

# Periodic Research

## Socio-Economic Characteristics and Determinants of Child Labour in Khordha



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### Abstract

The objective of the study is to analyse socio-economic characteristics, income and eradication of child labour in Khordha district of Odisha along with perception of employer and parents regarding child labour. The primary data are collected from 200 child labourers, 50 parents and 50 employers in printed questionnaire. The analysis is conducted using frequency, percentage, descriptive statistics, regression and graphs. It is found that the child labourers are generally found more at age above 10 years. The study reveals that maximum (33%) child labourers are illiterate and 29.5 % belong to level of literacy 1 to 5 classes indicating less educated children are child labourers. It is observed that 150 child labourers told that they do labour to protect family property. Similarly, 146 child labourers agree that their parents cannot afford education for which they engaged in child labour activity. 117 agree that they are working for increasing the family income. Child labour is mainly to support livelihood of family. There is need of strong legislation to eradicate child labour in India.

**Keywords:** Category of Work, Determinant, Education, Employer, Family Income, Residence.

### Introduction

Child labour is a universal problem, which is more common among developing countries. Social factors, poverty, illiteracy, rural migration, family disintegration, inadequate measures of social security, lack of avenues for education, social choices, social policies and shortcomings in institutional arrangements, and resource constraints are some of the main reasons for this problem. On other hand, due to technological backwardness and labour oriented technology in these countries, there is a search for cheap labour, which is compensated out of child labour. An ILO study shows that

1. About 85 per cent of the total child labourers in India are forced work to supplement the income of their families
2. About 75 per cent of parents are allow their children to work from the economic point of view
3. About 50 per cent of parents feel that the income earned by their children is essential for the maintenance of their families
4. About 44 per cent of the families have their own cultural and traditional beliefs in maintaining and continuing their family occupations
5. About 70 per cent of child labourers want to continue their present job even if they are given the option to leave them

### Review of Literature

Susmita Sen Gupta and Shovan Ghosh (2013) stated that 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 them to perform economic activities to supplement family income.

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

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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.

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.

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. 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.

### Characteristics of Child Labour under Study

The child labour is both a social and economic problem in India. It is necessary to analyse the characteristics of child labour under study. Out of 200 child labourers, 128 are male child labour and 72 are female child labour under present study. This is shown table 1

**Table-1 Gender wise distribution of Child Labour**

Gender	Frequency	Percentage
Male	128	64
Female	72	32
Total	200	100

**Source-** Field Data and computed by Author

The child labour are mostly found in the age group 5-14 years. Table-2 Out of 200 child labours on the study 12 are below 5 years, 32 are 5-8 years, 68 are 9-11 years, 88 are 11-14 years. The highest 44 percent child labour is found the age groups are 11-14 years. It is found that the child labours are generally found more at age above 10 years.

**Table-2 Age wise distribution of Child Labour**

Age	Frequency	Percentage
Below 5 Years	12	6
5-8 Years	32	16
9-11 Years	68	34
11-14 Years	88	44
		100

**Source-** Field Data and computed by Author

The fig-1 shows the bar diagram of age distribution of child labour.

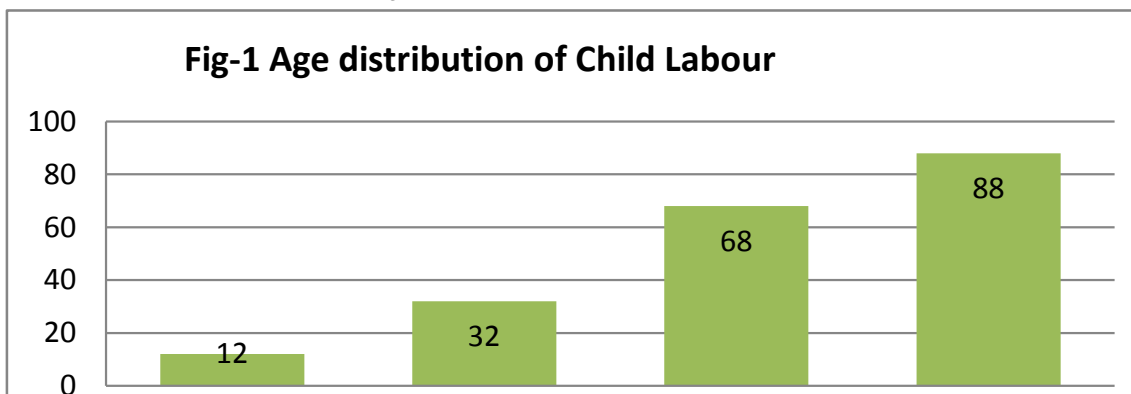


Table-3 presents religion wise distribution of child labour in the study area. There are 194 Hindu, 4 Christian, 2 Muslim child labour under study. It is observed that 97 percent child labour belong to Hindu religion as more than 90 percent of people in Khordha district belong to Hindu religion.

**Table-3 Religion wise distribution of Child labour**

Religion	Frequency	Percent
Hindu	194	97
Christian	04	2
Muslim	02	1
Total	200	100

**Source-** Field Data and computed by Author

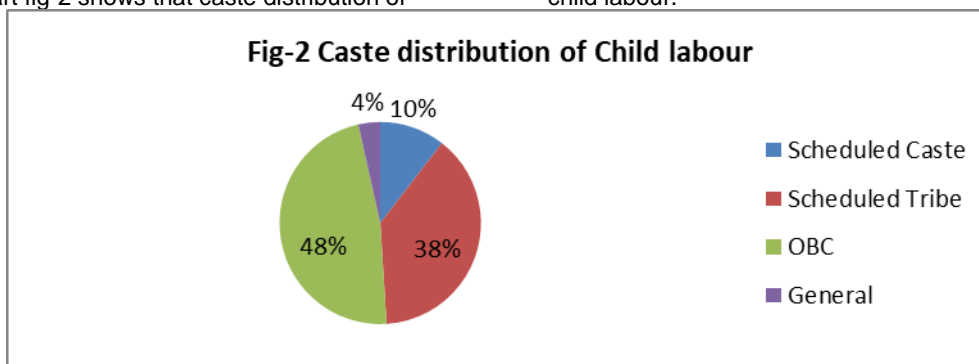
Caste wise distribution of Child labour is presented Table-4. There are 21 Scheduled caste, 77 Scheduled tribe, 95 OBC, 7 General child labourers in the study.

**Table-4 Caste wise distribution of Child labour**

Caste	Frequency	Percentage
Scheduled Caste	21	10.5
Scheduled Tribe	77	38.5
OBC	95	47.5
General	07	3.5
Total	200	100

**Source-** Field Data and computed by Author

The Pie chart fig-2 shows that caste distribution of child labour.



**Table-5 Distribution of Child labour by type of family**

Type of Family	Frequency	Percentage
Nuclear	109	54.5
Joint Family	91	45.5
Total	200	100

**Source-** Field Data and computed by Author

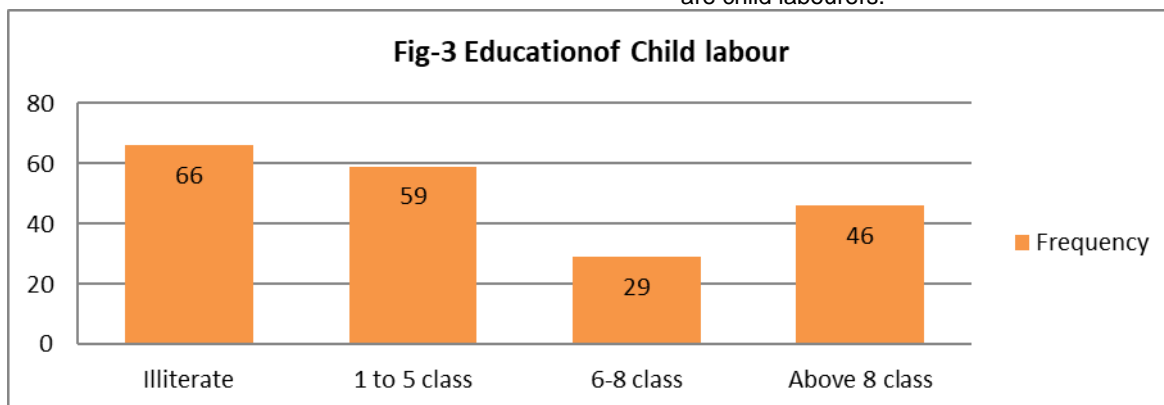
Table-5 shows that 54.5 % belong to nuclear family and 45.5 % from joint family.

**Table-6 Distribution of Child labour by level of literacy**

level of literacy	Frequency	Percentage
Illiterate	66	33
1 to 5 class	59	29.5
6-8 class	29	14.5
Above 8 class	46	23.5
Total	200	100

**Source-** Field Data and computed by Author

Table-6 reveals that maximum (33 %) child labourers are illiterate and 29.5 % belong to level of literacy 1 to 5 classes indicating less educated children are child labourers.

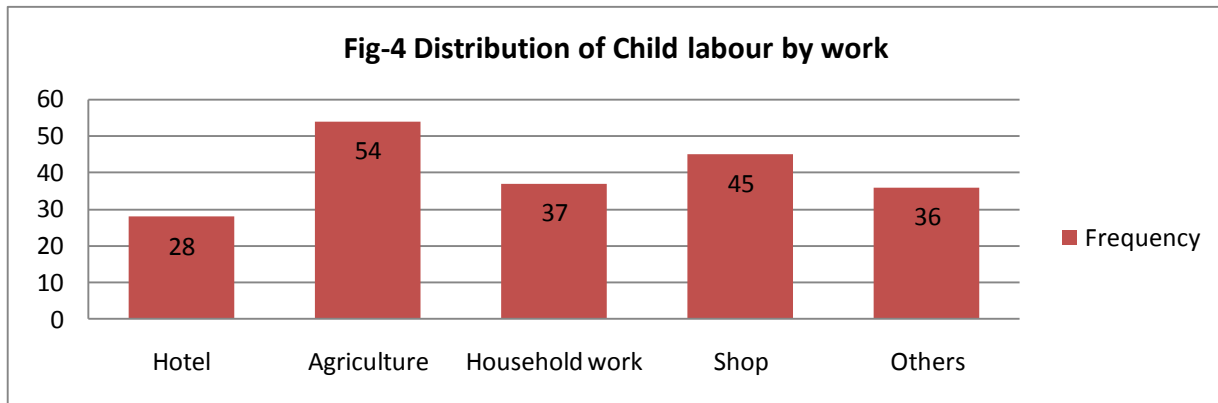


**Table-7 Distribution of Child labour by Category of Work**

Category of Work	Frequency	Percentage
Hotel	28	14.0
Agriculture	54	27.0
Household work	37	18.5
Shop	45	22.5
Others	36	18.5
Total	200	100

**Source-** Field Data and computed by Author

The table-7 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 occupations.



It is essential to analyse the social status of child labour in the study area.

**Table-8 Distribution of Child labour by Residence**

Nature of Residence	Frequency	Percentage
Own	128	64
Rented	43	21.5
With Relatives	29	14.5
Total	200	100

**Source-** Field Data and computed by Author

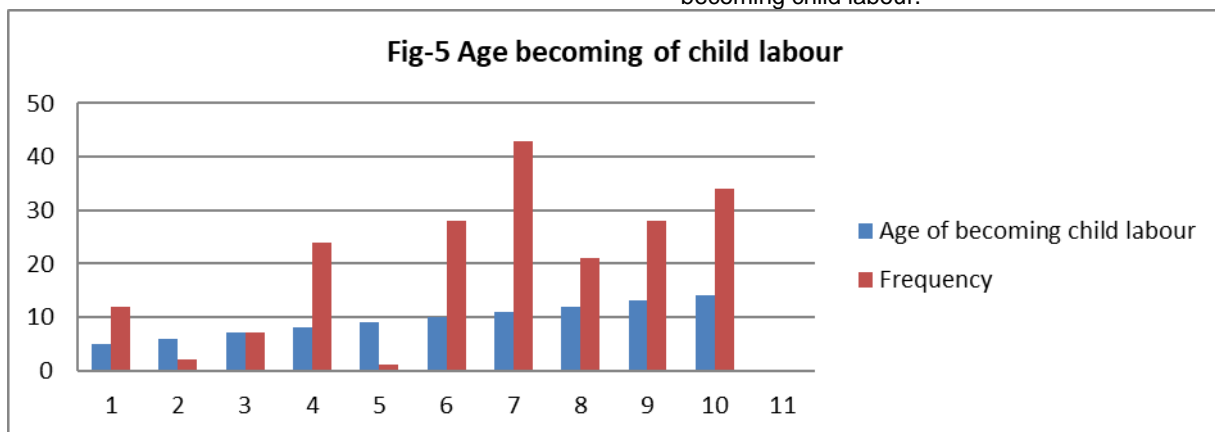
The Table-8 shows nature of residents of child labour. It is observed that 64% child labourers reside in their own houses. 21.5% stay in the rented houses. Implies that the child labour work from their own houses.

**Table-9 Distribution of Child labour by age of becoming child labour**

Age of becoming child labour	Frequency	Percentage
5	12	0.6
6	2	1
7	7	3.5
8	24	12.5
9	1	0.5
10	28	14
11	43	21.5
12	21	10.5
13	28	14.0
14	34	17.0
Total	200	100

**Source-** Field Data and computed by Author

The age distribution of child labour is presented in table-9. It is observed that out of 200 child labour under study, 154 child labourers are 10 years above. 21.5% of child labourers are 10 years old and 17.0% are 14 year old. Fig-5 shows the age of becoming child labour.



The Study also tried to analyse physical condition of child labour. 88% child labour have good physical condition, 6.0% are physical handicapped, 6.0% are physical sick. It implies that physical condition of child labour is good.

**Table-10 Distribution of Child labour by physical condition**

Physical Condition	Frequency	Percentage
Good	176	88.0
Handicapped	12	6.0
Sick	12	6.0
Total	200	100

**Source-** Field Data and computed by Author

The Table-11 shows that child labour place of work. There are 42.5% from place of home, 57.5% are place of working far away.

**Table-11 Distribution of Child labour by Place of Work**

Place of Work	Frequency	Percentage
Home	85	42.5
Working Far Away	115	57.5
Total	200	100

**Source-** Field Data and computed by Author

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The distribution of child labour by drop out is presented in table-12. It is found that 75% of child labourers are not school dropout children. Therefore school dropout is not the major factor of child labour.

**Table-12 Distribution of Child labour by drop out**

Whether Drop Out	Frequency	Percentage
Dropout	50	25
No Drop out	150	75
Total	200	100

Source- Field Data and computed by Author

**Table-13 Distribution of Child labour by Causes for Child Labour**

Sl. No	Causes for Child Labour	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total
1	Protecting the family property	1	150	7	42	200
2	Possession of family property	0	157	42	1	200
3	Parents can't afford education	1	146	3	50	200
4	Increasing the family income	0	117	3	80	200
5	Unable to study	0	117	2	81	200
6	Working with your age group	0	114	2	84	200
7	You are the only earning member	0	73	11	116	200
8	Fear of teachers	1	115	3	81	200
9	Finds the work easy	1	116	82	1	200
10	Finds pleasure in work	0	83	8	109	200
11	Dislike of school environment	1	120	78	1	200
12	Skill improvement	2	84	108	4	200
13	For the welfare of brothers and sisters	1	133	8	58	200
14	Responsibility to run the family	1	142	3	54	200
15	Getting money	2	80	10	108	200
16	Irresponsible parents	2	120	6	72	200
17	Parents' illiteracy	1	128	3	68	200
18	Taking care of brothers and sisters	1	110	4	85	200

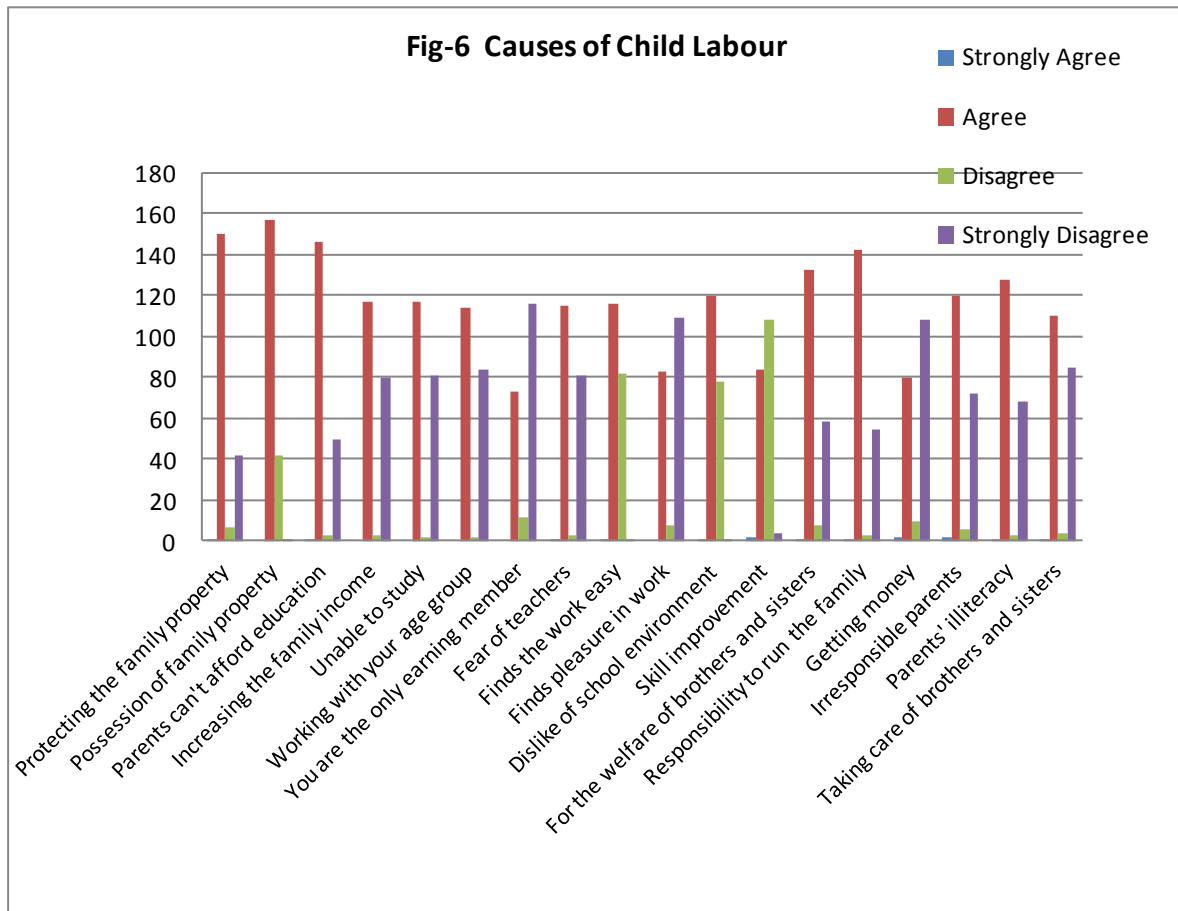
Source- Field Data and computed by Author

It is observed that 150 child labourers told that they do child labour to protect family property. Similarly 146 child labours agree that their parents cannot afford education for which they engaged in child labour activity. 117 agree that they are working increasing the family income. 115 child labourers agree that they are fear of the teachers. 116 child labourers told that to finds the work easy. 83 agree that finds pleasure in work. 120 child labourers agree

## Causes of Child Labour

There are many causes of child labour which are common to all countries of the world. Different research studies have identified many causes of child labour. In the present studies the child labourers were asked regarding the causes of child labour and it was analysed in table-13. Some of the general causes of child labourers are analysed below. The findings are presented in table-13.

that dislike of school environment. 84 agree that they are increasing the skill improvement. 133 child labourers agree that for the welfare of brothers and sisters. 142 agree that child labourer are responsibility to run the family. 120 child labourers agree that irresponsible parents. 128 agree that parents are illiteracy. 110 agree that child labourer are taking care of brothers and sisters. The Fig-6 presents the bar diagram of causes of child labour.



The bar diagram in Fig-6 shows that supporting family is the main cause behind child labour in study area.

### Opinion of Child Labour on Employer and Work

The view of child labourers are collected which is presented about employer and work in table-14. It is found that 82% of employers of child labour

are Government servants. It implies that the Governments servants know the rules and regulations of child labour but they employer more child labour than others.74% of employer ill-treat the child labourers. It generally that the employer do not behave others.61% of punished by parents.

**Table-14 Distribution of Child labour by opinion of Child Labour**

Sl. No	Opinion for Child Labour	Yes	%	No	%	Total
1	Is your employer Government Servant?	164	82	36	18	200
2	Does your employer ill-treat you?	148	74	52	26	200
3	Are you punished by parents if you don't do the work?	122	61	78	39	200
4	Are you tired of your work?	46	23	154	77	200
5	Does the work affect your health?	54	27	146	73	200
6	Do you undergo any non-formal education?	63	31.5	137	68.5	200
7	Does your family struggle to make both ends' meets?	73	36.5	127	63.5	200
8	Is your employer satisfied with your work?	52	26	148	74	200

Source- Field Data and computed by Author

### Condition of Work of child Labour

Working conditions that are deemed safe for adults may not be safe for children who have smaller statures and frailer bodies. Each year, an estimated 2.7 million of healthy years are lost because of hazardous child labor working conditions. Aside from the health risks, child labor stunts the social and educational development of our children. In agriculture, studies have shown that more children suffer physical injuries, health issues and even

deaths. Several factors can contribute to their hazardous working conditions:

1. Lack of experience with machineries and sharp tools
2. Exposure to chemicals such as pesticides
3. Lack of sanitary facilities such as toilets
4. Working at a very young age (5 to 7 years old)

Worldwide, the ILO estimates that at least 22,000 children die at work each year. Other hazardous work conditions and their health risks are:

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1. Heavy load bearing in construction industries
2. Exposure to radiation in nuclear power plants
3. Inhaling of solvents and glues in the leather industry
4. Lead poisoning in the glassworks industry
5. Mercury poisoning in the mining industry
6. Deep diving without wet suits in the fishing industry

The present study tries to analyse the working conditions of child labour in Khurda District of Odisha. The opinion of child labourers are collected on 12 aspects and presented in table-5.17. There are 143 children who agree that they are getting adequate food but 39 disagree child labour are not getting adequate food. It found that 113 child labour agree of getting undergoing medical check-up but 69 disagree

that they are not get medical check-up. It implies that 148 child labour agree that they get more sufficient parents care for their health and 47 disagree child labour for not proper undergoing medical check up. It is also found that 117 child labour are not getting ill treatment by employers but 74 agree child labour ill-treated by employers. It is observed from table 5.17 104 child labour agree that workplace is not conducive but 86 children are disagree that work place is not conducive. It shows that 125 child labour are gaining experience and 71 disagree for not get gaining experience. The opinion of child labour that 138 agree that they are under paid from the work and 59 disagree child labour are not paid. There are many employers facilities educational facilities for the child labour.

**Table- 15 Distribution of Child labour on condition of Work**

Sl. No	Causes for Child Labour	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total
1	Getting adequate food	7	143	9	39	2	200
2	Undergoing medical check-up	3	113	15	69	0	200
3	Parents' care for your health	1	148	4	47	0	200
4	Ill-treatment by employers	0	74	7	117	2	200
5	Works at night	0	62	5	131	2	200
6	Work place is not conducive	0	104	9	86	1	200
7	Gaining experience	0	125	3	71	1	200
8	Under paid	0	138	1	59	2	200
9	Employer provides educational facilities	2	118	6	74	0	200
10	Hard job	1	94	7	97	1	200
11	Compelled to work for long hours	1	111	5	83	0	200
12	Suffering from Inferiority Complex	0	110	6	83	1	200

**Source-** Field Data and computed by Author

## Eradication of Child Labour

Employers who hire child laborers have businesses and they want to make a large profit. This is one of the reasons why coffee plantations and clothing industries hire young children, for cheap labor. 58% of all children in child labor are boys with 62% of them working in hazardous work environments. Child labor has a significant effect on children's mental and physical wellbeing. Some forms of labor will have a detrimental effect on the health and well-being of children, often having a permanent effect on their health. This is especially so where children work in hazardous environments. Children in employment are prevented from accessing education

that would otherwise help them to build a better future. Furthermore, children in labor often do not have access to medical care and other behavioral and cognitive assistance they may require. Many of them become victims of abuse, extortion or worse. The primary study made an attempt to take opinion of child labour to eradicate child labour. Table-16 presents the opinion of child labour in khurda district of Odisha. 142 child labour which is 71% agree to join the school for education. 123 of them have awareness about the facilities available in special schools. 112 child labour parents willingness to send to your special or non formal school. 103 of them have desire to become a student of special school.

**Table- 16 Eradication of Child labour**

Sl. No	Eradication for Child Labour	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total
1	Willingness to join the special /non-formal school	12	142	3	40	3	200
2	Awareness of facilities available in special schools	5	123	9	59	4	200
3	Parents' willingness to send to you special/non-formal school	5	112	7	76	0	200
4	Desire to become a student of special school	4	103	5	86	2	200

**Source-** Field Data and computed by Author

## Awareness of Child Labour

India is the biggest child labour market in the world. 60 million children under 14 work, 10 million of whom in a state of servitude. To eradicate this plague durably, Humanium organizes awareness campaigns to inform parents of the negative consequences of child labour. Poverty is the main reason for child labour. In underprivileged families, children have no choice but to work to provide for themselves and their relatives. They represent a docile, cheap labour force for many areas of activity such as agriculture, brickyards or even factories. Working conditions are very hard and prevent them from having a real childhood. The numerous negative effects

on their health hinder their both physical and intellectual development. They cannot go to school and consequently do not have the same chances and opportunities as all the other children. The eradication of child labour is a necessary step on the path to decent work for all and for sustainable development. It requires political will at the national and global levels, implementation of all ILO conventions and investment in education. The present study collected opinion from child labour on awareness which is presented in table-17.

**Table-17 Distribution of Child labour by awareness of Child Labour**

Sl. No	Awareness for Child Labour	Yes	%	No	%	Total
1	Have you been sensitised to join special school	60	30	140	70	200
2	Are you aware of the laws: banning children below 14 years of age from work?	98	49	102	51	200
3	Have you participated in the awareness programme of Govt. /NGO's?	134	67	66	33	200
4	Have you expressed your idea of joining school to your parents?	104	52	96	48	200

**Source-** Field Data and computed by Author

It observed that 30% of child labour you have sensitised to join special school. There 49% are aware of the laws of banning children below 14 years of age from work. They have 67% child labour participated in N.G.O or GOVT awareness programme. It observed that 52% have expressed their idea of joining school to their parents. The programme of sensitisation is presented in table-18. It is surprising to note that 58 % donot know about sensitisation of child labour eradication programme. Only 33 percent are sensitised through songs/Slogans, 33 per cent by one act play and 13 per cent by street play.

**Table-18 Programme of Sensitisation about Child Labour**

Programme	Frequency	Percentage
Street talk	12	6.0
Street play	13	6.5
Songs/Slogans	33	16.5
One-act play	26	13.0
None of the above	116	58.0
Total	200	100

**Source-** Field Data and computed by Author

## Monthly Income of Child Labour

The monthly income of child labour is an important aspect of analysis. The primary study reveals that the highest monthly income is Rs 6000/- and lowest income is Rs 100/-along with food (Table-19). The average monthly income of 200 sample child labour is Rs 1172.25 which is extremely low. There is wide variation in monthly income of child labour as standard deviation is 871.19.

**Table-19 Descriptive statistics of Monthly income of child labour**

Statistical Measure	Monthly Income (Rs)
Mean	1172.25
Std. Deviation	871.19
Skewness	1.922
Kurtosis	5.354
Range	5900
Minimum	100
Maximum	6000
No. of Sample Child Labour	200

**Source-** Authors computation using SPSS

The parents provided their views on causes of child labour which is given in table-20. 40 percent parents told that poverty is the main cause of child labour followed by large family and mastering skill.

**Table- 20 Causes for sending Children as child labour (Parents opinion)**

Cause	Frequency	Percent
Poverty	20	40
Low wages of Adults	7	14
Unemployment of Adults	2	4
Large size of the family	6	12
No importance given for education	4	8
Mastering skill	6	12
No information about special school	5	10
Total	50	100

**Source-** Field Study and Authors Computation

## Conclusion

The child labour varies in nature and dimension depending on the existing socioeconomic structure of the society. It is unfortunate to say that tragically most of the child life is lost due to child work. Child labour is mainly necessitated by economic forces of the parents in many cases of the children. The main reasons which give rise to child labor are widespread of income, poverty and unemployment. Child labour's life is characterized by low education, poor living, bad working and living conditions, insecurity of jobs ,low income, long hours of work etc. adult workers, large families, lack of educational facilities, illiteracy and ignorance of parents about the importance of education as well as about the impact of labor on the health of their children are some of the reasons which breed child labor. 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. 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



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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. If we can ensure the pragmatic educational program and vocational training to make them skilled, then the negative effects of child labor on later age can be reduced significantly.

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