



## TREND AND DYNAMICS OF CHILD LABOUR IN ODISHA

## KEYWORDS

Child Labour, Human Resource, Child Rights, Social Evil.

Dr. Sridhar Samal

Head, Department of Geography, Kendrapara Autonomous College Kendrapara, Odisha, Pin – 754211

**ABSTRACT** Children play a vital role in shaping the future destiny of a nation. They constitute the core of human resource potential which a nation cannot spare for the sake of future, but ironically the lives of a sizeable portion of our child population is at stake in a developing country like India. The child labour problem in Odisha is also alarming and has become too complicated that it needs urgent attention. It is not only from socio-economic point of view, but also from humanitarian angle also, the issue of child labour has drawn the attention of national and international community. Though there is no such specific definition of a child. The UNO conference 1989 on "Rights of child" considers individuals below the age of 18 years as a child. The international labour organisation (ILO) opines those individuals below 15 years of age as children. In India, according to the census, a child worker is one who works for the major part of the day and is below the age of 14 years. the remarks of UNICEF, a child labour is that child from age 5 to 11 years of age who are engaged for one hour of economic activity or at least 28 hours of domestic works in a week or children between 12 to 14 years of age who did at least 14 hours of economic activity and domestic works taken together in a week. India is the home of largest child labour in the world and every fifth child in the world is an Indian. Census data indicates an alarming increase of child labour from 11.28 million in 1991 to 21.29 million in 2011. Child labour system is not only a social evil but also a chronic socio-economic disease against humanity.

**Introduction:**

The child population in the age group of 0 – 14 years to total population in the state as on 2016 is 29.4% which is almost equal to the all India figures of 29.5% as on 2011. The rural total child population in Odisha stands at 30.17%, where as in urban areas the figures is 25.5% to the total population indicating a more concentration of child population in rural Odisha for different reasons. Statistics shows that the percentage of child to the total population of Odisha as well as India constitute almost one third of the total population. But unfortunately, a significant part of the child population who seems to be the future national asset continue to struggle for existence in India as well as Odisha. The issue of child labour is a social evil and a crime against humanity because children play a very dominant role in shaping the destiny of a nation. So it is quite necessary that the rights of the children should be protected and promoted as far as practicable. The constitution of India through articles 24, 39 (e), 39 (f), 41, 45 and 47 offers mandates for the eradication of child labour in the country. According to Human Development Report 2011 published by NITI AYOJ, government of India, child labour is more prevalent in rural areas than in urban areas and is higher in boys than girls. National child labour projects (NCLP) operated in 24 districts of Odisha with an objective of eliminating child labour from hazardous occupations has not served the purpose. In the present study, attempts have been made to analyse the present status of child labour and dynamics and factors associated with it in Odisha and suggest measures to eradicate the problem of child labour menace.

**Objective of the study:**

The study is undertaken with the following objectives:

1. To examine the present status and factors of child labour in Odisha.
2. To analyse the role and impact of child labour in the economic activities of the state.
3. To understand the factors and obstacles responsible to bring the child labourers into the mainstream of development.
4. To suggest measures to ensure their effective participation in the process of developmental activities of the state.

**Methodology:**

This study is predominantly based on data collected from secondary sources in form of published reports, journals of government and non-governmental organisations such as census of India – 2011, district gazettes of Odisha, research journals, statistical abstract of Odisha 2012, Odisha economic

survey 2015 – 2016 and development monthly journals. The data collected have been analysed, compared and compiled in tabular form in order to arrive at a fruitful conclusion.

**Table 1.1 Child labour survey in Odisha (NCLP) districts**

Sl.No	District	Boys	Girls	Total
1	Balasore	9873	7664	17537
2	Baragarh	10947	9075	20022
3	Gajapati	11327	12336	23663
4	Jharsuguda	4110	3935	8045
5	Kalahandi	20093	21558	41651
6	Koraput	16789	15002	31791
7	Malkangiri	8810	9587	18397
8	Mayurbhanj	16849	15905	32754
9	Nuapada	8239	8781	17020
10	Rayagada	18730	17792	36522
11	Sambalpur	8560	8811	17371
12	Subarnapur	6521	5777	12298
13	Deogarh	4915	5026	9941
14	Nawarangapur	8733	8221	16954
15	Angul	3641	3472	7113
16	Bolangir	8153	6697	14850
17	Cuttack	7798	6711	14509
18	Ganjam	34463	25498	54961
19	Total	208551	191848	400399

Source: Statistical Abstract – 2012, Odisha.

**Table 1.2 Child labour in non-NCPL districts of Odisha (2012)**

Sl.No.	District	Boys	Girls	Total
1	Bhadrak	3603	3842	7445
2	Boudh	2887	3055	5942
3	Dhenkanal	5327	4960	10287
4	Jagatsinghpur	2453	453	2906
5	Jajpur	5755	4395	10150
6	Kandhamal	1020	520	1540
7	Kendrapara	5678	3015	8693
8	Keonjhar	6155	2487	8642
9	Khorda	5772	2925	8697
10	Nayagarh	5076	3327	8403
11	Puri	3163	1524	4687
12	Sundargarh	5825	2845	8670
13	Total	57714	33348	86062
14	Grand Total	261265	225196	486461

Source: Labour Commissioner, Odisha – 2012

Table 1.3 Identified child labour in work sites (1997)

Sl. No.	District	Hazardous Sites	Non-Hazardous Sites	Total
1	Angul	2775	252	3027
2	Balasore	437	11582	12019
3	Baragarh	109	1979	2088
4	Bhadrak	10	5387	5397
5	Bolangir	1704	10571	12275
6	Boudh	29	6371	6400
7	Cuttack	1531	5896	7427
8	Deogarh	428	4482	4910
9	Dhenkal	997	1220	2217
10	Gajpati	33	1869	1902
11	Ganjam	2028	8197	10225
12	Jagatsingpur	860	1012	1872
13	Jaipur	08	404	412
14	Jharsuguda	37	2020	2057
15	Kalahandi	1818	4869	6684
16	Kandhamal	00	14710	14710
17	Kendrapara	00	6456	6456
18	Kendujhar	177	6062	6239
19	Khurdha	113	4067	4180
20	Koraput	69	1797	18866
21	Malkanagiri	234	13324	13558
22	Mayurbhanj	2073	8217	10290
23	Nawarangapur	1074	20681	21755
24	Nayagarh	1167	31517	32684
25	Nuapada	137	2109	2246
26	Puri	28	912	937
27	Rayagada	02	12240	12242
28	Sambalpur	4811	828	5639
29	Subarnapur	1015	1622	2637
30	Sundargarh	63	808	871
	Total	23761	191461	215222

Source: Labour Commissioner, Odisha – 2012.

### Result and Discussion:

It is revealed from the tables 1.1 and 1.2 that the distribution of child labour among the NCLP districts, Ganjam district tops the list with 59961 where largest number of child labour is concentrated followed by Nuapara and Malkanagiri districts. The lowest number child labour is distributed in the district of Angul with only 7113 child labour followed by Jharsuguda with 8045. On the basis of sex, boys' child labour surpasses the girls with 208551 and 191848 respectively in NCLP districts. All 18 NPCL districts in Odisha accounts for a total of 400399 child labour whereas all 12 non-NCLP districts accounts for a child labour of 86062 which is much less than NCLP districts. The grand total child labour in Odisha is estimated to be 486461 which is alarming and needs attention of all concerned. It is also equally alarming a fact that the child labour problem in equally alarming with that of boys child labour in Odisha. Out of 30 districts in Odisha, 18 districts have been covered under national child labour projects (NCLP) have been implemented whereas 12 districts are considered as NON-NCLP districts with less number of child labour. Most of the non-NCLP districts concentrated in the coastal region of Odisha.

Table 1.3 reveals that the total number of worksites both hazardous and non – hazardous of the state is 215222. The largest number hazardous worksites is registered in Sambalpur district with 4811 sites followed by Angul, Mayurbhanj and Ganjam with 2775, 2073 and 2018 sites respectively. Interestingly, no hazardous sites are found in the districts of Kendrapara, Kandhamal and only 2 sites in Rayagada, 08 sites in Jajpur, and 10 sites are identified in Bhadrak district. So far as non – hazardous work sites are concerned, the district namely Kalahandi tops the figure with 14710 number of work sites followed by Koraput with 13324, Rayagada with 12240 and Balasore with 11582 sites. The total number of non-hazardous

worksites in the state is 191461 which is approximately eight times of the hazardous worksites of the state. It is therefore established that about 80% child labourers in the state are working in non-hazardous worksites and about 20% child labourers are engaged in hazardous sites in the state.

Table 1.4 indicates that the total number of establishments and worksites engaging child labour in hazardous and non-hazardous sites in the state is 174811. By analysing the districtwise distribution of these establishments, Ganjam district has the largest number of establishment which are hazardous units, where the child labourers work for their survival. This district is followed by Mayurbhanj district with 4519 and Bolangir with 1515 number of hazardous units engaging child labour. So far as the total non-hazardous units in Odisha are concerned who are engaging child labour is estimated to be 161728 which is very alarming. The total units and establishments engaging child labour in the state is 174811.

So far as the number of establishments and worksites for child labour survey 1997 are concerned it is an established fact that all the thirty districts were covered in this survey with a total of 254711 establishments and worksites were taken into accounts. Out of those 254711 units, 22543 were hazardous and 2323168 were non-hazardous. Among the districts, Nabarangapur leads the list with total establishments of 30773 followed by Nayagarh with 24988 units.

### Findings and Conclusion:

- On the basis of discussions and analysis in the preceding chapters, it can safely be concluded that the problem of child labour in Odisha is a major social problem which needs urgent action. Around one third of the total population constitutes the child population out of which one fourth of total child population is in the age group of 1 to 14.
- In rural Odisha, the problem of child labour is more prevalent than in urban areas. The reason behind the problem is the lack of rural infrastructure like education, employment opportunity, and health care facilities.
- On the basis of sex, male children are more prone to the child labour trap than female children.
- Most of the children of the state are engaged in mines or in large industrial units and are getting low wages. The children are specially engaged in the organised informal sectors of agriculture or allied sectors.
- Child workers are highly illiterate or mostly dropouts even enable to complete elementary compulsory education. Children of pre-primary education are seen engaged in work places of cottage or village industries.
- Poverty is found to be the main cause of child labour in the state where children are forced to work to improve household income. This is mainly observed in case of BPL and bonded labour families.
- The skills acquired by the children are those that could not be acquired at older age. The skills are typically of local level, simple and basically highly manual.
- Children of urban background have relatively better occupations than children of rural areas. Rural children are basically adopted to the traditional occupations and skills. Sometimes, the rural market being unable to provide employment to the growing population, provide conditions for rural labour migration.

### Conclusion:

It can be concluded that the issue of child labourer occurs due to several factors which include structural as well as social and economic. The limited supply of rural infrastructure, growing

menace of population, unemployment, natural calamities or even physical abuse at home compel children to become child labour but their contribution to the economic development cannot be ignored in the long run. This immense labour force can be utilised in a creative manner for a comfortable living. The society in spite of neglecting those should create conducive infrastructure for their respectable living.

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