

THE EFFECT OF CHILD LABOUR TOWARDS THE SOCIETY

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Abstract

Studies on child labour cover reports of various types prepared by various governmental, semi-governmental or voluntary agencies of national and international statuses. These studies are conducted to look into the working conditions of child labour and to determine the causes which compel the various households to send their children to work. Since child labour is a socio-economic problem, the main emphasis of the researchers has been applied one, in that most of them have tried to suggest ways to solve this problem or to lessen its intensity. The extent studies on child labour reveals that the emphasis has been more on the aspects like theoretical and conceptual framework of child labour, Antecedents of child labour like poverty, adult unemployment, education, gender discrimination etc., their working conditions with an emphasis on varying problem arising from different sectors of economy, consequences of child labour for children in terms of their physical and psychological health and on social and economic conditions of the family etc. These studies revealed a general analytical prospective and provided a focused and rational attitude for the present study

Keywords: Child labour, , the Child Rights, education, etc.

INTRODUCTION

Child labour is nothing but the employment of children in any work that deprives them from their childhood . Work in the sense which does not allow the children to attend the school regularly. Child labour are the children who live within the four walls of the society, where the first wall is poverty, second wall is illiteracy, third wall is hunger (in this the children have been dragged into the situation where they have to work for the food and no other choice) and the fourth wall is the unemployment (which leads to low family income) . The plague child labour can be tracked down to 19th century and early 20th century, where children of age 6 – 14 years has been working for their family in Europe & United States. But by the passage of time , due to increased family income , drop of illiteracy level and due to implementation of legal legislation , it is said that change was brought and the level of child labour fell down. The plague child labour has been found in undeveloped, developing and developed countries as well. The common causes for the existence of child labour are poverty , illiteracy, low family income , population etc. It is found that in India , the child labour is found more in Rural side rather than the Urban side. In rural side over 80 percentage of children have been trapped in the name of

child labor whereas in urban side 20 percentage of children has been trapped. It is true that 60 percentage of child labour has been engaged in agricultural activities in rural side.

Child labour is one of the serious issue, which is not addressed properly and not getting attention from the public, media and the government and which also has a very serious effect towards the society and future generation. The child labour forces some children to steal things from others in order to satisfy their daily needs. And many girls are even made to indulge in prostitution. This increase the rate of crime and at this point the child labour shifts the interest of children from education and can increase the criminal nature of the children. Along with that the child labour also kills the freedom of children with the creativity loss. There are certain situations in which accommodation and negotiation is difficult but not impossible. Serious action taken by the family and the country starting from the base could help in reducing the level of child labour. Least concerned parents, illiteracy and unawareness are directly linked to the educational level of the society. Child labour does effect the whole society in every single aspect. The law should be practical enough so that it can be practiced. Strict action should be taken by the government for those who misuse the children for the purpose of employment

Causes of child Labour

- **Poverty** and over population have been identified as the two main causes of child labour. Parents are forced to send little children into hazardous jobs for reasons of survival, even when they know it is wrong. Monetary constraints and the need for food, shelter and clothing drives their children in the trap of premature labour.

- **Over population** in some regions creates paucity of resources. When there are limited means and more mouths to feed children are driven to commercial activities and not provided for their development needs.

- **Illiteracy among parents:** Illiterate and ignorant parents do not understand the need for wholesome proper physical, cognitive and emotional development of their child. They are themselves uneducated and unexposed, so they don't realize the importance of education for their children.

- **Adult unemployment and urbanization**

also causes child labour. Adults often find it difficult to find jobs because factory owners find it more beneficial to employ children at cheap rates. This exploitation is particularly visible in garment factories of urban areas. Adult exploitation of children is also seen in many places. Elders relax at home and live on the labour of poor helpless children.

• **Industrial revolution** has also had a negative effect by giving rise to circumstances which encourages child labour. Sometimes multinationals prefer to employ child workers in the developing countries. This is so because they can be recruited for less pay, more work can be extracted from them and there is no union problem with them. This attitude also makes it difficult for adults to find jobs in factories, forcing them to drive their little ones to work to keep the fire burning their homes.

OBJECTIVE:

- 1) To study about the reason for the prevalence of child labour in Rural India
- 2) To analyse the existing legal frameworks against child labour in India

HYPOTHESIS:

- 2) The existing legal frameworks against child labour might not be sufficient to stop the activity of child labour in Rural India.

Economic Status of Child Labour's Family

From the field study it was found that the economic status is usually not good. Majority of the families were engaged in the daily wage system. The people follow varied occupations. A few years back, the process of dari (cotton carpet) making was carried out in the tehsils but due to continuous raids of labour officials, it was shifted to blocks so most of the adult respondents of field study are not involved in dari (cotton carpet) making. Because people engaged themselves according to the availability of work they normally went to the proper Sitapur in search of job, they got varied jobs except dari making. So they engage themselves in other things such as farming, mechanical work, rickshaw pulling, daily wage labourers etc. Many people even work outside their villages. Due to this moving out, people engage their children in this profession. The belief that if the child becomes a skilled weaver, his work and earnings will flourish make parents engage their children in this work. So, they borrow money from money lenders or creditors to set up one or two looms of their own. Also easy availability of jobs in the dari (cotton carpet) industry is responsible for concentration of children in this section.

Low income is a factor which is responsible for a number of hardships faced by families. An attempt was made to study the income of the families surveyed. It was found that families with one earning members have

between Rs. 2300/2400 per month; two earning members brought in Rs. 3000/- in a month. Women hardly contribute to the family income some women engage themselves in chikan embroidery.

The field study found that majority of the families live in miserable conditions. They work, otherwise, they have no proper income. Rainy season sees there families face starvation because there is no availability of work. For this reason, majority of the families need whatever their children earn. Withdrawal of these children from the workforce would result in families facing economic crisis.

Social Aspects of Child Labour Child

labour are a socially disadvantaged group of society. They are deprived of basic necessities such as education, healthy diet, recreative time etc.

Parent's Illiteracy

Illiterate parents discourage children to attend schools because they lack the awareness of the merits of education. In an analysis made by Geetha (2005), it was found that there was a high incidence of illiteracy with around 50 per cent of them reporting lack of education. Lack of education may have also induced them to send their child to work

Adult Unemployment

Adult unemployment is also in a large manner responsible for child labour. Sometimes child labour even replaces adult labour because child labour is comparatively much cheaper, and easier to handle. Children work faster and get lower wages. Adults may raise objects regarding wages and work load and work hours, but children do not do these. In the field studies, however, it was found that children do not replace adults, because, in the dari (cotton carpet) industry, different sections of work are handled by different ages. Here, the adults face unemployment only during non-availability of work, not because of replacement by child labour.

Insufficient Incomes of Adults

This is also a prominent factor for child labour. It was found during field study that majority of the respondents do not have enough resources to meet their basic necessities. So, during times of crisis, which is forever, there, they use their children as earning hands. Children bring in money, and this helps the family to a degree.

Cultural Aspects

Among other factors involved, the cultural aspect too is responsible for child labour. It has been believed down the ages that a child should learn the skills present in his family. This tradition also helps in enhancing child labour. This is justified both by the child's parents and his employers. Children in such setups are believed to be assisting their families, not working. Therefore, they are made to learn the craft as early as possible. Similarly, a cultivator's son who does not learn to handle the plough and other instruments at an early age will find it difficult to handle it at a later age (Yadav, 2005). In the area under research study, the cultural factor was one of the factors dominant in the prevalence of child labour.

Nearly 90% (in my view) of child labourers are rural children. Who migrate to cities and end up begging, prostitution, domestic helpers, or other odd jobs. Child labour issue cannot be dealt until and unless concerned organizations influence appropriate Governments to reevaluate the economic policies and rural economic growth. Till now rural economy is only known as agricultural economy and never emphasized on add-on value products. Governments have to consider growing and generating rural employment. Target set for 2015 to eradicate poverty may not be achieved until we understand roots and real causes of poverty.

Types of child labour- Self employed and employed with others are two categories of child labour:

Self employed- street sellers, rag or scrap pickers, street entertainers, child prostitution or pornography (but mostly they are hired by notorious gangs), begging, and other odd jobs. These types of children are mainly street children and rural migrants. Most these children are parentless, abandoned by parents, riot or war misery. The situation changes; in poor countries they are helping hand to the parents.

Employed with others- factory or mine workers, domestic servants, child prostitution or pornography. Conducting work in other's premises or in other's custody. Such children work with parents consent or are parentless. Some are sold or some work to help parents to meet livelihood.

Why child goes to work? This situation is most urgent to be taken care!!! Child goes to work only when parents allow. And why parents seek own child's support to sustain home economy? This is what in my opinion Governments need to understand and bring policies in accordance.

CONCLUSION

Millions of children around the world are been trapped in the name of child labour. Legislation across the world prohibits child labour.

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