



Journal Homepage: - www.journalijar.com
**INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF
ADVANCED RESEARCH (IJAR)**

Article DOI: 10.21474/IJAR01/9678
 DOI URL: <http://dx.doi.org/10.21474/IJAR01/9678>



RESEARCH ARTICLE

THE PROBLEMS OF CHILD LABOUR IN BHADRAK DISTRICT: A SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS.

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Manuscript Info

Manuscript History

Received: 06 July 2019

Final Accepted: 08 August 2019

Published: September 2019

Key words:-

Child, child labour, child rights

Abstract

Children are the blooming flowers of the garden of the society. They are future of the world. But child labour is a bad practice which is still continuing in the modern society. Due to poverty, illiteracy, high cost of education, low aspiration, huge demand for unskilled labourers the practice of child labour can emerge and continuing from pre-independence era to till today. The major consequences of child labour are the loss of quality childhood, different kinds of health issues, mental trauma etc. The present study was conducted to study the socio-economic profile and work profile of the respondents in the study area, to find out the factors responsible and challenges faced by the respondents in Bhadrak district of Odisha. Total 100 Childs with the age of 5-14 years are taken to conduct the study. Data was collected through structured interview schedule and the technique of personal interview. The respondents were selected through snowball and stratified sampling. The major findings state that the child under the age of 12-14 years are more in the study area. They do the work on the basis of daily wages in 5-7 hours per day and earn minimum wages up to 500-1000. They do the work like repairing of cycle/car/bike etc and work on hotel/ bakery/ domestic work. Over all after having many laws and rights there is also prevailing the child labour. By this practice the number of child labour can be reduced to a great extent.

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Introduction:-

Today's child is the future of tomorrow in the world. Child labour is a bad practice in India as well as in the world. Child labour refers to the employment of children in any work that deprives children of their childhood, interferes with their ability to attend regular school, and that is mentally, physically, socially or morally dangerous and harmful. The term "child labour" is often defined by ILO as work that deprives children of their childhood, their potential and their dignity, and that is harmful to physical and mental development. The age group of a child labour in India and other developing countries is 14 years.

There are different types of child labour prevailing in India. First of all simply the child labour are those children who are doing paid or unpaid work in factories, workshops, establishment, mines and in the service sector such as domestic labour. Secondly the street children are those children who living on and off the streets, such as shoeshine boys, rag- pickers, newspaper- vendors, beggars etc. The problem of street children is somewhat different from that of child labour in factories and workshops. They have no permanent base and are often on the move. Thirdly the bonded children who have either been pledged by their parents for paltry slums of money or those working to pay off the inherited debts of their fathers. They face difficult because they are inaccessible. Fourthly, the working

children who are working as part of family labour in agriculture and in home-based work. If the children work 12-14 hours in a day at the cost of their education, their situation is similar to the other employers. In this case mostly the girl child face this kind of problem. Fifthly, the migrant children who are being forced to leave their homes and villages for several months every year in search of livelihood of their family members. Sixthly, the children used for sexual exploitation in which the young girls and boys serve the sexual appetites of men from all social and economic backgrounds. The physical and psycho-social damage inflicted by commercial sexual exploitation makes it one of the most hazardous forms of child labour.

Child labour is a complex problem and numerous factors. One of the most influential aspects concerns the children's immediate environment, which is largely based on their family structure. According to ILO poverty is the greatest single cause behind child labour. Due to poverty, poor families may be forced to work to support their siblings and parents or supplement the household income when expenses are more than the parents' earnings. In developing countries due to the lack of employment or education parents are unable to generate income. To fulfil the basic needs like food, clothes etc. The children do the work in low age. Another cause of child labour is illiteracy. Due to illiteracy people can't understand the importance of education. So they have to do the work to their children instead of sending the school. Low aspiration by parents and children is a major cause of child labour. In this situation the children employed in a local factory or selling grocery in the streets to success only belongs to a certain region or group of people. It is a mindset that forms the very foundation, sometimes causes the child labour. Due to chief cost of education the poor people can't able to provide education to their children. Some parents can also only afford basic education which means that children will be forced to look for since they can't pursue their education further.

Child labour laws and child rights:

Article 24 of the Constitution says: "No child below the age of 14 years shall be employed in work in any factory or mine or engaged in any other hazardous employment." Similarly, Article 39 of the Constitution of India clearly says that "The State shall, in particular, direct its policy securing the health and strength of workers, men and women and the tender age of children.

Direction for free and compulsory education for children has been provided under Article 45 of the Constitution. This article says: "The State shall endeavour to provide, within a period of 10 years from the commencement of this Constitution, for free and compulsory education for all children until they complete the age of 14 years."

The employment of children below 14 years of age has been prohibited under:

1. The Children (Pledging Labour) Act, 1933,
2. The Factories Act, 1948,
3. The Mines Act, 1952,
4. The Motor Transport Workers Act, 1961
5. The Plantation Labour Act, 1951 prohibits child labour during night, i.e. from 7.00 P.M. to 6.00 A.M. Children are, however, permitted to work in plantations only where certificate of fitness is granted by a certifying surgeon.

Children's rights are the human rights with particular attention to the rights of special protection and care afforded to minors. Children's rights includes their right to association with both parents, human identity as well as the basic needs for physical protection, food, universal state-paid education, health care, and criminal laws appropriate for the age and development of the child and freedom from discrimination on the basis of the child's race, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, religion, disability, colour, ethnicity, or other characteristics. Interpretations of children's rights range from allowing children the capacity for autonomous action to the enforcement of children being physically, mentally and emotionally free from abuse.

Objectives of the study:

1. To study the socio-economic profile of the respondents.
2. To study the work profile of the child labour in the study area.
3. To find out the factors responsible for child labour.
4. To know the challenges faced by the respondents.

Materials and methods:-

The study was conducted in Bhadrak district of odisha in 2018 among the child labours belong to the age group of 5-14 years. A descriptive and exploratory study design was adopted for the study. The total no of 100 samples

(children up to the age of 14 years) selected through snowball and stratified sampling. The data was collected through the structured interview schedule and through the technique of personal interview of the respondents. Data was analysed by Microsoft Excel and presented in percentage through tabulation.

Data analysis and interpretation:

Table 1:- (socio- economic profile of the respondents)

| SN | Socio-economic variable | Category | Frequency | Percentage distribution |
|----|----------------------------|------------|-----------|-------------------------|
| 1 | Age | 5-8 | 10 | 10% |
| | | 9-11 | 36 | 36% |
| | | 12-14 | 54 | 54% |
| 2 | Gender | Male | 77 | 77% |
| | | Female | 23 | 23% |
| 3 | Caste | General | 50 | 50% |
| | | OBC | 5 | 5% |
| | | SC | 20 | 20% |
| | | ST | 25 | 25% |
| 4 | Religion | Hindu | 50 | 50% |
| | | Muslim | 48 | 48% |
| | | Christian | 2 | 2% |
| | | Any other | - | - |
| 5 | Level of education | Illiterate | 38 | 38% |
| | | 1-5 class | 40 | 40% |
| | | 6-8 class | 22 | 22% |
| 6 | Types of family background | Rural | 45 | 45% |
| | | Urban | 55 | 55% |

Table 2:- (Nature of work)

| Work | Frequency | Percentage distribution |
|---|-----------|-------------------------|
| Repair of cycle/ car/ bike/ radio/ TV etc | 23 | 23% |
| Building construction, road work etc | 17 | 17% |
| Hotel/ bakery/ domestic work | 20 | 20% |
| Leather work, foot wears etc | 15 | 15% |
| Family or caste based occupation | 10 | 10% |
| Any other | 15 | 15% |
| Total | 100 | 100% |

Table 2 shows that the nature of work by the child labours are Repair of cycle/ car/ bike/ radio/ TV etc 23%, Building construction, road work etc 17%, Hotel/ bakery/ domestic work 20%, Leather work, foot wears etc 15%, Family or caste based occupation 10%, any other work 15%.

Table 3:- (Nature of employment)

| Employment | Frequency | Percentage distribution |
|--------------|-----------|-------------------------|
| Permanent | 3 | 3% |
| Temporary | 37 | 37% |
| Daily wages | 50 | 50% |
| Family based | 10 | 10% |
| Total | 100 | 100% |

Table 3 shows that the nature of employment like permanent 3%, temporary 37%, daily wages 50%, family based 10%.

Table 4:- (Reason behind child labour)

| Reason | Frequency | Percentage distribution |
|------------------------|-----------|-------------------------|
| Poverty | 65 | 65% |
| Family disorganization | 8 | 8% |

| | | |
|-------------------|-----|------|
| Family occupation | 5 | 5% |
| Any other | 22 | 22% |
| Total | 100 | 100% |

Table 4 shows that The reason behind the child labour are poverty 65%, family disorganization 8%, family occupation 5% and any other 22%.

Table 5:-(Monthly wages)

| Amount (Rs) | Frequency | Percentage distribution |
|-------------|-----------|-------------------------|
| 500 | 8 | 8% |
| Below 500 | - | - |
| 500-1000 | 45 | 45% |
| Above 1000 | 42 | 42% |
| Total | 100 | 100% |

Table 5 shows that the monthly wage of the child labours are Rs 500 (8%) Rs 500-1000 (45%), above Rs1000 (42%).

Table 6:-(Working hours)

| Time | Frequency | Percentage distribution |
|--------------------|-----------|-------------------------|
| Less than 4 hours | 15 | 15% |
| 5 to 7 hours | 50 | 50% |
| 8 to 12 hours | 35 | 35% |
| More than 12 hours | - | - |
| Total | 100 | 100% |

Table 6 shows that the working hour of the child labours are less than 4 hours 15%, 5-7 hours 50%, 8-12 hours 35%.

Table 7:-(Health problem)

| Problem | Frequency | Percentage distribution |
|------------------|-----------|-------------------------|
| Knee/ joint pain | 20 | 20% |
| Inner problem | 25 | 25% |
| Any other | 27 | 27% |
| None | 28 | 28% |
| Total | 100 | 100% |

Table 7 shows that the health problem faced by the child labour are knee/joint pain 20%, inner problem 25%, skin problem 28% and any other problem 27%.

Result and discussion:-

Child labour is a bad practice in the society. Analysis findings showed that the problem of child labour in Bhadrak district in the age group of 12-14 years were high (54%) followed by 9-11 years were 36%, 5-8 years 10%. The sample respondents are more in Hindu religion 50% than the Muslims 48%, and Christian 2%. More child labours are male category than the females. The level of education among the child labours are illiterate 38%, 1-5 class 40% and 5-8 class 22%. More child labours are general caste 50% followed by OBC 5%, SC 20%, ST 25%.

The result found out that the types of work that the Childs are do like Repair of cycle/ car/ bike/ radio/ TV etc 23%, Building construction, road work etc 17%, Hotel/ bakery/ domestic work 20%, Leather work, foot wears etc 15%, Family or caste based occupation 10%, any other work 15%. The nature of employment like permanent 3%, temporary 37%, daily wages 50%, family based 10%. The reason behind the child labour are poverty 65%, family disorganization 8%, family occupation 5% and any other 22%. The monthly wages that they get from the work are Rs 500 (8%) Rs 500-1000 (45%), above Rs1000 (42%). The working hour of the child labours are less than 4 hours 15%, 5-7 hours 50%, 8-12 hours 35%. Due to the work in low age the child labours are face the health problem like knee/joint pain 20%, inner problem 25%, skin problem 28% and any other problem 27%.

Conclusion:-

It is concluded that having many laws and rights regarding the child labour, still the bad practices are prevailing in Bhadrak district. To prevent child labour, incidence of poverty needs to be reduced first, so that poor people have to

send their children. Spreading literacy and education is a potent weapon against the practice of child labour, because illiterate persons do not understand the implications of child labour. To stop child labour, we will have to first change our thinking. We have to ensure that first of all, we do not keep any child at work in our own home or office. We have to remember that we are not doing any favor to children of tender age by paying them money in exchange of their labour, but we are rather playing with their future. There are laws prohibiting child labour in our country. If we notice any case of child labour, then we should immediately go to nearest police station and register our complain. We must raise our voice against the stone hearted who employ child labour. We also need to spread awareness about child labour. So that people can understand that child labour is messing with the future of the country. They will have to understand that there is no future for India if its children are weakened mentally and physically through the practice of child labour. Poor parents should pay full attention to the education of their children because today the government is providing free education, food and even medicines in certain schools. They should not make any difference between boys and girls. By this practice, the number of girl child labour can be reduced to a great extent.

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