



REDUCTION OF CHILD LABOUR IN INDIA

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Introduction

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 group constituted about 251 million and accounted for 24.6 percent of the population in 2001. National census of India estimated the total number of child labour, aged 4–15, to be at 12.6 million, out of a total child population of 253 million in 5–14 age group. A 2009–10 nationwide survey found child labour prevalence had reduced to 4.98 million children (or less than 2% of children in 5–14 age group). The 2011 national census of India found the total number of child labour, aged 5–14, to be at 4.35 million, and the total child population to be 259.64 million in that age group.

Objectives

- To study the status of reduction in child labour over a period of time.
- To study the enrolment and dropout rates of the children.

Trends in the Work Participation Rates of Children

Over the last two decades, there has been a steady decrease in the work participation rates of children, whether based on Census data or NSSO sources (Table 2). The proportion of working children in the country reduced from 7.6 per cent (Census 1981) to as little as 4.5 per cent (Census 2011). However, in terms of size, this still amounts to a considerable number, with as many as 9.5 million children (NSSO 1999-2000) in the school going age group, not only deprived of an education, but also engaged in hard, tedious and often hazardous labour.

While work participation rates of children have steadily declined, as can be seen from the table, the higher values recorded by the NSSO in 1993-94 as compared to the Census 1991 may be attributed to the more accurate reporting of NSSO statistics.

Table 1: Trends in Work Participation Rates of Children (5-14) from Census, All India

| | | 5 to 9 | 10 to 14 | 5 to 14 |
|------|--------------|--------|----------|---------|
| 1991 | Boys | 0.9 | 10.9 | 5.7 |
| | Girls | 0.9 | 9.9 | 5.1 |
| | All children | 0.9 | 10.4 | 5.4 |
| 2001 | Boys | 1.05 | 8.8 | 5.1 |
| | Girls | 1.40 | 8.5 | 4.9 |
| | All children | 1.40 | 8.7 | 5.0 |
| 2011 | Boys | 2.3 | 7.2 | 4.8 |
| | Girls | 2.2 | 6.1 | 4.2 |
| | All children | 2.3 | 6.7 | 4.5 |

In 1993-94 the work participation rate for boys is 12.1 for 1993-94 coming to 2009-10 it is 2.9 per cent. It is reduced by 76 percent. It is positive indicator for India. Poverty is an indicator for high incidence of child labour. In 1993-94 in rural areas work participation rate for girl child is 11.5 in 2009-10 it is 2.2. It is a positive sign for girl child it is almost decline by 80 per cent.

Table 2: Trends in Work Participation Rates of Children (5-14) from NSSO, All India (Principal Status Workers)

| Combined | NSSO | | | |
|--------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| | 1993-94 | 1999-00 | 2004-05 | 2009-10 |
| Rural | | | | |
| Boys | 12.1 | 8.7 | 5.6 | 2.9 |
| Girls | 11.5 | 8.0 | 5.0 | 2.2 |
| Urban | | | | |
| Boys | 6.3 | 4.9 | 4.6 | 2.4 |
| Girls | 3.8 | 2.9 | 2.5 | 0.8 |



Regional Trends

In a country as diverse as India, an assessment of the regional picture is necessary before the issue can be adequately addressed. While most states show positive trends in the reduction of child labour between the early and the late nineties, the two developed states of Punjab and Gujarat reveal negative trends. In Gujarat, the increase in child work participation rates has taken place in the rural areas, while in Punjab, it has occurred in both rural and urban areas. In fact, the increase in child work participation has been greater in urban than in rural areas in the state.

The dramatic reduction in child work in the newly formed state of Uttaranchal may be attributed to the almost 100 per cent enrolment ratio in the state.

Table 3: Trends in Work Participation Rates of Children (5-14) across Indian States (NSSO)

| States | Combined | | Rural | | Urban | |
|----------------|----------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| | 1993-94 | 1999-00 | 1993-94 | 1999-00 | 1993-94 | 1999-00 |
| Andhra Pradesh | 14.8 | 10.3 | 17.6 | 13 | 6.8 | 3.9 |
| Jharkhand | 4.9 | 2.3 | 5.7 | 2.3 | 1.4 | 2.3 |
| Bihar | 2.7 | 2.3 | 2.9 | 2.4 | 1.3 | 1.4 |
| Gujarat | 3.4 | 4.8 | 4.1 | 6 | 1.9 | 1.9 |
| Haryana | 2.5 | 1.4 | 2.6 | 1.4 | 2.4 | 1.2 |
| Karnataka | 11.2 | 6.9 | 13.9 | 8 | 4.3 | 3.2 |
| Kerala | 0.7 | 0.4 | 0.8 | 0.4 | 0.6 | 0.3 |
| Chhattisgarh | 10.7 | 4.1 | 12.9 | 4.4 | 0.8 | 2.1 |
| Madhya Pradesh | 5.3 | 4.5 | 6.6 | 5.5 | 1.6 | 1.2 |
| Maharashtra | 5 | 3.6 | 6.5 | 4.9 | 2.1 | 1.2 |
| Orissa | 6.9 | 3.9 | 7.5 | 4.5 | 2.8 | 0.9 |
| Punjab | 2.4 | 2.9 | 2.7 | 3 | 1.7 | 2.7 |
| Rajasthan | 12.1 | 7.9 | 14.5 | 9.2 | 3.2 | 2.8 |
| Tamil Nadu | 8.6 | 3.8 | 10.4 | 4.5 | 5.2 | 2.6 |
| Uttaranchal | 7.4 | 1.5 | 9.1 | 1.9 | 0.7 | 0.3 |
| Uttar Pradesh | 4.5 | 3.1 | 4.8 | 3.1 | 3.3 | 3 |
| West Bengal | 4.8 | 4.4 | 5 | 4.5 | 3.7 | 3.5 |
| All India | 6.3 | 4.2 | 7.3 | 4.8 | 3.1 | 2.3 |

Source: NSSO 50th and 55th Rounds

Enrolled children in India 1950-51 primary schools 192 lakhs coming to 2010-11 it is increased by 1348 lakhs. Compare to 1980-81 for girl child it is 285 lakhs it is increased in by 628 lakhs in 2013-14. In work participation for children is reduced and same years enrolment is increased. This shows that the initiation of rural development programmes in the villages from government and equal wages for men and women. Increase of wages (in Table 7) over a period of time.

Table 4 : Enrolment Ratio All Categories of Students

(in lakhs)

| Level/ Year | Primary (I- V) | | | Upper Primary (VI- VIII) | | |
|----------------|-------------------|-------|-------|-----------------------------|-------|-------|
| | Boys | Girls | Total | Boys | Girls | Total |
| 1950-51 | 138 | 54 | 192 | 26 | 5 | 31 |
| 1960-61 | 236 | 114 | 350 | 51 | 16 | 67 |
| 1970-71 | 357 | 213 | 570 | 94 | 39 | 133 |
| 1980-81 | 453 | 285 | 738 | 139 | 68 | 207 |
| 1990-91 | 570 | 404 | 974 | 215 | 125 | 340 |
| 2000-01 | 640 | 498 | 1138 | 253 | 175 | 428 |
| 2005-06 | 705 | 616 | 1321 | 289 | 233 | 522 |
| 2006-07 | 711 | 626 | 1337 | 299 | 246 | 545 |
| 2007-08 | 711 | 644 | 1355 | 311 | 262 | 573 |
| 2008-09 | 706 | 647 | 1353 | 314 | 270 | 584 |
| 2009-10 | 697 | 639 | 1336 | 317 | 278 | 595 |
| 2010-11 | 701 | 646 | 1348 | 327 | 292 | 619 |
| 2011-12 | 726 | 672 | 1399 | 331 | 299 | 630 |
| 2012-13(P) | 681 | 639 | 1321 | 329 | 314 | 643 |
| 2013-14(P) | 672 | 628 | 1300 | 337 | 320 | 657 |



Gross enrolment ratio is increased for both boys and girls by almost 60 per cent. In 1950-51 enrolment ratio for girls is 24.8 , 41.4 in 1960-61 and 1990-91 is 71.9. 1990-91 to 1960-91 over 40 years the growth rate of enrolment ratio is increased by 2.00 per cent for girls. For total in 1950-51 enrolment ratio is 42.6 in 1990-91 is 83.8. Over a forty years growth rate is increased by 2.07 per cent.

Table 5: Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) All Categories of Students

| Level/ Year | Primary (I- V) 6- 10 Years | | | Upper primary (VI- VIII) 11- 13 Years | | | Elementary (I- VIII) 6- 13 Years | | |
|----------------|----------------------------------|-------|-------|---|-------|-------|--|-------|-------|
| | Boys | Girls | Total | Boys | Girls | Total | Boys | Girls | Total |
| 1950-51 | 60.6 | 24.8 | 42.6 | 20.6 | 4.6 | 12.7 | 46.4 | 17.7 | 32.1 |
| 1960-61 | 82.6 | 41.4 | 62.4 | 33.2 | 11.3 | 22.5 | 65.2 | 30.9 | 48.7 |
| 1970-71 | 95.5 | 60.5 | 78.6 | 46.5 | 20.8 | 33.4 | 75.5 | 44.4 | 61.9 |
| 1980-81 | 95.8 | 64.1 | 80.5 | 54.3 | 28.6 | 41.9 | 82.2 | 52.1 | 67.5 |
| 1990-91 | 94.8 | 71.9 | 83.8 | 80.1 | 51.9 | 66.7 | 90.3 | 65.9 | 78.6 |
| 2000-01 | 104.9 | 85.9 | 95.7 | 66.7 | 49.9 | 58.6 | 90.3 | 72.4 | 81.6 |
| 2005-06 | 112.8 | 105.8 | 109.4 | 75.2 | 66.4 | 71.0 | 98.5 | 91.0 | 94.9 |
| 2006-07 | 114.6 | 108.0 | 111.4 | 77.6 | 69.6 | 73.8 | 100.4 | 93.5 | 97.1 |
| 2007-08 | 115.3 | 112.6 | 114.0 | 81.5 | 74.4 | 78.1 | 102.4 | 98.0 | 100.3 |
| 2008-09 | 114.7 | 114.0 | 114.3 | 82.7 | 76.6 | 79.8 | 102.5 | 99.6 | 101.1 |
| 2009-10 | 113.8 | 113.8 | 113.8 | 84.3 | 79.0 | 81.7 | 102.5 | 100.4 | 101.5 |
| 2010-11 | 114.9 | 116.3 | 115.5 | 87.5 | 82.9 | 85.2 | 104.5 | 103.3 | 103.9 |
| 2011-12 | 105.8 | 107.1 | 106.5 | 82.5 | 81.4 | 82.0 | 97.2 | 97.6 | 97.4 |
| 2012-13(P) | 99.3 | 102.2 | 100.7 | 82.3 | 86.9 | 84.5 | 93.1 | 96.6 | 94.8 |
| 2013-14(P) | 98.1 | 100.6 | 99.3 | 84.9 | 90.3 | 87.4 | 93.3 | 96.9 | 95.0 |

P- Provisional

In Table 6 shows that drop-out rates for total children in 1960-61 is 64.9 per cent. It is decreased over 40 years in 1990-91 is 42.6 per cent. It is declined by 1.6 percent over a period of time. In 1960-61 for girls drop out rate is 70.9 in 2013-14 is 18.3 per cent

Table 6: Drop-Out Rates in School Education All Categories of Students

| Classes/ Year | Classes (I-V) | | | Classes (I-VIII) | | | Classes (I-X) | | |
|------------------|------------------|-------|-------|---------------------|-------|-------|------------------|-------|-------|
| | Boys | Girls | Total | Boys | Girls | Total | Boys | Girls | Total |
| 1960-61 | 61.7 | 70.9 | 64.9 | 75.0 | 85.0 | 78.3 | NA | NA | NA |
| 1970-71 | 64.5 | 70.9 | 67.0 | 74.6 | 83.4 | 77.9 | NA | NA | NA |
| 1980-81 | 56.2 | 62.5 | 58.7 | 68.0 | 79.4 | 72.7 | 79.8 | 86.6 | 82.5 |
| 1990-91 | 40.1 | 46.0 | 42.6 | 59.1 | 65.1 | 60.9 | 67.5 | 76.6 | 71.3 |
| 2000-01 | 39.7 | 41.9 | 40.7 | 50.3 | 57.7 | 53.7 | 66.4 | 71.5 | 68.6 |
| 2005-06 | 28.7 | 21.8 | 25.7 | 48.7 | 49.0 | 48.8 | 60.1 | 63.6 | 61.6 |
| 2006-07 | 24.6 | 26.8 | 25.6 | 46.4 | 45.2 | 45.9 | 58.6 | 61.5 | 59.9 |
| 2007-08 | 25.7 | 24.4 | 25.1 | 43.7 | 41.3 | 42.7 | 56.6 | 57.3 | 56.7 |
| 2008-09 | 29.6 | 25.8 | 27.8 | 41.1 | 36.9 | 39.3 | 54.0 | 54.4 | 54.2 |
| 2009-10 | 31.8 | 28.5 | 30.3 | 41.1 | 44.2 | 42.5 | 53.3 | 51.8 | 52.7 |
| 2010-11 | 29.0 | 25.4 | 27.4 | 40.6 | 41.2 | 40.8 | 50.2 | 47.7 | 49.2 |
| 2011-12 | 23.4 | 21.0 | 22.3 | 41.5 | 40.0 | 40.8 | 48.6 | 52.2 | 50.3 |
| 2012-13(P) | 23.0 | 19.4 | 21.3 | 41.8 | 35.7 | 39.0 | 50.4 | 50.3 | 50.4 |
| 2013-14(P) | 21.2 | 18.3 | 19.8 | 39.2 | 32.9 | 36.3 | 48.1 | 46.7 | 47.4 |

P-Provisional, NA-Not Available



Table 7: Average Daily Earnings of Men and Women across Different States

| States | 1983 | | 1987-88 | | 1993-94 | | 1999-2000 | |
|----------------|-------|-------|---------|-------|---------|-------|-----------|-------|
| | Men | Women | Men | Women | Men | Women | Men | Women |
| Andhra Pradesh | 4.57 | 3.56 | 8.87 | 6.15 | 18.99 | 13.63 | 39.76 | 26.53 |
| Bihar | 4.59 | 3.91 | 9.00 | 7.91 | 16.95 | 14.82 | 34.69 | 29.91 |
| Gujarat | 5.25 | 4.14 | 9.28 | 9.13 | 20.03 | 19.42 | 38.98 | 33.30 |
| Haryana | 6.13 | 4.91 | 10.25 | 7.51 | 28.98 | 24.71 | 60.57 | 56.06 |
| Karnataka | 3.68 | 3.08 | 8.35 | 6.05 | 19.01 | 14.13 | 39.75 | 26.77 |
| Kerala | 10.06 | 8.20 | 18.29 | 13.44 | 43.23 | 30.01 | 95.34 | 62.22 |
| Madhya Pradesh | 3.47 | 2.97 | 7.62 | 6.71 | 16.99 | 14.21 | 28.06 | 24.14 |
| Maharashtra | 4.08 | 2.80 | 9.13 | 5.99 | 19.41 | 12.09 | 37.47 | 24.24 |
| Orissa | 3.81 | 3.41 | 7.92 | 6.06 | 16.30 | 12.02 | 28.63 | 22.13 |
| Punjab | 9.11 | 4.49 | 16.01 | 9.32 | 41.94 | 35.73 | 63.44 | 78.70 |
| Rajasthan | 5.02 | 2.93 | 9.62 | 9.16 | 28.36 | 23.71 | 50.45 | 39.51 |
| Tamil Nadu | 5.00 | 3.23 | 9.84 | 6.20 | 25.08 | 15.16 | 51.78 | 30.43 |
| Uttar Pradesh | 3.96 | 2.92 | 9.08 | 7.04 | 21.43 | 16.38 | 47.60 | 40.51 |
| West Bengal | 4.85 | 4.52 | 11.86 | 10.69 | 23.64 | 20.49 | 43.32 | 37.22 |
| Average | 5.26 | 3.93 | 10.37 | 7.95 | 24.31 | 19.04 | 47.13 | 37.98 |

Source: RLE (various issues)

Note: Average is the arithmetic mean of the wage earnings existing in the 14 major states

Table 8: Gender Disparity in Average Daily Earnings across Different States

| States | 1983 | 1987-88 | 1993-94 | 1999-2000 |
|----------------|-------|---------|---------|-----------|
| Andhra Pradesh | 77.90 | 69.33 | 71.77 | 66.73 |
| Bihar | 85.19 | 87.89 | 87.43 | 86.22 |
| Gujarat | 78.86 | 98.38 | 96.95 | 85.43 |
| Haryana | 80.10 | 73.27 | 85.27 | 92.55 |
| Karnataka | 83.70 | 72.46 | 74.33 | 67.35 |
| Kerala | 81.51 | 73.48 | 69.42 | 65.26 |
| Madhya Pradesh | 85.59 | 88.06 | 83.64 | 86.03 |
| Maharashtra | 68.63 | 65.61 | 62.29 | 64.69 |
| Orissa | 89.50 | 76.52 | 73.74 | 77.30 |
| Punjab | 49.29 | 58.21 | 85.19 | 124.05 |
| Rajasthan | 58.37 | 95.22 | 83.60 | 78.32 |
| Tamil Nadu | 64.60 | 63.01 | 60.45 | 58.77 |
| Uttar Pradesh | 73.74 | 77.53 | 76.43 | 85.11 |
| West Bengal | 93.20 | 90.13 | 86.68 | 85.92 |
| Average | 74.71 | 76.66 | 78.32 | 80.59 |

Conclusion

Child labour rate decreased over a period of time it is a positive sign. Children are future of development of India. Over a period of time dropout rates are declined. Education is an important for every human being. In India rural development programmes should be initiated like Mahatma Gandhi NREGS programme. In this programme wages for unskilled labourers for men and women are equal. And also wages are high as compare agriculture wages. When the income levels are increased then the poverty will reduced then child labour also reduced. Children who are studied primary level they will continued up to secondary level. Employment days should be increased for agricultural labourers and wage labourers. In MGNREGS per household 100 days of employment provided by the government. Per household employment days should be increased by 150 to 200 days. Government should be implement the child labour acts in industrial areas. Most of the children working in domestic and industrial areas. Government should provide free education, books, dresses, food and stationary items for poor families children in Government and private schools. Children are fu

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