



PERCEPTION OF CHILD LABOUR ON WORKING CONDITION IN KURNOOL DISTRICT OF ANDHRA PRADESH: A STUDY

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Abstract

Development of children in different sectors of the economies of the world is a fact accomplished by any and every human society, be it developing or the highly developed one. While the problem is very severe in certain sectors and economics, it is less found in other sectors. Nevertheless, the unorganized sector remains by far the most vulnerable sector where the magnitude of exploitation and abuse of children is found in an alarming proportion. The situation in the State of Andhra Pradesh like any other States of the country is by no means an exception. This is clearly demonstrated by the fact that out of the total working force nearly six per cent constituted the child labour force working in different sectors of the economy. Though working in different sectors of the economy, no estimates are available which could indicate the exact and extent of the children working in the unorganized sector. Yet, according to rough estimates five per cent of them are engaged in this sector. Since Kurnool is one of the backward districts of Andhra Pradesh wherein the magnitude of child labour especially in unorganized sector is officially found more compared to other counterpart districts in the Rayalaseema region. In this connection, the paper highlights the perception of child labour on different aspects in Kurnool district.

Key Words: *Child and Child Labour, and Working Conditions.*

Introduction

The problem of child labour has become an issue of great concern in recent times all over the world. The alarming growth of child labour, particularly in developing countries, has attracted the attention of governments, national and international social organizations and social scientists. A large number of children of tender age are being exploited, and compelled to work for long hours for low wages and under conditions damaging to their health, and to their physical, social, psychological and mental development. Millions of children are thus being deprived of their healthy childhood.

The problem of Child Labour is very severe in the developing countries like India. In India, the number of Child Labourers in the age group of 5 – 14 years stood 43.53 lakhs as per 2011 census. Though the figure seems to be less, according to the definition of ILO, which defined the child labour as below 18 years of age, the figure is crossed to 3.54 crores according to 2011 Census. As far as Andhra Pradesh is concerned, number of child labour was accounted 13.69 lakhs in 2001 census which was further declined to 6.23 lakh in the year 2011 census (NCPCR, 2014)

Concept of child labour

‘Child labour’ implies something different in which young people are being exploited, or overworked or deprived of their rights to health, education or just to childhood. It implies their health, their overall physical, mental and social growth. A distinction is often made between child work and child labour. ‘Child work’ refers to occasional light work done by children which in most of the societies is considered to be an integral part of the child’s socialization process. While helping parents at home and in family farms, children learn to take responsibility and pride in their own activities, acquire certain skills and prepare themselves for the tasks of adulthood.

Causes of Child Labour

Some common causes of the child labour are poverty, parental illiteracy, social apathy, ignorance, lack of education and exposure, exploitation of cheap and unorganised labour. The family practice to inculcate traditional skills in children pulls little ones inexorably in the trap of child labour, as they never get the opportunity to learn anything else. Adult unemployment and urbanization also causes child labour and hence, exploitation can be seen in garment industries. The industrialisation has also had a negative effect by giving rise to circumstances which encourages child labour. Strict implementation of child labour laws and practical and healthy alternatives to



replace this evil can go a long way to solve the problem of child labour. Children who are born out of wedlock, orphaned or abandoned are especially vulnerable to exploitation. They are forced to work for survival when there are no adults and relatives to support them. Livelihood considerations can also drive a child into the dirtiest forms of child labour like child prostitution and organized begging.

Review of Literature

Kanbargi (1991) working for long hours, even at night, with the least protection from a polluted environment, under constant mental and physical strain, the child's growth becomes stunted. Children work in dangerously polluted factories whose brick walls are scarred with soot and there is always an oppressive smell in the air. They handle dangerous chemicals like arsenic and potassium. They work in glass bowing units where they have to exert their lungs, which creates diseases like tuberculosis. A large number of child workers are virtually confined in small rooms under inhuman conditions and in the most unhygienic surroundings. These hazardous conditions take their toll and the children suffer from lung disease like asthma and bronchitis, eye problems and backaches, while some are injured in burn accidents.

lakshmi pathi (2002) reported that working children are also more susceptible to infectious diseases, including tuberculosis if they suffer from malnutrition, anaemia, fatigue and inadequate sleep. Other physical health hazards, include bone lesions and postural deformity, attributable to work such as carpet weaving, embroidery and lifting heavy weights.

Muninarayanappa and Manjula (2012) conducted a study on "An Empirical study on Child labour in Unorganised sector in Kurnool district of Andhra Pradesh". They concluded that, a child is the future of our country. Uneducated and unhealthy child cannot contribute to the democratic goal of the country. Besides, the scientific development of the human resources of a nation like ours including backward state of Andhra Pradesh and Kurnool district can hardly be possible with the continuance of the menace of the child labour. Therefore, if at all we want our policies to work, if the state of Andhra Pradesh and Kurnool district wish to be a better place to live in, we cannot and should not afford to have child labour. This should be realized and remembered by every parent and the policy-makers of the country.

Need for the Study

Child labour is an age-old problem in India. The roots of this problem are quite deep. In spite of various measures taken up by the government and other agencies, there are still a large number of child labourers in India. Many economists and research scholars did a lot of work to understand this problem and offered various solutions for the same. Though for the past few years, the situation of child labour has improved marginally but still there is a long way to go. There are many hidden dimensions of this problem, which are yet to be focused upon. Even though there are myriad laws and legal provisions, implementation is not in a right manner. Child labour could not be ironed out or weeded out despite several welfare legislations enacted from time to time. It needs a change in our attitude. Keeping this in view, the present study attempts to analyse various problems faced by child labour and their perception on various dimensions in the study area like Kurnool district of Andhra Pradesh.

Objectives

1. To study the theoretical background of the child labour.
2. To identify the different child labour activities in the study area.
3. To analyse the perception of child labour on various aspects in Kurnool district.

Sample Design

The present paper covers only in Kurnool district. It is one of the sample districts in the study area. The sample is 120 child labourers were selected randomly who are working in agriculture, hotels, automobile shops, house servants and construction sites. The data was collected through Interview-Schedule on relating to their problems in work place and perception on various dimensions in the Kurnool district.



Data Collection

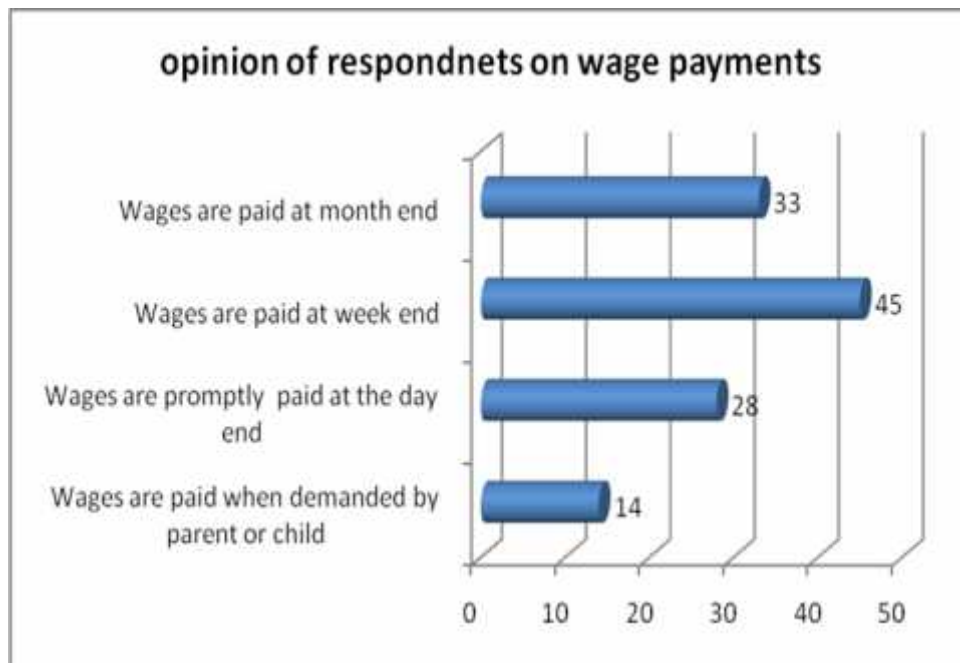
Both Primary and Secondary data were used in the present study for analysis, drawing inferences and arriving at conclusions keeping in view the objectives of the study. Primary data will be collected through personal interviews from the sample respondents with the help of pre-tested schedules at the living place and work place of the respondents. The secondary data were collected from dailies, periodicals, published and un-published theses and University libraries and various Government official reports. In the process of data analysis, percentages, averages mean tool were used in the study.

Results

Table 1 Opinion of the Sample Respondents on Wage Payments

S.No	Statement	No. of Respondents	Percentage to total
1	Wages are paid when demanded by parent or child	14	12.00
2	Wages are promptly paid at the day end	28	23.00
3	Wages are paid at week end	45	38.00
4	Wages are paid at month end	33	27.00
	Total	120	100

Source: Field survey



The table says that the opinion about the promptness of wage payments and their responses. It is clear from the table that 38 per cent of the sample respondents have opinion that the wages are paid at every weekend by the employer, 27 per cent of the respondents have said that owner are pay the wages at end of the every month, 23 per cent of the child have gave response on wage payment that the owner of the organization pay the wages timely, and rest of the 12 per cent of the child labours said that when demanded by me or my parents they will pay the wages in the present study.



Table 2: Details of Child Labour With Regards to Leisure Hours in Study Area

S.No	Particulars	No. of Respondents	Percentage to total
1	Watching Television	67	56.00
2	Go to movie	42	35.00
3	To spending with parents	51	43.00
	Total	120	100

Source: Field survey

The details on the leisure time being enjoyed by the selected children laborers on Sunday and holidays are presented in table 2. Majority of the child laborers in the present study, they have seen Television in Sundays or holidays it is represented that 56 per cent in total sample respondents, 43 per cent of the sample respondents have spending with their parents in Sundays or holidays in total samples, 35 per cent of the sample respondents have go to cinema in holidays in the present study.

Table 3: Details of Rest Hours of Child Labour in Their Work Place

S.No	Duration	No. of Respondents	Percentage to total
1	Not at all	36	30.00
2	Half an hour	14	12.00
3	One hour	48	40.00
4	Two hours	22	18.00
	Total	120	100

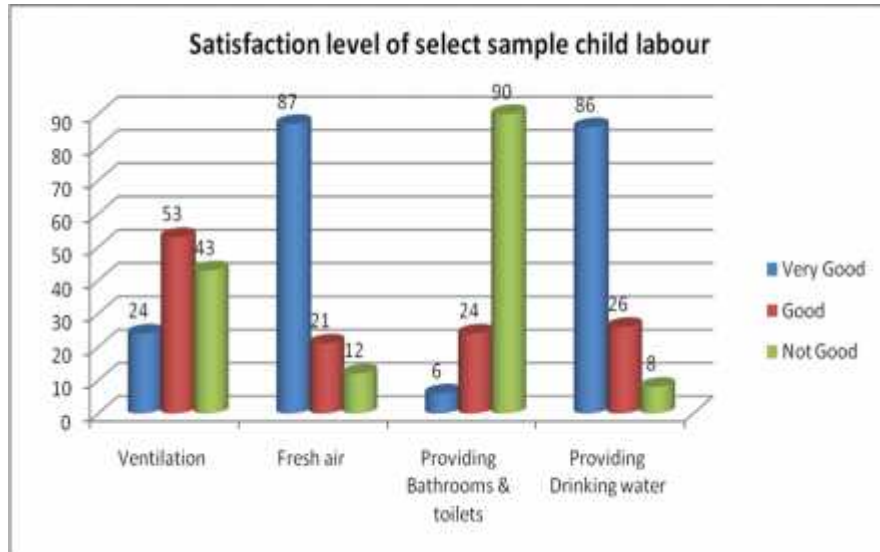
Source: Field survey

Table 3 reveals that the rest period enjoyed by the child labour in the present study. out of the total 150 child labours, 40 per cent of them have said that they are enjoying one hour rest period. about 30 per cent have stated that they are not all finding time and enjoying rest, 18 per cent have stated that they have the rest period two hours and about 12 per cent have stated that they have the rest period about half an hour. It is found that majority of the child labour have rest period is below one hour in their respective field in present study area.

Table 4 Satisfaction Level of Child Labours on Working Conditions

S.No	Particulars	Very good	Good	Not good
1	Ventilation	24 (20.00)	53 (44.00)	43 (36.00)
2	Fresh air	87 (72.00)	21 (18.00)	12 (10.00)
3	Providing Bathrooms & toilets	06 (05.00)	24 (20.00)	90 (75.00)
4	Providing Drinking water	86 (72.00)	26 (21.00)	08 (07.00)

Source: Field survey

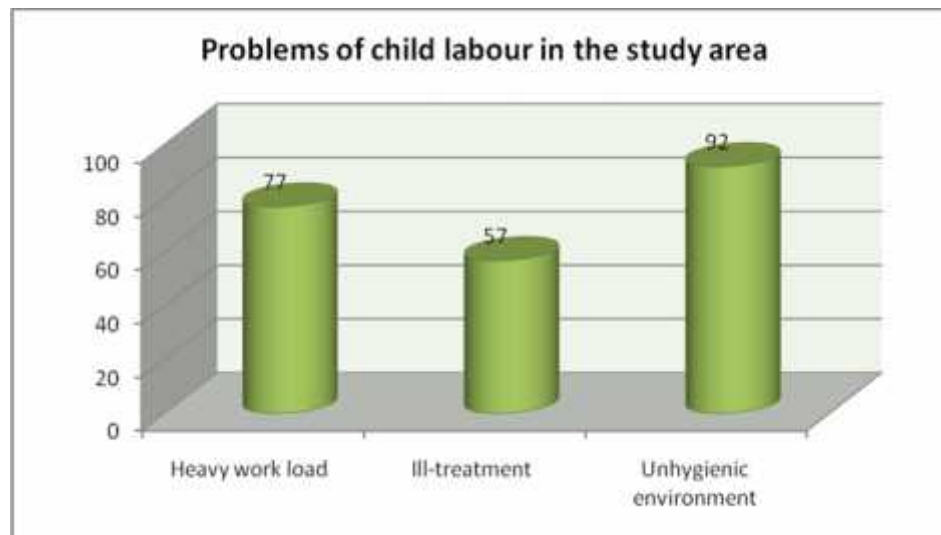


The above table 3 reveals that the opinion of the child labours on providing various facilities at the work site/place in the study area. It is found that 20 per cent have said their opinion is very good, 44 are good and 36 per cent have not well in regarding to ventilation. In case of the fresh air in their work place, 72 per cent of child labour was feel very good, 18 per cent are good and not good is representing 10 per cent. It is another found that 75 per cent of the respondents have not satisfied on providing toilets and both rooms in the work site/place, 20 per cent have said good, only 5 are highly satisfied. In case of providing drinking water, 72 per cent have stated very good, 21 per cent stated good and merge percentage sample respondents have opined not good.

Table 5 Problems Faced By Selected Child Labours at Work Place
 N=120

S.No	Problem	No. of Respondents	Percentage to total
1	Heavy work load	77	64.00
2	Ill-treatment	57	48.00
3	Unhygienic environment	92	77.00

Source: Field survey





The selected child labourers are asked to mention the problems faced by them at work place and they expressed different types of problems. Majority of the problems expressed by the children include over unhygienic environment than their capacity, over work load than their capacity, ill treatment by their employers in their work environment. It is further found that majority of the child labour were facing unhygienic environment and over work load in the present study.

Findings

1. The study is found that majority of the employers are paying amount to the child labours at end of the month or week of end.
2. It is observed in the study that average rest hours in all field is below one hour.
3. It can be found that the child labour will go to the cinema or watching television or spending their parents in the holiday period.
4. The study reveals that majority of the sample respondents were give positive response in the matters of providing drinking water and fresh air while remaining that they are not satisfied, i.e., both room and toilets etc.
5. In this study majority of the child labours are facing the problems like unhygienic environment and heavy work load.

Reference

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