

# Survey on Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices (KAP) on Child Labour in Viet Nam

Enhancing National Capacity to Prevent and Reduce Child Labour in Viet Nam.  
ENHANCE Project



International  
Labour  
Organization

## BACKGROUND

ILO Viet Nam's ENHANCE project aims to enhance the national capacity to prevent and reduce child labour in Viet Nam through 3 mutually reinforcing components: Capacity Building; Awareness raising and Direct interventions. Geographically, the project focuses on 3 provinces: Hanoi, An Giang and Ho Chi Minh, and operates at national, provincial and community levels with multiple stakeholders. Through ENHANCE, a study has been undertaken to assess Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices (KAP) related to child labour in Viet Nam.

## OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the KAP study are to:  
Assess community members and staff from social agencies, government organisations and associations (SAGAs) and media and communication agencies (MCAs) on their Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices related to child labour, its associated hazards and legal regulations;

Identify key barriers to behavioural and attitudinal changes toward the prevention and elimination of child labour;

Identify media usage and information sharing norms for the development of nationally and locally appropriate advocacy and awareness raising channels;

Provide data for the report on Comprehensive Monitoring and Evaluation Plan (CMEP) indicators related to KAP.



Knowledge



Attitudes



Practices



## METHODOLOGY

Surveys were undertaken with 1,176 households, 385 children, 101 media and communication agencies (MCAs), 92 policy makers and staff of social agencies, government organizations and associations (SAGAs) from 27 communes of 12 districts in Hanoi, An Giang and Ho Chi Minh.

51 key informant interviews were conducted with national, provincial and commune level SAGA staff.

29 focus group discussions were facilitated with 239 participants including business owners, students and teachers.



Social agencies,  
government  
organizations  
and associations  
(SAGAs)



Media and  
communication  
agencies  
(MCAs)



7-18 year olds



Household  
representatives

# FINDINGS: KNOWLEDGE

It is illegal for under 18 year olds to work where heavy or dangerous work is required, such as underground, underwater, in slaughterhouses, on construction sites or in bars or casinos. Most respondents were aware of many of these restrictions. However knowledge gaps exist.

only **16.3%** of 7-18 year olds were aware of types

of work prohibited for under 15 year olds. Notably, 8.2% thought that under 18 year olds could work in construction and 4.3 percent thought they could work in slaughterhouses.

**61%** of household representatives were unaware of the types of work prohibited for under 15 year olds. 10% thought that under 18 year olds could work in construction,



SAGA and MCA staff demonstrated more accurate knowledge than households and children regarding child labour regulations and impacts.

**95%** of surveyed staff were aware of restrictions on hazardous labour.

However, there is a lack of clarity amongst staff on contract signing for under 18 year olds and legal consequences to child labour violations.



of 7-18 year olds were unaware that the legally defined age of a child is 16 and under.



of 7-18 year olds were unsure of the specific impacts of child labour on working children,



of household representatives were unaware that the legally defined age range of a child is 16 and under.



of household representatives fully or partially thought it was legal to employ under 18 year olds to do any kind of work.



of MCA staff answered incorrectly on the defined age of a child.



of SAGA staff answered incorrectly on the defined age of a child.

# FINDINGS: ATTITUDES



of household representatives agreed that children can work and earn a living for themselves or their families.



of 7-18 year olds agreed that children can work to earn a living for themselves or their families.



of SAGA and MCA staff fully or partially agreed that under 18 year olds can do any work and 9% agreed or were unsure whether children could do any kind of work without time restrictions. This group expressed the strongest disapproval of child labour among all the participants.



of household representatives opposed children under 15 working over 4 hours a day or 20 hours per week.



of 11-18 year olds felt that Parents had the right to force them to work.

Despite widespread disapproval of child labour amongst respondents from all groups, a significant proportion accepted child labour in cases of poor economic circumstances. Findings from all groups revealed a level of gender bias in this regard.



Percentage of respondents who fully or partially agreed with the statement "families facing economic hardship should let boys under 15 quit school to work" compared with the same statement regarding girls under 15.

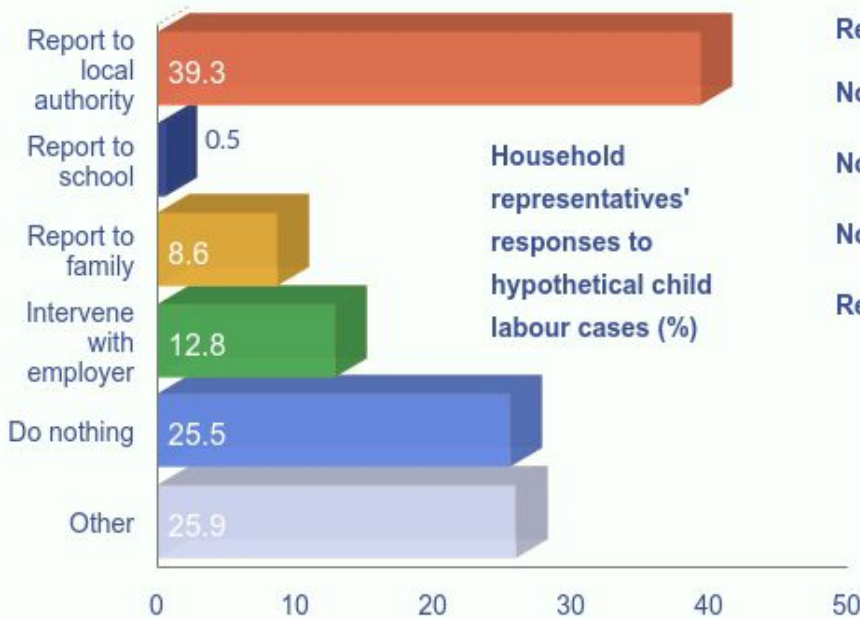


# FINDINGS: PRACTICES



of 7-18 year olds would report child labour to authorities. Most would turn to family members (who are often responsible for facilitating child labour violations) for help if personally faced with child labour.

Only **20.5%** of surveyed 7-18 year olds are aware of the organisations/authorities providing support and guidance on child labour, and only **15.1%** are aware of the process of reporting violations.



Activities related to child labour are implemented through SAGAs and MCAs, but these interventions

face a number of **challenges**. For example:

- Activities and interventions related to child labour are discrete, and there is a disconnect between the national and local level, and between government authorities and associations and organizations.
- Activities implemented have not been thoroughly monitored and assessed on their effectiveness and impact.
- Within the media, programmes/reports related to child labour are infrequent and rarely focus solely on the issue.

## 25.5%

of household representatives said they would not take any action if they encountered a case of child labour.

Inaction is linked to a lack of knowledge on the institutions providing support/guidance on child labour issues and the violations reporting process, of which only **13.1%** of household representatives are aware.

Reasons for not taking action were primarily given as:

Not knowing what to do (**60.81%**)

Not one's responsibility (**12.50%**)

Not knowing who to report to (**6.76%**)

Reporting will not be responded to (**5.41%**)



of MCAs participate in training related to child labour.



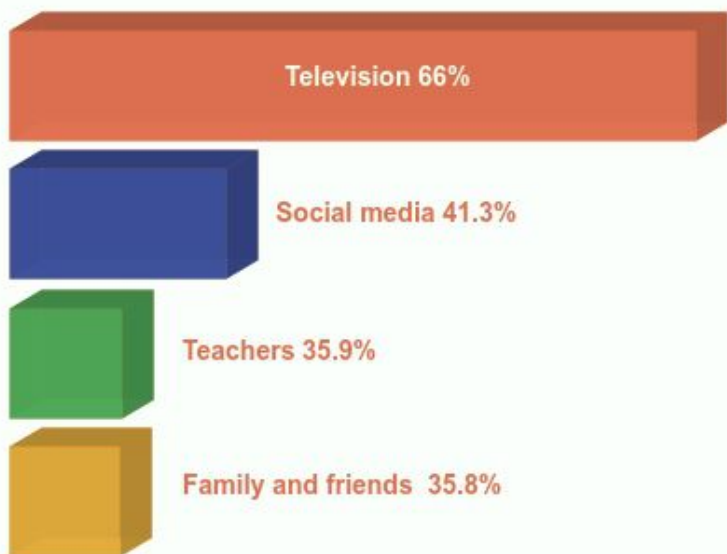
of MCAs participate in programs, campaigns and news related to child labour.



of policy makers attend training related to child labour.

# FINDINGS: ACCESS TO INFORMATION CHANNELS

Daily information channels used by 7-18 year olds



of 7-18 year olds have heard/watched programs related to child labour on mass media.



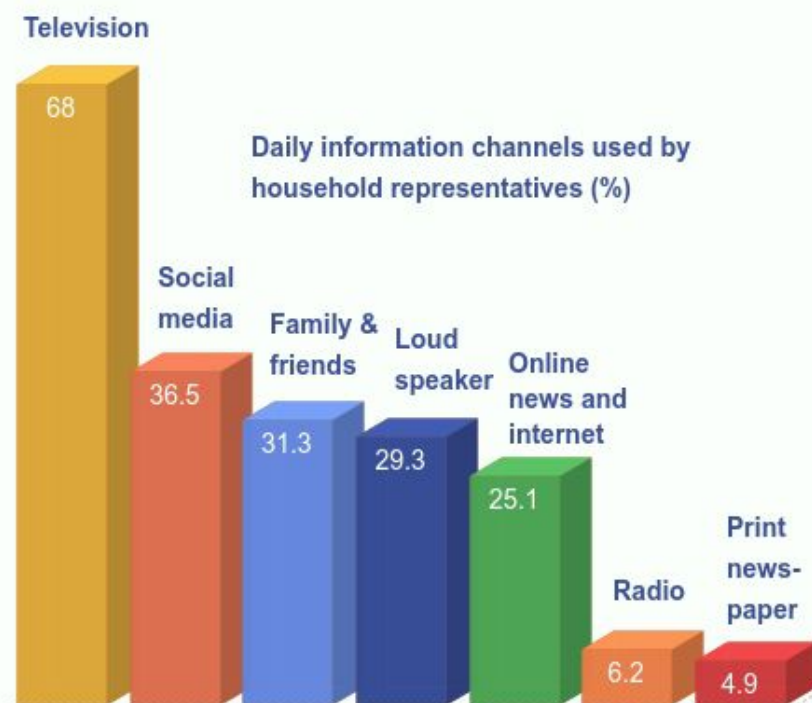
of 7-18 year olds had never encountered the term "child labour" before the survey.



of household representatives have seen/heard programs related to child labour.



of household representatives confirmed local activities or programs on child labour had taken place in the past year.



Daily information channels used by household representatives (%)

## DISSAGGREGATED DATA

### GENDER

No significant differences were found between the responses of male and female respondents.



## INCOME LEVEL

Household representatives with incomes below 5 million VND/month demonstrated poorer knowledge on child labour regulations than those with higher incomes (higher than 15 million VND/month).

% of respondents who believed in children working to make a living for themselves or families

Low income  
(-5 million)

47%

33%

High income  
(+15 million)



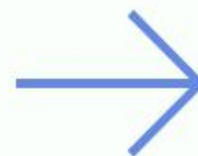
Results therefore reveal that household income may influence mindsets regarding early labour engagement of children.

A higher percentage of respondents with lower incomes indicated interest in participating in activities related to child labour (46.9%) compared with higher income households (36.9%).



## CONCLUSIONS

Findings indicate a clear linkage between a lack of knowledge and inappropriate attitudes towards the issue of child labour, which in turn impacts practices.



SAGA and MCA staff members are more knowledgeable on general legislation related to child labour than the general public, and SAGA staff tend to be more knowledgeable than MCA staff, though knowledge gaps still exist amongst these groups.

Both adults and children have inadequate access to information and communications on child labour, and of functioning procedures, agencies and organizations that provide support in cases of child labour.

### Knowledge



A significant number of children are unaware of their right to participate in decision making regarding their education or work opportunities. Such a mind-set can prevent children from raising their own voices against child labour when their views conflict with those of their parents.

To prevent child labour, it is critical to empower children with the knowledge necessary to oppose exploitative work conditions potentially imposed by their parents.

It is generally viewed as 'normal' or 'natural', for children to share financial burdens with their parents and to learn to take responsibility as a family member.

Interestingly, for all groups, an under 15-year-old boy dropping out of school for work due to difficult family circumstances was considered more acceptable than the same scenario for a girl. This is indicative of a prevalent gender bias within Vietnamese society.

SAGAs at national and local levels have implemented activities, programs and projects related to child labour, yet many constraints related to management, legislation and knowledge on child labour still exist, which limits the effectiveness of these activities.

## Attitudes



Although many respondents generally disapproved of child labour cases, inadequate knowledge on the impacts of child labour resulted in a significant proportion of respondents accepting child labour in cases of economic hardship.

## Practices



A combination of limited knowledge on child labour, inadequate systems for receiving and handling reports on child labour issues and a lack of attention paid to child labour amongst the general public has promoted widespread inaction and a level of apathy towards the issue.

# RECOMMENDATIONS



## DEVELOP A CLEAR LEGAL FRAMEWORK ON WORKING CHILDREN

The development of a clear definition of child labour, targeted policies and mechanisms to process child labour cases are urgently needed to provide a reference frame for stakeholders.

While the development of legal documents and specific policies should be led by governmental agencies, ILO can collaborate with other organisations to advocate for specific child labour policies and provide guidelines for implementation.



## IMPROVE COMMUNICATION WITH STAKEHOLDERS

Findings reveal that all groups, to varying degrees, require enhanced awareness on:



Legal knowledge on children's rights;



Definitions and regulations on child labour, including age, types of work, working hours, workplaces, contract signing with under 18 year olds and penal sanctions to violations;



Adverse impacts of child labour for the economy and society and on the physical and mental health of children;



Available support and services for child labour cases and locations of competent agencies and organizations that provide support, intervention, and settlement of child abuse cases as well as measures to prevent child labour and channels for reporting violations.

# COMMUNICATIONS CONTENT AND METHODS SHOULD BE TAILORED TO DIVERSE GROUPS

## Children

For children communication methods should be diverse, engaging and creative, utilising television, social media, teachers, family and friends.



Engaging dramas and cartoons with straightforward messages should be broadcast on children's television and social networking campaigns should be developed with the participation of influential role models.

More direct communications should take the form of competitions and theatrical performances within schools and communities.

## Household representatives

Compelling, informative and jargon-free content should be developed and disseminated via widely watched television channels during peak viewing times.



Video clips and eye-catching images with clear messages should be posted on Facebook, YouTube and Zalo.

Additionally, more traditional communication channels should be utilised including the local loud speaker, banners, leaflets, community meetings and local cultural/sporting events within communities.

## Social & government agencies and media & communications staff

Considering their instrumental roles within management, communication, and support to victims in the field of child labour, SAGA and MCA staff require precise knowledge of legislations and related information in this field.



Communications are most appropriately conducted in this context through trainings, conferences and seminars. In addition, manual guides and handbooks, should be developed to provide clear guidelines.

These efforts require close coordination between relevant agencies and organizations and the commitment of management to staff engagement.

## Business households & enterprises

Collaborations with provincial and national level associations of enterprises should be encouraged to reach relevant enterprise members and business households.



For smaller businesses and local production units, traditional communication channels should be utilized, including the local loud speaker system, banners and slogans, bulletin boards, leaflets and brochures and meetings.



Awareness enhancement efforts should focus on the agricultural sector, which has the highest proportion of child labourers, followed by Industrial and construction sectors.

A system for monitoring, examining and handling violating enterprises and business households needs to be in place.

Enterprises should be encouraged to apply the code of conduct implemented by VCI and ILO and there should be a system to monitor, evaluate and certify compliance.

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