

Can comprehensive and context-specific tools capture working conditions of CDWs for better interventions?

Enabling child protection by building comprehensive, context specific tools to capture child domestic worker environments.

Background: Building comprehensive, context specific tools

Child domestic work can deprive children of their right to education, expose them to physical and emotional abuse, and stunt their physical and cognitive development. Moreover, engaging in domestic work at a young age can perpetuate a cycle of poverty, denying children the opportunity to break free from socioeconomic constraints and limiting their potential for a better future. For partner NGOs to accurately capture the change and impact of their interventions they must utilize comprehensive and context-specific instruments. Current instruments utilized were not developed using a behaviorally-informed lens and, as such, do not account for implicit biases, social norms or revealed preferences. Our main objective on this project was to enhance the existing monitoring tool by addressing two key aspects; reliability (ensuring that the tool is optimized to consistently produce reproducible estimates) and validity (to effectively capture the specific constructs or phenomena it aims to assess).

Conducting the research

We did not conduct any primary research. We looked to the existing program instruments to understand what information was important for partner NGOs to capture. We then utilized existing Busara resources and our expertise to incorporate behavioral science into the existing questions of the survey. Following this, we searched for instruments utilized by other researchers to interview employers, child domestic workers, or other children in order to validate our chosen methods and incorporate additional measures.

project facts

Key words

Child domestic workers, ethical employment, fair employment, domestic care, child abuse, unfair working conditions, child protection

Behavioral themes

Social norms, implicit bias

Research design

Developing Quantitative Instruments and Analysis Tool

Scope

Start date: 31 July 2023

End date: 17 October 2023

Location

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Partner

Freedom Fund

Ethics approval

N/A

- » Effective hand holding is important when introducing a new tool so that partners' doubts are assuaged and they develop an understanding for the rationale behind every question.
- » Enabling sustainable learning and use of the tool for timely revisions makes building self-efficacy and collective ownership important. In order to be effective, the tools must be living documents that partners feel comfortable making revisions to as needed.
- » While working in a new context or with a relatively new set of participants, it becomes essential to go through multiple iterations of our deliverables to ensure they are comprehensive, context-specific, and informed by local perspectives.

Implications

- Partner NGOs can more effectively organize and analyze data to understand the extent to which child domestic workers are treated fairly in different communities of Ethiopia.
- Organizations working in similar contexts could adapt our tool for their specific interventions or programs.
- Child domestic workers could be on the receiving end of more beneficial interventions as they have been informed by better data going through about the environment they live/work in.

Further reading

Tackling child labour in domestic work: a Handbook for action for domestic workers and their organizations (ILO, IDWF)

Dinku, Y., Fielding, D., & Genç, M. (2018). Health shocks and child time allocation decisions by households: evidence from Ethiopia. *IZA Journal of Labor Economics*, 7(1), 1-23. Springer.

Koohi-Kamali, F., & Roy, A. (August 2021). Environmental Shocks and Child Labor: A Panel Data Evidence from Ethiopia & India.

Study team

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