



A SOCIOLOGICAL STUDY ON CHILD LABORS AND WELFARE PROGRAMS IN KARNATAKA (SPECIAL REFERENCE TO DAVANAGERE DIST)

Arun Kumar. R B *

Dr. Chandrashekhar **

Abstract: *The child labors have no shelter, or food and no education. They run the risk of contracting various ailments and skin diseases. They are vulnerable to exploitation by almost anyone-the employer, the employer the parents. The cops and even the common man they become easy targets of drug pushers they are even sexually abused. Certain principles of policy are therefore, to be followed by the state so that children get opportunities to develop in a healthy manner and in conditions of freedom and dignity and the childhood and youth are protected against exploitation and moral and material abandonment. Let us hope, by the orders and the directions of the Supreme Court in December 1996, the child of the twenty – first century will find himself into the “heaven of freedom”.*

*Research scholar, Dept, of P.G. Studies and Research in Sociology, Kuvempu University, Jnana Sahyadri Shanakaraghatta, Shimoga (Dist) Karnataka (St).

**Professor and Chairman, Dept, of P.G. Studies and Research in Sociology, Kuvempu University, Jnana Sahyadri Shanakaraghatta, Shimoga (Dist) Karnataka (St).



INTRODUCTION:

Child labour is a wide spread phenomenon especially in a developing country like India. Poverty and economic inequality are the two major factors invariably related to the incidence of child labour. Every parent and the society wants its children to grow into good and responsible citizens. This is possible when the children are given nutritious food ,proper education ,good shelter, better environment, affection and direction as well as proper guidance, lack of these facilities puts that life of the youngsters in jeopardy. Child labour is an example of this, which is a form of exploitation due to lack of protection : both from the family and the society.

A word child labor itself says how complex. It is has wide and vicious scope in all parts of our social life. It has perilousness it in its nature and considered as dangerous to every child who were working as child labor in many places. It has become very common phenomena in our contemporary Indian society. And this is spouaring respect of due to many problems like poverty, illiteracy, unemployment and over population. Government of India launching compulsory literacy programmes throughout the country. (Artide 45) and Gov't spending huge amount on adult education. On the other side currently India having 11.50 crore child laborer in all production sections of the society. But worried thing is Karnataka representing with 3.90 lakh child laborers who having age of below 14 years. It will creat dangerous hurdles in a developing path of our country.

Till today rural India totally depending on agricultur unfortunately this sector have extensive child labor force. Here we can absence 60% laborers were below 10 years and 23% child labors engaged in trade, small scale and cottage industries. Even though the problems is very seviour in urban area also. Here they were working in hotels. Canteen, Garages, Dhaba, and in others latent sector of the complex. 36% children's were chagaged in household worwes Urban society unsporting familial conditions will come for this problem.

DEFINITIONS OF CHILD LABOR:

The Encyclopedia of social sciences (1959): Defines child labor as when the business of wage earnings or of participation in self of family support conflicts directly or indirectly with the business of growth and education the result is child labor.



Homer Flock , chairman , united states , national child labor committee defined child labour as :Any work by children that interfere with their full physical development , their opportunities for desirable minimum of education or needed recreation.

Sl. no	Countries	Percentage
1	Bangladesh	30.1%
2	China	11.6%
3	India	14.4%
4	Pakistan	17.4%
5	Indonesia	16.6%
6	Nepal	45.2%
7	Thailand	16.6%

Source : Kedarnath Bishoyi : 2004 : P – 17.

National sample survey of India had provided this furnished statistics about this problem as.

Sl No.	State	Percentage
1	Andra Pradesh	14.7%
2	Assam	2.9%
3	Bihar	8.3%
4	Gujarat	4.6%
5	Haryana	1%
6	Himachal Pradesh	0.5 %
7	Karnataka	8.7%
8	Kerala	0.3%
9	Madhya Pradesh	12%
10	Maharashtra	9.5%
11	Manipur	0.1%
12	Meghalaya	0.3%
13	Nagaland	0.1%
14	Orissa	4.1%
15	Uttar Pradesh	12.5%
16	Punjab	1.3
17	Rajasthan	6.9%
18	Sikkim	0.1%
19	Tamil Nadu	5.1%
20	Tripura	0.1%
21	West Bengal	6.3%

Source : Kedarnath Bishoyi : 2004 : P – 06.

According to this table A.P. Bihar Karnataka, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh. Tamil Nadu, and Rajasthan states having large amount of child labor force in India. According to 2013 census there was 1, 25, 91, 667 and in 2011 68, 55, 801 were in Karnataka (0-6) labor in our country. Even some international Nero's Like BASCO and other had mentioned that around



8 core children's were notified as child labor in India and Karnataka representing around 20 lakh child labors according to that report. And this pathological attitude will definitely be a huge obstacle in building a healthy society.

Education is the very important aspect in the developing path of every country. And as we all know that education is a fundamental thing in the growth of every child. That's why education is made an elementary thing for every social being in a rural area. It will play a major role in eradicating social diseases like child labor by elected representatives, Gov't servants, and it is very necessary to fight against protection in all-time society. In this regard, the Gov't of Karnataka has major grants by UNICEF. In this way, the Gov't took a very important step by launching "child labor abolishing" programmes in the year of 2007 in Gulbarga and Davanagere Districts of Karnataka. It has made a major impact in abolishing child labor trends along with the support of various departments like local Gov't and NGOs (Arfucked 39 (f))

WORKING CONDITIONS OF CHILD LABOURERS:

Children work in dangerously polluted factories whose brick walls are scarred with soot (black powder in smoke) and there is an oppressive smell in the air. They work near furnaces which burn at a temperature of 1400⁰ centigrade. They handle dangerous chemicals like arsenic and potassium. They work in glass blowing units where the work exerts their lungs and creates diseases like tuberculosis.

Among the working children, many are the main or major wage-earners in the family who always remain worried about feeding their dependents. The migrant child workers whose parents live in some far-off city or village are generally in despair. Some work for 9 to 10 hours including night shifts. When the factories are fully functional, they are paid not more than Rs.500 per month, all of which they hand over to their 'guardians' who do not give them even a rupee a day for tea during the night shift. There are times when their bodies ache, minds fail, hearts cry, spirits are stretched.

A visit to several factories in Delhi, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra, reveals that a large number of child workers have sunken chests and thin bone frames which give them a fragile look. They look like rag dolls, lips unwashed and scraggy, they wear coarse and badly tailored clothes. Many of them have scabies on hands, arms and legs. The heads of a few are tonsured, probably because the skin on their skull has developed severe infections.



A large number of the child workers are virtually confined in small rooms under inhuman conditions and in the most unhygienic surroundings. Most of these children come from extremely poor households. They are either school drop-outs or have not seen any school at all. They earn a very meager wage and work in most unsafe conditions. The hazardous conditions take their toll. Children suffer from lung diseases, tuberculosis, eye diseases, asthma bronchitis and backaches. Some are injured in fire accidents. Many become unemployable even at the age of 20. If injured or incapacitated, they are discarded mercilessly by their employers.

IMPORTANCE OF THE STUDY:

In our contemporary society child labor has become a vicious social disease and it has become a big challenge for the government. According to NSS data a large number of child laborers were identified in rural areas and as well as in the agricultural sector, unfortunately some estimation has said that around 8 lakh child laborers are there. But the state Government's report says there were around 40,000 child laborers were identified majorly notified in rural areas as well as in the agricultural sector. Until the proper implementation of socio-economic reforms, it will not be possible to overcome this problem. Human Rights Commission and Supreme Court have insisted that children, who were working in hazardous circumstances must be free from that and rehabilitated within 2007 and it should be banned strictly by rules and regulations.

In these perspective efforts of the Government are not so impressive. The situation is crucial by improper implementation of programmes. That is why the objective of child labor eradication was weeping itself in absent mode. At the same time state and central governments have taken positive steps with the help of NGOs. They have started rehabilitation schools in both rural and urban areas. So the much needed thing is to understand the conditions of the children living in the rehabilitation schools. For sociologists it is a great responsibility to make a better social environment.

BACKGROUND OF REHABILITATION SCHOOLS:

With the help of UNICEF & NABARD state & central governments implemented child labor abolishing programmes. More and more children were getting free from their work places, and they are rehabilitating and getting better education to improve their status. In this regard the Government of Karnataka has put great attention in Davangere district. Since 2001 many NGOs and governments putting their effort to overcome this pathological condition.



In rehabilitation schools children were educating on the basis of their age, physical and mental status. Initial stage they were comes under one year bridge course later on they were shifted to main stream schools (Gov't). The rehabilitation schools will look after their all expenses up to their high school education. In a series there was more than 16 rehabilitation schools were working with the motive of upliftment of child labors social conditions and to provide them better life.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

The present study having following objectives in sociological perspective and those are: -

- To understand the socio-economic conditions of child labor.
- To understand the problems faced by the child labor.
- To understand the facilities given to child labor in rehabilitation schools.

METHODOLOGY:

Current research study include both primary and secondary sources of data has used for this study. Review of books encyclopedias, Gov't documents census reports, reports from the labour department, Gov't circulars, Magazines, news papers. Was use as secondary sources of data to make an metrical research study.

The present research study includes the area of Davangere District and it will also includes eight (08) rehabilitation schools i.e. GURI, SEEDs, SAINT JOHNS< DON BOSCO, DALIT MAHASABHA, SADHANA. The study was conducted on the basis of simple random sampling method by 1:30 ratio and 20 students from each rehabilitation school totally 160 students were selected for this study. The data was gathered by interview schedule and survey method.

FINDINGS OF THE STUDY :

This research study has these following outcomes and findings regarding the problems in rehabilitation schools and those are:

- Among the children living in rehabilitation schools. 32.50% belongs to scheduled castes, 17.50% of scheduled Tribe, 17.5% of Muslim, 15% of Backward Class are there. Usually children belong to these categories were failure to get civic humanities such as good health, education etc which leads to problem of child labor.



- Child laborers families are land less and their annual income is between from 1000 to 7000 of 85% families, which lead to the above problem. One can see the following table which shows the household income.

Annual Income	Frequency	Percentage
1000-3000	46	28.75 %
30001-5000	63	16.88 %
5001-7000	27	16.88 %
7001-9000	09	05.62 %
0001-11,000	06	03.74 %
Above 11,001	09	05.62 %

- Parents of 49.35% of families have 3 to 4 children, 32.50% families have 5 to 6 children, 2.5% families have 7 to 8 children which caused lack of civil humanities ultimately they become child labor.

Annual Income	Frequency	Percentage
1-2	22	13.75 %
3-4	9	49.37 %
5-6	52	32.50 %
7-8	04	02.50 %
Above 8	03	01.88 %
Total	160	100.00 %

- Even though government granting all types of aids to rehabilitation schools organization, managing officers of the schools are not properly utilizing these rather they facilitating a minimum.
- Due to the improper relationship between parents 78.75 of children are put into corner of child labor'
- The environment is caused for the exploitation where they working 16.25% in agriculture work, 13.75% in boiled paddy, 19.38% in sheep and cattle work and bonded labor, 13.13% in garage, 12.12% in housemaid and 24.38% in hotel, shop, street children, bar and restaurant.



RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Government should give awareness to the people to have compulsory education to the children, aged between 6 to 14, with the help from nongovernmental organizations (NGOs)
- In India the percentage number of child labors rapidly increasing so that each child should have education by establishing much more rehabilitation schools.
- Government should order the officers of rehabilitation schools and education department to follow the rules and regulations regarding the child labors act.
- Government should maintain rules about protection and punishment.
- Proper and regular supervision & visit to rehabilitation schools by concerned minister.
- Regular participation of public & Co-operation.
- Upgrading of organizations by advanced technology and supervision.

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