



Child Labor among the Tribal's: A Study in Kurnool District of Andhra Pradesh



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Abstract

Children are the most precious human resource and hold the potential for future development of the nation. If children are deprived of their childhood, the social progress and economic development of the country would be adversely affected. Child labor is a global issue which is more common in the underdeveloped countries. Poor parents or parents under the poverty line are unable to afford the education expenses of their kids and they own unable to earn enough money for the family survival. Children are the new flowers with a powerful fragrance of any nation, however, some people are declining the power and destroying the future of the country just for earning small money by illegally involving the growing kids. They are playing with the moral of the innocent people and their kids. Protecting children from child labor is the responsibility of each and every citizen living in the country. Child labor is the socio-economic issue which is coming from long ago and now need to be solved on an ultimate basis. In a brief, the definition of Child Labour is any work within or outside of the family that threatens the health and mental development of the child by denying her or him fundamental as well as non-fundamental rights. The Child Labour is a work which involves some degree of exploitation i.e. physical, mental, economic and social which impairs the health and development of children.

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1. Introduction

Children are conserved as the most important asset of our country, however, an improper understanding of the parents and poverty making them the reason for the weakness of the country instead of being the power of the country. Most of the children under the poverty line are forced to do the child labor daily even after the lots of awareness program run by the government and future welfare of society towards the welfare of the child.

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Child labor is a type of crime in which children are forced to work in their very early age and perform the responsibilities just like adults by taking part in economic activities. According to the International Labour Organization (ILO), there is an age limit applied to the children that children up to age fifteen will not involve in any type of work forcefully. It is an employment of the children in any type of work which makes children deprived of childhood, proper education, physical, mental and social well-being. It is completely forbidden in some countries, however, has been an international concern in most of the countries as it is destroying the future of children to a great extent.

UNICEF defines child labor differently. A child, suggests UNICEF, is involved in child labour activities if, between 5 to 11 years of age, he or she did at least one hour of economic activity or at least 28 hours of domestic work in a week, and in the case of children between 12 to 14 years of age, he or she did at least 14 hours of economic activity or at least 42 hours of economic activity and domestic work per week. UNICEF in another report suggests, "Children's work needs to be seen as happening along a continuum, with destructive or exploitative work at one end and beneficial work - promoting or enhancing children's development without interfering with their schooling, recreation, and rest - at the other. And between these two poles are vast areas of work that need not negatively affect a child's development."

Child labor in India

The problem of child labor continues to pose a challenge before the nation. The government has been taking various pro-active measures to tackle this problem. However, considering the magnitude and extent of the problem and that it is essentially a socio-economic problem inextricably linked to poverty and illiteracy, it requires concerted efforts from all sections of the society to make a dent in the problem.

According to [Census of India \(2011\)](#), there were 12.26 million working children in the age group of 5-14 years as compared to 11.2 million in 1991 revealing an increasing trend in absolute numbers though the work participation rates of children (5-14) have come down from 5.4 percent during 2001 to 5 percent during 2011.

In the Census 2011 of India, the age groups 5-9 and 10-14 years are taken for determining the Child Labour population.

Table 1
Child Labour population

All India Child Labour population according to 2011 Census				
	Age group	Main workers	Marginal workers 3-6 month	Total
All India	5-9	1108808	1066910	2175718
	10-14	3244439	2808324	6052763
	Total	4353247	3875234	8228481

Type of Child Labor

Street children: Children living on and off the streets, such as shoeshine boys, rag-pickers, newspaper-vendors, beggars, etc. The problem of street children is somewhat different from that of child labor in factories and workshops. For one thing, most children have some sort of home to go back to in the evenings or nights, while street children are completely alone and are at the mercy of their employers.

Bonded children: Children who have either been pledged by their parents for paltry sums of money or those working to pay off the inherited debts of their fathers are the bonded laborers. Bonded child labor is an acute problem in some states. Bonded children are in many ways the most difficult to assist because they are inaccessible.

Working children: Children who are working as part of family labor in agriculture and in home-based work. If children are working 12-14 hours a day along with their parents at the cost of their education, their situation is similar to that of children working for other employers. In fact, children, particularly girls, are expected to take on work burdens by parents in complete disproportion to their strengths and abilities.

Children used for sexual exploitation: Many thousands of young girls and boys serve the sexual appetites of men from all social and economic backgrounds. Direct links between the commercial sexual exploitation of children and other forms of exploitative child labor are numerous. Factories, workshops, street corners, railway stations, bus stops and homes where children work are common sites of sexual exploitation. Children are especially powerless to resist abuse by employers, either as perpetrators or intermediaries.

Migrant children: India faces a huge challenge with “distress seasonal migration”. Millions of families are being forced to leave their homes and villages for several months every year in search of livelihoods.

Causes of Child Labour

There are various reasons for child labor in our country. Some of the causes of global child labor are similar, however, differs from country to country. Most common reasons are like poverty, repression of child rights, improper education, limited rules and laws on child labor, etc. Following are some important points regarding the causes of child labor:

Poverty and high level of unemployment in the developing countries are the main reason for child labor. According to the U.N. statistics of 2005, more than 1/4th of people worldwide are living in extreme poverty.

Major causes of the child labor

- 1) Result of poverty
- 2) Consequences of Family Dynamics
- 3) The absence of father and mother
- 4) Illiteracy of the parents
- 5) Unemployment of the parents
- 6) Means of self-actualization

The situation of Girl Child Laborers

Worldwide domestic and household work are very often not seen as work as such. Also, if a girl helps her mother in the household, it is in most parts unrecognized because home-based work is seen as an unskilled nature with low status. Their lack of educational or vocational training, due to the preference is given to boys, blocks their ability to move upward. Because she lacks education, she has less possibility on the labor market and is only relegated to low-paid and unskilled jobs. This vicious cycle is hard to break because the exploited young girl becomes the exploited adult woman who often does not see her work as an economic activity but as under-valued.

The *Andhra Pradesh Child Rights Advocacy Foundation* (A.P. Craft) on girl child labor recorded that 246 million children are engaged in child labor worldwide. To say it, in other words, one in every six children around the world is doing some kind of work. This number can be broken down into two categories. The first one includes children between the ages of five and fourteen years. 186 million of them are working, often exposed to the worst forms of child labor. 49% of them are girls. Children between the ages of 14 and 18 form the second category and makeup 59.2 million child laborers. Out of them, 42% are girls.

Child Labour in Andhra Pradesh

Andhra Pradesh has a dubious distinction of having the largest number of Child Labor in India (2011 Census). The State is consisting of 13 districts, converging 2 subregions coastal Andhra and Rayalaseema in 2014. It is the 8th largest State in the Indian Union both in terms of geographical area and population. According to the 2011 census, the population of the State was 50 million, however, increased to 4.76 crores in 2011. For centuries together Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribes, and the most backward communities are marginalized and remained backward, excluded in the process of growth and development. The State of Andhra Pradesh was lagging much behind the national average in respect of literacy rate 67.4% 2011 and GSDP also. However, there is a significant improvement in literacy level by 2011, reaching 67.4% percentages, thanks to the national policy and state government efforts for building and development of educational infrastructure facilities in nook and corner of the state. Child Labour is engaged in multiple economic activities in Andhra Pradesh as mentioned below.

- 1) Agricultural operations
- 2) Sheep rearing
- 3) Cashew nut preparation
- 4) Chilies processing
- 5) Collection of minor forest produces
- 6) Hybrid cotton seedling preparation
- 7) Brick Kiln
- 8) Limestone mining
- 9) Slate manufacturing
- 10) Beedi rolling
- 11) Bakery and Biscuits making

- 12) Scrap collection and
- 13) Stone cutting.

Why Employers Preference of Child

Alongside factors which push children into earning money are others which pull children into the world of work.

- a) Cheap and obedient
The relatively low wages paid to children are often a reason why employers prefer them to adult workers. Some children work unpaid, particularly as domestic workers, in conditions that would be criticized as “slavery” if they involved adults. Employers find children more obedient and easier to control. Unlike older workers, they are unlikely to initiate protests or form trade unions.
- b) Inadequate laws
More than 130 countries have signed an international convention saying that children may not work full-time before 14 or 15 years of age. However, in some of the countries concerned, laws on this are confusing or unclear and not enforced.
- c) Poor infrastructure
Another factor is the practical difficulty of establishing a child’s actual age in countries where the infrastructure may not be in place for e.g. systematic birth registration. This can disadvantage children in many ways law enforcers are hampered because they do not have the means to absolutely establish the ages of e.g. teenagers, and, without appropriate documentation, young people may also be denied access to state services such as schools.
- d) Role of education
Children who receive little or no school education miss out on the knowledge that can create options for them later in life. Without it, they make less contribution as adults and are more exposed to exploitation and abuse. Not attending school is consequently both a cause and effect of child labor.

Review of Literature

The review of existing literature on the subject of child labor summarizes the current status of studies and research. There are very few individuals and committees which have conducted detailed studies on child labor in automobile servicing sector, both at regional and local levels.

Nirupama Singha (2016) in her book on Viewing Children’s Lives within Human Rights Framework, Rights are the essential element of all creatures including human beings. Human rights played a very significant role in the process of humanization. Recognizing the rights of others is integral to our spirituality. The sense of rights should be central to any person, whether man or woman, adult or child. Children’s rights are the human rights of children with particular attention to the rights of special protection and care afforded to minors.

Dhananjay & Parag Kalkar (2015) in their study on Child Labour in India: A Curse on Humanity. In India, the problem of child labor is well recognized. Children are engaged in various types of work including those that are classified as ‘hazardous’. Although there are interstate and inter-regional variations in India, the factors that generate child labor in general, and hazardous child labor in particular, are basically similar and revolve around poverty, lack of access to quality education, demographic pressure, social exclusion etc.

Kanu Raheja (2015) in his paper expressed the Current Scenario of Child Labour in Haryana, Child Labour is one of the major concern of India. A large number of Schemes, Projects, and laws have been introduced by the Government of India to overcome the problem but the problem has not been solved yet rather the number is increasing day by day.

Ramana Rao (2015) Child Labour and Education in India, Children in every society have always participated in economic activities; children assist their families at home, in farms, in shops, etc. All work is not bad for children. Some activities do make a positive contribution to their development, prepares them for their future tasks and helps to pass traditional skills from one generation to another.

Parvathamma (2015) in her study Child Labour in India –A Conceptual and Descriptive Study Child labor refer to the employment of children in any work that deprives children of their childhood, interferes with their ability to attend regular school, and that is mental, physically, socially or morally dangerous and harmful. Of an estimated 215 child laborers around the globe: approximately 114 million (53%) are in Asia and the Pacific; 14 million (7%) live in Latin America, and 65 million (30%) live in sub-Saharan Africa.

2. Materials and Methods

Methodology

The methodology carrying out the present study on Child Labor among the Tribal's - A Study In Kurnool District of Andhra Pradesh, it is discussed the child labor problem in Indian society. It includes the significance, aim, and objectives, pilot study, research design, sampling universe, sampling tools used for data collection, limitation of the study, problems faced by the researcher while the collection of the data.

The following objectives have covered the present:

- 1) To study the socio-economic conditions of child labor's parents.
- 2) To examine the causes influenced by the child labor in Kurnool District.
- 3) To evaluate the educational and occupational aspiration of the target group.
- 4) To observe the child labor facing the problems at the work site.
- 5) To examine the working condition, income, Health hazards of child labor associated with the varieties of Industry, Hotel, Restaurant, and Household activities in Kurnool district.

Sample Selection

Data was collected from 500 Children who are aged below 14 years of the tribal community both boys and girls on the random basis of the Kurnool district. There are three revenue divisions ie Adoni, Nandyal and Kurnool having 54 manuals and 870 habited revenue villages in the district. Out of 54 mandals 20 mandals have been selected on the basis of scheduled population strength. From each mandal, 50 respondents have been interviewed by randomly, thus the size of the sample consisted of 500.

Both primary and secondary data are used in the study. Secondary data is collected from the International labour Organization and Human Resource Development Institute of Andhra Pradesh, publications of Government of India, Government of Andhra Pradesh, Bureau of Economics and Statistics, District Poverty Alleviation Programme, different journals, periodicals and magazines, and Daily NEWS papers etc., Primary data is collected through the personal interview method, specially designed questionnaire and stratified random sample, using observation and Non-participation observation methods. The researcher keenly observed that Child labor problems and causes and consequences, parental income and household conditions, KAP, and problems facing at the work site both owners and customers.

3. Results and Discussions

Tools Used For Data Collection

The stratified random sample has been adapted to the present study. The child labor issues the international problem, structured scheduled questions related to the socio-economic demographic characteristics and the opinion of the variables on work, wage, treatment, situation, health hazards, facilities, exploitation and abuse, attitudes towards the work, the reason for discontinuing studies etc. It was distributed among an equal number of child labor from different types of work areas like Agriculture sector, Domestic sector and Industrial sector, Petty Jobs in the said, three divisions.

Child labor was important 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 beneficial. 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.

Table 2
Tribes distribution of the respondents

S.No.	Particulars	No. of Respondents		Total	Percentage
		Male	Female		
1.	Sugalies	109	91	200	40
2.	Yerukulas	89	92	181	36.2
3.	Chenchus	25	39	64	12.8
4.	Yanadies	30	25	55	11
	Total :	253	247	500	100

Table 2 expresses the tribe wise distribution of the respondents. The majority portion ie 40 percent of the respondents were the sugalies and the second place occupied 36.2 percent were yerkulas the third place has 12.8 percent were Chenchus and finally 11 percent were the yanadies and the male and female distribution of the respondents, as usual male is high position in sugalies and yanadies and yerukals and Chenchus were female numberings in the high position.

Table 3
Educational status among the respondents

S.No.	Educational status	Male Respondents	Female Respondents	Total	Percentage
1.	Illiterate	0	1	1	0.2
2.	1-5 th Class	35	49	84	16.8
3.	6-10 th Class	128	158	286	57.2
4.	Inter	90	39	129	25.8
	Total :	253	247	500	100

Table 3 Shows that the Educational status of the tribal children, education is the key to the every human being, but the distribution of the education in the tribal areas very difficult task of government. The table clearly shows that 16.8% of the respondents are studied 1st class to 5th class followed by 57.2 percent of the respondents are studied 6th class to 10th class and more than one by fourth i.e 25.8% are the studied intermediate level, it is indicated only one by fourth students are reaching the up interlevel they can't reach the degree and above education, due to insufficient financial resources, lack of awareness of the education, parents ignorance and addicted to alcohol etc. finally only 0.2 percent of the respondents are illiterates. It is indicated tribal children are enrolled in schools, but they drop-out various reasons in the Kurnool district.

Table 4
The opinion of the respondent's reason for joined the work at the age of below 14

S.No.	Main	No. of Respondents		Total	Percentage
		Male	Female		
1	No answer	4	6	10	2
2.	To supplement family income	166	165	331	66.2
3.	Unemployment of elder members of the family	26	24	50	10
4.	For taking up this work for better living	50	46	96	19.2
5.	Loan obligation	7	6	13	2.6
	Total :	253	247	500	100

Table 4 discusses the opinion of the respondent's reason to joining the work at the age of below 14. The significant proportion (66.2%) of the respondent's opinion that need supplementary family income they were forced into involving the work at the age of below 14 years and 19.2 percent of the respondents opinion that got money early to

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get better lining, reasonable portion (10%) of the respondents opinion that unemployed persons in the home that's they should involve the work and fulfill their needs in the family and small portion i.e (2.6%) of the respondents opinion that bank loans and other indebtedness relatives and land lard that's the younger members involved in the work at child age and the remaining of the 2% percent do not answer to the researcher.

Table 5
Distribution of respondent's opinion on the need for a better future

S.No.	Particulars	No. of Respondents		Total	Percentage
		Male	Female		
1.	Education	152	163	315	63.0
2.	Good Job	68	43	111	22.2
3.	Increasing wages	30	39	69	13.8
4.	Awareness on the labour act	3	2	5	1.0
	Total :	253	247	500	100

Table 5 discusses the distribution of respondents' opinion on need for better future, majority i.e. 63 percent of the respondents opinion that, if provide the education they will became the better journey in the society and 22.2 percent of the respondents opinion that, if they facilitate the good sources of jobs they became the good position achieving in the society and 13.8 percent of the respondents opinion that, if increasing the daily wages they became achieving the better life in their community and remaining of the 1 percent opinion that creates the awareness on the labour rights and benefits, they became the better life achieving in the society.

4. Conclusion

Child labor has become a sheer reality in Andhra Pradesh as well as India like many other developing countries, is one of the major socio-economic problems in the country. The working children, as a socio-economic group, happened to be the most disadvantaged because for the survival of self and family. They are forced to work for a living, sacrificing their childhood along with their future. Children, with the compulsion of taking up work at an early age, do not get the proper supporting environment for their physical and mental development. Many working children, especially girls, are also subjected to sexual abuse and harassment. Since the main reason for children to work is the family economic hardship, it may be unwise to eliminate all forms of child labor. However, the legal force should be given to the regulations. The regulations should list also safety measure requirements for all child workers, including a safe working environment and use of protection devices that include a safety helmet. Working shoes, workable gloves, masks, and protecting the glass.

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Statement of authorship

The author(s) have a responsibility for the conception and design of the study. The author(s) have approved the final article.

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