

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 labours 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 (NCPDR) 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 of 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.

It may be submitted that the labour legislations in India including protective legislation for children have been greatly influenced with the result of various Conventions and Recommendations adopted by International Labour Organisations. Besides Constitutional provisions, there are several legislative enactments which provide legal protection to children in various occupations.

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 (NCPDR) 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. The prime reason for employing child labour is that children can be paid dismal wages, as against adults who demand a prescribed minimum wage says R. Ravi Bhushan Rao Joint Commissioner of Labour.

The MW Act empowers Authorities to impose penalties up to 10 times the difference between the wage paid and the minimum wage, as compensation to the child. We have enforced the act vigorously to discourage child labour he explained. Heavy compensation is awarded under the act to dissuade employment of Child Labour as the Child Labour Prohibition and Regulation Act (CLPRA) does not fully prohibit employment of children across all occupations. Cases under the MW act are tried in open court to further discourage people from employing child labour. Such methods of handling child labour cases under the act have been very successful and are unique to the state.

While the 2001 census reveals Andhra Pradesh as the second largest employer of child labourers in the county with over 13.63 lakh employed children, labour official claimed that this figure officials has come down a great deal with intervention like implementation of MW act and that this will be reflected in the yet to be released 2011 censuses. However, of the 36,621 incident of child labour identified, only 13,774 have been rehabilitated and admitted into schools in 15 year. While most children are forced into work by their parents to ease financial burden, most rescued children are being send back to their parents who again put them into employment. "Of over 36000 cases identified, there are several instances where the same child has been rescued over four times. 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. The act does not prohibit employment of children in the non-hazardous sector but processes and regulates their working conditions.

3. Child Labour Concept and Definition

A child is a person who is under the age of 14 years. He can also be defined as someone who needs adult protection for physical, psychological and intellectual development until he is able to become independently integrated into the adult world. The essential condition is that he cannot survive without help. On the other hand, child labour can be defined as one who is in the age group between 6 to 14 years. It is presumed here that no child below 6 years can successfully participate in painful economic activity. Different legislations, organizations and commissions have perceived and defined child labour in different ways. As per the children Act 1933, child means a person who is under the age of 15 years. It forbids pledging of children by their parents and guardians. Article 24 of the Constitution of India states that, "No child below the age of 14 years shall be employed to work in any factory or in or engaged in any other hazardous employment". Thus, one may broadly say that a child means a person who

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 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, 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 jewellerys, 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 sense 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, Hotelsand 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 ofKadapa 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

S. No	Nature of work	No. child labour		Grand Total
		Male	Female	
1	Mechanic Works	27 (90.00)	03 (10.00)	30 (100.00)
2	Tea Shops	18 (60.00)	12 (40.00)	30 (100.00)
3	Hotel Works	22 (73.33)	08 (26.67)	30 (100.00)
Total		67 (74.44)	23 (25.56)	90 (100.00)

Source: Primary data.

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

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

S. No	Age	No. child labour			Grand Total
		8-10 years	11-12 years	13-14 years	
1	Mechanic Works	6 (20.00)	16 (53.33)	08 (26.67)	30 (100.00)
2	Tea Shops	08 (26.66)	12 (40.00)	10 (33.34)	30 (100.00)
3	Hotel Works	04 (13.33)	19 (63.33)	07 (23.34)	30 (100.00)
Total		18 (20.00)	47 (53.22)	25 (27.78)	90 (100.00)

Source: Primary data.

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

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 3: Distribution of child labour according to type of work

S. No	Age	Frequency of work			Grand Total
		Regular	Part time	Seasonal	
1	Mechanic Works	19 (63.33)	07 (23.33)	04 (13.34)	30 (100.00)
2	Tea Shops	17 (56.66)	08 (26.67)	05 (16.67)	30 (100.00)
3	Hotel Works	20 (66.66)	07 (23.34)	03 (10.00)	30 (100.00)
Total		56 (62.22)	22 (24.44)	12 (13.34)	90 (100.00)

Source: Primary data.

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

The details about the nature of work and frequency of work are presented in table-3. It is surprised to find out that the 62.22 per cent of the child labours are working on regular

basis, 24.44 per cent are on the basis of part time and the remaining 13.34 per cent are working on the basis of seasonal. This clearly shows the fact that majority of the child labourers in the present study are permanently engaged as labourers.

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

S. No	Nature of work	Type of Family		Grand Total
		Nuclear	Joint	
1	Mechanic Works	27 (90.00)	03 (10.00)	30 (100.00)
2	Tea Shops	25 (83.33)	05 (16.67)	30 (100.00)
3	Hotel Works	22 (73.33)	08 (26.67)	30 (100.00)
Total		74 (82.22)	16 (17.78)	90 (100.00)

Source: Primary data.

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

The details about the child labourers according to type of family can be found in table-4. It is observed that as many as 82.22 per cent of the child labourers hail from nuclear families while 17.78 per cent are from the joint families. It is also noticed that 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.

Table 5: Monthly family expenditure in the study area

S. No	Nature of work	Monthly Family Expenditure				Grand Total
		Less than-1000	1001-2000	2001-3000	3001 And above	
1	Mechanic Works	05 (16.66)	10 (33.34)	09 (30.00)	06 (20.00)	30 (100.00)
2	Tea Shops	04 (13.33)	14 (46.67)	08 (26.66)	04 (19.34)	30 (100.00)
3	Hotel Works	6 (20.00)	09 (30.00)	07 (23.33)	08 (26.67)	30 (100.00)
Total		15 (16.67)	33 (36.67)	24 (26.66)	18 (20.00)	90 (100.00)

Source: Primary data.

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

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

S. No	Nature of work	Type of Family				Grand Total
		Less than -25000	25001-50000	50001-75000	75000 And above	
1	Mechanic Works	05 (16.67)	11 (36.67)	12 (40.00)	02 (6.66)	30 (100.00)
2	Tea Shops	04 (13.33)	13 (43.33)	09 (30.00)	04 (13.34)	30 (100.00)
3	Hotel Works	3 (10.00)	10 (33.33)	11 (36.67)	06 (20.00)	30 (100.00)
Total		12 (13.33)	34 (37.77)	32 (35.56)	12 (13.34)	90 (100.00)

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. Similarly 12(13.34 per cent) of the child labours 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 things, 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

S. No	Age	Mode of Payment			Grand Total
		Daily	Weekly	Monthly	
1	Mechanic Works	08 (26.66)	12 (40.00)	10 (33.34)	30 (100.00)
2	Tea Shops	07 (23.33)	09 (30.00)	14 (46.67)	30 (100.00)
3	Hotel Works	08 (26.66)	06 (20.00)	16 (53.34)	30 (100.00)
Total		23 (25.55)	27 (30.00)	40 (44.45)	90 (100.00)

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 Shops 14(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

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

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.

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