



Causes of child domestic labour in west Godavari district, Andhra Pradesh: A Case study

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Abstract: Child domestic work is a general reference to children's work in the domestic work sector in the home of a third party or employer. This general concept encapsulates both permissible as well as non-permissible situations. Evidence indicates that children begin their working lives in response to economic need, although a number of other context-driven 'triggers' often provide a more immediate impetus to work. These triggers are many and varied, including 'push' factors such as gender and ethnic discrimination, social exclusion, lack of educational opportunities, alcoholism, domestic violence, indebtedness, rural to urban migration, and the loss of close family members as a result of conflict and disease. Several factors are caused to discontinue the school. It is found from the table that all most all the children are said that financial problems are major cause to stoppage of school. They have to support financially to the family. About 67.20 % of the children said that ill health of the family members is unable them to go to school. About 56.80% have school phobia and 51.60 % not have interest in education. 26.80% of the children are faced the problem of pressure to work from the parents. Lack of school facilities, 25.60% are dropped from the education.

Key words: Child domestic work, Minimum Age, exploitation

Introduction

Child domestic work is a general reference to children's work in the domestic work sector in the home of a third party or employer. This general concept encapsulates both permissible as well as non-permissible situations. Child labour in domestic work refers to situations where domestic work is performed by children below the relevant minimum age (for light work, full-time non-hazardous work), in hazardous conditions or in a slavery-like situation. In the view of ILO, 'child domestic labour' refers to situations where children perform domestic tasks in the home of a third party or employer under exploitative conditions. Where exploitation is extreme, work hazardous, or conditions are akin to slavery, it is

seen as a worst form of child labour. Where a child 'helps about the house' performing light tasks in his or her home, the work undertaken is seen by ILO not as 'labour' but as part of a positive learning process. In this view, the question of whether child domestics of accepted working age can be employed in others' households in non-exploitative conditions is left open. Hence, the more common use of 'child domestic workers' - a less loaded term than 'child domestic labour' - in this publication.

The new Convention No. 189 compliments the provisions of the ILO Child Labour Conventions: Convention No. 138 on Minimum Age and Convention No. 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labour¹. Convention No. 189 explicitly states that member States of



the ILO shall set a minimum age for domestic workers consistent with the provisions of Convention No. 138 and Convention No. 182, and not lower than the minimum age established by national laws and regulations for workers, in general. Recommendation No. 201 reinforces this by calling for the identification, prohibition and elimination of hazardous domestic work by children, and for the implementation of mechanisms to monitor the situation of children in domestic work. Children trapped in child labour in domestic work from a very young age are likely to have had no or insufficient access to education. At the same time, child domestic workers above the legal minimum age have a reduced chance of continuing with education. Convention No. 189 calls on member States to take measures to ensure that work performed by domestic workers under the age of 18 and above the minimum age of employment does not deprive them of compulsory education, or interfere with opportunities to participate in further education or vocational training. Child domestic workers were for long an invisible group of working children. Today, they are recognized as among the most numerous of all child workers, and certainly the overwhelming category as far as girls are concerned.

In recent years, awareness has grown that, world-wide, millions of children under 18 live in the households of others and undertake domestic work as 'helpers' or employees. In many parts of the world, this is a traditional practice of long standing: indeed, every society has always deployed children in domestic tasks around the house as part of their growing up and socialization process, and this has often included children from

other households within extended family networks. But increasingly, the practice has metamorphosed from being a means of helping to raise the child of a relative, to a form of unregulated employment and exploitation. Too easily, when such a child worker fails to satisfy an employer or other members of the household, she or he becomes a victim of abuse.

1.1. Characteristics of child domestic workers

Evidence indicates that children begin their working lives in response to economic need, although a number of other context-driven 'triggers' often provide a more immediate impetus to work. These triggers are many and varied, including 'push' factors such as gender and ethnic discrimination, social exclusion, lack of educational opportunities, alcoholism, domestic violence, indebtedness, rural to urban migration, and the loss of close family members as a result of conflict and disease. Children 'pulled' into domestic work not only as a result of economic uncertainty, but because of the widespread belief that it will offer an opportunity for better living conditions, including the pursuit of an education. Employers also persistently demand younger workers because they are cheaper and considered to be more compliant².

The tasks performed by either category of domestic child workers may include cleaning (sweeping, swabbing and dusting), washing (clothes and dishes), or even putting machine-washed clothes on the clothesline or/and folding them, cooking, or preparation for cooking such as chopping vegetables and making dough, or cooking a part of meal, ironing, housekeeping and extensions of these



outside the home such as shopping. Domestic work may also include childcare or care of the aged. There are no standard norms that decide working conditions. By and large, employers decide wages though this is often the 'rate' of the area they live in. Wages also depend on the bargaining power of the domestic worker and workers' desperation for work. Experienced workers may be able to bargain for more while those desperate for work may be willing to work at lower rates.

Other factors that influence decisions about wages include the type of tasks performed and the neighbourhood. Rates vary according to the task (for example, cooking attracts more wages than cleaning) and the socio-economic profile of employers. These factors are not cast-in-stone as workers are made to perform extra work with no additional compensation, especially during festivals or when employers have guests. There is no guarantee of employment as employers can ask workers to leave with no prior notice or financial compensation. (Jagori 2004³, Mehrotra 2008⁴, Neetha 2008⁵, Menon 2010⁶).

These studies also note that only a few workers get a weekly off; paid leave is often the result of difficult negotiations with the employers. Getting sick leave also depends on the good will of the employer. Instances of workers losing their jobs due to long leave taken at time of childbirth or ill health are often reported. Some also lose their jobs when they visit their villages. Deduction in wages for extra leave is a common practise among employers. Part-time workers are not allowed access to a toilet in the employers' homes. Many commute long distances and thus have no time to

cook and carry food with them. They are often not provided with any tea or snacks and stay hungry till they get back home where they have to cope with difficult living conditions in urban slums.

Objective of the paper

This study is an attempt to know the causes and prevalence of domestic child servants in West Godavari district, Andhra Pradesh covering various socio economic aspects of this particular segment of child domestic labour. In brief this study has the following objective:

- To study the socio-economic and working conditions of the child domestic workers

Methodology

- The present study intends to analyze the prevalence of child domestic labour (CDL) and socio economic conditions of child labour as domestic servants in West Godavari district. West Godavari district

Convenience sampling method is adopted to select the respondents. The researcher has faced numerous difficulties while identify the domestic child workers. Majority of the family members and the employers has not willing to disclose the issues of child labour. Therefore, at first, the researcher, visited local officials to find out the workers and further approved door to door investigation. Information has been collected from the parents and the child workers also. About 250 are domestic child laborers are taken for the study. Urban areas such as Eluru, Tadepalligudem, Bhimavaram, Bhimadolu, Tanuku,



Akiveedu, Narasapuram, Nidadavolu Jangareddygudem and palakollu are selected for the study.

the table that 95.20% of the child labour are under the age of 12-14 years and the remaining are under 9-11 years of age. Of the total only 10.40% per cent are male and 89.60% are female.

Findings of the study

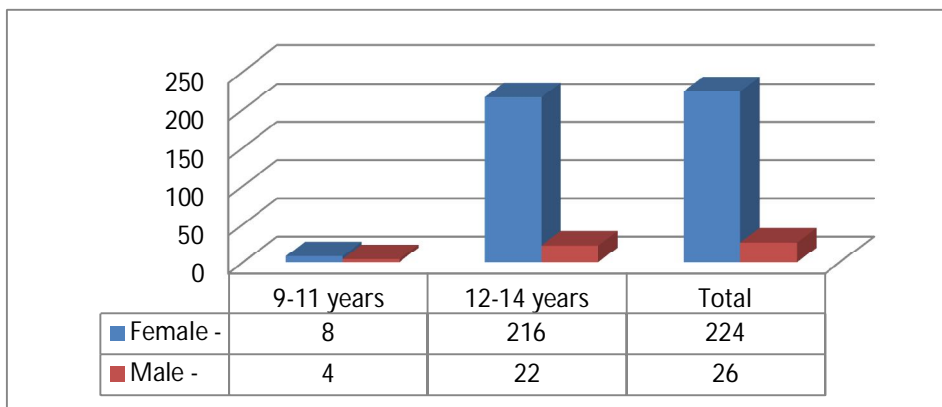
Table 1 reveals the classification of child labour by gender and age. It is clear from

Table 1 Classification of child labour by gender and age

Sl.No	Age	Male	Female	Total
1	6-8 years	-	-	0.0
2	9-11 years	04 (15.38)	08 (3.57)	12 (4.80)
3	12-14 years	22 (84.62)	216 (96.43)	238 (95.20)
	Total	26(10.40) (100.0)	224(89.60) (100.0)	250 (100.0)

Source: Field survey

Figure 1: Classification of child labour by gender and age



Classification of child labour by

age and caste is presented in table 2. As mentioned above, 95.20% of the child labour is under the age of 12-14 years and the remaining are under 9-11 years of age. Of the total only 10.40% per cent are male and 89.60% are female. It is found that about 4.58% of SCs, 21.05% of STs and 3.13% of the BCs are under the

age of 9-11 years. All the child laborers of OCs are registered in the age group of 12-14 years. About 95.42% of SCs, 78.95% of STs and 96.88% of the BCs are under the age group of 12-14 years.

Table 2. Classification of child labour by age and caste



Age	Caste				
	SC	ST	BC	OC	Total
6-8 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
9-11 years	06 (4.58)	04 (21.05)	02 (3.13)	0.0	12 (4.80)
12-14 years	125 (95.42)	15 (78.95)	62 (96.88)	36 (100.0)	238 (95.20)
Total	131 (100.0)	19 (100.0)	64 (100.0)	36 (100.0)	250 (100.0)

Source: Field survey

Hypothesis -2

Ho₄: There is no correlation between age of the children and they enter into the domestic work

Ha₄: There is a correlation between age of the children and they enter into the domestic work

The ANOVA results on correlation between age of the children and extend of entry into the domestic work. The ANOVA test revealed whether any relation between age of the children and they enter into the domestic work with p values at $p < 0.05$. The result of P-value is recorded by 0.672584 at $p > 0.05$. Thus, the null hypothesis is rejected and accepted the alternative hypothesis that 'There is a correlation between age of the children and they enter into the domestic work.' It means the extent of child labour increases with increase in age of the children.

Educational status of the child labour

Due to their illiteracy and the financial problems of the parents, they are unable to know the importance of the children's education and treat them as bread earners and make them the child

workers even at the age of five years. Table 5.17 explains the classification of child labour by education and caste. It is found that 67.20% of majority of the child labour are stopped their education at 4-5 class. The similar trend is found in case of SCs, STs and BCs child laboures. About 13.60% of the child has no education. Majority of children with no education is found in SCs (22.14%) and lowest by OCs (2.78%).

Hypothesis-2

Ho₅: There is no significant correlation between educational status of the children and they enter into the domestic work

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In the study, it is identified that the X^2 value is recorded by 9.462 which is higher than table value of 8.434. The difference of degree of freedom is recorded at 1.028 as rejected the null hypothesis @ 5 per cent level of significance and accepted the alternative hypothesis that "There is a significant correlation between educational status of the children and they enter into the domestic work that the extent of child



labour increases with increase in age of the children.

Table 5.18. Classification of child labour by education and caste

	Education	Caste				Total
		SC	ST	BC	OC	
1	1-3 class	06 (4.58)	02 (10.53)	09 (14.06)	01 (2.78)	18 (7.20)
2	4-5 class	96 (73.28)	14 (73.68)	46 (71.88)	12 (33.33)	168 (67.20)
3	6-7 class	0.0	02 (10.53)	06 (9.38)	22 (61.11)	30 (12.0)
4	No education	29 (22.14)	01 (5.26)	03 (4.69)	01 (2.78)	34 (13.60)
	Total	131 (100.0)	19 (100.0)	64 (100.0)	36 (100.0)	250 (100.0)

X² Test results:
 X² value= 9.462; Degrees of freedom=9
 Table value=8.434. Results :**Rejected null hypothesis**

Source: Field survey

Reasons for chosen the profession and leaving the school There are many reasons to leave the school education of the children. The children leave the

schools to work for meeting the ends of the family. The researcher presents the study in depth the reasons of school dropouts and explored in table 3.

Table 3 Reasons for leaving school (multiple reasons)

S. No	Reasons for leaving school	Number	Per cent
1	Financial problem	250	100.00
2	Ill health of the family	168	67.20
3	No interest in education	129	51.60
4	Non availability of school facilities	064	25.60
5	To support family	250	100.00
6	Lack of encouragement from teacher	63	25.20
7	School phobia	142	56.80
8	Parents pressure to work	67	26.80
9	Too Many Friends	31	12.40
10	Father/mother not alive	26	10.40
11	Others	69	27.60

Several factors are caused to discontinue the school. It is found from

the table that all most all the children are said that financial problems are major cause to stoppage of school. They have to support financially to the family.



About 67.20 % of the children said that ill health of the family members is unable them to go to school. About 56.80% have school phobia and 51.60 % not have interest in education.26.80% of the children are faced the problem of pressure to work from the parents. Lack of school facilities, 25.60% are dropped from the education.

Conclusion

Child labour in domestic work refers to situations where domestic work is performed by children below the relevant minimum age (for light work, full-time non-hazardous work), in hazardous conditions or in a slavery-like situation. Several factors are caused to discontinue the school. It is found from the table that all most all the children are said that financial problems are major cause to stoppage of school. They have to support financially to the family.

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