

Best Response: Auditors' Insights on Child Labor in Asia



In early 2016, CCR CSR conducted an auditor survey with 557 auditors from nine countries in Asia to identify key aspects related to child labor and the standard processes in place for remediation. The findings, together with the qualitative results from interviews with 40 selected auditors who participated in the survey, have been analyzed and presented in a report that draws a picture of the child labor situation in Asia as seen through the eyes of auditors. This infographic contains a summary of the report's key findings.

The report aims to identify the gaps and challenges in preventing and responding to child labor with actual experiences and stories from the first respondents – auditors. It also attempts to distinguish characteristics of different countries with examples from China, India, Bangladesh and Vietnam, where most respondents come from.

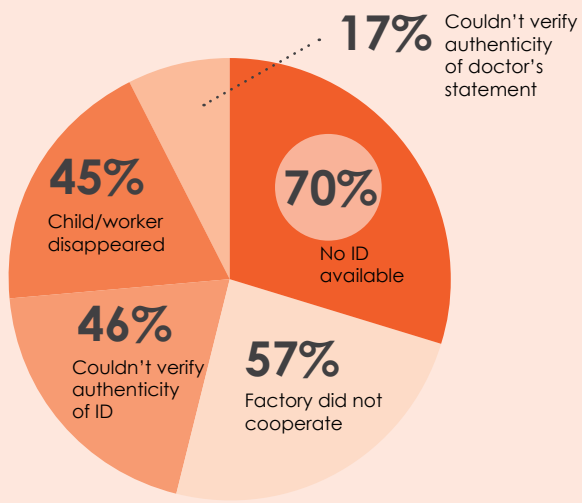
In summary, the report answers the following questions related to child labor:

- How do the identified cases usually occur? What are the common causes/violations?
- What is the usual profile of the identified cases?
- What is the usual procedure/action taken during the first few hours?
- What aspects are most likely to go wrong?
- What are the challenges in ensuring a child's safety and the solutions commonly adopted?
- What are the challenges to securing factory/family cooperation?
- What extent of financial guarantees (from brand/buyer/supplier) is necessary to take immediate action?
- What support and resources would be needed from the brand/third-party to enable a more effective and immediate remediation process?
- What context/third-party factors outside of factory/brand/buyer control need to be taken into further consideration?

To view the full report, please visit www.ccrsr.com.

Best Response: Auditors' Insights on Child Labor in Asia — Key Findings

30% of suspected cases were not corroborated because:



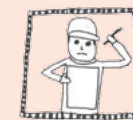
Average no. of cases observed by female auditors: **2.1**



557 auditors participated



42% Female



58% Male

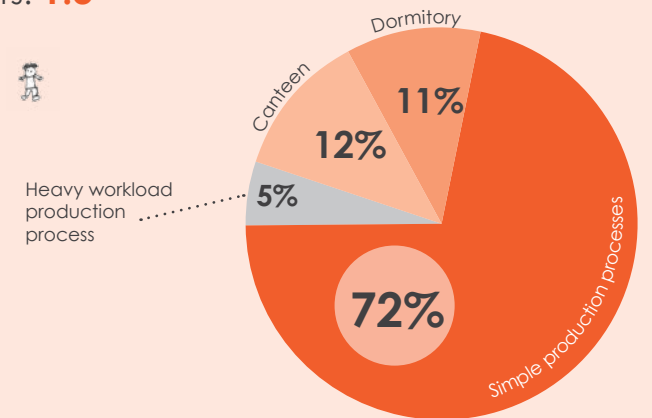
64% of auditors encountered suspected child labor in the last 2 years



Average no. of cases observed by male auditors: **1.3**

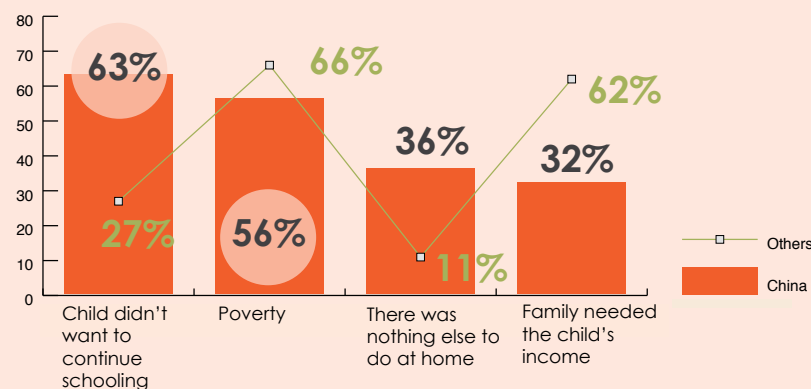


Where in the factory are we most likely to find child labor?



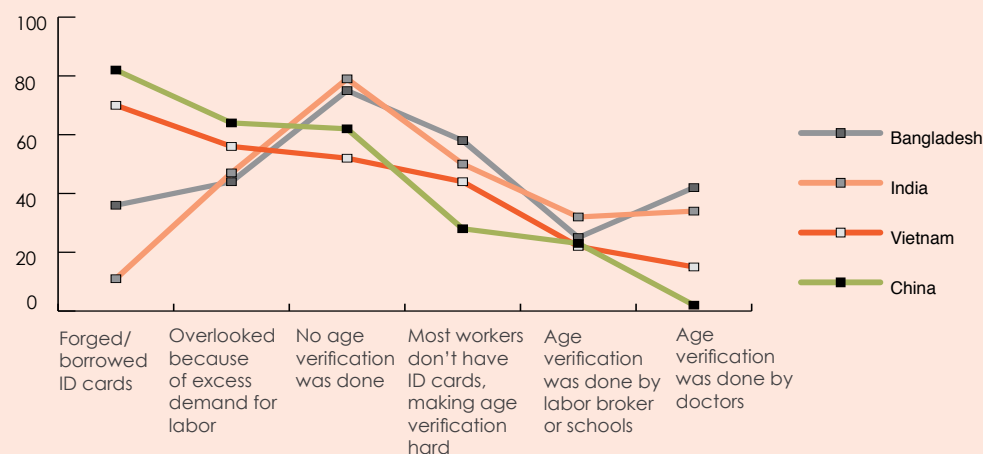
The areas with simple production processes in factories, such as finishing and packaging, are most likely to harbor child laborers.

Top reasons for a child to work at a factory?

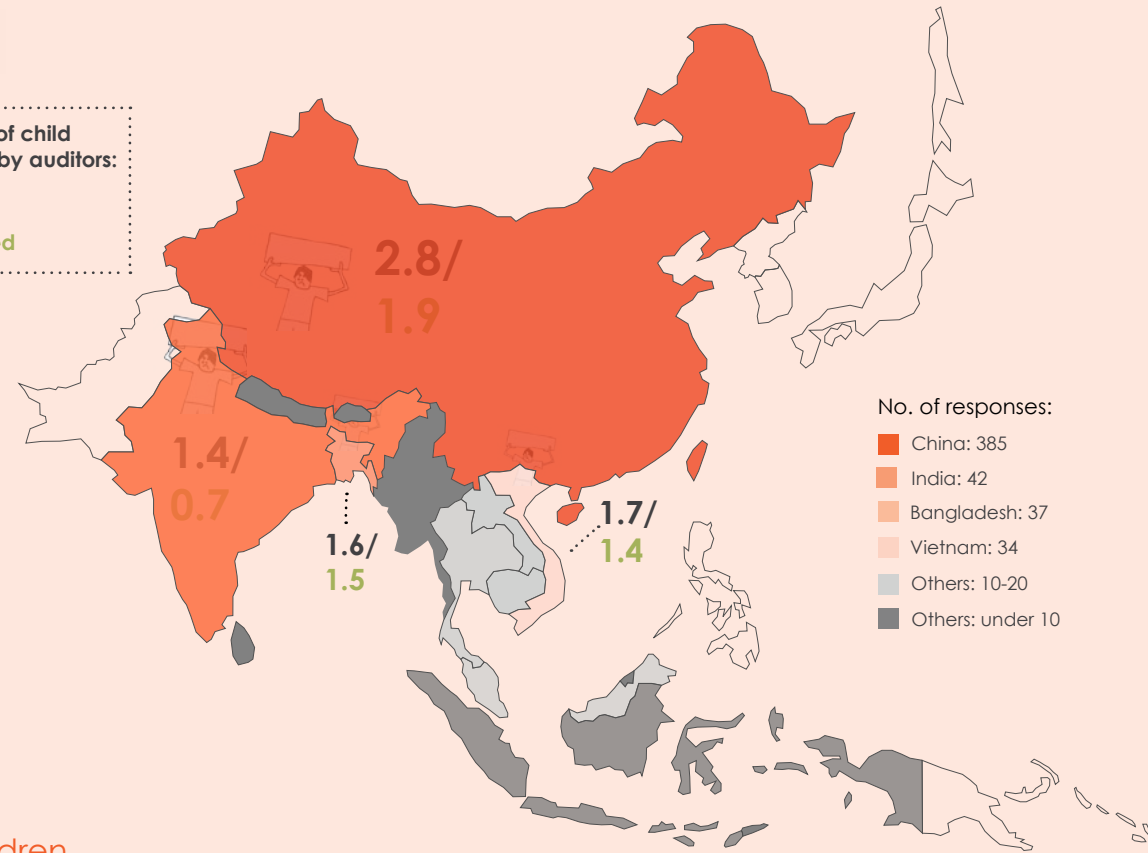


In China most auditors think child labor occurs because children are not willing to continue schooling, whereas auditors in other countries thought poverty was the main reason for child labor.

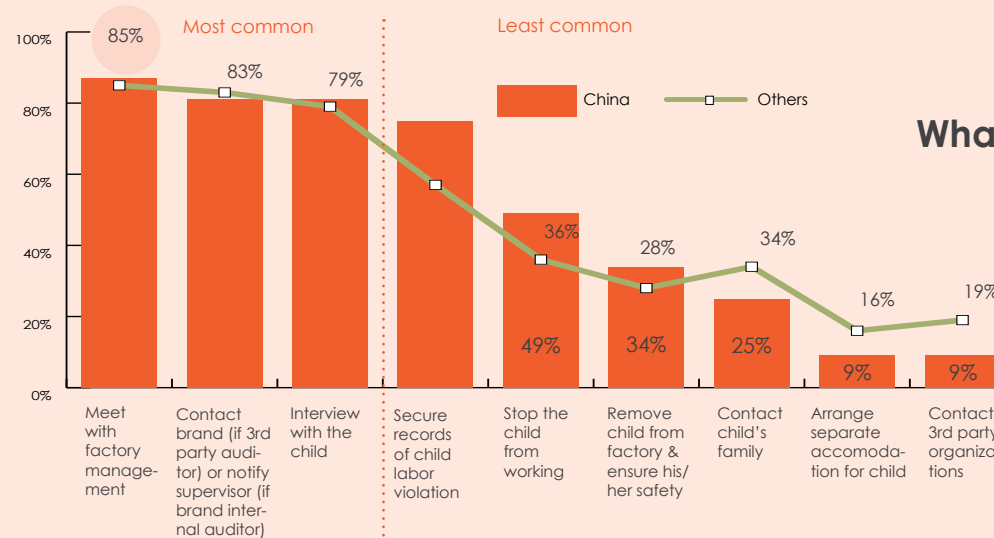
How does child labor occur?



On average, 59% of auditors believe child labor occurs because factories "overlook" the issue due to excessive demand for labor.

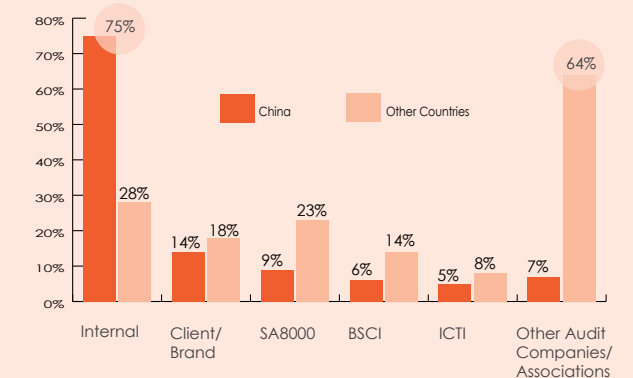


What happens when child labor is detected?



Only 9% (vs. 19% in other countries) of the auditors in China contacted 3rd party organizations when they discovered a child labor case.

What kind of training do auditors get?



Auditors in countries outside China discovered significantly more child labor when they received child labor training.

What does it take to make the child labor situation better?

- Brand**
 - Clear remediation guide and special budget
- Factory**
 - Immediate response
 - Effective follow-up
- 3rd Parties**
 - Effective remediation support

What Now? Some Food for Thought from Auditors

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“I suggest that in order to address this concern, we need to check out the production procedure, what really happens within and outside the factories and go back to the brands to tell them the actual situation of the suppliers.”
- an auditor from India.

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“Our whole industry lacks a follow-up procedure. I think it is due to the fact that once the factory regains cooperation with the brands, it is over for them. To us, if the factory has paid all related expenses, it is a closed case and we will not follow up to see whether the child has gone to another factory.”
- an auditor from China.

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“The factory is supposed to support the child's education until he/she reaches 15 years of age. It includes school fees and living expenses, but no amount is specified, and it depends on the policy of the brand and the factory.”
- an auditor from Vietnam.

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“Having a very detailed procedure in place and customizing the remediation plan to each individual case is another key for successful child labor remediation... A tailored plan could for example include psychological support to those from broken homes who don't want to go back to school.”
- an auditor from China.

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“The factory will only finance the child laborer's tuition until he/she turns 16. However, most study programs in vocational school are 2-3 years, which the child laborer's family would not want or cannot afford to continue paying. So sometimes, the child laborer disappears after a factory pays a certain period.”
- an auditor from China.

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“I think the factory should not be the only finance source. The brands should also financially support the factory so that the child labor remediation can go on successfully. Previously, I haven't met any brand that finances a child labor remediation plan; all of them ask the factory to pay.”
- an auditor from China.

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