
Research Papers



CHILD TABOUR SCENARIO

DR.A.A.GADWAL

S.S.A's Arts and Commerce College
Sidheshwar peth SOLAPUR

Abstract

child labour refers to those labourers who are below the age of 14 and who works for themselves and for their family's livelihood. the minimum age for child labour vary from country to country and the type of work they are involveo in.As per the Act "child" means a person who has not compteted his /her 14th year of age such child labour contribute a significant labour to the labour force in India .

Pressure on rural land , industrialization and urbanization are the major cause for the child labour in cities ,in addition to these rural-urban migration ,broken families economically poor families, illiteracy ignorance, instant wages to children are the leading causes to child labour Many children male and female are working in smail industries,sheds and units etc.

Abstract of the problem :

Solapur is the city of Maharashtra situated at the border of Maharashtra,Karnataka and Andhra pradesh.one's it was the city of Textiles, it had three composit textile mitls, three spinning mills,and had many unorganised powerloom sheds , in addition to these many small Bidi industries, few engg.sheds were the source of employment . The workers in these sectors are from Solapur and nearby vilages of Karnataka and Andhra pradesh , few small and unorganised sector use to empto child labour.

In last two decades recession in all above sector closure of textile and spinning mills liberalization,Globalization has created mass unemployment in the city, the unemployed illiterate and ignorant families

had the problem of livetihood . Children from such unemployed families were bound to assist their parents for livelihood . Children-parents, Child-Mother,

Child-Father,Children alone were working in smatt units ,sheds, canteens,Beedi rolling,winding,Hotels,Brick making, construction site, painting,carpentry,two-

wheeler four-wheeler garges etc.The working conditions of thease child labour are grim and inhuman, they are working for more than 8 to 10 hours and they are paid less.Child labour are ill-treated bytheir employer,there are no safety measure for them ,working days and working hopurs are not fixed,they are deprived of labour welfare facilities, it was necessary for us to se and unveil the problem of child labour in Solapur objectives of the Study: The child labour situation ,their family background ,socialstatus, educational level , working condition, wages, welfare mesures are dplorable and they are deprived of their all rights therefore. the objectives of the present s\$udy are.....

1.To find out the situation that created mass-unemployment in the city.

2.Io study the family background of the young labourers.

3.To study the physical conditions of Units,Sheds,Cottages where the children are Working

4.To search various units where the children are rabouring.

4.To studythe working conditions like hours of

work, wages, ventilations, rest intervals, security measures, holidays with pay, and other welfare measures

5. To see the aspirations and deprivations of the children

5 To see whether the Govt., NGOs, and Employers are taking note of the Situation

Methodology:

The study was conducted in the city of Solapur where the children below 14 years of age are working. As the child labourers are unorganised, unrecorded, unnoticed therefore it was difficult to get their statistical information like their population, sex composition, age groupings, employment in particular sector, wages etc.

The researcher on his own reached to the child labour, talked to them, observed the working conditions, work places, safety measures and known about their wages etc; and also collected information from their parents and employers. The researcher randomly selected few child labourer from each sector for study, observed their physical working conditions like ventilation, space, -

drinking water, safety measures etc. Other data collected from employers, NGOs and other interested persons. This is the source of data and information for the research.

profile of the study and Respondent: As the respondent child labour were the subject of study, their population and sample were uncertain still the attempts were made to cover ample respondents, their work place families and employers, Family Conditions: The child labourers hailing from the families are poor unstable and migrant. They are mainly from slums in Solapur namely Shastrinagar, Sholurkd 7 Qurban Husain nagar, Naizindagi, Lodhi Galli, Neelam nagar, Konda nagar and Maddi Wasti and MIDC area. Either of their parents is working in organised sector in low wages, water, light, spacious house, ventilation, overcrowded families, illiteracy, ignorance, indebtedness etc do not allow them to lead happy life and they cannot afford schooling, therefore they go out to earn.

Socio-economic background : As either parent is working along with children both are getting low wages therefore their earnings are insufficient, wage does not include HRA, City allowances, education and medical allowance still then parents spend money on Alcohol, Tobacco, Gutkha, Smoking and repayment of debts that resulted into indebtedness of the family. These people are not welcomed by the civilized society and they themselves keep themselves keep distance. They

are ignorant about NGOs, Govt's welfare measures, educational facilities etc. therefore they are poor ignorant illiterate and dropouts from the school.

Working conditions: All child labourers are under 14 years of age, the job they got is not through any open and formal way of recruitment, poverty, illiteracy, ignorance, unemployment, instant wages to children, and the cheating of employer causes child labour. Many girls are Bidi rollers in Eastern part of the city, many boys are working in brick making and construction sites with cement & iron at southern part of the city known as Jule Solapur. Some are found working with Carpenters, building painters, many boys are found assisting two wheeler and four wheeler mechanics on Pune road area. Several boys and girls are winders of thread in loom sheds, few are working in folding department of towel and chaddar factories. Many unnoticed children are working in tea stalls and hotels in various parts of the city. The physical and working conditions of their work places are unsafe, noisy, full of vibration, fumes and hot, safety measures, drinking water, sufficient space, unpolluted air, are not available for them. Hours of work are not fixed, they are to work for 8 to 10 hours a day and the wages are not formally decided, so they are paid less. These children are humiliated and insulted by their seniors and employers. Their employment is unstable every now and then they are changing their work therefore they could not acquire training and skill in one and particular job. As safety measures are not provided to them so their employer do not own the responsibility for injury and illness of the children at workplace. Holidays, Leave with pay Medical facilities are unknown to them. These are the problems and deprivations of child labour in Solapur city.

Finding: The researcher informally interviewed the child labourer, observed the place of their work, studied their family and socio-economic conditions, talked to few of the employers, come to the conclusion that:

1. Families of the child labourers are from the nearby villages of Solapur city mainly from the Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra.
2. Recession in composite textile mills, spinning mills, unorganised powerloom sheds, sickness of few engineering industries created unemployment to elders.
3. Unemployment of parents, poverty, illiteracy, ignorance, slum dwellings,

passive schoolings are promoting child labour

4. Either parent of the child labour is working, So take the child along with for Work

5. Either parent of the child labour is taking alcohol, smoking, or chewing, Gutkha, tobacco etc.

6. All the families of the child labour are below poverty line and under debt.

7. Poverty, indebtedness, illiteracy, ignorance make the children to earn for their families.

8. Hours of work and wages are not fixed. More hours of work and low wages are the fact.

9. The physical environment at work place is unsafe, unhealthy, they are working in heat dust noise and vibration.

10. The employment of children is unstable and unsure.

11. Children all the times go on changing their work therefore they can't acquire skill in one and particular work.

8. They are not paid for accident, illness, casual leave etc.

12. Records of the child labour's employment, work, wages, leave, attendance is not maintained.

13. Child labour and their parents are ignorant about their right to education, recreation and health.

14. Weekly wages, and daily wages attract the parents and children to work as child labour.

15. As child labourers are unorganised and ignorant therefore the employers too prefer to employ them.

Suggestions: The child labour situation in Solapur is inhuman, it gives multidimensional adverse impact on these youngsters. They are deprived of their right to education, recreation and health moreover this hampers their physical and mental growth, these children are living with suppressed desires. It is the parents, local govt., police, NGOs, industries and social workers to prevent and eradicate child labour, and allow them to bloom. On the basis of communication interview, observation one can forward following recommendations for the prevention and rehabilitations of child labourers.

1. Pressure on rural land and unemployment in rural areas resulted into rural-urban migration and child labour therefore Agriculture and agro-based industries and other secondary occupations opportunities if created in rural areas then families will not migrate to cities.

2. Care should be taken to run all textile mills, spinning mills, beedi industries, engineering firms smoothly without set back and closure- so that people should not lose their employment.

3. Unemployment of parents or their low wages is

responsible for child labour, therefore father and mother both should work together and earn. This could help their child to take education.

4. The parents of child labour should give up the habit of alcoholism, smoking, gutkha chewing etc. the money spent on these habits can be spared for education and recreation of children.

5. Slum dwellings, unhealthy congested area, absence of drinking water & ventilation discourage them to go for school, therefore the state govt. and local govt. construct and allot Gharkul, Mhada, and other low budget housing for them with all civic amenities that could encourage the children to go to school.

6. Unavailability of food and clothing make them to labour, the primary and secondary schools of SMC, ZP and NGOs school the children get mid-day meals, uniform and study materials.

7. Regular, sincere and studious students should be encouraged with scholarship and gifts.

8. We should have night school for more needy children, a child can work in day and can learn in the evening.