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### CHILD LABOR IN PALEMBANG

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#### Abstract

This research explains the effects of gender, parents' education, parent's income, the number of siblings, childbirth order, the presence of parents and patriarchal kinship system on the probability of child labor in Palembang. This study, especially, investigates the probability of children age 7-15 years old to be a worker. It is found that factors that significantly affect child labor are gender, the number of siblings, childbirth order, the presence of parents and patriarchal system. However, parents' education and income are found to be insignificant in affecting the probability of child labor in Palembang.

**Keywords:** Child Labor, Palembang, Probability

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#### 1. Introduction

Child labor phenomenon is an inevitable problem faced by many countries especially in developing countries. Indonesia's labor market is marked by the existence of child labor; however, there is no comprehensive data on the characteristics of these labors especially children age 5-17 years old. To meet with the urgent need of accurate data and information on socio-economy of child labor characteristics, International Labor Organization in collaboration with Central Bureau Statistics published a report 'Child Labor in Indonesia 2009' which contains findings from Indonesia's Child Labor Survey. It is found that there is high number of child labor under the age of 15 years old in Indonesia while more than two-third of young people entering the work force only have the provision of basic education or below. Furthermore, 2.3 million children age 7-14 years old are found to be child labors.

Dottridge and Stuart (2005) explain that children tend to be easily intimidated since they are economically dependent, either for food or shelter and sometimes also for emotional

support. Employers prefer to employ children since they are manage able, cheap and easily recruited.

Furthermore, Vavir (2009) explains that children work due to the development gap. In the condition that forces children to work, employers and parents need to pay attention to the rights and protection. The limited study and attention on child labor in Indonesia especially in Palembang, gives contribution to the fate of child labor. The condition faced by the child labor and the responsibility to gives contribution to the families' interest this research to examine this phenomenon.

## **2. Problem Formulation**

Based on the previous explanation, this research tries to answer the following question:

- How are gender, parents' education, parent's income, the number of siblings, childbirth order, the presence of parents and patriarchal kinship system affecting the probability of child labor in Palembang?

## **3. Research Objective**

Therefore, the objective of this research is to find out the effects of gender, parents' education, parent's income, the number of siblings, childbirth order, the presence of parents and patriarchal kinship system on the probability of child labor in Palembang.

## **4. Research Benefit**

This research is the extension of New Home Economics and Household Survival Strategy Theories which gives new insight to the research field academically and also for the future research. Furthermore, practically, this research is expected to give information on the effects of gender, parents' education, parent's income, the number of siblings, childbirth order, the presence of parents and patriarchal kinship system on the probability of child labor in Palembang. This will be helpful for the government and employers in decision making with regards to child labor.

## **5. Literature Review**

### **5.1. New Home Economics Theory**

In the concept of New Home Economics (Ananta, 1990) the term 'household' is used to distinguish the activities of 'market' (labor market). Becker's work (1965) can develop new concepts that are not addressed in traditional economic theory, for example: household production function, household commodity, household time, and full income.

Becker (1965) explains New Home Economics as a part of economic theory related to household behavior theory (individual) that tries to meet its satisfaction. Maximum satisfaction is analyzed based on the household consumption on commodity (products and services) to gain desirable satisfaction level.

### **5.2. Household Survival Strategy Theory (Maintaining Household Survival Strategy)**

Child labor phenomenon is associated with household survival strategy theory. This theory states that if economic condition changes or worsen, families from poor communities will utilize the available resources (Mahbubah in Susanto, 2003). One of the ways that often done in order to sustain life is by using family labor, however, if the adult labors have been absorbed in various work sectors, family usually involve their children to work.

### **5.3. Economic Value of Children Theory**

This theory is proposed by Leibenstein (Ware, 1978), which states, the decision to have children is based on the benefits and cost of children approach. Generally, children have benefits, such as: (1) The child itself (the satisfaction and pride value); (2) As a source of labor/ source of income in the future; (3) As a guarantee for elderly parents. Meanwhile, the costs spent in caring the children include: (1) Pregnancy cost; (2) Delivery cost; (3) Consumption cost; (4) Education, health, recreation and other costs.

### **5.4. Factors Affecting Child Labor**

#### **5.4.1. Child Labor: Supply Side**

ILO (2004) explains that economists tend to categorize the factors based on the 'supply side' or 'demand side' of the market. Market is an institution that brings together buyers and sellers to determine what need to be exchanged with the price (ILO, 2014). In the case of child labor, market includes people that provide child labor such as their households or the people that use them.

If the supply side refers to the factors that make the household willing to provide child labors, the employers influence the demand side. In this case, internal/external approach is needed in investigating sociological factors and the supply/ demand side when discussing the economy.

#### **5.4.2. Child Labor: Demand Side**

The demand side refers to the factors that encourage employers to engage children as workers, while the supply side of the child labor market consists of all the domestic strength that offer their children to work. Both demand and supply side affect the amount of child labor, their productivity as well as compensation. The more pressure given to the supply side (i.e. more households provide child labors), the less productive the labor will be and lower compensation will be paid. In another hand, the opposite happens when the demand side is being pressured. Both pressures tend to increase the total number of child labor. Family structures analysis aims to explain the children in the household: whether they are instructed or encouraged to work.

Michael (1990) explains that the transformation of the work requires more than just law enforcement; also demands the new cultivation, more productive work system based on the active participation of the workforce. The presence of a large number of child labors in the workforce is a sign that the job has been organized based on the basic skills. Greater attention to the organization of work and better access to capital should produce less child labor, even with no change in the supply side; it should provide more adult workers. Moreover, in the production of household, sophisticated farming methods, for example, should reduce the need for a large number of child labor.

### **5.5. Previous Research**

Supported by similar findings from other countries (Canagajah and Coulombe1997), SMERU research also shows that the higher the education of the head of family, the lower probability of child labor in that family. Approximately 90 child labors come from a household with the head of family receiving only primary school education.

Luddin (2002) explains that (1) exploitation by the employers to workers is done systematically, more open and accompanied by pressures (2) exploitation is done because the children are considered productive, working without causing problems, receive little pay without complain, manageable and tractable; (3) some children that are being exploited, receive education; (4) exploitation on child labor is also accompanied by harassment; (5) child worker that give large contribution to the company, does not have access to the use of company's assets, restricted to obtaining information, even does not entitle to own productive assets; (6)

the value of the worker to the employer is determined by the amount of income obtained and the cost of transition agreed.

Cockburn (2002) explains that (1) the function of household income comes from the capital of agricultural household with child labor input (2) significance between households vary in the marginal productivity of average children. The total contribution of income for each child labor is ranging up to maximum of 52.3 of the household income. The productivity of child labor is positive compared to the total of adults in the household (3).

According Simon (2004), (1) birth rate tend to increase as the wage of child labor increases; (2) government intervention and low does not only affect directly to the supply of child labor but also the fertility decision of the parents that indirectly affect the participation of the workforce; (3) the impact of child labor restriction on the accumulation of human capital can vary at different levels of economic development.

Based on the previous research and theoretical study of empirical fact, this study will try to analyze the effect of gender, parents' education, parent's income, the number of siblings, childbirth order, the presence of parents and patriarchal kinship system on the probability of child labor in Palembang.

## 6. Research Framework

Based on the literature review, the research framework is as follow: analyzing the effect of gender, parents' education, parent's income, the number of siblings, childbirth order, the presence of parents and patriarchal kinship system on the probability of child labor in Palembang. The model in this research is based on the study by Wu (2011), Webbink, *et. al* (2008, 2010), Syahrudin (2004), Rosati and Rossi (2003), Beegleet. *al* (2002), Cockburn (2002), Usman (2002), Manurung (1998), Asra (1993, 1995), Edmonds and Shresta (2012, 2014), Edmonds (2014), ILO (2004, 2009). Figure 1 describes the relationship between the variables and the probability of children working, not all variables from the previous research is used in this research:

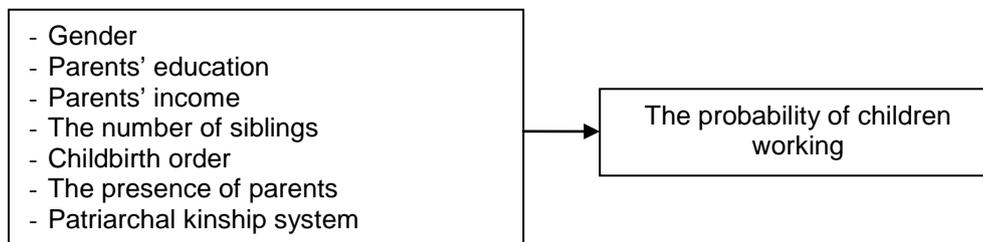


Figure 1. The Probability of Child Labor and Factors that Give Influence

## 7. Hypothesis

It is expected that gender, parents' education, parent's income, the number of siblings, childbirth order, the presence of parents and patriarchal kinship system have significantly positive association with the probability of child labor in Palembang.

## 8. Research Scope

The scope of this research is to analyze child labor age 7-15 whether they are working or not based on their gender, parents' education, parent's income, the number of siblings, childbirth order, the presence of parents and patriarchal kinship system have significantly positive association with the probability of child labor in Palembang. Analysis unit in this research is family and households that have children age 7-15. Respondents in this research are children age 7-15 and the research location is Palembang. Secondary data used in this research is obtained from BKKBN Palembang.

### 8.1. Data and Source of Data

The data used in this research is both primary and secondary data. Primary data is the data obtained directly from the research respondents, which are the child labors in Palembang. In another hand, secondary data in this research is obtained through literatures related to this study, such as, those from BKKBN, BPS and other sources.

### 8.2. Sampling Method

The sampling method in this research is probability sampling in which, we used prop ortionate stratified random sampling. This sampling technique started by selecting the district that has children age 7-15 years old in 2014. We find 16 districts with this criterion. Furthermore, from the 16 districts, we pick only 8 districts (50% of the total districts) to be the representatives and categorized them based on the number of children in the area: high, moderate and low. The categories consist as follow: 3 districts have the highest number of children, 3 districts have moderate and 2 districts have the lowest number of children. In each districts, 3 sub-districts will be selected and grouped into similar classes based on the number of children. From this selection, there will be 24 sub-districts selected and from each sub-district, through random sampling, 30 families will be chosen and the total number of children in this research will be 720 people (see Table 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3).

### 9. Analytical Method

Analytical method used in this research is descriptive and inferential analytical method to investigate the factors that affect child labor and its contribution to family income. Logistic regression model is used since dichotomy classification is used in the dependent variables: children who work and who do not.

The selection of legit model in this study is due to its ease in implementing and interpreting. The selection of logistic regression model or logit model in this model is due to the fact that this model is easily implemented and interpreted. Logit model is a model that follows the logistic distribution function in equation (1) that can be defined as follows:

$$P_i = E(Y = 1 | X_i) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-(a + bX_i)}} \quad (1)$$

in which  $P_1$  refers to probability. In this research, the model can be simplified as follows:

$$\ln\left(\frac{P_i}{1 - P_i}\right) = \alpha + \beta X_{i...n} + e \quad (2)$$

$$\ln\left(\frac{P_i}{1 - P_i}\right) = \alpha + \beta X_1 + \beta X_2 + \beta X_3 + \beta X_4 + \beta X_5 + \beta X_6 + \beta X_7 + e \quad (3)$$

where:

1.  $\ln\left(\frac{P_i}{1 - P_i}\right)$  = Probability of children age 7-15 years old who work to earn income and those who are not working.
2.  $Ex_1$  = Gender
3.  $Ex_2$  = Parents' Education
4.  $Ex_3$  = Parents' Income
5.  $Ex_4$  = Number of Siblings
6.  $Ex_5$  = Childbirth Order
7.  $Ex_6$  = The presence of parents
8.  $Ex_7$  = Patriarchal Kinship System
9.  $e$  = error term

To see any direct and indirect effect of independent variables on dependent variables, we compare the p value of each variable with the restriction of  $p=0.05$ , meanwhile, to see the risks among individual group in a different category, odd ratio statistic is used. Table 1 describes the definition of the variables used in this study as well as its measurement.

**Table 1. Operational variable definition**

Variable	Operational Definition	Indicator	Measurement
Child	Children age 7-15 years old.	Working and not working	0= not working 1= working
Gender	Child gender	Male and female	0= female 1= male
Parents' education	The highest education attained by the parents	Graduate and did not graduate from junior high school	0= did not graduate from junior high school (SMP) 1= graduate from junior high school (SMP)
Parents' income	All income obtained by the parents including salaries, wages and benefits	Total parents' income per day	Rupiah
The number of siblings	The number of siblings that live in the same house as the parents	Total number of siblings	Number
Childbirth order	The birth order of the children in the family	Childbirth order	Number
Parents condition	The state of child's parents: alive or not	Whether the father is alive or not	0= Others 1= The father is alive
Patriarchal kinship system	Kinship system where the family refers to the paternal line	The existence of kinship system and others	0= Others 1= Patriarchal kinship system

**Table 2. Logistic regression results**

Variable	Coefficient	Std. Err	P> z
Gender (male)	2.4406	0.2880	0.000
Parent's education	0.4866	0.2609	0.062
Parents Income	-0.0100	0.0055	0.068
The number of siblings	0.5796	0.1013	0.000
Childbirth order	-0.4525	0.1093	0.000
Parents condition	-1.4485	0.6738	0.032
Patriarchal constant	5.6514 -2.2885	0.7698 0.4556	0.000 0.000
Number of obs.	720		
LR chi2(7)	270.39		
Prob> chi2	0.0000		
Log likelihood	-300.307		
Pseudo R2	0.3104		

### **9.1. The Effect of Gender Factor on the Probability of Child Labor**

Based on the estimation results and looking at the  $P > |z|$  value in Table 2 gender is found to be significant at  $\alpha = 5\%$  in affecting probability of child labor. This result indicates that boys have higher probability to be a child worker. This condition is relatively acceptable for a boy that spent most of his time working and is expected that they can replace the parents to make a living. Table 2 displays the coefficient value of the gender variable to be positive indicating that boys have higher probability to be child labors compared to girls.

### **9.2. The Effect of Parents' Education on the Probability of Child Labor**

Based on the estimation results and looking at the  $P > |z|$  value in Table 2 parents' education is found to be insignificant at  $\alpha = 5\%$  in affecting probability of child labor. This result indicates that there is no differences between those parents have graduated from junior high school and those that do not in affecting the probability of child labor. This is due to the fact that these parents may work in informal sector and some might unemployed. Even though some parents realized that it is their responsibility to make a living but since their time is spent working in informal sector, they cannot restrict their child from working. Table 2 shows that the coefficient value of parents' (father) education is positive denoting that parents' education especially father that only graduated from junior high school (SMP) has higher probability of child labor compared to those who have higher education than SMP.

### **9.3. The Effect of Parent's Income on the Probability of Child Labor**

Based on the estimation results and looking at the  $P > |z|$  value in Table 2 parents' income is found to be insignificant at  $\alpha = 5\%$  in affecting probability of child labor. This estimation indicating that there is no difference in probability of child labor in every raise of income that the parents (father) gained. This is due to the fact that these parents may work in informal sector and some might unemployed. Based on the results, it can be seen that there is 51.4% father that work in informal sector while unemployed mothers is 41.8%. Table 2 displays the coefficient value of the parent's (father) income variable to be negative indicating the lower the income of the parents the higher probability of the children to be a child labor.

### **9.4. The Effect of the Number of Siblings on the Probability of Child Labor**

Based on the estimation results and looking at the  $P > |z|$  value in Table 2 the number of sibling is found to be significant at  $\alpha = 5\%$  in affecting probability of child labor. This estimation shows that the increase in the number of siblings will also increase the likelihood of the children to be child labors. This is acceptable since the more members a family has the more is the burden leading to higher needs in high income. However, there is a belief among the community that more children will bring more sustenance, therefore, they believe that the more family member (children) they have the more money (substance) they will receive. Table 2 shows coefficient value of the number of sibling variable to be positive. This means that there will be an increase in the probability of child labor when the number of sibling increases.

### **9.5. The Effect of Childbirth Order on the Probability of Child Labor**

Based on the estimation results and looking at the  $P > |z|$  value in Table 2 childbirth order is found to be significant at  $\alpha = 5\%$  in affecting probability of child labor. The estimation results indicate that first child tend to have higher probability to be child labor compared to other children in the family. This is relatively acceptable since the first child is likely to spend their time working and is expected to be the head of family to make a living when their parents are gone. Table 2 indicates that coefficient value of childbirth order variable to be positive showing that the

younger the children are (the higher their birth order), the lower probability of them to be child labor.

**9.6. The Effect of the Presence of Parents on the Probability of Child Labor**

Based on the estimation results and looking at the  $P > |z|$  value in Table 2, the presence of parents is found to be significant at  $\alpha = 5\%$  in affecting probability of child labor. This estimation shows that the presence of other parents have higher probability of child labor compared to when the parents have passed away. Table 2 shows negative coefficient for this variable, indicating that the presence of parents (when both have passed away) have lower probability of child labor compared to the presence of other parents.

**9.7. The Effect of Patriarchal Kinship System on the Probability of Child Labor**

Based on the estimation results and looking at the  $P > |z|$  value in Table 2, patriarchal kinship system is found to be significant at  $\alpha = 5\%$  in affecting probability of child labor. This estimation indicates that with the existence of patriarchal kinship system, there is high probability that the children will be child labor. This leads to women/ girls not receiving enough education since patriarchal system places women second in family decision making while males are seen as the head of the family. Table 2 shows positive coefficient for this variable showing that the existence of patriarchal kinship system there will be higher probability of child labor in the family.

**9.8. Marginal Effect of Factors Affecting the Probability of Child Labor**

**Table 3. Marginal Effect of Factors Affecting the Probability of Child Labor**

Variable	dy/dx	Std. Err	z	P> z	X
Gender (male)	0.4326	0.0630	6.86	0.000	0.7028
Parent's education	0.0738	0.0444	1.66	0.096	0.8431
Parents Income	-0.0014	0.0008	-1.79	0.074	33.8528
The number of siblings	0.0787	0.0156	5.05	0.000	3.3639
Childbirth order	-0.0615	0.0158	-3.89	0.000	2.4125
Parents condition	-0.2857	0.1637	-1.75	0.081	0.0236
Patriarchal	0.4173	0.0274	15.25	0.000	0.2333

**Notes:** Marginal effects after logit.  $y = \text{Pr}(\text{Child labor}) (\text{predict}) = .83783368$ . (\*) dy/dx is for discrete change of dummy variable from 0 to 1. The value of dy/dx shows the change in probability of child labor if x changes by 1 unit.

Based on Table 3, from the results of marginal effect, the factors that affect child labor are:

- a. Gender factor shows significance level of 0.000 and marginal effect value of 0.4325613, indicating that the magnitude of influence of gender on the probability child labor is 0.4325613 or 43.25613 percent.
- b. The number of sibling factor shows significance level of 0.000 and marginal effect value of 0.0787448, indicating that the magnitude affects of the number of family member on the probability child labor is 0.0787448 or 7.87448 percents.
- c. Childbirth order factor shows significance level of 0.000 and marginal effect value of -0.0614843, indicating that the magnitude of influence of childbirth order on the probability of child labor is -0.0614843 or -6.14843 percent.

- d. Patriarchal kinship system factor shows significance level of 0.000 and marginal effect value of 0.4172791, indicating that the magnitude of influence of patriarchal kinship system on the probability of child labor is 0.4172791 or 41.72791 percent.

From the four variables that have significance effect on the probability of child labor, based on its marginal effect, factor that has higher influence is gender with 43.25613 percent.

## 10. Conclusions and Suggestion

Based on the descriptive and inferential analysis, factors that significantly affect probability of child labor are gender, the number of siblings, childbirth order, the presence of parents and patriarchal kinship system. Mean while, parents' education and income are found to be insignificant.

According to these results, the government should minimize child labor in collaboration with the parents and the community through the 9-year basic education program so that children are more focused on their studies. Furthermore, this research can be used as literature in future studies.

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**APPENDIX**

**Table 3.1. The number of children age 7 - 15 Year 2014 in 16 districts in Palembang**

No.	District	The number of children age 7 - 15 Year 2014
1	Ilir Barat II	8,847
2	SeberangUlu I	37,843
3	SeberangUlu II	14,173
4	Ilir Barat I	14,599
5	IlirTimur I	15,351
6	IlirTimur II	18,241
7	Sukarami	24,358
8	Sako	12,005
9	Kemuning	11,551
10	Kalidoni	18,267
11	Bukit Kecil	8,613
12	Gandus	9,559
13	Kertapati	16,476
14	Plaju	13,454
15	Alang-AlangLebar	17,220
16	SematangBorang	5,418
<b>Total</b>		<b>246,375</b>

Source: BKKBN Palembang 2014

**Table 3.2. The number of children age 7 - 15 Year 2014 (8 Districts) in Palembang**

No.	Selected District	Population
1	SeberangUlu I	37,843
2	Sukarami	24,358
3	Kalidoni	18,267
4	Ilir Barat I	14,599
5	SeberangUlu II	14,173
6	Plaju	13,454
7	Bukit Kecil	8,613
8	SematangBorang	5,418
<b>Total</b>		<b>136,725</b>

Source: BKKBN Palembang 2014

**Table 3.3. The number of children age 7 - 15 Year 2014 (24 sub-districts) in Palembang**

No.	Selected Sub-district	Population	Sample
1	5 Ulu	6,049	30
	9-10 Ulu	3,730	30
	Tuan Kentang	2,020	30
2	KebunBunga	5,818	30
	Sukadadi	3,120	30
	TalangJambe	1,829	30
3	Sungai Selincah	5,306	30
	Bukit Sangkal	3,452	30
	Kalidoni	2,284	30
4	Bukit Lama	4,305	30
	Demang L. Daun	2,486	30
	26 Ilir D. 1	512	30
5	16 Ulu	2,607	30
	14 Ulu	2,248	30
	12 Ulu	1,137	30
6	TalangPutri	2,810	30
	PlajuDarat	1,778	30
	Komperta	786	30
7	24 Ilir	4,025	30
	TalangSemut	1,025	30
	19 Ilir	274	30
8	Lebung Gajah	3,039	30
	KaryaMulya	871	30
	Srimulya	706	30
<b>Total</b>		<b>62,217</b>	<b>720</b>

Source: BKKBN Palembang 2014