Boys' ratio in child labour 3 times the girls'

Report on children’s work in Bangladesh launched

Staff correspondent

Percentage in boys, especially aged between 7 years and 14 years, engaged in child labour is three times the percentage of girls, according to a report jointly published by the International Labour Organisation, the World Bank and the United Nations Children's Fund, released in Dhaka on Thursday.

Stressing the need for recognition of long-lasting adverse consequences of child labour on children, their family and society, the report said that building national capacity to act against child labour is a must.

Findings in the report, 'Understanding children's work in Bangladesh,' also point out that more than 35 per cent of boys aged about 14 in Bangladesh are engaged in child labour while the percentage of girls of the same age is less than 10 per cent.

The report was launched at the Sonargaon Hotel in the presence of secretaries of the ministries of women and children affairs and labour and employment.

Understanding Children's Work Programme's senior policy analyst Scott Lyon presented the findings of the report.

The report also says that 12 per cent of children aged between 7 years and 14 years, who account for 3.6 million in absolute terms are in employment.

The report further points out that 920,000 children work for at least 40 hours a week and termed it 'extremely long hours' for the children.

The report also shows that the children's employment trend appears to be downwards since the 2002/3.

Delivering his speech in the launch ceremony, officials of the ministries and the international organisations stressed the need for concerted efforts of the ministries to eliminate child labour, particularly hazardous work.

The labour and employment secretary, Shafique Alam Mehedi, joint secretary of the women and children affairs ministry M Reza Ahmed, UNICEF deputy representative Michel Saint-Lot, ILO director Andre Bogui and Dilip Purajh of the World Bank also spoke.