



A Case Study on the Channels of Child Labour

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Abstract:

Child labour is a complex phenomenon, deeply rooted in the economic and cultural characteristics of the society in which it exists. The major channels of child labour in the study are is some children get into the field of employment in hotels by their own whereas some other entered this profession through the children already working in the same unit. While some other children got this chance to work in hotels through their parents and some of them are through their relatives.

Key words: Child labour, parents, relatives, poverty

Introduction

Children are the assets of any society and it is the responsibility of every section of the society to contribute to various stages of their development¹. It is fact that any nation realizes its potentialities through children and is judged by what it does for children². Children are most important resource and deserve all possible investment for their development. However, many of the less developed countries today, including India are confronted with the problems persisting higher fertility, and tardy progress in the field of primary education. India continues to host the largest number of child laborers in the world and they are now an integral part of labour force. The employment conditions of children in several gainful activities are mainly held responsible for this outcome.

There is no universally accepted definition of child labour. According to Chess, A et al (2005)³ varying definitions of the term are used by International Organizations, nongovernmental organizations, trade unions and interest groups. Child labour is a complex phenomenon, deeply rooted in the

development to enable them to realize their full human potential. As even as the child is the country's greatest asset, his/her welfare should be the country's greatest interest

economic and cultural characteristics of the society in which it exists. Though poverty is believes to be the main reason for child labour it cannot, however, be said that poverty necessarily causes child labour.

According to different surveys conducted by the govt of Andhra Pradesh, NGOs and other Groups and organizations, there are around 800 children at present working in different establishments, which include household child labour. The child employment exists in several scheduled employments like Automobiles, General engineering, Brick-kilns, shops and establishments & Agriculture etc. The child employment in domestic houses, which is called domestic employment, could not be checked completely as the implementation of laws & enforcement of the provisions is not an easy task. The reason for this is the govt officials could not penetrate in to individual houses & catch hold of the children working there



& prosecute the erring people due to several constraints involved.

Purpose: The purpose of this paper is carried out the channels of child labour in Hotel industry of the study area. To examine the about, primary data has collected with help of designed questions from the child labour in East Godavari District. The secondary data information has, been obtained from Govt notifications, Newspapers, census reports, NGOS and labour Department. In analyzing the data apart from child labour analysis with averages & percentages are used.

Limitations: The study has been confirmed to some hotels of East Godavari District. The given conclusions and suggestions may or may not be applicable to the entire hotel industry of AP. Data collect from 320 children are working in hotels and children were interviewed.

Channels of child labour

For exploring the working conditions of the child workers working in hotel industry, the researcher asked the child workers at whose instance did the child join in this profession. Some children get into the field of employment in hotels by their own whereas some other entered this profession through the children already working in the same unit. While some other children got this chance to work in hotels through their parents and some of them are through their relatives.

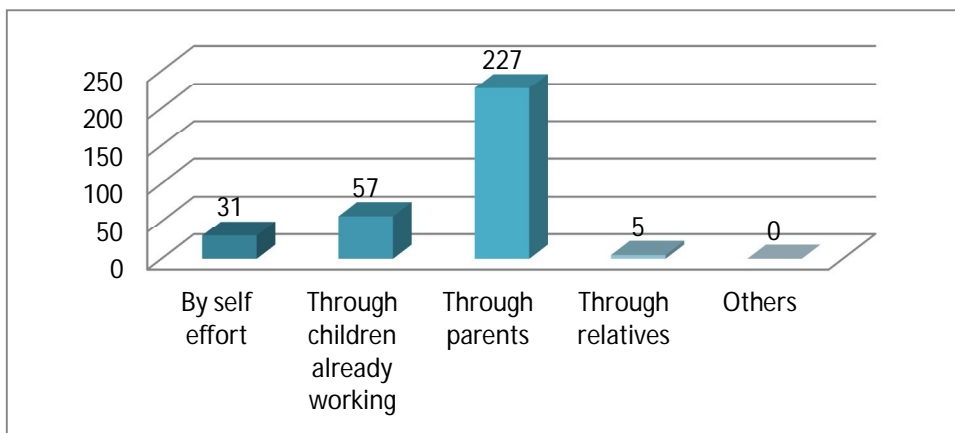
In the total child work force 70.94 percent are admitted by their parents and only 9.16 per cent have joined in this job by self-effort. 17.81 of the total children got in to this profession with the help of the children already working in the same industry. It is found that about 75 percent of the children have been working from the last 2-3 years and remaining has by less than 2 years. Further, enquired about the reasons of choosing the present profession they given different types of reasons as presented in table 1

Table 1 Channel of enter the child labour in to the present profession

Channel of enter the child labour in to the present profession	No. of respondents	Percent
By self-effort	31	9.16
Through children already working	57	17.81
Through parents	227	70.94
Through relatives	5	1.56
Others	-	-
Total	320	100.0



Figure- 1. Channel to enter the child labour in to the present profession



Nature working activities

The study identified nine important activities functioning by the child labour in the hotels. These are: washing of utensils and floor, washing of bath rooms, latrines, cleaning of tables, collection of fuel, carrying food items, carrying water, grinding, cooking and billing. In the eight point scale the first rank was given 8 weights, second

rank was given 7 weights, third rank was given 6 weights and fourth rank was given 5 weights and so on to calculate the weighted scores to ascertain the rank of activity has priority. Table 6.3 explains the Nature of work done by the child labour in the hotels. It is evident from the table that, the majority of the child workers are cleaning of tables which has first ranks as per the weights given to the nature of work of the child labour

Table 6.3 Nature of work done by the child labour

Sn	Item	Preference/rank									Score	Rank
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9		
1	Washing of utensils and floor	72	240	938	30	200	12	60	120	20	1692	3
2	Washing of bath rooms, latrines	-	157	532	150	-	28	30	-	-	2316	1
3	Cleaning of tables	918	648	42	30	35	40	-	-	-	1713	2
4	Collection of fuel	-	-	-	15	50	140	42	61	197	505	7
5	Carrying food items	-	-	-	-	10	160	24	500	20	714	4
6	Carrying water	-	-	-	-	40	120	27	510	8	705	5
7	Grinding	-	-	-	-	50	40	75	480	35	680	6
8	Cooking	-	-	-	-	-	36	48	60	265	409	8
9	Billing	-	-	-	-	-	4	12	10	310	336	9
	Total	990	2464	1512	225	385	580	318	1741	855	9070	-



The other types of works of child labour have priority as: washing of bath rooms, latrines (second rank) followed by washing of utensils and floor, carrying food items, carrying water, grinding preparation of food items, collection of fuel, cooking of food items and billing by very few. It is clear from the analysis that the nature of works of child labour is very insignificant activities.

Conclusion

After observing the above situation in the hotel industry at Kakinada, it is said that in most of the cases the children come for working as the parents feel that the income they bring home is not sufficient to meet their both ends. But it is not true in most of the families, if the parents especially the father bring home all his days earning there is no need to send the child to the work place. Hence, stringent measures have to be adopted to curb the working

class from resorting to the drinking habits. Family planning should be observed strictly and tangible steps to be taken to implement the family planning mission efficiently keen awareness has to be created among the people to the extent that sending that sending children to the work place is itself a crime and the parents will also be punished along with the employer more education facilities are to be created for the masses more residential and bridge schools are to be established to meet the increasing demand more punishments are to be imposed by the judicial authorities and as well as the quasi-judicial Authorities as already provisions were envisaged in different enactments for different punishment like imposing of penalties on the erring employers and imposing 10 times Compensation under minimum wage and imposing of imprisonment by the concerned judicial first class magistrates.

References

1 Hazel Fredericksen(1957), The Child and his Welfare, W.H. Freeman and Company, London, p.1.

2 A.B. Bose(1987), Encyclopedia of Social Work in India, Ministry of Welfare, Government of India, New Delhi, P.196.

3 Chess, A. (2005) "Child Labour and Society" Website:
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