

Kafait Ullah, Pakistan

Kafait Ullah, 13, is from Peshawar, Pakistan. He is in seventh grade.

Kafait started working as an apprentice in a tailor shop when he was eight years old. He worked seven days a week for three years in the shop. He worked for a mere 5-10 Pakistan rupees (US 8-16 cents) a day.

His father is educated; he attended school through tenth grade. He works in the same tailor shop where Kafait once worked. Kafait's mother is illiterate.



Kafait Ullah, 13, Children's World Congress on Child Labor and Education, New Delhi, India, September 4-8, 2005

Kafait has four brothers and one sister. His older brother is 14-years-old. He attends public school and does not work. The family pays school fees of 66 Pakistan rupees (\$1.10 US dollars) and an average of 500-700 Pakistan rupees (\$8.40-\$11.72 US dollars) just for text books. Kafait's other brothers are between the ages of 3 and 11 years. Those of school going-age attend school. His sister is the youngest; she is only one year old.

Kafait lives in a joint-family house with his immediate family, cousins and other relatives. Everyone in the house, except for his one-year-old sister, hems handkerchiefs to earn money. Kafait earns 400-500 Pakistan rupees (\$6.70-\$8.40 US dollars) per month. His extended family earns 7-8,000 Pakistan rupees (\$117-\$134 US dollars) a month. Kafait pays for his own school with the income he makes from working every day after school. If education was free and of good quality then his life would be very different.

Kafait spends all his free-time after school hemming. He goes to school from 7:00 -1:00 p.m. When he gets home from school, he normally sits and hems handkerchiefs until late at night. He does not have any time to study after working.

Kafait wants to study as much as he can, and he hopes that soon he can have fun like other kids. He aims to become a pilot. He thinks that some day he will have the ability to support his family.