

Activity Sheet 2.5

Opinions

Children's Opinions

'If people want us to go to school instead of work, they must give us the money to do so and make schools better. Then we would stop stitching. Who wants to injure their fingers?'

(Non-school-going girl, 10–13 years old)

'Children should be able to go to schools and then have time to play.'

(Non-school-going boy, 10–13 years old)

'It is hard to come home from school and start making a football, but we are poor, so we have to do it.'

(School-going girl, 10–13 years old)

'I used to work as a dishwasher in a roadside tea shop. Stitching footballs is a better job. I hurt my hands more when washing dishes.'

(Non-school-going boy, 10–13 years old)

Parents' Opinions

'It is not good for children to work, but if they don't, how shall we live?'

(Father of child-stitcher)

'No parent wants their child to work; it is because of economic pressure and poor standards of education.'

(Mother of child-stitcher)

'If they are forced to stop working, we will see them on the roads with guns in their hands.'

(Father of school-going children)

'If football stitching is banned, unemployed boys will spoil. They will roam around and become robbers.'

(Male community-leader)

'We don't think it is good for children to work. All parents want their children to be able to play like other [richer] people's children. We have no choice but to ask children to work.'

(Mother of child-stitcher)

Such responses may seem dramatic but express real fears about the consequences of youth unemployment in a changing society.