



A Study of Working Conditions of Child Labourers Working in Unorganised Auto-Repair Sector in 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 a majority of respondents joined the job on the recommendation from their family members; a substantial number of respondents asserted that they were in the job to earn; A very significant number of respondents were suffering from asthma; most of them did not get salary during their illness.

Keywords : Child Labour, Auto-Repair Sector, Poverty, Haryana

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 intertwined 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.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The study was attempted to realize the following objectives:

- To study the reasons behind the problem of child labour in the state of Haryana.
- To study the impact of the problem on the health of child labourers.
- To make viable suggestions.

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 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

Table 1 exposed that most of the child labourers joined the workshops to earn the money (57 per cent), (27 per cent) to learn the work, (8 per cent) each of educational failure and to get daily food. Hence, earning is the main cause behind child labour problem. 65 per cent respondents adopted the mechanical trade due to family advice followed by contacts with mechanics (25 per cent) and only (10 per cent) due to craze towards auto repair profession. The responses of respondents belonging to Kalanaur Block were found to be somewhat different from other Blocks under study. A majority of the respondents belonging to the lowest income slab adopted the profession on the advice of their families, while remaining adopted it at their own.

Child labour is physically unsound for any society and even for the child itself. As shown in Table 2, working children in auto workshops confront many problems. The problem of health in this case is the vital. Sixty per cent children have the

allergy bronchitis problem where 19 per cent child labourers are suffering from asthma. Twenty child labourers do not have any disease out of total 100. Maximum child labourers that do not have disease are from Kalanaur. Most of child labourers (36.67 per cent) in Rohtak block have the disease of allergy bronchitis. Majority of the respondents (72 per cent) met with an accident during the working hours whereas only 28 per cent did not met with any injury or accident during their career. The rate of accident had been highest in Meham block (83.33 per cent) followed by Sampla block (72.73 per cent), Rohtak (71.88 per cent) and Kalanaur (59.09 per cent).

The analytical Table 3 exhibited that majority of child labourers (62 per cent) received medical assistance from the employer and only 10 per cent did not get any, whereas there was no need remaining 27 per cent respondents. In Rohtak block, no child labourer was found giving a negative statement. Majority of child labourers (64 per cent) specified that the owners of the auto workshops did not have helping attitude towards them for making payment of wages of the period of their illness. Only 7 child labourers agreed that they got help from their employers and got wages without any deductions. The balance respondents (27 per cent) did not respond as they did not face such a situation.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

The study which was conducted on child labourers of au-

to-mobile sector of district Rohtak in Haryana found that a majority of respondents(65 per cent) joined the job on the recommendation from their family members and 25 per cent on the recommendation from previous links; a substantial number of respondents (84 per cent) asserted that they were in the job either to earn (57 per cent) or to learn (27 per cent); Hence, poverty of the families of respondents, low education and daily need for food emerged out as the main reasons behind the problem of child labour in district Rohtak of Haryana. A very significant number of respondents (79 per cent) were suffering from either asthma (19 per cent) or allergy bronchitis (60 per cent) and only 21 per cent were found to be healthy; 72 per cent reported to have an accident during their working hours; 62 per cent received medical assistance and when needed in the form of cash (12 per cent), meeting expenditure (15 per cent) and taking to doctor (35 per cent); and most of them (64 per cent) did not get salary during their illness. The facts are sufficient to narrate the story of the ill effects of child labour on the health of the respondents working in auto-repair sector in district Rohtak of Haryana. 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..

Table 1 Reasons of Performing Economic Activities and Mode of entry of Respondents in Profession

Block	Reasons of Performing Economic Activities by the Respondents				Mode of entry of Respondents in Profession			Total
	To Learn	To Earn	Educational Failure	To Get Daily Food	Family Advice	Previous Contacts	Craze Toward Auto Repair	
Rohtak	11 (34.38)	18 (56.25)	1 (3.12)	2 (6.25)	24 (75)	7 (21.88)	1 (3.12)	32 (100)
Meham	5 (20.83)	13 (55.17)	4 (16.67)	2 (8.33)	16 (66.67)	5 (20.83)	3 (12.5)	24 (100)
Sampla	5 (22.73)	14 (63.64)	3 (13.64)	0 (0.00)	16 (72.73)	4 (18.18)	2 (9.09)	22 (100)
Kalanaur	6 (27.27)	12 (54.55)	0 (0.00)	4 (18.18)	9 (40.9)	9 (40.9)	4 (18.2)	22 (100)
Total	27 (27)	57 (57)	8 (8)	8 (8)	65 (65)	25 (25)	10 (10)	100 (100)

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

Table 2 Problems and Factors affecting to Child Labour

Block	Diseases and Their Effect on Health of Respondents			Number of Accidents during Career of Respondents		Total
	Asthma	Allergy Bronchitis	No Diseases	Yes	No	
Rohtak	6(18.75)	22(68.75)	4(12.5)	23(71.88)	9(28.12)	32(100)
Meham	7(29.17)	14(58.33)	3(12.5)	20(83.33)	4(16.67)	24(100)
Sampla	3(13.64)	13(54.55)	6(27.29)	16(72.73)	6(27.27)	22(100)
Kalanaur	3(13.64)	11(50)	8(36.36)	13(59.09)	9(40.91)	22(100)
Total	19(19)	60(60)	21(21)	72(72)	28(28)	100(100)

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

Table 3 Assistance received by Respondents

Block	Availability of Medical Assistance			Wages Received during their Illness			Total
	Yes	No	Not Applicable	Yes	No	Not Applicable	
Rohtak	23(71.88)	0(0.00)	9(28.12)	2(6.25)	21(65.63)	9(28.13)	32(100)
Meham	17(70.83)	2(8.33)	5(20.84)	3(12.5)	18(75)	3(12.5)	24(100)
Sampla	15(68.19)	1(4.55)	6(27.27)	3(13.64)	13(59.09)	6(27.27)	22(100)
Kalanaur	7(31.82)	7(31.82)	8(36.36)	1(4.55)	12(54.55)	9(40.9)	22(100)
Total	62(62)	10(10)	28(28)	9(9)	64(64)	27(27)	100(100)

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

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