



Children Of Women Entrepreneurs: A Case Study

KEYWORDS

S. Amalaorpava Mary

M.SW, M.PHI, Doctoral Research Scholar Centre for Rural Development, Periyar Maniyammai University,

Dr. M. GABRIEL

M.A., M.HRM. D.L.L., M.Phil., Ph.D., Assistant Professor in Social Work, Centre for Rural Development, Periyar Maniyammai University,

ABSTRACT

The question of the rights of children in the modern times has emerged as one of the most vibrant issues in contemporary human rights discussions. National and international initiatives have been underway to understand and provide solutions with far reaching affects. But the fact remains that children remain a part of the disadvantaged minority group even today, as far as realization of human rights and social justice are concerned. This is primarily because children are generally physically, mentally and economically defenseless. In this age of globalization the care of children has completely taken a backseat, resulting on value system, social and economic needs, jeopardizing the very future of the humanity. The marginalization takes even a much worse turn when the vulnerable child receives unsatisfactory parenting, neglect by the society and crimes being perpetrated against them all ultimately violating their human rights. This paper portrays various factors that have contributed a child to be abandon, beggar, bonded laborer and being trafficked. Individual case studies were made with 23 children falling between the age group of 4 to 13 at a residential friendship home for abandon children. With the findings derived from the case studies through qualitative analysis, entrust on the prevention methods and suggest strategies for elimination of multi dimensional causes that deprives the rights of a Child.

INTRODUCTION:

International conventions define children as aged 18 and under. Individual governments may define "child" according to different ages or other criteria. "Child" and "childhood" are also defined differently by different cultures. A "child" is not necessarily delineated by a fixed age. Social scientists point out that children's abilities and maturities vary so much that defining a child's maturity by calendar age can be misleading. (Unicef, 1998)

There are many different terms which are used to categorize children who, for shorter or longer periods in their lives, are exposed to intense, multiple risks to their physical and mental health.

Such labels include:

- "Children in especially difficult circumstances" (CEDC)
- "Children in need of special protection" (CNSP)
- "Children in distress", "Children in crisis"
- "Children in exceptionally difficult conditions"

Sometimes children are categorized according to specific "target groups" of an organisation like street children, child prostitutes, orphaned and vulnerable children (OVC) (Plan Netherlands, 2006). Plan Netherlands (2006) consider children suffering from particular disadvantages in addition to poverty to be children in special circumstances, which are – according to UNICEF – some 15% of children in developing countries. This is the case when their basic needs for food, shelter, education, medical care, protection or security are not met. Although international child rights standards include safeguards and guarantees for the protection of children in conflict with the law (e.g. Article 40 of the CRC), in many societies around the world, these children are not usually perceived as children in need of protection. The children are generally physically, mentally and economically defenseless. In this age of globalization the care of children has completely taken a backseat, resulting on value system, social and economic needs, jeopardizing the very future of the humanity.

The marginalization takes even a much worse turn when the vulnerable child receives unsatisfactory parenting, neglect by the society and crimes being perpetrated against them all ultimately violating their human rights. These case studies of children from different category of the society and problems attempts to portrays various factors that have contributed a child to be abandon, beggar, bonded laborer and being trafficked

Poverty and Unemployment

Poor children and their families may rely upon children's earnings in order to improve their chances of attaining basic necessities. About one-fifth of the world's 6 billion people live in absolute poverty. The intensified poverty in parts of Africa, Asia, and Latin America causes many children pushed to become child labourers. Poverty is widely considered the top reason why children work at inappropriate jobs for their ages. But there are other reasons as well viz., parents are often unemployed or underemployed, desperate for secure employment and income.

Compulsory, Subsidised and free education are limited.

" Although structural adjustment programs are being revised to spare education from deep cuts, the report says, some countries make such cuts anyway because of their own, local priorities. In many countries public education has deteriorated so much, the report declared, that education itself has become part of the problem because children they themselves show interest to work so as to avoid going to school. (Stockholm: Radda Barnen, Unicef, 1998).

Existing laws

The country like India has structured legislation, even laws or codes of conduct exist but they are often violated. For example, the manufacture and export of products often involves multiple layers of production and outsourcing, which can make it difficult to monitor who is performing labour at each step of the process. Extensive subcontracting can

intentionally or unintentionally hide the use of child labour and make it difficult to bring to lights.

Enforcement of Law is inadequate.

Child labour laws around the world are often not enforced or include exemptions that allow for child labour to persist in certain sectors, such as agriculture or domestic work. Even in countries where strong child labour laws exist, labour departments and labour inspection offices are often underfunded and under-staffed, or courts may fail to enforce the laws. Similarly, many state governments allocate few resources to enforcing child labor laws, likewise Beggary and Child Trafficking also

Child Trafficking

In India, a large number of children are trafficked not only for the sex 'trade' but also for other forms of non-sex based exploitation that includes servitude of various kinds, as domestic labour, industrial labour, agricultural labour, begging, organ trade and false marriage. Trafficking in children is on rise, and nearly 60% of the victims of trafficking are below 18 years of age (NCRB, 2005).

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Objectives of the Study

- To analysis the socio-economic status of Children living in the Home for the destitute
- To acquire knowledge about the child related issues, child rights and problems.
- To study the various factors contributing for the denial of Socio, economic, and Psychological rights of Children
- To assess the Rehabilitation measures, prevention, strategies and its implications on the affected Children.

Sampling and Study design:

The study was carried out in a friendship home for Abandoned semi orphan children established and monitored by VOICE Trust, Trichirppalli District. The residential home has a population of 23 children falling under orphan and semi-orphan categories. For the purpose of this study 18 individual cases were selected and by using in-depth case studies information were collected and the respondent fall between the age group of 8-13. The children who fall under the age of 8 and do not willing to participate in the study were excluded.

CASE STUDY ANALYSIS

Abandoned

In the total sample of 18 children three of the cases (A,B and G) were found to be abandoned as the mothers were deserted by their husband or due to premarital relationship. The implications were more on their social life and acceptance, their ignorance level is high leading to sexual exploitation by the person from their residential areas.

Case A :“ Poverty, unemployment, isolation by the relatives and negligence by my father made my mother to be a kooli (labour) work instead I was made abandoned”

Case B: “Drunken father abuses physically and left me alone”

Case G : My father “ I am not responsible for the birth of your children” “My mom also eloped with milk vendor”

Children were left abandoned; they suffered a lot for their minimum livelihood. In most of these cases none of the members of the community intend to extend helped blaming these children as “born illegal”. The extramarital affairs of the mother has paved wave to the children to get beating from the man with whom she has illegal contact.

Beggars

Case D and G who were brothers lost their parents while Case

D was 12 months old. Case G expressed that “My mother was brutally beaten by our father often; moreover she has threatened us that she will take poison one day because of this physical abuse. After some time my father died and my mother also took poison”. “We were not peaceful when they were alive... even it continued while we were beggars”.

Case L “ Continuous quarrel and misunderstanding between my parents made my father to commit suicide, my physically handicapped mother forced me to beg and earn”.

Due to very low status of the parents, physical abuse of wives by their husband, inability to work reasoning disabilities has forced a child to be a beggar.

Bonded labors

Case H “My Physically Disabled Father was bed ridden for a long time and died due to failure of treatment and my widow mother was abuses all the time by our biological Uncle”.

My mother was forced to marry 60 year old man when she is 16 year being aware that he is chronically ill”

“As an influential person my uncle made me a bonded labour just to keep me away from my mother”

The marriage to older person and the early widowhood has led the mother of the child to face lot of problems. The economic and the social status as a dalit have made the mother not to fight against the atrocities, even leading to be separated from the child.

Trafficking

Case J “Speech deformity which is drawback for my mother” she was trafficked and raped in Rajesthan. The father unknown to me... my mother also left me abandoned.

The trafficking of the women and children has been an emerging issue now a day. Even the women who are trafficked were sexually abused resulting in abandoned children. The mother also loses the interest of bringing up the child as its has happened because of her ignorance.

DISCUSSION

Child Abuse

Logically speaking, denial of the rights to the children in any form entails child abuse and exploitation in some form. However, the term Child Abuse has acquired a particular connotation and it has been defined variously depending on the extent and type of mistreatment meted out to children. The cultural aspect of child abuse cannot be ignored while defining it as anthropological studies show clearly that what is viewed as abusive in one society today is not necessarily seen as such in another.

The following children's rights are deprived

S.No.	Economic rights	Psychological rights	Sociological rights
3	Right to Shelter	Right to adequacy and contentment	Right to Social Security
7	Right to leisure and rest	Right to security and protection	Right to Social Security
4	Right to health Care	Right to creative Expression	Right to Social Maturity
2	Right to clothing	Right to security and protection	Right to Social Acceptance
6	Right to Just wages	Right to Love and affection	Right to Social Acceptance
1	Right to food,	Right to Love and affection	Right to Interaction
5	Right to Education	Social Rights	Right to Interaction

REHABILITATION MEASURES

Education Status

The children are good at studies because the teachers in the school are very well helpful and loving towards him.

- Apart from schooling the Diploma students will be helpful by giving them special teaching to the children.
- Still both morning and evening time children are monitored to complete home work related to their subject.

Physical status

The children health been monitored and compared with past and present health status, i.e., normal birth weight of the baby with good physical structure. After institutionalized, They are given timely food, good accommodation, disciplinary activities, play, and enjoyment, which was lacking her past life. Now she has been put up weight, little height with fairness. Every time when she felt sickness, the warden will weight the child before getting into the nurse room.

Behavior condition

The children are very much positive and easy going with situation. They learn to tackle the problematic condition into a simple one by their blossoming smile. Relationship with the peer group members are naughty but could be acceptable. In the school they have found many friends that the staff member too likes his behavior. They have learnt good behaviors and showed respect towards all elders.

Emotional independence

After the institutionalized, the children are specially treated with love and concern. They try to forget all the past life. In fact the children got acquainted easy with other inmates especially with the warden.

PREVENTION AND STRATEGIES

Role of NGOs

The community should be sensitized about trafficking and the community should be motivated to keep a watch about the movement of possible traffickers and hideouts. NGOs working in the rural areas should ensure that parents are aware of safe migration practices.

Role of Media

Media attention reaches several hundred thousand viewers and should therefore serve the following important functions: Victims can be made aware of places and institutions where they can seek help.

Wide publicity should be given regarding the legal, penal provisions against trafficking and the modus operandi of the traffickers through radio, television etc.

Awareness and Advocacy

Awareness and advocacy is required at the policy level i.e. National Planning Commission, bureaucrats, politicians and the elite of the society. Awareness at the local level, in the community through workshops, songs, drama, poems, meetings, leaflets and posters especially in the rural areas is also required. The government must launch media campaigns that promote children's right and elimination of exploitation and other forms of child labour. Police advocacy is an important intervention that has to be fine-tuned.

Role of Government

It ultimate need of educating Schools based on Gender and include in the schools curriculum by the Government. Government can distribute relevant materials to the teachers and schools about problems of Children. Childline (1098) as an Agency – still can play a crucial role in dealing with the children in various forms of distress. Help line booths – are required to be established near the railway stations where the maximum number of runaway children are located. Government should work with NGOs to develop programs to discourage families from abandoning their children and to develop alternatives to institutionalization, by providing assistance to families with disabled or special needs children and appropriate opportunities for foster care and adoption.

REFERENCE

- Advani Dr. Purnima(2000), Member, 'Impact of Tourism on Children's National Commission for Women, Delhi. | Child Labour: US Dept Targeting the Intolerable, (1998), ILO publications. Geneva p. 7. | Child Rights Situation Analysis Right to Protection in the occupied Palestinian territory – 2008, Defence for Children International – Palestine and Save the Children Sweden 2009 | Crime in India (2004), NCRB, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India. The Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956. | HAQ, Centre for Child Rights, 2001, Child Trafficking in India. | International Labour Organization (2002), A Future without Child Labour, ILO, Geneva, p. 32. | Knakshi Gabguly, Thukraj (2004), Children's Rights in Shining India, combat Law, vol.3issue 1.April- May, p.4 | Krishnan, Sunita and Verticattil (2001), A Situation Report: Trafficking for Commercial Sexual Exploitation, India. United Nations Children's Fund (2005), The State of the World's Children 2006: Excluded and invisible, UNI CEF, New York, p. 5 | Plan Netherlands (2006). Position Paper 2005 Child Protection. | www.ilo.org; also, the. of Labor's By The Sweat and Toil of Children, Vol. VI: An Economic Consideration of Child Labor.