Volume : 3 | Issue : 1 | Jan 2014 • ISSN No 2277 - 8160

Research Paper | Economics

Child Labour and Their Education: A Study in Two Districts of Uttar Pradesh

Dr. R. C. Tyagi Asst. Professor, GIDS, Sector 'O', Aliganj, Lucknow

ABSTRACT

The Supreme Court of India has rightly observed that a child of today cannot develop to be a responsible and productive member of tomorrow's society unless an environment which is conducive to his social and physical health is assured to him. Neglecting children means loss to the society as a whole. If children are deprived of their childhood- socially, economically, physically and mentally; the nation gets deprived of potential human resources for social progress, economic empowerment, peace and order, social stability and good citizenry. Most of the families of child labour are illiterate and unable to provide elementary education to their children, largely due to numerous socio-economic constraints. This paper based on a survey report conducted by author for Labour Department as project director.

KEYWORDS : Education for Child Labour, Working Children and Education, National Child Labour Project

Introduction:

Historically, Child labour has been an integral part of Indian socio-economy system from the beginning. According to population census 2001 there are 12 million child labours in India. Magnitude of child labour has increased in absolute terms by about 1 million between 1991 and 2001. As for as the percentage share of child labour across the states; Uttar Pradesh account for a larger share of about 15.2 percent all child workforces in India. One of the most important government interventions in the field is the flag ship programme called National Child Labour Project (NCLP) started in the year 1988. So far NCLP has covered 400,200 working children. About 3.08 lakh children have been mainstreamed into formal education system so far. The scheme is running in 250 districts in 14 states. In this backdrop a survey of child labour has been conducted in the districts of Faizabad and Amethi of Uttar Pradesh with following objectives.

Objectives of the Study

In view of high incidence of child labour in Uttar Pradesh in general and Faizabad and Amethi districts in particular, it becomes imperative to examine the factors responsible for the phenomenon. Main objectives of the present study are as follow:

(i) To find out working children in the age group of 6 to 14 years in two sample districts.
(ii) To identify those households which supply child labour;
(iii) To analyse educational status of child labour.
(iv) To suggest some measures to bring them in education stream.

Methodology:

In order to analyze above mentioned objectives, child workers and their households have been surveyed on the basis of well structured schedule in Faizabad and Amethi districts. All the children below 14 years of age has been covered in the survey those were found working in different activities i.e., restaurants and dhabas, venders, fruits and vegetable selling activity, in automobile repairing shops etc. The information regarding family size, caste-wise and religion-wise households, educational status of surveyed children below 14 years of age, distribution of child labour according to nature of work etc has been gathered from 444 households of Faizabad district and 239 households of Amethi district.

Socio-economic Profile of Surveyed Households

1. Distribution of Households' Population by Age-group:

Age-wise distribution of surveyed households has been given in Table-1. It shows that the percentage of people in the age group of 0-14 years has been highest, i.e. 41.56 per cent in both the districts. This is followed by the age group of 26-50 years 32.93 per cent, 15-25 years 20.54 per cent, 51-75 years 4.51 per cent and people above 76 years of age were least which was 0.46 per cent. Above trend shows that peoples in the active age groups is highest in the surveyed households. They can be creatively engaged to arrest the trend of rising child labour in the areas.

Table-1: Distribution of Surveyed Households' Population by age-group

Name of District	Areas of District	Age-Group					Total
		0-14	15-25	26-50	51-75	76 and above	
Faizabad	Town Area	280 (42.30)	136 (20.54)	227 (34.29)	17 (2.57)	2 (0.30)	662 (100.00)
	All Blocks	736 (42.06)	364 (20.80)	606 (34.63)	42 (2.40)	2 (0.11)	1750 (100.00)
	Total	1016	500	833	59	4	2412
		(42.12)	(20.73)	(34.54)	(2.45)	(0.17)	(100.00)
Amethi	Town Area	51 (35.66)	28 (19.58)	51 (35.66)	13 (9.09)	0 (0.00)	143 (100.00)
	All Blocks	455 (41.10)	224 (20.24)	322 (29.08)	93 (8.40)	13 (1.18)	1107 (100.00)
	Total	506	252	373	106	13	1250
		(40.48)	(20.16)	(29.84)	(8.48)	(1.04)	(100.00)
Both Districts	Grand Total	1522 (41.56)	752 (20.54)	1206 (32.93)	165 (4.51)	17 (0.46)	3662 (100.00)

Source: Field Survey Data

Figures in bracket indicate percentage

2. Detail of Gender Distribution:

Table-2 provides information regarding sex distribution of surveyed households in both Faizabad and Amethi district. The maximum number of households has been covered in town area as compare to other individual block of the district. It is mainly due to the reason that in search of job these children move from rural areas to town areas. Taken both the districts together, in aggregate; percentage of male has been higher than the female, which is 61.03 per cent male and 38.97 per cent were female.

Table-2:Gender-wise Distribution of Surveyed Households'-Population In Faizabad and Amethi districts

Name of District	Areas of District	No. of Households	Male	Female	Total
			(1)	(2)	(1+2)
Faizabad	Town Area	113	380(57.40)	282 (42.60)	662 (100.00)
	All Blocks	331	1059(68.75)	691 (31.25)	1750 (100.00)
	Total	444	1439 (59.66)	973 (40.34)	2412 (100.00)
Amethi	Town Area	28	78 (54.54)	65 (45.46)	143 (100.00)
	All Blocks	211	718 (64.86)	389 (35.14)	1107 (100.00)
	Total	239	796 (63.68)	454 (36.32)	1250 (100.00)
Both Districts	Grand Total	683	2235 (61.03)	1427(38.97)	3662 (100.00)

Source: Field Survey Data

Figures in bracket indicate percentage

3. Religion wise Distribution of Households:

Religion-wise surveyed household population is given in Table-3. It shows that percentage of Hindu population was highest those were 68.23 per cent followed by Muslim population 31.33 per cent and Sikh population was least which was 0.44 per cent of the surveyed households population.

Table-3: Religion-wise Distribution of Surveyed Households

Name of District	Areas of District	Hindu	Muslim	Sikh	Total
Faizabad	Town Area	107(86.99)	13(10.57)	3(2.44)	123(100.00)
	All Blocks	205 (63.86)	116 (36.14)	0 (0.00)	321 (100.00)
	Total	312(70.27)	129(29.05)	3(0.68)	444(100.00)
Amethi	Town Area	19 (67.86)	9 (32.14)	--	28 (100.00)
	All Blocks	135 (63.98)	76 (36.02)	--	211 (100.00)
	Total	154 (64.44)	85 (35.56)	--	239 (100.00)
Both Districts	Grand Total	466(68.23)	214(31.33)	3 (0.44)	683 (100.00)

Source**:** Field Survey Data

Figures in bracket indicate percentage

4. Caste-wise Distribution of Households:

Table-4 shows caste-wise distribution of the surveyed households of Faizabad district. It has found that General caste households were 20.06 per cent, OBC were highest and were 68.67 per cent and S.C. households were 11.27 per cent in both the districts.

Table-4: Caste-wise Distribution of Surveyed Households

Name of District	Areas of District	SC/ST	OBC	General	Total
Faizabad	Town Area	11 (8.94)	85 (69.11)	27 (21.95)	123(100.00)
	All Blocks	32 (9.97)	237 (73.83)	52 (16.20)	321 (100.00)
	Total	43 (9.68)	322 (72.52)	79 (17.79)	444(100.00)
Amethi	Town Area	1 (3.57)	19 (67.86)	8 (28.57)	28 (100.00)
	All Blocks	33 (15.64)	128 (60.66)	50 (23.70)	211 (100.00)
	Total	34 (14.23)	147 (61.51)	58 (24.27)	239 (100.00)
Both Districts	Grand Total	77 (11.27)	469 (68.67)	137 (20.06)	683 (100.00)

Source: Field Survey Data

Figures in bracket indicate percentage

5. Detail of Educational Status of Households' Population:

Table-5 shows that education level in the family from child labour comes is low and majority of the members of the surveyed households are literate up to primary level; those are 45.56 per cent while illiterates are 24.66 per cent education level of upper primary is 11.55 per cent; up to high school is 6.37 per cent, intermediate level 3.54 per cent, graduate level is 1.32 per cent and post-graduate level is just 0.17 per cent.

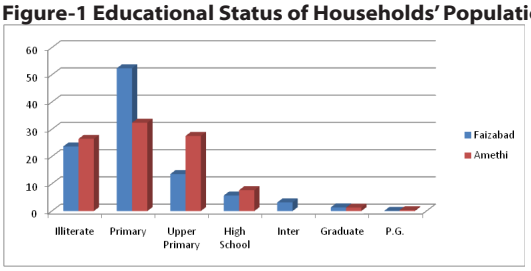
Table-5: Educational status of surveyed Households' Population

Areas of District	Illiterate	Primary	Upper Primary	High School	Inter	Graduate	P.G.	Total	Age >5	Grand Total
	Faizabad (District)									
Town Area	141	383	63	32	10	4	0	633	29	662
	(22.27)	(60.51)	(9.95)	(5.06)	(1.58)	(0.63)	(0.00)	(100.00)		
All Blocks	404	822	249	99	63	27	2	1666	84	1750
	(24.25)	(49.33)	(14.95)	(5.95)	(3.78)	(1.62)	(0.12)	(100.00)		
Total	545	1205	312	131	73	31	2	2299	113	2412
	(23.71)	(52.41)	(13.57)	(5.70)	(3.18)	(1.35)	(0.09)	(100.00)		
	Amethi (District)									
Town Area	35 (25.18)	49 (35.25)	34 (24.46)	15 (10.79)	3 (2.16)	2 (1.44)	1 (0.72)	139 (100.00)	4	143
All Blocks	283 (26.67)	340 (32.05)	297 (27.99)	77 (7.25)	48 (4.53)	13 (1.23)	3 (028)	1061 (100.00)	46	1107
Total	318 (26.50)	389 (32.42)	331 (27.58)	92 (7.67)	51 (4.25)	15 (1.25)	4 (0.33)	1200 (100.00)	50	1250
	Both Districts									
Grand Total	863 (24.66)	1594 (45.56)	404 (11.55)	223 (6.37)	124 (3.54)	46 (1.32)	6 (0.17)	3499 (100.00)	163	3662

Source: Field Survey Data

Figures in bracket indicate percentage

Figure-1 Educational Status of Households' Population



6. If Parents' not sending children to School then their Desire:

Parents are interested to send their children to school in evening as reported by 73.68 per cent parents and 26.32 per cent parents preferred noon time. They wish that the job of their children must go-on along with the schooling. 55.82 per cent parents said that their children are not suffering from any health problem. Right approach with little incentives can bring substantial number of children to schools and arrest rising trend of child labour in the district.

Table-6: If Parents' not sending children to School then their Desire

Name of District	Areas of District	Preferable Time				Health Problem		
		Morning	Noon	Evening	Total	Yes	No	Total
Faizabad	Town Area	0 (0.00)	1 (25.00)	3 (75.00)	4 (100.00)	4 (11.11)	32 (88.89)	36 (100.00)
	All Blocks	0 (0.00)	1 (20.00)	4 (80.00)	5 (100.00)	6 (13.04)	40 (86.96)	46 (100.00)
	Total	0	2	7	9	10	72	82
		(0.00)	(22.22)	(77.78)	(100.00)	(12.20)	(87.80)	(100.00)
Amethi	Town Area	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	3 (100.00)	0 (0.00)	3 (100.00)
	All Blocks	0 (0.00)	3 (30.00)	7 (70.00)	10 (100.00)	44 (100.00)	0 (0.00)	44 (100.00)
	Total	0	3	7	10	47	0	47
		(0.00)	(30.00)	(70.00)	(100.00)	(100.00)	(0.00)	(100.00)
Both Districts	Grand Total	0 (0.00)	5 (26.32)	14 (73.68)	19 (100.00)	57 (44.18)	72 (55.82)	129 (100.00)

Source: Field Survey Data

Figures in bracket indicate percentag

9. Suggestions:

- Right approach with little government incentives can bring substantial number of children to schools and arrest rising trend of child labour in these districts.
- Evening schools should be open by the government as parents are interested to send their working children to school in evening as reported by 73.68 per cent parents.
- These evening schools may be open under the National Child Labour Project (NCLP) with the help of labour department.

REFERENCES

Dr. R. C. Tyagi, (Feb.2013) "Survey of Child Labour in Faizabad District of Uttar Pradesh", Submitted to Dept. Labour Commissioner Office, Faizabad District. | Dr. R. C. Tyagi, (Feb.2013) "Survey of Child Labour in Amethi District of Uttar Pradesh", Submitted to Dept. Labour Commissioner Office, Amethi District (Feb.2013). |