



## **Home Environment Of The Child Labourers- A Study**

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### **Abstract**

The present paper aims to study the socio demographic characteristics and level of Home Environment of the Child Labourers. Hypothesis were framed. The researcher used descriptive research design. The study comprises 60 child labourers who enrolled in Child labour school at Tiruchirappalli District. The researcher has used Census method. The researcher used interview schedule to study the socio demographic condition and Home environment. To measure home environment, home environment scale developed by SarlaJawa (1975) was used. The major findings indicate that a vast majority 98.3% of the respondents were migrated due to unavailability of own lands for constructing houses and to do agriculture. Less than half (41.7%) of the respondent's father's income was Rs.5001-6000. The researcher also suggested some valuable measures to improve the Home Environment of the child labourers.

**Keywords:** Child labour, Home Environment, Child labourer school, migrated, own lands.

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### **Introduction**

Defining child labour is not as simple and straightforward as it may appear because it encompasses three difficult-to-define concepts "child", "work", and "labour". Childhood can be defined in terms of age. In some societies, age may not be a sufficient basis for defining "childhood". The fulfillment of certain social rites and traditional obligations may well be important requirement in defining "adult" and "child" status.

Child labour was employed to varying extents. Before 1940, numerous children aged 5–14 worked in Europe, the United States and various colonies of European powers. These children worked in agriculture, home-based assembly operations, factories, and mining. Some of them worked in night shifts lasting 12 hours.

In developing countries, with high poverty and poor schooling opportunities, child labour is still prevalent. In 2010, sub-Saharan Africa had the highest incidence rates of child labour; with several African nations witnessing over 50 percent of children aged 5–14 working. Worldwide, agriculture is the largest employer of child labour. Vast majority of child labour is found in rural settings and informal urban economy; children are predominantly employed by their parents, rather than factories. Poverty and lack of schools are considered as the primary cause of child labourers.

The fact sheet of International Labour Organisation (ILO), New Delhi (2017) says, as per Census 2011, the total child population in India in the age group (5-14) years is 259.6 million. Of these, 10.1 million (3.9% of total child population) are working, either as 'main worker' or as 'marginal worker'. In addition, more than 42.7 million children in India are out of school.

The major area where child labourers involved are cultivating (26%), Agriculture labourers (32.9%), Household industry workers (5.2%) and other works (35.8%).

ILO also record that, the global figure of child labourers stands at 168 million (2012). Asia and the Pacific still has the largest numbers of child labourers (almost 78 million or 9.3% of child population), but Sub-Saharan Africa continues to be the region with the highest incidence of child labour (59 million, over 21%). Globally, agriculture remains by far the most prominent sector where child labourers can be found (98 million), but the problems are not negligible in services (54 million) and industry (12 million).

### **Causes of child labour**

- Due to poverty and lack of access to public services, like social support or healthcare, children must labour in order to support their families, instead of going to school.
- In other cases, parents have no other choice but to let their children face these risks in order to feed their family and there are no safer alternative available.
- Vulnerable families and children are tricked or coerced into working in exploitative situations, where they are not free and are repeatedly exploited for profit.
- Child labourers are always better than adult workers because they work for longer time and most of the time underpaid so they are source of cheaper Labour.
- Education is not very wide spread with all the sections and all the parts of the country so education is one of the biggest problem which helps in fostering the growth of the child labourers in India and we have also seen that failure of various educational scheme also added to the increase in the number of child labour
- Unemployment and Underemployment of the parents and major members of the family.
- Use of drugs and alcohol by the parents and the guardian of the child also help in the increase of the child labour.
- Homelessness
- Wide spread poverty in the country.
- Other problems due to single parenthood, population explosion, traditional occupations and parental attitudes, lack of minimum wages etc.
- Accident of working members of family, illness, single parenthood, nonworking of parents, drinking habits etc.,
- Illiteracy and lack of education.

### **Review of Related Literature**

Kondylis and Marco (2006) assume, that schools in developing countries may help to increase school enrollment but fails to reduce the incidence of child labour.

Bhat (2010) discussed that for many poor parents it can be costly to send their children to school, as the families live on children's income and cannot afford school fees, uniforms or other additional costs.

Aqil (2012) has analyzed that when parents have worked in their childhood, their children will work as well, passing it from generation to generation. Then once they are grown, they become uneducated and low skilled. That's why Parents Education plays a vital role in children education as it can increase the possibility for their children to have a good education

Dr. G.L. Parvathamma (2015) highlighted that the child labourers are engaged into all sorts of work for the sake of earning something for the family. As a result, they are also deprived of primary education, without which chance of success in life is remote.

### **Materials and Methods**

The main aim and objective of the study is (i) to study the socio demographic and home environment of the child labourers who enrolled in child labour schools at Tiruchirappalli District, (ii) to study the financial, social and educational status of the families having child labourers, (iii) to study the home environment of the families having child labourers, (iv) to find out the association, between the selected socio-demographic characteristics of the child labourers, (v) to give suitable suggestions to enhance the level of home environment among the child labourers. The research hypotheses are; a) there is a significant association between age of the child labourers and home environment. b) There is a significant association between the child labourers fathers' education and their home environment. c) There is a significant association between child labourers mothers' education and their home environment. d) There is a significant association between occupation of father and home environment of the respondents. Descriptive research design was adopted. Totally there are 16 child labour schools in Tiruchirappalli district. Among that, the researcher had chosen four schools by applying lottery method. The researcher covered all the students in the selected schools, by applying census method. The sample size was 60. The researcher used interview schedule method to collect data. The first part of the schedule contained the personal data and in order to measure the home environment, Home environment scale developed by SarlaJawa (1975) was used. It is 5 point scale with 74 items grouped into 13 dimensions namely personal freedom, critical, social isolation, acceptance, understanding, severity of discipline, emotional stability in disciplinary action neglecting rapport with parents, rapport with siblings socio-economic image inter parental relations and general satisfaction. The reliability value of the scale is: 0.7321.

### **Results and Findings**

#### **Socio-demographic findings**

It is inferred that nearly half (48 %) of the respondents were in the age of below 10 years. More than half (58.3%) of the respondents were females. Half of the respondents were studying fifth standard and above. A vast majority (93.3%) of the respondent's houses have electricity facility. Vast majority (96.7%) of the respondents lodge in their houses. Vast majority (93.3%) of the respondents are free from health problems. Vast majority (98.3%) of the respondents were migrated due to landlessness. All the respondents (100%) were dissatisfied with their economic condition. A vast majority (98.3%) of the respondents belong to nuclear family. Less than half (41.7%) of the respondent's father's income was Rs.5001-6000. Majority (75%) of the respondent's fathers were illiterates. More than half (58.3%) of the respondent's mother's were illiterates. Less than half (45%) of the respondent's fathers were daily wage earners. More than half

(51.7) of the respondent's mothers were home makers. Home environment is low for more than half (51.7%) of the respondents.

**Table: 1 Distribution of respondents by their Level of Home Environment**

Sl. No	Level of Home environment	No. of respondents (n=60)	Percentage (100%)
1	Low	31	51.7
2	High	29	48.3
Mean: 201.30 / Median: 200.50 / S.D.: 15.805 / Min.: 168 / Max.: 231			

From the above table, it is inferred that half (51.7%) of the respondents possess a low level of home environment and less than half (48.3%) of the respondent's possess high level of home environment.

**Table: 2 Association between demographic characteristics and overall level of Home Environment of the respondents**

S.No		Overall home environment			Statistical inference
		Low (n=31)	High (n=29)	Total (n=60)	
<b>i</b>	<b>Age</b>				
a	Below 10yrs	17(54.8%)	12(41.4%)	29(48.3%)	$\chi^2=2.715$ Df=2 P >0.05 Not Significant
b	11 to 12yrs	9(29%)	7(24.1%)	16(26.7%)	
c	13yrs & above	5(16.1%)	10(34.5%)	15(25%)	
<b>ii</b>	<b>Father's education</b>				
a	2 <sup>nd</sup> std	2(6.5%)	1(3.4%)	3(5%)	$\chi^2=.968$ Df=3 P >0.05 Not Significant
b	3 <sup>rd</sup> std	3(9.7%)	5(17.2%)	8(13.3%)	
c	5 <sup>th</sup> std	2(6.5%)	2(6.9%)	4(6.7%)	
d	Illiterate	24(77.4%)	21(72.4%)	45(75%)	
<b>iii</b>	<b>Mother's education</b>				
a	2 <sup>nd</sup> Std	4(12.9%)	4(13.8%)	8(13.3%)	$\chi^2=5.532$ Df=3 P >0.05 Not Significant
b	3 <sup>rd</sup> std	3(9.7%)	5(17.2%)	8(13.3%)	
c	5 <sup>th</sup> std	2(6.5%)	7(24.1%)	9(15%)	
d	Illiterate	22(71%)	13(44.8%)	35(58.3%)	
<b>iv</b>	<b>Father's occupation</b>				
a	Daily wages	15(48.4%)	12(41.4%)	27(45%)	$\chi^2=4.236$ Df=4 P >0.05 Not Significant
b	Hotel	8(25.8%)	5(17.2%)	13(21.7%)	
c	Paint	4(12.9%)	4(13.8%)	8(13.3%)	
d	Leather factory	3(9.7%)	8(27.6%)	11(18.3%)	
e	No job	1(3.2%)	0	1(1.7%)	

Chi square test was applied to test the association between age, fathers' education, mothers' education, fathers' occupation of the respondents and level of home environment

The above table reveals that there is no significant association between age, fathers' education, mothers' education, fathers' occupation of the respondents and overall home environment of the respondents. The calculated value (2.715), (.968), (5.532) and (4.236) respectively is less than the table value at 5% of significant level. So it is inferred that there is no significant association between age, fathers' education, mothers' education, fathers' occupation and overall home environment of the respondents. Hence the research hypothesis is rejected and null hypothesis is accepted.

### **Suggestions:**

The study reveals that girl children were more involved as child labourers when compared with boys. Child labourers are face poverty, cultural traditions, lack of quality education and diseases some times. Poverty is the most notable reason, that pushes children into work in order to increase the family income. As Basu (1998) argues the reason, parents send children to work is because of their low income.

Half (51.7%) of the respondents possess a low level of home environment. In order to improve the level of home environment the following suggestions may be initiated for both family members as well as the child labourers.

- Family counseling centers must be created to counsel the poor parents to strengthen their home environment for a better society.
- Parents should be given awareness and should be made to realize the importance of their children's education for their prosperous future life.
- Governmental and Non-Governmental organizations should come forward in teaching the poor parents on income generation programmes, so that the poor parents may be supported for their economic upliftment.
- Credit schemes may be provided to parents through microfinance, so that they need not go to money lenders to repay debts and to put their children as labourers.
- Steps may taken to provide self employment opportunities for parents and to support their business.
- Vocational education may be imparted in child labour schools, so that the children may be employed when they become adults.

### **CONCLUSION**

Due to the augment of policy and legal restrictions on child labour, there has been a great percentage of decrease in child labour from 2001 to 2011. Although this is a great decline, more numbers of children are still working in the rural areas of India. Today's Children are tomorrow's future of our nation. So if we take care of them we shall create a better future. Every parent wishes to bring up their children as a good citizen of the society. So serious measures must be taken to eradicate poverty and upliftment of each and every family economically may protect the children from becoming child labourers.

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