



A Strategic Framework for Eradication of Child Labor in Delhi: A Study on Child Labor in Dhabas of Delhi.

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Abstract: Purpose: Children are the future of every society. The welfare and development of child's physical, mental and emotional phase are very essential for the growth of children into mature and intelligent adults. Child labor is a significant problem in India. The present research study is an attempt to provide a strategic framework for eradication of child labor child labor engaged in Dhabas of Delhi.

Design/ Methodology/Approach: The primary data on current study was collected on the basis of Convenience sampling method from 150 child laborers in all four zones in Delhi through questionnaire survey. Chi-

square test has been used to find out the factors significantly associated with the level of child labor.

Originality/Value: The researchers have created an original database with the help of 150 child laborers of Delhi. The research team has conducted an original study that has attained a workable and truthful

conclusion. The results of the study provides a strategic framework for eradication of child labor child labor engaged in Dhabas of Delhi.

Key words: -Child Labor, Dhabas, Poverty, Living conditions, exploitation

Introduction:-

Children are the supreme gift on the earth and they are the representation of the beautiful creation of God. The richness and progress of any country would certainly depend upon how development or the well-being of its people in general and children in particular, than the development of their military or economic asset or the brilliance of their capital cities and public buildings.

Since centuries, child labor has been fundamental across the world and it is a universal problem. This practice in any society is violation of human rights as it is brutal, irrational, inhuman & degrading the ethos of the children. Thus the child labor is not only a social evil but it is a disguise on the childhood & exploitation of the children.

The child labor is a controversial term to define, especially in the context of child labour. Child work and Child labour often used synonymously and it is believed that all work is not bad for children because some light work, properly structured and regulated, is not qualified as child labour. This implies that work which does not interfere with the essential activities of children such as leisure, play and education are not child labor. Child labor, therefore, is the work which involves even minimum level of exploitation namely, physical, mental, economic and social and therefore, impairs the health and development of children. It is pointless to try and distinguish between child labour and child work or between hazardous and non-hazardous employment. Work that seems to be non-hazardous for adults becomes hazardous for children because they have no negotiating power. With regard to the problem related to concept and definition, there are two schools of thought.

According to the first school known as abolitionists school, education should be made a fundamental human right for every child in 5-14 age groups, and any child who is out of school should be treated as a impending working child. They feel that abolition of child labour and attainment of compulsory primary education are two sides of the same coin and one cannot be achieved without achieving the other. According to them, the distinction between hazardous and non-hazardous work is not important.

According to the second school known as reformists school, child labor is a harsh reality, reflecting the socio-economic conditions of India (like poverty, unemployment and illiteracy) it is impossible to get rid of the problem of child labour altogether. They feel that elimination of child labour should be viewed as a long-term goal to be achieved progressively. Hence, they advocate a dual approach of prohibition of child labour in hazardous work and regulation of fit in non-hazardous work.

Various definitions of Child Labor:

According to **UN Convention on the Rights of Child**, "Child labour involves economic exploitation and performance of work that is hazardous or interferes with the child's education, or is harmful to the child's health or physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development." An organization concentrating on child workers described child labour as, "A person who has not completed his/her 15 years of age and who is working with or without wages/income either on a part-time or full-time basis." ⁵

According to **International Labour Organisation (ILO)**, "Child labour includes children permanently leading adult lives, working long hours for low wages under conditions damaging to their health and to their physical and mental development. Sometimes separated from their families, frequently deprived of meaningful education and training opportunities that could open up for them a better future." as The Constitution of India defines a child as one who is less than 14 years of age. However, the International Labour Organisation has set forth an age limit of fifteen years to define a child. In some countries children are defined as those who

are below the age of 18 years. Thus, the minimum age limit to define a child in India is comparatively lower than internationally approved age-limit.

As a result, there are various estimates for the calculation of numbers of child labourers in India. Going by the figures of the International Labour Organisation (ILO), it is estimated that more than 73 million children are economically active in 1995. "The greatest numbers were found in Asia, 44.6 million (13 percent), followed by Africa, 23.6 million (by far the highest rate at 26.6 percent), and Latin America, 5.1 million (9.8 percent).

Child Labor in India: Various Perspectives on the Problem

Child labor is one of the most important and urgent problems that needs attention today. It is the bane for any society and has an impact that far outweighs the related problems they cause. They have the potential to impede the growth of society and have a dominant effect on many problems in the society. It is a problem that not only affects the child workers and their development, but also the development of the society. One need not ignore the fact that children are the future of our society. The welfare and development of child's physical, mental and emotional faculties are very essential for the growth to turn them into mature and intelligent adults. The children are the torchbearers of the future and their growth to make them responsible members of the society is essential for the development of any society. Child labour with its various problems of illiteracy, health, anti-social activities and lack of development of children-both physically and mentally-poses a serious challenge for societal synchronization and development. Before proceeding further a clarification of the concept of child labor is necessary.

Child labor is not a new phenomenon but has been practiced from ancient times. In ancient India, child labor is found in the form of child slavery. Children below 14 years were owned by rich people to do menial jobs during the period of Chandragupta Maurya. His mentor also mentions in his 'Arthashastra' about this ignoble practice. This practice took a new form in medieval India. During this period, a class of landless laborers emerged. These laborers used their children to help in their economic activities. The period also witnessed the advent of craft and trade and the craftsmen always used the services of the children in the family. With occupations being decided on the basis of heredity, the children were exposed to the traditional craft at an early age. Under the Mughals, we also find the children being used as slaves. With the emergence of industrialization, during the modern period, the children were, for the first time, removed from their domestic surroundings and their labour was exploited for commercial gains; Children were forced to work for long hours under hazardous conditions. This continued into independent India and the malaise has been widespread even after independence.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE:

India continues to host the largest number of child labourers in the world today. According to the Census 2001, there were 12.7 million economically active children in the age-group of 5-14 years. The number was 11.3 million during 1991 (Population Census) thus showing an increase in the number of child labourers. Workers in general are classified into main and marginal workers by the population census. Census data shows that there is a decline in the absolute number as well as the percentage of children (5-14) to total population in that age group, classified as main workers from 4.3 percent in 1991 to 2.3 percent in 2001. But there was a substantial increase in marginal workers in every category of worker irrespective of sex and residence. As a result, despite the number of main workers declining from 9.08 million in 1991 to 5.78 million in 2001, the total number of children in the workforce increased. A large part of the increase was accounted for by the increase in marginal workers, which increased from 2.2 million in 1991 to 6.89 million in 2001. The trends between 1991 and 2001 of declining main child workers along with increasing marginal workers may indicate the changing nature of work done by children. This is also to be seen in the context of decelerating employment growth

ingeneral in theeconomyduringthe last decade.

TheFederalLaborActGovernmenthavesettheminimumagefortheemploymentofchildrenattwelveyears andisinforceinallthe36statesofNigeria.TheNigeria"sLaborAct permits childrenatanyage to performlightwork in domestic service orworkwithfamilymemberinagriculture.However,theChildRightsActprohibitstheworstformsofchildlabour,includingtheforcedlabourofchildrenanduseofchildreninprostitutionorinarmedconflict.The LaborActsetsdifferentagesforvarioushazardousoccupations.Forinstance,achildagedfifteenoroldercanworkinindustries.Thelawforbidschildrenunderageofsixteentoworkundergroundortoworkwithmachinesbutclearlyallowchildrenagedbetweensixteentoeighteentodothesehazardousoccupations.However,thesamelawprohibitsemploymentofchildundertheageofEighteentoworkinharmfulenvironment.Thelawdoesnotremovechildrenfromdomesticservice,thiscanincreaseincentivesforparentstosend theirchildren to work (United StatesDepartment ofLabor, 2011).

In2002NigeriaratifiedConventionNo.138,theMinimumAgeConventionandConventionNo.182,the WorstFormsofChildLabour.NigeriaalsoadoptedtheUnitedNationsConventionontheRightsoftheChild,andtheAfricanCharterontheRightsandWelfareoftheChild,whichappearedtohavelaidresttothe argumentthatchildrenhavenoclearlydefinablerightsinNigeria.BoththeConventionontheRightsoftheChildandtheConventionontheEliminationofallFormsofDiscriminationagainstWomen(CEDAW)weredoptedin1991and1985respectively.HoweverboththeCRCandCEDAWhavenowbeen"domesticated" inNigeria.TheAfricanCharterhasalsobeen domesticatedbyNigeria.However,theNationalAssembly shouldseriouslylookintotheseandotherinternational laws,especiallyhumanrightsissues thatadversely affect therights and fundamental freedoms of thecitizenry. Thus,the problemnow is how effectivelytoenforce and monitor theimplementation of theseprovisionsasthey affectchildren"sandwomen"srights inNigeria.ThisalsopresupposesthatallsocialrightsshouldbemadefjustifiableinNigeriasoastoempowerthelessprivileged in the society(Onyemachi, 2010).

TheNigeriangovernmenthasprovidedanenablingenvironmentandsupportforthesecivilsocietyorganizations(CSOs)to thriveandhasdrawnfromtheirworkformulatepolicies,programmesandinterventions forchildvictimsofabuseandviolence(Ekpenyong&Sibirii,2011).On2000,theNigerianGovernmentestablishedanationalprogramtoeliminatetheworstformsofchildlabourinNigeria(Elijah&Okoruwa,2006).Despiteallthesechildrenarestillabused.EkpenyongandSibirii(2011)statethereasonchildlabouris prevalent is duetotheeconomicsituationwheremanyfamilieslivebelowpovertyandcanbarelyearnenoughto feedthemselvesandtheirchildren.Furthermoremainlychildlaborersareengagedatthehouseholdlevelorstreet hawkingTogundeandArielle(2008)arguesthatregulationsregardingstreethawkinghave been difficult to control bythegovernment.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:

Significance of the Study:

The

concernfortheeradicationofchildlabourhasbecomeamajorsocialagendatowhichbothcivilsocietyand statepayagreatdealofattentiontodaytorootitoutfromthefaceofthenation.

Scope for Future Study:

The

futureresearchersshouldtargetNCRdhabasinorderto havestrongresultssince dhabasonhighwaysconstitutemajorportions of childlabor.

Objectives of the Study:

- To measure the magnitude of child labor working in Dhabas at Delhi.
- To understand the composition of child labor (A) Social Composition: religion wise, case wise, region wise, and age wise. (B) Economic Composition: Occupation and Income composition of the parents.
- Impact of migration on child labor.
- To analyze the causes of child labor: Social V/s Economic causes.
- To study the impact of child labor on children psychology, their health, their education and their family life etc.
- To develop a model for the eradication of child labor in Delhi

Research Design:

The present research work is descriptive and analogical that includes surveys and fact finding enquiries regarding existing literature and events.

Data Collection Method:

In order to accomplish the objectives of the study, combination of both qualitative and quantitative research methods have been adopted. The design of the study is descriptive. The Non-Probability sampling method has been used to draw the required sample of child laborers. Besides these respondents, the qualitative data was collected using narrative analysis as a method of data collection. The data has been collected using self-administered interviews scheduled with the child laborers. These secondary sources were tapped and information procured from them was analyzed. This was primarily pertaining to the constitutional provisions, various legislations, census data, ILO reports, and relevant reports of Ministry of Labor, Government of India, Reports of Government of Delhi, Books, Journals, Periodicals and Reports of Non-governmental organizations.

Selection

of

Sample:

Most of the studies have been conducted in already identified industries, but not much attention has been given to the child labor working in roadside Dhabas. Therefore, for the current study, sample has been taken from roadside Dhabas of Delhi.

Area of Sample: The study was conducted in all four zones in Delhi.

Sample Size: The sample targeted for survey was 150 child laborers in Delhi in all four zones; East, North, West and South. However, we received 100 completely filled accurate questionnaires.

Choice of Respondents: Convenience sampling method has been followed in choosing a sample of 150 child labourers working in dhabas situated in Delhi. Chi-square test has been used to find out the factors significantly associated with the level of child labor

Design

of

Questionnaire:

Data was collected through self-structured questionnaire. The data collected were then tabulated and analyzed for the purpose. Various aspects covered in the questionnaire are listed below: Profile of the child laborer, Family background, Living conditions- Health and hygiene concerns, Working condition and Financial concerns

Testing

of

Questionnaire:

The structured questionnaire was tested through a focus group interview among the 5 college students where they were interviewed on each parameter drafted and the moderator observed that all the questions were relevant except few i.e., 3 questions which were not valid in context of Delhi region. Out of 41 questions originally framed, 3 were dropped and finally the pilot study carried on with 38 questions.

Period of Study: The present study covers a period of 15 years beginning from 2000-2015 for secondary data and April, 2015 – June, 2015 for the collection of primary data

Data Analysis Method : The method to be used is Bivariate analysis-tests of differences-t test for comparing two means and ANOVA for complex experimental designs. Also to test goodness of fit and independence, chi-square test will be used.

Statistical Tools and Tests Used for Testing of Hypothesis :

SPSS statistics 21 software would be used for the following tests:

- ✓ Descriptive statistics
- ✓ Parametric Test– T- test, ANOVA
- ✓ Non parametric Test– Mann Whitney, Kruskal-Wallis, Chi-square test.

RESULT & FINDINGS:

Of the respondents (06%) surveyed were female and (93%) were male.

Table 1: Demographic Variable

Details	Frequency(N)	Percentage
Gender: Male	76	93%
Female	5	6%
Age Group :5-10	22	27%
10–14	59	73%
Marital Status: Married	1	1%
Unmarried	80	99%

Cronbach alpha test– Test for reliability scale

Reliability Measures: Reliability test was carried out using SPSS Software and the test measures are given below in Table 2 below. Face Validity of questionnaires was tested and it was found to be satisfactory.

Table 2 : Reliability Statistics

Cronbach's Alpha	Cronbach's Alpha Based on Standardized Items	N of Items
.70	.70	38

Table 3: Distribution of Child Labor on Age and Gender Bases

	Gender			
		Male	Female	Total
Age	6<=	4	0	4
	8 - 10	15	3	18
	10 - 12	46	4	50
	12 - 14	28	0	28

	Total	93	7	
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Table 4: Distribution of Child Labor on Proportion on Literacy Basis

Education	Age				
	6 - 8	8 - 10	10 - 12	12 - 14	Total
Not Enrolled	0	0	6	0	6
Dropped out	4	14	25	24	67
Attending	0	4	1	8	13
Complete	0	0	0	14	14
Total	4	18	32	46	100

Table 5: Pearson's Chi-Square Test on Child Labor on Proportion on Literacy Basis

	Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi - Square	37.028 ^a	9	.000
Likelihood Ratio	44.566	9	.000
Linear-by-Linear Association	12.974	1	.000
N of Valid Cases	100		

Interpretation: 11 cells (68.8%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is .24. Chi square value at 9 degree of freedom is 37.028 and its p value is 0.00 which is less than 0.05, so it may be concluded that the proportion does not significantly differ in the given category of the given literacy which clearly reflects that the intensity of child labour is more in case of drop out in case of literacy which is a critical issue for policy makers.

Gender Vs Monthly Earnings

H₀: There is no significant difference between male and female monthly earnings in Dhaba

H₁: There is a significant difference between male and female monthly earnings in Dhaba

T- Test: Test of Significance Between Monthly Earnings & Gender of The Respondents

Table 6: Group Statistics

	Gender	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
Monthly Earning	Male	76	3.2700	.53617	.11989
	Female	5	3.0500	.81531	.18231

Table 7: Independent Samples Test

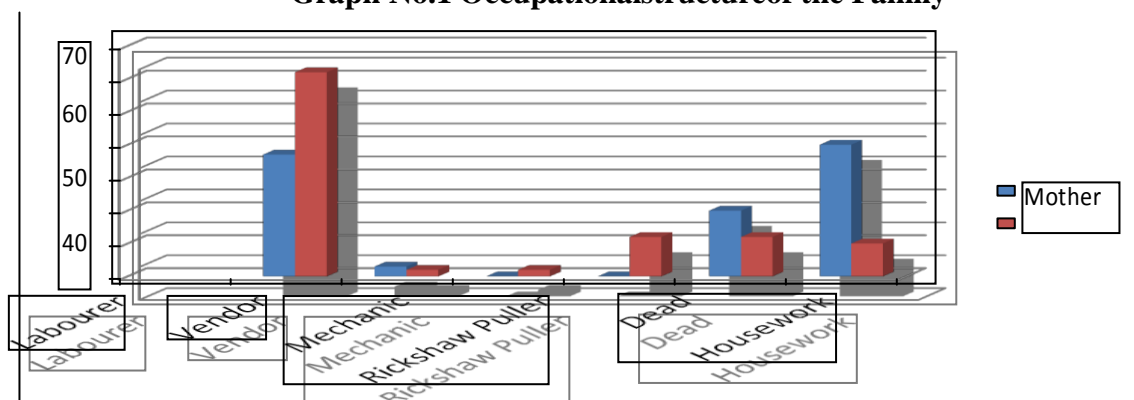
	Levene's Test for Equality of Variances		T-Test for Equality of Means		
	F	Sig.	t	df	Sig.

Equalvariances	1.	.232	1.0	38	
Monthly Earningassumed	4		08		
Equalvariances notassumed	7		1.0	32.844	
			08		

TheabovetableindicatethatSignificantvalueis0.320whichisgreaterthan($P > 0.05$),hencethenullhypothesisisacceptedandwemayconcludethatthereisnosignificantdifference between maleandfemale monthlyearnings in Dhabas.

TableNo. 8Occupational structure ofthe Family

Occupation	Mother	Father
Labourer	37	62
Vendor	3	2
Mechnaic	0	2
Rickshaw Puller	0	12
Dead	20	12
Housework	40	10

Graph No.1 Occupationalstructureof the Family**FINDINGS:**

The findings are as follows:

- Findings related to identification Data:

- It is stated that, the proportion of male child labour working in dhabas are more (93%) than females' child labour (07%). Many of the child labourers are working in dhabas for supporting their family income as the child has to share the responsibility. 29 respondents shared that they have to take care of their family and 13 had lost their fathers/mothers or both. Thus, 42 respondents are taking full responsibility of their family and rest was forced to work to fulfill their parents' wish.
- The child labourers working in dhabas want to take education and want to go to school, however only 20 percent were found to be in 1-5 standard and 9 percent in 6-8 standard and rest were having no education at all. It is observed that, most of the child laborers couldn't attain their education because of their regular labour jobs in dhabas of Delhi.
- It was also observed that most of the child labor belongs to Bihar and Bengal and least from Jharkhand and remote areas of Uttar Pradesh.

- Findings related to Family Factors:

- In the present study, most of the child laborers are from the joint families and they have an average family size of 5 persons. Child laborers usually got family broken of Divorce, marital conflicts, parents' alcoholic addiction and death of their parents.
- Most of the child laborers' parents do not work with them at the same place. 93% of the respondents

reported that their parents, fathers work in constructions and mothers as house maids or both in construction. However, in 7% cases it was observed that their father or mother work in the same dhaba as a head cleaner or a helper.

- It was not strange to notice that none of them were a single child in the family. All the child laborers have their siblings and they are also working in different places.
- Findings related to Living Conditions:
 - When asked respondents about their native place and homes, they reported in much lucidated manner where it was found that all of them were from remote areas or slums of rural living in thatched house.
 - There were different reasons for them to leave their native places but the major problem which was understood was poverty indeed, however, to survive the living, the problems faced were reported as approximately 60% of the children reported no source of employment for the whole family and no extra facilities provided with education and 20% reported that no medical facilities available for chronic diseases and rest 20% children reported that they did not want to confine to one place and rather wanted to explore the opportunities outside their villages.
 - When asked about the living conditions, all of them agreed that all the factors specifically health and hygiene are better in Delhi than at their own native places.
- Findings related to Occupational Data:
 - It was found that 70% of the children were engaged in the same dhaba for a year, however rest have been new to this place and found to working in other area of employment. 2% children mentioned that they were going to school in their native place but parents asked them to leave their schools and start working as they could not afford the education.
- Findings related to Working Conditions:
 - The child laborers in dhabas are majorly responsible for cleanertypework, typically working for 5-6 hours on a shift basis as 60% children were found to be studying while working either in morning or evening shift.
 - When asked about earnings, 20% children did not know about their earnings as their parents are entitled to get these and rest said, they earn somewhere around Rs. 300-600 per month with meals free. There are four economic factors found in the present study, such as low wages, no wages for overtime, Fringe Benefits, delay in payment of wages & Employer-Employee Relationship. Child laborers are typically paid less than adults in all varieties of jobs even though they perform the same work and have to work beyond normal working hours.
 - The distribution of the respondents according to the delayed payment of their wages, the child laborers reveal that, they had always delayed in paying their wages payment without fixing the date of payment, which is without "Payment of wages Act" for adults.
 - None of the children reported any case of punishment by an employee.
 - Most of the children did not know if they were suffering from any disease but 30% reported occasionally fever, cough, and cold due to dust, dirty water and exertion. They also mentioned that they get paid day off and visit Govt. hospital having no or less fees for OPD.
 - In all the cases, the children were getting 2 meals a day and 30% of the children also got one pair of dress for a year which they wash once a week.
 - The children reported that they often get tips while cleaning the desk and they earn around Rs. 200 per month from tips from which they buy necessities for their family.

- Other Factors Causes of Child Labour

- Socio-economic factors are primarily responsible for perpetuation of child labour in Delhi. Widespread and chronic economic poverty in the urban & rural areas forces parents to send their children for work; casteism, gender discrimination, large family size, low level of income, geographically disadvantaged area, illiteracy etc. do contribute significantly to the cause of child labour practice. Further with advantages like low remuneration, lack of unions, on demand for overtime, simple and easy to be molded and punished etc., being inherent with children, employers prefer child labour. In most underdeveloped and agrarian societies children are the part of labour force. With the growth of urbanization and industrialization, they are moving from families to hotel and other employment.
- Unsafe and unregulated working conditions affect the physical and psychological health of the labour.

RECOMMENDATION:

The prevalence of child labour is shown by the child work participation rates, which are higher in India than in other developing countries. The major determinant of child labour is poverty. Even though children are paid less than adults, whatever income they earn is of benefit to poor families.

Changing the structure of the workforce and hiring a high number of currently unemployed adults in greatly improved work conditions is only the first step in this lengthy process. A cycle of poverty is formed and the need for child labour is reborn after every generation. India needs to address the situation by tackling the underlying

causes of child labour through governmental policies and the enforcement of these policies. Only then will India succeed in the fight against child labor.

The following are the recommendations according to the study conducted:

- There should be compulsory education to all school-aged children because education helps children learn skills that will help them earn a living.
- The age of children should be amended from 14 years to 16 years.
- Children should be paid the same wage as adults; this will remove the economic incentive to employ child labourers.
- Children should be provided with non-formal job-oriented education, such that it enhances their skill, which would enable them to shift to more remunerative satisfaction and less hazardous alternative employment.
- There should be a practical time-bound standardization or uniformity program to eliminate child labour.
- The legislature should define „child labor“ and thereby remove the confusion regarding the scope of child labour.
- The constitution should cast a duty on the guardian to send the child to school.
- Not only government but also every citizen takes responsibility to give financial support to every economically poor family.

CONCLUSION:

The children are the leaders of the future and their development into responsible members of the society is vital to the development of any society. Children constitute about 40 percent of the total population of India. The constitution of India mentions a child as one who is less than 14 years of age. Development of a child

nallitsareas-physical,cognitive,social,andemotional-
growsatarapidrateduringtheearlyyears.AccordingtoIndiannominculture,humanlifeconsistsoffour
uniquephasesviz.,childhood(Balyavastha),adulthood(Kumaravastha),youth(Yavvanavastha)and
ld
age(Vardhakyavastha).Childhoodplaysanimperativeroleinone'slifebecausethisis theonlyphasewh
ichunfoldstheabilitiesandskillshiddeninsidethechildandpavesthewayfordevelopmenttothefullext
nt.

Indhabachildren,duetounfavorableconditions,whichincludelivingandworkinginunhealthyenviro
nment,lackofcareandaffectionofparents,lackofhealthyinteractionwiththeoutsideworldhamperthe
developmentofthechild.Insteadofattendingschoolanddoingotheractivitiesnormaltotheirage,these
childrenareforcedtoplaytheroleof anadult.Thesechildrenhave no
scopetosocializeintotheirnormalroles.Thesechildren easilypreytoanti-
socialactivitiesand.thereisagreatdangerofthembecomingpotentialcriminals.

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