



PERCEPTION OF PARENTS AND CHILDREN ON CHILD LABOURS IN HYDERABAD KARNATAKA REGION

Economics

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ABSTRACT

Child labour is a global phenomenon. The world recognises it as a burning problem warranting international attention. Undoubtedly, this increased attention is due to the fact that child labour has serious social, moral, economic and demographic implications for children, households, societies and the world. Therefore, the elimination or reduction of child labour has been the aim of democratic governments in different parts of the world. The problem of child labour has also engaged the minds of jurists, legislators, social thinkers, politicians, economists and philanthropists from time immemorial. The problem has changed its venues and from public platforms, it has reached the inner circle of legislative, executive and judicial chambers.

KEYWORDS

Child Labour, Social, Legislator, engaged, Problems,

Introduction:

The existence of child labour is a slur on a modern welfare state which seeks to promote the all-round development of its citizens. Children are the future hope of the society. They are like buds which need to be properly nursed and well-taken care of so that they bloom fully and grow into able human-beings and contribute their worth to the future development of the society. On the contrary, instead of being sent to schools and properly educated, they are made to work, which amounts to squeezing the bud before it blooms. It not only thwarts the development of children, but of the society as well, since only able citizens can put the society on sound footing. Thus, child labour has become a chronic problem and has entered deep into the Indian social fabric.

Both at national and international levels great interest is being shown in the matter of welfare of children. Children need special protection because of their tender age, physique and mental facilities. They are an —important national asset, and the future well-being of the nation depends as to how children grow and develop. They need special laws to protect them from exploitation and fraud, to save them from certain liabilities and to develop their personality in view of their weak position.

DEFINITIONAL ASPECT OF CHILD LABOUR

The judiciary in the country has shown its great concern for the working children by bringing occupations or processes under the judicial scrutiny by directly applying the constitutional provisions relating to children.

Review of literatures

Asha Bajpai made an attempt to integrate the law in the history and field practice. She examined the important legislation and judgments on the subject, along with the initiatives for legal reform, interventions by some non-governmental organizations (NGO), and international legal trends. She also highlighted various relevant regional and international mechanism and international standards of behavior towards children. She examined the inadequacies in laws and procedures and looked at some examples and approaches of current NGO interventions and strategies in the field to enhance and protect the rights of the child. She also focused on some legal strategies and law reform recommendations to be carried at all levels—from local and national, to regional and international.

V.K. Dewan presented the global scenario of child labour and highlighted their problems. He also analysed the national laws on child labour and action plans and programmes being followed for the elimination of problem of child labour in India. He critically analysed child labour rules and related initiatives vis-à-vis various attempt being made towards elimination of child labour globally.

B. S. Rao and M.R.S. Babu conducted a case study of Pedrakani Village in Guntur District of Andhra Pradesh to examine the impact of the poverty upon child labour. They observed that the economic problems of the poor people is the main factor for compelling the

parents to send their children to employment. Denial of opportunity to children for their proper physical development and education should be considered as an issue of a serious nature. They suggested that effective implementation of programmes for eradication of poverty, providing free and compulsory education for all children below 14 years, effective implementation of labour acts, and fixing minimum wages are required for the eradication of child labour.

M.C. Naidu and K.D. Ramaiah observed that the prevalence of child labour was one of the most important problems confronting the world at large, especially developing countries such as India. They expressed the view that child labour was mainly necessitated by economic compulsions of the parents. The main reason which gave rise to child labour was widespread unemployment and underemployment among the adult poor strata of the population, inter India, due to sharp growth of population. They also observed that large families with low income and often lack educational facilities. Such families are illiterate ignorant about the importance of education as well as about the impact of labour on the health of their children.

Objectives of the study

1. To examine the gravity of the problem of child labour in Hyderabad Karnataka Region.
2. To identify the factors that forces the parents/ family members to send their children to the labour market.

SCOPE OF THE STUDY

Scope of the study was confined to analyse the gravity of the problem of child labour in Hyderabad Karnataka Region with special reference to Gulbarga and Raichur districts. Few research studies have been made to throw light on the issue of child labour but these attempts have been made in organised and industrial sector. The present study was conducted to cover children working in unorganised sector. Endeavour was made to classify the child labour as school going children, child labour, nowhere children (non-labour and non-school goers). The study examined the constitutional framework relating to child labour. The study also analysed the response of judiciary against the practice of child labour.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The data for the present study was collected through primary as well as secondary sources. The primary sources include Annual Reports of Ministry of Labour, parliamentary debates on enactment of child Labour Legislations like Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000, the Commissions for Protection of Children Act, 2005 and Right to Education Act, 2009 etc. The secondary sources include books, articles published in journals and newspapers.

As the child labour is available in different professions as household servants, Brick kiln, In Hotels, Dhabhas, shops, agriculture etc. So a list of professions was prepared, where the children are working in maximum numbers. The house-hold, the agricultural and Hotel workers are more in the villages. So the sample was selected on the

basis of the nature of work. The child workers were divided in the following categories:

- Household Workers and Domestic Servants
- Work in Hotel
- Agricultural
- Others

Four blocks from Gulbarga district and three blocks from Raichur district were chosen and two villages from each block were chosen on random basis as is shown in the following table:

Districts	Block	Villages
Gulbarga	Gulbarga	Ankalga . Aurad
	Sedam	Mudhol , Malkhed
	Jewargi	Andola Ainapur
	Abzalpur	Ghangapur ,Chaudapur
Raichur	Raichur	Appandoddi , Agrahar
	Lingasur	Maski Maraldinni
	Devadurga	Akalkumpi Alkod

320 child labour respondents (160 from Gulbarga District and 160 from Raichur District) have been chosen on random basis who are working as Domestic Workers, Hotel Workers, Agricultural Workers and Others. 40 child respondents were chosen in Gulbarga district from each Block and 20 from each village on random basis. Raichur is comparatively a small district and is comprised of three blocks only. The number of child labour respondents chosen from each block of Raichur District is more than four blocks of Gulbarga District. This has been done so as to choose equal number of respondents from each district.

Information was collected from the children and their parents by applying personal interview to elicit their views on the issue of child labour. Information was also collected from NGOs through Questionnaire method on various issues relating to child labour.

Suggestions;

The district-level vigilance committees should be strengthened to identify and eliminate bonded child labour.

- The provision mentioned in the education policies should be implemented to reduce children dropping out of schools and becoming child labourers.
- The Factories Act should be amended to cover all factories or workshops employing child labour.
- A few children in Gulbarga and Raichur districts have not any other earning member in their families; in such a case, the Government should pay some allowances, so that the child should not be compelled to work.
- The Government should improve the quality of education by introducing innovations in textbooks, teacher training, and classroom teaching methodology to create a more meaningful and engaging classroom experience for students.
- India should have a statutory National Minimum Wage (a living wage) equivalent to the first-day wage of the lowest paid government employee.
- The government must formulate a comprehensive plan to check the use of alcohol in low income areas.
- Adequate medical and recreation facilities should be provided to the deprived children for their emotional and psychological development.
- Hazardous and exploitative forms of child labour, including bonded labour, sexual exploitation at work that hampers the child's physical, social, cognitive, emotional or moral development, must not be tolerated, and government must take immediate steps to check this evil.
- All children should be registered at the time of birth. Registration is essential to permit the exercise of the child's rights, such as access to education, health care and other services, as well as to provide employers and labour inspectors with evidence of every child's age.
- The media should play an important role in educating the public about child rights. It should draw attention of the policy-makers to violations of child rights. Media should give children a voice, expose shortcomings in the system, highlight the achievements of children—their aspirations and the risks they face.

- There is an urgent need to encourage community participation in all the areas relating to child labour such as decision making, priority setting, planning and implementation of poverty alleviation programmes, rural development.

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