



A STUDY ON CHILD LABOUR LEADING TO JUVENILE DELINQUENCY AMONG CHILDREN WORKING IN DOMESTIC AND COMMERCIAL AREA IN HYDERABAD AND RANGA REDDY DISTRICT.

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ABSTRACT Child labour remains one of the most serious social problems affecting children worldwide, particularly in developing countries. Children engaged in labour at an early age are often deprived of education, family support, and healthy psychological development. Child employment lead to physical, emotional or sexual assault, restricted regions, working with hazardous machinery, working with enhanced timeliness which hazardous materials and working with further lead to Social inequality, exclusion, child labour, under age children, Crime, Social problem, Human Right Violation and injustice across the country which is becoming a hurdle for the growth of the youth of the country. This deprivation increases their vulnerability to antisocial behaviour and juvenile delinquency. The present study examines the relationship between child labour and juvenile delinquent tendencies among selected are in Hyderabad and rangareddy district specially domestic and commercial area. The research highlights the socio-economic, psychological, and environmental factors that contribute to the transformation of child labourers into juveniles involved in delinquent activities. The findings emphasize the urgent need for preventive strategies, rehabilitation programmes, and policy interventions to protect child workers from criminal exposure.

KEYWORDS : Child Labour, juvenile delinquency and Human Right Violation and Injustice.

INTRODUCTION

Childhood is a crucial stage for emotional, social, and moral development. However, child labour disrupts this phase by forcing children into unsafe and exploitative working environments. Many child labourers face harsh conditions, abuse, poverty, and lack of education. Such adverse experiences can push children towards delinquent behaviour such as theft, substance abuse, violence, and gang involvement.

Child labour compounds social inequality and discrimination. Unlike activities that help children develop, such as contributing to light housework or taking on a job during school holidays, child labour limits access to education and harms a child's physical, mental and social growth. Especially for girls, the "triple burden" of school, work and household chores heightens their risk of falling behind, making them even more vulnerable to poverty and exclusion children may be driven into work for various reasons. Most often, child labour occurs when families face financial challenges or uncertainty whether due to poverty, sudden illness of a caregiver, or job loss of a primary wage earner. Trafficked children are often subjected to violence, abuse and other human rights violations. Juvenile delinquency refers to unlawful or antisocial acts committed by individuals below the age of 18 years. Studies indicate that children involved in labour are more likely to come into contact with criminal elements due to workplace exploitation, peer influence, and lack of supervision. Thus, child labour is not only a violation of child rights but also a significant contributing factor to juvenile delinquency.

Statement of the Problem

Despite legal restrictions, child labour continues in many sectors such as domestic work, construction, hotels, and small industries. Many child labourers gradually become vulnerable to criminal behaviour due to poverty, broken families, and exposure to unsafe social environments. This study attempts to explore how child labour acts as a pathway leading to juvenile delinquency among selected samples.

Objectives of the Study

To examine the relationship between child labour and the risk of juvenile delinquency among working children

Research Questions

- Does child labour increase the risk of juvenile delinquency?
- What social and psychological conditions contribute to delinquent behaviour among child workers?
- How does lack of education and family support influence juvenile crimes?

Hypotheses

- Work-related stress has no significant impact on juvenile delinquency among child labourers
- Social isolation is not associated with delinquent behaviour among child labour children.

- Lack of parental care does not influence juvenile crime involvement.
- School dropout has no relationship with juvenile delinquency.
- Poverty is not a significant factor contributing to child labour and delinquency.
- Exposure to criminal environments does not affect delinquent behaviour.
- Peer influence has no role in juvenile delinquency among child labourers.
- Substance addiction is not related to juvenile delinquency.
- Workplace exploitation does not affect psychological problems among child labourers.
- Rehabilitation support is not necessary for preventing delinquency among child labourers.
- There is no significant relationship between child labour and juvenile delinquency

Methodology

Research Design: The study adopts a descriptive and analytical research design.

Sample Selection

A selected sample of 100 slums focusing the children working in the domestic and commercial area and aged between 11–18 years was chosen in Hyderabad and Ranga Reddy district.

Data Collection Tools

Structured Interview Schedule
Observation Method
Case Study Approach
Behavioural Checklist

Data Analysis and Interpretation

Table 1: About the Stress Level Due to Work

Stress Level	Always	Sometimes	Never
Respondents	45	40	15
Percentage	45%	40%	15%

Above table show that 45% of respondents always feel stressed due to work, while 40% sometimes experience stress. Only 15% reported never feeling stress. This indicates that child labourers are exposed to continuous work pressure, which may negatively affect their mental health and increase vulnerability to delinquent behaviour.

Table 2: Showing the result

Social Isolation Feeling	Yes	No	Total
Respondents	60	40	100
Percentage	60%	40%	100%
Parent care & supervision	Yes	No	Total

Respondents	35	65	100
Percentage	355	65%	100%
Attend School Regularly	Yes	No	Total
Respondents	30	60	100
Percentage	30%	60%	100%
Friends Involved in Crime	Yes	No	Total
Respondents	55	45	100
Percentage	555	45%	100%

Table reveal that the Feeling of Social Isolation

The data reveals that 60% of children feel socially isolated, whereas 40% do not experience isolation. This suggests that most working children face emotional separation from society, peers, and normal childhood interactions, which can contribute to psychological distress and antisocial tendencies.

About the Parental Care and Supervision

The table shows that only 35% of respondents receive parental care and supervision, while a majority (65%) do not. This lack of guidance may lead children toward risky environments and deviant peer groups, increasing the possibility of juvenile delinquency

About the School Attendance Status

The results indicate that only 30% attend school regularly, while 60% do not attend school. This reflects the strong negative impact of child labour on education. School dropout reduces opportunities for development and increases the risk of involvement in delinquent activities.

About the Peer Influence in Delinquency

The findings reveal that 55% reported having friends involved in crime, while 45% did not. Peer influence plays a significant role in shaping delinquent behaviour, especially when children lack family supervision and education.

Table 3: Dropout Reasons among Children

Reason for Dropout	Poverty	Family pressure	Lack of Interest	Poor school Access
Respondents	40	25	20	15
Percentage	40%	25%	20%	15%

Table reveal that the Dropout Reasons among Children

The major reason for school dropout is poverty (40%), followed by family pressure (25%), lack of interest (20%), and poor school access (15%). This highlights that socio-economic factors are the primary drivers pushing children out of education into labour and possible delinquency.

Table 4: Showing the result

Friends Involved in Crime	Yes	No	Total
Respondents	55	45	100
Percentage	555	45%	100%
Involvement in Violence/Fights	Yes	No	Total
Respondents	38	62	100
Percentage	38%	62%	100%
Theft Activities	Yes	No	Total
Respondents	42	58	100
Percentage	425	58%	100%
Addiction Status	Yes	No	Total
Respondents	35	65	100
Percentage	35%	65%	100%
Exploitation Faced	Yes	No	Total
Respondents	58	42	100
Percentage	58%	42%	100%
Desire to Continue Education	Yes	No	Total
Respondents	75	25	100
Percentage	75%	25%	100%
Rehabilitation Support Needed	Yes	No	Total
Respondents	70	30	100
Percentage	705	305	100%

About the Peer Influence in Delinquency

The findings reveal that 55% reported having friends involved in crime, while 45% did not. Peer influence plays a significant role in shaping delinquent behaviour, especially when children lack family supervision and education.

About the Involvement in Violence/Fights

The table indicates that 38% of respondents have been involved in violence or fights, whereas 62% have not. Although most children are not violent, a considerable proportion shows aggressive involvement, reflecting emotional frustration and exposure to harsh environments.

Participation in Theft Activities

The results show that 42% of children have participated in theft activities, while 58% have not. This indicates that economic hardship and exposure to delinquent peers may push some child labourers toward criminal acts for survival.

About the Substance Addiction (Alcohol/Tobacco)

The data reveals that 35% of respondents suffer from substance addiction, while 65% do not. Addiction among child labourers is alarming as it can lead to health issues and increased criminal tendencies.

About the Experience of Workplace Exploitation

The findings show that 58% of children faced workplace exploitation, while 42% did not. This highlights the harsh working conditions child labourers endure, contributing to trauma, resentment, and possible delinquent outcomes.

About the Desire to Continue Education

The table reveals that 75% of respondents want to continue education, while only 25% do not. This shows that despite hardships, most child labourers still aspire for schooling if opportunities and support are provided.

About the Need for Rehabilitation Support

The results show that 70% of respondents need rehabilitation support, while 30% do not. This highlights the importance of counselling, education, and social services in preventing delinquency among working children.

Table 5: Psychological Problems Reported

Psychological Issue	Anxiety	Depression	Aggression	No Issue
Respondents	30	25	35	10
Percentage	30%	25%	355	10%

The table indicates that respondents suffer from psychological issues such as aggression (35%), anxiety (30%), and depression (25%), while only 10% reported no issues. This confirms that child labour has serious emotional and behavioural consequences, often linked to juvenile delinquency.

Table 6: Awareness about Child Labour Law

Awareness Level	Aware	No aware
Respondents	40	60
Percentage	40%	60%

About the Awareness about Child Labour Law

The data shows that only 40% are aware of child labour laws, while 60% are not aware. This lack of awareness prevents children and families from seeking protection and support, allowing exploitation to continue.

Table 7: Most Needed Help for Child Labourers

Type of Help Needed	Education Support	Financial Support	Counselling	Vocational Training
Respondents	45	20	25	10
Percentage	45%	20%	25%	10%

The most needed support is education assistance (45%), followed by counselling (25%), financial support (20%), and vocational training (10%). This suggests that educational rehabilitation is the key priority for reducing juvenile crime risk.

Table 8: Relationship between Child Labour and Delinquency (Opinion)

Opinion	Strongly Agree	Agree	neutral	Dis Agree
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Respondents	50	30	10	10
Percentage	50%	30%	10%	10%

About the Relationship between Child Labour and Delinquency (Opinion)

The table indicates that 50% strongly agree and 30% agree that child labour leads to delinquency. Only 10% are neutral and 10% disagree. This reflects a strong perception that child labour is closely linked to juvenile crime.

Table 9: showing the result:

Juvenile Crime Risk Level among Child Labourers	High Risk	Medium Risk	Low Risk
Respondents	48	35	17
Percentage	48%	35%	17%
Exposure to Criminal Environment / level	High	Moderate	Low
Respondents	50	30	20
Percentage	50%	30%	20%

About the Juvenile Crime Risk Level among Child Labourers

The findings show that 48% are at high risk of juvenile crime, 35% at medium risk, and only 17% at low risk. This confirms that child labour significantly increases vulnerability to delinquent behaviour due to stress, exploitation, and lack of education.

About the Exposure to Criminal Environment

The table shows that 50% of respondents have high exposure to criminal environments, while 30% have moderate exposure. Only 20% reported low exposure. This suggests that child labourers often work or live in unsafe surroundings, increasing their chances of criminal involvement.

Overall, the study highlights that child labour contributes strongly to stress, school dropout, exploitation, psychological problems, and increased exposure to criminal environments. These factors collectively raise the risk of juvenile delinquency. Rehabilitation through education, counselling, and financial support is essential to prevent children from entering the cycle of crime.

Findings and Discussion

The study revealed that a majority of child labourers come from poor socio-economic backgrounds. Many reported experiences of Physical and emotional abuse Lack of schooling

Exposure to criminal peers Substance addiction Absence of parental care these conditions contribute significantly to delinquent behaviour. Children working in unregulated environments often develop frustration, aggression, and a tendency to commit minor crimes, which may later escalate into serious juvenile delinquency.

The findings confirm that child labour creates a high-risk environment where children become vulnerable to antisocial and criminal activities. Suggestions

Based on the findings of the study, the following suggestions are recommended to reduce child labour and prevent juvenile delinquency:

1. Strengthening Educational Support

Since most child labourers expressed a desire to continue education, government and NGOs should provide free schooling, uniforms, books, and mid-day meals to encourage school attendance.

2. Poverty Reduction Programs

Poverty was found to be the major cause of dropout. Therefore, financial assistance and employment opportunities should be provided to poor families so that children are not forced into labour.

3. Rehabilitation and Counselling Services

Many children reported psychological issues such as aggression, anxiety, and depression. Counselling and mental health support should be made available through schools and child welfare centres.

4. Strict Enforcement of Child Labour Laws

A majority of children were unaware of child labour laws. Authorities must ensure strict implementation of legal provisions and create awareness campaigns.

5. Community Awareness Programs

Awareness programs should be conducted in rural and urban slum areas to educate parents about the harmful effects of child labour and delinquency.

6. Peer Group Monitoring and Guidance

Since peer influence plays a major role in delinquency, schools and parents should monitor children's friendships and encourage positive peer engagement.

7. Vocational Training for Older Children

Vocational training and skill development programs should be provided for adolescents to help them gain safe employment opportunities in the future.

8. Improvement in School Accessibility

Poor school access was one of the reasons for dropout. More schools and transportation facilities should be provided in remote areas

Educational Implications

The study has several important implications for the education system:

1. Schools as Protective Institutions

Schools play a major role in preventing delinquency by keeping children engaged in learning and away from criminal environments.

2. Need for Inclusive Education Policies

Special educational schemes should be introduced for child labourers, including bridge courses and flexible learning programs.

3. Role of Teachers in Identification

Teachers should be trained to identify children suffering from stress, exploitation, or behavioural issues and provide timely guidance.

4. Importance of School Counselling

School counselling services must be strengthened to address emotional and psychological problems among vulnerable children.

5. Dropout Prevention Strategies

Schools should implement dropout tracking systems and provide support for at-risk children through scholarships and mentoring.

6. Awareness through Curriculum

Child rights, labour laws, and moral education should be included in the curriculum to build awareness among students and parents.

7. Collaboration with Social Welfare Departments

Educational institutions should work together with NGOs and government agencies to rehabilitate child labourers and bring them back to school

CONCLUSION

Child labour is not merely an economic issue but a serious social and developmental threat that can lead children into juvenile delinquency. The present study concludes that early labour exposure increases the risk of antisocial behaviour, psychological problems, and criminal involvement. Preventive measures focusing on education, rehabilitation, and socio-economic support are essential to protect children and reduce juvenile crime rates.

The present study concludes that child labour has a strong relationship with juvenile delinquency. The findings reveal that child labourers experience high levels of stress, exploitation, social isolation, and psychological problems. Many children are forced to drop out of school due to poverty and family pressure.

The lack of parental supervision, exposure to criminal environments, and negative peer influence further increases the risk of delinquent behaviour among working children. The study also highlights that most child labourers still have a strong interest in continuing education if proper support is provided.

Therefore, it is concluded that child labour is not only an economic issue but also a serious social problem that contributes to juvenile crime. Effective rehabilitation, education support, and legal enforcement are essential to protect children and prevent delinquency.

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