



Child Labour: A Sociological Study

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Child Labour: A sociological study Abstract- Child labour is a threatening problem of the world, due to this problem the future of the children goes into the lurch. All legislative and constitutional provisions have been adopted for the eradication of the child labour, due to which the number of child labour is continuously declining. Key Words- Child Labour, Legislative Provision, NCLP Scheme Introduction- Child labour is a great concern not only for India but for all over the world.

ABSTRACT

Child labour is a threatening problem of the world, due to this problem the future of the children goes into the lurch. All legislative and constitutional provisions have been adopted for the eradication of the child labour, due to which the number of child labour is continuously declining.

KEYWORDS

Child Labour, Legislative Provision,
NCLP Scheme.

INTRODUCTION

Child labour is a great concern not only for India but for all over the world. Child labour is stigma for any country. Nobel Laureate for peace Kailash Satyarthi says "I dream of a world full of safe children and safe childhoods; dream of world where every child enjoys freedom to be a child." Child labour (prohibition and regulation) act was first passed in 1986 to protect the rights of children. From then many amendments have taken place in this act.

Now recently amendments have been done in this act in 2016. In this amendment name of this act was changed and new name of this act is Child and Adolescent Labour (Prohibition and regulation) Act 2016. Some new lists of works have been added which is prohibited for the child and adolescent.

Article 24 of part 3 of Indian constitution states that any child below the age of 14 will not work in the factories or in any hazardous employment. Article 45 of part four of our constitution provides that free and compulsory education should be provided to children up to the age of 14 years.

History of Child Labour

The prevalence of child labour had been more or less in all periods of time although its nature and dimensions were different because socio-economic structure keeps on changing according to different periods of time. In ancient India this problem can be seen as child slavery which was owned by the then affluent class of people for doing low and ignoble work. The bitter truth of ancient India was that children of slaves born as slaves, lived as slaves and died also as slaves. It has been observed that all the lawgivers, with the solitary exception of Kautilya, were silent on this point and did not show any interest to abolish this inhuman practice of child slavery. Regarding this problem in ancient India, it can be said that it existed in the form of child slavery. Child slaves could be sold or purchased like commodities. Regarding child slavery Kautilya says that buying and selling of children among 'Miechchas' was not prohibited at all. Whereas if a child is born in an Aryan family, he cannot be sold and purchased.

Literature of the medieval India reveals that child labour existed in the medieval India. Ain-I-Akbari of AbulFajl and Bernier's travels reveal that children were frequently purchased and sold like cattles.

When India came into British rule, there was a dynamic change in the problem of child labour the British abolished the family economy and started the capitalistic economy. Due to which the problem of child labour became even more frightening. Due to the capitalistic economy the peasants gradually separated from their land and the peasant and peasant's family turned into labourers. Children also started working as labourers to support their families, due to which the problem became even more dangerous.

Legislative Provision for Child Labour in the past

First protective legislation for child labour was enacted in 1881. This act was known as Indian Factories Act ,1881. This Act provided some protection to the children firstly according to the provisions of this act, a child who is less than 7 years of age cannot work in a factory. Secondly, by limiting their working hours to nine hours a day and thirdly by making it compulsory that four holidays and rest intervals should be given to them.

After independence, the Factories Act 1881 was changed in 1948, in which the minimum age for working in the factory was kept at 14 years.

Figures related to Child Labour

According to the 2001 census, the total population of the children in the age group of 5 to 14 years in India is 2 crore 52 lakhs, out of which one crore 26 lakhs children are working. Figures there are 1.26 crore working children in the age group of 5-14 as compared to the total child population of 2.52 crore.

In year 2004-05 National Sample Survey Organization Conducted a survey according to which the number of working children is 90.75 lakhs.

In the census of 2011, the number of working children in the age group of 5-14 years has further reduced to 43.53 lakh.

There was the turning point in the context of child labour in 1979, which led to the formation of Gurupad Swamy committee to study about the issue of child labour.

The Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) act was passed in 1986 on the recommendations of Gurupadswamy committee and under this ,the national policy on children was made in 1987, the action plans that have been prepared under this policy are as follows :

1. strict adherence to the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act.
2. Implementation of project based NCLP schemes in areas where the number of child labour is high.
3. Programs that help the families of child labourers.

Provisions by government for eradicating the Child Labour

The Ministry of labour and employment, Government of India has developed an online platform named PENCIL (Platform for effective enforcement for no child labour) platform which is effective from 26/09/2018. The platform monitors the NCLP scheme and update various reports. Its aim is to end poverty among children. The main objective of this platform is to implement the legislative and constitutional provisions that have been made for the children as well as proper implementation of the NCLP scheme. The government of India has so far implemented the NCLP scheme in 313 districts of 21 states, which works for the rehabilitation for the children.

NCLP scheme is a central sector scheme, which was started in the year 1988. Under this, project societies are established in the chairmanship of collector at the district level. Under this, such children from 9 to 14 years of age who are doing labour work, they had to be rescued from there, keep those children in STC (special training centre).

Here those children are provided bridge education, vocational training, mid-day meal stipend and health care facilities etc.

Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan which was brought by the 86th constitutional amendment in 2002. Its objective is compulsory education of primary education, under which free and compulsory education is provided to the children from 6 to 14 years. And for this a new article 21(a) has been added in the constitution of India.

Hypothesis

1. Such families belong to the labourer family; their children mostly work as child labour.
2. Most of the children engaged in child labour use drugs.

Methodology

This study was done in the eastern district shahdol of Madhya Pradesh, which is a tribal dominated area. In which questions were asked to 80 child labourers using purposive sampling. In this sample care was taken that the interview schedule used to ask questions to the respondents to be representatives of the whole, to make the answer more clear, supplementary questions were asked and the gesture of the respondents were kept in mind.

Table 1

S.NO	Do your parents engaged in labour work?	Number of respondents	Percentage
1	Yes	65	81.25
2	No	15	18.75

(Source : Primary data)

Explanation

It is clear from table 1 that out of 80 child labourers only 65 child labourers belong to the labour family and their parents do the labour work. While out of 80 child labourers only 15 child labours do not belong to labour and their parents do not do the labour work.

Table 2

S.NO	Do you use gutkha, bidi and tobacco?	Number of respondents	Percentage
1	Yes	70	87.5
2	No	10	12.5

(Source : Primary data)

Explanation

It is clear from table 2 that 70 out of 80 child labourers consume gutkha, bidi and tobacco while 10 child labourers do not consume gutkha, bidi and tobacco. It is clear from this that most of the child labourers consume gutkha, bidi and tobacco.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, we can say that the number of child labour has decreased in India but a lot of work is yet to be done in this direction. The government of India and the state government are doing proper work in this direction.

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