

Bhutan

*Selected Statistics and Indicators on Child Labor*³⁶⁴

Population, children, 10-14 years, 2003:	73,671
Working children, 10-14 years (%), 2003:	19.6
Working boys, 10-14 years (%), 2003:	16.1
Working girls, 10-14 years (%), 2003:	22.7
Working children by sector, 10-14 years (%), 2003:	
- Agriculture	92.2
- Manufacturing	0.1
- Services	1.9
- Other	5.9
Minimum age for work:	18
Compulsory education age:	16
Free public education:	Yes
Gross primary enrollment rate (%), 2006:	101.6
Net primary enrollment rate (%), 2006:	79.0
School attendance, children 5-14 years (%), 2003:	69.0
Survival rate to grade 5 (%), 2005:	93.2
ILO Convention 138:	No
ILO Convention 182:	No
CRC:	8/1/1990
CRCOPAC:	No
CRCOPSC:	No
Palermo:	No
ILO-IPEC participating country:	No

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

Children in Bhutan work in agriculture, primarily on family farms, and in shops after school and during holidays.³⁶⁵ Migrant children as young as 11 years are found working in road construction.³⁶⁶ Children also work in automobile shops, restaurants, and as *doma* sellers (a nut that's eaten with lime to produce a narcotic effect), street vendors, and domestic servants.³⁶⁷ According to UNICEF, they are also involved in commercial sexual exploitation.³⁶⁸

Child Labor Laws and Enforcement

By law the minimum age for employment is 18 years. However, children between 13 and 17 years are allowed to perform certain forms of light work.³⁶⁹ Bhutanese law requires employers

to maintain a register of all child employees, describing the hours and nature of work undertaken.³⁷⁰ The law prohibits children from working in the worst forms of child labor and defines these as trafficking, forced or compulsory labor, children in armed conflict, sexual exploitation, work in illicit activities, and work in particularly difficult conditions or which could be harmful to the health, safety, or morals of a child.³⁷¹ The law imposes a penalty for refusing to comply with child labor laws of 5 to 9 years of imprisonment.³⁷² USDOS reports that the Ministry of Labor and Human Resources sporadically enforces child labor laws.³⁷³

Bhutanese law prohibits forced labor and criminalizes trafficking, sex crimes, and offenses against children.³⁷⁴ According to the law, child trafficking has a minimum penalty of 3 years.³⁷⁵ Trafficking a child for prostitution is a felony with penalties varying according to the age of the child.³⁷⁶ The minimum age to enlist in the Armed Forces is 18 years.³⁷⁷

Current Government Policies and Programs to Eliminate the Worst Forms of Child Labor

The Royal Bhutan Police has started to educate children on their rights and other child protection issues through a series of school visits. The National Commission for Women and Children, in partnership with UNICEF, conducted additional child rights training for clergy and leaders of monastic institutions.³⁷⁸

³⁶⁴ For statistical data not cited here, see the Data Sources and Definitions section. For ratifications and ILO-IPEC membership, see the Introduction. For minimum age for admission to work, see Government of Bhutan, *Rules and Regulations on Employment of Bhutanese Nationals in the Private Sector*, (1997). See also Government of Bhutan, *Labour and Employment Act of Bhutan 2007*, (2007), article 170; available from <http://www.molhr.gov.bt/labouract.pdf>. For age to which education is compulsory, see UNESCO, *Bhutan Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Programs*, Geneva, 2006; available from <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0014/001471/147>

158e.pdf. For free public education, see U.S. Department of State, "Bhutan," in *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices- 2008*, Washington, DC, February 25, 2009, section 5; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2008/sca/119133.htm>.

³⁶⁵ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2008: Bhutan," section 6d.

³⁶⁶ U.S. Embassy- New Delhi, *reporting*, September 17, 2004.

³⁶⁷ UNICEF, *A Situation Analysis of Children and Women in Bhutan*, National Commission for Women and Children, Thimphu, 2006, 69; available from http://www.ncwcbhutan.org/ncwc/publications/SITAN_Bhutan-2006.pdf. See also UNICEF, *Report on Assessment of Protection Factors of Children in Bhutan*, Ministry of Health, Thimphu, 2004, 65. See also UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, *Second Periodic Reports of States Parties due in 1997: Bhutan*, March 21, 2007, section 406; available from <http://daccessdds.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G07/430/93/PDF/G0743093.pdf?OpenElement>.

³⁶⁸ UNICEF, *Report of Assessment of Protection*, 65.

³⁶⁹ Government of Bhutan, *Labour and Employment Act of Bhutan 2007*, articles 170, 171. See also U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2008: Bhutan," section 6d. See also U.S. Embassy- New Delhi official, E-mail communication to USDOL official, March 10, 2007.

³⁷⁰ UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, *Second Periodic Reports: Bhutan*, section 408.

³⁷¹ Government of Bhutan, *Labour and Employment Act of Bhutan 2007*, article 9.

³⁷² Ministry of Labour and Human Resources, *Offences and Penal Provisions under the Labour and Employment Act 2007*, 2007; available from <http://www.molhr.gov.bt/penalcode.htm>.

³⁷³ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2008: Bhutan," section 6d.

³⁷⁴ U.S. Embassy- New Delhi, *reporting September 17, 2004*. See also UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, *Written Replies By the Government of Bhutan*, August 29, 2008, section 94; available from <http://daccessdds.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G08/438/03/PDF/G0843803.pdf?OpenElement>. See also U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2008: Bhutan," sections 5, 6c. See also Government of Bhutan, *Labour and Employment Act of Bhutan 2007*, article 6.

³⁷⁵ Government of Bhutan, *Penal Code of Bhutan*, (August 11, 2004), para 3(a), sections 228, 230.

³⁷⁶ *Ibid.*, para 380.

³⁷⁷ Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, "Bhutan," in *Child Soldiers Global Report 2008*, London, 2008; available from http://www.childsoldiersglobalreport.org/files/country_pdfs/FINAL_2008_Global_Report.pdf.

³⁷⁸ UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, *Written Replies By the Government of Bhutan*, paras 73, 76.

Bolivia

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

In Bolivia, many children work with their families in subsistence agriculture. Children work in the production of sugar cane and Brazil nuts, especially in Santa Cruz and Tarija.³⁷⁹ The harvesting of these products often requires the work of entire families, many of whom are indigenous and become indebted to those industries.³⁸⁰ Additionally, many indigenous Guarani families live and work on ranches in debt bondage in the Chaco region.³⁸¹ Children also work in the production of cotton and mine gold, silver, and tin.³⁸² Children engage in activities such as street vending, shining shoes, and assisting transport operators.³⁸³ Additionally, children work in industry, construction, small

business, personal services, hotels, and restaurants.³⁸⁴ Children are also being used to transport drugs.³⁸⁵ Some children are brought or sent by family members from rural to urban areas to work as domestic servants or "criaditos" for higher-income families, often in situations that amount to indentured servitude.³⁸⁶

The commercial sexual exploitation of children, including child prostitution, is a problem in Bolivia, particularly in the Chapare region and in urban areas, including Santa Cruz, La Paz, El Alto, and Cochabamba.³⁸⁷ Through organized networks, children are trafficked from Paraguay for the purpose of commercial sexual exploitation in Santa Cruz and La Paz.³⁸⁸ The internal trafficking of Bolivian children for the purposes of