

STATUS OF CHILD LABOUR IN SLUMS OF KANPUR MAHANAGAR, U.P.**Priya Vashishtha¹, Abha Bhatt² & Richa Raj Saxena³****ABSTRACT**

Children are blooming flowers of the garden of the society, it is, therefore, a duty on the part of the damaging effective exposure to heat cold and rains and also not to be plucked them to satisfy their whims. Child is the father of man and today's child is tomorrow's citizen. Well nourished, educated and socialized child may well prove to be a strong foundation for a nation's development. Thus, to visualize the child labour in slums of Kanpur Mahanagar, U.P., a study was conducted. For the selection of representative samples multistage random sampling technique was adopted. The total 100 respondents selected for the study were interviewed. The information was analyzed and it was found that majority of the child labourer in Kanpur city were male, illiterate and belonged schedule caste category. Most of the respondents, suffered from large family size, poverty and illiteracy of parents and have I, II and III rank respectively.

Key Words : Child labour, Poverty and Illiteracy

INTRODUCTION :

Children are blooming flowers of the garden of the society it is, therefore, duty on the part of the damaging effects of excessive exposures to heat, cold and rains and also not be plucking them to satisfy their whims. Child is the father of man and today's child is tomorrow's citizen. Well nourished, educated and socialized child may well prove to be strong foundation for a nation's development. So it is our duty to look after them; Children are blooming flowers of the garden of the society it is, therefore, duty on the part of the damaging effects of excessive exposures to heat, cold and rains and also not be plucking them to satisfy their whims. Child is the father of man and today's child is tomorrow's citizen. Well-nourished, educated and socialized child may well prove to be strong foundation for a nation's development. So it is our duty to look after them; protect them and provide them better care for their physical and mental growth. In a welfare state it also become the duty of the government to promote children welfare through different schemes and policies, so that they will not be exposed to any sort of hazards while may damage their growth, which ultimately damages the political, social as well as economics growth of the society.

Child labour is a necessary evil and harsh reality. We cannot hope to eradicate the practice until economic development occurs. The problems of child labour is a burning problem of the world and has constantly agitated the minds of jurists, legislators, social thinkers, politicians and economists. The problem is very acute, particularly in under developed and developing countries.

In developing countries alone, according to estimates

of the International Labour Organization (ILO), at least 120 million children between the age of 5 and 14 are fully at work, including a substantial number of children under 10 years of age. If children for whom work is a secondary activity are also included the number of working children children more than doubles and may be estimated at 250 million. According to UNICEF India Child labour arises in essence from "the exploitation of the weak and the under privileged." Poverty comes in because poor people are vulnerable for exploitation.

METHODOLOGY :

Therefore, to visualize the child labour in Kanpur Mahanagar, a study was conducted. Multistage random sampling technique was used for the present study. At the first stage district Kanpur Nagar was selected purposively. There are number of industries in Kanpur Nagar which results an ample amount of child labour in the Kanpur Nagar. Kanpur Nagar was divided into six zones. At the second stage, one zone was selected randomly. Zone I was divided into total 18 wards. At the third stage, one ward Kallecterganj was selected randomly. Kallecterganj ward divided into various slums. At the fourth stage one slum Dhankutti basti was selected randomly from the Kalecterganj ward and 100 households were selected randomly from the Dhankutti basti. One child worker was selected from each household for the study.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION :

Table 1. shows that the majority of respondents were belonged to age group 11-14 years, whereas 79.0 per cent of total respondents were belonged to illiterate category and majority of the respondents belonged

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schedule caste category. In the present study 73.0 per cent child labourer were male and 27.0 were female. 69.0 per cent families were having large family size, while 21.0 per cent families were having medium size and rest 10.0 per cent families were having small family size and rest where 81.0 per cent child laborer were earning up to Rs. 1000 per month. 14.0 per cent respondents earning Rs. 1001 to 2000 per month.

Table 1. Demographic Characteristics of child labourer

Age group (Years)	Frequency	Per cent
5-8	19	19.0
8-11	25	25.0
11-14	56	56.0
Education		
Illiterate	79	79.0
Up to primary Level	18	18.0
Up to Secondary level	3	3.0
Caste		
S.C.	58	58.0
O.B.C.	30	30.0
Upper Caste	12	12.0
Sex		
Male	73	73.0
Female	27	27.0
Family Size		
Small	10	10.0
Medium	21	21.0
Large	69	69.0
Income (Rs. per month)		
Up to 1000	81	81.0
1001-2000	14	14.0
Above-2001	5	5.0

(Figures in parentheses indicate percentage)

Table 2. Distribution of respondents according to causes

Sl.No.	Causes of child labour	Mean score	Rank
1.	Family size large	0.88	I
2.	Absence of parents	0.24	VIII
3.	Ignorance of parents	0.79	IV
4.	Poverty	0.85	II
5.	Cheaply available	0.74	V
6.	Lack of school education	0.71	VI
7.	Migrated from village	0.35	VII
8.	Illiteracy of parents	0.81	III

Table 2. indicates that causes of child labour, according to rank that maximum child labourer suffered from large family size and poverty. They have II rank and I. Some respondents were given to III rank illiteracy of parents whereas IV rank given to ignorance of parents. Cheaply available, lack of school education, migrated from village and absence of parents were also the causes

of child labour and have V, VI, VII and VIII rank respectively.

Table 3. deals with the state of employment conditions for child workers in different trades like (Industrial worker, domestic servant, hotel/Dhaba worker, auto mechanic and vendors etc.) of Kanpur city. Tables shows that only 42.0 and 40.0 per cent of child workers get overtime payment and extra payment for extra work. It is the practice of employers to give advance to the child labourers so that they can be compelled to remain on the work till the time the advance is adjusted. While 24.0 per cent of the total child workers get off day but this is unfortunate that in spite of the existence of so many legislation and child workers provision, none of the children avail these off days with wages. Whereas 64.0 per cent and 75.0 per cent not received any accidental facilities, inclusive of medical and economical facilities.

Table 3. Distribution of respondents according to employment condition

Sl.No	Employment condition	Yes	No	Total
1.	Overtime	42 (42.0)	58 (58.0)	100
2.	Extra wages for extra work	40 (40.0)	60 (60.0)	100
3.	Advance money	58 (58.0)	42 (42.0)	100
4.	Off days	24 (24.0)	76 (76.0)	100
5.	No wages for off days	78 (78.0)	22 (22.0)	100
6.	Accidental facilities			
	(a) Medical	36 (36.0)	64 (64.0)	100
	(b) Economical	25 (25.0)	75 (75.0)	100

(Figures in parentheses indicates percentage)

CONCLUSION :

On the basis of the study it can be concluded that the majority of child labourer in Kanpur city were male. They were illiterate and belonged to schedule caste category. Their family sizes large and there income up Rs. 1000 per month. Most of the respondents suffered from large family size, poverty and illiteracy of parents and have I, II & III rank respectively. Whereas majority of child worker not received any accidental facilities, inclusive of medical and economical facilities. So policies relating to compulsory education not only force children to attend school, but also contribute appropriate funds therefore, the primary education system, instead of higher education and the poverty alleviation would include measures to provide families of child workers with adequate employment an income opportunities credit facilities, cooperative schemes and improved social infra structure. (Madhak. A.)

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