Child Labourers of Unorganized Sector in Kadapa District: An Empirical Analysis

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Abstract: There is an effect of child labour on school attendance rates and the length of a child’s work day is negatively associated with his or her capacity to attend school. Child labour restricts the right of children to access and benefit from education and denies the fundamental opportunity to attend school. Child labour thus prejudices children’s education and adversely affects their health and safety. Andhra Pradesh being one of the few states to implement the Minimum Wage Act (MWA) to discourage child labour, the National Commission for protection of child Rights (NCPCR) has sought its execution plan for replication in other states. The labour department has over the past 15 years, awarded penalty of Rs. 5 crores to employers of 35000 children from the state under the MW Act. As we cannot forcibly keep children away from their parents, the problem has to be addressed at a much larger level by providing adequate adult employment. Point out officials. The Child Labour Prohibition and Regulation Act (CLPRA), 1986 only prohibits employment of children under certain specified hazardous occupations. However Folks Chairman of United States National Child Labour Committee defines child labour as any work by children that interfere with their full physical development, their opportunities for a desirable minimum of education or their needed recreation. Working children are those children who are engaged in an economic activities but are less than 14 years of age have been taken as the working children. 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. The economic compulsions are not found to be responsible for sending their children to work. Rather it appears either because of family size or ignorance of the parents might be the reason for sending their children to work or else, the authorities of the remuneration being offered to the child labour can also be found another reason for sending the children for labour work.

1. Introduction

Children are the greatest gift to humanity and Childhood is an important and impressionable stage of human development as it holds the potential to the future development of any society. Children who are brought up in an environment, which is conducive to their intellectual, physical and social health, grow up to be responsible and productive members of society. Every nation links its future with the present status of its children. By carrying out work when they are too young for the task, children unduly reduce their present welfare or their future income earning capabilities, either by shrinking their future external choice sets or by reducing their own future individual productive capabilities. Under extreme economic suffering, children are forced to forego educational opportunities and take up jobs which are mostly exploitative as they are usually underpaid and engaged in hazardous conditions. Parents decide to send their child for engaging in a job as a desperate measure due to poor economic conditions. It is, therefore, no wonder that the poor households predominantly send their children to work in early ages of their life. One of the disconcerting aspects of child labour is that children are sent to work at the expense of education. There is a strong effect of child labour on school attendance rates and the length of a child’s work day is negatively associated with his or her capacity to attend school. Child labour restricts the right of children to access and benefit from education and denies the fundamental opportunity to attend school. Child labour, thus predispositions children’s education and adversely affects their health and safety.

2. Legislation for Child Labour in India

The first protective legislation for child labour in India was seen in 1881 in the form if Indian factories Act which had the provisions prohibiting employment of children below 7 years, limiting the working hours for children to 9 hours a day and providing 4 holidays in a month and rest hours. This was actually made by the ruling British Government to decrease the production in Indian industries through some legal restrictions.

Andhra Pradesh being one of the few states to implement the Minimum Wages Act (MWA) to discourage child labour, the National Commission for protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) has sought its execution plan for replication in other states. The labour department has, over the past 15 years, awarded penalty of Rs. 5 crores to employers of 35000 children from...
Thus, one may broadly say that a child means a person who is under the age of 15 years. It is also be defined as some one who needs adult protection for physical, psychological and intellectual development until he has not completed his fourteen years of age. According to Sri V.V. Giri, the former President of India, the term child labour has two basic components such as
1) Employing the children in gainful occupations with a view to adding to the labour income of their families and
2) Purposeful oppression and exploitation of working children leading to deprivation of their legitimate opportunities for growth.

The U.S. National Child Labour Committee Reviewed “Child Labour” as any work by children that interferes with their full physical development, their opportunities for a desirable minimum education or the needed recreation. However, Folks, Chairman of United States National Child Labour Committee, defines child labour as “any work by a child that interferes with their full physical development, their opportunities for a desirable minimum education or their needed recreation. Working children are those children who are engaged in an economic activities but are less than 14 years of age have been taken as the working children. 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.

- Employing children of tender age children who have not completed the age of 14 years.
- Exploitation of children adversely affecting their physical mental, emotional and social development.
- Deprivation of the right of the children to health, education and a happy childhood.
- Work by children in the family would be considered ‘child labour’ if family labour interferes with the child’s education, recreation and has physical, mental or oral health’.

3.1 Causes of Child Labour

There are many socio-economic factors responsible for the increase of child labour in India written 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 growth both extensively and intensively. On reviewing the factors resulting in the prevalence of child labour, we find that castes, poverty, family size, income level, education etc., are some of the major factors that have intensified the problem of child labour in India Gurupadasa any committee has revealed in its report that child labour problem is a result of poverty and elimination of poverty is itself is a great problem.

a) Primary causes
- Inadequate income of the family.
- Absence of scheme for family allowance as in other countries.
- Large sized families.
• Child labour is a cheap commodity.
• Absence of strict implementation of compulsory education.
• Ignorance of the parents.

b) Secondary causes
• Inadequate income for adult workers.
• Low standard of living.
• Lapse in the implementation of protective legislation.
• Educational drop outs.

c) Ancillary causes
• Un-employment of adult workers.
• Under employment of adult workers.
• Seasonal employment of adult workers.
• Inadequate inspecting machinery.
• Poor educational performance.
• Expensive education.
• Juvenile delinquency.

Consequences of child labour
Child Labourers in India lack basic facilities which exert a
direct negative effect on the physical and mental development
of children. In the case of direct wage employment in
manufacturing units producing brassware, matchsticks,
diamond and precious stone jewelleries, carpet and locks and
other such products, children are exposed to harmful
chemicals, products and they are pruned to harmful chemicals,
handling dangerous machines and other similar hazards. The
child labourers have neither rights nor an independent status
but are vulnerable to all forms of physical and economic
explosion including abuse.

3.2 Types of Child Labour
The child labour is classified in a number of ways. Different
social scientists have categorized child labour on different
bases for different purposes. The child labour can be
categorized into following classifications.

1) General classification
Under general classification child labour is divided into
following categories

a) Domestic child labour
This is not necessarily a category of child labour in the real
since of the term. Almost all the children perform some or the
other types of work at home. This work maybe classified as
follows.

House hold work
Urban and rural children attend this type of work. Here
children do house hold chores namely cooking, cleaning
utensils, fetching water, cutting firewood etc., which relive
adults of the family for others non-domestic or wage earning
works in this category the girls are the ones, who contribute
much more that the male children. Gainful work at home.
Some children help their parents in their business and
commercial activities run at their home.

b) Non domestic child labour
Rural children especially boys supplement the work of this
parents. In many causes children involve themselves in full
time agricultural work and he does not receive any separate
payment also.

c) Wage Child Labour
Some children independently work as wage labour in both
rural and urban un-organized sectors. Such children do not
supplement the work of their adults rather they work
independently as a separate entity.

2) Sex based classification
Child labour can be divided in two categories on the basis of
sex.

a) Male Child Labour
The male child labour is greater in number then the female
child labour not only that but their employment terms and
socio-economic conditions are a better than female child
labour. The male child labour has access to non-domestic
wage earning opportunities.

b) Female Child Labour
The female child labour is more than male child labourers, yet
it does not mean that their number is small in India. They are
not so visible in large number particularly in rural areas.

3) Methodology
Objectives
1) To study the socio-economic conditions of child labour
working in un-organized sector in Kadapa Town.
2) To find out the working and living environments of child
labour in the study area.

Sample Design
For a detailed study, as many as, 90 children working in
Mechanic Sheds, Hotels and Tea shops are purposefully
selected. While choosing the respondents’ purposive random
sampling technique is adopted for the study. Their answers to
the Interview Schedule and the secondary data available with
the labour department of Kadapa district, Internet, published
books, and Journals are the basis for analysis.

Table 1: Distribution of the sample respondent according to
the nature of work and sex

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S. No</th>
<th>Nature of work</th>
<th>No. child labour</th>
<th>Grand Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Mechanic Works</td>
<td>27 (90.00)</td>
<td>03 (10.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Tea Shops</td>
<td>18 (60.00)</td>
<td>12 (40.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Hotel Works</td>
<td>22 (73.33)</td>
<td>08 (26.67)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>67 (74.44)</td>
<td>23 (25.56)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Primary data.
Table-1 exhibits the details about the nature of work and sex composition among the selected child labour. It is evident from the table that out of 90 child labours as many as 67 representing 74.44 per cent are male while the remaining 23 constituting 25.56 per cent are the female. According to the nature of work, it is noticed that male children are found more in all three activities such as mechanic work (90 per cent) Tea Shops (60 per cent) and hotel works (73.33 per cent). However, about more than one-fifths of the child labour in Tea Shops is the female while one-fifths of the child labours are the female. It is also found the mechanic work seem to be not suitable to female and hence only female child labourers found engaged in the said activity. Thus, the majority of the child labourers are the male and also male child labour are engaged more in all three activities related to female.

Table 2: Age wise analysis of the child labour in the study area

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S. No</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>No. child labour</th>
<th>Grand Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8-10 years</td>
<td>11-12 years</td>
<td>13-14 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Mechanic Works</td>
<td>6 (20.00)</td>
<td>16 (53.33)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Tea Shops</td>
<td>08 (26.66)</td>
<td>12 (40.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Hotel Works</td>
<td>04 (13.33)</td>
<td>19 (63.33)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>18 (60.00)</td>
<td>47 (52.22)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Primary data.

Table 3: Distribution of child labour according to type of work

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S. No</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Regular</th>
<th>Part time</th>
<th>Seasonal</th>
<th>Grand Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Mechanic Works</td>
<td>19 (63.33)</td>
<td>07 (23.33)</td>
<td>04 (13.34)</td>
<td>30 (100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Tea Shops</td>
<td>17 (56.66)</td>
<td>08 (26.67)</td>
<td>05 (16.67)</td>
<td>30 (100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Hotel Works</td>
<td>20 (66.66)</td>
<td>07 (23.34)</td>
<td>03 (10.00)</td>
<td>30 (100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>56 (62.22)</td>
<td>22 (24.44)</td>
<td>12 (13.34)</td>
<td>90 (100.00)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Primary data.

Table 4: Distribution of families of the child labour according to type of family

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S. No</th>
<th>Nature of work</th>
<th>Type of Family</th>
<th>Grand Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Mechanic Works</td>
<td>Nuclear (27)</td>
<td>Joint (90)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Tea Shops</td>
<td>Nuclear (25)</td>
<td>Joint (83)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Hotel Works</td>
<td>Nuclear (22)</td>
<td>Joint (73)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>Nuclear (74)</td>
<td>Joint (82)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Primary data.

The details about the age of the selected child labours can be seen in Table-2. It can be understood that out of the 90 child labourers in the study, 53.22 per cent of them are in the age of 11-12 years, 27.78 per cent in between 13-14 years and (20.00 per cent) are in the age group of 8-10 years.

Table 5: Monthly family expenditure in the study area

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S. No</th>
<th>Nature of work</th>
<th>Monthly Family Expenditure</th>
<th>Grand Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Mechanic Works</td>
<td>Less than 1000</td>
<td>1001-2000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>05 (16.66)</td>
<td>10 (33.34)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Tea Shops</td>
<td>04 (13.33)</td>
<td>14 (46.67)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>04 (13.33)</td>
<td>14 (46.67)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Hotel Works</td>
<td>06 (16.67)</td>
<td>09 (36.67)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>06 (16.67)</td>
<td>09 (36.67)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>15 (40.00)</td>
<td>33 (80.00)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Primary data.

The table-5, it is observed that the average monthly income of the families of child labour a little higher than their average monthly expenditure. It is also clear that the expenditure of the family is positively related to their family size. From the table it can be understood that economic compulsions are not found to be responsible for sending their children to work. Rather, it appears either because of family size or ignorance of the parents might be the reason for sending their children to work or else, the authorities of the remuneration being offered to the child labour can also be found another reason for sending the children for labour work. When informal deliberations were made the selected children stated that they were not correctly
advised about the welfares of education and disadvantages animation as child labour.

### Table 6: Annual income of the sample respondents in the study area

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S. No</th>
<th>Nature of work</th>
<th>Type of Family</th>
<th>Grand Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Less than -25000</td>
<td>25001-50000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Mechanic Works</td>
<td>05 (16.67)</td>
<td>11 (36.67)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Tea Shops</td>
<td>04 (13.33)</td>
<td>13 (43.33)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Hotel Works</td>
<td>03 (10.00)</td>
<td>10 (33.33)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>12 (13.33)</td>
<td>34 (37.77)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Source:** Primary data.

**Note:** Figures in parentheses indicate percentages to the total number of respondents.

Annual family income of the children who are engaged as child labour can be seen from table -6. A close observation of the table discloses that 12(13.33 per cent) of the respondent’s family annual income is in below Rs. 25000, 34(37.77 per cent) of the child labourers annual families income lies between Rs.25001 - Rs. 50,000, 32(35.56 per cent) of the child labourers annual families income lies between Rs.50001 - Rs. 75,000. Similarly12(13.34 per cent) of the child labourers annual families income 75001 and above.

### Wage Rates

Wages are the motivational drives forth children either to work or take employment in different activities in various organizations. The earnings of a labourers will have an important incentive for him/her as the earnings determine the standard of living of him/her and that of his/her family. Especially, this is so particular in unorganized sector where the worker gets no other benefit from his/her work other than wage earnings. As the wages have the greatest significance for the workers than any other thin gs, it should, therefore be in accordance with his/her needs and requirements. Wage fixation normally, continues to remain to be guided by the rule of thumb in un-organized sector, rather than by any rational principle of consideration.

### Table 7: Showing the details of mode of payment of wages to child labour

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S. No</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Mode of Payment</th>
<th>Grand Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Daily</td>
<td>Weekly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Mechanic Works</td>
<td>08 (26.66)</td>
<td>12 (40.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Tea Shops</td>
<td>07 (23.33)</td>
<td>09 (30.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Hotel Works</td>
<td>08 (26.66)</td>
<td>06 (20.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>23 (25.55)</td>
<td>27 (30.00)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Source:** Primary data.

**Note:** Figures in parentheses indicate percentages to the total number of respondents.

As per the table-7 it can be understood that 27(30.00 per cent) of the child workers, out of 90 are being paid weekly wages, 40(44.45 per cent) are paid monthly wages and only 23(25.55 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, 16(53.34 per cent) Tea Shops14(46.67 per cent) and remaining 10(33.34 per cent) Mechanic Workers are paid monthly, weekly wages respectively.

### Table 8: Duration of working hours as child labour

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S. No</th>
<th>Nature of work</th>
<th>5 Hours</th>
<th>6 Hours</th>
<th>7 Hours</th>
<th>8 and above hours</th>
<th>Grand Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Mechanic Works</td>
<td>03 (10.00)</td>
<td>08 (26.66)</td>
<td>11 (36.67)</td>
<td>08 (26.67)</td>
<td>30 (100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Tea Shops</td>
<td>06 (20.00)</td>
<td>09 (30.00)</td>
<td>12 (40.00)</td>
<td>03 (10.00)</td>
<td>30 (100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Hotel Works</td>
<td>04 (13.33)</td>
<td>11 (36.66)</td>
<td>10 (33.34)</td>
<td>05 (16.67)</td>
<td>30 (100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>13 (14.44)</td>
<td>28 (31.12)</td>
<td>33 (36.66)</td>
<td>16 (17.78)</td>
<td>90 (100.00)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Source:** Primary data.

**Note:** Figures in parentheses indicate percentages to the total number of respondents.

Distribution of child labour according to the duration of working hours as child labour can be witnessed in Table-8. It can be understood that 33 (36.66 per cent) of the child labour irrespective of their nature of work have stated that they are engaged as many as 7 hours per day, 16 (17.78 per cent) have held that they are working more than 8 hours, while more than one fifth i.e. 28 (31.12 per cent) have disclosed that they are working six hours per day and 13(14.44 per cent), have however stated that they are working five hours per day. A further look into the table discloses that 36.67 per cent of the children in mechanic works are working 7 hours per day 40 per cent of the children in Tea shops are working 7 hours per day while 36.66 per cent of the child labours are working 6 hours per day in hotel works.

### 4. Conclusion

There is a strong effect of child labour on school attendance rates and the length of a child’s work day is negatively connected with his or her capacity to attend school. Child
labour restricts the right of children to access and benefit from education and denies the ultimate opportunity to attend school. Child labour, thus, biases children’s education and unfavorably affects their health and safety. When India is poised to enter the 21st century in a big way with an era of total innovation of industry and food production, the problem of child labour is growth both extensively and intensively. On reviewing the factors resulting in the prevalence of child labour, we find that castes, poverty, family size, income level, education etc., However, about supplementary than one fifths of the child labour in Tea Shops are the female while one-fifths of the child labour are the female. It is also found the mechanic work seem to be not suitable to female and hence only female child labourers found engaged in the said activity. Thus, the majority of the child labours are the male and female child labour are engaged more in all three activities compared to female. As the wages have the greatest consequence for the workers than any other possessions, it should, therefore be in agreement with his/her needs and necessities. Wage fixation normally, continues to remain to be guided by the rule of thumb in unorganized sector, rather than by any rational principle of consideration. About 10 per cent of the children who are engaged as child labourers in mechanic works, 16.67 per cent in Tea Shops are from the joint families. On the whole, it can be understood that majority of the child labourers from nuclear families are working as child labourers more than the children from the joint families.

References