



CHILD LABOUR AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

BEAUTY PANKAJ KALITA

Research Scholar,
AKI's Poona college of Arts Science & Commerce,
Pune (MS) INDIA

ABSTRACT

Children are the greatest gift to humanity and Childhood is an important stage of human development as it holds the potential to the future development of any society. Children are brought up in an environment, which is conducive to their intellectual, physical and social health; grow up to be responsible and productive members of society. Every nation links its future with the present status of its children. By performing work when they are too young for the task, children unduly reduce their present welfare or their future income earning capabilities. Under extreme economic distress, children are forced to forego educational opportunities and take up jobs which are mostly exploitative as they are usually underpaid and engaged in hazardous conditions. Parents decide to send their child for engaging in a job as a desperate measure due to poor economic conditions. Children are sent to work at the expense of education. There is a strong effect of child labour on school attendance rates and the length of a child's work day is negatively associated with his or her capacity to attend school. Child labour restricts the right of children to access and benefit from education and denies the fundamental opportunity to attend school. Child labour, thus, prejudices children's education and adversely affects their health as well as safety. As per the Census 2001, there are 1.26 crores economically active children in the age-group of 5-14 years. In the modern era of 21st century child labour is a curse for the Indian Economy. In this article it is tried to evaluate the work force of child labour in Indian economy and its inclusion in the society.

Keywords: Child labour, Health, Education, Growth

INTRODUCTION:

In India it has seen that the workforce and the participation rate of child labour have decrease in last two decades compare to earlier decade. The national sample survey data shows that in the year 2004-05 the estimated child work force was 9.07 million as against 21.55 million in 1983. There is a considerable fall in the child work force during this period and it is approx. 12.48 million. However in the absolute numbers the problem is very big because as per

BEAUTY PANKAJ KALITA

1P a g e

census 2001, there are 1.26 crores economically active children in the age group of 5-14 years.

As per NSSO survey 2009-10, the working children are estimated at 49.84 lakh which shows a declining trend.

The state wise data of working children as per NSSO survey 2009-10 are as below-

SL No	State Name	Age group from 5 to 14		Age group from 5 to 14	
		Rural		Urban	
		Male	Female	Male	Female
1	Andhra Pradesh	88156	110191	20767	15548
2	Assam	144655	31909	11833	757
3	Bihar	224292	38665	11017	2548
4	Chhattisgarh	3669	7321	636	0
5	Delhi	-	-	18576	0
6	Gujrat	150487	207973	15945	16282
7	Hariyana	22664	17471	28073	3988
8	Himachal Pradesh	2300	2942	2156	0
9	Jammu-Kashmir	11274	16872	1139	0
10	Jharkhand	63684	14661	4123	0
11	Karnataka	89796	113429	20793	2479
12	Kerala	1182	0	1583	0
13	Madhya Pradesh	91454	32812	57688	9063
14	Maharashtra	66370	127996	54230	12077
15	Orissa	54390	38288	36522	5363
16	Punjab	16802	6433	15664	9937
17	Rajasthan	93055	261871	43184	7826
18	Tamil Nadu	0	13880	3471	0
19	Uttarakhand	14810	7239	3219	2103
20	Uttar Pradesh	1012294	546320	147820	68899
21	West Bengal	357265	134657	31946	27716
	All India	2511101	1727271	546897	198602

Data on Child Labour based on Employment Unemployment Survey During NSS 66th Round (2009-10)

Government Initiatives to remove child labour:

The government of India has under taken the following scheme to remove the child the labour-

Article	Title	Description
21A	Right to Education	The state shall provide free and compulsory education to all children of the age of 6 to 14 years in such manner as the state, by law, may determine.
24	Prohibition of employment of children's in factories	No child below the age fourteen years shall be employed in work in any factory or mine or engaged in any other hazardous employment.
39	The state shall in particular direct its policy towards securing	That the health and strength of workers, men and women, and the tender age of children are not abused and that citizens are not forced by economic necessity to enter avocations unsuited to their age or strength.

The government of India has under taken the different scheme to improve the poor children quality of life in various terms. These are as follows :

a) Schemes of Department of Education

- Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA)
- Mid Day Meal Scheme

b) Schemes of Ministry of Women & Child Development:

- ICPS scheme For providing food and shelter to the children withdrawn from work through their schemes of Shelter Homes, etc
- Balika Samridhi Yojana and admission of children withdrawn from into residential schools under SC/ST/OBC Schemes.

Legislation for Child Labour in India:

Below are the legislation for child labour in India-

- The Children (Pledging of Labour) Act, 1933
- The Employment of Children Act, 1938
- The Minimum Wages, Act 1948 and rules made thereunder by the government
- The Factories Act, 1948
- The Plantations Labour Act, 1951
- The Mines Act, 1952

- The Merchant Shipping Act, 1958
- The Motor Transport Workers' Act, 1961
- The Apprentices Act, 1961
- The Atomic Energy Act, 1962
- The Beedi and Cigar Workers (Conditions of Employment) Act, 1966
- The Shops and Establishment Act in Various States, and
- Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986

The Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation Amendment Bill, 2012 was introduced in Rajya Sabha on 4 December, 2012 further to amend the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986. The amendment also seeks a blanket ban on employing children below 18 years in hazardous industries like mining. The Bill is referred to Standing Committee on Labour and Employment

Elimination of Child Labour in India:

The international labour organisation (ILO) launched the international programme for elimination of child labour(IPEC) in the year 1991 with the objective to end child labour globally. India was the first country to sign the memorandum of understanding (MOU) in the year 1992. During the 11th Plan Period, three Projects viz., INDUS Project, Andhra Pradesh Phase-II & Karnataka Project were implemented in the country under ILO-IPEC. Jointly funded by the Ministry of Labour, Government of India and the Department of Labour, United States of America (USDOL), the INDUS Child Labour Project was implemented in ten hazardous sectors in 21 districts across five states viz. Delhi (NCT Delhi), Maharashtra (Districts of Amravati, Jalna, Aurangabad, Gondia and Mumbai Suburban), Madhya Pradesh (Districts of Damoh, Sagar, Jabalpur, Satna and Katni), Tamil Nadu (Districts of Kanchipuram, Thiruvannamalai, Tiruvallur, Nammakkal and Virudhunagar) and Uttar Pradesh(Districts of Moradabad , Allahabad, Kanpur Nagar, Aligarh and Ferozabad). The project adopted a participatory method to identify beneficiaries and enrolling child workers in schools, transitional education centres and vocational training centres was seen as a key strategy for rehabilitation of child and adolescent workers withdrawn from work. The project was instrumental in the operationalising the public education component in the field. The Project also developed income generation strategies for child labour elimination by linking child labour families with the ongoing government schemes that provide access to micro credit and subsidies.

Through this project, an estimated 103,152 children and adolescent workers were withdrawn and rehabilitated. The Project was concluded in March 2009

Conclusion:

As poverty and illiteracy are the prime reasons for child labour, a combined and coordinated effort of the various departments would greatly help to mitigate this problem. The National Policy on Child Labour, prescribes the need to focus on general development programmes for the benefit of the families of child Labour. Providing income generation opportunities to the parents of child labour would enable them to send their children to school rather than work. Moreover, encouraging the parents of the working children to form Self Help Groups (SHGs) could be an another measures. This would also help to bring children from these families to the fold of education.

REFERENCES

1. S.N Tripathy, Migrant Child Labour in India, Mohit Publications, New Delhi, 1997
2. Burra Neera, Born to work, Child Labour in India
3. Child Labour Cell, Child Labour in the Match Industry of Sivakasi, National Labour Institute, Noida, India
4. Child Labour Cell, Child Labour in the Lock Industry of Aligargh
5. Debi S.Saini, "Children of a Lesser God, Child Labour Law and Compulsory Primary Education", Social Action, July-September 1994
6. Child labour, www.encarta.com, as on 22nd November, 2007
7. Census of India, www.globalmarch.org
8. Constitution of India, online version, as accessed on 1st December 2007
9. Child labour in india: A tragic scenario, www.southasiabiz.com