

Analysis about the causes and consequences of child labour in Kanyakumari district

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ABSTRACT

Child labourers suffer from multiple deprivations. They are overworked and deprived of their rights to health, education, recreation and childhood. As a result they grow up to be illiterate, unskilled and often irresponsible adults. Child labour starts their work from tenth years onwards. Hence they are unable to continue their education. Moreover from their childhood they are engaging both hazardous and non hazardous works. So their health condition will be affected from their young age (Gupta & Manju, 1987). These child labours are working overtime but the employers are giving very poor wage to them. Harassment in workplace against the child labour is one of the major problems. In India, the government has enacted number of legislations against child labour even though the employers and the parents permit children to engage in unorganized sector. This study will helpful to eradicate child labour in Kanyakumari District. However a considerable number of child labours are still working in unorganized sector. Moreover most of them are engaged in hazardous related works. This study reveals the causes and consequences of child labours in four dimensions they are Profile, Causes, Consequences and eradication of child labours in Kanyakumari District. In order to eradicate child labour The Government should provide compulsory education to the children and they will educate the parents of the child labours' (Grotaert C and R. Kanbur, 1995). Most of the child labours compelled to do work because of their family income. At the same time the employers deployed the child labours in hazardous and harmful related works (Human Rights Watch, 1996). Moreover their getting very meagre wages and they compel them to over time works.

KEYWORDS: Child Labour, Kanyakumari district, Child population, Child Education

1. INTRODUCTION

Millions of children in the world have been forced into child labour owing either to non-schooling or to school dropouts at the initial stage. Child labour may be defined as one who has not yet attained the age of 14 years and whose physical, mental and social development has suffered due to his pre-mature employment. The complex issue of child labour is a developmental issue worth investigating (Luten G.K., 2000).

The notion that children are being exploited and forced into labour, while not receiving education crucial to development, concerns many people. India is the largest example of a nation plagued by the problem of child labour. Estimates cite figures of between 60 and 115 million working children in India the highest number in the world (Human Rights Watch 1996). In earlier times children used to work in their family circle. Little by little, through almost unconscious observation, association and limitation, they learnt the role they would be called upon to play as adults. During this process of socialization, of which his on the Job training formed a part, the child grew of physical and intellectual maturity without ill-treatment and virtually without being exploited and was simultaneously prepared for adult life. Work of this kind was practically free from harmful effect.

Child population in India: As per 2001 Population Census, children in the age group of 0-14 constituted about 360 million and accounted for 35.3 percent of total population. Children in the 5-14 age groups constituted about 251 million and accounted for 24.6 percent of the population (Luten, 2000). Though there is an increase in the absolute number of children, the proportion of children in the total population is declining between 1991 and 2001. By Census of India projections, the proportion of children (0 to 14) has further come down to 32.1 percent during 2006. Elementary school age children (5 to 14) in the total population constituted 241.7 million accounting for 21.7 percent of the total population (Neera Burra, 2001). The reduction in the proportion of children is attributed to drastic reduction in the Total Fertility Rate (TFR) in many of the major states, especially in Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, and Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra and Gujarat. On the other hand TFR remains high in some of the major states like Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh.

Statement of the problem: Child labour is an important social concern, both nationally and internationally. It is found concentrated in rural areas and according to 1991 census, 74.3 percent of the population lived in rural areas. There were 5.1 million female workers of 5-14 years of age out of the 11.3 million child workers in India. Tamilnadu is one of the states with the number of child workers and the Kanyakumari District is one of the districts with the high distribution of child workers in the unorganized sectors.

Child labourers suffer from multiple deprivations. They are overworked and deprived of their rights to health, education, recreation and childhood. As a result they grow up to be illiterate, unskilled and often irresponsible adults. Child labour starts their work from tenth years onwards. Hence they are unable to continue their education. Moreover from their childhood they are engaging both hazardous and non hazardous works. So their health condition will be affected from their young age. These child labours are working overtime but the employers are giving very

poor wage to them. Harassment in workplace against the child labour is one of the major problems. In India, the government has enacted number of legislations against child labour even though the employers and the parents permit children to engage in unorganized sector (Agnihotri, S.B., 2001). This study will helpful to eradicate child labour in Kanyakumari District

Objectives: The study endeavors to undertake a comprehensive enquire based on the following objectives.

- i. To probe the Causes and consequences of child labour in the study area.
- ii. To find out the remedial measures to eradicate Child labour in the unorganised Sector.

2. METHODOLOGY

The study is mainly based on primary data Primary data were collected from randomly selected 100 sample respondents representing 69 male and 31 female. The samples are represented with four Taluks, namely Agateswaram, Thovalai, Kalkulam and Vilavancodu. The data are analysed on the basis of 5 point grading scale technique.

Analysis and interpretation: The analysis has been done on the following basis:

- i. Analysis about the Causes of Child Labour
- ii. Analysis about the Consequences of Child Labour
- iii. Analysis about the Eradication of Child Labour

Analysis about the Causes of Child Labour: The important causes of child labour analysed in the study are as follows:

i) Economic Factors: a) Poverty b) Unemployment c) Inadequate income of parents d) Non – Implementation of minimum wage act. e) Only earning members

ii) Social Factors: a) Enlarged families b) Child labour and Fertility c) Increase in population d) Fear of teachers e) Illiteracy f) School dropout

iii) Other Factors: a) Protecting the family property b) Dislike to Schooling c) Creditor's influence d) Job satisfaction e) Unable to study f) Liquor consumption of father

Table.1.Distribution of Child Workers Across States (Ages 5-14) the Restrictive Count (in Millions)

Sl. No.	State	1981	1991	2001	2011
1	Andhra Pradesh	1.951	1.662	1.416	1.226
2	Bihar	1.102	0.942	0.805	0.699
3	Gujarat	0.617	0.524	0.445	0.384
4	Haryana	0.194	0.11	0.062	0.037
5	Himachal Pradesh	0.099	0.056	0.032	0.019
6	Karnataka	1.132	0.976	0.841	0.736
7	Kerala	0.093	0.035	0.013	0.005
8	Madhya Pradesh	1.699	1.356	1.082	0.883
9	Maharashtra	1.558	1.068	0.732	0.521
10	Orissa	0.702	0.452	0.291	0.196
11	Punjab	0.217	0.143	0.094	0.065
12	Rajasthan	0.82	0.774	0.731	0.694
13	Tamil Nadu	0.971	0.579	0.345	0.217
14	Uttar Pradesh	1.435	1.41	1.385	1.364
15	Wesh Bengal	0.608	0.712	0.834	0.961
All India		13.198	10.799	8.836	7.376

Source: Compiled from Census of India

Child labour is by- product of our socio Economic condition and is not a new phenomenon in India. Children were required to do some kind of works at their homes are in the field along with their parents.

Table.2.Various Causes of Child Labour in Kanyakumari District

Sl. No.	Problems	Rank					Total	Mean Score	Rank
		SA	A	U	D	SD			
1	Dislike to Schooling	50	25	5	15	5	100	4	II
2	Are you the elder one?	55	20	5	10	10	100	4	II
3	Protecting the family property	10	25	20	25	20	100	2.8	XI
4	Parents can't pay for education	10	15	5	40	30	100	2.35	XIII
5	Inadequate family income	60	20	10	5	5	100	4.25	I

6	Unable to study	25	50	10	10	5	100	3.8	III
7	You are the only earning member	30	15	10	20	25	100	3.05	IX
8	Fear of teachers	25	10	15	20	30	100	2.8	XI
9	Job satisfaction	35	20	10	15	20	100	3.35	VII
10	Compulsion by parents	20	15	10	30	25	100	2.75	XII
11	Father expecting your income	25	15	8	32	20	100	2.93	X
12	Liquor consumption of father	40	25	15	10	10	100	3.75	IV
13	Dislike of School environment	50	25	5	15	5	100	4	II
14	Creditor's influence	40	20	5	20	15	100	3.5	V
15	Irresponsible parents	35	20	10	20	15	100	3.4	VI
16	Parent's Illiteracy	30	20	10	25	15	100	3.25	VIII

Source: Primary Data

Table 2 shows the Causes of Child labour in the study area. The researcher identified 16 major reasons of child become labours in Kanyakumari District. Out of the 16 Causes, most of the child labours admit that the family income is in adequate followed by dislike schooling and creditors influence. Some of the respondents agree that their parents are Illiterate and irresponsible moreover most of the parents having the habits consuming liquor. Some of the respondents strongly agree that they are elders in their family hence they will compel to work for running the family. These are the major Causes of child become labors in the study area.

Analysis about the Consequences of Child Labour: Work by children reduces the potential for educational and intellectual development. It also affect school performance as well as their health. It often leaves children so exhausted that they lack of energy and they cannot able to perform well. The child labour is exploitative in the following manners. Full time work and too early an age ,to many hours spend working ,Work and life on the streets in bad conditions ,Inadequate pay, Engaged in hazardous related works, Sexual harassment ,Unethical behaviours, Bonded labour System and Undue Physical social and psychological stress

The working children in industry are also exposed to more hazardous task like to collect from moving parts of machinery holding welding parts without any production working in confined spaces to which they have easier access, dirty work such as cleaning with solvent cleaning sewers and certain types of home work involving explore to toxic substance. This study conducted in Kanyakumari District and the researcher highlights the major Consequences of child labour are given in the Table.

Table 3 reveals the respondents' opinion regarding the consequences in the study area. Out of 100 respondents 41 percent are strong agreed that handling harmful materials and ill-treat by the employer and the elders. Only two percent of the respondents strongly agreed that work at night and 8 percent agreed that bonded labour is the major consequences (Jayaraj, 2002). Thirty six percent of the child labours felt that they are compels to do hard job and inadaptability. Forty respondents feel that they are getting respect from their family.

Table.3. Consequences of Child Labour in Kanyakumari District

Sl. No	Problems	Rank					Total	Mean Score	Rank
		SA	A	U	D	SD			
1	Does your employer ill – treat you?	30	30	10	15	15	100	3.45	VII
2	Does the work affect your health?	35	30	10	10	15	100	3.6	VI
3	Suffering from Inferiority Complex	20	15	10	25	30	100	2.7	IX
4	Inadequate food	15	5	10	30	40	100	2.25	XI
5	Undergoing medical check-up	15	15	5	30	35	100	2.45	X
6	Respect in the family	40	35	5	10	10	100	3.85	III
7	Many child labourers in the family	10	10	5	30	45	100	2.1	XIII
8	Works at night	1	12	8	38	41	100	2.71	VIII
9	Work place is not conducive	3	13	9	37	38	100	2.06	XIV

10	Bonded labourer	8	13	11	32	36	100	2.25	XI
11	Mental depression	9	8	10	39	34	100	2.19	XII
12	Hard job	36	40	4	12	8	100	3.84	IV
13	Inadaptability	38	36	5	9	12	100	3.79	V
14	Handling harmful material	41	39	4	6	10	100	3.95	I
15	Compelled to work for long hours	36	40	6	12	6	100	3.88	II

Source: Primary Data

Analysis about the Eradication of Child Labour: Eradication of child labour is a challenging one in the present scenario even though the Government and Non-Government agencies are taking lot of measures to eradicate child labours. Child labour cannot be totally eradicate by legislations alone unless supplemented by comprehensive socio economic and educational awareness under the privileged section of the society and by total change in the attitude of the society towards child labour. The general improvement in socio economic condition of people will result in gradual elimination of child labour (Jha, 2000).

Hence mere legislation and regulations will only remain as palliatives unless the problem of poverty and destitution is tracked on a war footing so as to eradicate the same. The ultimate goal of eradication of child labour can only be achieved when there is sufficient improvement of the condition of families whose children are compelled to work (Kannan, 2001). And at the same time the lack of vigilance of society to see that all the loss enacted for the betterment of children are really enforce properly. Table 4.50 probe ways and means to eradicate child labour in the study area and the opinion of the respondent.

Table 4. Eradication of Child Labour in Kanyakumari District

Sl. No.	Problems	Rank					Total	Mean Score	Rank
		SA	A	U	D	SD			
1	Awareness of facilities available	9	8	10	39	34	100	2.19	VI
2	provision for loan to parents to	8	13	11	32	36	100	2.25	V
3	Sufficient financial assistance in	36	40	4	12	8	100	3.84	III
4	Wiliness to learn technical	40	35	5	10	10	100	3.85	II
5	Willingness to raise the standard living	38	36	5	9	12	100	3.79	IV
6	Creating awareness among the child	41	39	4	6	10	100	3.95	I

Source: Primary Data

Table 4 shows the various aspects involve eradicating child labours in this study. Forty percent of the respondent fell that they are in- need of special financial assistance and also demand technical education. Awareness facilities regarding special school and providing educational loan will helpful to the child labours to continue their education. Forty one percent of the respondents strongly agree that they are in – need of awareness programmes to their parents.

3. FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

Based on the study and analysis the researcher find the following facts regarding the child labours in Kanyakumari District.

- 60 Percent of the respondents became labours because of the inadequacy of their family income.
- 40 Percent of the respondents are agreed that their parents are illiterate, irresponsible and having the habit of consuming liquor.
- 41 Percent of respondent agreed that handling harmful materials and ill-treat by the employer and the elders are the major Consequences.
- 36 Percent of the respondents felt that they are compelled to do hard job, inadaptability and over time work.
- 44 Percent of the respondents felt that they are in-need of Technical education and Special financial assistance.
- 40 Percent of the respondents agreed that special awareness programmes are required to their parents and facility regarding special school.

Recommendations: Child Labours are overworked and deprived of their rights to health, education, recreation and childhood. As a result they grow up to be illiterate, unskilled and often irresponsible adults. Child labour are starts

their work from tenth years onwards. Hence the Government should take appropriate steps to abolish Child Labour. The Government should provide compulsory education to all the children. The Government should create awareness among the children and their parents regarding the consequences of child labour.

4. CONCLUSION

With the goal of making the state Child labour free the central and state Governments have been taking various steps towards eradication of child labour. However a considerable number of child labours are still working in unorganized sector. Moreover most of them are engaged in hazardous related works. This study reveals the causes and consequences of child labours in four dimensions they are Profile, Causes, Consequences and eradication of child labours in Kanyakumari District. In order to eradicate child labour The Government should provide compulsory education to the children and they will educate the parents of the child labours". Most of the child labours compelled to do work because of their family income. At the same time the employers deployed the child labours in hazardous and harmful related works. Moreover their getting very meager wages and they compel them to over time works. If the government implement the above said measures towards eradication of child labours, the state and the country, India will become child labour free Nation.

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