

**AN EMPIRICAL STUDY ON CHILD LABOUR IN
UNORGANISED SECTOR IN KURNOOL CITY**

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ABSTRACT

It is evident from the review of literature that there are some studies on child labour both in rural and urban areas. Some studies are concentrated on working conditions while some on problems of child labour. Few others have made on school dropouts among child labour. Some more have made studies on different child labour Acts and their impact on the child labour. However, it is surprised to find that scant attempts are made on the child labour in unorganized sector. More so, no study on empirical basis is made on child labour in unorganized in Kurnool district. Hence the present paper in an empirical attempt.

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Introduction:

Child labour is a global phenomenon. It is a socio-economic problem, which needed sustained efforts over a long period of time across the world. It has constantly agitated the minds of jurists, legislators, social thinkers, politicians, economists, philanthropists, researchers including academicians today than ever before. Children are the most vulnerable group in any population and are the need of the greatest social case. On account of their vulnerability and dependence, they are being exploited, ill-treated and directed into undesirable channels by anti social elements in the community. Laws exist in all continents of the world to prevent the exploitation of the child. Various seminars are held, legislations were passed and plan of action are drawn to protect the children. Yet not much could have been done about child labour protection and the problem grows out of the proportion day-by-day.

The employment of children is a curse not only for the child but also for the society as a whole. Moreover, social economic reasons such as poverty, backwardness, and illiteracy etc. force children into the work force. The child who goes to work forfeits not only his childhood but also fair chance to leave behind his gloomy past. He loses his chance to receive education and rise his status in life. It is known fact that child is the seed of future national growth. It exists across the sub continent, to a greater degree, visible or invisible forms and admittedly or otherwise child labour especially in India is a multi dimensional problem and it is one of the causing concern. Hence, there is a dire need to protect child labour and nurture their potential skills for their own sake and for overall development of India.

Child labour: The concept and definition

International Labour Organization (ILO) defines, Child Labour that includes children prematurely leading adult lives working long hours for low wages under conditions damaging their health and their physical and mental development, sometimes separated from their families, frequently deprived of meaningful educational and training opportunities that could open up for them a better future.

According to Sri. V.V.Giri, the former President of India, the term child labour has two basic components such as i) employing the children in gainful occupations with a view to adding to the labour income of their families; and ii) purposeful oppression and exploitation of working children leading to deprivation of their legitimate opportunities for growth.

Magnitude of Child Labour across States

There is decline in the incidence of child labour in the Southern and Western Indian States and UTs between 1991 and 2001. However, there has been an increasing trend in the Eastern and North Indian States and UTs. While the Kerala and Tamil Nadu stories are well known, it is heartening to see that the state of Andhra Pradesh, that has a dubious distinction of having the largest child labour force in the country, shows very remarkable reduction in work-force participation, along with a dramatic increase in the enrolment of children in schools. Table 1 presents age and gender-wise estimates of child labour.

Table 1

Age and Gender-wise Global Estimates of Child Labour

Age group	Gender	Economically active children ('000s)	Child Labour ('000s)	Children in Hazardous works ('000s)	Percentage of	
					Col. 4 to Co. 3	Co. 5 to Col. 4
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
5-14	Boys	109000	97800	61300	89.7	62.7
	Girls	101800	88500	50000	86.9	56.5
	Total	210800	186300	111300	88.4	59.7
15-17	Boys	75100	34400	34400	45.8	100.0
	Girls	65800	24800	24800	37.7	100.0
	Total	140900	59200	59200	42.0	100.0
5-17	Boys	184100	132200	95700	71.8	72.4
	Girls	167600	113300	74800	67.6	66.0
	Total	351700	245500	170500	69.8	69.5

Source: Calculated from the New Global Estimates on Child Labour, The Indian Journal of Labour Economics, Vol.45, No.3, 2002 pp. 653-656.

A look at the data in Table 1 shows that 246 million children in the age group of 5-17 years are the child labours around the globe and 132.2 million are boys (54%) and 113.3 million are girls (46%). Of these 245.5 million, 186.3 million (75.9%) belonging to the age group of 5-14 years. It is also disheartening to note that 170.5 million children are doing hazardous works and 56% of these children are boys and 44% are girls. It is unfortunate to observe that the child labourers constitute 69.8% of the economically active children and 69.5% of these child labourers are engaged in hazardous work and all the child labourers (59.2 million) in the age group of 15-17 years are engaged in the hazardous works.

Child Labour and its correlates: A state-wise analysis

Table 2 exhibits the details or labour State-wise child labourers and the related correlates income level and literacy level particularly the literacy rate among female

Table 2

An observation of the nature and magnitude of child labour in different sates and its correlates

Sl. No	State	Child Labour (%)	Correlates of child labour		
			Percapita Net State domestic product (Rs.)	Literacy Rate (%) #	Female literacy Rate (%) #
1	Andhra Pradesh	17.8	14715	61.1	44.2
2	Karnataka	13.9	16343	67.0	57.4
3	Himachal Pradesh	13.6	15012	77.1	68.1

4	Rajasthan	12.2	12533	61.0	44.3
5	Tamilnadu	10.4	19141	73.5	64.5
6	Madhya Pradesh	8.7	10907	64.1	50.2
7	Oriss	7.4	9162	63.6	50.9
8	Maharashtra	6.5	233398	77.3	67.5
9	West Bengal	5.1	15669	69.2	60.2
10	Uttar Pradesh	5.0	9765	57.3	42.9
11	Gujarat	4.1	18625	69.9	58.6
12	Bihar	3.7	6328	47.5	33.5
13	Punjab	2.7	23040	69.9	63.5
14	Assam	2.6	9612	64.2	56.0
15	Kerala	0.8	18262	90.9	87.8

. GOI (2002) India – 2002: A Reference Manual, New Delhi, pp. 13 and 14.

The survey reports reveal that incidence of child labour is highest in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan and Tamilnadu. It is at lower end in the states like Kerala, Haryana and Punjab. An observation of the correlates of child labour like literacy and level of income reveal that there exists a negative correlation between level of income, level of literacy and incidences of child labour. The data show that the states like Kerala, Haryana, Punjab, Gujarat and Maharashtra with high net per capita domestic product had much lower incidence of child labour. This is most important particularly in the case of states like Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Orissa, Chattisgarh, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Haryana, Uttaranchal and Assam where the underemployment of human resources is observed to be quite high than the national average.

Causes of Child Labour

There are many socio-economic factors responsible for the increase of child labour in India while increase in rate of industrialization and modernization, the incidence of child labour in all the developing countries has been growing alarmingly. When India is poised to enter the 21st century in a big way with an era of total modernization of industry and agriculture, the problem of child labour is grown both extensively and intensively.

On reviewing the factors resulting in the prevalence of child labour, we find that castiesm, poverty, family size, income level, education etc., are some of the major factors that have intensified the problem of child labour in India. Gurudasa Committee revealed in its report that the problem of child labour is a result of poverty and elimination of poverty itself is a great problem.

Statement of the problem

Child labour is a global phenomenon. It is a causing concern in third world countries in general and India in particular. It is well known fact that India is a diversified country with socio-economic political, cultural and educational disparities. Poverty, economic backwardness and illiteracy are the factors pulling down the development of the economy. Child labour, especially in unorganized sector is found growing enormously today than ever before. The children labour is said to be the labour falling below 14 years of age but engaged in various activities. The reasons for child labour are many and varied. Poverty, illiteracy, indebtedness, ignorance are the major problems. To mitigate the problems associated with child labour Government enacted different child labour protective measures to eradicate it. However, it is observed that these Acts could not altogether eradicate the problem. Kurnool district which is one of the backward districts in Rayalaseema region as per the records, the child labour especially in unorganized sectors like hotel, mechanics and beedi are engaged more compared to other activities. Hence, the researcher thought of to have a detailed study on this vital topic.

Need for the Present paper

It is evident from the review of literature that there are some studies on child labour both in rural and urban areas. Some studies are concentrated on working conditions while some on problems of child labour. Few others have made on school dropouts among child labour. Some

more have made studies on different child labour Acts and their impact on the child labour. However, it is surprised to find that scant attempts are made on the child labour in unorganized sector. More so, no study is made on child labour in unorganized in Kurnool district. Hence the present study empirical.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of study are

1. To know the nature magnitude and causes of child labour in India.
2. To trace the factors responsible for the children to undertake the economic activity in unorganized sector in Kurnool town.
3. To find out the working and living conditions of child labour in the selected occupations and identify the problems faced by child labour and
4. To suggest policy measures to eradicate child labour especially in unorganized sector.

Sample of the universe

For a detailed study, as many as, 150 children working in Hotel, Mechanical and Beedi works are purposefully selected. While selecting the respondents purposive random sampling method is adopted by giving equal representation by selecting 50 respondents from each activity. Their responses to the Interview Schedule and the secondary data.

Method of data collection

The data for the present study are collected both from primary and secondary data. Primary data are collected by administering an interview schedule among the selected child labour. However, the secondary data are pooled from the official records of District Labour Office, State Directorate of Labour, published books, Journals, websites; unpublished Dissertations. Informal discussions are also made with the officials concerned.

Statistical tools used

The collected data are processed, tabulated and analysed with the help of tables and percentages.

Analysis

In Kurnool district, as per the official records of the labour officer, about 69,868 children are found to be out of school i.e. 5 per cent of the school age children in the district. The major reasons identified for this gap as per the office records are: poverty, lack of awareness among the parents and community, sibling care, involvement of children in child labour practices and believes among community and parents.

The Kurnool district is spreaded over 17,658 sq.kms covered by 35, 29,494 population according to 2001 census with a density of 168 persons per sq.km. it consists of three revenue divisions viz. Kurnool, Adoni and Nandyal, about 53 rural Mandals, 4 urban Mandals, 899 gram pachayats, 918 revenue villages and 1572 habitations. It is further found in the table that Nandyal Urban and Rural Mandals have the highest literacy rte followed by Kurnool and Srisailam Mandals and the lowest literacy i.e. 27.32 per cent in Kosigi Mandal. The overall literacy rate is found to satisfactory.

Table 3

Distribution of child labour according to type of work

Sl.No	Nature of work	Frequency of work			
		Regular	Part time	Seasonal	Total
1	Mechanic works	24 (48.00)	22 (44.00)	4 (8.00)	50 (100.00)
2	Beedi works	25 (50.00)	20 (40.00)	5 (10.00)	50 (100.00)
3	Hotel Works	38 (76.00)	10 (20.00)	2 (4.00)	50 (100.00)
	Total	87 (58.00)	52 (34.66)	11 (7.33)	150 (100.00)

Source: Field Survey

Note: Figures in parentheses indicate percentages to row total

The details about the nature and frequency of work are presented in table 3. It is surprised to find that 58 per cent of the child labour is working on regular basis, 34.66 per cent are on the basis of part time and the remaining 7.33 per cent are working on the basis of seasonal. On the whole, it is noticed that as many as 92.66 per cent of child labourers are working in Hotel works, 50 per cent in Beedi Works and 48 per cent of child labourers are in mechanic works engaged on the regular basis. This clearly shows that majority of the child labourers in the present study are permanently engaged as labourers.

Table 4

Reasons given by the sample child labour for taking up the job of child labour

Sl.No	Reasons	Child labour		
		Mechanic works N=50	Beedi works N=50	Hotel works N=50
1	Inadequate income of the parents and big family size	30 (60.00)	20 (40.00)	18 (36.00)
2	Absence of adult wage earners in the family	10 (20.00)	5 (10.00)	4 (8.00)
3	Illiteracy and ignorance of parents	25 (50.00)	20 (40.00)	15 (30.00)
4	Family debts	20 (40.00)	15 (30.00)	20 (40.00)
5	To feed the family members	18 (36.00)	12 (24.00)	10 (20.00)
6	Get self employment and to lead independent life	15 (30.00)	17 (34.00)	16 (32.00)

Source: Field Survey

A question was addressed to the selected child workers to express their opinion about reasons for taking up the work. The opinions so expressed are shown in table 4. The reasons as such are many and varied among the three activities selected for analysis. According to the child labourers who are working in Mechanic Works, the reasons for taking up this job include inadequate income of the parents and big families, (60%) illiteracy and ignorance of the parents (50 %) family debt (40%) feeding family members (36%) getting self employment and to lead an independent life (30%) and absence of adult wage earners in the family (20%).

Table 5

Length of years of service as child labour

Sl.No	Nature of work	No. of years of service				Total
		Below one year	1-2 Years	2-3 Years	3 and above	
1	Mechanic works	4 (8.00)	12 (24.00)	10 (20.00)	24 (20.00)	50 (100.00)
2	Beedi works	20 (40.00)	15 (30.00)	13 (26.00)	2 (4.00)	50 (100.00)
3	Hotel Works	12 (24.00)	13 (26.00)	20 (40.00)	5 (10.00)	50 (100.00)
	Total	36 (24.00)	40 (26.66)	43 (28.67)	31 (20.67)	150 (100.00)

Source: Field Survey

Note: Figures in parentheses indicate percentages to row total

Table 5 shows the particulars about since how long the selected child workers have been working in their respective activities. Out of the total 150 child workers, 28.67 per cent of the child workers have been working in between 2-3 years. 26.66 percent in between 1-2 years, 24 per working below one year and 20.67 per cent, however, have been working more than three years. A further look into the table brings us to infer that majority of the child labourers (i.e. 40 percent) have been working in beedi works with less than one year experience, and similar percentage of child workers in Hotel Works in between 2-3 years and 24 per cent of child workers have Putin 1-2 years of experience as child workers. In essence, it is found that more than 75 per cent of the selected children have been working as child workers in their respective activities more than one year.

Table 6
Mode of payment of wages to child labour

Sl.No.	Nature of work	Mode of payment			
		Daily	Weekly	Monthly	Total
1	Mechanic works	10 (20.00)	25 (50.00)	15 (30.00)	50 (100.00)
2	Beedi works	8 (16.00)	30 (60.00)	12 (24.00)	50 (100.00)
3	Hotel works	5 (10.00)	10 (20.00)	35 (70.00)	50 (100.00)
	Total	23 (15.33)	65 (43.34)	62 (41.33)	150 (100.00)

Source: Field Survey

Note: Figures in parentheses indicate percentages to row total

As per the table 6 it can be understood that 43.34 per cent of the child workers, out of 150 are being paid weekly wages, 41.33 per cent are paid monthly wages and only 15.33 per cent are paid as daily wages. According to the nature of works, it is found that seventy per cent of child workers in Hotel works, 60 per cent Beedi workers and 50 per cent Mechanic workers are paid monthly, weekly wages respectively. From the above analysis, it can be understood that as many as 84.67 per cent of the child workers are paid weekly and monthly wages.

Table 7

Frequency of change of work by the selected child workers

Sl.No.	Nature of work	Frequency of change of work			
		Not at all change	Once	Two times and above	Total
1	Mechanic works	37 (74.00)	13 (26.00)	--	50 (100.00)
2	Beedi works	38 (76.00)	10 (20.00)	2 (4.00)	50 (100.00)
3	Hotel works	10 (20.00)	32 (64.00)	8 (16.00)	50 (100.00)
	Total	85 (56.67)	55 (30.66)	10 (12.67)	150 (100.00)

Source: Field Survey

Note: Figures in parentheses indicate percentages to row total

It is revealed from table 7 that 85 child workers constituting 56.67 per cent stated that they did not change their work rather they have been sticking together with their current work. About 30.66 per cent have changed their work once and only 12.67 per cent have changed the work twice. However, the frequency of change of work is found more among the child workers

working in Hotel works followed by Mechanic works (26 per cent) and Beedi works (20 per cent). Thus, it can be stated that the frequency of change of occupation is found unchanged and such change of frequency is more among the child workers working in Hotel works.

Table 8

Reasons for taking loans and advances by the parents of child labourers in the study

Sl.No	Reasons for taking loans	Respondent Child labour		
		Mechanic works N=50	Beedi works N=50	Hotel works N=50
1	For meeting family old debts	15 (30.00)	20 (40.00)	5 (10.00)
2	For meeting brothers/sisters marriage	5 (10.00)	4 (8.00)	7 (14.00)
3	For celebrating festivals and religious ceremonies	20 (40.00)	19 (38.00)	22 (44.00)
4	For construction of house	10 (20.00)	20 (40.00)	26 (52.00)
5	For meeting medical expenses of the family members	10 (20.00)	12 (24.00)	8 (16.00)
6	For purchase of land/house site	15 (30.00)	20 (40.00)	22 (44.00)

Source: Field Survey

Note: Figures in parentheses indicate percentages to total respondents in the respective activity.

The reasons for taking loans and advances by each parent of the child workers in the study can be witnessed in table 8. It can be seen from the reasons stated by the child workers in Mechanic Works for taking loans and advances include celebrating festivals and religious ceremonies (40%) meeting old debts (30%) purchase of land or house site (30%) construction of house (20%) meeting medical expenses of the family matters (20 %) and only 10 per cent of 50 child workers in Mechanic Works have said that their parents borrowed money for meeting their brothers' and sisters' marriages. The reasons stated by the child workers engaged in Beedi Works include meeting family old debts (40%) purchase of land and house site (40%) constructions of works (40%) celebrating festivals and religious ceremonies (38 per cent) meeting medical expenses of the family members (24%) and meeting brother's and sister's marriages.

From the responses given by the child workers who are engaged in hotel works, it can be noticed that the major reasons for taking loans and advances by their parents broadly include constructions of houses (52%) celebrating festivals and religious ceremonies (44%) purchase of land for house site (44%) purchasing medicines and allied purposes (16%) and celebrating brothers and sisters marriages (14%) and only 10 per cent of the child workers have told that the reasons for taking loans are for clearing the old debts of their families.

Table 9

Problems faced by the selected child labourers at work place

Sl.No	Child labour respondent	Problems				
		Overwork load	Ill-treatment	Unhygienic environment	Overtime work	No problem
1.	Mechanic Works(N=50)	25 (50.00)	20 (40.00)	20 (40.00)	25 (50.00)	5 (10.00)
2.	Beedi Works (N=50)	28 (56.00)	11 (22.00)	24 (48.00)	10 (20.00)	-
3.	Hotel Works	21	18	16	35	8

	(N=50)	(22.00)	(36.00)	(32.00)	(70.00)	(16.00)
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Source: Field Survey

Note: Figures in parentheses indicate percentage to row total

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 work load ill treatment by their employers, unhygienic environment at work place and overtime work. Among the children who are working in Mechanic Works have felt that over work load and overtime work are found more compared other problems, and over work load and unhygienic are more among the Beedi Workers and over time and ill treatment are found more. In brief, it can be found that over work load and overtime work are the major problems expressed by all the selected child labourers.

Findings:

(b) Socio economic profile of selected child labour

It is found that out of 150 children; as many as 127 representing 84.67 per cent are male while the remaining 15.33 per cent are the female. According to the nature of work, it is noticed that the male children are found in all three activities such as Mechanic Works (98%), Beedi Works (76%), and Hotel Works (80%). From this it can be inferred that female child labourer are found more in Hotels Works and Beedi Works than Mechanic Works.

It is observed in the study that majority of the child labourers are falling in the age group of 8-14 years in all the activities in the study area. Majority of the child workers in Mechanic Work are the Muslims while in Beedi and Hotel Works, the children from the Hindus are found more in number.

With regard to duration of work, it is found that as many as 92.66 per cent of child labourer are working on regular basis while 7.33 percent are working on part time basis. Further, among those who are working on permanent basis, 76 per cent are working in Hotel Works, 50

per cent in Beedi Works and 48 per cent are engaged in Mechanic Works. This clearly endorses the fact the majority of the children in the study area are working as child labourers on permanent/regular basis.

Caste-wise particulars show that more number of child labourers are from BCs (33.33 percent) followed by SC (32%) and OCs (23%). Thus, it can be concluded that majority of the child labourers are from BCs, SCs and STs compared to other forward communities. According to the type of family, it is found that majority of the child labourers are from the nuclear families.

As per the literacy level among the selected child labourers, it is seen that 72 child workers out of 150 representing 48 per cent had their education below SSC 30 per cent had their education below fifth standard and about 27.33 per cent are the illiterates. From this, it can be deduced that 72.67 percent of child labourers had their elementary education and one fifth of the workers are illiterates. It is sad to inform that majority of the child labourers have remained labourers and deprived of the benefits of education and continuing as child labourers.

About the status of schooling among the children it is found that as many as 63.33 per cent said that they were going to school and 26 per cent have held that they did not attend the school, and only 10.67 per cent have told that they are currently attending the school and they are working as part-time labourers.

Regarding the type of house the selected child labourers are living in, it is found that 33.33 per cent of the families of the selected children are living in thatched a house which signifies the fact that a sizeable children and their families are living in a deplorable condition without having their pucca houses of houses provided by the Government.

As per the places of dwelling, 47.34 per cent of the selected child labourers and their families are living in non-slum areas but within the town, 33.33 per cent of the child labourers are living in villages and 19.33 per cent are dwelling in slum areas. In brief, it can be concluded that majority of the child labourers and their families are living in non-slum areas.

C. Family background and related aspects of the selected child labourers.

Besides, the children's personal background, their parent's family background and awareness also influence the magnitude of child labour in a locality, region and the community. In

this regard, it is explicitly found that child labourers are more from the families of labourers followed by families of agriculture, factory workers and rickshaw pullers.

Details about the distribution of child labourers, it can be noticed that 52 percent out of 150 child labourers have told that their family size is five, 32 per cent as four members and only 13.73 per cent have stated that their family size is three members. However, the average size of the family size is worked out to five members. It brings us to conclude that 44 per cent of child in Hotel Works and 44 per cent respondents have maximum family size is more than five.

Regarding monthly expenditure of the families, it is found that monthly incomes are higher than their monthly expenditure. However, the level of expenditure also depends upon the size of the family. It is seen in the study that 37.3 per cent of the children's family monthly expenditure is in between Rs.2000-3000 followed by Rs.1000-7000 range and less than Rs.1000 expenditure per month. When the informal discussions were made the selected children stated that they were not advised and briefed about the benefits of education and hence they remained as child labourers.

It is surprised to note that 45.33 per cent of child labourers parents are illiterates and ignorant and also unaware of the evil effects of child labour both to the children's health and the well-being of the community as a whole. It can be deduced that parent's illiteracy is also found one of the main reasons for not sending their children to school.

The family income details show that 42.66 per cent of the respondents' family annual income is in between Rs. 25000-50000, 54 percent families' income lies between Rs. 50000 – Rs. 100000 and the average income is found to be Rs. 48000 per annum. It is also noticed in the study that as many as 56 per cent of the children who are engaged in Mechanic Works said that there is no child except he/she in their family is engaged as child labour whereas 66 per cent of the child labour in Beedi Works told that one more child is deployed in labour activity. Similarly, 64 per cent of child labourers who are found in Hotel Works have told that there is one more child is working as labourer. On the whole, it is found that 57.33 per cent out of 150 children have stated that one more child is working as labour and 35.33 per cent, said that no child is engaged as child labourer in their family.

Further, it is found in the study that more than one third of the children in all three activities selected for the study disclosed that there are no school going children in their families

and still found that only one child is attending the school more in number among the children who are engaged in mechanic and beedi works and no child is going to school in the families of children engaged in hotel works.

Section D: Analysis of working conditions and associated factors of child labour.

If at all child labour is to abolish and actions to be effective, it is necessary to understand basically the nature, type size and gravity of the problem in a given environment. As child labour is a social problem which happens because of manifold factors basically poverty being the major problem in backward regions. In backward places like Kurnool, it is found that inadequate family income of the and parents, absence of adult wage earners in the family, illiteracy and ignorance of parents, family debts, getting employment and live an independent family life are found as major reasons for the children remaining as child labourers.

Besides the above reasons, school drop-outs is also another causing concern for turning themselves as child labourers among the selected children. Lack of interest in education, poverty of family, death of head of the family and urgent need of earning for feeding family are also the reasons stated by the selected children for their being as child labourers.

Duration of working hours as child labourers, it is noticed that 60 per cent of the children in mechanic works are working more than 8 hours per day, 42 per cent of beedi workers are working 6 hours per day while 44 per cent of workers in hotels are working 8 hours per day. On the whole the average hours of work in three activities are more than 6 hours. It is lamented to note that the children under the study are found to work more hours that the normal hours.

A look into the study reveals that 40 per cent of child labourers working in beedi works has less than one year experience and the children in hotel works have been working in between 2-3 years. It is also noticed that more than 70 per cent of children under study irrespective of the activity on the whole they have been working have been working in their respective activities more than one year.

About the wages being received by the children, it is found that 70 per cent of workers in hotel works, 60m per cent in beedi works and 50 per cent in mechanic works are paid monthly, weekly respectively. The analysis brings us to conclude that as many as 84.67 per cent workers are paid weekly and monthly wages only. About 36 per cent of the children told that their wages

are paid month end and only 12 per cent of the children told that their wages are paid as and when demanded either by the children or his/her parents.

As far as the rest enjoyed by the children in the study, it is disclosed by 40 per cent of the child labourers that they are enjoying 60 minutes rest period, 34.67 per cent not enjoying and only 13.33 have held that they are enjoying 90m minutes while the rest enjoying 30 minutes.

Spending of leisure time during Sundays, it is found that viewing TV, going to cinema, spending with friends are the various recreational activities enjoyed by the selected children and these are found to be the major recreational activities that are enjoyed by the selected child labourers in the study area.

The major problems encountered by the children under study include, over work load, ill-treatment by the employer, unhygienic environment at work place, over time work. However, over work load and over time are the major problems expressed by the selected children.

The overall satisfaction among the children with regard to working conditions, such as ventilation, fresh air, hygienic conditions, bathrooms and toilets and drinking water is measured on three point scale of satisfaction. From the levels of satisfaction, there is a positive opinion with regard to ventilation, fresh air, drinking water, hygienic conditions and bath rooms are not good enough rather they are bad. Hence, there is a need to provide good and conducive working environment in the work places.

Suggestions

Based on findings of the study the following suggestions are offered to eradicate child labour especially in unorganized sector in urban area in general and Kurnool town so particular.

1. Despite the significant progress made in industrial and social developments, India has not yet been to grapple with the problem of child labour. This has been evidently found even in the study area. Even Kurnool district is recognized as the second highest registered cases of child labour in the state after Mahaboobnagar. Hence, mass media like newspapers and TV channels should give a widen campaign about the evils of child labour and importance and benefits of child education.
2. Majority of the child labourers in the study are from the backward and scheduled caste communities. It is, therefore, an urgent need to take a special attention to educate these

communities and bring awareness about the perils associated with the child labour both to the budding kids and to the community at large.

3. Majority of the child labourers (72.67 per cent) in the study had their education above elementary education and majority of them are drop-outs to school and more than one-fourth of the children do not have any educational background. This testifies that the children are ignorant about the importance of education. In this regard, the parents are to be educated by the Government with the initiation of local teachers about the importance of education.
4. Over work load, ill-treatment by the employers, unhygienic environment at work place and over time are found in major problems faced by the child labourers in the study area. Therefore, the office of the District Labour Officer should on and often make sudden vigilance to hotels, beedi factories and mechanics shed and register cases against such employers. So the children may not be victimized.
5. The practice of engaging child labour is an indicator of the backwardness and inadequate rules and stringent actions against the employers. Though there are legal provisions for almost all the industries which engage children as labourers specifying the working hours, terms and conditions of work, education wages etc., but the administrative machinery appears to be callous attitude to enforce the same on the employers. This situation is also found in the study area. Hence, such rules are to be enforced forcibly to eradicate the child labour.
6. In order to curb the child labour in the study area as well in the country, the welfare measures of the Government in the form of free education, establishment of orphanage homes for destitute etc also should be taken and pragmatic plan of action must be implemented with a true spirit.
7. The magnitude of child labour differs from activity and from urban to rural as is found in the study. Hence, exclusively specific child labour policy is to be framed to each activity and specific areas so that to a some extent this problem can be solved.
8. Above all, the academicians, researchers, social scientists should come forward to conduct debates, seminars, conferences symposia etc. on social problems like child labour periodically, come out with concrete solutions and suggest the Government to formulate solid policies, educate the parents and employers about the perils of child labour and

importance of child education. All these should be done not simply for name sake but with commitment for social cause.

In a nutshell, 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 distinct wish to be 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. Keeping in view the interest of the child and for the well being the country.

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