

Child labor is one of the worst consequences of severe poverty. Since early 1990s human rights advocates and the ILO have focused on the potential exploitation children in “hazardous work” and the lost potential of children who work instead of going to school. There is no single solution for ending child labor (apart from ending poverty) but Conditional Cash Transfers (CCTs) seem to be perfectly tailored to this task (i.e. Bolsa [Familia in Brazil](#) and/or [Oportunidades](#) in Mexico funded in part by the [World Bank](#)). In the absence of CCTs however, things become more complicated. As demonstrated by the fallout from the proposed Harkin Bill, preventing children from working (or “firing” them from factory jobs) does not imply they will end up in school. And as with “home schooling” in the United States or child actors in the United States it is possible to work and go to school. If making children and their families better off after an intervention to reduce child labor, the choice between banning child labor and transfer “conditional” on having kids in school becomes clear. Compensating families for lost income and additional costs when children go to school (as in [catching hope](#)).

Readings (see also the [Lecture notes](#)) Please let me know if you find any  
 Kabeer, Naila (2001) [The Power to Choose](#), Bangladeshi Women and Labor Market decisions in the London and Dhaka, Chapter 11, Weak winners, Powerful losers: the politics of protectionism.  
 See also Jane H. Lii, New York Times [65 Cents an Hour -- A special report.](#); A Week in Sweatshop Reveals [Grim Conspiracy](#) of the Poor”  
 Shahidul Alam, 1994, [Harkin bill and child workers in Bangladesh](#), Bangladesh Human Rights Network. Power,  
 Carla Power, 2008 [Manufacturing the Burden of Good intentions](#), Time Magazine, June 11<sup>th</sup> 2008.  
 ILO-IPEC, 1999, [15 Successful Action Programs](#), ILO Children in Hazardous Work  
 Terry Friel, 2004, Reuters, [Rina Kumari Sahani](#), slum girl from Siliguri India, Rock Breaker, in Bihar India,  
 UNICEF, [State of the World’s Children 2007](#) [Hammers and Homework](#), [Ending Child Labour](#)  
 World Bank, Global Links, Hear our Voices: [Emmanuel and his sisters Uganda](#)  
 World Bank [Women’s Day 2012, NARI program](#)

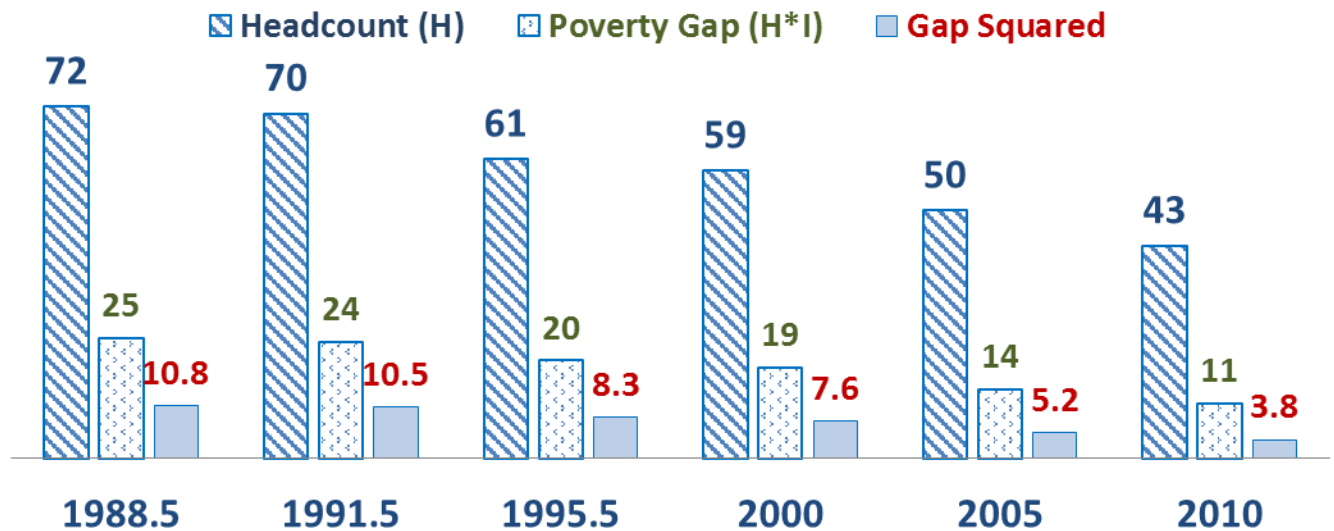
**LDQ-4.1 Varieties of Child labor:** a) Using Kabeer identifies two types of child labor “tag along” vs. “hard core” child or underage looking workers (given local labor laws: child workers are under 14 in BGD, under 17 in China and the U.S., etc.). Classify these potential or actual child workers: Laila Jesus de Paixao (Brazil); Chen May Xia (Brooklyn); Moyna or Sabeena (Bangladesh); Emmanuel Katumba (Uganda) and Rina Kumari Sahani (India) and [Lu Qingmin](#) or “Min” (China) add a brief sentence or quote justifying your classification. b) Why did UNICEF and the ILO intervene to stop the BGMEA fired underage looking workers? Why and how did the workers protest these firings? How did the BGMEA-UNICEF/ILO/BRAC MOU attempt to help both types of child workers and their families? What is the risk in simply firing workers that look underage? Of UNICEF’s six point plan to end child labor, which measures are most important in Bangladesh or UGANDA? c) Why don’t union leaders and city officials enforce child labor laws at the Brooklyn Chai Feng sweatshop? What laws do they enforce (hint: MDG 2 and Rana Plaza)? Why do the mothers appreciate Madame Zheng? What help do they request from the Union representative? d) Why does Naila Kabeer and Bangladeshi human rights advocates think Senator Harkin tried to ban imports from countries using child labor? (the Harkin Bill never passed) What do you think? e) *Senator Harkin often takes credit for getting 10,000 Bangladeshi children into school: how should this boast be qualified?*

**LDQ-4.2** Rina Kumari Sahani is one of the most troubling child workers (perhaps 5 years old, breaking rocks in the hot sun). A CCT program would be great for her, but India does not have one. a) Why does Rina have to work breaking rocks in the hot sun? Do her parents care about her? How do we know? b) UNICEF has a program for when Rina is 8: the [Hammers and Homework](#) program (in BGD at least). How does this program work? Would Rina have to stop working or watching her siblings to benefit from this program? What other child workers from #1 part a combine school and factory work? *EC why aren’t Americans required to attend school during the Summer months as many OECD countries do require?*

**LDQ 4.3.** a) As of 2004, what does the Gap do when it finds child workers in its factories? Why are most of its factories “never in compliance” according to CEO Pressler? (See Power, 2008) b) A NY Times editor (perhaps not Jane Lii) call the Chai Feng sweatshop a “grim conspiracy of the poor”: a conspiracy to do what?



**Figure SA-2: Bangladesh \$1.25/day Poverty Rate**



Source: World bank Povcalnet (February 2015)  
<http://iresearch.worldbank.org/PovcalNet/povcalSvy.html>

