

**The Role of United Nations Children’s Emergency Fund (UNICEF) in
Addressing Child Labor in Fast Fashion Industry in Bangladesh 2013-2016**

UNDERGRADUATE THESIS



**UNIVERSITAS
ISLAM
INDONESIA**

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**DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
FACULTY OF PSYCHOLOGY AND SOCIO-CULTURAL SCIENCES
UNIVERSITAS ISLAM INDONESIA**

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Proposed to the Department of International Relations
Faculty of Psychology and Socio-Cultural Sciences

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As a partial fulfillment of requirement to earn

Bachelor Degree in International Relations



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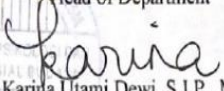
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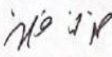
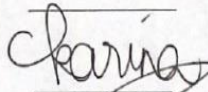
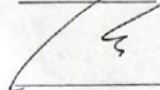
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I hereby declare that this undergraduate thesis is the result of my own independent scientific work, and that all material from the work of others (in books, articles, essays, dissertations, and on the internet) has been stated, and quotations and paraphrases are clearly indicated.

No other materials are used other than those contained. I have read and understood the university's rules and procedures regarding plagiarism.

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Thursday, 13 July 2023



Nabilah Dianza Zain

INTRODUCTIONS WORDS

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ABAL	: <i>Ability Based Accelerated Learning</i>
BBS	: <i>Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics</i>
BEF	: <i>Bangladesh Employers Federation</i>
BRAC	: <i>Bangladesh Rural Advancement Commottee</i>
EFA	: <i>Education for All</i>
FSSSP	: <i>Female Secondary School Stipend Program</i>
ILO	: <i>International Labor Organization</i>
IPEC	: <i>International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour</i>
MOWCA	: <i>Ministry of Women and Children Affairs</i>
MSW	: <i>Ministry of Social Welfare</i>
NACGs	: <i>National Action and Coordinating Groups</i>
NGO	: <i>Non-Governmental Organization</i>
PECE	: <i>Primary Education Completion Examination</i>
PEDP3	: <i>Third Primary Education Development Program</i>
RMG	: <i>Ready-made Garments</i>
SACG	: <i>South Asia Child Group</i>
SAIEVAC	: <i>South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children</i>
SDG	: <i>Sustainable Development Goals</i>
TdH	: <i>Terre des hommes</i>
UN	: <i>United Nations</i>
UNFPA	: <i>United Nations Population Fund</i>
UNICEF	: <i>United Nations Children's Emergency Funds</i>

ABSTRACT

As a poor country, Bangladesh is one of the countries that have many child laborers in various sectors. In Bangladesh, 67 percent of children work because their families are suffering economically and require children to work to help support their families. Bangladesh is a country that produces industrial garments such as fast fashion. Child labor in the garment industry is a serious problem caused by several things, such as production factories that are dangerous for children. The number of work accidents and violence that occurs in child workers is an issue that needs to be discussed. UNICEF as an international organization that focuses on helping children has an important role in addressing the issue of child labor in Bangladesh. This research was conducted to analyze the role of UNICEF in tackling child labor in Bangladesh from 2013 to 2016 by using the concept of implementing international organizations. By using a managerial approach, the researcher can see how UNICEF implements programs created by monitoring and collaborating with the Bangladesh government to reduce the number of child workers in Bangladesh, especially in the garment industry.

Keywords: UNICEF, Child Labor, Bangladesh, Fast Fashion

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

The fast fashion industry is one of the fashion sectors that employs fast manufacturing methods to gain on a fast-developing industry and follow trends as these develop. Bangladesh is a country that produces industrial garments such as fast fashion. As a poor country, this industrial sector provides good prospects for the people of Bangladesh by providing employment and increasing societal productivity through mass-producing high-value items. The growing awareness also contributes to the presence of industrial development as a source of Bangladesh's economic progress (Yunus and Yamagata 2012). Bangladesh makes \$20 billion in exports and imports every year, making it the world's second-largest garment exporter after China (Bradsher 2013).

Fundamentally, the fast fashion industry and the billion-dollar brands associated with it have built its success on the backs of impoverished people in Bangladesh who are desperate for employment to earn enough money to provide for their families. The employment opportunities have increased gender equality and the economic position of families, especially for women and children. However, it is not only adolescent children but also underage children who are employed in the garment sector (Alsulaiman 2020). There are about 3.5 million children employed in Bangladesh, from 5 to 17 years of age. Employing children is very dangerous for them because they are vulnerable and get sick quickly because the workplace is unhygienic and fall into danger. Throughout the fast

fashion textile industry, Bangladesh has become the largest employer of children (Martje Theuws, Virginia Sandjojo, and Emma Vogt 2017).

From Bangladesh Bureau Statistics data from 2003-2013, the number of child labor decreased from 3.2 million children to 1.2 million children in 2013. However in 2013 as many as 1.7 million children were still trapped in the worst form of child labor that involved hazardous working conditions (“Child Labour Rises to 160 Million First Increase in Two Decades” 2021). Almost most of the employed are underage children. Hiring underage children is illegal since according to Bangladesh child labor law, the legal age for child labor is 14 years old. However, many children who work under the age of 14 are still employed by the entrepreneurs. Many workers do not have identity documents and do not have official proof of their age. Dealing with child labor is further complicated, where there is poverty, there will be children who are willing to work cheaply and are vulnerable to be tricked into doing dangerous work with low wages (Amin, Quayes, and Rives 2004).

Research shows that countries with low per capita incomes of 30-60% have a very large number of child laborers. Either these kids leave school or are forced to work and attend school. The main problems with the employment of underage children is poverty and the lack of good education in the environment. This makes underage children are forced to work and help their families needs. It is concluded by Delap (Delap E 2001) that families in several mess settlements in Bangladesh explain that it is not only the economy that makes children work but also that one of their cultures is afraid that their children will be unemployed.

Laziness is considered very dangerous for poor boys, who fear that their parents will get involved in criminal acts.

Thus, Bangladesh establishes policies to create a framework for reducing the worst forms of child labor. The policies provided a framework for the development of advanced laws and policies related to child labor. Bangladesh has already achieved the milestones of approving the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and Convention 182 on the Prohibition of the Worst Forms of Child Labor and approving the ILO-IPEC Convention 2010, and the Bangladesh government has also approved the Children Act 2013 (Shahjahan, Ara, and Ayaz 2016). Bangladesh is mandated by both national and international law to protect and promote children's rights and interests. This policy continues to be developed and require more focus given to the collection and research of data to design stronger prevention of the existing violations.

Lack of legal protection and the proliferation of casual contracts have made workers in this industry the target of labor rights violations. Working in Bangladesh without formal employment agreements or job protection in the informal sector. Working in the informal sector means the employer is responsible for all decisions made. In the informal industry, the employers have no obligations to protect the rights of child laborers, because of that, the factory owner did not obey to the existing regulations, so it is not uncommon to find the abuse of child labor. Bangladesh has remained politically committed since their independence and has steadily been involved in strict policies and programs to minimize it and ultimately eradicate its status as one of the countries with a high

prevalence of child labor. To make sure children cope better with problems with the law, the Government aims to strengthen the juvenile justice system (Aktar and Abdullah 2013)

Child labor is seen as a work that robs children of their childhood, potential, and dignity, and is harmful to their physical and mental development. Because of that United Nations Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) is an international organization engaged in the humanitarian field which aims to help and protect the rights of children and women. Just like ILO (International Labor Organization) has played a major role in overcoming the problem of child labor in Bangladesh. Since 1952 UNICEF has been working to improve the health and well-being of children in Bangladesh. Until now, UNICEF is mandated to protect every child under the existing policies such as the Convention On the Rights of the Child and also the Children Act 2013. UNICEF in Bangladesh is trying to fulfill its role and goals by increasing the awareness of child labor, the causes and consequences of child labor, implementing a child labor policy, and successfully implementing measures against child labor in Bangladesh. UNICEF in Bangladesh fulfills the role and objectives of its international organization by trying to reduce child labor by supporting initiatives so that children do not drop out of school and also trying to strengthen the child protection system in Bangladesh (“Preventing Violence and Exploitation,” n.d.). The children who work in garment factories, in particular, have a relatively tight tie with safety and human rights problems. Working in factories is extremely harmful to children and can be considered as a threat to their human security. Security risks involve not just military dangers, but also economic vulnerability, environmental degradation,

social disintegration, and so forth. This case of human security is described as the concept of personal security, including protection against physical risks such as war and domestic abuse. This has a significant impact on children working in garment industries, especially on the underage children in Bangladesh. This kind of human security is characterized as personal security, which includes protection against physical hazards such as war, domestic abuse, drug-related criminality, and child labor. The government must handle the concerns of rights and personal security, and children should not work at a young age. Instead of working hard, children must be creative in response to their needs, abilities, and grade of knowledge to improve themselves and have a better future.

This research is necessary to analyze the impact of fast fashion on child labor in Bangladesh. This study was developed based on the theory of International Organization and Implementation by Jutta Joachim. This study aims to identify and explain the role of the United Nations Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) responsible for child labor such as ILO in overcoming and being responsible for the impact of fast fashion on child labor in Bangladesh in 2013-2016 by using one problem formula from the authors to analyze.

1.2 Research Question

There is one that the author can derive from the analysis of Bangladesh's impact of fast fashion on child labor: How is the United Nations Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) role in tackling Bangladesh child labor in fast fashion industry in Bangladesh during the period of 2013-2016 ?

1.3 Research Objectives

The goals of this analysis are to achieve and extend the findings obtained from these activities:

To identify the role of the United Nations Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) in overcoming the problem of child labor in Bangladesh in 2013-2016

1.4 Research Scope

The focus of this research is UNICEF's role in tackling child labor that occurred in Bangladesh in 2013-2016. The researcher would like to discuss how UNICEF as an international organization in the humanitarian sector that aims to improve the quality of life of children responded to the children's rights who work in fast fashion factories, specifically from 2013-2016, during this period, UNICEF together with the Government of Bangladesh have made efforts that have brought quite significant changes to the problem of child labor in Bangladesh. The focus of this research only focuses on Bangladesh in the year 2013-2016, because in 2013, a large scale accident case happened in the garment industry in Bangladesh especially the Rana Plaza incident that takes around 1,137 workers in Rana Plaza Bangladesh ("Rana Plaza Collapse" 2015). In 2016, 32% children (Bhalla 2016) working full-time in textile factories such as fast fashion, this incident became a trigger for the Government of Bangladesh to improve their labor. Furthermore, the limit is until 2016 because the number of child labor cases in Bangladesh in 2016 has decreased from 3.7 million child workers in 2013 to 1.3 million and 2016 is the last year because the number of child labor does not increase until 2020 ("2013 Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor - Bangladesh" 2014). The

researcher believe that this limitation is enough to see how UNICEF addresses the problem of child labor in Bangladesh.

1.5 Literature Review

In writing, Claire Salmon (Salmon 2005) wants to see whether working children in Bangladesh are the last resort or the only ones who have to make a living in their families. In this paper, we analyze by looking at some of the characteristics of child labor in Bangladesh such as Sectoral Distribution by Gender, Age, and Location, then the duration and the contribution of children's income to their families. The analysis carried out in this paper shows that most of the poorest households are very dependent on their children's income to get out of poverty. Then the children who work prefer to go to work when all the adolescents in the family are already working. However, there are differences between girls and boys where most girls work in unpaid, while boys work in paid wage employment.

The conditions of child labor in various sectors, especially in the industrial sector and the agricultural sector has been discussed by Maria in her writing regarding the challenges faced by international organizations such as the International Labor Organization (ILO) in overcoming child labor in Bangladesh. This writing discusses the conditions of child labor in various sectors, especially in the industrial sector and the agricultural sector. It is often found that children work more than 43 hours or more in a row. Then there are several things that become challenges for the ILO in overcoming the problem of child labor in Bangladesh, which lies in the factors that cause child labor to become common in

Bangladesh, such as poverty, tradition, production, education, and legislation. There are many factors that are very difficult to overcome, especially child labor rights. Therefore the ILO was created by the United Nations to help solve the problem of child labor, but there are many factors that pose challenges to the ILO.

Nielsen paper (Michael E. Nielsen 2005) describes the laws and regulations relating to child labor in Bangladesh where the agreement is focused on local industry, rather than the responsibility of international buyers of the garment industry products. In fact, the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) here goes beyond international law in that it does not allow light work for older children. A bewildering number of laws and regulations regulating child labor in Bangladesh are regulated by contradictory provisions concerning child labor regulations. National legal systems, as confusing as they may be, are usually consistent with laws similar to ILO Convention 138 relating to the minimum age for jobs. Michael journal's defined therefore the regulations that exist but no action occurs, which means there are only regulations written on paper.

Md. Kamruzzaman (Kamruzzaman and Hakim 2018) writes about how children become victimized by their workplace, such as physical, psychological, emotional, and health injuries. Most of the children work in the informal sector when they do activities including farming and producing logistics. In fact, more than half of these domestic employees now receive non-monetary services such as housing, food, and clothes. Hundreds of thousands of Bangladeshi children are employed in hazardous jobs. This paper also describes several laws and regulations that exist in Bangladesh by following the children act 2006, ILO refers child work that has a negative effect on mental and physical danger, and also

UNICEF defines that child labor should work in a minimum work hours. After a few laws and regulations explanations, it is followed by case studies and recommendations on how the Bangladeshi government can handle this child labor issue. In order to resolve the child labor issues, the government should develop social services including the child labor basic rights, then arrange social and legal support for the victim, reform the law, and implement it strictly.

Previous researchers have known from several prevailing journals how the potential dangers and risks of child laborers working in Bangladesh, which are the objects of this research. Those are the indications that we may know another side of child labor. Unfortunately, there are not many studies discussing the efforts and the role of UNICEF in addressing the problem of child labor in Bangladesh. The author will discuss on seeing how the United Nations Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) role in tackling child labor in Bangladesh, so we can discover the obstacles that affect the efforts of protecting child labor in Bangladesh.

1.6 Research Framework

Therefore, international organizations play an important role in global governance; it is difficult to develop policies at the worldwide level without the participation of international organizations. The significance of international organizations' roles, such as the rise of globalization and the end of the cold war. International organizations, not just as government actors, influence the development of international affairs, such as the implementation process. International organizations have an important role in establishing their role as actors in international relations. According to Jutta Joachim, Bob Reinalda, and

Bertjan Verbeek international organizations have a role in policy implementation by comparing various types of organizations and policies. The author decided to use international organization theory as the theoretical basis of this research. There are three approaches that can affect the ability of international organizations in the implementation process, namely the enforcement approach, management approach, and normative enforcement (Jutta Joachim, Bob Reinalda, and Bertjan Verbeek 2008).

Table 1. Implementation approaches

	<i>Enforcement</i>	<i>Managerial</i>	<i>Normative</i>
Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Naming and shaming</i>, judging on the basis of a state reporting, expert committees, inspections or NGO reports. Sanction, e, g, economic or military sanctions, adjudication financial penalties. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Monitoring</i> on the basis of state reporting, expert committees, inspections, or NGO reports. • <i>Capacity building and problem solving</i> through expert advice, rule interpretation, financial or technical assistance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Authority and legitimacy</i>

1. Enforcement Approach

In this perspective, enforcement occurred when an international organization establishes a policy against a country, and if the member countries ignore it, sanctions or punishment are given. As a result, the policy must constantly be checked to see whether or not it is being

implemented. It has a coercive aspect in this approach to demonstrate compliance with an international convention in a forced way. The sanctions that will be enforced on the state if it breaks the agreement in the form of naming and shaming would humiliate the state by revealing the violations committed. This method also highlights the need of harsh actions in implementing an international agreement in a country.

2. Managerial Approach

This approach is focused on cooperation, specifically in providing financial, administrative, and technical support. In managing collaboration with states or international organizations, the policy may implemented by this cooperation. Its institutions can have an important role in implementation by facilitating the country in developing its intervention ability. This approach is divided into two categories, monitoring and capacity building, and problem-solving. Monitoring is controlled out by several actors such as NGOs, that are handing out basis state reports that focus on an issue, and an expert committee that has been formed, in this way international organizations can work together to monitor the country involved. Then Capacity Building is a way for international organizations to increase capacity in security, law, and immigration. In overcoming ongoing problems (problem-solving) the option taken is by providing technical and financial assistance to the state and also from a task force.

3. Normative Approach

Aside from the enforcement and management approaches, there is also a normative approach. According to Raustiala and Victor, this perspective is

only adopted as a compliment if the two previous ways did not work optimally. This approach is quite similar to constructivism. According to this perspective, international organizations consider governments are important actors with the legal capacity and legitimacy to enforce international agreements. International organizations, according to the normative approach, have control over information and expertise over particular knowledge. This is highly beneficial for international organizations since it builds trust in states that lack information and knowledge. In this perspective, international organizations are also seen as rational, objective, and unbiased. According to the normative approach, it is preferred to use rational reasons to convince countries to fulfill their international commitments rather than force them to comply with them.

The authors were using a managerial approach in this study to analyze UNICEF's role in handling the issue of child labor in Bangladesh. UNICEF is attempting to help children's issues in Bangladesh, such as child marriage and child abuse, as well as to establish a protection system to prevent and respond to child violence, abuse, neglect, and exploitation. Bangladesh provides a way for UNICEF to come in and provide solutions to this issue. This is one of the examples used by international organizations to implement a managerial approach. Through managerial approach, UNICEF have been working together with the Bangladesh government in an effort to address child labor that happened in Bangladesh, such as monitoring the child data and creating a program to prevent child death and child violation, and also giving support to improve the capacity development. Meanwhile, in the enforcement and normative approach,

UNICEF is not giving sanction and not control over the information by the international organization itself.

1.7 Provisional Argument

Based on the concept of the role of international organizations according to Jutta Joachim, UNICEF is trying to tackle the problem of child labor in 2013-2015 through a managerial approach. It is important for UNICEF to be able to implement these things because of their strength from a managerial perspective. The managerial perspective can help with this issue because this perspective has a basis for offering assistance in terms of financial, administrative, and technical. This approach is transparent and manageable in addressing the problem of child labour. Moreover, UNICEF has a role in forming partnerships with other international organizations such as the ILO. This transparency can be seen in how UNICEF reports on activities, programs implemented and assistance provided annually to Bangladesh. The report can be accessed by anyone through the official UNICEF platform. UNICEF is also active in providing information about the latest activities or inviting the world community to help donate through their social media. Another form of this approach is to help capacity building through outreach to the people of Bangladesh. Therefore, the author using the managerial approach because in this perspective UNICEF deliver monitoring and assist in improving the capacity development and also provide assistance for problem solving by creating programs to prevent child labor. UNICEF is an actor that involve in problems of child labor Bangladesh because of the burden by the Bangladesh Government, it need assist and help from other parties.

1.8 Research Method

1.8.1 Type of the Research

In this research, the researcher chose to use descriptive qualitative research method. The descriptive method is a problem-solving procedure that is investigated by describing the condition of the subject or research object. The researcher incorporates this method of qualitative analysis in the study the researcher carries in. That is where the results produced are optimal and more practical with this approach. This qualitative research helps the researcher to identify the data that is important to research, as it is flexible or changes from time to time in social science itself so the use of quality study in this research is the right option.

1.8.2 Subject and Object of the Research

In a research, it is important to consider the topic and the subject in the research to make the research easier for the readers to understand. The subject of this research is the child labor policy in Bangladesh in this research. The object of this research is UNICEF as an international organization in Bangladesh, to find out exactly how the policies are implemented.

1.8.3 Method of the Data Collection

The researcher will look for the data from reliable sources when trying to find the literature-based research data, etc. which is used in secondary sources, such as college textbooks, publications, diaries, or newspapers. The selected

secondary sources are often based on the media or publisher's reputation and integrity and their association with the subject under research.

1.8.4 Process of the Research

In this research, the method of collecting data will be carried out through a data selection process focused on a responsible sources. If it is in line with the research goals or if it has a valid source, the data collected will be chosen. Moreover, the selected data must be in line with the research objectives so that the problem formulation of this research can be resolved.

1.9 Thesis Outline

This study will analyze the role of UNICEF in tackling the problem of child labor in Bangladesh in the fast fashion industry in 2013-2016. This research consists of 4 chapters with several sub-chapters in it. The following is the arrangement of the discussion:

CHAPTER 1 : BACKGROUND

The introductory chapter discusses the background of the problem, problem formulation, research objectives, research significance, research scope, literature review, theoretical basis, and research methods. In the research methods, there are several sub-chapters such as types of research, research subjects and objects, data collection methods, and data collection processes.

CHAPTER 2 : UNDERSTANDING OF THE CHILD LABOR ISSUE IN BANGLADESH

This chapter will discuss the issue of Bangladesh child labor in garment industry. It explaining how Bangladesh laws and policies influence the

child labor issue in Bangladesh. In addition, it will discuss further about UNICEF in Bangladesh.

CHAPTER 3 : UNICEF IN TACKLING THE PROBLEM OF CHILD LABOR IN BANGLADESH

This chapter contains a deeper analysis of how UNICEF's role in tackling the cases of child labor that occurred in Bangladesh in (2013-2016). Researcher find the three approaches in the concept of implementation in international organizations. UNICEF adopts a managerial approach that carried out through cooperation and agreements admitted by UNICEF.

CHAPTER II

UNDERSTANDING OF THE CHILD LABOR ISSUE IN BANGLADESH

This chapter will discuss the issue of child labor in Bangladesh. This chapter is really necessary in this research to analyze the role of UNICEF in tackling child labor in Bangladesh. Previously, this chapter explains how child labor in garment industry in Bangladesh. Then it is followed by the explanation on how the policies and laws in Bangladesh regarding the rules and government bodies concerning child protection. Furthermore, it will explain how UNICEF work in Bangladesh.

2.1. Child Labor Issue in Bangladesh

Fast fashion has emerged as a business that creates the latest fashion style and increases garment consumption. With the rise of globalization, the supply chain spread widely to international markets. Globally, almost 80 billion products have been purchased. Bangladesh's economy depends heavily on the apparel sector. Clothing, footwear, and other goods made up around 17.6 billion euros (\$17.6 billion) of the nation's total commodity exports in 2013–14 (Theuws and Sandjojo 2017). The peak of fast fashion in Bangladesh has successfully grown their economy since the last time between 1990-2005 with an increased rate of 19%. Bangladesh has been successful in growing its economy through imports and exports, creating a fast fashion industry as a result. Fast fashion also creates employment opportunities for the children and women. Fast fashion raises employment with low wages, existing opportunities pave the way for children and women to work even with low wages. In that way, fast fashion continues to produce products without considering that the workers are women, especially

children. The owners of garment products also prefer to employ children because the wages are cheaper and the children are easier to control. The total number of child labor in 2013 is out of 1.70 million child labor, which highlights the highest number of child was in the age group 14-17 years in 1,208,620.

Table 2. Bangladesh Child Labor by Age Group 2013

Child Labor by Age Group	Total
Children age 5 years	19,320
Children age 6-11 years	432,188
Children age 12-13 years	38,766
Children age 14-17 years	1,208,620

Source : (“BANGLADESH BUREAU OF STATISTICS” 2015)

The issue with child labor is that, while they work to support their families financially, they also face the risk of exploitation and abuse. Children are more usually victimized at work than the adult employees. This expansion is concerning because it might deprive certain children of their rights and expose them to the possibility of suffering not only mental trauma but also physical trauma. According to the Overseas Development Institute (ODI), 2,700 children 32% of children between the ages of 10 and 14 living in the slum settlements of Dhaka were not attending school and working full-time in textile factories such as fast fashion (Bhalla 2016). Considering 99% of child domestic employees work seven days a week for an average of nine hours each day, it appears that practically all of them engage in dangerous employment (Norpoth, Groß, and Aktar 2014). Twelve percent of the children said that the company owners had abused them, and almost half mentioned that they experienced health issues. The verbal aspect of this torture was not an exception.

Most of the time the children are directly employed by the company owners, despite when there is violence at work, the business owners don't care

about the situation at all. As an example of a case that occurred in Bangladesh, in 2016, Sagar Barman (10) was one of the children who was abused to death at his workplace. Sagar, who works in a textile factory, gets abused by his co-workers. Sagar passes away while being taken to a hospital due to his serious injuries. An angry senior coworker is accused of torturing the child by forcing an air compressor into the child's rectum; that was claimed to have caused the injuries. The police are still investigating the factory manager and owner, who have been missing since the child died, and are pursued on accusations of hiring minors. Unfortunately, Sagar's murder shows that punishment is not enough to solve this problem (*The Guardian* 2016).

This case is just one of the worst incidents that happened at the workplace in the fast fashion industry. Based on (*Child Labour Survey Bangladesh 2013* 2015) child workers reported, the violence such as shouting 17.1% and 21.6% reported being beaten and sexually abused, either by their co-worker or the owner of the garment industry. However, it is not only the violence that happens but also the workplace environment which is dangerous for children, such as dangerous heavy tools. This is because most children work illegally and also in an unwritten or contract agreement. Therefore, most owners treat child workers indiscriminately. Moreover, most of the existing laws regarding child labor are still incomplete, and lack specificity regarding existing regulations.

The condition of children working in Bangladesh is currently very apprehensive, but this is due to many factors such as poverty. In Bangladesh, 67 percent of children work because their families are suffering economically, whether it's to provide labor for pay to increase household earnings or to work at

home so that parents may get outside and work (Aktar and Abdullah 2013). The lack of education for parents and children, some parents ignore taking to pay attention to their children's needs in terms of health and education. Parents also fail to comprehend that placing their children in the workplace without an educational background or even basic learning will prevent them from giving them the opportunity to know how to get paid according to the minimum salary work when they're too young. Then, in child labor own family environment is where working children are normal things. Most parents believe that employing children is a necessary decision as a consequence of the local environment. For illustration, when parents look at the children of their neighbors, they realize that their own children must work as well. Whereas if parents' children are not employed or working, it will be considered unpleasant, and the parents may feel worried. In contrast to the previous factors, there are further factors that lead to child labor, such as internal migration within the nation, where many parents suffer a serious financial crisis that also forces their children to work for sensible regulations (DE Mesquita and de Farias Souza 2018). Child labor in Bangladesh is a significant concern for at least two reasons. The first one is that child labor is common in Bangladesh. Nine to eleven percent of the workforce in 2000 was engaged in child labor. From 5.4 to 7.9 million children, or around 1 in 5 of all children aged 5 to 14 years old, are actively employed. Child labor in Bangladesh has recently been the topic of several articles. According to the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, children between the ages of 5 and 14 who were found to be working during the research, reference time are considered child laborers (Salmon 2005). Most of the child laborers works in the informal sector, mostly are those

who work in agriculture and related industries like logistics and poultry and fish drying production. The employment of children has long-lasting bad consequences on their physical, moral, mental, and economic well-being as part of the larger issue of child welfare (Aktar and Abdullah 2013).

Second, what affects the condition of child labor was that most children don't really attend school. More than 68% of children aged 6 to 14 attend school. Almost all of these children (14%) are 'actually working' rather than combining education and work (Quattri and Watkins 2019). Child laborers are unable to attend school due to their long working hours, and children prefer to work since they are paid rather than attend school. There are also many children who are unable to follow the course of school activities, and the children's lack of interest in school is the cause for the child ultimately dropping out of school (Zaman, Matin, and Gholam Kibria 2014). This is why they continue to have poor education as adults and become a factor in inherited child labor. It is very painful if there are still many children who prefer to work rather than continue their education.

Regardless of the law, Bangladesh's laws provide relatively minimal protection for children. There is a lack of consistency among the policies that generally forbid child labor or establish a minimum age for work. Currently, based on the sector, the legal minimum age for work ranges from 12 to 16 years old. More than 5% of the world's working child population is in Bangladesh (*The New Nation* 2004). Besides, South Asia, which includes India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Srilanka, and Bangladesh, remains a child labor hotspot ("World Bank" 2004). There is a lack in adopting solutions to the issue. However, the

constitution appropriately addresses this. Instead of explicitly banning child labor, these provide a framework of laws for the employment of children. Because of this, it is challenging to establish the exact incidence of child labor and nearly impossible to take legal measures to protect children from exploitation.

Since the issue of child labor in Bangladesh has not yet been rectified, it can be considered that it is a significant concern. Especially because it affects on the rights of child labor. However, in perspective of this issue, it must consider what the government is undertaking to assist and be responsible, and this especially on the policies that have been created but have not been implemented properly. Furthermore, there are still many children who are overworked but do not receive a fair wage. The children are treated indiscriminately in this approach, despite of whether it is proper to act this way. Unfortunately, there is no solution to this issue. As a result, the causal effect of child labor should be approached with caution. After controlling for the endogeneity of hours worked by children, the intensity of injury or sickness increases with the number of hours worked in various industries. It's a shame that children have to suffer the consequences of their work.

2.2 The Laws and Policies in Bangladesh Regarding Child Labor

The government of Bangladesh has taken action in this regard to tackle the problem of child labor that now is still a global concern recently. In cooperation with the international and national NGOs, the Bangladeshi government announced a National Action Plan at the initiative of the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, which involved 14 ministries and divisions (Sarker and Panday 2006). Then, the Bangladesh government also funded the "Eradication of

Hazardous Child Labor in Bangladesh" project through the Annual Development Program (ADP) worth 9 million US dollars for a period of 3 years with a target of withdrawing 50,000 children through non-formal education and skill development training ("Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh" 2012). In taking the action to deal with the problem of child labor, the government of Bangladesh is more involved by supporting the cooperation programs such as with the ILO and UNICEF.

Regarding the problem of child labor which is still an international issue today, the government and several international organizations have made agreements and policies that regulate child labor issues. The following are some of the existing policies and the results of these policies.

a. Bangladesh Labour Act, 2006

Bangladesh enacted the Labor Act in 2006 used to addressing child labor in Bangladesh, which includes a chapter on child labor. In 2006, Bangladesh passed the work Act, which included a section against child work. The law prevents the employment of children under the age of fourteen and dangerous kinds of child labor for those under the age of eighteen. However, children 12 and older can engage in light work as long as it does not endanger their physical or mental growth or interfere with their schooling. The regulations and principles of child work that are allowed and forbidden are mentioned in the regulations governing Bangladesh Child Labor in 2006. The law stipulates that the minimum age for employment in any occupation or business is 14 years. Sections 39, 40, and 42 of the new law indicate several activities which strictly prohibit the

employment of children aged 14-17 years, however, the 2006 law somehow doesn't provide a strong enforcement mechanism for child labor provisions. The law does not contain a comprehensive list of forms of hazardous work. In addition, most children work in the informal sector which makes enforcement of relevant laws difficult (“Bangladesh Labour Act” 2006).

b. Children Act

The Bangladesh government also provide a policy to addressing the child labor in Bangladesh. The national legal framework for child labour is complemented by the new Children Act which was enacted in 2013. It replaces the old Children Act 1974. This act regulates the employment of children in certain industrial employments called the Employment to the Children Act, 1938 but modified to the Children act 1974. This Act also imposes penalties on those who exploit child employees. It provides that whosoever secures a child ostensibly for the purpose of menial employment or for labor in a factory or establishment, but exploits the child for his own ends, with holds his earnings or lives on it, shall be punishable with fine or imprisonment or with both (“The Children Act, 1974” 1974). However, it can only be achieved if the government really implements these mechanisms and if the relevant institutions can and do properly carry out their intention. The implementation of these efforts and roles, Bangladesh has not yet maximized the implementation of policies

c. National Child Labour Elimination Policy 2010

The policy will slowly but surely incorporate existing legislation relating to children and child labor, and these regulations and laws will be used as standard determinants and instruments when creating new laws and regulations on children and child labor issues in the government and industry. Through cooperation from UNICEF, ILO-IPEC, save the children, and other child labor-related partners, a National Plan of Action has been prepared to carry forward the National Child Labor Elimination Policy of 2010. The goal of the policy is to establish an environment where children have protection from exploitation and can protect their rights for education, health, and general well-being. The policy provides norms and approaches to address the issue of child labor properly. These strategic areas include :

- Policy implementation and institutional development, education, health and nutrition,
- Social awareness raising and motivation, ensuring the cooperation amongst the relevant parties working to protect the well-being of working children.
- Legislation enforcement employment, Adopting practical legislation and improve institutional enforcement capabilities, educating parents, the neighborhood, and civic society on the negative effects of child work. To create child labor prevention, child laborer safety, training, monitoring, and evaluation. This policy is still on monitoring and in evaluation of the implementation (“National Child Labour Elimination Policy 2010:” 2010).

d. ILO Minimum Age Convention 138 (C138), 1973

The International Labour Organization ratified the Convention Concerning Minimum Age for Admission to Employment in 1973. Article 2 of this convention sets the minimum age as 15 years old and that no one under that age may be admitted to employment or do any sort of employment. Article 3 further stated that a person must be at least 18 years old to engage in hazardous work that might endanger their health, safety, or ethics. However, this convention has not been ratified by Bangladesh yet (“C138 - Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138)” 1973)

In the implementation of the existing policies in Bangladesh, there are practical results in promoting the elimination of child labor effectively, for example, the Bangladesh Employers Federation (BEF) actively supported the ILO to implement the International Program on the Elimination of Child Labor (IPEC) during the 10 year period 1995-2005, which was successful eliminating child labor in the Ready-made Garments sector in Bangladesh (“Government of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh” 2012).

However, in its implementation, the government of Bangladesh still has many weaknesses and still has many challenges in implementing existing policies. The Ministry of Women and Children Affairs and the Ministry of Labor and Employment tend to discuss and assign responsibilities among themselves, which results in a delay in processing. Legislation related to child labor is proper to prevent, but it is inappropriate if the relevant laws are not put into practice. Afterward, according to the government, the implementing authorities address the difficulties in terms of effective monitoring and implementation to address the

large informal sector where child labor is inevitably engaged, given the full range of socio-economic conditions in Bangladesh, particularly the limitations lying with manpower and resource constraints. Meanwhile, Bangladesh has not ratified the ILO Minimum Age Convention 138 (C138) policy yet until 2015. Bangladesh will need more time to ratify C.138 after realizing the situation on the ground. Due to this, legal procedures must be followed, and law enforcement agency engagement is essential (2018).

2.3 International Organization Role in Bangladesh Child Labor Issue

International organizations have significant influence in determining a purpose that implemented in all countries around the world. UNICEF is an international humanitarian organization under the responsibility of the United Nations (UN) who is established as part of the UN system and has the responsibility to carry out humanitarian activities including poverty, discrimination, child marriage, child refugees, child labor, children's abuse, and others. UNICEF works to provide supports for women and children, also recommends development programs to address their rights. UNICEF takes any concerns about children and women as part of their responsibilities. Therefore, their goal is to educate the children and women in order to protect them from all sorts of abuse.

Bangladesh is one of a country that has a large number of child labor, until today child labor issue in Bangladesh still occurs. Previously, before the child labor issue in Bangladesh, UNICEF has been worked to help prevent child death, abuse, violence, exploitation and education for children. UNICEF collaborates

with Bangladesh for the first time to treat refugee children suffering from cholera disease during Bangladesh's Liberation War in 1971, from there on UNICEF ratifies conventions such as the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) on 26 January 1990 and approves the Children Act 2013 (“UNICEF in Bangladesh,” n.d.). UNICEF continued to work with non-governmental organization to respond the children needs.

UNICEF provides strategic advocacy and technical assistance to support the implementation of the 2013 Children Act to give protection of children and adolescents. UNICEF in implementing the 2013 Children Act it provides a thorough legal framework for the defense against and addressing of child exploitation, abuse, and violence including child labor. UNICEF promotes a multisectoral approach to ending child labour which includes programming across education, social protection and child protection. UNICEF has signed an agreement with the Bangladesh Supreme Court to advance the implementation of the Children Act (“Towards Justice for Children” 2017). UNICEF are also encouraged to work with the government partners to achieve Sustainable Development Goals targets in child nutrition, the empowerment of women, education, refugees, employment standards and health care. With the goal to ensure every child in Bangladesh has a better life to thrive and can develop their potential.

CHAPTER III

UNICEF IN TACKLING THE PROBLEM OF CHILD LABOR IN BANGLADESH

This chapter will discuss the analysis of UNICEF's role in tackling child labor in Bangladesh by implementing the concept of international organizations. In implementing the role of international organizations, UNICEF uses a managerial approach that is carried out through cooperation and agreements from UNICEF. According to Joachim (Jutta Joachim, Bob Reinalda, and Bertjan Verbeek 2008) there are several managerial approaches, namely, monitoring, capacity building, and problem solving. As a result, this chapter will analyze the role of UNICEF in tackling child labor in Bangladesh using these three methods.

3.1. Monitoring

One of the roles used by international organizations in managerial approaches is monitoring. The form of this monitoring is to build a supervisory body that is directly capable of supervising all related state activities. UNICEF as an international organization does not only straight managing the concerned countries, but UNICEF also works with the government through government reports. Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics is one of the reports from the government of Bangladesh. Through these reports, UNICEF can see the urgent needs related to children. The report made by the government also helps in seeing the rise and fall of child labor in urban and rural areas and hazardous workplaces. UNICEF works closely with the governments to develop and support a social service workforce. UNICEF and Bangladesh Government collaborates with policies, laws, regulatory frameworks, and human resources that strengthen the workforce

while aligning sectors to leverage local knowledge and support to train the social service workers.

Various cases of child labor reported are further involved other ministries because in every case underage children are included, with the fact that they are still under the charge. Bangladesh creates a number of programs under the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MOWCA) for the advance of women and children as well as women's empowerment, equality, protection, and protection rights. The Ministry of Women and Children Affairs develops further initiatives to address the issue of child labor in Bangladesh collaboration with other international organizations. As a result, MOWCA constantly monitors the programs created in reviewing reports on the advance of child labor statistics through E-monitoring. This ministry still places more of emphasis on the needs of women.

In 2016 with the support in creating a survey program from UNICEF, Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) created the 2016 Child Well-Being Survey to evaluate the welfare condition of children in urban areas of Bangladesh in terms of the child access to water and sanitation, nutrition, health, and education. Rapid urbanization has resulted for high demand for housing, expansion of slums, and pressure on urban services in urban centers. It is known that one-third of the City Corporation's population lives in slums, where the high mass population and poor environmental conditions emerge. UNICEF uses this data in order to comprehend the amount of child labor throughout different industries and the number of children employed in every region. Knowing the risk that urban child

and their family suffers considering to live in slum areas is important (UNICEF 2016).

The advantage of the collaboration with the internationals, UNICEF deliver many programs for the countries. As an international organization, UNICEF has child reports that show the level of child welfare in Bangladesh in terms of nutrition, health, education, protection, and access to water and sanitation. The data reported are the chosen indicators to examine a minimal number of overall average instances to generate an estimate at the divisional level. Furthermore, with this UNICEF as an international agency develop into an advocate to guarantee that these children achieve their rights in proper way.

The goal of UNICEF for Bangladesh is to address child labor by collaborating with different parties with target to address the exploitation of Bangladeshi children. In addition, in various issues related to child marriage and child labor, UNICEF moreover tackle the issue of children to achieve their proper rights. As a global organization, UNICEF's mission is to implement the programs by providing support and considering many factors to ensure that children have their rights.

3.2. Capacity Building

In the case of child labor in Bangladesh itself, there are needs to be a role from Bangladesh. UNICEF also provides assistance in the form of country capacity building. Several strategies have the ability to build the country capacity. A country's capacity may be developed in many ways, starting with the development of an academic environment, a social system, an economic improvement system, or a legal system that needs to be implemented.

Many child workers are the victims of human trafficking. A number of child trafficking practices involve the closest people. They actually play a role in immersing the victim. The mode of involving close people often arises in the case of child migrant workers who are employed abroad. Therefore, in 2014 UNICEF together with the Ministry of Home Affairs provided 269 police officers, 267 Bangladesh Border Guard officers and 6 members of the Coast Guard received training in conducting interviews with children. This is the number of investigators tasked with enforcing the rules against the worst types of child labor. It's impossible to know how many investigations, prosecutions, convictions, or sentences have been issued. According to the reports, the police anti-trafficking unit is understaffed and underfunded, which makes it ill-equipped to deal with incidents of child trafficking, forced child labor, and commercial sexual exploitation of children. The district court judge will decide whether to press charges in the situations involving the worst types of child labor after being referred by the Bangladesh Police. However, the Child Protection Network or other child welfare service providers are not officially referred by the police to the children involved in the worst types of child labor. Through informal means, the Bangladesh Police can recommend NGOs to the victims of trafficking who need protection and social services (“2014 FINDINGS ON THE WORST FORMS OF CHILD LABOR-BANGLADESH” 2014).

Millions of Bangladeshi children are subjected to violence, abuse and exploitation, often at the hands of those who are supposed to look after them. Children themselves are urged by UNICEF to seek high-quality professional assistance and report acts of violence. In 2015, with the supports from UNICEF,

MSW (Ministry of Social Welfare) established Child Helpline 1098, a national toll-free number. The 1098 Children Helpline allows anonymous report and support. To stop and respond to violence, neglect, and exploitation of children, UNICEF is working to build a comprehensive national child protection system. The 1098 Child Helpline implemented by MSW and supported by UNICEF is a 24-hour emergency telephone line linking children with social protection agencies who are at risk of assault, abuse and exploitation, available nationwide in 2016 (2022).

3.3. Problem Solving

In carrying out its mission in Bangladesh, UNICEF as an international organization works by providing assistance in the form of technical and service. There have been various efforts made by UNICEF as an international organization in dealing with fighting for children's rights. To tackle the issue of child labor in Bangladesh and prevent abuse, violence, and exploitation of children, UNICEF has worked on a number of programs. In the interests of empowering hope and preventing exploitation, UNICEF has developed projects and programs to eliminate Bangladeshi child laborers. This shows the significant impact that UNICEF's programs and policies have on children. Some of the programs in question are as follows.

In this case, UNICEF as an international organization does not only cooperate with countries but also cooperates with various other international organizations. The cooperation carried out by UNICEF is part of UNICEF's efforts as an international organization in carrying out its values and functions.

This encourages the trust of the world's governments to trust UNICEF in carrying out its programs. The Government of Bangladesh places trust in UNICEF in running programs related to child labor due to various factors; one of which is collaboration with various companies. The South Asia Child Group (SACG) is an inter-agency cooperation involving UN agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and other organizations working on child safety and rights in the area. SACG stands for South Asian Coordination Collaboration for Action Against Violence Against Children, including Bangladesh. UNICEF as a chair in 2015-2016, TdH, World Vision Asia, ILO, UNFPA, Plan, Save the Children, SOS Children's Villages International, and Child Helpline are some of the organizations working with this cooperation. UNICEF collaborates with the South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children (SAIEVAC), National Action and Coordinating Groups Against Violence Against Children (NACGs), and others to eliminate all kinds of violence against children in South Asia. The focus of TdH's operations in Bangladesh is on young people's rights to sexual and reproductive health as well as child trafficking, child migration, and child exploitation (Browne 2017).

The Bangladeshi the Ministry of Social Work (MSW), and the Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs (MWCA) cooperated with UNICEF in implementing the Bangladesh Urban Social Protection Initiative to Reach the Unreachable and Invisible and Ending Child Labor (2012–2016). The initiative aims to promote the welfare and growth of children and their families by strengthening the nation's social protection structures. This is a 5-year project that provided referral services, conditional cash transfers and employment training,

and social protection services for 500,000 children and 30,000 adolescents. (“2016 FINDINGS ON THE WORST FORMS OF CHILD LABOR” 2017). The goals of the initiative were to address the problem of child labor in urban areas and enhance the social protection provided to those in need, especially children. It also reaches the most vulnerable children and families which still has deficiencies, for example, children from low-income families who depend on child labor for income or who cannot afford school supplies are still more likely to not enroll, attend school less frequently, and drop out early (Winder and Yablonski 2012).

The Social Protection Initiative for Vulnerable Children held in Urban Areas in Bangladesh. Through the collaboration with UNICEF along with other partner organizations, the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs is carrying forward the project. In collaboration with UNICEF, the International Labor Organization (ILO), and the Government of Bangladesh are implementing this project. To achieve the Sustainable Development Goal Target no. 4 which is the quality of education, this is for the eradication of child labor by 2025. Under UNICEF's child protection policy, there should be a protective environment, where girls and boys are free from abuse, exploitation, and needless separation from family, and where laws, services, behaviors, and practices reduce children's vulnerability and address recognized risk factors. Also, to put towards education and a sustainable means of income generation, two yearly installments of Taka 9,000 installments are given to the child's caregiver. The Female Secondary School Stipend Program (FSSSP) is also included in the social protection project. FSSSP functions as the role of social protection in reducing vulnerability among adolescent girls. With the goal of increasing female secondary school enrollment

and reducing gender disparities in education, this was launched in 1994. The FSSSP has been significant in increasing girls' secondary school enrollment as well as retention rates in Bangladesh (Winder and Yablonski 2012).

The Third Primary Education Development Program (PEDP3) in Bangladesh was a government-led initiative implemented from 2012 to 2017, supported by World Bank, UNICEF. Bangladesh's Third Primary Education Development program (PEDP3) was a government-led effort that went on to be carried out from 2012 to 2017 with support from the World Bank and UNICEF. All primary-aged students will receive high-quality education as a result of this initiative. Several projects were managed and funded individually by the development partners as part of PEDP-1 (1997–2003). In order to provide quality primary education, the government and the development partners agreed to follow the sector-wide approach principles. With the Directorate of Primary Education (DPE), the Second Primary Education Development Program (PEDP-II, 2004–2011) was started to establish a coordinated and integrated sub-sector program. The first program in the education industry to include certain SWAp design ideas is PEDP-II. The third in the series of significant investment programs in the primary education sector, PEDP-3 includes the whole budget for primary education (both non-development and development). The whole primary education subsector is included by the PEDP-3's scope of operation.

Children aged 8 to 14 who have no formal education in school were the target audience for the Ability Based Accelerated Learning (ABAL) Package. The program is in line with the National Curriculum and Text Book Board's current non-formal basic education and formal primary school curricula. Children can

take the official primary completion test using this method at the conclusion of the primary cycle to receive a certificate allowing them to move on to the next level of school. The PEDP3 in Bangladesh was in line with the nation's commitments to Education for All (EFA) and the education-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It aimed to solve the issues in elementary education and build a solid foundation for children's future growth and learning. One of the flagship initiatives, “Each Child Learns” initially approach in 2015 was piloted 10 government primary schools under Dhaka district and gradually piloted in 980 government primary schools. A total of 1,500 elementary schools will be serviced by year five (2015–16). By the end of the program time, the connections with the Primary Education Completion Examination (PECE) and the National Student Assessment will be made. It aimed to address the issues in elementary education and build a solid foundation for children's future growth and learning (“Third Primary Education Development Program (PEDP-3) - Revised” 2015).

In May 2015, UNICEF and BRAC International formed a three-year cooperation to support Communication for Development programs for inclusive education. These kinds of initiatives support related to access to school and high-quality learning outcomes for children from all backgrounds by minimizing negative norms in society and supporting the participation of marginalized children (“Annual Report 2015” 2016). The main focused areas consist of water and environmental sanitation, health and nutrition, child protection, education, and health. Both formal and non-formal schools are part of BRAC’s comprehensive educational program. It focuses on providing children, in particular those who have underprivileged households, and access to high-quality

elementary education. To address social issues and enhance human rights, BRAC conducts an active role in social development and advocacy initiatives. It supports disability rights, social inclusion, human trafficking prevention, and child protection. BRAC further collaborates with national and international stakeholders to determine policies and achieve sustainable development (“BRAC in Bangladesh,” n.d.).

In 2015 UNICEF and the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MWCA) launched a pilot initiative, Enabling Environment for Child Rights initiative, street children engaged in dangerous occupations can be rehabilitated. At the national, regional, and international levels, UNICEF has been working to enhance child-sensitive social protection, including cash transfers. 16,000 children in 20 locations will receive monetary support. In order to assist more than 500 children living in Dhaka's slums, the organization launched a trial initiative in 2015 (“2015 Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor - Bangladesh” 2016).

Enabling Environment for Child Rights in Bangladesh refers to efforts and initiatives aimed at creating a supportive and conducive environment for the realization and protection of children's rights. The project, which has received funding from UNICEF, project titled Enabling Environment for Child Rights and is being implemented by the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs. This initiative also promotes family-based care choices so that the children, especially orphans or those without parental guidance, can remain with extended family members. The funds are given to ensure that parents invest in income-generating projects so they may raise their financial capacity to support the child's education,

boost their purchasing power, and generally improve their quality of life (“Underprivileged Children to Receive Cash Assistance through Mobile” 2015).

3.4. The Influence of UNICEF in Bangladesh Child Labor issue

Through UNICEF support with some programs, child labor in Bangladesh has developed a mandate to have a positive impact. The existence and support from UNICEF have a beneficial impact on Bangladeshi families, children, and the adolescents. As an effort in the responsibility to prevent the children's rights issue, to cover the child education, child protection, social welfare, health, and nutrition, financial and counseling support were given. Therefore, from 2013 to 2016, as a result through the programs that have been implemented, the number of Bangladesh child labor has decrease and the number of children attending school has increase. In 2013, the number of child laborers aged 5 to 14 years was 3.7 million or 10.1% of the total child population in Bangladesh. In 2016, the number of child workers aged 5 to 14 years was 1.3 million or 4.3% of the total child population in Bangladesh. Furthermore, the number of children attending school at the age of 5 to 14 years in 2013 was 81.2%. Moreover, the number of children attending school aged 5 to 14 years in 2016 was 89.4% (“2016 FINDINGS ON THE WORST FORMS OF CHILD LABOR” 2017).

One of the progresses that indicate through the UNICEF cooperation with Bangladesh Ministry of Social Welfare is that the National Helpline 1098 becomes a valuable resource for women and children. According to the helpline center, 7 lakh 64 thousand 25 calls were sent between June 2012 and February 2018, out of 33 thousand 468 for legal guidance, 4 thousand 262 for counseling,

and 1 thousand 735 were for health services (Jahan 2020). Particularly, the people who called are seeking for an advice and support to avoid child marriage and other sort of abuse, including physically, verbal, and mentally.

Due to the high numbers of violence against child labor which have left many children in suffering and traumatized, the development can be seen in the following year in 2017. It was reported that 103,917 children who experienced trauma receive psychological support through child protection programs. Along with the case procedures 1,825 unaccompanied and left children were found and provided with services (“Bangladesh UNICEF Annual Report 2017” 2017). Although in the recent years UNICEF adopted an increasingly robust framework for combating child labor, UNICEF still needs to improve its policies and programs in tackling Bangladesh child labor.

CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION

4.1 Conclusion

Bangladesh is one of the countries that made manufacture in a garment industry such as fast fashion. As a poor country, Bangladesh has a very large number of child labor. On the other hand, this is a problem due to a lot of incidents such as workplace accidents and workplace violence that happen to child labor in Bangladesh, especially in garment industries. UNICEF as the humanitarian organization has many contributions in overcoming the issue of child labor in Bangladesh in 2013 - 2016. Based on the perspective of international organizations according to Joachim, UNICEF implement three roles, which is monitoring, capacity building, and problem solving. In this case, UNICEF is working with international and national organizations with different types of program efforts that giving a positive impact to every sector in child labor in Bangladesh.

UNICEF cooperate with the Bangladesh Government, The Ministry of Women and Children Affairs in monitoring through the Child Well-Being Survey in 2016. Through this report, UNICEF can monitor and using this data to see the development of child labor in urban areas in Bangladesh. With the evidence from the UNICEF support in Child Well Being Survey 2016, these programs help tackling inequality and also develop urban equity through analysis of governance gaps to advocacy and generate evidence to improve policies and strengthen urban governance institutions.

Furthermore, UNICEF improves the capacity of Bangladesh through some training and child protection strategies to raise community awareness. UNICEF creates child protection strategy by providing a child helpline 1098. Through this child helpline, children and women can report crimes they experienced. With the existence of a child helpline in Bangladesh, it is hoped that this will stop the child exploitation and respond to violence. Additionally, UNICEF with the Ministry of Home Affairs also provided assistance by providing police officers, Bangladesh Border Guard officers to receive training in conducting interviews with children.

Last, UNICEF also provides program support in several sector such as child violence, education, and health. Through working with other international organizations, UNICEF creates programs with a positive impact on child labor in Bangladesh. It can be seen that UNICEF can prove its role through the efforts to protect child labor from workplace accidents and violence in Bangladesh. Therefore, it can be concluded that the policies and programs supported by UNICEF are quite successful in tackling child labor in Bangladesh in 2013-2016. Even it only has an insignificant progress, UNICEF can enhance the issue of child labor in Bangladesh.

4.2 Recommendation

Based on the explanation above, we can see that this research still has many weaknesses and limitations. This research only focuses on discussing programs that support by UNICEF in child labor issue in Bangladesh, therefore it is suggested for further research to discuss more about the effectiveness of UNICEF's role in child labor. In this study, the researcher has not discussed the difficulties that challenged UNICEF. Therefore, the authors recommend further

research to add to the difficulties faced by UNICEF in tackling the issue of child labor in Bangladesh.

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