



A Study of Educational Interest of Child Labourers Working in Unorganised Auto-Repair Sector in Haryana

KEYWORDS

Child Labour, Auto-Repair Sector, Poverty, Haryana

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ABSTRACT *The paper is an attempt to throw light on the child labour problem in the state of Haryana from different angles and for the purpose a sample of 100 respondents was selected randomly out of total child labourers working in auto-repair workshops in district Rohtak of Haryana. The study is purely based on primary data and disclosed that the highest number of child labourers that is 41 is in age group of 11-12 years; majority of the respondents were having a very low qualification of education up to primary level only; The poverty has been the main reason behind the drop out of the child labourers from the schools; A majority of the respondents responded positively for re-joining studies. Hence, poverty plays a significant role in the existence of the problem of the child labour.*

INTRODUCTION

Children are a wonderful gift to humanity and the childhood is an important stage of their development and holds the potential for developing the society. Children, who are brought up in an environment of intellectual, physical and social health, grow up as responsible and productive members of society. Every nation's future is linked with the present status of its children. The children squeeze their present welfare or their future income earning capabilities by doing work at too young age. Under extreme economic distress, they are compelled to surrender their educational opportunities for exploitative jobs which are underpaid and hazardous in nature. Even the parents send their children for such jobs due to poor economic conditions. There is a sufficient effect of child labour on school attendance and the length of a child's work day is negatively associated with his or her capacity to attend the school. Hence, child labour hands the rights of children to education and adversely affects their health and safety.

The child labour is a blot and slur on modern state which bound to promote the all-round development of its citizens. It is a curse to the society and mankind which may wreck the economic backbone of a country. The future of the human world very much depends on the rights of the children and the fate of a nation inextricably interwind with the welfare of its children. Governments in developing countries have failed to achieve desired objectives set up for promotion of universal child immunization oral rehydration therapy for prevention of 2.5 million deaths every year, combating acute respiratory infections and major opportunities provided through various welfare programmes for the children.

Jan Marteson, Under Secretary-General for Human Rights, U.N. has rightly observed, "respect and protection of all children's rights are the starting point for the full development of the potential of the individual in an atmosphere of freedom, dignity and justice.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The study was attempted to realize the following objectives:

- To study the educational interest of the children working in the auto repair workshops,
- To look into the circumstantial factors responsible for the children to drop out the schools,
- To orchestrate the aims and aspirations of the children working in auto repair workshops.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Research design

The study is descriptive-cum-exploratory in nature and based on survey schedule.

Sample design

A sample of 100 respondents was selected through convenient sampling technique from child labourers of district Rohtak of Haryana, who were categorised according to income level and residential status.

Universe and Population

All the children working in auto repair workshops in Haryana and in district Rohtak of Haryana constitute the Universe and population of the study respectively.

Sample unit

The child labour between 6-14 years of age, working in different unorganised auto-repair workshops in district Rohtak of Haryana, was taken as the sample unit.

Data collection

The study is purely based on primary data which were collected through structured schedule duly filled with the help of child labourers in district Rohtak of Haryana.

Statistical techniques

Crosstab technique of SPSS, tabulation, graphic presentation, percentage and correlation were used to analyse the collected data and to reach at the conclusion.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The analytical Table 1 exposed that the majority of the respondents (68 per cent) were having a very low qualification of education up to primary level only and 30 per cent were middle class. Only two respondents out of total 100 were having qualification above middle class. The analysis confirms the fact that the child labour problem and low level of education are highly and significantly correlated. Out of the total respondents (income group of below Rs.2000) 70 per cent (43) were having education up to primary-level only; as income increased to Rs.2000-4000, 64per cent (18) respondents were having primary-level education; and such when the income level increased to Rs.4000-6000, the maximum proportionate remained of that of having education up to primary-level. All the child labourers belonging to the highest income group (Rs.6000 & more) were having primary-level education only.

Table 1
Educational Background of the Respondents

Block	Primary Level	Middle Level	Above Middle Level	Total
Rohtak	19(59.38)	13(40.62)	0(0.00)	32(100)
Meham	19(79.17)	5(20.83)	0(0.00)	24(100)
Sampla	16(72.73)	6(27.27)	0(0.00)	22(100)
Kalanaur	14(63.64)	6(27.27)	2(9.09)	22(100)
Total	68(68)	30(30)	2(2)	100(100)

Note: (i) Source: Primary data collected.
(ii) The figures in brackets show the percentages.

Table 2
Reason for Drop Out of the Respondents from Schools

Block	Illiteracy (Parental)	Lack of Interest In Education	Poverty	Need For Earning	Health Grounds	Total
Rohtak	0 (0.00)	5 (15.63)	15 (46.88)	12 (37.5)	0 (0.00)	32 (100)
Meham	1 (4.17)	5 (20.83)	12 (50)	5 (20.83)	1 (4.17)	24 (100)
Sampla	3 (13.64)	3 (13.64)	10 (45.45)	6 (27.27)	0 (0.00)	22 (100)
Kalanaur	1 (4.55)	1 (4.55)	14 (63.64)	6 (27.27)	0 (0.00)	22 (100)
Total	5 (5)	14 (14)	51 (51)	29 (29)	1 (1)	100 (100)

Note: (i) Source: Primary data collected.
(ii) The figures in brackets show the percentages.

The poverty (51 per cent) followed by need for earnings (29 per cent), lack of interest in education (14 per cent), parental illiteracy (5 per cent) and poor health (only per cent) were found to be the main reasons behind the drop out of the respondents from their schools, as is showing by Table 2. The poverty has been the main reason (62 per cent respondents) behind the drop out of the child labourers from the schools as 51 per cent of the total, left the schools on this particular ground where as maximum 67 respondents belonging to the lowest income group and 13 to the income group from Rs.2000-4000 and only 1 subsequently income group. The need for earning emerged out as the second important reasons for the school dropout (29 respondents, 18 belonging

to the lowest income group and 9 to the next income group). Besides that, lack of interest in education of the child labourers had been one of the reasons for the problem (14 per cent respondents). Hence, the poverty acts as big reason behind the drop out of child labourers from the schools.

Table 3
Interest of Child Labourers to Re-join their Studied

Block	Yes	No	Total
Rohtak	17 (53.13)	15 (46.87)	32 (100)
Meham	19 (79.17)	5 (20.83)	24 (100)
Sampla	15 (68.18)	7 (31.82)	22 (100)
Kalanaur	19 (86.36)	3 (13.64)	22 (100)
Total	70 (70)	30 (30)	100 (100)

Note: (i) Source: Primary data collected.
(ii) The figures in brackets show the percentages.

A majority of the respondents (70 per cent) responded positively for re-joining studies and only 30 per cent denied the same as has been expressed by Table 3. The denied rate was found to be highest (47 per cent) out of Rohtak block respondents. The analysis indicates towards the hardships of child labour compelling them back towards the studies for better future.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

The study which was conducted on child labourers of automobile sector of district Rohtak in Haryana found that the highest number of child labourers that is 41 is in age group of 11-12 years, majority of the respondents (68 per cent) were having a very low qualification of education up to primary level only. The poverty has been the main reason (62 per cent respondents) behind the drop out of the child labourers from the schools, A majority of the respondents (70 per cent) responded positively for re-joining studies. Hence, the poverty acts as big reason behind the drop out of child labourers from the schools and there is high degree of negative correlation (-0.95) between income levels and preference for the profession due to family advice. Hence, the poverty emerged as a big reason behind child labour and their illiteracy. On the basis of finding of the study we suggest that the child labourers and their families must be convinced by law implementing authorities, social workers and with the help of other NGO's that, it is the education which can change their fate from poverty to riches and their living standard with the use of all possible amenities can be increased only with help of application of laws meant for them.

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