

CONSENT FORM

Assessing business efforts to reduce child and adolescent labour in developing countries: the case of adolescent girls in India's cotton garment industry

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Invitation to Participate: You are invited to participate in the abovementioned research study conducted by Andrea Carina Khan. This project is funded by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC - a Canadian federal Crown corporation that funds research in developing countries), and the Fonds de Recherche du Québec Société et Culture (FRSCQ – the province of Quebec's public granting agency for academic research). This research complies with expectations for the ethical conduct of research. Project File # S-02-21-5106.

Participation: If you wish to participate in this research project, please complete the online questionnaire. The questionnaire should take you approximately 10 to 12 minutes to complete. You do not have to answer any questions that you do not want to answer. Once you have completed the questionnaire, please remember that you have to select submit it by selecting "next". If we do not receive it by said date, we may send you a notice of reminder.

Purpose of the Study: From this research we wish to learn how community-level institutions – both public institutions (State and local government) and private business institutions – affect adolescent girls working in the global garments value chain. The focus is on the start of the value chain, from the farming/ginning of cotton, spinning, weaving/knitting of yarn to the dyeing and finishing of fabric. We hypothesize that the policies and practices that business enterprises use to manage risks related to employment and working conditions can improve the working conditions and influence a reduction in harm among adolescent girls, and government institutions can moderate the strength of that relationship.

Benefits: The possible benefits of this research are that it may give you an opportunity to validate your business practices, experience and opinions through a research project. There is a chance that there is no direct benefit to you for taking part in this research, but your response will help us understand intervention strategies to improve the impact of policies and certification standards on labour and working conditions, including the moderating impact of government public policies. It will also help to improve knowledge and awareness to improve the lives of wage workers, including children and adolescents, whose households experience the effect of child labour.

Risks: It is recognized that the amount of time required to take part in this research project may possibly be inconvenient for some participants. Therefore, the research is designed using Delphi methods, and is intended to foster a research environment that is conducive to participatory approaches in a cross-cultural context. The research team will be sensitive to time-pressures on the participant as the research is carried out.

- During the first phase of the research, business and non-business participants are asked to commit 10 to 12 minutes of their time to participate in the online a survey. An optional follow-up interview requires a commitment of 60-90 minutes, depending on the organization type.

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- During the second phase of the research, starting in February 2022, business participants will be asked to complete a survey taking less than 10 minutes.
 - A short follow-up interview : Approximately ten business enterprises with locations or operations in Gujarat, Telangana or Andhra Pradesh take part in a second interview (less than 20 minutes of your time). Our priority is to include the following types of business operations, as examples: spinning mills, textile mills, ginning operations, farmer producer organizations, garment manufacturers, standard setting bodies and auditing bodies.

The participant is free to refuse to answer any questions that they feel may result in repercussions, personal discomfort or inconvenience. This research has been designed so that the organizational representatives and managers who are participating in this research are expected to convey the public positions of their organization. We are interested in understanding how to measure the effect of business employment practices on child labour risks among adolescent girls so that this is most meaningful for employers, worker -, government and non-governmental organizations.

Confidentiality and Anonymity: The information that you will share will remain strictly confidential and will be used solely for the purposes of this research. The only people who will have access to the research data are the principal investigator and two research assistants. Your answers to open-ended questions may be used as verbatim in presentations and publications but neither you (nor your organization) will be identified, unless you have explicitly consented to have your identity revealed in the publication outputs that are associated with this research. In order to minimize the risk of security breaches and to help ensure your confidentiality we recommend that you use standard safety measures such as signing out of your account, closing your browser and locking your screen or device when you are no longer using them / when you have completed the questionnaire.

Conservation of data: The electronic data collected through the questionnaires will be stored in password protected files and by physically separating the code sheet, which links data to individuals from the completed questionnaires and interview transcripts and other confidential documents. The principal investigator will take responsibility for controlling access to the data coding key.

Compensation (or Reimbursement): There is no compensation or reimbursement of out-of-pocket expenses offered.

Voluntary Participation: You are under no obligation to participate and if you choose to participate, you may refuse to answer questions that you do not want to answer. Completion and submission of the questionnaire by you imply consent.

Information about the Study Results: A summary of research findings will be written up. We will share the interim reports with participants. Participants in the study who provided an email address will be sent a copy.

If you have any questions or require more information about the study itself, you may contact the researcher at the email address mentioned herein.

If you have any questions with regards to the ethical conduct of this study, you may contact the Protocol Officer for Ethics in Research, University of Ottawa, Tabaret Hall, 550 Cumberland Street, Room 154, Ottawa, ON K1N 6N5, tel.: (613) 562-5387 or ethics@uottawa.ca.

Please keep this form for your records.

Thank you for your time and consideration.



(dated 16 August 2021, with revisions 9 February 2022)

Andrea Carina Khan, Principal Investigator