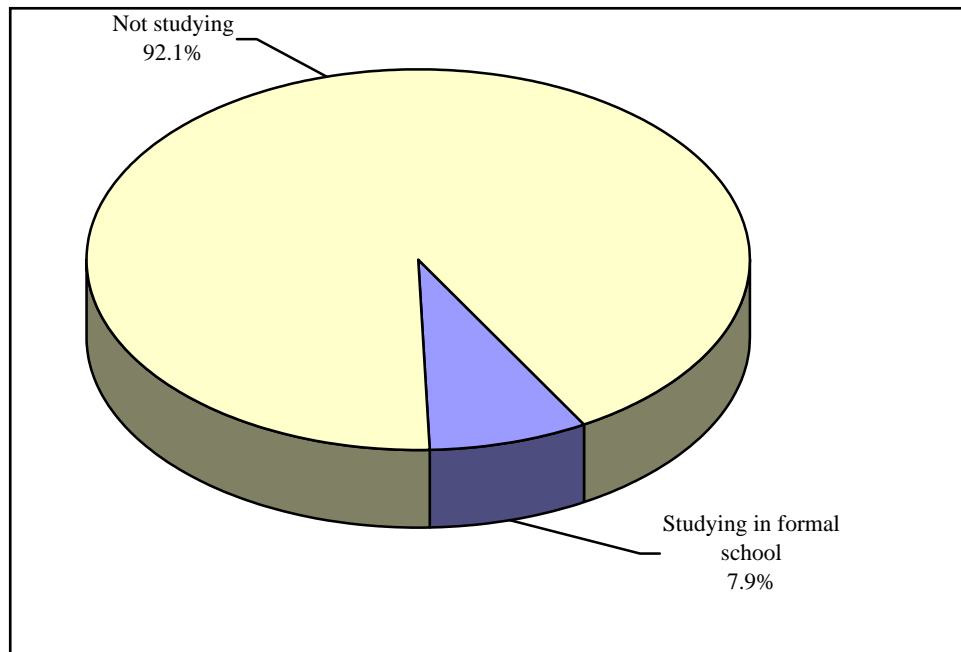


Table 3.21 shows the number and percentage distribution of child workers who are currently studying in educational institutions by level of education.

Table 3.21 Child workers currently studying in educational institutions by level of education

Level of education	Number	Percent
Class I-V	133	30.6
Class VI-VIII	59	13.6
Class IX-X	35	8.2
SSC. or equivalent	33	7.7
HSC or equivalent	126	28.9
Other technical education	48	11.0
Total	437	100.0

Of those who are currently studying, 30.6 percent are at primary level, 13.6 percent are at junior secondary level and 11.0 percent are receiving technical education.

Figure 6. Child workers currently studying by level of education

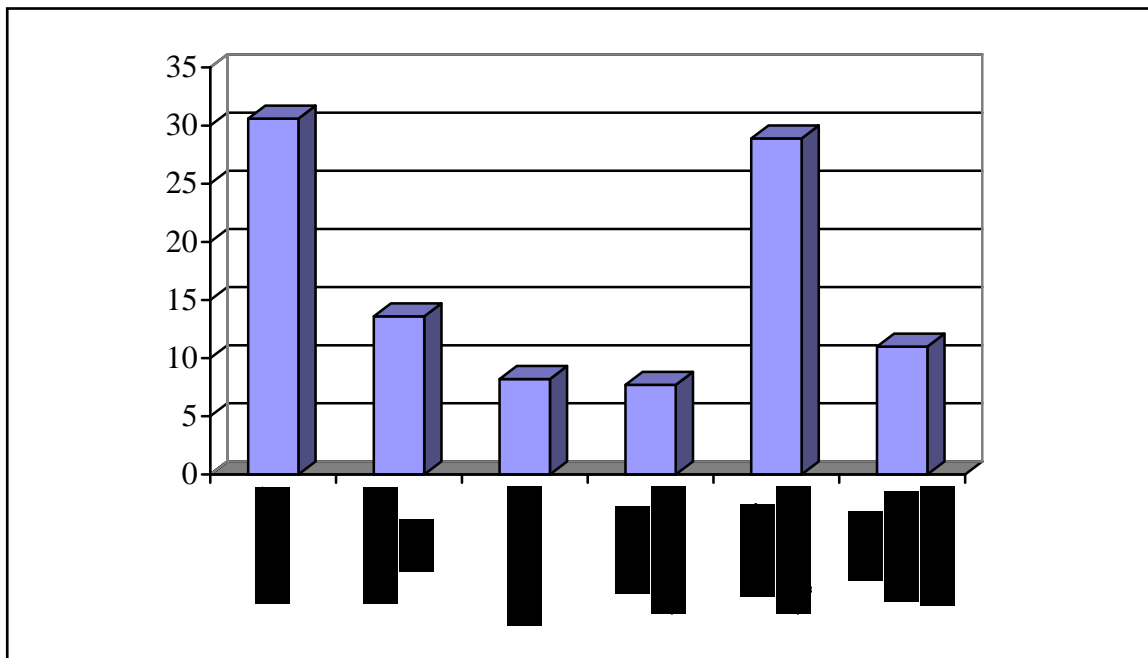


Table 3.22 Child workers not currently studying but had ever been to school

Schooling	Number	Percent
Studied in formal school	2420	47.7
Studied in informal school	9	0.2
Not studied	2646	52.1
Total	5076	100.0

Of the total number of child workers 47.7 percent have studied in formal educational institutions and 52.1 percent have never attended any school. Summarizing the data in the above tables we can see that amongst 5513 working children in battery recharging establishments only 437 children or 7.9 percent are currently studying and 5076 children are not currently studying; 47.7 percent of them had once been to school and 52.1 percent of the children had never been to school.

Section III. Employment characteristics of working children

This section describes the child's working environment, daily working hours, type of work done, their payment status and nature of spending of their income. This section has also discussed whether or not the child workers are satisfied with their payment, time spent for recreation, health and safety matters, child abuses and reasons of work. Perception of the child workers as to their future plan and attitude to work and schooling are also presented in this section.

3.9 Child workers by age and status in employment

Table 3.23 gives the distribution of working children in battery recharging establishments by age group and urban/rural areas.

Table 3.23 Child workers by age groups and urban/rural areas

Age group	Total		Urban		Rural	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
5-11	292	5.3	89	4.8	203	5.6
12-14	1862	33.8	773	41.3	1088	29.9
15-17	2154	39.0	862	46.0	1291	35.5
Total	3358	60.9	1010	53.9	2348	64.5
	5513	100.0	1873	100.0	3640	100.0

It is evident from the data that only 292 or 5.3 percent children aged 5-11 years are working in battery recharging establishments and of them the proportion of child workers

in age bracket 15-17 stands at 60.9 percent. The proportion of child workers in age group 5-14 is higher (46.0%) in urban areas as compared to rural areas (35.5%).

Table 3.24 presents the number of child workers aged 5-17 years by status in employment. It is observed that 16.2 percent are regular paid workers while 24.3 percent are paid apprentices. The proportion of unpaid apprentices is very significant at 36.1 percent and also for unpaid family workers (19.8%). It is also found that the proportion of unpaid apprentices and unpaid family workers between urban and rural areas are quite significant.

Table 3.24 Child workers aged 5-17 by status in employment

Status in employment	Total		Urban		Rural	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Regular paid worker	892	16.2	314	16.8	578	15.9
Paid apprentice	1339	24.3	490	26.2	849	23.3
Unpaid apprentice	1993	36.1	889	47.6	1104	30.3
Unpaid family worker	1090	19.8	150	8.0	940	25.8
Casual worker /day labourer	131	2.4	14	0.7	116	3.3
Self employed/others	65	1.2	14	0.7	50	1.4
Total	5513	100.0	1873	100.0	3640	100.0

3.9.1 Daily hours worked and type of work done

Table 3.25 shows the distribution of child workers by daily hours of work. Child workers working in these establishments have different working hours - 24.6 percent are used to work 9-10 hours daily, 36.9 percent work 7-8 hours, 13.0 percent work 11-12 hours and only 1.5 percent work more than 12 hours per day. Based on hours worked it is found that a child worker has worked 8.2 hours per day on an average.

Table 3.25 Child workers by daily hours of work

Daily hours worked (hours)	Number	Percent
01-04	482	8.7
05-06	843	15.3
07-08	2036	36.9
09-10	1351	24.6
11-12	718	13.0
12+	780	1.5
Total	5513	100.0
Average hours worked/day	-	8.2

Figure 7. Child workers by daily hours of work

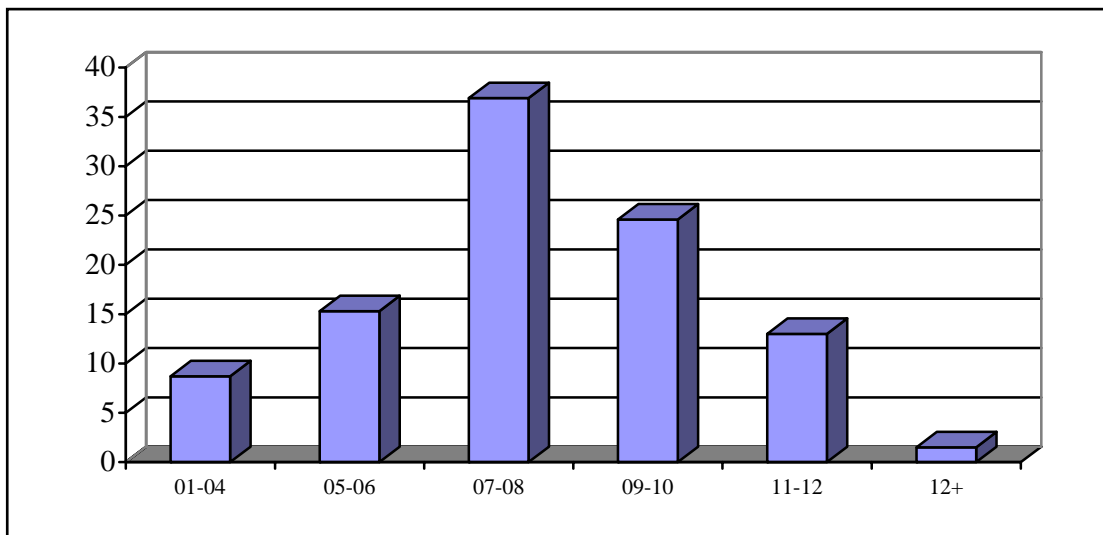


Table 3.26 shows the number of child workers by nature or type of work done in battery recharging establishments. Each child worker generally performs a particular type of work. In some cases, a child worker does multiple types of work. Among them 85.5 percent are engaged in recharging work, 48.7 percent in battery repairing work, 23.0 percent in acid filling and 35.7 percent in all types of work of battery recharging establishment.

Table 3.26 Child workers engaged by type of activity

Type of work	Number of responses	Percent
Recharging work	4714	85.5
Acid filling	1268	23.0
Battery repairing	2685	48.7
Recycling work	320	5.8
All types of work	1968	35.7
Other	584	10.6

Note: Due to multiple responses / answers provided, the percentage total would not be 100.

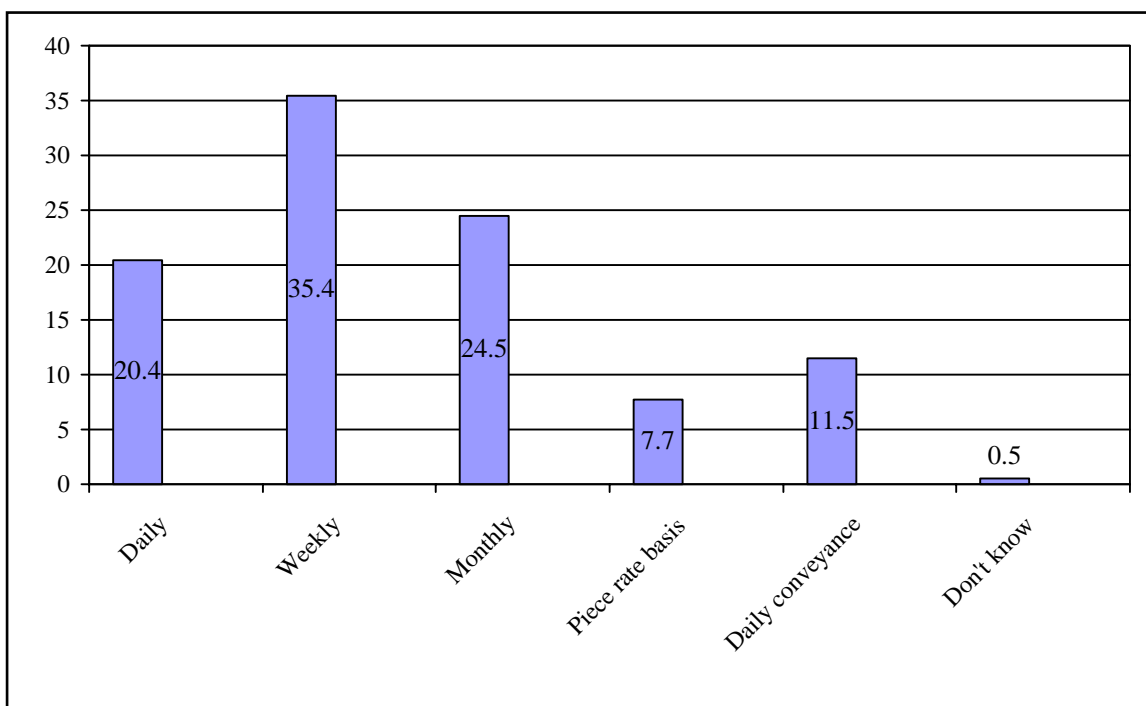
3.10 Mode of payment, earnings and expenditure

Child workers get their payments by different periods of time depending on employers' own payment systems. About 24.5 percent child workers get their salaries on monthly basis, 35.5 percent on weekly basis and 20.4 percent on daily basis. About 11.5 percent children are getting only daily conveyance in lieu of salary and less than a percent (0.5%) simply do not know in advance as to how and when their salaries will be paid.

Table 3.27 Mode of payment of wages and salaries to child workers by division

Mode of payment	Total		Dhaka	Chittagong	Rajshahi	Khulna	Sylhet	Barisal
	Number	Percent						
Daily	1125	20.4	288	15	472	181	90	76
Weekly	1952	35.4	607	498	356	307	62	125
Monthly	1350	24.5	720	39	129	167	144	116
Piece rate basis	424	7.7	105	204	39	56	22	-
Daily conveyance	634	11.5	61	186	370	-	-	48
Don't know	28	0.5	-	-	9	-	-	21
Total	5513	100.0	1781	942	1375	711	318	386

Note : '-' denote nil

Figure 8. Mode of payment of wages and salaries to child workers by division

The income of the child workers during the month immediately proceeding the enumeration period is found to be quite insignificant - 65.8 percent have earned between Tk.301 and Tk.500, 12.4 percent between Tk. 100 and Tk. 300, 6.9 percent between Tk. 751 and Tk. 1000 and only 1.5 percent child workers have earned more than Tk.1500. The average monthly earning of child workers stands at Tk. 313. Detailed data may be seen in statistical table 45 at the appendix.

Table 3.28 Child workers' earnings during the last month

Earned during last month (Tk)	Number	Percent
Tk. 100-300	685	12.4
Tk. 301-500	3626	65.8
Tk. 501-750	461	8.3
Tk. 751-1000	378	6.9
Tk. 1001-1500	280	5.1
Tk. 1501+	81	1.5
Total	5513	100.0

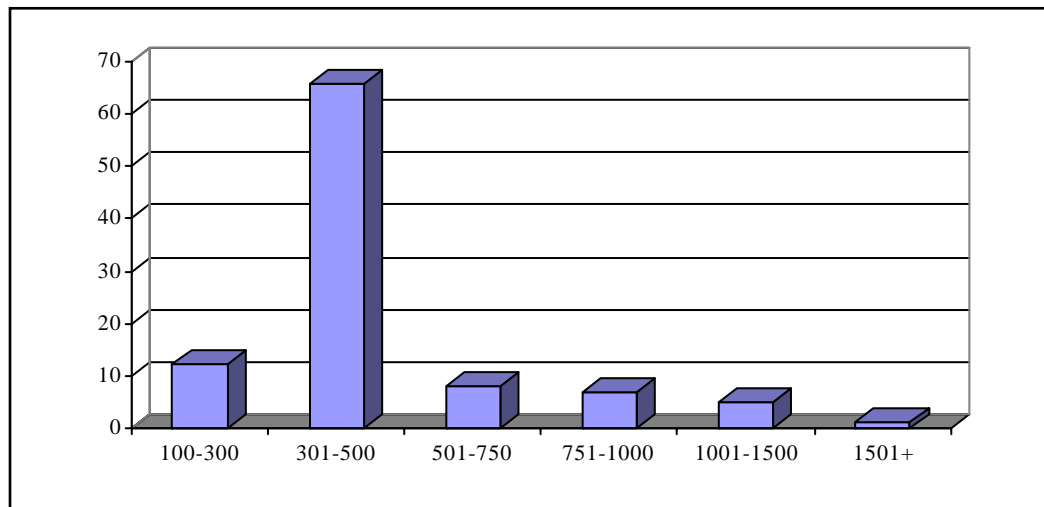
Figure 9. Child workers earning during the last month (percent)

Table 3.29 presents the number and proportion of child workers by types of use of their earning or nature of expenditure. Child workers have different types of expenditure met from their income. About 23.1 percent of workers share their income with their parents, 38.6 percent spend it as pocket money, 27 percent spend it for buying food and 23.6 percent spend for purchasing cloths. It is important to note here that about 1.1 percent child workers meet their educational expenses from their income.

Table 3.29 Nature of spending of income receipt by child workers

Type of expenditure	Number of responses	Percent
Payment of house rent	243	4.4
All earnings given to parents	766	13.9
Some/part earnings given to parents	1273	23.1
Meet educational expenses	61	1.1
Expenditure as pocket money	2128	38.6
Payment of previous loan	336	6.1
Expenditure on food	1488	27.0
Purchase of clothing	1301	23.6
Others	171	3.1

Note: Due to multiple answers, the percentage total would not equal to 100.

Table 3.30 and Table 3.31 present respectively the number of child workers by duration of work in battery recharging establishments and by description of persons who brought them for battery recharging activity. It is observed from the data that 61.9 percent of the child workers are engaged in battery recharging work for 1-2 years followed by 18.2 percent engaged for 3-4 years. Only 6.4 percent working children are reported to have been working for more than 5 years.

Table 3.30 Child workers by duration of work in battery recharging activity

Duration of work in battery recharging estab. (year)	Number of child workers	Percent
<1	746	13.5
1-2	3415	61.9
3-4	997	18.2
5-6	236	4.3
7+	116	2.1
Total	5513	100.0

Nearly 64 percent of the total working children have been brought to or engaged in battery recharging establishments by their parents, 16.7 percent are engaged through their relatives and 14.3 percent children are engaged in their own initiative.

Table 3.31 Distribution of child workers by persons (sources) who brought them to battery recharging work

Source of engaging children	Number of children	Percent
Parents	3514	63.7
Relatives	920	16.7
Self	790	14.3
Friends	69	1.3
Others	219	4.0
Total	5513	100.0

3.11 Reasons of working and job satisfaction

Out of 5513 child workers only 1241 or 22.5 percent had been in work previously. Of those who worked previously, 62.3 percent had to work due to poverty, 10.7 percent due to parents' debt and 22.4 percent had to work for their dislike of studies.

Table 3.32. Child workers in previous work by reasons of working

Reasons	Number	Percent
Parents had a debt	590	10.7
Family needed more income	3435	62.3
Disliked studies	1235	22.4
Others	253	4.6
Total	5513	100.0

Figure 10. Child workers in previous work by reasons of working

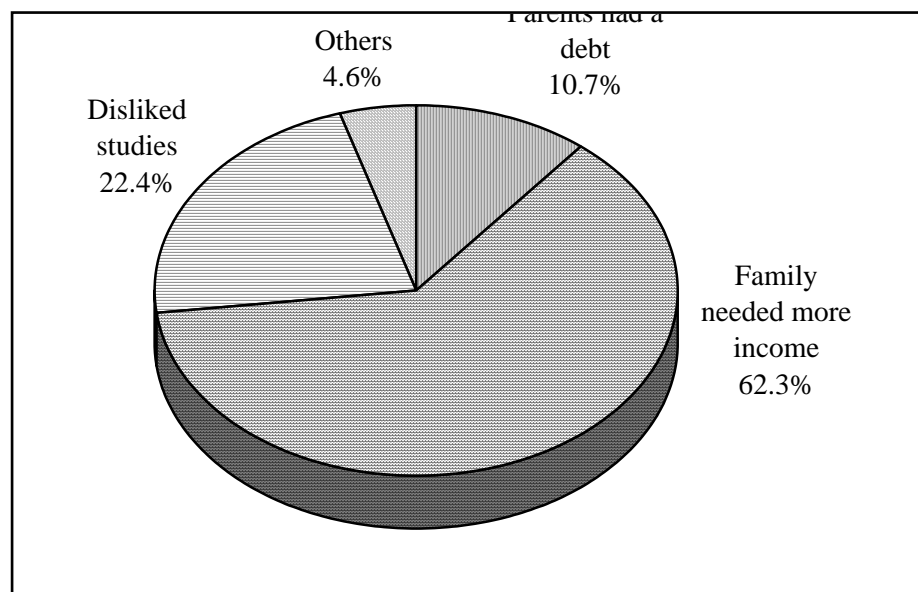


Table 3.33 shows the number and percentage of children aged 5-17 years in battery recharging establishments regarding their job satisfaction. The data reveal that 80.3 percent child workers are satisfied with their present job and only 19.7 percent are not happy with their job.

Table 3.33 Child workers by present job satisfaction

Job satisfaction	Number	Percent
Satisfied	4430	80.3
Not satisfied	1083	19.7
Total	5513	100.0

It is important to note here that most of the child workers are satisfied with their jobs due to various options. A large number of them (56.5 %) are satisfied because their work has made them self-dependent, 25.5 percent are satisfied as they can provide financial support to their families, 11.6 percent are satisfied for having a good income and 3 percent are happy for good behaviour of their owners/employers.

Table 3.34 Child workers by reasons of job satisfaction

Reasons of job satisfaction	Number	Percent
Able to support family	1127	25.5
To meet educational expenses	24	0.5
To manage food	87	2.0
Good income	515	11.6
Good behaviour of employer/owner	132	3.0
Good working environment	31	0.7
Be self-dependent by doing work	2503	56.5
Others	7	0.2
Total	4430	100.0

3.11.1 Previous work status of child workers

The number child workers who used to work elsewhere before starting their current job is shown in the table below:

Table 3.35 Child workers previously engaged by type of work

Previously engaged	Number	Percent
Never worked before	4272	77.5
Domestic work	28	0.5
Battery recharging work	39	0.7
Transportation work	77	1.4
Farming in own village	754	13.7
Construction work	23	0.4
Welding	55	1.0
Others	265	4.8
Total	5513	100.0

It depicts that a total of 13.7 percent were engaged in farming in their own villages, 1.0 percent were in welding workshop, 1.4 percent were in transport work and 4.8 percent were engaged in ‘others’ category which might refer to hotel boy, shoe-shiner, carpenter’s assistant, cycle repairing etc.

3.12 Health hazards and safety

Battery recharging is a hazardous type of work even for an adult worker. So it is more dangerous for a child worker. They are likely to meet different types of accidents/injuries at any time during the work. This sub-section also deals with illness/injuries of child workers and health care arrangements. It has also brought to light whether they have received any treatment for their injuries and how much their job is considered safe for them.

Table 3.36 shows the number and percentage distribution of child workers who became sick or injured by type of sickness /injuries during the last year. Of the child workers who became sick /injured during work, 57.3 percent caught fever, 15 percent had burn injuries, 14.6 percent suffered from headache and 2 percent suffered from stomach pain.

Table 3.36 Child workers who became sick/ injured by type of sickness /injuries

Type of injuries	Number of worker	Percent
Back pain due to heavy load	7	0.6
Respiratory problem	42	3.3
Fever	740	57.3
Burnt	197	15.0
Headache	188	14.6
Cough	16	1.3
Stomach pain	26	2.0
Others	76	5.9
Total	1291	100.0

Among the child workers who became sick or injured, 94.8 percent received some kind of treatment while a small proportion (5.2%) were deprived of medical treatment.

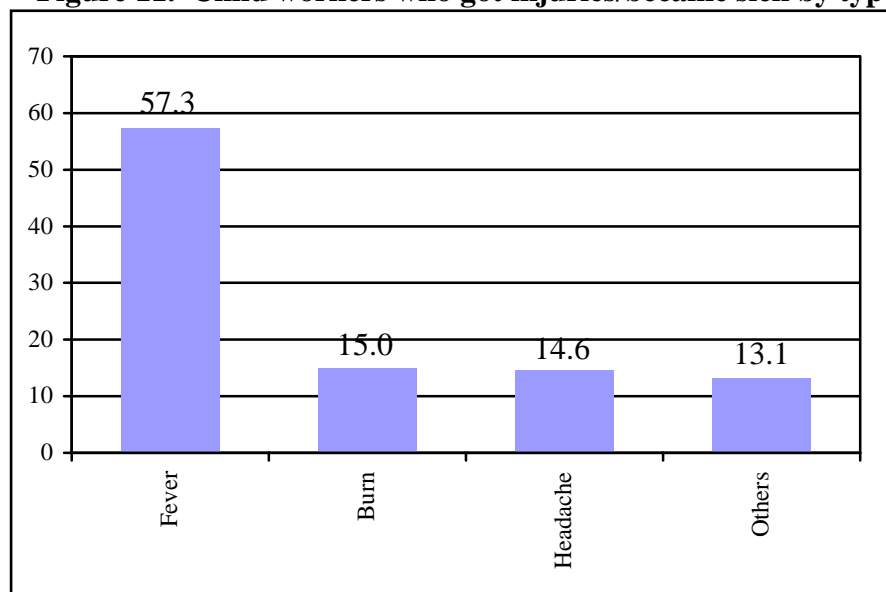
Figure 11. Child workers who got injuries/became sick by type

Table 3.37 Child workers who received medical treatment

Characteristics	Number	Percent
Receiving treatment		
Received treatment	1224	94.8
Not received treatment	66	5.2
Total	1291	100.0
Type of treatment received		
Allopathic	1182	96.5
Homeopathic	33	2.7
Unani/Ayurvedic	9	0.8
Total	1224	100.0

About the nature of treatment received as many as 97 percent child workers received allopathic, 2.7 percent received homeopathic and about one percent (0.8%) received unani/ayurvedic treatment.

3.12.1 Occupational safety

Child workers engaged in various types of hazardous jobs are required to be well protected while at work. But the situation is such that many child workers are not even conscious of their safety matter. Table 3.38 shows the number of child workers who wear protection gear for avoiding or minimizing occupational risk. A total of 13.2 percent workers wear protective dress during their work which 86.8 percent do not adopt any protective measure the absence of which may lead to accidents/injuries.

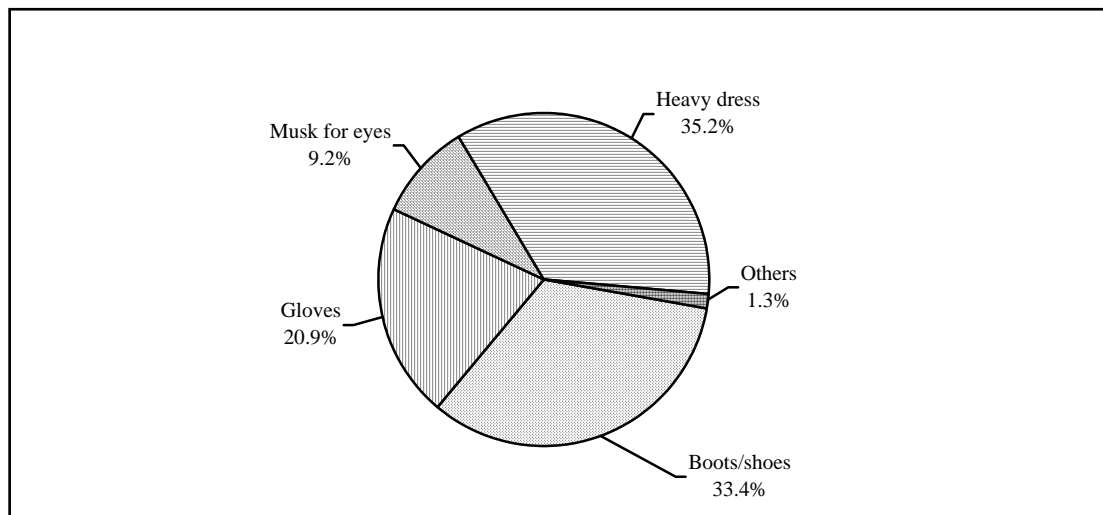
Table 3.38 Child workers who wear protective dress during work

Characteristics	Number	Percent
Wears protective dress	730	13.2
Not wears protective dress	4783	86.8
Total	5513	100.0

Protective gears are of different types. About 35.2 percent are used to wear heavy dresses, 33.4 percent use boots/shoes, 20.9 percent wear gloves and 9.2 percent use masks for protection of eyes.

Table 3.39 Child workers wearing protective materials by type

Type of protective materials	Number	Percent
Boots/shoes	243	33.4
Gloves	152	20.9
Musk for eyes	66	9.2
Heavy dress	257	35.2
Others	9	1.3
Total	730	100.0

Figure 12. Child workers wear protective gear by type

3.13 Personal behaviour, attitude and perception of working children

It is seen that the poor child workers are deprived of their legal rights. There are differences in their personal behaviour and perception. This sub-section has mainly focused on their personal habits, recreation, present and future plan (if financial and other assistance are provided) perception towards child work and health hazards, minimum age of starting work, mentality towards education and reasons for dislike of current job.

3.13.1 Personal habits and recreation

Here personal habits refer mainly to smoking habit of child workers. The table below shows that about 6 percent of the child workers have developed smoking habit. Although the percentage of addicts is quite small yet it indicates that public awareness against smoking is not very effective for these working children who are moving towards further addiction.

Table 3.40 Child workers having smoking habit

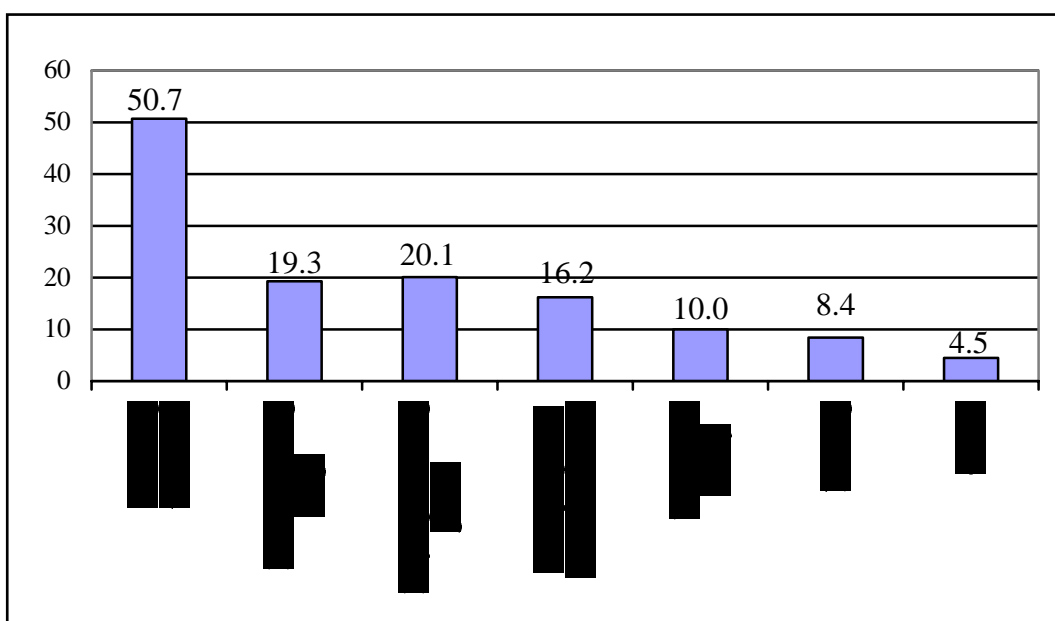
Characteristics	Number	Percent
Smoke	342	6.2
Not smoke	5171	93.8
Total	5513	100.0

Child workers had different types of recreation during their leisure hours. About 50.7 percent spend their leisure by watching television, 20.1 percent by playing/watching games, 16.2 percent by gossiping with friends, 10 percent by working with families and 19.3 percent pass their leisure time by listening to radio/songs.

Table 3.41 Spending of leisure time by type of recreation of child workers

Type of recreation	Number of responses	Percent
Watching television	2793	50.7
Radio/listening songs	1062	19.3
Playing/watching games	1108	20.1
Gossiping with friends/relatives	895	16.2
Work with family	554	10.0
Nothing	464	8.4
Others	247	4.5

Note: Due to multiple answers, the percentage total will not be equal to 100.

Figure 13. Spending of leisure time by type of recreation of child workers

3.13.2 Present and future plan of children

Child workers have expressed different opinions as to their present and future plans if they are provided with financial and other assistance. Nearly 39.6 percent are willing to study, 28.6 percent want to start small trading/business, 12.6 percent are in favour of government service and 4.2 percent want to go abroad for better jobs after taking proper training in the country.

Table 3.42 Plan of child workers by type if assistance is provided

Present/future plan	Number	Percent
Studying	2184	39.6
Don't know/don't say	21	0.4
Head mechanic	398	7.2
Go abroad after taking training	230	4.2
Give money to parents/relatives	16	0.3
Government service	692	12.6
Start a spare parts shop	102	1.9
Grocery shop	126	2.3
Small/other trade	1576	28.6
Become a mechanic	28	0.5
Construct a house	35	0.6
Do electrical work	100	1.8
Total	5513	100.0

3.13.2 Perception of children towards child work and battery recharging activity

About health care a notable number of child workers do not know whether or not battery recharging activity is harmful to their health. Out of 5513 child workers 45.6 percent know that their work is damaging to their health.

Table 3.43 Perception of child workers about health care

Knowledge about health care	Number	Percent
Know	2516	45.6
Don't know	2997	54.4
Total	5513	100.0

Table 3.44 shows that a large number of child workers (90.5%) are unaware of the minimum age of starting work because of their lack of knowledge. About 10 percent workers know about age restriction.

Table 3.44 Perception of child workers about minimum age of work

Knowledge of minimum age	Number	Percent
Know	525	9.5
Don't know	4988	90.5
Total	5513	100.0

An overwhelming majority of child workers (91%) know that they are supposed to go to school instead of working and about 9 percent are unaware of it.

Table 3.45 Perception of child workers regarding education

Go to school instead of work	Number	Percent
Know	5041	91.4
Don't know	472	8.6
Total	5513	100.0

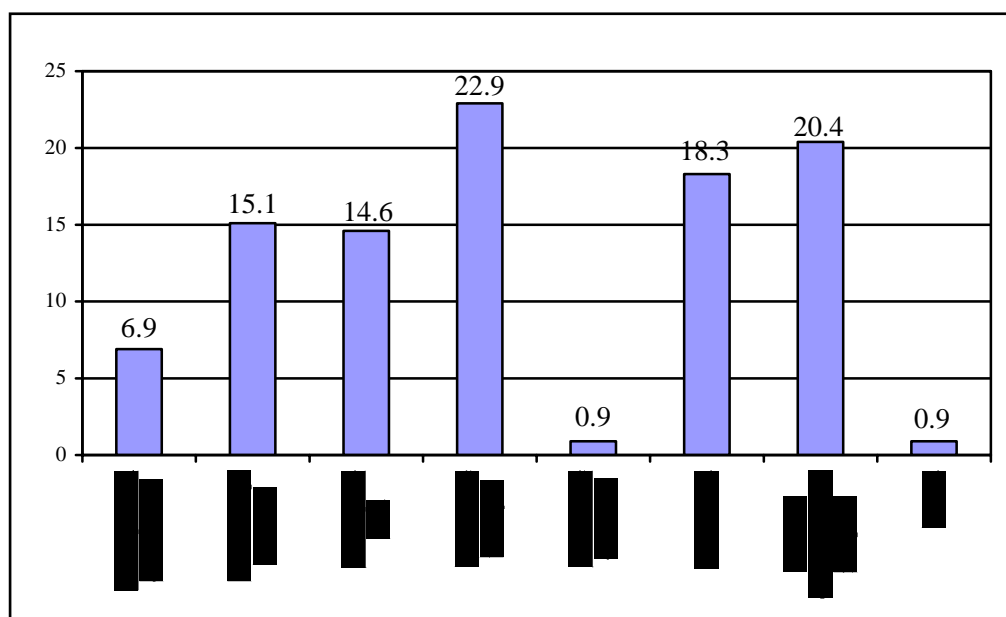
3.13.3 Reasons for job dissatisfaction

The table below shows that 14.6 percent of child workers do not like battery recharging because of tiresome nature of job, 18.3 percent due to less wages, 15.1 percent due to their inability to go to school and about 23 percent do not like this work.

Table 3.46 Child workers by reasons for disliking work

Reasons for disliking	Number	Percent
Often get sick due to work	74	6.9
Unable to go to school	164	15.1
Feeling too tired	158	14.6
Do not like work/job	247	22.9
Do not like employer/owner	9	0.9
Less wages	198	18.3
Working environment is not good	221	20.4
Others	9	0.9
Total	1083	100.0

Figure 14. Child workers by major reasons of disliking work



3.13.4 Abused at work place

Child workers sometimes had to face abuses by their owners/employers during their work. As regards the abuses faced by child workers at work place, a total of 824 children or 14.9 percent are reported to have been abused by their owners/employers.

Different types of abuses faced by child workers have been shown in Table 3.47. It may be seen that about 91 percent have been rebuked, 6.4 percent are beaten and 2 percent are sexually harassed.

Table 3.47 Distribution of children by type of abuses

Type of abuses	Number	Percent
Beaten by owner /employer	52	6.4
Sexually harassed	16	2.0
Provide no food / insufficient food	7	0.9
Rebuke/misbehaviour	748	90.7
Total	824	100.0

CHAPTER IV: COMPARISONS, LIMITATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

This chapter presents comparisons of sample averages obtained from the baseline surveys with the corresponding national estimates. The average household size of child worker's family, literacy rate, average monthly wage and weekly hours worked etc. have been compared with the national estimates. Limitations of the baseline survey as well as dimensions of data are also highlighted here. Finally, conclusions and a number of recommendations have been made at the end of the chapter which may be useful to policy makers, researchers, constituents and other stakeholders interested in this subject.

4.1 Comparison of selected findings

Selected variables obtained from the survey have been compared with the relevant figures at the national level. These variables relate to household size, sex ratio, literacy rate, average monthly wage, average weekly hours worked and number of child workers in selected sectors.

Table 4.1 Comparison of the survey estimates with the relevant national estimates

Characteristics	1991 pop ⁿ census	2001 pop ⁿ census	NCLS 2002- 03	BLS battery re-charging sector 2002-03	BLS Auto sector, 2002-03	BLS welding sector, 2002-03
Average household size	5.5	4.9	4.8	5.4	5.3	5.6
Sex ratio	106.1	106.6	105	107.6	108.1	109.4
Literacy rate (5 years and above)	29.8	42.5	52.1	45.2	43.4	48.0
Average monthly wage of child worker* (Tk.)	-	-	858	313.4	470.2	536.6
Average weekly hours worked	-	-	28.5	53.5	55.8	54.0

*Note: - denotes not available. * in nominal price.*

The average household size in Bangladesh is reported as 5.5 in 1991 census, 4.9 in 2001 census and 4.8 according to the national child labour survey (NCLS), 2002-03. The sample average for household size obtained through the baseline survey on automobile sector 2002-03 is 5.3, baseline survey on welding sector, 2002-03 is 5.6 and sample average household size is estimated at 5.4 as per BLS battery recharging sector.

The national sex-ratio was 106.1 according to 1991 census, 106.6 in 2001 census and 105.0 as per national child labour survey 2002-03. The baseline survey on automobile sector, 2002-03, has estimated the sample average of sex-ratio at 108.1, baseline survey on welding sector, 2002-03 has estimated the sample average of sex-ratio at 109, whereas sex-ratio is estimated at 107.6 as per baseline survey on battery recharging sector.

In terms of the national literacy rate the 1991 census reported it as 29.8 percent, the 2001 census at 42.5 percent, and the national child labour survey, 2002-03, estimated it at 52.1 percent. The baseline survey (BLS) on automobile sector, 2002-03 estimated the sample literacy rate for the population aged 5-17 to be 43.7 percent and the baseline survey on welding sector, 2002-03, estimated the literacy rate at 48 percent for the population aged 5 to 17 years. The literacy rate for the population aged 5-17 years is estimated to be as high as 45.2 percent on the basis of BLS on battery recharging sector. The data from the BLS on battery recharging sector confirms that the huge expenditure by the government for the improvement in the education sector, especially primary education is yielding positive results. At present, the literacy rate of the country (population 5 years and over) is estimated at 42.5 percent (2001 population census) while the adult (15 years and over) literacy rate is 47.5 percent in 2001 (population census). On the other hand, the Directorate of Primary and Mass Education (DPME) has estimated the literacy rate at about 65 percent.

This relatively low literacy rate of 45.2 percent as obtained from the baseline survey on battery recharging sector may be due to the fact that this group belongs to a backward segment of the population which has maintained a negative attitude towards education. But the government, NGOs, donor agencies and other related organizations are working earnestly to accelerate the literacy rate of such disadvantaged groups of people.

There are some notable variations in the average monthly wage rates obtained from the sample of child workers in automobile, welding and battery recharging sectors as compared with the national level average incomes. For instance, the NCLS 2002-03 reported the average wage rate of Tk. 858 per month of a child worker during 2002-03 whereas the sample average for wage rate in BLS on automobile sector has been estimated at Tk. 470.2. Similarly, the BLS on welding sector has estimated the average wage rate for this sub-population at Tk. 536.6 in 2002-03. The average monthly wage rate of child workers in battery recharging sector is estimated at Tk. 313 only. The reason that the monthly earnings of child workers in these sectors is considerably lower than the national average, is that around one-half of the child workers are mainly apprentices and as such they do not get any regular wages from their employers.

Average weekly hours worked by the child workers vary depending upon the type/nature of job. The NCLS estimated this at 28.5 hours per week, whereas the baseline survey in the automobile sector estimated the average to be at 55.8 hours/week, in welding at 54 hours/week and in battery recharging sector it is estimated at 53.5. It should be noted that while the NCLS estimates the average hours worked in broad sectors of economic activity the baseline surveys provide sector specific estimates. Nevertheless, the higher than average weekly hours worked by child labourers in these sectors cannot be ignored.

4.2 Comparison of selected results of battery recharging, welding and automobile baseline surveys

An attempt has been made to compare the key estimates of the baseline surveys on child workers in battery recharging, automobile workshops and welding establishments undertaken during 2002-03. These comparisons allow us to look at the

incidence, distribution of child workers in these three worst forms of child labour sectors. Moreover, the key findings of these three baseline surveys will give us a better idea of the quality of estimates and the variation of the estimates in terms of magnitude, in particular. It may be noted here that there are some commonalties among battery recharging, automobile and welding activities. All the three sectors are regarded as hazardous, particularly for children, and the type of activities performed by them have almost the same working environment.

Table 4.2 Comparison of selected results of baseline survey in battery recharging, automobile and welding sectors

Characteristics	BLS battery recharging establishments	BLS auto-mobile workshops	BLS, welding establishments
1. Type of ownership of establishment (%)			
Individual/single ownership	95.2	88.8	85.6
Family ownership	3.8	5.8	8.2
Partnership	1.0	5.4	6.2
2. Number of child workers aged 5-17 years	5513	15923	39031
3. Proportion of child workers aged 5-17 to adult workers(%)	24.5	41.8	33.1
4. Child workers engaged by age group (%)			
5-11	5.3	5.5	7.0
12-14	33.8	45.2	40.5
15-17	60.9	49.3	52.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
5. Proportion of child workers currently attending school (%)			
Not attending	92.1	92.9	95.7
Part and full-time attending school	7.9	7.1	4.3
Total	100.0	100.00	100.00
6. Method of recruitment of child workers (%)			
Private / informal contact	27.5	21.8	23.3
Request of parents/guardians	61.6	72.1	69.8
Others	10.9	6.1	6.9
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
7. Major reasons of employing child workers (%)			
For good work	34.4	14.8	16.0
Less costly/pay less	35.0	20.1	22.8
Obedient/follow instruction	63.2	30.7	29.7
Utilized as and when required	37.4	19.5	20.2
8. Child workers by status in employment			
Regular paid worker	16.2	14.5	34.1
Paid apprentice	24.3	27.9	34.1
Unpaid apprentice (only conveyance/pocket money)	36.1	54.3	32.3
Others	23.4	3.3	4.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
9. Daily hours worked (%)			

	7-8 hrs	36.9	32.9	39.1
	9-10 hrs.	24.6	41.4	42.0
	Av-hours workers	8.2	9.5	9.0
10.	Main occupation of fathers (%)			
	Agriculture day labourer	33.3	21.7	35.9
	Non-agricultural day labourer	22.3	37.1	35.8
	Small trade	22.5	18.0	14.8
	Others	21.9	23.2	13.5
	Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
11.	Monthly income/earning of child workers (Tk)	313.4	470.2	536.6
12.	Job satisfaction of child worker with wages/ salaries			
	Satisfied	18.8	41.0	47.0
	Non satisfied	81.2	59.0	53.0
13.	Child workers abused at work- place (%)			
	Abused	15.0	28.5	22.2
	Not abused	85.0	71.5	78.8
	Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

4.3 Limitations of the survey

The baseline survey on the battery recharging activity in Bangladesh, 2002-03 is the first ever sample survey of its kind to estimate the child workers population at the national level for a specific sector. Therefore, no prior information is available (from secondary or primary sources) for comparing variables of this sector over different years. The challenges in conducting the survey were as follows:

- i) As it was an establishment-based survey, the owners/employers in many cases did not allow the child workers to be interviewed because they felt that it would create disturbance in his work.
- ii) The child workers, in many cases, felt hesitant to provide the right type of information because he was afraid of loosing his job.
- iii) It was difficult to ask questions about abuses, working hours, earnings, lunch interval etc. in front of the owner/employer. During interview at the establishment premises the child workers were seldom found alone.
- iv) The owners/employers had a tendency to overstate the age of child workers to avoid possible harassment in view of government restrictions not to employ anyone below 18 years of age.

4.4 Policy recommendations and conclusion

Child labour is now a major socio-economic problem facing the developing world. It prevents children from maximizing their inherent potentiality to become a productive force of the country, since they are deprived of an education and therefore opportunities. Childhood is the most formative part of life. Children who are supposed to be an asset of

the country become a social liability. The data has confirmed the realities of child workers who are among the most neglected, abused and exploited segment of the population and may be exposed to such worst forms of child labour as battery recharging workers.

4.4.1 Recommendations

It is not possible for the Government alone to eradicate child labour immediately as nearly 45 percent of the population in the country are living below the poverty line. Children of these families are not getting basic requirements of food, clothing, education, health facilities etc. from their own families. Therefore, they have no option other than to make their own living. For gradual elimination of child labour, both preventive and protective measures are necessary. These measures will help discourage children to join the labour market at an early stage of life.

a) Preventive approaches

i. Education: Education is the backbone of a nation. It should be compulsory, relevant, meaningful and universal. The content of education should be so changed that it could encourage children to study. The focus should be on vocational and skill-oriented education instead of general education.

ii. Income generating programmes: Income generating programmes should be widely introduced by the Government and NGOs for those poor families who are compelled to send their children to work instead of sending them to school.

b) Protective approaches

iii. Sensitised law enforcement: Awareness among law-enforcing agencies is not very much centered on children's rights and the protection of children working in risky environments. There are a lot of complaints against government agencies regarding children's rights when their cases are handled in the court of law. There should be a child-friendly justice system throughout the country and persons involved in such areas should be trained about the rights of children and sympathetic to the cause of children.

iv. Counselling and socialisation: Creation of awareness among owners/employers of the battery recharging establishments is most important on such matters as basic requirements for the vulnerable children like those who have left home, who have no home, no parents etc. Improvement in their work conditions and opportunities that will assist child workers to combine school and work should be more practical. Socialization and mainstreaming are important to minimize the gap between those children who are excluded by the society and the people who do not consider such children as useful social elements.

v. Reintegration: Those children engaged in battery recharging works whose parents are willing to take them back should be reintegrated into their families. A part of the rehabilitation process should be directed towards providing vocational or entrepreneurship training to child workers which should be arranged by the Government, NGOs and various private welfare organizations.

vi. Informal and vocational education: Informal education has been found to be an effective way of increasing literacy among younger children of poor families. After

minimum basic education, they should be given vocational training so that they can earn a decent living. Experience shows that formal general education is not practical for these children as the time required for obtaining a degree is fairly long and the job prospects in the formal sector are very limited. On the contrary, vocational training can provide them with valuable skills which they can put to immediate use if the training is commensurate with the availability of jobs in the market. There must be some support from all concerned for the creation of employment opportunities for skilled workers generated through vocational education.

vii. Public awareness: Initiative should be taken to publicize the harmful aspects of child labour in battery recharging sector. Information media like television, radio, newspapers, magazines, billboards etc. can play an important role to decrease and discourage child labour in the country to a considerable extent. It is, therefore, necessary to create an environment so that the society could recognize these children as human beings. This can be accomplished through public awareness programmes focussing on child's rights and development.

4.5 Conclusion

The sample survey on battery recharging is the first attempt of its kind to estimate the incidence and distribution of child workers in Bangladesh. The survey has yielded rich empirical data on various characteristics of the battery recharging/ recycling establishments such as socio-economic and demographic conditions, employment and working conditions, health hazards, perception, abuses and other important aspects of the child workers lives. It is hoped that the survey results will help the policy makers, researchers, constituents and other interested stakeholders to effectively combat the problem of child labour in the country.

LIST OF STATISTICAL TABLES

Table 1. Distribution of battery re-charging/re-cycling establishments in Bangladesh by type of ownership and division

Divisions	Ownership type							
	Total		Single/Individual		Family ownership		Partnership	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Dhaka	4148	100.0	4003	96.5	145	3.5	-	-
Chittagong	2025	100.0	1794	88.6	172	8.5	59	2.9
Rajshahi	3002	100.0	2882	96.0	60	2.0	60	2.0
Khulna	1680	100.0	1630	97.0	50	3.0	-	-
Sylhet	692	100.0	669	96.7	23	3.3	-	-
Barisal	660	100.0	646	97.8	14	2.2	-	-
Total	12207	100.0	11624	95.2	464	3.8	119	1.0

Table 2. Distribution of battery re-charging establishments in Bangladesh by urban-rural and type of ownership

Type of ownership	Total		Urban		Rural	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Rural
Individually owned	11624	95.2	3268	95.0	8356	95.3
Family ownership	464	3.8	134	3.9	330	3.7
Partnership	119	1.0	37	1.1	82	1.0
Private Ltd. Co.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Others	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	12207	100.0	3439	100.0	8768	100.0

Note:- represents nil.

Table 3. Age distribution of owners/employers of battery re-charging establishments

Age group	Number	Percent
15-19	156	1.3
20-24	553	4.5
25-29	2256	18.5
30-34	1814	14.9
35-39	2699	22.1
40-44	1707	14.0
45-49	1493	12.2
50-54	808	6.6
55-59	544	4.5
60-64	115	0.9
65 +	57	0.5
Total	12207	100.0

Table 4. Duration of being engaged in battery re-charging as owners/employers

Engaged in battery re-charging (year)	Ownership type							
	Total		Single/Individual		Family/ownership		Partnership	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
< 2	874	7.2	800	6.9	74	16.2	-	-
2-3	2452	20.2	2369	20.4	82	17.9	-	-
4—5	2353	19.3	2222	19.1	73	16.0	57	50.0
6-10	3383	27.6	3202	27.5	139	30.4	41	40.0
11-15	1915	15.7	1841	15.8	73	16.0	-	-
15+	1227	10.0	1194	10.3	16	3.5	16	10.0
Total	12207	100.0	11631	100.0	460	100.0	115	100.0

Table 5. Percentage of individual employed in battery re-charging establishments in Bangladesh by age group and division

Age group	Total	Dhaka	Chittagong	Rajshahi	Khulna	Sylhet	Barisal
Number							
5-17	5513	1781	942	1375	711	318	386
18 and above	16967	5364	3166	4199	2298	1143	797
Total	22480	7145	4108	5574	3009	1461	1183
Percent							
5-17	24.5	24.9	22.9	24.7	23.6	21.8	32.6
18 and above	75.5	75.1	77.1	75.3	76.4	78.2	67.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table 6. Percentage of individual employed in battery re-charging establishments by age group and type of ownership

Age group	Total		Single/Individual		Family ownership		Partnership	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
5-17	5513	24.5	5227	24.7	235	22.9	51	15.8
18 and above	16967	75.5	15904	75.3	792	77.1	271	84.2
Total	22480	100.0	21131	100.0	1027	100.0	322	100.0

Table 7. Child workers engaged in battery re-charging establishments by urban-rural and age group

Age group	Total		Urban		Rural	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
05-11	292	5.3	89	4.8	203	5.6
12-14	1862	33.8	773	41.3	1088	29.9
15-17	3358	60.9	1010	53.9	2348	64.5
Total	5513	100.0	1873	100.0	3640	100.0

Table 8. Child workers engaged in battery re-charging establishments by age group and division

Age group	Total	Dhaka	Chittagong	Rajshahi	Khulna	Sylhet	Barisal
Bangladesh							
05-11	292	108	43	70	7	43	19
12-14	1862	651	341	428	232	125	82
15-17	3358	1020	557	876	471	147	285
Total	5513	1781	942	1375	711	316	386
Urban							
05-11	89	21	-	48	-	-	19
12-14	773	289	138	145	109	24	67
15-17	1010	338	190	252	94	23	111
Total	1873	649	328	446	203	48	197
Rural							
05-11	203	87	43	21	7	43	-
12-14	1088	362	202	283	123	101	14
15-17	2348	682	367	624	377	123	174
Total	3640	1131	613	929	508	268	188

Table 9. Child workers employed in battery re-charging establishments by age group and ownership of establishments

Age group and locality	Ownership type			
	Total	Single/Individual ownership	Family ownership	Partnership
Bangladesh				
05-11	292	285	7	-
12-14	1862	1757	75	29
15-17	3358	3184	152	21
Total	5513	5227	235	51
Urban				
05-11	89	89	-	-
12-14	773	729	31	14
15-17	1010	957	46	7
Total	1873	1774	77	22
Rural				
05-11	203	195	7	-
12-14	1088	1030	43	14
15-17	2348	2227	106	14
Total	3640	3453	157	28

Table 10. Child workers engaged in battery re-charging establishments by age group, urban-rural and school attendance

Age group and locality	Type of schooling			
	Total	Full-time	Part-time	Not attended
Bangladesh				
05-11	292	77	21	193
12-14	1862	164	103	1593
15-17	3358	296	183	2878
Total	5513	538	309	4666
Urban				
05-11	89	4	-	84
12-14	773	33	38	701
15-17	1010	60	45	904
Total	1873	98	84	1691
Rural				
05-11	203	72	21	108
12-14	1088	131	65	892
15-17	2348	236	137	1973
Total	3640	439	225	2974

Table 11. Child workers engaged in battery re-charging establishments by status in employment and urban-rural areas

Status in employment	Bangladesh		Urban		Rural	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Urban	Rural
Regular paid worker	892	16.2	314	16.8	578	15.9
Paid apprentice	1339	24.3	490	26.2	849	23.3
Unpaid apprentice	1993	36.1	889	47.6	1104	30.3
Unpaid family worker	1090	19.8	150	8.0	940	25.8
Casual worker/day labourer	131	2.4	14	0.7	116	3.3
Others/self-employed	65	1.2	14	0.7	50	1.4
Total	5513	100.0	1873	100.0	3640	100.0

Table 12. Child workers engaged in battery re-charging establishments by type of ownership, status in employment and urban-rural areas

Status in employment and urban/rural areas	Ownership type			
	Total	Single/Individual ownership	Family/ownership	Partnership
Bangladesh				
Regular paid worker	892	863	22	7
Paid apprentice	1339	1243	67	28
Unpaid apprentice	1993	1886	92	14
Unpaid family worker	1090	1052	38	-
Casual worker/day labourer	131	116	14	-
Others/self-employed	65	65	-	-
Total	5513	5227	235	51
Urban				
Regular paid worker	314	285	22	7
Paid apprentice	490	466	24	-
Unpaid apprentice	889	848	26	14
Unpaid family worker	150	145	4	-
Casual worker/day labourer	14	14	-	-
Others/self-employed	14	14	-	-
Total	1873	1774	77	22
Rural				
Regular paid worker	578	578	-	-
Paid apprentice	849	777	43	28
Unpaid apprentice	1104	1038	65	-
Unpaid family worker	940	906	33	-
Casual worker/day labourer	116	101	14	-
Others/self-employed	50	50	-	-
Total	3640	3453	157	28

Table 13. Child workers engaged in battery re-charging establishments by occupation/nature of work and urban-rural areas

Nature of work /occupation	Bangladesh			Urban			Rural		
	Total	Skilled	Un-skilled	Total	Skilled	Un-skilled	Total	Skilled	Un-skilled
Re-charging work	2298	423	1874	682	89	592	1616	334	1282
Acid filling	212	28	183	74	14	60	138	14	124
Battery repairing	1098	360	737	370	62	307	727	297	430
Re-cycling work	162	21	140	74	-	74	87	21	66
All types of work (above)	1451	588	863	540	129	410	910	458	452
Others	162	14	276	130	-	130	160	14	146
Total	5513	1438	4075	1873	297	1576	3640	1141	2499

Table 14. Method of recruitment of child workers (from the owner's point of view)

Method of recruitment	Number	Percent
Private contact	1515	27.5
On first come basis	121	2.2
Advance payment to parents	260	4.7
As per request of parents	3394	61.6
Through labour contractors	16	0.3
Others	205	3.7
Total	5513	100.0

Table 15. Opinion of owners/employers of battery re-charging establishments regarding quality of work of child workers compared with adult workers

Working capability of child workers	Number	Percent
Work quality similar to that of an adult worker	1304	23.7
Work quality not similar to that of an adult worker	4209	76.3
Total	5513	100.0

Table 16. Reasons of employing child workers aged 5 to 17 years in battery re-charging establishments

Reasons of recruiting child workers	Number	Percent
For good work	1895	34.4
Suitable for work	577	10.5
No trade union problem	205	3.7
Pay less wage/Less costly	1927	35.0
Obedient	3485	63.2
Work can be made as and when required	2063	37.4
Others	260	4.7

Note: Percentage total will not be 100 due to multiple answers.

Table 17. Average weekly hours worked and number of days worked by child workers by type of ownership of establishments

Type of ownership	Total	Weekly hours worked (hours)					No. of days worked		
		<25	25-35	36-42	43-59	60+	≤5	6	7
Number									
Individually owned	5232	462	460	769	1803	1736	614	2609	2009
Family ownership	229	-	16	42	112	57	26	117	85
Partnership	52	-	-	16	-	35	-	18	33
Total	5513	462	476	829	1915	1830	640	2745	2128
Percent									
Individually owned	100.0	8.8	8.8	14.7	34.5	33.2	11.7	49.9	38.4
Family ownership	100.0	-	7.9	18.4	48.9	24.9	11.6	51.2	37.2
Partnership	100.0	-	-	30.8	-	67.2	-	34.6	63.4
Total	100.0	8.4	8.6	15.0	34.7	33.3	11.6	49.8	38.6

Table 18. Mode of payment of wages and salaries to child workers in battery re-charging/re-cycling establishments

Mode of payment	Number	Percent
Daily	757	13.7
Weekly	729	13.2
Monthly	1842	33.4
Piece rate basis	126	2.3
Only conveyance	2589	47.0

Note: Due to multiple answers, the percentage total will not be 100.

Table 19. Measures taken by owners/employers of battery re-charging establishments if child workers fallen sick

Type of measures taken	Number	Percent
Do nothing	286	5.2
Replaced by another child worker instead of sick child	126	2.3
Recruit a new child worker to replace sick child	26	0.5
Arrange treatment	5058	91.7
Others	16	0.3
Total	5513	100.0

Table 20. Owners/employer's awareness about legality of recruitment of child workers

Awareness about legality of recruitment of child worker	Number	Percent
Know about legality of recruitment	3462	62.8
Do not know about legality	2051	37.2
Total	5513	100.0

Table 21. Household size of child workers in battery re-charging establishments

Household size	Number	Percent
≤3	517	9.4
4	1166	21.1
5	1409	25.5
6	1218	22.0
7	559	10.1
8	372	6.7
9	102	1.9
10	176	3.3
Total	5513	100.0
Av. Household size	-	5.4

Table 22. Activity status/occupation of fathers and mothers of child workers

Activity status	Father		Mother	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Agri. day labourer	1587	33.3	16	0.3
Non-agri. day labourer	1063	22.3	54	1.0
Service	105	2.2	11	0.2
Battery recharging	507	10.7	-	-
Unemployment	54	1.1	-	-
Unable to work (disable)	143	3.0	-	-
Small trading	1073	22.5	6	0.1
Household work	110	2.3	5258	97.6
Others	125	2.6	42	0.8
Total	4767	100.0	5387	100.0

Table 23. Level of education of fathers and mothers of child workers

Level of education	Father		Mother	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Can't read and write a letter	2153	45.2	3320	61.6
No formal education but can				
Read & write a letter	466	9.8	305	5.7
Class I-V	1187	24.9	1324	24.6
Class VI-VIII	472	9.9	293	5.4
Class IX-X	267	5.6	76	1.4
SSC & equivalent	160	3.5	31	0.6
HSC & equivalent	33	0.7	9	0.2
Degree and above	7	0.1	-	-
Technical education	9	0.2	-	-
Others	9	0.2	26	0.5
Total	4767	100.0	5387	100.0

Table 24. Main economic activity of households of child workers by division

Type of main activity	Total	Dhaka	Chittagong	Rajshahi	Khulna	Sylhet	Barisal
Number							
Own or tenant farming	1156	400	178	310	145	45	76
Agri. day labourer	915	289	181	199	133	66	42
Non-Agri. day labourer	1398	450	175	296	209	141	124
Small trading	1544	544	236	422	188	76	76
Manufacturing	69	-	42	-	16	9	-
Nothing/unemployed	59	26	16	-	16	-	-
Others	370	152	66	76	31	-	42
Total	5513	1864	899	1305	741	338	362
Percent							
Own or tenant farming	21.0	21.5	19.8	23.8	19.6	13.4	21.0
Agri. day labourer	16.3	15.5	20.4	15.2	17.9	19.5	11.8
Non-Agri. day labourer	25.4	24.1	19.5	22.7	28.3	41.8	34.3
Small trading	28.2	29.2	26.5	32.5	25.4	22.6	21.2
Manufacturing	1.3	-	4.7	-	2.3	2.7	-
Nothing/unemployed	1.1	1.4	1.8	-	2.3	-	-
Others	6.7	8.3	7.3	5.8	4.2	-	11.7
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table 25. Child worker's family who have homestead and own agriculture land by division

Characteristics	Total	Dhaka	Chittagong	Rajshahi	Khulna	Sylhet	Barisal
i. Homestead/house in permanent place of residence							
Have homestead/house	5268	1762	899	1221	698	322	362
Not homestead/house	245	102	-	83	42	16	-
Total	5513	1864	899	1305	741	338	362
ii. Having own agricultural land							
Have agri. land	3404	1229	599	736	436	164	238
No agri. land	2109	635	300	569	305	174	124
Total	5513	1864	899	1305	741	338	362

Table 26. Reasons for leaving permanent place of residence by percentage of child workers

Reasons for leaving permanent place of residence	Number	Percent
Poverty/hunger	384	7.0
Step father/mother	35	0.6
No body to look after me	35	0.6
I left alone	16	0.3
Physically beaten/mis-behaved	9	0.2
Parents sent me	762	13.8
Parents sent me for earning	277	5.0
I came for earning	196	3.6
Not applicable (not leaving)	3795	68.9
Total	5513	100.0

Table 27. Whom the child workers came with to the place of work

Child workers came to place of work with whom	Number	Percent
With parents	1439	26.1
With brother/sister	922	16.7
Through mediator	-	-
Came alone with parent's consent	1574	28.6
Came alone without parent's consent	132	2.4
Came with friends after getting parent consent	160	2.9
Came with friends without getting parent consent	28	0.5
Came with relative	1213	22.0
Others/not applicable	46	0.8
Total	5513	100.0

Table 28. Percentage of child workers living with parents by place and type of accommodation

Place and type of accommodation	Number	Percent
i. Child workers living with parents		
Living with parents	4035	73.2
Not living	1478	26.8
Total	5513	100.0
ii. Place and type of accommodation if living with parents		
Own house in a slum	171	4.3
Rented house in a slum	83	2.1
Rented house elsewhere	142	3.5
Own house	3620	89.7
Footpath/abandoned place	-	-
Others	16	0.4
Total	4035	100.0

Table 29. Percentage of child workers not living with parents by place and type of accommodation

Place and type of accommodation if not living with parents	Number	Percent
Own house in a slum	-	-
Rented house in a slum	107	7.3
Employer accommodation	1234	83.5
Street/abandoned place	-	-
Others	136	9.2
Total	1478	100.0

Table 30. Modality of living if child workers not living with parents

Type of living	Number	Percent
Live alone/living with none	481	32.5
Live with other family/relative	240	16.3
Live with friends	42	2.9
Live with battery recharging colleagues	551	37.3
Others	162	11.0
Total	1478	100.0

Table 31. Child workers in terms of how they know their own age

Type of living	Number	Percent
By guess	912	16.6
From parents	4164	75.5
From other family members	127	2.3
From school	193	3.5
From relative	72	1.3
Not so sure at his age	45	0.8
Total	5513	100.0

Table 32. Percentage of child workers who can read, write and currently studying in formal/informal educational institutions

Characteristics	Number	Percent
i. Able to read		
Can read	2657	48.2
Cannot read	2856	51.8
Total	5513	100.0
ii. Able to write		
Can write	2643	47.9
Cannot write	2870	52.1
Total	5513	100.0
iii. Currently studying		
Studying in formal school	437	7.9
Studying in informal school	-	-
Not studying	5076	92.1
Total	5513	100.0

Table 33. Level of education of child workers who are currently studying

Level of education	Number	Percent
Class I-V	133	30.6
Class VI-VIII	59	13.6
Class IX-X	35	8.2
SSC or equivalent	33	7.7
HSC or equivalent	126	28.9
Other technical education	48	11.0
Total	437	100.0

Table 34. Reasons for not currently studying by percentage of child workers

Reasons for not studying	Number	Percent
Cannot afford educational expenses	2518	49.6
Work for wages	394	7.7
Parents did not send to school	351	6.9
Not interested in schooling	1670	32.9
School is too far	36	0.7
Others	107	2.2
Total	5076	100.0

Table 35. Percentage of child workers not currently studying but had been to school at some point of time

Studied before	Number	Percent
Studied in formal school	2420	47.7
Studied in informal school	9	0.2
Never studied before	2646	52.1
Total	5076	100.0

Table 36. Reasons for never attending school by percentage of child workers

Reasons for never attending school	Number	Percent
Cannot afford educational expenses	1706	64.5
Work for wages	106	4.0
Parents did not send to school	225	8.5
Not interested in schooling	508	19.2
School is too far	56	2.1
Others	45	1.7
Total	2646	100.0

Table 37. Duration of work in years in battery re-charging activity by percentage of child workers

Duration of work (year)	Number	Percent
< 1	746	13.5
01-02	3415	61.9
03-04	997	18.2
05-06	236	4.3
07-08	100	1.8
09-10	16	0.3
10+	-	-
Total	5513	100.0

Table 38. Type of work engaged in previous to battery re-charging

Previously engaged	Number	Percent
Never worked before	4272	77.5
Domestic work	28	0.5
Battery recharging workshop	39	0.7
Transportation work	77	1.4
Farming in own village	754	13.7
Construction work	23	0.4
Welding	55	1.0
Others	265	4.8
Total	5513	100.0

Table 39. Reasons for leaving previous work

Reasons for leaving	Number	Percent
For less wages	301	29.5
Beaten/miss behaved	93	9.1
No permission for go to school	74	7.3
Inadequate food	42	4.2
For losing job	7	0.7
Work not satisfactory	314	30.9
Very risky work	107	10.6
Others	78	7.7
Total	1019	100.0

Table 40. Child workers employed in battery re-charging work by whom

Source	Number	Percent
Parents	3514	63.7
Relative	920	16.7
Self	790	14.3
Friends	69	1.3
Others	219	4.0
Total	5513	100.0

Table 41. Type of battery re-charging activities engaged in by percentage of child workers

Battery recharging activity	Number	Percent
Recharging	4714	85.5
Acid filling	1268	23.0
Battery repairing	2685	48.7
Recycling work	320	5.8
All of above	1968	35.7
Others	584	10.6

Note: Percentage total will not equal to 100 due to multiple answers.

Table 42. Percentage of child workers by daily hours worked

Daily hours worked (hours)	Number	Percent
01-04	482	8.7
05-06	843	15.3
07-08	2036	36.9
09-10	1351	24.6
11-12	718	13.0
12+	780	1.5
Total	5513	100.0
Av. hours/day	-	8.2

Table 43. Percentage of child workers who get time for lunch and tea break

Break time	Number	Percent
Get break	5416	98.2
Not get time for lunch/tea	97	1.8
Total	5513	100.0

Table 44. Percentage of child workers in battery re-charging establishments who are engaged in other side activity

Type of activity	Number	Percent
Did not do any other work	4598	83.4
Domestic work	26	0.5
Auto work	35	0.6
Transportation work	-	-
Welding work	102	1.9
Others	750	13.6
Total	5513	100.0

Table 45. Distribution of income earned in Taka during last month by percentage of child workers

Earned during last month (Tk.)	Number	Percent
100 – 300	685	12.4
301 – 500	3626	65.8
501 – 750	461	8.3
751 – 1000	378	6.9
1001 – 1500	280	5.1
1501+	81	1.5
Total	5513	100.0
Av. monthly earning (Tk.)	-	313.4

Table 46. Mode of payment of wage and salary of child workers by division

Mode of payment	Total	Dhaka	Chittagong	Rajshahi	Khulna	Sylhet	Barisal
Number							
Daily	1125	288	15	472	181	90	76
Weekly	1952	607	498	356	307	62	125
Monthly	1350	720	39	129	167	144	116
Piece rate basis	424	105	204	39	56	22	-
Daily conveyance	634	61	186	370	-	-	48
Don't know	28	-	-	9	-	-	21
Total	5513	1781	942	1375	711	318	386
Percent							
Daily	20.4	16.2	1.6	34.3	25.4	28.4	19.7
Weekly	35.4	34.1	52.7	25.9	43.2	19.3	32.2
Monthly	24.5	40.4	4.1	9.4	23.4	45.4	30.0
Piece rate basis	7.7	5.9	21.6	2.8	7.9	6.6	-
Daily conveyance	11.5	3.4	19.7	26.9	-	-	12.5
Don't know	0.5	-	-	0.6	-	-	5.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table 47. Nature of spending child worker's earning

Type of expenditure	Number	Percent
Payment of house rent	243	4.4
All earnings give to parents	766	13.9
Partly earnings give to parents	1273	23.1
Meet educational expenses	61	1.1
Day to day expenditure (pocket money)	2128	38.6
Payment of previous loan	336	6.1
Expenditure for food	1488	27.0
Purchase of clothing's	1301	23.6
Partly earning paid to the employer	61	1.1
Others	110	2.0

Note: Due to multiple answers, the percentage total will not be 100.

Table 48. Distribution of child worker's income give to their parents

Share of income given to their parents	Number	Percent
100%	965	37.2
76-80%	422	16.3
61-75%	326	12.6
51-60%	220	8.5
41-50%	451	17.4
31-40%	133	5.1
26-30%	14	0.6
1-25%	59	2.3
Don't give share	-	-
Total	2594	100.0

Table 49. Child worker's satisfaction about wage/salary and worked for loan

Characteristics	Number	Percent
i. Satisfied with wage		
Satisfied	1037	18.8
Not Satisfied	4476	81.2
Total	5513	100.0
ii. Child worker's credit from employer		
Have loan	143	2.6
Not loan	5370	97.4
Total	5513	100.0
iii. Working due to parent's loan		
Working due to parent's loan	1195	21.7
Not for parent's loan	4318	78.3
Total	5513	100.0

Table 50. Distribution of child workers by age of first starting work

Age of first starting work	Number	Percent
8	95	1.7
9	229	4.1
10	531	9.6
11	711	12.9
12	964	17.5
13	1021	18.6
14	1085	19.7
15	653	11.9
16	214	3.9
17	7	0.1
Total	5513	100.0

Table 51. Future plan of child workers if financial and other assistance are provided to them

Present/future plan	Number	Percent
Studying	2184	39.6
Don't know/don't say	21	0.4
Head mechanic	398	7.2
Go abroad after taking training	230	4.2
Given money to grand father/parents	16	0.3
Govt. service	692	12.6
Start a spare parts shop	102	1.9
Grocery shop	126	2.3
Small/other trade	1576	28.6
Become a mechanics	28	0.5
Construct a building/house	35	0.6
Do electrical work	100	1.8
Total	5513	100.0

Table 52. Child workers having smoking habit and duration of smoking

Smoking	Number	Percent
i. Smoking habit		
Smoke	342	6.2
Does not smoke	5171	93.8
Total	5513	100.0
ii. Duration of smoking (year)		
≤2	174	50.9
3-4	133	38.9
5-6	35	10.2
6+	-	-
Total	342	100.0

Table 53. Child workers have been arrested by police and reasons of arresting

Reasons of arresting by police	Number	Percent
When travelling with friends	40	0.7
Other reasons	50	0.9
Not arrested	5423	98.4
Total	5513	100.0

Table 54. Distribution child workers in terms of how they spend leisure time

Type of recreation	Number	Percent
Watching television	2793	50.7
Radio/listening song	1062	19.3
Playing/watching games	1108	20.1
Gossiping with friends/relatives	895	16.2
Work with family	554	10.0
Nothing	464	8.4
Others	247	4.5

Note: Due to multiple answers the percentage total will not be 100

Table 55. Distribution of child workers in battery recharging establishments who felt sick at work

Characteristics	Number	Percent
i. Fallen sick		
Felt sick	1291	23.4
Not sick	4222	76.6
Total	5513	100.0
ii. Received treatment		
Received treatment	1224	94.8
Not received treatment	66	5.2
Total	1291	100.0
iii. Type of treatment received		
Allopathic	1182	96.5
Homeopathic	33	2.7
Unani/ayurvedic	9	0.8
Total	1224	100.0
iv. Child worker bears treatment expenses		
Bears expenses	503	41.1
Not bear expenses	721	58.9
Total	1224	100.0
v. Reasons for not receiving treatment		
Lack of money	9	14.1
Treatment not needed	57	85.9
Total	66	100.0

Table 56. Percentage of child workers who got injured or got sick

Type of injuries	Number	Percent
Back pain due to heavy load carrying	7	0.6
Respiratory problem	42	3.3
Fever	740	57.3
Burnt	193	15.0
Headache	188	14.6
Cough	16	1.3
Stomach pain	26	2.0
Others	76	5.9
Total	1291	100.0

Table 57. Child workers wear protection gear for avoiding risk

Type of protection materials	Number	Percent
i. Wear protection gear		
Wear protective gear	730	13.2
Not wear	4783	86.8
Total	5513	100.0
ii. Type of protection gear used		
Boot/shoe	243	33.4
Gloves	152	20.9
Musk for eyes	66	9.2
Heavy dress	257	35.2
Others	9	1.3
Total	730	100.0

Table 58. Child workers willing to go to school if opportunity provided

Willing to go to school	Number	Percent
Willing to go to school	2045	37.1
Not willing	3468	62.9
Total	5513	100.0

Table 59. Child workers by present job satisfaction

Job satisfaction	Number	Percent
Satisfied	4430	80.3
Not satisfied	1083	19.7
Total	5513	100.0

Table 60. Child workers by reasons for job satisfaction

Reasons for job satisfaction	Number	Percent
Able to support family	1127	25.5
Able to meet for educational expenses	24	0.5
To manage food	87	2.0
Good income	515	11.6
Good behaviour of employer	132	3.0
Good working environment	31	0.7
Be self-dependent by doing work	2503	56.5
Others	7	0.2
Total	4430	100.0

Table 61. Child workers by reasons for job dissatisfaction

Reasons for job dissatisfaction	Number	Percent
Often get sick due to hazardous work	74	6.9
Unable to go to school	164	15.1
Feeling too tired	158	14.6
Do not like work/job	247	22.9
Do not like employer	9	0.9
Less wage	198	18.3
Working environment is not good	221	20.4
Others	9	0.9
Total	1083	100.0

Table 62. Knowledge of child workers regarding health hazards, education and abuses

Characteristics	Number	Percent
i. Knowledge of re-charging work not good for health		
Know	2516	45.6
Do not know	2997	54.4
Total	5513	100.0
ii. Know better to go school instead of work		
Know	5041	91.4
Do not know	472	8.6
Total	5513	100.0
iii. Abuse at work place		
Faced abuse	824	15.0
Not faced abuse	4689	85.0
Total	5513	100.0
iv. Type of abuses		
Beaten by owner/employer	52	6.4
Sexually harassed	16	2.0
Provide no food/insufficient food	7	0.9
Misbehaviour by owner	748	90.7
Total	824	100.0

Table 63. Type of measures taken by child workers if harassed at work place

Type of measure taken	Number	Percent
Inform friends	83	10.1
Inform parents	251	30.6
Do not inform any body	448	54.4
Inform leader	31	3.8
Inform police	-	-
Others	9	1.1
Total	824	100.0

Table 64. Knowledge of child workers by source of getting help if affected at work place

Source of getting help	Number	Percent
Parents	262	31.8
Local leaders	85	10.5
Labour leader	48	5.8
Do not know	428	51.9
Total	824	100.0

Table 65. Knowledge of child workers about minimum age of work

Knowledge of age limit	Number	Percent
Know	525	9.5
Do not know	4988	90.5
Total	5513	100.0

Table 66. Percentage of child workers who know of other child workers who stopped battery recharging work

Know of other child workers who stopped battery recharging work	Number	Percent
Know	549	10.0
Do not know	4964	90.0
Total	5513	100.0

**Table 67. Percentage of child workers who would advise his siblings
or friends to work in battery recharging establishments**

Advise to work in battery re-charging	Number	Percent
Would advise	2399	43.5
Not advise	3114	56.5
Total	5513	100.0



(Confidential)

(Use for statistical purposes)

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics
Parishankhan Bhaban (4th floor, Block-1)
E-27/A, Agargaon, Dhaka.

NATIONAL CHILD LABOUR SURVEY, 2002-2003

BATTERY RECHARGING/RECYCLING ESTABLISHMENT SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE

DPC NO.

Section – 1: Identification of battery recharging/recycling establishment	FOR OFFICE USE ONLY
1.1. Region	Region Code <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
1.2. District	Dist. Code <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
1.3 Upazala/Thana	Upazala/Thana Code <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
1.4 Union/Ward No.	Union/Word No. code <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
1.5. Mouza/Mahalla	Mouza/Mohalla Code <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
1.6. Name of establishment	
1.7 Urban/Rural 1-Urban 2-Rural	
1.8 Respondent's name	

1.9. Sample establishment No.

Establishment No.

Interviewer's visits

Visit	Date	Data collection status (Please tick)		
1 st visit		1- Complete	2- Incomplete	3- Refused
2 nd visit		1- Complete	2- Incomplete	3- Refused
3 rd visit		1- Complete	2- Incomplete	3- Refused

Interviewer/Supervisor/Editor

Interviewer: Name..... Date

Supervisor: Name Date

Editor/coder: Name Date

Section- 2 : General information of establishment and its owner/employer

(Information is to be collected directly from owner/employer)

<p>2.1 Name and address of the establishment.</p> <p>Name of the establishment (if any).....</p> <p>Address.....</p> <p>.....</p>			<p>2.4 What is the ownership status of the establishment?</p> <p>1- Individual ownership</p> <p>2- Family ownership</p> <p>3- Partnership</p> <p>4- Private Limited Company</p> <p>5- Others (specify)</p>		
<p>2.2 Owner/proprietor's name, sex and age.</p> <p>Name-----</p>	<p>Sex</p> <p>1-Male</p> <p>2- Female</p>	<p>Age</p> <p>(in complete year)</p>	<p>2.5 Total number of regular employees in the establishment by age group</p> <p>a) Total number of employees.....</p> <p>b) No. of employees aged 18 years & over.....</p> <p>c) No. of employees aged (5-17) years.....</p>		
<p>2.3 For how long have you been doing this battery recharging/recycling work?</p> <p>Year Month</p> <p><input type="text"/> <input type="text"/></p>					

2.6 Please specify the children's name and their nature of work in your establishment.

Serial No.	Name of children (5-17 years)	Age (In complete year)	Attending school? 1-Yes,Full time 2- Yes, Part time 3- No	Skilled/ unskilled labour 1-Skilled 2-unskilled	Status of work 1- recharging 2-acid filling 3-battery repairing 4-recycling 5-above all 6-others	Nature of work 1- full time 2-part time	Type of employ-ment 1-regular 2-irregular	Status in employment 1-regular paid employee 2-paid apprentices 3-unpaid apprentices 4-unpaid family worker 5- Irregular worker/day labourer 6- others (self) etc.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
01								
02								
03								
04								
05								
06								
07								
08								
09								
10								

<p>2.7. How do you recruit the child worker (5-17)?</p> <p>1- Personal / informal arrangement</p> <p>2- Spot recruitment on first come basis</p> <p>3- Employed in lieu of advance paid to parents/relatives (as bonded worker)</p> <p>4- Requested by parent/guardians</p> <p>5- Through labour contractor</p> <p>6- Other (specify).....</p>	<p>2.10. Do the Child workers work as good as other adult labour in the establishment?</p> <p>1-Yes</p> <p>2- No</p>				
	<p>2.11. Do you have a slag/busy season in your line of work?</p> <p>1- Yes, months cited as busy -----</p> <p>2- Yes, months cited as slag -----</p> <p>3- No</p>				
<p>2.8. What are advantages of recruiting young workers? (Allow multiple responses)</p> <p>1- Good at work</p> <p>2- Suitable for work</p> <p>3- No trade union problem</p> <p>4- Less wages could be paid</p>	<p>2.12 What is the average number of hours/day and average number of days/week the child worker(s) worked as a battery recharger?</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Average hours/day</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Average Days/week</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Average hours/day		Average Days/week	
	Average hours/day				
Average Days/week					
	<p>2.13. How do you pay their wages/ salaries?</p>				

<p>5- Obedient</p> <p>6- Work can be made as and when required</p> <p>7- Others (specify).....</p>	<p>1- Daily basis</p> <p>2- Weekly</p> <p>3- Monthly</p> <p>4- Piece rate basis</p> <p>5- Daily convince</p>
<p>2.9. Are you aware that recruitment of children is illegal?</p> <p>1 -Yes</p> <p>2 - No</p>	<p>2.14 What do you do take if your child worker(s) become sick?</p> <p>1- Nothing</p> <p>2- Substitute with another child worker</p> <p>3- Recruit new one instead of sick worker</p> <p>4- Do treatment</p> <p>5- Others (specify)-----</p>

Section -3: Information of child worker aged 5-17 years

(Following questions are to be asked directly to a children aged 5-17 years who working in the battery recharging/recycling establishment)

3. A Family information of the child worker

3.1 Would you tell me about your family

Sl. No.	Name of the household members of the child worker (Please list of all immediate family members whether or not the child is living with them)	Relationship to child worker 1- Self 2- Father/mother 3- Step father/mother 4- Brother/Sister 5- Grandparents 6- Uncle/aunts 7- Others	Sex 1- Male 2- Female	Age (in complete years, for less than one year write '00')	Status in employment of each household member 1- agriculture labour 2- non-agriculture labour 3- battery recharging 4- student, full time 5- full time student & part time worker 6- part time student & full time worker 7- not in school (full time work) 8- part time student & part time worker 9- not in school & not in work 10- too young to be in school or employed 11- cannot work/disabled 12- small business 13- homemaker 14- not employed 15- Others(Specify----)	Education level 1- illiterate/cannot read and write a letter 2- no formal education, but can read and write a letter 3- class I - V 4- class VI-VIII 5- class IX-X 6- SSC or equivalent 7- HSC or equivalent 8- Degree and above 9- technical education 10- too young to be in school 11- others, specify
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
01						
02						
03						
04						

05						
06						
07						
08						
09						

3.B Information about place of origin & current living situation of the child worker	
3.2. What is your permanent address (District) ----- Code <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	3.8. Is your parents alive? 1- both alive 2- mother dead, father alive 3- mother alive, father dead 4- both dead
3.3. Do you have any permanent house there? 1-Yes 2-No	
3.4. Do your family have own agricultural land? 1-Yes 2-No	
3.5. Why did you leave your home? 1- poverty/hunger 2- because of step father/mother 3- no one to look after me 4- ran away 5- there was abuse 6- parent sent me away 7- come to earn income 8- others, specify 9- not applicable (go to 3.7)	3.9. Do you live with your parents/family now? 1-Yes 2-No (go to 3.11)
3.6. With whom have you come here? 1- with parents 2- with siblings 3- with brokers 4- came alone with the consent of parents 5- came alone without the consent of parents 6- came with friends with the consent of parents 7- came with friends without the consent of parents 8- came with relatives 9- others, specify	3.10. If yes in 3.9, where do you live with them now? 1- own house in a slum 2- rented house in a slum 3- other than slum area (rented house) 4- own house/home 5- street/abandoned place 6- others, specify (go to 3.13)
	3.11. If no in 3.9, where do you live now? 1- own house in a slum 2- rented house in a slum 3- employer provided accommodation (battery recharging shop/other place) 4- street/abandoned place 5- others, specify
3.7. What is the main occupation by your family in your place of origin? 1- own/subsistence farming	3.12. If no in 3.9, Is there any body living with you? 1- nobody, alone 2- living with other family members/relatives

2- agricultural wage labourer 3- non-agricultural wage labourer 4- small business 5- manufacturing 6- nothing/unemployed 7- others, specify.....	3- friends 4- fellow battery recharger 5- others, specify
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3.C Personal information of the child worker	
3.13. How do you know, how old are you ? 1- guess 2- know from parents 3- know from family members 4- know from school 5- know from relatives 6- not so sure about my age	4- not interested/unsuccessful 5- school is too far 6- others, specify..... 3.21. If the answer code of 3.19 is '1' or '2', which class did you read? class <input type="text"/>
3.D Current working condition of child worker	
3.14. Can you read? (Please ask him to read this questionnaire in order to verify whether he can able to read) 1- Yes 2- No	3.22. How long have you been working as a battery recharger? year month <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
3.15. Can you write? (Please verify that can able write) 1- Yes 2- No 3.16. Are you currently attending formal or informal school? 1- Yes, formal 2- Yes, informal 3- No	3.23. Where did you work before you worked as a battery recharger? 1- did not work before (Go to 3.25) 2- child domestic worker 3- automobile workshop 4- transportation 5- agricultural worker in my home village home 6- construction worker 7- welding 8- others, specify..... code <input type="text"/>
3.17. If yes, which class do you read in? class <input type="text"/> (Go to 3.22)	
3.18. If no, in 3.16 what is the reason for not attending school? 1- cannot afford	3.24. . If the answer code is (2-8) why did you left the previous work? (allow multiple responses) 1- low remuneration in previous job 2- physically / mentally abuse

2- because of work 3- parents did not send school 4- not interested/unsuccessful 5- school is too far 6- others, specify.....	3- not allowed to go to school 4- insufficient food 5- fired by employer 6- disliking 7- very hazardous work 8- others, specify.....
3.19. Have you ever attended formal or informal school? 1- Yes, formal (Go to 3.21) 2- Yes, informal (Go to 3.21) 3- No	3.25. Who put you into this work? 1- parents 2- relatives 3- self 4- friends 5- others, specify.....
3.20. If answer code is '3', then why? 1- cannot afford 2- because of work 3- parents did not send school	
3.26. What type of work do you mostly do? (allow multiple responses) 1- recharging 2- acid filling 3- battery repairing 4- re-cycling 5- Others, specify.....	4- pay for all school expenses 5- keep some as pocket money 6- pay debts 7- pay for food 8- clothing 9- pay some amount to employer 10- others, specify.....
3.27. How many hours do you work per day? hour <input type="text"/>	3.34. What percent of your income do you give to your parents? percentage <input type="text"/>
3.28. Do you have any lunch and tea break? 1- Yes, minutes (including all) <input type="text"/> 2- No	3.35. Are you satisfied with your pay? 1- Yes 2- No
3.29. How many days in a week and how many months in a year do you work as a recharger? days in a <input type="text"/> week months in a year <input type="text"/>	3.36. Are you indebted to your employer? 1- Yes 2- No
3.30. Do you do any other work in addition to battery recharging? (record multiple responses) 1- do not do any work 2- child domestic worker 3- automobile workshop 4- road transportation 5- welding establishment 6- others, specify.....	3.37. Are you working battery recharging because of your parent has taken a loan? 1- Yes 2- No
	3.E Information about past work of child worker
	3.38. How old were you when you first started working? year <input type="text"/>
	3.39. What was your first job? (If the answer code

<p>3.31. How much did you earned during the last pay period from battery recharging? (monthly basis) (Go to 3.21 in case of unpaid worker)</p> <p>Taka <input type="text"/></p>	<p>of 3.23 is “1” then no need to ask 3.39 & 3.40)</p> <p>1- domestic child worker</p> <p>2- automobile workshop</p> <p>3- welding</p> <p>4- agricultural labour</p> <p>5- transportation worker</p> <p>6- others, specify.....(code)</p>
<p>3.32. What is the mode of payment ?</p> <p>1- daily basis</p> <p>2- weekly</p> <p>3- month</p> <p>4- piece rate basis</p> <p>5- convinces</p> <p>6- don't know</p>	
<p>3.33. What do you do with your income? (record multiple responses)</p> <p>1- pay house rent</p> <p>2- give entire amount to parents</p> <p>3- give partial to parents</p>	<p>3.40. Why did you have to start work?</p> <p>1- parents had a debt</p> <p>2- family needed more income</p> <p>3- I ran away</p> <p>4- I was sold</p> <p>5- disliking studies</p> <p>6- others, specify.....</p>

3.F Information about personal behavior of child worker		3.49. Did you receive any treatment for your illness/injury? 1-Yes 2-No (go to 3.52)		
3.41. Do you smoke? 1- Yes 2- No		3.50 What type of treatment did you receive? 1- allopathic 2- homeopathic 3- unani/ayurvedic 4- other treatment (pir, fakir, tantric etc.) 5- no need of treatment		
3.42. If yes, for how long have you been smoking? year <input type="text"/>				
3.43. Have you ever been arrested by the police? 1- Yes 2- No				
3.44. If yes, what's the reason? reason----- code <input type="text"/>		3.51. Did your bear your treatment/ expenses? 1- Yes 2- No		
3.45. How do you spend your free time? 1- watching television 2- radio/listening song 3- playing/watching games 4- gossiping with friends/relatives 5- work with family 6- nothing 7- others (watching cinema, reading books etc.)		3.52. If 'no' in 3.49 why didn't receive treatment? 1- lack of money 2- treatment was not required 3- no health service facilities 4- others, specify.....		
		3.53. Do you use any protection ears & tears while working? 1- Yes 2- No		
		3.54. If yes, what type of wear? 1- boot/shoe 2- gloves 3- musk for eyes 4- heavy dress 5- others, specify.....		
			3.H Information about perception and knowledge of working child	
			3.55. If get facilities would you go to school ? 1- Yes 2- No	
3.46. Have you ever been sick during the work? 1- Yes 2- No (go to 3.53)		3.56. What you want to do at present or in the near future if you are given financial support or other assistances? write----- code <input type="text"/>		
3.47. If yes, when did you become sick or injured? Time (day) <input type="text"/>				
3.48. What types of illness or injury? 1- back pain due to heavy load 2- respiratory problem 3- fever 4- burns from battery recharging/recycling 5- headache 6- cough 7- stomach pain 8- others, specify.....		3.57. Do you like your present work? 1- Yes 2- No		

<p>3.58. If yes, why do you like your work?</p> <p>1- can help/support family 2- can earn money for school 3- can earn money for food 4- well paid 5- employer is well behaved 6- nice working environment 7- To become self-supported 8- others, specify.....</p>	<p>3.64. What would you do if you face danger or abuse in the job?</p> <p>1- inform friends 2- inform parents 3- inform no one 4- inform local labour leader 5- inform police 6- others, specify.....</p>
<p>3.59. If no in 3.57, why do you not like your work?</p> <p>1- work hazard make me sick 2- can't go to school 3- too tired 4- don't like work 5- don't like employer 6- low pay 7- working environment is not good 8- others, specify.....</p>	<p>3.65. Do you know where you could seek help if you have been abused in the job?</p> <p>1- from NGO 2- from parents 3- from friends 4- from local/social leader 5- from labour leader 6- from police 7- don't know</p>
<p>3.60. Do you know this work is rather dangerous to your health?</p> <p>1- Yes 2- No</p>	<p>3.66. Do you know what is the minimum age that the children can work?</p> <p>1- Yes 2- No</p>
<p>3.61. Do you know that you should be in school rather being here?</p> <p>1- Yes 2- No</p>	<p>3.67. If yes, what is the minimum age?</p> <p>Age <input type="text"/></p>
<p>3.62. Do you face abuse in your job?</p> <p>1-yes 2-no (go to 3.65)</p>	<p>3.68. Do you know anyone who has stopped battery recharging/recycling?</p> <p>1- Yes 2- No</p>
<p>3.63. If yes, what sort of abuse do you face?</p> <p>1- scolded/beaten by employer 2- sexual abuse 3- little or no food 4- rebuke 5- others, specify.....</p>	<p>3.69. If yes, what are they doing now?</p> <p>specify ----- code <input type="text"/></p> <p>3.70. Would you recommended this job to your brother or friend?</p> <p>1- Yes 2- No</p>