Asian Resonance

Issues and Challenges of Child Labour: A Primary Study in Khordha District of Odisha

Ipsita Priyadarsini Pattanaik
Research Scholar,
Dept. of Economics,
Fakir Mohan University,
Balasore, Odisha, India

Abstract

The objective of the study is to analyse the working condition, income and determinants of child labour in Khurda district of Odisha on the basis of primary data. Parents are economically backward for which both male and female child labours join all these different occupation. Average monthly income of the child labour is Rs 1172.25 which is very low. The cause of child labour as per survey is that the parents cannot afford education. Most of the child labour stated that they work to increase family income. Most of the child labour stated that they work to increase family income.The regression coefficients of physical condition is negative and coefficient of all other variables is positive. Age of becoming child labour is a significant variable. Higher the age of child labour, higher is the income of child labour. Child labour is mainly cause by economic compulsions of the parents in many cases of the children. The main reasons which give rise to child labour are widespread of absolute poverty.

Keywords: Age, Child Labour, Condition of Work, Occupation, Poverty, Unemployment.

Introduction

The child labour exists in all parts of the world. The important causes of child labour are poverty , lack of education and bottom of feeding, poverty is the main reason for child labour poor family need money to survive and thus need to have as many families members working as possible. This means that their children also have to work as they additional source of income also sometimes in extremely. Child labour was significant to factories because the factory could pay them less than an adult for similar work and also the children could fit their hands into small places to fix things or work in which adults could not making them more useful. The Industrial Revolution led to a population increase, but the chances of surviving childhood did not improve throughout the Industrial Revolution (although infant mortality rates were reduced markedly. There was still limited opportunity for education, and children were expected to work. Having children work in this way obviously benefited the family economically, but it also benefited the children by teaching them naturally all the skills they would need as adults. Child labour only became oppressive when instead of working with their own families, children were sent into factories, mines and mills to work for capitalists who had no care for their safety or wellbeing schooling and literacy became the norm in society, so that any child who was kept away from school was thereby being deprived of vital skills and disadvantaged for their whole lives.

Review of Literature

Susmita Sen Gupta and Shovan Ghosh (2013) their study aims at supplying the informative background of the current programmes and action plans taken by the Govt. of India towards minimization of poverty for achieving Universal Elementary Education a success. Indian constitutional commitment to provide free and compulsory education to all children up to the age of 14 years has lagged behind. The social inequalities of class, caste and gender have been identified as the major causes of educational deprivation among the children in rural India. In addition, poverty also acts as a constraint on the access of schooling of children in rural India. Economic uncertainty as well as children's high opportunity cost compels

Sunil Kumar Padhi
Reader,
Dept. of Economics,
Fakir Mohan University,
Balasore, Odisha, India

Asian Resonance

them to perform economic activities to supplement family income. As chandbasha (1999) had observed that State Labour Bureau study shows that, in small industries and cottage carpet weaving, employment of under aged children either uncertified or having false age certificate continues. The actual hours of work are found to be more than excess of the prescribed working hours as per different enactments.

Tripathy (1989) in his survey of child labour in the city of Bhubaneswar (Orissa) concluded that there were more than two thousand child workers in the city engaged in various occupations. Tripathy in his study in 1991 observed that in Odisha child labourers are mostly found in backward districts like Phulbani and Mayurbhanj. Nearly 80 per cent of those workers are involved in agricultural operations. The estimates of child labour in the country differ, but undoubtedly, India today is having the largest number of child workers in the world.Umesh Chandra Sahoo analysed that invariably, backwardness and poverty are considered as the driving forces for the employment of children. Illiteracy, low social status, lack of schooling facilities is the reasons to reinforce and stimulate employment of children. It is no wonder then that the legislative measures have remained more or less ineffective, except perhaps in organized industries. He found that the —political will‖ is strongly biased in favour of the proprietary classes. So long as, the masses are inert and unorganized, the ruling coalition will try to gain at their expenses.Vijaya Kumar (1992) has demonstrated that the prevalence of girl child labour is more in beedi industry compared to male child labour. His data reveals that that children in match industry, incense rolling, beedi-making units and in the workshops children are working minimum of 9 to 12 hours and even up to 14 hours per day. Moreover, it has been observed that girl's work for longer periods in all the age groups compared to boys. Further the author explains that absence of enough ventilation, light, first aid etc are most common in all beedi-making units. Within a simple model of parental investment in children's education Pallage and Dessy (2005) show that although intuitive and morally compelling, a ban on the worst forms of child labour in poor countries is unlikely to be welfare improving as harmful forms of child labour have an economic role: by maintaining wages for child labour high enough, they allow human capital accumulation in poor countries. Unless appropriate mechanisms are designed to mitigate the decline in child labour wages caused by reduced employment options for children, a ban on harmful forms of child labour will likely prove undesirable.Yana van der Meulen Rodgers (2015) in their study examines how changes in the minimum wage affect the incidence of child labor in India. The analysis uses repeated cross sections of India's NSSO employment data from 1983 to 2008 merged with data on state-level minimum wage rates to estimate employment. Theoretically, the impact of minimum wages on the incidence of child work could go either way, so empirical evidence from a country with high child labor rates and a myriad of minimum wage laws across states and occupations helps to lessen the ambiguity.

Results indicate that regardless of gender, minimum wages increase child work in the rural sector while such wages reduce child labor in urban areas, especially for boys. These findings are robust to a rich set of time and location-varying controls

Objectives of the Study and Methodology

The objective of the study is to analyse the working condition, income and determinants of child labour inKhurda district of Odisha on the basis of primary data. Child labours are from poor and larger families who are forced to join labour force to supplement the family income. This sector is characterized by seasonal employment (in agriculture sector) contractual work is engaged different works in minimum wages. Child labour face problems like poor, health conditions, substandard working life, and inadequate and unequal wage structure. They face different lack of safety measures and no proper education for children workers.For primary data, working children are directly approached and are interviewedin industry, hotel, restaurant and household activities in Khurdha, Odisha.

The study in this paper is based on primary data collected from Khurda district of odisha.Khordha is an administrative division of the state of Odisha, India. The capital city of Bhubaneswar is located in this district. Khordha is the most urbanized of all the districts of Odisha. Khordha Road, the railway station that serves the town is also the divisional headquarters of the East Coast Railway of the Indian Railways. Khordha is known for its brass utensils, cottage industries, railway coach manufacturing, and cable manufacture. Its importance lay in the fact that it encompasses Bhubaneswar,the new capital of the state .The head quarter of this district is khurda town which is 29kms away from the state of capital .The chilika lake which is the largest brackish water lake in Orissa belongs to the administrative area of the district .This lake has its unique flora and fauna and attracts tourists from inside as well as outside the country.

The major agricultural products of the district ate paddy and vegetables .With a number of rivers flowing through this district, the land is very fertile. The district of Khurda on account of abundant of skilled personnel, is an important destination of the state for software development institutes .The software technology park of India established by IDCO is an added incentive in this sector. The district is unique for its attractive climate, absolutely dust-free atmosphere and pleasing surroundings.This has all the amenities like university, college, schools, Technical education, Hospitals and places for entertainment, etc.The district also has the highest percentage of urban population.Despite having plenty of natural resourses,skilled man power and attractive climate,The district is not an industrially vibrant place like other industrially prosperous districts.The tiny and small scale industries have also not progressed well due to multifarious factors.

The relevant information is created from 200 child labourers, their 50 parents and 50 employers with the help of a structured questionnaire designed for the purpose.The information affecting to the socio-

Asian Resonance

economic conditions,income,employment position etc. have been collected from the child labour. Some information have been collected from parents, the sample area of employs and child labour on certain issues like family income, occupation and employer's attitude towards child labour etc.The sample surveys by using an interview schedule was carried out for the collection of primary data. The data with respect to interest of education, literacy status, illiteracy reason or cause of leaving school, nature of activity, daily working hours, payment pattern, daily contribution,

employee behavior, father monthly income and education qualification, working condition, family size etc. has been collected in sample area. The study surveyed the four categories of working children of Khurdha, Odisha. The 30 dissimilar categories of child working in different place were interviewed personally.

Social Status of Child Labour

It is essential to analyse the social status of child labour in the study area. The gender wise occupation and age profile are presented in table-1 and table-2.

Table- 1 Gender Wise Child Labour in Study Area

Sl No	Occupation	Male	Percent	Female	Percent
1	Hotel	27	13.5	1	0.5
2	Agriculture	26	13.0	29	14.5
3	Household work	15	7.5	24	12.0
4	Shop	32	16.0	10	5.0
5	Others	22	11.0	14	7.0
	Total	122	61.0	78	38.0

Source- Field Study

The table-1 explains that the gender wise child labour under the study .Shop occupation has highest 32 male child labour which is 16 % and female child labour is 29 which is 14.5 %.7.5 % male

child labour are engaged in household work. Parents are economically backwardness for which both male and female child labours join all these different occupation.

Table- 2 Age Profile of Child Labour

Category of Work	Less Than 5 Year	5-8 Years	9-11 Years	Above 11 Year
Hotel	1	6	8	13
Agriculture	2	11	22	20
Household work	1	7	13	18
Shop	0	3	10	29
Others	10	4	11	11
Total	14	30	64	91

Source- Field data

Table-2 explains that age profile of child labour.Child labourers are engagedin many category of work due to socio economic characteristics of household. Child labour is highest proportion in age 9-

11 years and above 11 years in agriculture, hotel and shop. The large sized families contribute higher number of child labourer. The descriptive statistics of social indicators of child labour are givenin table-3.

Table-3 Descriptive Statistics of Social Status of Child Labour

Statistical Measure	Gender	Range of Age	Religion	Caste	Type of family	Level of literacy	Category of work	Nature of residence
Mean	1.36	3.16	1.04	2.44	1.46	2.28	3.04	1.51
S.D	0.48	0.90	0.24	0.73	0.50	1.15	1.34	0.74
Kurtosis	-1.67	-0.24	46.44	-0.38	-1.99	-1.31	-1.22	-0.31
Skewness	0.59	-0.82	6.63	-0.34	0.18	0.36	0.04	1.09
Range	1.00	3.00	2.00	3.00	1.00	3.00	4.00	2.00
Minimum	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Maximum	2.00	4.00	3.00	4.00	2.00	4.00	5.00	3.00
N	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00

Source – Computed by the Author from Field Data

Table-3 shows that descriptive statistics of social status of child labour where average range of age is 3.16 years indicating higher child labour in 5-9 years category. Male was takencode-1 and female-2 and average gender is 1.36 indicates more male child labour. The codes used for SC-1, ST-2 and OBC-3

and General-4. The average was found to be 2.44 indicate more ST child labour in the study. The average literacy is 2.28 and code-2 was used for 5 to 8 Years of education. Maximum child labour are engaged in hotel and shops.Other statistical measures can be seen from the table-3.

Asian Resonance

Table-4 Descriptive Statistics of Economic Status of Child labour

	Monthly Monthly Income the child	Whether School drop out	Protecting the family property	Possession of Family property	Parents can't afford of education	Increasing the family income
Mean	1172.25	0.75	2.30	2.45	2.44	2.51
S.D	871.20	0.43	0.76	0.83	0.84	0.87
Kurtosis	5.35	-0.65	1.29	-0.21	0.14	-0.72
Skewness	1.92	-1.16	1.57	1.27	1.43	1.09
Range	5900.00	1.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00
Minimum	100.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	2.00	1.00
Maximum	6000.00	1.00	4.00	4.00	5.00	4.00
N	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00

Source- Computed by Author

The table-4 shows that descriptive statistics economic profile and causes of child labour. Average monthly income of the child labour is Rs 1172.25which is very low. The cause of child labour as per survey is that the parents cannot afford education. Most of the child labour stated that they work to increase family income.

Determinants of Child Labour

The determinants of child labour is an important academic exercise. This study made attemts to find out the important determinants of child labour in the study area. Table-5 shows the stusy results in which monthly income of child labour is dependent variable and Gender, Age, Caste and type of family are independent variables. The regression coeffiocients are negative gender, caste and family but positive for age and religion. Age is significant and positive factor determining monthly income of child labour.

Table-5 Regression Results(Monthly income of Child labour as dependent variable)

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
		B	**Std. Error**	**Beta**		
1	(Constant)	-173.019	403.758		-.429	.669
	GENDER	-24.971	111.602	-.014	-.224	.823
	AGE	558.770	60.589	.580	9.222	.000
	RELIGION	70.217	218.027	.020	.322	.748
	CASTE	-49.920	72.986	-.042	-.684	.495
	TYPE OF FAMILY	-97.592	107.070	-.056	-.911	.363

Source- Computed by the Author

Table-6 shows regression results of monthly income as dependent variable and literacy, category of work, residence, age, physical condition, place of work as independent variables. The regression coefficients of physical condition is negative and coefficient of all other variables is positive. Age of becoming child labour is a significant variable. Higher the age of child labour, higher is the income of child labour.

Table-6 Regression Results of Determinants of child labour

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
		B	**Std. Error**	**Beta**		
1	(Constant)	-1117.728	281.798		-3.966	.000
	Level Of Literacy	308.238	49.792	.407	6.190	.000
	Category Of Work	17.393	33.554	.027	.518	.605
	Nature Of Residence	153.694	60.822	.130	2.527	.012
	Age Of Becoming Child Labourer	117.486	23.045	.341	5.098	.000
	Physical Condition	-61.656	89.453	-.037	-.689	.491
	Place Of Work	66.310	97.211	.038	.682	.496
a. Dependent Variable: MONTHLY INCOME OF THE CHILD LABOUR						

Child Labour Policy

Constitution of India contains provisions for upliftment, development and protection of children; these are mainly included in Part III and Part IV of the Constitution, i.e., fundamental rights and directive principles of state policy. Indian Constitution deals categorically with the welfare of the child and prohibition of practices like child labour. Thus, the

Asian Resonance

concern for children in general and child labour in particular is reflected through the Articles of the Constitution of India. Legislation to control and regulate child labour in India has existed for several decades. The main concern of these legislations was prescribing minimum age limit for employment of children and regulation of working hours for children; and ensuring the health and safety of the child labourers by prohibiting the employment of children in hazardous work. There are number of child labour legislations prohibiting the employment of children below 14 years and 15 years in certain specified employments. However, contrary to our international commitment and all proclamations in the country's Constitution, and despite all the legislative measures, child labour is a harsh reality.

Due to lack of political will and in absence of realistic measures to tackle the problem the percentage of child labour in the total labour force of the country kept on increasing over the years. Thus, it is observed that this Act falls short of making all child labour illegal, and fails to meet the ILO guideline concerning the minimum age of employment set at fifteen years of age. The International Labour Organization (ILO) launched the International Programme for Elimination of Child Labours in 1991 and India was the first to join the same in 1992. But still the problem persists due to poor implementation of the plans and programmes. Though policies are in place that could potentially reduce the problem of child labour, effective enforcement is a problem.The government may confer powers on a District Magistrate to ensure that the provisions of the law are properly carried out. The Bill empowers the government to make periodic inspection of places at which employment of children and adolescents are prohibited.Child labour is an international evil therefore cumulative effort is required to wipe it out. The government of India on this front has also taken a few steps. But the major determinant of child labour is socio-economic conditions prevailing in the country like poverty. Another determinant is access to education. In some areas, education is not affordable, or is found to be inadequate. With no other alternatives, children spend their time working. Therefore, there is need to implemented the laws relating to child effectively in India. However, from the analysis of the relevant statutory provisions of the Indian laws relating to child labour, it has become abundantly clear that the statutes vary as to the age limit of a child employed or permitted to work in various occupations.

Issues and Challenges of Child Labour

Child labor continues to be a great concern in many parts of the world. Major engagement was in agriculture sector, followed by fisheries, aquaculture, livestock and forestry. In addition to work that interferes with schooling and is harmful to personal development, many of these children work in hazardous occupations or activities that are harmful. The negative impact on the physiological and psychological levels of children includes specific concerns of child labor and its consequences on mental health. It is worth noting that one-third of

children of the developing world are failing to complete even 4 years of education. The analysis of factors leading to engagement of children in hazardous factors elucidated socioeconomic factors as one of the important determinants. Poverty is considered as one of the contributory factors in child labor.Mental well being is less frequently researched in child labor. A retrospective cohort study in Morocco randomly examined 200 children working in the handicraft sector and found a high prevalence of respiratory, digestive and skin conditions, as well as mental health presentations such as migraines, insomnia, irritability, enuresis and asthenia. In many cross-sectional survey, urban e children aged 10–17, working full-time in small industrial shops, were compared with non-working matched school children. Majority of them had poor physical health, predominantly marked with skin lesions or ear complaints and social care needs.Similarly, authors aimed to find out consequences in children in Lebanon exposed to solvents, and found significantly higher rates of lightheadedness, fatigue, impaired memory and depression compared with a non-exposed group. There is prevalence of mental disorders in many child laborers and street workers, child domestics and private enterprise workers aged between 5 and 15 years. The prevalence of mental disorders was noted to be as high as 20.1% compared with 12.5% in the general population. Further study to establish the association between labor-related variables and mental health problems was carried out among children engaged in labor (aged 9–18 years) in many countries. Mental health problems of children in labor were likely to be associated with socioeconomic determinants as well as factors related to their underage employment.

Conclusion

The prevalence of child labor is more or less seen in all periods of time, it varies in nature and dimension depending on the existing socioeconomic structure of the society.Children are found working under hazardous conditions such as mining, auto repair, battery recharging, saw milling, welding, and rickshaw pulling, garments manufacturing and working with dangerous machinery. It is clear from this study that child labor has higher probability to create negative impacts on future life. Since child worker does not get opportunity to get better education, they cannot get better job opportunities in future life. Consequently, their income remains low which only ensure low standard of living. So, poverty and illiteracy are the main causes for leading child labor. Consequently, the vulnerable socio-economic status at adulthood is caused by hazardous child labor. Children are the blooming flowers of the garden of a society and valuable asset of a nation. They constitute a hidden treasure of potential development of a growing nation, childhood has been considered as a most important period of life. During this period molding and shaping of the life take place and the behavior, conduct and sentiments are developed. Paradoxically, it is unfortunate to say that tragically most of the child life is lost due to child work. Child labor is mainly necessitated by economic

Asian Resonance

compulsions of the parents in many cases of the children. The main reason which give rise to child labor are widespread of absolute poverty, unemployment and underemployment.

References

Chandbasha, (1999), Child Labour and Labour Standard, Social Action, Vol.21, No. 3

Jyotirmayee, Kar. (2002), 'The Issue of Child Labour: A Developmental Approach', Indian Social Science Review, Vol. 4, No.1

Kumar, Anand, C. (1999), Child Labour: Issue and Solutions, Kurukshetra, Vol.12. pp.11-18

Rao and Rao. 1998, Employers View on Child Labour, Indian journal of Industrial Relation, Vol.34, No. 1

Ray, R. (2000), „Analysis of child labour in Peru and Pakistan: A comparative study", Journal of Population Economics 13, 3-19.

Sinha.(1999), Children in Unorganized Sectors, Journal of Labour Development,Vol.12 (4-5), pp.23-29

Sumitra Sengupta, Shovan Ghosh (2013), Poverty, Child Labour and Access of Schooling in India: Finding the gaps, Journal of Asian Research Consortium, Volume 3, Issue 1,

Tripathy, S.K. (1989): Child Labour in India, Discovery Publishing House, New Delhi.

Umesh Chandra Sahoo,(1996)Child Labour Dimensions in India: An Appraisal, ISBN, New Delhi,

Vijaya, Kumar. (1992), Children in Darkness, Man in India, 72(2), pp.233-337

White. (ed.)(1982), 'Child Workers: Developmental and Change', journal of Social Issues, Vol.13(4), pp.46-79.