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A study on causes of child labour in Guntur district of Andhra Pradesh

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Abstract

The study examines the causes of child labour in Guntur dist. of Andhra Pradesh. Descriptive research design was adopted utilizing both primary and secondary data. Statistical tools like chi-square test were applied to test the statistical significance of the proposed hypothesis. The study revealed that there exists a relation between the root causes of child labour and the Socio-economic conditions of the sample respondents. Based on the analysis, the researcher draws the policy suggestions to cease the child labour in selected study area.

Keywords: Child labour, poverty, Guntur district

Introduction

Child Labour is a global phenomenon. Its magnitude and dimensions, however, vary widely from country to country. India possesses the largest child Labour force in the world despite various measures undertaken by the government and non-governmental agencies to tackle this issue. According to estimate there are over 60 million Child Labour does India constitute nearly twenty five percent of the working children of the world (Mishra - 2004) ^[1].

It is important to note that the term child labour does not encompass all work performed by children under the age of 18 years. Child Labour does not include activities such as helping out light household or garden chores, child care, or other light work, after school hour. Such work contributes to the children's development and to the welfare of their families, and is thus permissible (Dingwaney, E., Manjari-1988) ^[2]. It develops useful skills, attitudes and experience, and helps the child to become a useful and productive member of society in future, as an adult (UNICEF -1997) ^[3].

Child Labour, on the other hand, is work that deprives children of their childhood, their potential, and their dignity. It interferes with physical and mental development. In its most extreme forms, it involves enslavement, separation from families, exposure to serious hazards and illness, and or being left to found for themselves. However, it is difficult to define 'Child Labour' in precise manner applicable to all situations and all countries (The New Encyclopedia Britannica-1978) ^[4].

The opinion of Claude Dumont chief of the ILO's conditions of work and welfare facilities branch, settles the debate of child work and Child Labour (I.L.O -1983) ^[5]. In his word "Naturally, the ILO is not against all forms of child work, we have no problem with the little girl who helps her mother with the housework or working or the boy or girl who does unpaid work in a small family business. Quite the contrary, by performing simple tasks or helping in a family enterprise, they can pick up skills that are handed down from generation to generation, and this makes it easier for the children to integrate into society (Joseph Putty-1997) ^[6]. This sort of work can even be a source of satisfaction for the child because the child assumes its responsibilities and can be proud of what it can do. The same is true of those odd jobs that children may occasionally take on to earn a little pocket money to buy something they really want, provided of course, that the odd job is not dangerous or illegal".

Child Labour in all its different forms, diverse degrees of exploitation and hazardous conditions is a universal phenomenon. Although children in the developed countries work, Child Labour is most prevalent in the developing countries especially like India (S.N Tripathy-1993) ^[7]. It is very difficult to estimate the number of children involved in Child Labour, because definitions differ and also a large number of children work in family enterprises assist their family in farming and many are employed in the informal sector (UNDP's Human Development Report 1996) ^[8].

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Many are working illegally. It is difficult to access and assess the total number of children working. The more pathetic sight is the humiliating conditions under which they are forced to work (UNICEF-1997) ^[9]. They are subjected to silently suffer without protest. These working children endure difficult and offensive living conditions. They live miserable lives. They earn little and are much abused. They do not go to school and more than half of them will never learn the minimum skills of literacy (Burra -1995) ^[10].

In the present study "A study on Child Labour in Guntur District" the researcher dealt with various aspects of Child Labour in Guntur District. The researcher focused on the concept of labour, influence of capitalism, review of literature, methodology, objectives of the study, data collection, economic- socio profile of Guntur District, factors leading to Child Labour, government actions to eradicate Child Labour, and to prevent Child Labour.

Survey of literature

Baharul Islam Laskar conducted a study on child labour in Aligarh lock industry. The study reveals that household economic pressures compel children to enter into the hazardous work environment that proves detrimental to their educational and health prospects for a low wage. It is also observed that most of the child labours are school dropouts who are forced into the labour market by their parents. According to the study the solution to this problem not only demands political will on the part of the government but also economic, educational and social transformation.

Mohapatra and Dash examined the socio-economic problem of child labour. The major variables used in poverty, illiteracy, unemployment, low wages, ignorance, social prejudice, regressive tradition, poor standard of living, backwardness, superstition, low status of women have combined to give birth to the terrible practice of child labour of women have combined to give birth to the terrible practice of child labour. Method used in growth rate sample data through investigation or interview, they found that the migrant's family from various district of Odisha their social economic condition is very poor which make them to go for labour.

Khan and Ali examined the perspective of constitution and legislative framework of child labour in India, the major variable used in socio – economic backwardness, poverty, illiteracy, unemployment, over population, lack of education facility, ignorance of parents about importance of education, ignorance on impact on children of labour, government apathy etc. method used the UNICEF 2006 report children of the age group (5-14 yr.) children in India. They found that the situation is overcoming the challenges that have emerged due to the child labour.

Significance of the study

In the Globalised era, rapid industrialization is taking place there by creating more employment in the countries like India and china. The concept of heavy employment involves the procurement of the cheap labour and easily accessible

labour. Child labour being cheap and accessible in nature becomes the ultimate affected Platform in this concurrent scenario. In India the school dropout rate is very high and it is inference for the prevalence of the child labour in the society. There exists several socio economic disparities in the society paving the way for the extensive of poverty, illiteracy, and unemployment these factors acts as the prime causes for the prevalence of the child labour in India, over population in the country like India is adding additional fire to the current existence of child labour in India thus, the concept of child labour encompasses a significant outlook in the Indian society and measures are to be taken for the eradication of this social evil.

Scope for the study

In the present circumstances, the analysis of root causes of child labour is the need of the hour. This study examines the concept of child labour on various latitudes subjecting it to both qualitative and quantitative analysis. The study will bring out the clear and crisp view of the child labour on the aspects of socio economic profile of the child labour, their strengths and weaknesses, their existing job environment and their satisfaction level towards identified factors under the study.

Objectives of the study

1. To study the Demographic profile and root causes of the child labour in Guntur district of Andhra Pradesh
2. To offer suggestions to cease the child labour in Guntur district of Andhra Pradesh based on findings of the study.

Hypothesis of the study

Null hypothesis Ho1

There do not exist any relation between the root causes of child labour and the Socio-economic conditions of the sample respondents.

Alternative Hypotheses Ha1

There exists a relation between the root causes of child labour and the Socio-economic conditions of the sample respondents.

Research methodology

The present study is Descriptive Research design; it is both primary and secondary data. The primary data was collected by administrating schedule method, and secondary data was collected from various books, journals, news papers and government reports pertaining to the relevant matter of the child labour. In this connection Guntur District was selected as a sampling unit, the total population in this District was 7282 (Child labour) out of 300 respondents (Child Labour) were selected as a sample size. The Convenience random sampling technique was adopted for the study. The statistical tools used for the study was Mean, Standard Deviation and Chi-square test.

Data analysis

Table 1: Causes of Child Labour

Category	Cause of Child Labour							
	Poverty	Low Income	Un-Employment	Illiteracy	Ignorance	Large Family	Other Reasons	Total
OC	7(17.5) (11.1)	6(15) (10.4)	5(12.5) (10.6)	7(17.5) (15.2)	4(10) (16.7)	6(15) (13.6)	5(12.5) (27.8)	40(100) (13.3)
BC	22(19.4) (34.9)	27(23.8) 46.5)	12(10.6) (25.5)	21(18) (45.7)	9(7.9) (37.5)	15(13.3) (34.2)	8(7.0) (44.4)	114(100) (38)
SC	31(23) (49.2)	23(17.2) (39.7)	27(20.2) (57.4)	16(11.9) (34.8)	11(8.3) (45.8)	21(15.7) (47.7)	5(3.7) (27.8)	134(100) (44.7)
ST	3(25) (4.8)	2(16.7) (3.4)	3(25) (6.5)	2(16.7) (4.3)	0(0.0) (0.0)	2(16.6) (4.5)	0(0.0) (0.0)	12(100) (4)
Total	63(21) (100)	58(19.3) (100)	47(15.7) (100)	46(15.3) (100)	24(8) (100)	44(14.7) (100)	18(6) (100)	300(100) (100)

Source: Primary Data

Note: * = significance at 5%

Pearson Chi-Square = 3.178, DF = 8, P-Value = 0.923

From the above table 1 represents the Causes of Child Labour. The respondents category OC of poverty line are 7(17.5percent), Low Income are 6(15)(10.4percent), Unemployment are 5(12.5)(10.6), Illiteracy are 7(17.5)(15.2), Ignorance are 4(10)(16.7percent), Large Family are 6(15)(13.6), Other reasons are 5(12.5)(27.8), total are 40(100)(13.3). The respondents category BC of poverty line are 22(19.4) (34.9), Low Income are 27(23.8) (46.5percent), Unemployment are 12(10.6) (25.5), Illiteracy are 21(18) (45.7), Ignorance are 9(7.9) (37.5percent), Large Family are 15(13.3) (34.2), other reasons are 8(7) (44.4), total are 114(100) (38). The respondents category SC of poverty line are 31(23percent), Low Income are 23(17.2) (39.7percent), Unemployment are 27(20.2) (57.4), Illiteracy are 16(11.9) (34.8), Ignorance are 11(8.3) (45.8percent),

Large Family are 21(15.7) (47.7), other reasons are 5(3.7) (27.8), total are 134(100) (44.7). The respondents category ST of poverty line are 3(25percent), Low Income are 2 (16.7)(3.4percent), Unemployment are 3(25)(6.5), Illiteracy are 2(16.7)(4.3), Ignorance are NIL, Large Family are 2 (16.6)(4.5), Other reasons are NIL total are 12(100)(4).

Verification of hypothesis

Test Applied: Chi-Square

Pearson Chi-Square = 3.178, DF = 8, P-Value = 0.923

From the table 1 results of the chi-square test conducted on root causes of child labour and identified socio-economic variables and it was found that the observed value is less than the table value. Hence null hypothesis is (Ho1) is rejected and alternative hypothesis is accepted.

Hypotheses	Statement	Test Applied	Result
Null Hypotheses (Ho1)	There do not exist any relation between the root causes of child labour and the Socio-economic conditions of the sample respondents.	Chi-Square Test	Rejected
Alternative Hypotheses (Ha1)	There exists a relation between the root causes of child labour and the Socio-economic conditions of the sample respondents.	Chi-Square Test	Accepted

Suggestions

The following suggestions are made based on the findings of the study.

- Compulsory primary education should be imparted to all the children below 14 years. This activity reduces the incidents of the child labour.
- The government should promote the employment opportunities to the adult members of the child labour families. This in turn increases the child labour families and there by prevent children from entering into dangerous social practice of child labour.
- The Government and other law enforcing authorities should strive for better governance and supervision of the regulations those helps in eradicating the social practice of child labour and the authorities under the act should be given autonomous powers to act accordingly on the on-going circumstances and existing challenges.
- The law making bodies should amended the prevailing diluted provisions under the child labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act 1986. With strong and deterrent punishment for the law breaking persons there by safeguarding the fundamental notions of the Act.
- There should be a strong campaign from the government side and also NGOs side with regard to the creation of awareness among adults and childrens on the evil of the child labour and the negative factors associated with the prevalence of child labour.

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