

संपादक

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Child Labour And Human Right In India

Sow.Ayodhya Pawal (Kakade)

Introduction :

Child labour refers to the employment of children in gainful occupations or a material contribution to the income of the family (Homer Folks) In assessing the nature and extent of social evil, it is necessary to take into account the character of the jobs in which they are engaged, the dangers to which they are exposed and opportunity for development which they have been denied (Dr. v.v giri) child labour is widely prevalent in some form or the other, all over the world. The term is used for domestic work, factory work, agriculture, mining, quarrying, having own work or business like selling food etc, helping parents business & doing odd jobs, migrant child labour has implications for the individual, the family & the wider society.

The migrant child labour faces various kinds of problems. They are neglected, deprived, uneducated, uncared children & struggle for their livelihood & survival. Their health condition becomes more vulnerable due to high incidence of malnutrition & undernourishment. The working children suffer from various infectious diseases including tuberculosis, anemia, asthma, skin diseases, ear & eye problem etc. Most of the working children are also drug addict. The working children are also victims of constant threat of traffic accidents. (Josh,2006, Nongia, 1987) The child labour is a hazard to a child's mental, physical social, educational, emotional, & spiritual development. It has been researched and proved that the brain of a child develops till the age of ten, muscles till the age of seventeen & his lungs till the age of fourteen. To be more specific, any activity which acts as a hazard for the natural growth and enhancement of these vital organs, can be considered harmful for natural human growth & development & termed child labour. In certain countries light work can be done i.e children's participation in only those economic activities which do not damage their health and development or interfere with their education.

The UN convention on the rights of the child (1982) and the international labour organization (ILO) convention 1982 on worst forms of child labour have defined child as a person who has not completed the age of 18 years. Developing countries are allowed to set the minimum age at 14 years in accordance with socio-economic circumstances.

Objectives :

- 1) The occupation wise distribution of migrant child.
- 2) The causes of accepting work at the tender age.
- 3) Level of education.

Methodology :

The study is both descriptive & analytical based on secondary sources of data.

According to the statistics given by ILO & other official agencies 73 million children between 10-14 years of age reemployed in economic activities all over the world.

Table No.1

Country wise percentage of child labour in age group 10-14 years.

Countries	Percentage of Child labour
Asia	13%
Africa	26.3%
Lateen America	9.8%
India	14.4%
Bangladesh	30%
China	11.6%
Pakistan	17.7%
Turkey	24%
Egypt	11.2%
Kenya	41.3%
Nigeria	25.8%
Senegal	31.4%
Argentina	4.5%
Portugal	1.8%
Mexico	6.7%
Italy	0.4

Child labour is also prevalent in rich and industrialized countries, although less compared to poor nations . India is a glaring example of a nation hundred by the evil of child labour. It is estimated that there are 60 to 115 million working children in India.

As per ILO, in 2004 out of an estimated 317 million children in the age group of 5 to 7 years activity, 218 million falls within the strict definition of child labour . There are 126 million children engaged in hazardous occupations.

Table: 2 Year & Number of child labour

Year	Number of child labour
1971	10,753,985
1981	13,640,870,
1991	11,285,349
2001	12,591,667

Source : Sekar, 2007.

As per the census of India 1971 on wards , the phenomenon of child labour has shown on increasing trend.

Occupation :

Historically the working force of child workers is more in rural areas compared to urban area . Nine out of the ten village children are employed in agriculture or household industries & craftwork.

Table : 3 Occupational wise Distribution of Respondents in Raipur.

Sr. No.	Occupation	Number of children	Percentage
1	Hotel & Restaurant works	44	22.44
2	Garage & Motor servicing works	20	10.20
3	Welding works	06	3.06
4	Motor Hood works	06	3.06
5	Cycle Repairing works	19	9.18
6	Filling works at filling station	08	4.80
7	Petty shop	06	3.06
8	Tailoring works	10	5.10
9	Household works	18	9.18
10	Masan works	16	8.16
11	Rickshaw & Trolley pulling	20	20.40
12	Shoe polishing	04	2.04
13	Carpentry works	04	2.04
14	Self employed children collecting rags, polythenes etc.	08	4.08
15	Street dradling	08	4.08
Total		196	100.00

Majority (22.44%) of the children are employed in different hotels & restaurant of the city. Rickshaw & trolley pulling (20.40%) & garage & motor servicing works (10.20%) were found because it is the easiest available job. In generally all these occupations were same in all over in Indian cities.

Sex :

Almost all the sectors in which children are working in the city are dominated by male child workers.

Table : 4 Sex- wise distribution of Respondents.

Sr. no	Sex	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1.	Male	180	91.84%
2.	Female	16	8.16%
	Total	196	100.00%

Male child workers which constitute 91.84% of total respondents & only 8.16% are female child workers who are mostly found in household works.

Education :-

Illiterate and ignorant parents do not understand overall development of their child, so they don't realize the importance of education for their children.

Causes :-

The causes giving birth to child labour are poverty, illiteracy, scarcity of schools, ignorance, socially regressive practices, blind customs & traditions, migration & last but not the least corruption amongst employees & government labour organizations.

Child Labour Policy In India ;

There are specific clauses in the draft of Indian constitution dated 26 th January 1950, about the child labor policy in India. These are conveyed through different articles in the Fundamental right and the Directive Principles of the state policy. They lay down four specific policy rules regarding child labor.

They are as following

- 1) (Article 14) no child below the age of 14 years shall be employed to work in any factory or mine or engaged in any other hazardous employment.
- 2) (Article 14) No child below the age of 14 years shall be employed to work in any factory or mine or engaged in any other hazardous employment.
- 3) (Article 39) Children shall be given opportunities & facilities to develop in a healthy manner & in conditions of freedom & dignity & that childhood & youth shall be protected against moral & material abandonment.
- 4) (Article 45) The state shall endeavor to provide within a period of ten years from the commencement of the constitution for free & compulsory education for all children until they complete the age of fourteen years.

Conclusion :-

Child labour in India is a human right issue for the whole world. It is serious & extensive problem with many children. To avoid migration of the rural poor to urban areas new financial aid schemes should be implemented at the native place of the child migrants. So to focus on increase in literacy & financial support should be necessary for their parents through various schemes. Public co-operation is very much essential to realize the gravity of the problem and ameliorate the innocents agony.

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“ मानसिक स्वातंत्र्य कोणाला आहे असे म्हणता येईल ? जो आपली बुद्धी जागृत ठेवून आपले हक्क काय, आपले अधिकार काय व आपले कर्तव्य काय याची जाणीव करून घेतो त्याला मी स्वतंत्र म्हणतो. जो परिस्थितीचा दास झाला नाही, जो परिस्थितीला आपल्या कष्टात आणण्यास सिध्द असतो, तो माणूस स्वतंत्र आहे, असे मी म्हणतो. जो रूढीच्या स्वाधीन झाला नाही, जो गतानुगतिक बनला नाही, ज्याच्या विचाराची ज्योत विझली नाही तो स्वतंत्र आहे, असे मी म्हणतो. जो पराधीन झाला नाही, जो दुसऱ्याच्या शिकवणीने वागत नाही, कार्यकारणभाव ध्यानात घेतल्याशिवाय कशावर विश्वास ठेवीत नाही, जो आपल्या हक्कांचा अपहार केला असता, त्याच्या रक्षणार्थ दक्ष असतो, जो प्रतिकूल लोकमताला घाबरून जात नाही, दुसऱ्याच्या हातचे बाहुले न होण्याइतकी बुद्धी, स्वाभिमान ज्याला आहे तोच माणूस स्वतंत्र आहे, असे मी समजतो. ”

- डॉ.बाबासाहेब आंबेडकर



प्रशांत पब्लिकेशन्स

३, प्रताप नगर, श्री संत ज्ञानेश्वर मंदिर रोड,
नुतन मराठा महाविद्यालयाजवळ, जळगाव ४२५००१.

☎ (०२५७) २२३५५२०, २२३२८००

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978-93-82414-48-3



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