Child Labour in Small Hotels and Dhabas in Aurangabad district:
A Socio-Economic and Health related Issues

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Abstract
Present paper aims to study the economic, social, educational and health related issues of child labour working in small Hotels and Dhabas. It also studies the causes of child labour and suggests ways to prevent child labour in Aurangabad District of Marathwada Region. The study showed that majority of child labour belongs to scheduled casts followed by general category. It is observed that poor economic conditions and facilities compelled these children to enter in labour force.

Key words: Child Labour, Labour Caste, Child Labour Legislation

Introduction:
Child labour is a universal phenomenon. It is an economic and social problem. Child labour is as old as the definition of economics given by father of economics Adam Smith in 1776. The definition given by Adam Smith in his famous book “Wealth of Nations” that economics is the science of wealth. That definition of economics gives a chance to the merchants of England that they should give employment to women and children to their target. Women and children are given very less wages and as well as they are docile. Children are employed in cleaning the chemicals of factories. It is a hazardous work in which Sometimes the child dies (Shukla and Pandey 2013).

The child labour had its roots in Great Britain where it was recognized as a social evil after the emergence of factory system in the late 18th century. Earlier children were used as apprenticed but it soon development into fulltime job and related to slavery and abuse especially among British orphans. Similarly in United States child labour become prominent after the civil war in 1910. The problem of child labour was controlled in these areas because of strict governance and regulation. In Europe they were quick on mitigating various labour laws relating to child labour (Sen 1977).

Child labour is an old custom in India. It originated from the custom of slavery. In Kautilya’s ‘Arthashatra’ there is reference of child labour. He says that ‘Children are not capable of doing physical work. It is against the rules of religion to get work done by children’. Kautilya had advised a ban on slavery of children below age of 8 years (Chhina 2009). In India during the pre-independence era to stop the exploitation of labours and child labours, the British Government passed ‘Indian Factories Act 1981’. The 19th century industrialization resulted in child labour. Due to child labour, children are deprived of education, health, entertainment, physical and intellectual ability and development of self. Child labour is a reflection of poverty. To support the family, children are forced to work. In order to attract the attention of the world to this serious problem, United Nations declared 1979 as ‘International Child Year’ (Kulshreshtha 1978). Later on Lawyers, Parliament members, social thinkers, activists, politicians, economist and administrative paid attention to the problem of child labour and they seriously took the note of this problem. They all attempted to solve this problem. The problems of child labour are not limited to the discussion group, workshops, symposium and seminars only but it has reached to the parliament, Judiciary and Cabinet also (Kanbergi 1991).

According to International Child Labour Organization (ILO), Child labour is ‘some types of work’ done by children under the age of 18. The ILO also says that child labour includes full time work done by children under 15 years of age that prevents them from going to school or that is dangerous to their health. This definition is given in convention 138, 182, of ILO (ILO 2012).
According to 2001 Population Census of India, ‘Involvement of children in any kind of productive work is child labour’ (Census of India 2001). According to Indian constitution, children below age of 14 years are banned from working in factories and mines. Article 24 of the Indian constitution gives protection to rights of children.

According to International Labour Organization, there are 317 million child in the whole world who child earn their livelihood of them 218 million are child labour. In Asia and Pacific, there are 122.3 millions child labours i.e. more than 50 % of the world. (ILO 2006).

India is having the largest number of child labour in the word today. As per 2001 census of India there are 12.6 million working children in the age group of 5-14 as compared to the total child population of 25.2 million. There are approximately 12 lakh children working in the hazardous occupations / processes which are covered under the child labour (prohibitions and regulation) act i.e. 18 occupations and 65 processes (Jain 2013). However, as per survey conducted by National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) in 2004-05, the number of working children is estimated at 90.75 lakh The number of working children has further gone down is NSSO survey 2009-10 to 49.84 lakh. It shows that the efforts of the government have borne the desired fruits (NSSO 2004-2005 and 2009-2010).

Review of Literature:
The problem of child labour is a worldwide problem. Many Children and adolescents in Europe and North America also work, and the percentages that work may in some cases not differ very much from many developing countries. However, their reasons for working and their working hours and conditions differ greatly from those of working children in developing countries (Boyden, Ling and Myers 1998). In the Global North, Children have been banned by law from the labour market, and their economic contribution to the society is not accounted for in national budgets despite the fact that many of them are workers (Karunan 2005).

In India the child once bonded remains bonded till he or she is able to buy freedom by giving his or her offspring in bondage. Some time children are forced to sell themselves to repay the loans of parents (Mundle and Sudipte 1970). In India child work, in Hotels, Dhabas, in domestic work, construction sites, bus services, railways stations, agriculture and industries. Child labour is a very cheap labour. Therefore everybody wants them for work. As child labour is a socio-economic phenomenon, among it poverty is the root cause of child labour (Chaudhry and Roy 1985). In India over Population is also one of the root causes of child labour (Bunch 2005). It is generally considered that illiteracy, ignorance, low wages, unemployment, poor standard of living, deep social prejudices and appalling backwardness of the country side are all, severally and collectively, the root cause of child labour (Ahmad 2013).

Usually child labour is considered to be harmful and to have negative impact on the physical as well as mental development of children while interfering with their education (Munthali 2003). It becomes a matter of deep concern to find out ways and means, which may put an end to the employment and exploitation of children who are forced to join the labour stream. In recent decades, steady progress has been made in developing countries in the field of school education; resulting in considerable improvements in the school enrollment of children (Dinesh and Rayappa 1986).This progress has specially helped in bringing down the incidence of child labour.

Objectives of the Present Study:
1. To study the economic, social, educational and health related issues of child labour working in small Hotels and Dhabas.
2. To study the causes of child labour and suggests ways to prevent child labour.

Research Methodology:
There are 26,000 child labours in Aurangabad district according to the survey of “Indus Projects”. In Aurangabad taluka itself, there are more than 15,000 child labours. There are many child labours employment in factories at Waluj and Chikhalthana near Aurangabad. Even in Dhabas, Hotels, Garrege, bricks-site, there are plenty of child labours working daily.
This study has been confined to child labour working in Hotels and Dhabas at the tourist places in Aurangabad District of Maharashtra. We used both primary as well as secondary data for the study purpose. The primary data have been collected through schedule from child labourers working in small Hotel and Dhabas. For the study we selected 80 child labour through purposive random sampling from tourist places hotel and Dhabas in Aurangabad.

The Secondary data relating to child labour have been collected from Government publications and Govt. offices, the report of Ministry of Labour, NGO’s, NSSO’s Reports and journals, periodicals, books.

Study of Child Labour in Small Hotels and Dhabas:

The various problems and its reasons of child labour are studies in the present section. The various Hotels and Dhabas around the tourist place in Aurangabad District are considered for study.

Caste system is prevalent since ancient times. The social and economic status of people is fixed by its caste. One of reasons caste has excited sociological imagination is because it is seen as a representation of pure status, based on religious and ideological grounds with class inequalities being epiphenomenal to caste (Desai and Dubey 2011). Caste system is not merely division of labour. It is also a division of labourers (Ambedkar 1936). The major caste wise classification of child labour in study area is given below.

**Table 1**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Caste</th>
<th>Numbers</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Scheduled Caste</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>58.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Scheduled Tribe</td>
<td>08</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Other Back Ward</td>
<td>Class</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Open</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>17.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>80</td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: Data collected through Research Survey, 2013.*

It is clear from the above table that the child labourers (answerers) are maximum from scheduled caste 58.75 percent, followed by general category 17.75 Percent, OBC 13.75 percent. They are least from scheduled Tribes 10 percent.

**Table 2**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reasons</th>
<th>Numbers</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Economic Condition</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>53.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Driven Out of Home</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Employment</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Others</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>80</td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: Data collected through Research Survey, 2013.*

The above Table no. 2 shows that out of the 80 child labour selected for study, 53.75 percent children were employed in hotel and Dhabas due to their bad economic condition, while 10 percent were driven out of their homes. It is also deserved that 30 percent of the children were doing this job to facilitate their education expenditure.

Education plays a catalytic role in socio-economic development of the economy. To quote (Giri 1997) “Education is the principal tool of socio-economic development and unless all societies are provided with right type of education, adequate in quality and quantity, it will not be possible to tackle satisfactorily the problem of ignorance of health and poverty which afflicts the majority of human beings in the world.” Education is needed in all these areas to cope with and repair the destruction already introduced. It is also necessary for the economic modernization of the society (Chandrasekhar 1997). The information of education of child labour is given below.
Table 3

Education condition of child labour

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Education level</th>
<th>Numbers</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Illiterate</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 to 3</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>21.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 to 6</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>16.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 to 9</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Data collected through Research Survey, 2013.

The figures obtained from the above table no. 3 shows that almost half i.e. 55 percent child labour were illiterate. 21.25 percent child labourers were educated till third standard, while 16.25 percent were educated till sixth standard. There were just 7.5 percent child laburers educated till standard 9th.

Conclusion and Policy Measures:

The study found that majority of the child labours are from scheduled caste, followed by general category. The least child labourers were found from the Scheduled Tribes category. They were found in this industry become of their poor economic condition. Some of were found working to facilitate their education. It is also observed that children without parents are forced to enter in the child labour market. 93.75 percent children working in hotels and Dhabas had either mother or father. The study showed that these children come from family having large size. Almost half 46.25 percent child labour studies have family size between 6 to 9 persons. Study also tried to find out the addiction rate of the child labour in hotels and Dhabas at tourist places in Aurangabad. In child labour addiction results were shocking. It is observed from the study that 95 percent children working in hotel and Dhabas were addiction to alcohol, tobacco, cigarettes and Gutakha.

According to the act of 1986 (Prohibition and Regulation Act), the children’s who are below the age of 14, are prohibited to work in Hotels, Dhabas, Tea-point and Restaurant. Those places are hazardous to work. But still the child labour work in these areas. Therefore, this act should be implemented rigorously. As it is found that majority of child labour have either mother or father. So the government should adopt the responsibility of such children and their parents. The government should provide food, shelter, scholarships and clothes to these children. As study shows most of the children addicted, health workers from government and NGO’S should work to keep child labours away from addiction.

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