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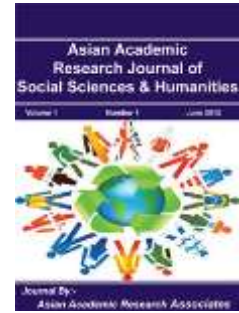
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STUDY ON EDUCATION OF CHILD LABOURERS

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ABSTRACT

Child labour is one of the genuine problems of the century. India has one of the highest child labourers in the world. As per the recent census there are about 77% of child labourers in the field of Agriculture and related fields. The problem of child labour is increasing every year despite of the efforts of the central and state governments. As per the recent survey there are about 2.5 crores child labourers in India working in different sectors. In Karnataka state alone there are about 12 lakhs child labourers indulged in different fields. The Article 24 of Indian Constitution clearly warns about not employing children below 14 years in any of the hazardous jobs. The state government has clear cut rules brought out in 1986 enforcing a ban on child labour and along with that children with age of 14 should get free and compulsory education. The motto of the State Government is to protect the interest of the children. Still then many of the child labourers are found involved in such works which are found to be hazardous for their life. Usually child labourers are found more as house hold labourers, in hotels, garages, puff rice industries etc.,

Introduction

Child labour is one of the genuine problems of the century. India has one of the highest child labourers in the world.

As per the recent census there are about 77% of child labourers in the field of Agriculture and related fields. The problem of child labour is increasing every year despite of the efforts of the central and state governments.

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The motto of the State Government is to protect the interest of the children. Still then many of the child labourers are found involved in such works which are found to be hazardous for their life. Usually child labourers are found more as house hold labourers, in hotels, garages, puff rice industries etc.,

It was found necessary to identify what were the enforcing circumstances that have made these innocent children to go for labour and what are the reasons still persisting even after the inception of many programmes and provisions like SSA, Akshar Dasoha and RTE act. It was also essential to identify to what extent these programmes have been successful as child labour is not only the gross violation of child rights but also human rights.

Objectives of the Study:

The following study has been conducted at Davangere city of Karnataka State with the following objectives.

1. To Study the family background of Child labourers in Davangere City
2. To Study the educational status of Child labourers in Davangere City
3. To compare the educational status of Male and female Child labourers
4. To Study the problems faced by the child labourers in continuing their education

Sample:

The sample for the present study constituted of 80 child labourers identified randomly from Davangere City of Karnataka State. Among them 40 boys and 40 Girls were selected.

Tools for Collecting Data:

A questionnaire was developed for the purpose and data was collected by personally meeting the Children and the questionnaire was filled by asking them orally.

Analysis of the Data and Results:

The data was analysed through percentage analysis.

The analysis of the data brought into picture many important aspects about child labourers and their education

1. **Family background of the child labourers :** The family background of the child labourers was studied. After analysis it was learnt that majority of the child labourers were having a family background of coolie (labour) (47.5%). 27.5% from the petty business, road side tea shops, carpenter, agriculture, Auto drivers, painters, house hold labourer, etc., (5% to 6.25%).

It can be observed from Table 1 that major percentage of the percentage of parents of child labourers are coolies and petty business. This is found almost identical among male and female child labourers

Table 1 : Child labourers family background.

Sl. No	Job of the parents	Male(40)	Female(40)	Total(80)
1	Coolie	21 (52.5%)	17 (42.5%)	38 (47.5%)
2	Petty Business	10 (25%)	12 (30%)	22 (27.5%)
3	Road side tea shops	04 (10%)	-	04 (5%)
4	Petty Shop keeper	-	02 (5%)	02 (3.5%)
5	Carpenter	01 (2.5%)	01 (2.5%)	02 (2.5%)
6	Agriculture	01 (2.5%)	04(10%)	05 (6.25%)
7	Auto Drivers	-	01 (2.5%)	01 (1.25%)
8	Accountant in shops	-	01 (2.5%)	01 (1.25%)
9	Painters	-	02 (5%)	02 (2.5%)
10	House hold Labourers	02 (5)	-	02 (2.5%)
11	Scavengers	01 (2.5%)	-	01 (1.25%)

2. **Schooling of the child labourers :** The state government has taken lot of motivational programmes for the education of the children between 6 – 14 years of age, still then the situation seems to not so encouraging. Table 2 brings into an astonishing problems of the children who are have their names registered in the schools and they as usual continuing their job as child labourer.

Table – 2 : Child labourers regularity to schools

Sl. No	Going to school regularly	Female(40)	Male(40)	Total(80)
1	Yes	18 (45%)	18 (45%)	32(45%)
2	No	22 (55%)	22 (55%)	44(55%)

In all 55% of the children though enrolled in the schools are not regular to the school. In fact they are going for work to earn the livelihood for their family. This problem is found identical among both male and female child labourers.

3. When does the irregularity towards going to school started :

Table 3 : Starting point of irregularity to school

Sl. No	Class	Female (40)	Male (40)	Total (80)
1	7 th	18 (45%)	19 (47.5)	37 (46.25%)
2	8 th	19 (47.5%)	15 (37.5%)	34 (42.5%)
3	9 th	-	03 (7.5%)	03 (3.75%)
4	10 th	03 (7.5%)	03 (7.5%)	06 (7.50%)

The child labourers were asked about when did they stop going to school or became irregular to school. It was found that overall 46.25% of them became irregular to the school from their 7th standard. This situation is found almost uniform among both male and female child labourers. However the dropout/irregularity tendency is abrupt among female child labourers, that is by 8th standard almost the girls have dropped out or have become irregular to school T among male. But this tendency has been found up to the 10th class among male child labourers. This can be observed from Table 3

4. Table 4 : Reasons for irregularity or dropping out from school.

Sl. No	Reasons	Female (40)	Male (40)	Total (80)
1	Ill health of parents	12 (30%)	14 (35%)	26 (32.5%)
2	Losing interest in the school	13 (32.5)	12 (30%)	25 (31.25%)
3	Death of parents	05 (12.5%)	07 (17.5%)	12 (15%)

4	Migration	08 (20%)	03 (75%)	11 (13.75%)
5	Poverty	23 (57.5%)	21 (52.5%)	44 (55%)
6	Irresponsibility of parents	08 (20%)	11 (27.5%)	19 (23.75%)
7	No counseling and guidance	13 (32.5%)	11 (27.5%)	24 (30%)
8	No proper school environment	12 (30%)	02 (5%)	14 (17.5)
9	To take care of family	17 (42.5%)	17 (47.5%)	36 (45%)

The reasons of children dropping out from the school and taking up to earn a livelihood were analysed. The child labourers of the present study were allowed to give more than one reason if any as to why did they drop out from the school and took up to earning a livelihood.

Table 4 brings a clear picture of the reasons. The major reason identified is poverty (55%) followed by taking care of the family (45%). Ill health of parents (32.5%) losing interest in school (31.25%) and no proper guidance and counseling (30%)

The reasons are of two main categories. One is from the family side that is poverty, Parents' ill health and others. The other is from school which might have failed in providing a motivating environment is lacking the facility of proper guidance from the teachers and school administration.

When the overall results are seen it is clear that the child education programmes are not totally successful in motivating the children towards school and it is also clear that it is strongly connected with social problems like illiteracy of parents, poverty and many more. This has a direct impact in forcing these innocent children towards child labour.

Conclusion :

Overall it can be concluded that child labour has some of its roots in the field of education. The programmes like a SSA and others should not merely remain in "book of rules" they should be implemented at its maximum. There is urgent need of in depth investigation as to why even after devising so many programmes of child welfare the child labour is still persisting? Collaborated efforts are essential from various departments like education, social welfare and finance to fight out this evil of child labour. The RTE in this regard is a ray of hope whose impact is awaited.

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