

WHAT CHILDREN HAVE TO SAY

“ I wish I could go back to school but my parents can't afford the expense. Since I don't have a chance to continue my studies, I at least want my sister to complete hers.”

Aurona*, a 15-year-old female worker from Bangladesh who dropped out of school age 11 and has been working at home ever since

“ I don't get any salary by the business owners. They say that I still have to learn and once I am a professional in this work, they want to give me a part of the business. I want to keep working here, I get meals and a place to stay. I am fine with this job and don't have any other wish for the future.”

Aung*, 17-year-old male worker from Myanmar, who has been working in the same family-run business for 4 years without pay

“ I work about 2 hours every day and it's ok for me to do this job. I am happy that I can keep pursuing my studies because one day I want to be a journalist.”

Bushra*, 15-year-old female worker from Bangladesh

“ We dropped out of school at the age of 10 and have been working here since we were 12. We do lighter work than the boys, for example packaging dry noodles in little plastic bags. We work about 10 hours a day and support our families who live in a village nearby with our income.”

Myat*, a 15-year-old female worker from Myanmar

“ I get paid based on how much I do. On a weekday I get around 500 KS (5 USD), and on weekends I earn round 1700 KS (17 USD). Now that I'm in a higher grade, I need to focus on my studies more. But I have no time for studying when I come back from school and I have no time to play either.”

Chodren*, a 13-year-old female worker from Myanmar

“ I enjoy doing this work. I work two hours in the morning and two in the afternoon and it's better that I can work from home rather than go elsewhere.”

Rifah*, a 16-year-old female worker from Bangladesh who has been working from home for a year

* Pseudonym



 Save the Children

IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHILD? Child Rights and Homeworkers in Textile and Handicraft Supply Chains in Asia

Save the Children initiated this study in order to shed light on a situation that, despite being widespread across the continent, has so far proven difficult to analyse due to its hidden nature. The survey was conducted by the Centre for Child Rights & Corporate Social Responsibility (CCR CSR) with the support of Nest and brand partners. It aims to understand what situations and conditions might increase the likelihood of children getting involved in work. And it perceives both the negative and positive impact that home-based and small workshop-based work has on children. Given that, the study also presents best practices for companies who are either directly or indirectly sourcing from homeworkers.

Interviews with 579 workers were carried out as part of this study in seven countries: China, Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Myanmar, Malaysia and Vietnam. This includes 37 working children under the age of 18. In addition, we also interviewed a further 50 children of workers who were present while interviewing their parents. 78.8% of those interviewed work directly from their homes, while the others work either in small workshops (18%) or at other people's homes (3.2%).

Key recommendations for brands and buyers based on the study's findings include:

1. Re-consider zero tolerance policies and think about whether homework in specific settings (e.g. in the context of an NGO run programme) could be admissible.
2. If re-considered, it is crucially important for international brands and industries to implement systems to pro-actively identify child labour, home-based work and small workshops in their supply chains.
3. Have policies that value transparency and create opportunities for improvements.
4. Allow for honest conversations with homeworkers about the involvement of their children in homework.
5. Put strong remediation processes in place, that allows companies to react responsibly should they find child labour or exploitative practices in their supply chain.
6. Address the lack of insurance and under-payment by promoting labour standards beyond first tier factories.
7. Create greater collaboration with government, international, local NGOs and other industry players to address severe child rights risks in slums.

CCR CSR

Centre for
Child Rights &
Corporate
Social Responsibility

IN COOPERATION WITH



NEST
bulidonest.org

IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHILD?

This study takes a child rights lens to the topic of homeworkers. It aims to understand the negative and positive impact that home-based and small workshop-based work has on children.

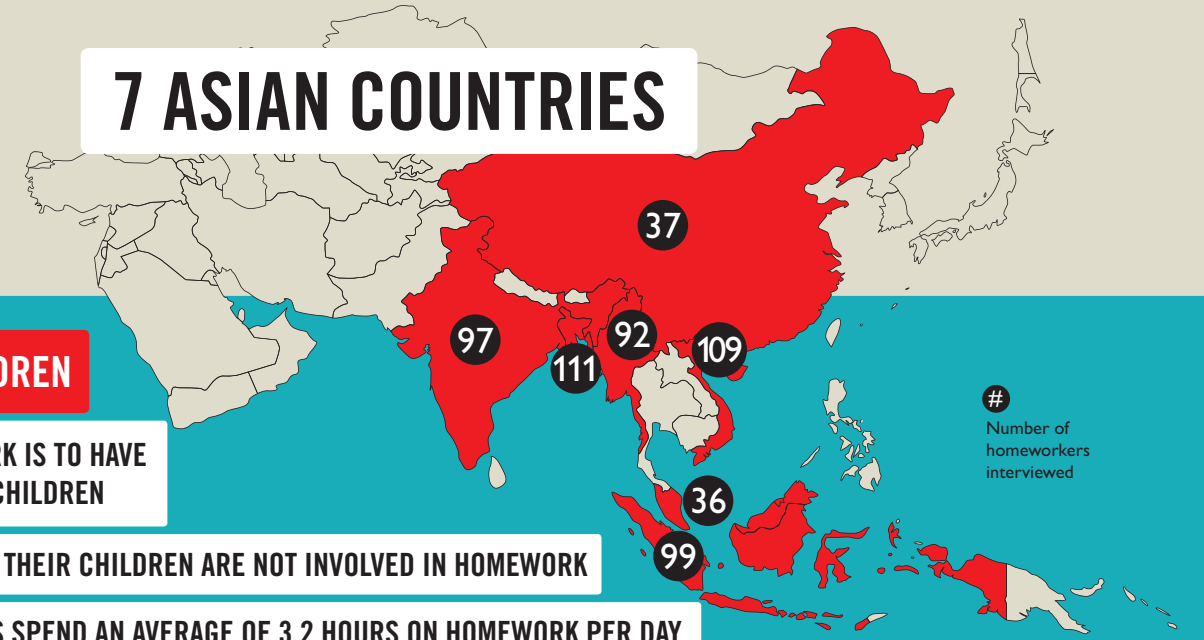
THE STUDY

579 interviews with workers with a total of **952** children, including **37** interviews with working children, interviews with **50** children of homeworkers and **10** international companies.

7/10 companies are aware of homeworkers in their supply chain, but have little to no knowledge about the actual conditions of home-work.

51.6% of the interviewed homeworkers are known to produce for global buyers, but the majority of them are not aware of this link.

7 ASIAN COUNTRIES



THE INVOLVEMENT OF CHILDREN

#1 REASON TO DO HOME-BASED WORK IS TO HAVE MORE TIME TO LOOK AFTER THE CHILDREN

81% OF PARENTS SAY THEIR CHILDREN ARE NOT INVOLVED IN HOMEWORK

THOSE WHO DO HELP THEIR PARENTS SPEND AN AVERAGE OF 3.2 HOURS ON HOMEWORK PER DAY

GLOBAL SUPPLY CHAIN SPECIFICS

HEALTH & SAFETY CONDITIONS ARE BETTER FOR HOMEWORKERS WHO PRODUCE FOR GLOBAL SUPPLY CHAINS

NONE OF THE CHILDREN IN EXPLOITATIVE CONDITIONS ARE KNOWN TO PRODUCE FOR GLOBAL SUPPLY CHAINS

HOWEVER, ZERO-TOLERANCE POLICIES MAKE OPEN DISCUSSIONS ON CHILDREN'S INVOLVEMENT MORE DIFFICULT

OPPORTUNITIES

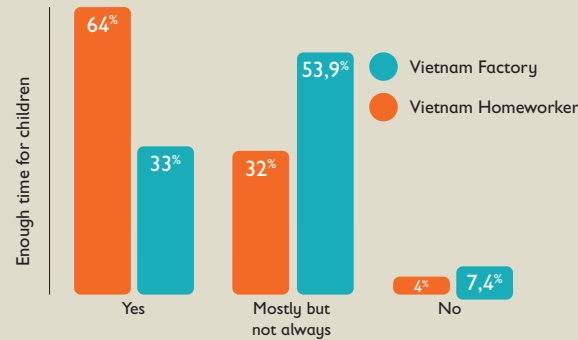
9.4% OF CHILDREN DROPPED OUT OF SCHOOL, WHICH IS LOW COMPARED TO NATIONAL RATES

EXAMPLE BANGLADESH

In Bangladesh **96.7%** of **12-13** year old children of homeworkers are still in school, while the national secondary school enrollment rate is only **62.7%**

92.4% ALWAYS OR MOSTLY HAVE ENOUGH TIME FOR THEIR CHILDREN

EXAMPLE VIETNAM

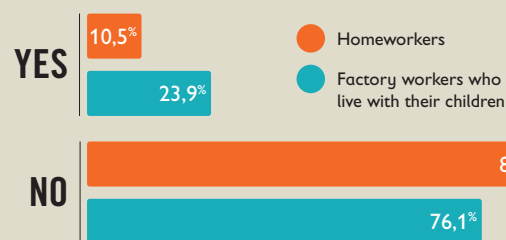


CHILDREN OF HOMEWORKERS ARE LESS LIKELY TO BE LEFT HOME ALONE

HOMEWORKERS BREASTFEED THEIR CHILDREN LONGER THAN FACTORY WORKERS

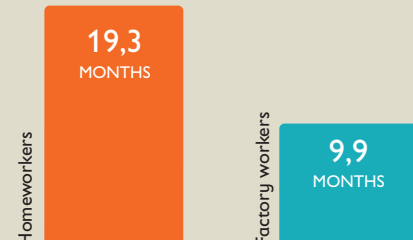
EXAMPLE CHINA

Is/are your child(ren) left at home unattended regularly?



EXAMPLE BANGLADESH

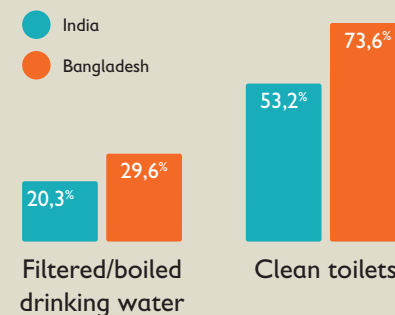
Homeworkers breastfeed their children longer than factory workers



CHALLENGES

HOMEWORKERS + THEIR CHILDREN IN URBAN SLUMS ARE EXPOSED TO INADEQUATE WATER & SANITATION CONDITIONS

EXAMPLE BANGLADESH INDIA



50% HALF OF THE CHILDREN ARE NOT COVERED BY INSURANCE

WE IDENTIFIED 37 CHILDREN WHO WERE REGULARLY AND SIGNIFICANTLY ENGAGING IN HOME-BASED WORK:

30% START TO WORK BEFORE THEY TURNED **12**

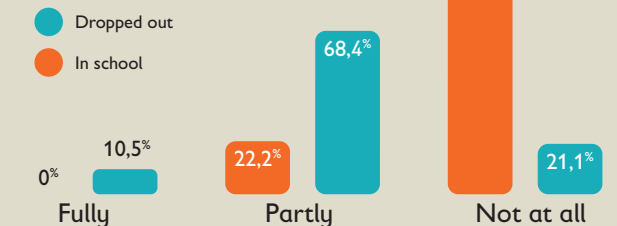


30% WORK REGULARLY MORE THAN 8 HOURS/DAY. THE LONG HOURS HAVE A NEGATIVE IMPACT ON THEIR HEALTH

51.4% OF WORKING CHILDREN WERE OUT OF SCHOOL



CHILDREN WERE AT GREATER RISK OF DROPPING OUT OF SCHOOL WHEN FAMILIES DEPENDED ON THEIR INCOME



LEVEL TO WHICH FAMILY'S INCOME DEPENDS ON CHILDREN'S INCOME