



Child Labour: A Survey on Parents' Perception

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Abstract: Physically fit, mentally sound and morally strong children are the most precious assets of any nation. So every society must strive hard in creating supportive environment which ensures overall personality development of children through appropriate training and education. But unfortunately in developing countries, poverty is the major impediment which is misguiding and forcing many children at that tender age towards earning their livelihood. It is pathetic to know that millions of children are engaged as labourers in different sectors across the Indian economy. Child labour hinders the normal physical and mental health of children which will result in social disturbances. According to gynecologists, female child labourers are malnourished with multiple deficiencies because of which there will be increased cases of operative deliveries when they grow into adults. Contact with chemical substances, foul gases, dust etc in the work place will cause serious damage to the eyes, lungs and other organs of the children. The employers of child labourers who are least bothered about the integrity, dignity, interest and opinions of children are cruelly exploiting them. The objective of this paper is to understand the working conditions of the child labour.

Key words: education, training, prosperity, welfare and development.

Introduction: Child labour destroys the future wellbeing and prosperity of the nation. The problem of child labour is a serious issue not only in India but also in other developing economies. Child labour is frequently seen in India in various places of production and services like small scale industry, restaurant service, domestic aid, shopkeeper's assistant, stone breaking, book binding, in fact in every house-hold industry. The Child labor laws need to be strictly enforced by the Government. The general public needs to be made aware of the severe consequences of Child labor. An increase in employment opportunity for adults would help in overcoming the problem of poverty and child labour. Government should ensure that every child gets the opportunity to go to school. The owners of factories and mines should take the pledge

of not engaging child in their place of business.

Need for the study: Socio-economic conditions prevailing in the economy are the reasons for the child labour in India. Economic needs are forcing the children to do work at the cost of their health, education, welfare and development. The actual working hours of child labourers are found to be in excess when compared to the standard working hours laid under various enactments. The employers are not even providing the minimum welfare amenities to them. At the work place some children are ill-treated, intimidated and abused and even beaten. Repetitive, dull and monotonous long working hours are against the physical and mental abilities of the children. Most of the times the children need to work in unhygienic



conditions with little or no ventilation. The effective enforcement of the law is the only to eradicate this social evil completely.

Objectives of the Study

1. To know the profile of children engaged in labour.
2. To understand the parents' attitudes towards child labour.
3. Examine the factors that propel children to work.
4. To suggest few measures for eradication of child labour.

Methodology: The study is based on primary and secondary data. Primary data has been collected from 100 respondents (parents of child labourers), with the help of a well-structured questionnaire. The secondary data has been collected from books, magazines and internet.

Sample Size: A sample of 100 was targeted for the study. The sample consisted of 100 respondents (parents of child labourers) who were interviewed with the help of a questionnaire.

Sampling Method: Convenience sampling method was used.

Scope of the Study: The geographical scope of the study is confined to Bhimavaram region, one of the famous towns of West Godavari District, Andhra Pradesh.

Data analysis and interpretation:

Table 1: Educational level of parents

Opinion	Respondents	%age
Illiterate	78	78
Literates till primary school level	22	22
Total	100	100

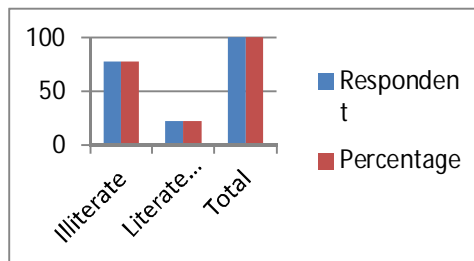


Table 2: Occupation of Parents

Opinion	Respondents	%age
Unskilled	79	79
Semi skilled	21	21
Total	100	100

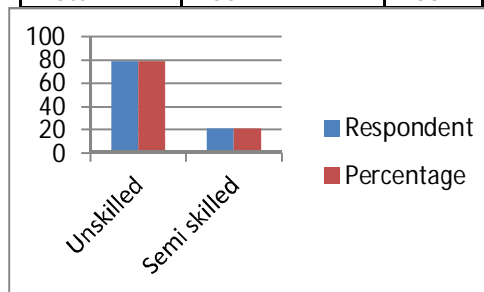


Table 3: what is the first type of activity of your child?

Opinion	Respondents	%age
shops	36	36
Construction sites	10	10
Domestic work	54	54
Total	100	100

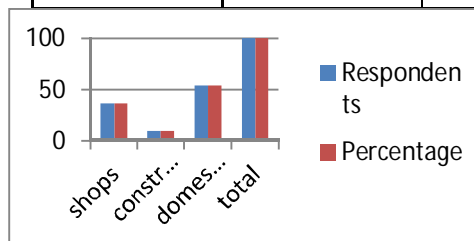




Table 4: What is the basis and form of Payment for your child?

Opinion	Respondents	%age
Daily basis	54	54
Monthly basis	12	12
Bonded labour	34	34
Total	100	100

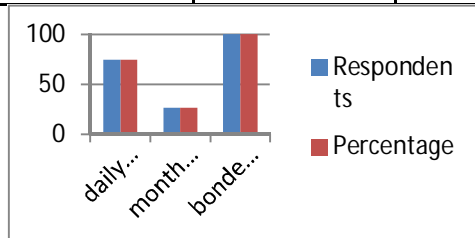


Table 5: Does your child receive any work-related benefits from the employer?

Opinion	Respondents	%age
Yes	62	62
No	38	38
Total	100	100

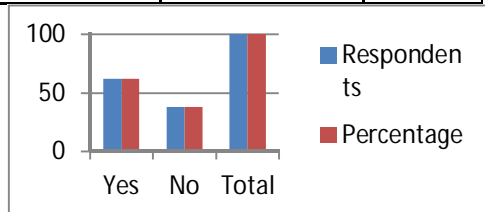


Table 6: Does your child become sick in the last one year because of work?

Opinion	Respondents	%age
Yes	76	76
No	24	24
Total	100	100

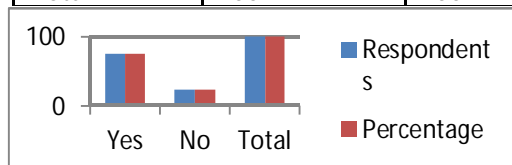


Table 7: What are the working conditions of your child?

Opinion	Respondents	%age
Dust	64	64
fumes and gas	31	31
All	15	15
Total	100	100

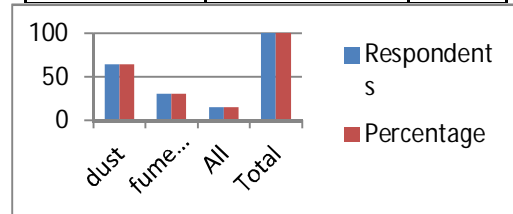


Table 8: Does your child have any physical trauma while working?

Opinion	Respondents	%age
Yes	54	54
No	46	46
Total	100	100

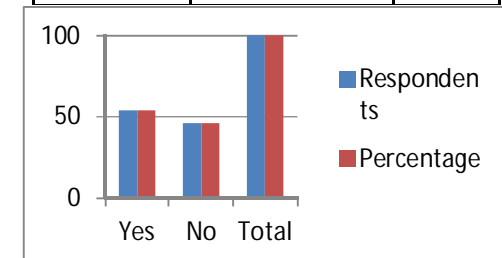


Table 9: What are the reasons for child being involved in the work?

Opinion	Respondents	%age
Supplementing family income	45	45
Could not afford school fee	34	34
Repaying debts	21	21
Total	100	100

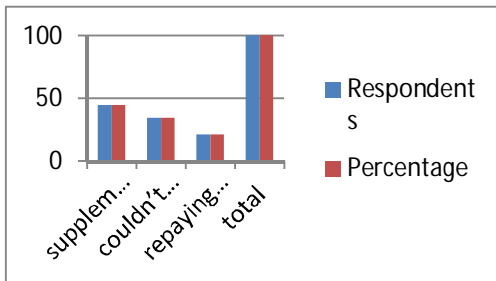


Table 10: Do you have any basic awareness regarding child labour laws?

Opinion	Respondents	%age
Yes	68	68
No	32	32
Total	100	100

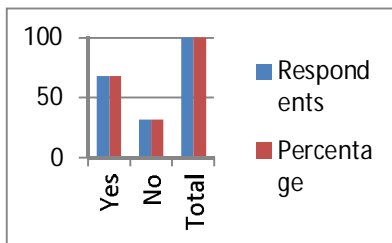


Table 11: What is the inclination of the child towards work?

Opinion	Respondents	%age
Like	59	59
Dislike	41	41
Total	100	100

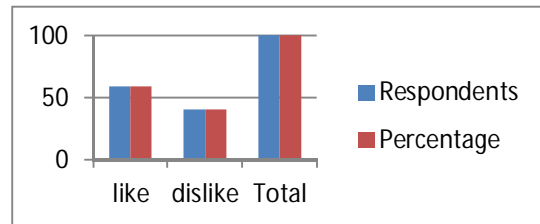


Table 12: What is the kind of treatment your child receives from the employer?

Opinion	Respondents	%age
Kind	47	47
Neutral	29	29
Harsh	24	24
Total	100	100

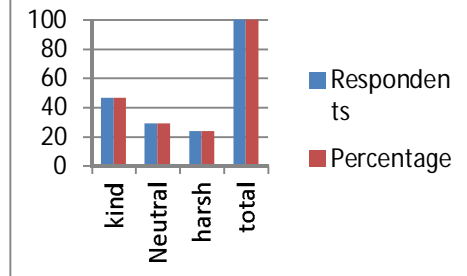


Table 13: Do you like to send your child to school?

Opinion	Respondents	%age
Yes if necessary arrangements are made	78	78
No	22	22
Total	100	100

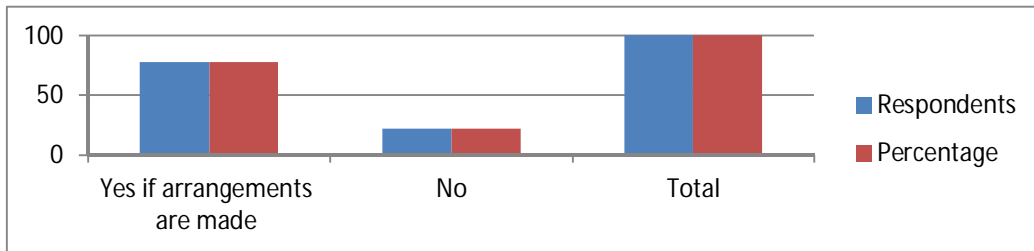


Table 14: What are the future aspirations of your children?

Opinion	Respondents	%age
continue in the same work	52	52
Self-employment	44	44
Can't say anything	06	06
Total	100	100

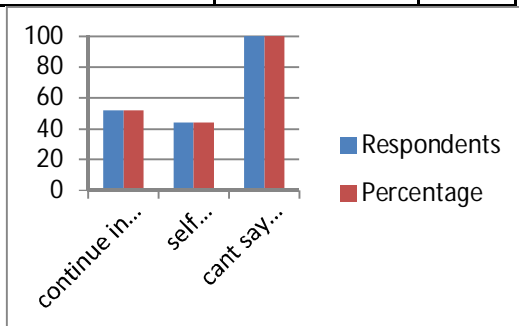
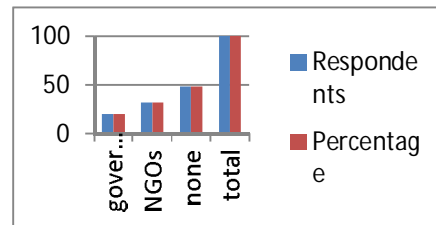


Table 15: Does anyone approach your children for rehabilitation?

Opinion	Respondents	%age
Government staff	20	20
NGOs	32	32
None	48	48
Total	100	100

Findings:

1. Table 1 highlight that 78% of the respondents are illiterates while the remaining 22% of the respondents are literates till primary school level only.
2. We can know from Table 2 that 79% of the respondents are unskilled labourers while the remaining 21% of the respondents are semi-skilled labourers.
3. Table 3 reveals that 36% of the respondents told that their children started working at shops, 10% of the respondents told that their children initially worked at construction sites while the remaining 54% of the respondents told that their children started working for domestic purposes.
4. From the Table 4 it is clear that according to 54% of the respondents their children are paid on daily basis, according to 12 % of the respondents the children are paid on monthly basis and the remaining 34% of the respondents the children are bonded labour.



5. It is clear from table 5 that according to 62% of the respondents the children receive work related benefits from their employers while the remaining 38% of the respondents said that their children do not receive any work related benefits other than wages.
6. From the table 6 it is clear that according to 76% of the respondents their children became sick while according to remaining 24% of the respondents their children were fine at work.
7. Table 7 shows that 64% of the respondents said that their children work in dust, 31% of the respondents said that their children work near fumes and gas while the remaining 15% of the respondents told that their children work near gases as well as in dust.
8. It is clear from table 8 that according to 54% of the respondents said that their children have physical trauma while working while the remaining 46% of the respondents said that their children don't have any trauma.
9. Table 9 reveals that according to 45% of the respondents the children are working for family income, 24% of the respondents told that they cannot afford to pay school fee while the remaining 21% of the respondents said that their children are working for clearing debts.
10. From the table 10 it is clear that 68% of the respondents are having awareness about basic child labour laws while the remaining 32% of the respondents do not have any awareness.
11. It is clear from table 11 that 59% of the respondents told that their children like the work while the remaining 41% of the respondents told that their children dislike work.
12. Table 12 shows that 47% of the respondents told that the employers show sympathy towards the children, 29% of the respondents told that the employers are neutral while the remaining 24% of the respondents told that the employers are harsh towards their children.
13. Table 13 reveals that 78% of the respondents are willing to send their children to schools if necessary arrangements are made while the remaining 22% of the respondents are not interested in sending their children to schools.

Suggestions:

1. Most of the parents of the child labourers are illiterates. They should be educated regarding the prominent role played by education in brightening their children future.
2. As in the poorer sections of the community the child labour is prevailing much the government should extend a helping hand.
3. Equal opportunities should be given to all the children such that they will realize their identity and worth
4. The laws should be implemented strictly to eradicate child labour from the grass route level.
5. Voluntary organizations should work for rescue and rehabilitation of child labour in India.
6. Children should be motivated and encouraged towards education.
7. The exploiters of the child labourers should be legally punished.
8. Emphasis should be placed providing basic education to all the children.
9. Collective public and governmental effort on various fronts will eventually



lead to the complete eradication of child labour.

Conclusion: In developing countries like India, poverty is the main reason because of which child labour is increasing. Children are seen as earners of the family and thereby are being pushed to hazardous working conditions. Lack of education is another reason for child labour. Poor people cannot afford education costs and therefore the government should strive hard to provide proper education to all the children. Education contributes to the overall personality development of the children. Charitable organizations and trusts need to come forward and help child development programs run by government. Steps should be taken to make people aware of the consequences of child labour. Each one of us should contribute our bit for the welfare of society. Indian citizens should shoulder responsibility to report cases of child labour.

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