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STUDY OF CAUSES AND IMPACT OF CHILD LABOR

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Abstract

In this study an endeavor is made to summarize the findings of the current study and offers suggestions to eradicate the child labor. Hence, the present study is an empirical attempt to analyses the causes and impact of child labor in Udaipur the children who are supposed to be hidden in the hearts of their mothers and enjoying immense affection of their parents, are in millions, compelled to work as laborers. the paper aims to examine and identify main causes behind child labor and psycho-social & economic impact of working children. The main suggestion of the researcher is News ticker or crawling should also use to spread awareness regarding social evil like child labor and Media should play an important role in educating the public about child rights. It should draw attention of the policymakers to the violations of child rights and Sensitization across society by street plays on several themes raising child labor as a social evil.

Keywords: child labor, human trafficking, workplace, working children

introduction

The prevalence of child labor is one of the most important problems confronting the world at large, especially developing countries such as India. In many cases, child labor is mainly practiced by economic compulsions of the parents. The main reason which gives rise to child labor is widespread unemployment and underemployment among the adult poor strata of the population, inter alia, sharp growth of population., large families with low income and often lack of educational facilities, illiteracy and ignorance of parents about the importance of education as well as about the impact of labor on the health of their children are some of the reasons which breed child labor.

The industrial revolution in the west made child labor more visible, and like a contagious disease, it spread to those countries also which were under their domain. Over 168 million children across the world are trapped in the vicious cycle of child labor. Deprived of their basic right to survival, protection, development and participation, these children, between the age group of 5 to 17 years, account for 11% of the world's total child population.

Despite the decrease in child labor at a global level, Asia and the Pacific region continue to top the chart with 77.7 million child laborers, of which 34 million are reported to be engaged in hazardous occupations.

All over the world, children are being exploited through child labor. This mentally and physically dangerous work interferes with schooling and long-term development—the worst forms include slavery, trafficking, sexual exploitation and hazardous work that put children at risk of death, injury or disease.

In the early 21st century, child labor remains a serious problem in many parts of the world. Studies carried out in 1979, the International Year of the Child, show that more than 50 million children below the age of 15 were working in various jobs often under hazardous conditions. Many of these children live in underdeveloped countries their living conditions are miserable and their chances for education minimal. Frequently, these families lack the basic necessities of life adequate food, clothing and shelter, and even water for bathing. As far as a definition of child labor is concerned, it refers to the work done by an individual who has not attained the age of 18 years and that work that deprives children of their childhood, their potential and their dignity, and that is harmful to physical and mental development. The United States National Child Labor Committee (1935) defined child labor as “any work by children that interfere with their full physical development, their opportunities for a desirable minimum of education or their needed recreation”.

The constitution of India also committed to the protection and promotion of the welfare considerations over the economic ones. Therefore, series of committees and commissions have been appointed by the Government of India either specifically on the question of child labor, which gives us insights into the problem and to give suggestions to alleviate this problem. Many societies developed the opinion “that it was not for the family to support the child rather, it was for the child to support the family”. 1

India is home to the largest number of child laborers in the world. The Census of India Survey 2011, Government of India estimated 11.7 million children aged 5-14 years (4.5% of total children in this age group) to be working under hazardous occupations and processes as main and marginal workers.

The census data reflects 7% reduction in child labor in India from 2001 to 2011. However, it is important to note the simultaneous rise in the work force of the unorganized sector from a mere 8413 in 2001 to 12,466 in 2011.

As per Census 2011, the total child population in India in the age group (5-14) years is 259.6 million. Of these, 10.1 million (3.9% of total child population) are working, either as ‘main worker’ or as ‘marginal worker’. In addition, more than 42.7 million children in India are out of school.

However, the annual health survey of 2010-11 in the work status category mentions that Rajasthan constitutes 5% of work force in the age group of 5-14 years.

The worst performing among all is Jhunjhunu district with 10.8%. Interestingly, a large number of children working in Rajasthan are brought from Bihar, West Bengal and Jharkhand. In western Rajasthan, most of the children are forced into salt industry while in south Rajasthan they are engaged in farming of BT cotton. The worst situation is in the districts of Alwar and Bharatpur where children are forced to work in cracker industry where the risks are too high.” The prime industries where children are employed are in manufacturing of bangles, embroidery and weaving of carpets. These children are then pressed to work for 14 to 16 hours a day and new socio-economic order. But prolonged scarcity of food and extreme poverty on a meager salary of Rs. 800 to Rs. 2,000 per month. Kulshrestha is of the view that “child labor in a restricted sense means the interferes with a child’s ability to attend and participate in school fully by obliging them to leave school prematurely; or requiring them to attempt to combine school recently, the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) too detected large-scale child labor at brick kilns in Bhilwara.2

It says a large number of children below 18 years are working in occupations such as gem polishing, ‘Aari Tari’, carpet manufacturing, domestic chores, begging, bidi industry, mines, agriculture, tea kiosks, dhabas. Besides the local children, a large number of child laborers from Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Delhi and West Bengal are working under difficult circumstances in Rajasthan.

The main objectives of the study were to know are they pressurized to work or they are doing by their own interest and To find out is working children are aware of their fundamental rights and legislation to protect themselves .

data collected through primary and secondary sources. **Primary Sources:** The researcher collected data through **interview schedules**, where interviewed the child laborers with the help of full structured interview

schedule with all type of close ended and open ended questions related to study. **Secondary Sources:** The secondary data collected through the **government reports, books, published articles in journals, previous research studies** and also information available on **internet** etc. The researcher also tried to find out the facts and figures regarding the children involved in such occupation. **data Collected by Interview Schedule.** The interview schedule covered personal information , family background, nature of work, working conditions, problems at work place, causes of child labor, other educational and vocational aspects relating to child labor and **Observation Method also used** While doing a study on child labor it was difficult to get all information through interview schedules only, therefore the researcher has also collected data by observing the situation from they going through.

Area of the study was **Shree Aasra vikas sansthan** an Udaipur based open shelter home was select, where child labors were temporarily sheltered by the rescue of child line (1098), Human Trafficking unit, Police with the order of child welfare committee from Udaipur city area.

In this paper researcher has selected 15 children out of 20 children who belongs to Udaipur and temporary sheltered at Open shelter home for sampling by using purposive sampling method.

Table – 3.1
Age of Respondent

S. No.	Age Group	No. of Respondents	Percentage
A	11-12	1	06.67
B	13-14	5	33.33
C	15-16	6	40.00
D	Under 17	3	20.00
	Grand Total	15	100.00

From table 3.1 it is stated that the maximum 40 percent of the child labor belongs to the age group of (15-16), least of the respondents 6.67 percent are of the age group of (11-12). It is clear that majority of the child labor belong to the age group of (13- 16),

Table -3.2

Caste of Respondent

S. No.	Caste	No. of Respondents	Percentage
A	General	5	33.33
B	SC	2	13.33
C	ST	8	53.33
D	OBC	0	00.00
	Grand Total	15	100.00

The above Table 3.3 data shows that maximum (53.33 percent) respondents belongs to Scheduled Tribes (ST), while the rest 13.33 percent child labor are of Scheduled Castes (SC), and no one children belongs to OBC caste.

It is clear that majority of the child labor comes from Scheduled Tribes (ST), and not even a single child from OBC category involves in child labor.

Table - 3.4

Area of Respondent

S. No.	Area	No. of Respondents	Percentage
A	Rural	13	86.67
B	Urban	2	13.33
	Grand Total	15	100.00

Table indicates that which is maximum number of respondents 86.67 percent were from rural area and rest 13.33 percent of respondents were from Urban locality. It clear that majority of child labor were from rural background



Table- 3.5
Pay Scale of Respondents

S. No.	Pay Scale	No. of Respondents	Percentage
A	2501-3500	1	06.67
B	3501-4500	5	33.33
C	4501-5500	1	06.67
D	5501-6500	4	26.67
E	6501-7500	4	26.67
	Grand Total	15	100.00

The data on monthly income of the respondents reflect that maximum respondents have income between 3501-4500 and the least 6.67 percent respondents whose pay is in between 2501-3500 & 4501-5500 respectively, which clearly states that lower the age higher the exploitation also availability of child labor in cheaper rate, encouraging employer to hire children.

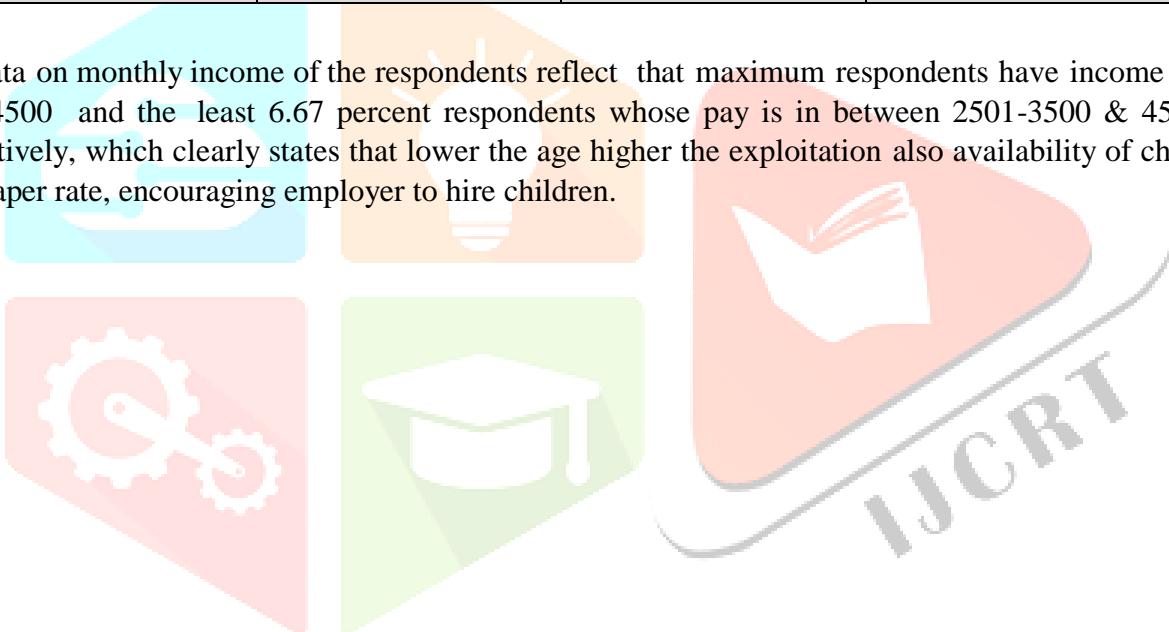


Table - 3.6**types of work of Respondents**

S. No.	Types of Occupation	No. of Respondents	Percentage
A	Waiter	5	33.33
B	Cooking Staff	3	20.00
C	Others	7	46.67
	Grand Total	15	100.00

According to the above table data maximum 33.33 percent respondents work as a waiter in restaurant and hotels, 20 percent of respondents are engaged in cooking and food preparing activities of food and rest 46.67 percent of respondents work as a dishwasher, cleaner, Goldsmith, Helper, etc. in different setting .and are paid minimum wages in these settings .

Table - 3.7**Educational Qualification of Respondents**

S. No.	Class	No. of Respondents	Percentage
A	Illiterate	0	00.00
B	Primary	5	33.33
C	Secondary	9	60.00
D	Higher Secondary	1	06.67
	Grand Total	15	100.00

Above table depict that, out of total 60 percent of respondents involved in child labor has completed secondary education, which is maximum in numbers , on the other hand 33.33 percent have completed primary education while 6.6 percent respodents have higher secondary degree which means not a single respondent (child labor) are illiterate .

Table - 3.8
Family Type of Respondents

S. No.	Type of Family	No. of Respondents	Percentage
A	Joint	4	26.67
B	Nuclear	11	73.33
	Grand Total	15	100.00

According to this table majority of respondents 73.33 percent belongs to nuclear family and the rest 26.67 percent are of joint family. which means child from the nuclear family gets more burden and pressure to involve in child labor practices to provide financial support to family then that of joint family.

Table - 3.9
Family Occupation of Respondents

S. No.	Type of Occupation	No. of Respondents	Percentage
A	Agriculture	6	40.00
B	Hotel Industry	2	13.33
C	Labor	3	20.00
D	Others	4	26.67
	Grand Total	15	100.00

This table states that maximum 40 percent of the respondent's family engaged in agriculture for livelihood, 20 percent doing labor, 13.33 percent respondent's family working under hotel industry and rest of respondent's family i.e. 26.67 percent engaged in some other occupation like plumbing, scrap, etc.

As most of the respondents belong to rural area, so the family occupation for majority of family is agriculture.

Table - 3.10
Dominance over family of Respondents

S. No.	Type of Family	No. of Respondents	Percentage
A	Father	11	73.33
B	Mother	4	26.67
	Grand Total	15	100.00

This table proves that in highest number of respondent's family, father (73.33 percent) have dominance as compared to mother (26.67 percent).

It also get proved by the investigation that in a rural areas the patriarchal mind set quite high so for incense father is the dominating personality within the family but, mother dominance is noticed in the case of single women parents .

Table - 3.11
Family Educational Status of Respondents

S. No.	Education	Father	Percentage	Mother	Percentage
A	Illiterate	13	86.67	15	100
B	Literate	2	13.33	0	0
	Grand Total	15	100.00	15	100.00

The above table highlight that 86.67 percent of respondent's father 86.67 percent respondents as father that is 13 in numbers and 100 percent respondent as mothers that are 15 in numbers were illiterate, whereas only 13.33 percent of total respondent as father were literate.

This shows the gender based literacy gap as in compare to women, men are more educated in rural settings that is why child labor practice is predominant in such families .

Table - 3.12
Marital Status of Respondent's Mother

S. No.	Marital Status	No. of Respondents	Percentage
A	Married	11	73.33
B	Widow	4	26.67
C	Divorcee	0	00.00
	Grand Total	15	100.00

The above table describes that the marital status of 11 (73.33 percent) respondent's mother is Married, out of all 4 (26.67 percent) are widow and none of all is divorcee.

Above information made it clear, as the most of the child labor are of rural background . 26.67 percent mothers were widows so it might be a reason behind the child labor practices .

Table - 3.13
Rescue of Respondents

S. No.	Rescue	No. of Respondents	Percentage
A	Child line (1098)	4	26.67
B	Human Trafficking Unit	8	53.33
C	Udaipur police	3	20.00
	Grand Total	15	100.00

As the Table - 3.13 provide the facts that, the highest number of child labor rescue has been done by Human Trafficking Unit that is 53.33 percent, 26.67 percent by Child line (1098), and the rest 20 percent rescue were accomplished by Udaipur police.

Above facts reveals that there is higher contribution of Human Trafficking unit in eradication of this social evil i.e. child labor.

Table - 3.14
Respondents by Choice of doing child labor

S. No.	Choice	No. of Respondents	Percentage
A	Influence of family	5	33.33
B	Own choice	10	66.67
	Grand Total	15	100.00

Above data represents that maximum respondents 66.67 percent are involve in child labor practices by their own choice, while the 33.33 percent were pushed or influence by their own family to provide financial support . Poverty , low interest , peer group influence has been the cause of behind it.

Table - 3.15
Legal Awareness of Respondents

S. No.	Legal Awareness	No. of Respondents	Percentage
A	No	13	86.67
B	Yes	2	13.33
	Grand Total	15	100

Above table states that majority of respondents, 86.67 percent were legally unaware of their fundamental rights and legislation to protect themselves and on the other hand, rest 13.33 percent of total respondents were aware.

Table - 3.16
Respondents by Work after rescue

S. No.	Work after rescue	No. of Respondents	Percentage
A	No	6	40.00
B	Yes	9	60.00
	Grand Total	15	100

Above table clarify that maximum number of respondents involved in child labor practices do not believe to left the jobs or employment even after rescue while 40 percent wants to stop it and get rescue. So in the rural remote areas child labor practices is dominant in nature and galvanize the adolescence to practice the same imitating each other families with the hope of early more of to satisfy the family need.

Based on findings of the study the following suggestions are offered to eradicate child labor which are as follow-

- The schools should be strengthened and made attractive by establishing eco-friendly environment for

joyful learning, meaningful experiences in school, with child-friendly and interactive teaching-learning methods, so that child may attract toward school.

- Certification should be provided to firms, that goods have been produced child labor free, and promote ethical consumerism. So that business firm adopt child labor-free approach.
- Business firm should ensure that their existing & new suppliers do not use child labor by writing the conditions in the contract and drop suppliers who fail to comply.
- Government should strengthen the school infrastructure , pedagogical approach , nutritious items to children and its regular monitoring to create effective check and balance system , allowances for schooling to parents etc. such sorts of initiative or measures may motivate parent as well as children towards the promotion.
- News ticker or crawling should also use to spread awareness regarding social evil like child labor. And also the Media should highlight the importance of education, child rights and should draw attention of the policymakers towards it .
- Government should given the target to every teachers , every NGOs to adopt a child ,a school, a marginalized community to enhance enrollment, retention and learning. And report quarterly to the legal educational authority .

CONCLUSION

The study tried to analyze the causes and impact of child labor on children and suggested some remedial measures to eliminate child labor from the society. To sum up, it can be said that the problem of child labor is prevalent in poverty stricken societies and in developing country like India, it has become one of the major socio- economic challenges. The existence of child labor in any society shows the vicious circle of poverty and unemployment, as the study shows how family's poor economic condition pressurized a child to do child labor. Therefore, it is a crucial issue that needs not just the attention but the implementation of the child labor prohibition Act. By the study it is also found that 66.66 percent of total child labor are of ST & SC. Majority (86.67 percent) were from rural background & many of the parents were illiterate. The employer used to exploit child labor as per above data, 40 percent of the clients are getting paid in between Rs. 2500-4500 p.m. only, after working whole day. The child labor affecting child physically as well as mentally, Child labors used to felt weakness in limbs, also their body is not that mature enough to work hard and for such a long time. Child's personality become full of Stress and anxiety and Also they don't have freedom to express themselves at workplace which put negative impact on their personality. Child Labor can be eliminated by implementing long term policies for poverty alleviation. To eradicate this social evil, Government and NGOs are jointly working by doing rescue operation and rehabilitation as it is discovered in the study that most successful child labor rescue operations (53.33 percent) accomplished by Human Trafficking Unit and remaining rescue done by Childline (1098) and Udaipur police but a little more efforts required.

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