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## PROBLEM OF CHILD LABOUR IN KALABURAGI DISTRICT: A SOCIOLOGICAL ANALYSIS

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**Abstract:**-The statistics revealed that there is prevalence of more child labour in India compared to developed countries. Hence, it is essential to intervene the reasons and causes of child labour in backward region like Kalaburagi district. For this purpose, totally 500 child labourers were interviewed and the collected primary data was analyzed and discussed. It is suggested to provide self-employment training to child labourers along with primary education to these labourers, so that the child labourers can get education along with income by engaging themselves in self-employment.

**Keywords:** Problem of Child , Sociological Analysis

### INTRODUCTION

Child labour is one of the biggest challenges facing India in its aspiration to be a developed country. Its eradication is not only the means to sustainable development but also an end in itself from the point of view of human development. The problem of child labour in the developing world has drawn considerable attention recently. The International Labour Organisation (ILO) estimates the number of working children in the world in the age group of 5-14 years to be 250 million (Ashagrie, 1998), with most of them being in the developing countries. In absolute numbers, child labour is most prevalent in Asia, with India as one of the main contributors. According to Weiner (1991), the number of working children in India could be anywhere between 13 and 44 million, depending on how one defines child labour and the manner in which the data is used (Nielsen and Dubey, 2002). Unofficial estimates by some independent organizations and researchers, for 2001, suggest that the child labour population in the country ranges between 44 million to 110 million (Anjali Chandra, 2009).

Child labour is result of social negligence and backwardness. Hyderabad-Karnataka is backward area with more illiteracy and unemployment. Consequently, there is more child labour in the region. Hence, to study the child labour in Hyderabad-Karnataka backward region in general and Kalaburagi district in particular, the present study is made.

### Objectives of the Study:

#### The present study is made:

- To look into the social background of child labourers;
- To throw light on the employers' attitudes and working conditions of the child labourers; and
- To study the reasons for child labour in Kalaburagi district.

### Methodology and Limitations:

The author searched for relevant theoretical information sources from books and research journals including statistical reports. Based on theoretical background, interview schedule was designed. Totally 500 child labourers, of which 250 working in urban areas such as Kalaburagi city and towns and 250 child labourers working in rural areas of the seven talukas of Kalaburagi district were interviewed to collect the primary data. The collected primary

data is analyzed and discussed as under.

**Analysis and Discussion:**

The collected primary data is analyzed and discussed as under.

**1. Nature of Work:**

It is noted that the respondents are recognized by their work. The major portions of child labourers are working in Motor Garages, Vegetable Selling, etc. Female child labourers are working as domestic servants. In this regard, the nature of works of the child labourers surveyed is as under.

**Table No. 1. Nature of Work**

| Particulars                                    | Urban     |      | Rural     |      | Total     |      |
|--|-----------|------|-----------|------|-----------|------|
|  | Frequency | %    | Frequency | %    | Frequency | %    |
| Repair of Cycle, Motor Cycle, Cars, etc.       | 88        | 35.2 | 97        | 38.8 | 185       | 37.0 |
| Building Construction, Road Work, etc.         | 37        | 14.8 | 30        | 12.0 | 67        | 13.4 |
| Hotel, Lodges, Bakery, Domestic Servant, etc.  | 56        | 22.4 | 23        | 9.2  | 79        | 15.8 |
| Leather Work, Foot Wear, etc.                  | 05        | 2.0  | 08        | 3.2  | 13        | 2.6  |
| Handicrafts, Art, Painting, Black smithy, etc. | 04        | 1.6  | 13        | 5.2  | 17        | 3.4  |
| Self-employment                                | 21        | 8.4  | 38        | 15.2 | 59        | 11.8 |
| Family/ Caste based Occupation                 | 36        | 14.4 | 35        | 14.0 | 71        | 14.2 |
| Any Other                                      | 03        | 1.2  | 06        | 2.4  | 09        | 1.8  |
| Total  | 250       | 100  | 250       | 100  | 500       | 100  |

As expressed by all the respondents surveyed, 185 (37.0%) are working in repair of cycle, motor cycle, cars, televisions, etc, 67 (13.4%) are working in building construction, road works, etc, 79 (15.8%) are working in hotel, lodges, bakery, households as domestic servants, etc, 13 (2.6%) are working in leather works, foot wear shops, etc, 17 (3.4%) are working in handicrafts, artistic works, painting, black smithy, etc, 59 (11.8%) are self-employed, 71 (14.2%) are working in family based works and 09 (1.8%) are engaged in other types of works. It is summarized that to know about the status and positions of child labourers, all types of works and occupations in which the child labourers are working are surveyed.

**2. Age-wise Distribution of Respondents:**

Generally, child labourers are of less than 16 years. As the present study is made on child labourers, it is essential to know about the age of the respondents as it determines the level of knowledge about their occupations and also society. The age of the respondents surveyed is presented in the following table.

**Table No. 2. Age-wise Distribution of Respondents**

| Particulars    | Urban     |      | Rural     |      | Total     |      |
|----------------|-----------|------|-----------|------|-----------|------|
|                | Frequency | %    | Frequency | %    | Frequency | %    |
| Below 10 Years | 43        | 17.2 | 37        | 14.8 | 80        | 16.0 |
| 11 to 14 Years | 93        | 37.2 | 91        | 36.4 | 184       | 36.8 |
| 15-16 Years    | 114       | 45.6 | 122       | 48.8 | 236       | 47.2 |
| Total          | 250       | 100  | 250       | 100  | 500       | 100  |

The age of all the respondents revealed that, 80 (16.0%) are of less than 10 years, 184 (36.8%) are between 11 to 14 years and the remaining 236 (47.2%) are between 15 to 16 years. It shows that, nearly half of the respondents are of more compared to others.

**3. Level of Education:**

It is observed that many of the child labourers are drop outs and even a few of these labourers are also continued their education by working as part time in various businesses. In this regard, the primary data was collected from the respondents on their level of education and presented in the following table.

**Table No. 3. Level of Education**

| Particulars    | Urban     |      | Rural     |      | Total     |      |
|----------------|-----------|------|-----------|------|-----------|------|
|                | Frequency | %    | Frequency | %    | Frequency | %    |
| Illiterate     | 63        | 25.2 | 56        | 22.4 | 119       | 23.8 |
| Lower Primary  | 91        | 36.4 | 89        | 35.6 | 180       | 36.0 |
| Higher Primary | 96        | 38.4 | 105       | 42.0 | 201       | 40.2 |
| Total          | 250       | 100  | 250       | 100  | 500       | 100  |

Among all the respondents, 119 (23.8%) are illiterates, 180 (36.0%) have completed lower primary education and 201 (40.2%) have completed higher primary education. It is observed that majority of the respondents are literates, even few of these respondents are also continued their education along with their works.

**4. Relations with Parents:**

It is noted that a few children during their childhood ran from their houses and even few children are orphans. Now, all the respondents are living with their parents. Though the respondents are living with their parents, the relations with their parents may be satisfactory or not satisfactory. Hence, the primary data was collected from the respondents on relations with their parents and presented in the following table.

**Table No. 4. Relations with Parents**

| Particulars      | Urban     |      | Rural     |      | Total     |      |
|------------------|-----------|------|-----------|------|-----------|------|
|                  | Frequency | %    | Frequency | %    | Frequency | %    |
| Cordial          | 121       | 48.4 | 153       | 61.2 | 274       | 54.8 |
| Satisfactory     | 112       | 44.8 | 83        | 33.2 | 195       | 39.0 |
| Not Satisfactory | 17        | 6.8  | 14        | 5.6  | 31        | 6.2  |
| Not Applicable   | --        | --   | --        | --   | --        | --   |
| Total            | 250       | 100  | 250       | 100  | 500       | 100  |

To sum up, of all the respondents, 274 (54.8%) have responded that they have cordial relations with their parents, 195 (39.0%) have mentioned that they have satisfactory relationship with their parents and 31 (6.2%) have no satisfactory relationship with their parents. It is concluded that the respondents are having good relationship with their parents.

**5. Wish to Get Education:**

It is already noted that a great majority of the respondents are not getting education and many of them are also illiterates. As such, it was asked to these respondents that whether they would like to get education and the collected primary data is presented in the following table.

**Table No. 5. Wish to Get Education**

| Particulars    | Urban     |      | Rural     |      | Total     |      |
|----------------|-----------|------|-----------|------|-----------|------|
|                | Frequency | %    | Frequency | %    | Frequency | %    |
| Yes            | 80        | 32.0 | 38        | 15.2 | 118       | 23.6 |
| No             | 77        | 30.8 | 156       | 62.4 | 233       | 46.6 |
| Not Applicable | 93        | 37.2 | 56        | 22.4 | 149       | 29.8 |
| Total          | 250       | 100  | 250       | 100  | 500       | 100  |

118 (23.6%) of the total respondents wish to continue their education, whereas 233 (46.6%) are not interested in education and the remaining 149 (29.8%) of the total respondents are going to schools to get education. Though majority of the child labourers don't want to continue their education, still more numbers of respondents want to get education, but it has not become possible for them. Hence, human rights of these respondents pertaining to their education are violated.

**6. Reasons for Outside Work at Young Age:**

The child labourers covered under the study are under aged and working outside. The reasons for their outside work at younger age as furnished by the respondents are tabulated as under.

**Table No. 6. Reasons for Outside Work at Young Age**

| Particulars                     | Urban     |      | Rural     |      | Total     |      |
|---------------------------------|-----------|------|-----------|------|-----------|------|
|                                 | Frequency | %    | Frequency | %    | Frequency | %    |
| Poor Income of Parents          | 188       | 75.2 | 193       | 77.2 | 381       | 76.2 |
| Quarrel with Parents            | 09        | 3.6  | 06        | 2.4  | 15        | 3.0  |
| Family Tradition/<br>Occupation | 36        | 14.4 | 35        | 14.0 | 71        | 14.2 |
| Family Disorganization          | 11        | 4.4  | 13        | 5.2  | 24        | 4.8  |
| Orphan                          | --        | --   | --        | --   | --        | --   |
| Any Other                       | 06        | 2.4  | 03        | 1.2  | 09        | 1.8  |
| Total                           | 250       | 100  | 250       | 100  | 500       | 100  |

Among the total respondents, a great majority that is, 381 (76.2%) have expressed that they are working outside due to poor income of their parents, 15 (3.0%) have mentioned that they have quarreled with their parents, 71 (14.2%) have stated that they are working in their family occupations or as per their traditions, 24 (4.8%) have opined that due to the family disorganization of their parents they are working outside and 09 (1.8%) have given other reasons for their outside work at an younger age.

**7. Number of Years of Outside Work:**

The child labourers are experts in different occupations such as Motor Cycle Repair, Cycle Repair, Skill based works, handicrafts, etc. In this regard, the information was collected from the respondents on the work experience in terms of number of years of outside work and presented in the following table.

**Table No. 7. Number of Years of Outside Work**

| Particulars          | Urban     |      | Rural     |      | Total     |      |
|----------------------|-----------|------|-----------|------|-----------|------|
|                      | Frequency | %    | Frequency | %    | Frequency | %    |
| One Year             | 33        | 13.2 | 14        | 5.6  | 47        | 9.4  |
| Two Years            | 41        | 16.4 | 23        | 9.2  | 64        | 12.8 |
| Three Years          | 49        | 19.6 | 54        | 21.6 | 103       | 20.6 |
| Four Years           | 65        | 26.0 | 76        | 30.4 | 141       | 28.2 |
| More than Four Years | 62        | 24.8 | 83        | 33.2 | 145       | 29.0 |
| Total                | 250       | 100  | 250       | 100  | 500       | 100  |

As furnished by all the respondents on the number of years of their outside work, 145 (29.0%) are working since more than four years followed by, 141 (28.2%) are working outside since four years, 103 (20.6%) are working since three years, 64 (12.8%) are working outside since two years and 47 (9.4%) are working outside since one year. It shows that the children surveyed under the study are working outside since long period.

### 8. Average Monthly Wages:

As discussed above, the frequency of wage payment to child labourers is different based on the nature of their works. In this regard, the information was also collected on the average monthly wages of the respondents and tabulated as under.

**Table No. 8. Average Monthly Wages**

| Particulars          | Urban     |      | Rural     |      | Total     |      |
|----------------------|-----------|------|-----------|------|-----------|------|
|                      | Frequency | %    | Frequency | %    | Frequency | %    |
| Less than Rs. 500    | --        | --   | 06        | 2.4  | 06        | 1.2  |
| Rs. 500 to Rs. 1000  | 11        | 4.4  | 20        | 8.0  | 31        | 6.2  |
| Rs. 1001 to Rs. 2000 | 49        | 19.6 | 83        | 33.2 | 132       | 26.4 |
| Rs. 2001 to Rs. 3000 | 75        | 30.0 | 43        | 17.2 | 118       | 23.6 |
| More than Rs. 3000   | 58        | 23.2 | 25        | 10.0 | 83        | 16.6 |
| Not Applicable       | 57        | 22.8 | 73        | 29.2 | 130       | 26.0 |
| Total                | 250       | 100  | 250       | 100  | 500       | 100  |

On the average monthly wages of all the respondents, 06 (1.2%) are getting less than Rs. 500, 31 (6.2%) are getting wages between Rs. 500 to Rs. 1000, 132 (26.4%) are getting wages between Rs. 1001 to Rs. 2000, 118 (23.6%) are getting monthly wages between Rs. 2001 to Rs. 3000, only 83 (16.6%) are getting monthly wages of more than Rs. 3000 and it is not applicable to 130 (26.0%) of the respondents as they are working in family based works or are self-employed.

### 9. Attitudes of Employers or Owners:

In many cases, the employers or owners exploit child labourers by long hours of work, delaying the payments, unnecessary cut in salary, etc. Even in many cases, physical assaults are also made by their employers in case of mistakes committed by the child labourers. In majority of the cases, the employers are cooperative and cordial with the child labourers. Hence, the information was collected from child labourers on the attitudes of their employers or owners and presented in the following table.

**Table No. 9. Attitudes of Employers or Owners**

| Particulars               | Urban     |      | Rural     |      | Total     |      |
|---------------------------|-----------|------|-----------|------|-----------|------|
|                           | Frequency | %    | Frequency | %    | Frequency | %    |
| Courteous/<br>Sympathetic | 63        | 25.2 | 81        | 32.4 | 144       | 28.8 |
| Moderate/<br>Cooperative  | 67        | 26.8 | 48        | 19.2 | 115       | 23.0 |
| Indifferent               | 47        | 18.8 | 38        | 15.2 | 85        | 17.0 |
| Cruel/ Worse              | 16        | 6.4  | 10        | 4.0  | 26        | 5.2  |
| Not Applicable            | 57        | 22.8 | 73        | 29.2 | 130       | 26.0 |
| Total                     | 250       | 100  | 250       | 100  | 500       | 100  |

On the attitudes of their employers or owners and among all the respondents surveyed, 144 (28.8%) have stated that their employers are courteous or sympathetic, 115 (23.0%) have mentioned that their employers are moderate or cooperative, 85 (17.0%) have remarked that their employers are indifferent, 26 (5.2%) have responded that their employers are cruel or worse and it is not applicable to 130 (26.0%) of all the respondents as they are working in the family based works or are self-employed.

**10. Satisfaction on Service Conditions:**

Work or job satisfaction is essential for every worker to provide efficiency and productivity. To get maximum job satisfaction, the workers must be satisfied with their service conditions including working conditions. The service conditions include satisfactory salary or wages, flexible working hours, freedom in work, respect and cooperation from employers, etc. It is essential that every worker must be satisfied with these service conditions so that he can get maximum from his work and on the other hand, his employer gets maximum productivity from workers. In this regard, the information on satisfaction of the child labourers on the service conditions with their employers at their work places was collected and presented in the following table.

**Table No. 10. Satisfaction on Service Conditions**

| Particulars          | Urban     |      | Rural     |      | Total     |      |
|----------------------|-----------|------|-----------|------|-----------|------|
|                      | Frequency | %    | Frequency | %    | Frequency | %    |
| Happier &<br>Comfort | 44        | 17.6 | 68        | 27.2 | 112       | 22.4 |
| Satisfactory         | 109       | 43.6 | 84        | 33.6 | 193       | 38.6 |
| Not Satisfied        | 40        | 16.0 | 25        | 10.0 | 65        | 13.0 |
| Not Applicable       | 57        | 22.8 | 73        | 29.2 | 130       | 26.0 |
| Total                | 250       | 100  | 250       | 100  | 500       | 100  |

Overall, as revealed by all the respondents on their working and service conditions, only 112 (22.4%) are felt happier and comfort, 193 (38.6%) are satisfied, 65 (13.0%) are not satisfied and it is not applicable to 130 (26.0%) of the total respondents as they are working in their family based works or are self-employed. It is noted that though majority of the respondents are satisfied or happier and comfort with their service conditions, still a few of the respondents are not satisfied with their service conditions. It shows that many of the child labourers are exploited by their employers or owners.

**Suggestions:**

Following suggestions are made from the present study:

- 1.It is essential to provide self-employment training to child labourers with financial assistance so that child labourers can work and earn and also provide education to these child labourers during their off-time;
- 2.It is suggested to the parents of child labourers to send their children to schools for getting education; and
- 3.NGOs and voluntary organizations should look into the problems faced by child labourers and also solve their



problems.

**CONCLUSION:**

Government has emphasized for universal education for all the children, but due to lack of economic support many of the children are working outside for their livelihood. There is need for Government scheme, which should look into the problems of child labourers, so that these child labourers should work in self-employment along with their primary education. For this purpose, more schemes are essential for the development of education among child labourers. The parents should realize the significance of education for their children and send their children to schools rather than work.

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