Preface

Child labour is a harsh reality and is much prevalent in the developing countries. Some of the traditional sectors are still rampant with child labour. Though not very old, football stitching is also a specialized child labour sector. Despite national and international interventions from different stakeholders and concerned social activists, much headway could not be made in substantially freeing this sector of the child labour.

I took this area, because no comprehensive thought is so far employed in this sector. This is not to belittle the work done in soccer ball industry. This researcher has also to depend on studies already done, in addition to my own field visit to get a firsthand account and direct feel of the serious problem. I attempt the comparison between Pakistan and India, because these countries stand first and second in soccer ball production in the world, child labour is involved too.

As UNICEF’s 1997 State of the World’s Children Report puts it, “Children’s work needs to be seen as happening along a continuum, with destructive or exploitative work at one end and beneficial work – promoting or enhancing children’s development without interfering with their schooling, recreation and rest – at the other. And between these two poles are vast areas of work that need not negatively affect a child’s development”.

On 17 June 1999, ILO adopted Child Labour Convention No. 182 in the in Geneva Conference, which portrays the worst forms of child labour. The term worst forms of child labour comprise:

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

b) the use, procuring or offering of a child for prostitution for the production of pornography or for pornographic performances;
c) the use, procuring or offering of a child for illicit activities, in particular for the production and trafficking of drugs as defined in the relevant international treaties; and

d) the 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.

Child labour is generally the work given to children that harms them or exploits them physically, mentally, morally or by blocking access to education. The ILO has recently estimated that some 126.3 million children in Asia and Pacific region are engaged in child labour, out of 217.7 million children aged 5 to 17.

Among 40 million children aged 5-14 years in Pakistan, 3.3 million, i.e. 8.3 percent were economically active as child labourers. Children's contribution to work in rural areas is about eight times greater than in urban areas. The 1991 Indian national census estimates the number of working children at 11.2 million out of total of 210 million children aged 5-14 years. The 55th round of the National Sample Survey, carried out by the National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) in 1999/2000, indicates that there were 10.4 million working children in India in 1999/2000.

In India 90% children labourers aged 5-14 are from rural areas, and engaged in various types works, including those that are classified as 'hazardous', i.e., harmful to the physical, emotional, or moral well-being of children. An estimated 2 million children work in 'hazardous industries'. Although there are interstate and inter-regional variations in India, the factors that generate child labour and hazardous child labour in particular, include parental poverty, illiteracy, social and economic circumstances, lack of awareness, lack of access to basic and meaningful quality education and skill, high rates of adult unemployment and cultural values of the family and society.

Child labour exists not because children are more able workers but because they can be had for less money. Thus, preference for child labour by many employers is mainly due to the fact that it is cheap, safe and without any
liability. All the reports on child labour indicate that the wages paid to the children are exploitatively low.

Children in labour market whether employed for gaining a competitive edge or for having the most docile and non-organized stock of workers by the push of poverty is not only an undesirable phenomenon, but is unacceptable also by any economic and social logic. Social mobilization for the spread of free and compulsory, primary and elementary education as a matter of constitutional right of the society and constitutional duty of the state and progressive withdrawal of all children up to age of 14 from work and securing enrolment in schools is the best way of achieving a child labour free workplace. Child education need not be perceived as great opportunity cost but as a rich dividend on the investment made on education in economic as well as in terms of social empowerment of the working class families.

The scope of this study is limited to two more developed countries in South Asia, namely, India and Pakistan since the problem of child labour is the most acute and widespread in these two countries. This study will cover period from 1990s till date.

The objectives of this study are as follows:

1. To analyze the incidence and child labour in India and Pakistan;
2. To scrutinize ILO's international labour legislation and Indian and Pakistan's Government policies and legislation, related to child labour;
3. To analyze the magnitude and causative factors of child labour and also examine the types of child labour;
4. To analyze the actual situations and problems of child labour of two regions in India and Pakistan, related to football making industry in the areas of Sialkot in Pakistan, Jalandhar in India;
5. To analyze the influence of education on child labour;
6. To analyze the limitations and barriers of eliminating child labour in India and Pakistan; and
7. To analyze the policies of rehabilitation of child labour from the side of these two Governments, ILO, UN agencies and NGOs.

The present study is based on theoretical, practical and analytical method. This study is based on both primary and secondary sources. The latter includes various books and articles and internet sources on Indian and Pakistan's child labour and the former includes the governments', ILO's and other international organization's documents and reports and field surveys.

International Labour Organization, UNICEF and a number of national and international projects combined with educational, health and awareness components are being run. In the present study, we will have detailed look into the facts, issues and dilemmas in the thesis divided into seven chapters.

Chapter 1 (Theoretical and Conceptual Framework of Child Labour) discusses the definition of child labour and significance of eliminating of this problem and the present situation of child labour in the world, particularly in South Asia, India and Pakistan. Chapter 2 (The Legal Aspects of Child Labour) seeks to present how Indian and Pakistan's constitutions, and labour legislations deal with labour of children. It also deals with labour legislation by ILO.

Chapter 3 (Child Labour in India and Pakistan) discusses the main socio-economic causes and effects of child labour in India and Pakistan. It also discusses the incidence and type of child labour in the two countries. Chapter 4 (Child Labour in Football Industry in India) deals with the origin and present development of football industry in India and the child labour problems in the country. Chapter 5 (Child Labour in Football Industry in Pakistan) presents the study of child labour in football industry with reference to Sialkot in Pakistan.

Chapter 6 (Rehabilitation and Management of Child Labour in India and Pakistan) deals with governments policies of rehabilitation and management of child labour. Furthermore, it deals with ILO, UNICEF, Save the Children Fund, and other international organizations and NGOs with regard to their policies of rehabilitation of child labour. This chapter critically looks into the strengths and
weaknesses of the projects run in these two countries. Chapter 7 (Conclusion) sums up the total thesis in a critical light, pointing out in nutshell the policy and action efforts from all stakeholders, including national and state governments, employers, donors, international agencies and NGOs.

The thesis, besides the chapters mentioned, has included the references as the last item. It has also listed out the tables and figures used in the text, just after the table of contents.