



Programmes for Eradication of Child Labour : An Overview of Karnataka

KEYWORDS

Child Labour, Eradication, Programmes, Karnataka

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ABSTRACT

Children are future citizen of the country and they are the become an important future assets of the nation. Generally we found today various studies and media news highlighted that the poor children working for a living are still common and the attitude of rationalizing child labour as 'inevitable' and a 'necessary evil', is yet to disappear. A large percentage of employers continue to see their employment of children as a 'favour' they are doing to the children and their families to help them survive. Other causes for child labour are inappropriate and inadequate education facilities available in the rural areas, rampant adult unemployment, lower wages, and extreme poverty of some marginalized groups, increasing disparities will promote increasing of child labour. Over a period of time government had made sincere efforts even though child working could not end in the country, it is really harmful. Therefore in this paper an attempt has been made to know the recent changes in the growth of child labour, problems for their development and governments' special programmes for eradication of the child labour has been discussed related to Karnataka state.

Introduction:

According to 'Rabindranath Tagore' a nation's children is its supremely important asset the nation's future lies in their proper development and healthy, educated child of today is the active and intelligent citizen of tomorrow. The International Labour Organization (ILO) estimates 250 million children aged between 5 and 14 are (child labourers) working worldwide and "One out of six children in the world today is involved in child labour activity. 73 million children are less than 10 years of age and 50 million children under the age of twelve worked in hazardous circumstances. The ILO surveys suggest that there are at least 120 million children between the ages of 5 and 14 who are fully at work and 61% were found in Asia, 32% in Africa and 7% in Latin America and at least 5% were found in developed countries. Asia has the largest child workers proportion of working children between 5 and 14 years is highest (ILO. 1996). The ILO also reported that, India is a one of the leading population country has the largest population of child labour in the World.

According to 2001 census of India more than 1.27 crore of child labourers are working in country in deferent fields. Uttara Pradesh having largest child labour population, next Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka is constituted the seventh position and Goa last having zero position in India (Gol.2001). The constitution of India through various articles enshrined in the fundamental Rights and the Directive Principles of state policy, lays down like Article 24, 45 that no child below the age of 14 years should be employed to work in any filed and it enshrined that the state shall endeavor to provide the constitution for free and compulsory education for all children till they complete the age of 14 years. There are several other provisions to protect the freedom and dignity of the childhood of the children in the country even though the child labour is existing in country. In that connection an attempt has been made for study the overview of child labour and their eradication related to Karnataka.

Objective and Database:

This paper examines the overview of child labour in Karnataka. The specific objective of the paper is to understand the child labour problems and government steps for eradication and their development and analyze the success achieved by India and Karnataka. The paper purely based on the secondary data will be collected from census reports, journals and

other published documents will be used in the study.

Child Labour in India and Karnataka:

There are varying estimates of working children magnitude in India due to differing concepts and methods of estimation. The 1971 Census of India has estimated 10.75 million and it was increased 13.64 millions in 1981 and it was slightly comedown in 1991 is 11.28 million and it has been increased, while the 2001 Census has estimated 12.59 million working children. It has been clear in the table 1. It is evident from the table that the recent decade's magnitude of working children has been increased during the period of 1991 to 2001. According to census of India data has been revealed that the number of child labourers in state level and union tertiary of the country is highest in Uttara Pradesh next Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh are 15.22, 10.76, 9.97, 8.82 and 8.41 has respectively. In the other hand the lowest percentages of the states are Mizoram, Goa and Arunachal Pradesh is constituted 0.21, 0.03 and 0.15 respectively.

Table.1. Child labourers in India & Karnataka 1971 to 2001

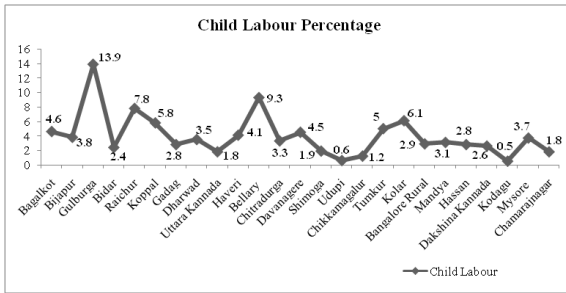
Decades	India (Rs. in crores)	Karnataka (Rs.in Lakhs)	Karnataka Percentage
1971	1.08	8.09	7.52
1981	1.36	11.31	8.3
1991	1.13	9.76	8.65
2001	1.27	9.74	7.71

Source: Census of India 1971 to 2001

The decade wise growth of child labourers and its percentages in Karnataka were seems that the percentages of child labours in 1971 is 7.52 percent of total share of the country, but it had been increased in a next decades 1981 and 1991 as 8.3, 8.65 respectively and declined 7.71 percent in 2001.

The district wise percentages of child labourers in Karnataka as per 2001 census revealed that Gulburga district has constituted highest and lowest Kodagu district in the state.

Figure .1: District wise percentages of Child Labourers in Karnataka 2001



Source: Census of India 2001

It has been clear in figure 1 that the highest percentages of the child labourers were recorded in Gulbarga, Ballary, Raichur, Kolar and lowest is Kodagu, Udupi, Chikkamagalur, Chamrajnagar were 13.9,9.3,7.8,6.1 and 0.5,0.6,1.2,1.8 respectively. It shows that the poverty has been made main role involvement of child labour were highest constituted districts comparing to other lowest districts in the state.

Classification Child Labourers According to Economic Activity:

The poor children working for a living are still common, even among the elite. The attitude of rationalizing child labour as ‘inevitable’ and a ‘necessary evil’, is yet to disappear. A large percentage of employers continue to see their employment of children as a ‘favour’ they are doing to the children and their families to help them survive (GOK, 2007). The available data in the table 2 reveals that more number and percentages of the child labourers in Karnataka were engaged in traditional agriculture and among these labourers the female percentages are more than male percentage has been engaged in agriculture labours and agricultural related activities, as comparing to other activities in the state.

Table.2: Classification of child labours percentages according to economic activity in Karnataka

Activity	Total workers 1981			Total workers 1991		
	Male	Female	Per-sons	Male	Female	Persons
Cultivators	34.21	22.92	29.36	31.11	26.25	28.73
Agricultural labourers	38.58	56.62	46.33	43.49	58.10	50.64
Livestock, forestry	11.72	5.60	9.09	8.18	3.73	6.00
Mining and quarrying	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.57	0.36	0.47
Manufacturing,						
Processing, repairs, etc	8.12	10.64	9.21	7.99	7.81	7.91
Construction	1.08	0.79	0.96	1.74	0.47	1.11
Trade and commerce	3.51	0.69	2.30	4.49	0.56	2.57
Transport	0.55	0.16	0.38	0.59	0.07	0.33
Other services	1.90	2.25	2.05	1.85	2.66	2.25
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

Sources: GOI. 2005, pp-85

Child Labours Eradication Programmes:

The number of studies were highlighted that the Child labour is a complex phenomena related to multiple issues and situations and the causes, consequence of vulnerabilities- poverty, illiteracy and livelihood loss has been led to forced to some families migration and it has contributed in a substantial in-

crease in the number of working children especially in household and non household manufacturing activities, as children are forced to fend for themselves and for their families in new locations. Other causes for child labour are inappropriate and inadequate education facilities available in the rural areas, rampant adult unemployment, lower wages, and extreme poverty of some marginalized groups, increasing disparities in wealth and cut backs in government social and educational budgets (ADB.2000 & Bartlett, 1999). Narayana, (2007) stated that especially exclusion from schooling system of girls is more disadvantaged group has increased potential child labour in rural areas. And also restriction on girls’ education, early child marriage of girls is another reason for drop out cases in schooling. Therefore, the incidence of child labour or child work is high under such circumstances where parents go to out to earn their livelihood leaving the elderly children to take care of domestic work. Overall he find out that belonging to other backward classes also had child labour and they were limited in number compared to SCs and STs.

Child Labour Rehabilitation:

In the present condition of child labour has improved some extent in the state as well as the country. The both state and central government has made efforts over a period of time to eradication to child labour and implemented identification, rehabilitation programmes in the country.

Table.3: Rehabilitation, Budget Allocation and Expenditure 2001- 06

Year	Child labour Rehabilitation		Budget Allocation & Expenditure	
	Inspections Conducted	No. Of Identified and Rehabilitated	Budget Allocation (in Lakhs)	Expenditure (in Lakhs)
2000-01	-	-	3600	3803.69
2001-02	15680	8848	6700	6191.67
2002-03	18616	9859	8010	6513.77
2003-04	93716	11932	7243	6739.66
2004-05	86448	9177	9905	9315.8
2005-06	29774	14488	12479	5764
Total	244234	54304	47937	38328.59

Sources: Ministry of labour and employment government of India [www.labour.nic.in/cwl/child_labour .htm](http://www.labour.nic.in/cwl/child_labour.htm)

It has been clear in the table 3 that 2001- 02 to 2005-06 there are 244234 cases inspected and 54304 number of child labours has been identified and rehabilitated.

Budget Allocation and Expenditure:

Over a period of time the government of India made a Budget allocation and actual expenditure has been increased under the various schemes of child labour during the period of 2000-01 to 2005-06, it is Rs. 38328.59 lakhs released budget for eradication of child labourers in the country.

National Child labour Project in Karnataka:

Government of India has implemented NCLP in 100 districts, in the areas of high concentration of child labour throughout the country and further 150 districts have been identified in January 2004 for starting the NCLP project. In Karnataka the NCLP project was stated in 5 districts than included further 12 districts. Total 17 districts has been covered under the NCLP project in the state there were namely Bijapur, Raichur, Dharwad, Bangalore Rural, Bangalore Urban, Belgaum, Koppal,

pal, Tumkur, Devangere, Haveri, Mysore, Bagalkot, Chitradurga, Gulbarga, Bellary, Kolar and Mandya. The scheme was released fund yearly concerned districts it has been evident from the table 4. The data reveals that the year wise total fund released in different district in the state and Bijapur district has highest fund benefited under the scheme comparing to other district in the state. The government has attacked the problem of child labour on several front and tried to reduction of household poverty, universal enrolment and retention in school, and strengthening legal provisions and enforcement. Amend labour legislation to cover children in non-hazardous sectors.

Table.4: Total fund released under NCLP scheme in Karnataka 2004 to2007 (in lakhs)

Districts	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	Total 2004-07	Percentage
Bagalkot	4.59	72.53	73.36	150.48	11.18
Bellary	9.47	0	13.91	23.38	1.74
Bangalore Rural	53.77	66.08	36.51	156.36	11.62
Bangalore Urban	43.84	64.94	53.3	162.08	12.05
Belgaum	0	5.92	36.06	36.06	2.68
Bijapur	113.73	105.09	92.1	197.19	14.66
Chitradurga	4.59	0	10.01	14.6	1.09
Davangere	0	5.92	0	5.92	0.44
Dharwad	6.66	22.86	0	29.52	2.19
Gulbarga	50.3	47.49	55.94	153.73	11.43
Haveri	0	0	5.92	5.92	0.44
Kolar	22.65	50.46	34.82	107.93	8.02
Koppal	4.59	0	32.35	36.94	2.75
Mandya	4.59	0	0	4.59	0.34
Mysore	0	5.92	10.01	15.93	1.18
Raichur	52.96	59.31	53.74	166.01	12.34
Tumkur	4.59	0	0	4.59	0.34
Total	331.01	506.52	508.01	1345.54	100

Sources: Ministry of labour and employment government of India www.labour.nic.in/cwl/child_labour.htm

The Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act of 1976 should be amended so as to identify and punish those who are practicing child bonded labourers. The Karnataka state has a gamut of schemes directed at ensuring universal enrolment and retention. Under the Vidya Vikasa programme, school children

in classes I to VII get free text books and uniforms. Akshara Dasoha, the midday meals scheme introduced in primary level children and now extended this to secondary level in both government-and private aided schools for attacking into reducing of child labourers and their improvement in literacy as well as their problem. This helps over 60 lakh children and the expenditure is of the order of Rs.280 crore. For girls, there are attendance scholarships. Further the state has pioneered various schemes for bringing out-of-school children back to school. The schemes directly address all the major constraints faced by out-of-school children and their families. They are Chinnara Angala (bringing out-of-school children back to school), Coolinda Shalege (for child labour), Flexi schools (night schools for working children), mobile schools (for slum children), Beediya Shalege (for street children), Baa Baale Shalege (for the girl child), Kishori Kendra (residential bridge courses for girls in Bellary and Koppal), and Samudayadatta Shale (community rallies) (GOK, 2006). These schemes have enabled the state to mainstream a number of out-of school children into primary education as well as who were existed in child labour activity in Karnataka.

The most central government schemes encouraging the World Bank sponsored District Primary Education Programme (DPEP) neither of the 1990s nor about the internationally funded and much hyped Sarva Shuksha Abhiyan (SSA) of the first decade of the century. It is not even about the high profile 'The right of Children to Free and compulsory Education Act, 2009' (Popularly called the Right To education Act or RTE Act). These are all state government as well as the central government programmes were implemented for eradicating child labour activity in the state and country.

Conclusion:

According to Tagore children is supremely important asset the nation's future and there proper development as well as investment in children is very important and the healthy, educated child of today is the active and intelligent citizen of tomorrow vision is real truth. There are several new initiatives to bring working children back to school and they have been successful, but sustained environment building activities to dispel the illiteracy and ignorance that justifies child labour are also required. Even though comparing to earlier decades there are drastically declined in the number of child labour, but it is not ended their work. The several government programmes on the prevalence of child labour has not been satisfactory for various reasons and causes at source have not received the same attention as a curative approach. The policies concentrate on rehabilitation through universal enrolment and retention has made rehabilitation an endless exercise since the school system has continued to leak fresh dropouts, even as earlier dropouts are rehabilitated. Therefore government should be act against the eradication of poverty, unemployment, migration and traditional evils of child marriage with strictly implementation of child labour act and inspection. Than only we will eradicate illegal child labour activity otherwise it is very difficult to end of poor children working in the country.

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