



Socio-economic aspect of child labour in commercial area of Gorakhpur city, Utter Pradesh

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Abstract- Child labour in India is deeply rooted problems with systemic poverty, underemployment, and low level education. Despite economic growth, millions of vulnerable children are forced into informal and unorganised sectors like service sector, commercial sector, agriculture and manufacturing. This paper examines socio-economic aspect of child labour in commercial area of Gorakhpur city.

Keywords- Child labour, Parent, Family-Background, Income, Socio-economic Condition.

Introduction- Child labor has remained an issue of concern in the world and this affects the youth population not only in the developing nations but also in the industrialized nations.. This is a growing menace at an alarming rate, especially in the developing world, despite all the efforts currently being made at the national and international levels to eradicate or at least minimize the vice. Nearly 90 percent of child labour is located in less developed countries. South Asia (5.4%), Africa (4%) and Latin America (2.6%) have the highest percentages of child workers under the age of eighteen. The scale of this crisis is indicated by estimates of the International Labour Organization (ILO) that indicate that around 248 million children across the world are engaged in child labour. India has the largest percentage of child laborers in the world.

Definition of child- In the Census of India and other related researches, the population is divided into four age groups: children (0-14 years), youth (15-19 years), adult (20-59 years), and the elderly (60 years and above). To conduct the current study, the children will be those under the age of 14 years, as this is the category used in postsecondary Census data.

Definition of child labour- The Constitution of India expressly forbids the employment of children below the age of 14 years in factories, mines or in any other dangerous occupation (Article 24). The Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act 1986, as amended in 2016, defines a child as any person below 14 years of age, prohibiting their employment in all forms of work, including domestic labour.

Literature Review-

- Socio-economic Background of Child Labour in Siliguri city of West Bengal-Mann Mukherjee (2003) – In this research work, Dr. Mukherjee details an analysis of

the number of working children from the Hindi-speaking region. he has also found out how many of these children are involved in the tourism industry.

- Socio-Economic analysis of Migrant Child Labour – A study of Dhabas and Tea shops in Lucknow (2023) - suggests that there is an urgent need for better and practical labour legislation,

Objective of the Study: The study has the following objectives-

1. To provide information on the family background of child labor,
2. To examine the educational aspect of Working children's parents,
3. To identify the type of occupation of parents of child labours.

Methodology: Gorakhpur is the second-largest city in eastern Uttar Pradesh, after Varanasi. The study employed a sampling approach because it was impossible to survey the entire city to capture the most significant characteristics of the target population. The first was to identify the administrative area where the survey would be conducted. The wards in the city are not evenly distributed, with commercial places evenly scattered across the wards in Gorakhpur. All the 70 wards were studied to exhaustively provide an insight into the child labour involving the city business quarters. The wards, too, were chosen randomly based on the greater concentration of child labour to ensure that the working children of all the commercial segments of the city were well represented.

Limitations –

1. Data regarding child labor is not available in the labor department office in Gorakhpur city.
2. Respondent did not want to answer independently, because their owners kept an eye on them all the time. Their fear and dread were clearly visible on the children.
3. I depend entirely on the questionnaire method, which shows working children's experiences.

About study area: Gorakhpur is located in one of the most productive areas in the world. Gorakhpur is a city, which is situated in the East part of the state of Uttar Pradesh, and it is near the Nepal border line. It is the second largest city of Eastern Uttar Pradesh second only after Varanasi. It is located between 26 42 °N and 26 47 °N and 83 20 °E and 83 25 °E on the confluence of Rapti and Rohini rivers between the left and right banks. **About the commercial area of Gorakhpur City** - It was determined and published by the Town and Country Planning Department, Government of Uttar Pradesh, that the commercial area of the city constitutes 3.05 percent of the total area of the city.

Total family members – This paper check size of families.

Table no. 1

Sl. No.	Family size	No. of families	Percentage
1.	4 to 6	52	32.5
2.	7 to 9	88	55
3.	10 to 12	12	7.5
4.	13 to 15	8	5
	Total	160	100

Source: Field Survey

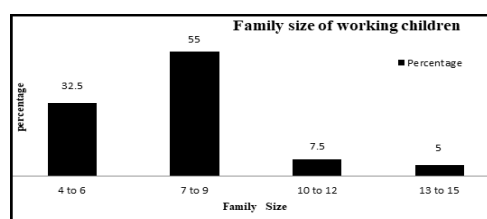
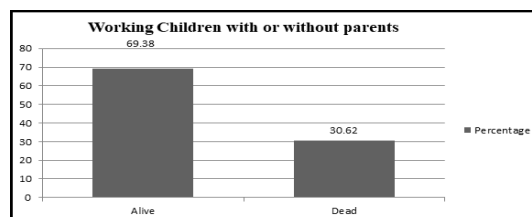


Table no.1 demonstrates family size distribution. Families of 13-15 people were the most rare ones and only 8 households were found. The 10-12 member households were somewhat more common and were found in 12 households. The highest percentage of respondents was the one composed of families with 7 to 9 members (88 household). Families comprised of 4 6 family members had the highest number of households.

Alive status of the respondent parents – Having parents in the family is a critical dimension in many cases.

Table no. 2- Working Children with or without parents

Sl. No.	Parents	No	Percentage
1.	Alive	111	69.38
2.	Dead	49	30.62
	Total	160	100



Source: Field Survey

Table no. 3

Working children father and mother dead of total parents dead

Sl. No.	Dead	No.	Percentage
1.	Father	28	57.14
2.	Mother	15	30.61
3.	Both	6	12.25
	total	49	100

Source: Field Survey

Table no. 2 shows that 111 parents are alive out of 160 working children parents and (30.62%) parents are not alive, but table no. 3 show more clear picture of collecting data. Total 49 parents are not alive, of these 6 both mother & father have died and whereas 15 mothers has died and 28 fathers has died of total parents dead.

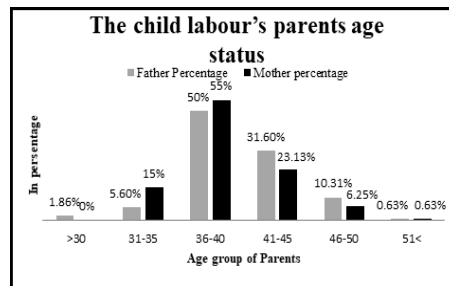
The child labour's parents age status- The age of any person denotes whether/ she is mature or not, and the age gives information about whether a person is capable of reproduction or not.

Table no. 4 - The child labour's parents age status

Sl. No.	Age groups of respondent's parents	Father		Mother	
		No.	Percentage	No.	Percentage
1.	>30	3	1.86%	0	0
2.	31-35	9	5.60%	24	15%
3.	36-40	80	50%	88	55%
4.	41-45	50	31.60%	37	23.125%
5.	46-50	17	10.31%	10	6.25%
6.	51<	1	0.63%	1	0.625%
	Total	160	100%	160	100%

Source: Field Survey

Table No. 4 shows that are six age groups of fathers and mothers that are indicated in the table. In the first category, less than 30 years old, three dead fathers are included therefore falling under this group. The second category which represents the age of 31 to 35 years is composed of 5 fathers and 24 mothers. The third group is comprised of individuals aged 36-40, with 80 fathers & 88 mothers, The fourth category is related to the age range of 41-45 of which 50 fathers and 37 mothers. In the fifth category, which is more than 46-50 years old, there are 17 fathers and 10 mothers.



Educational status of the parents of the working children - Mostly people have a big families Due to living in poverty, they are unable to concentrate on education.

Table no. 5 - Educational status of the parents of the working children

Sl. No.	Class groups	Father		Mother	
		No.	Percentage	No.	Percentage
1.	Never attended class	55	34.38	94	58.75
2.	1-5	28	17.50	37	23.13
3.	6-8	55	34.38	20	12.50
4.	9-10	12	7.50	4	2.50
5.	11-12	10	6.24	5	3.12
	Total	160	100	160	100

Source: Field Survey

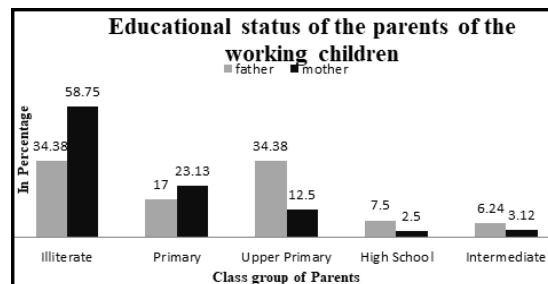


Table no. 5 shows that the educational status of the respondent's parents is divided into these five categories: Firstly, 55 fathers out of 160 and 94 mothers out of 160, in percentage 58.75% never went to school and never attended a class. The second category shows that 28 fathers and 37 mothers have attend primary school with classes 1st to 5th. The third category shows that 55 fathers and 20 mothers have participate in upper primary school with classes 6th to 8th. The fourth category shows 12 fathers and 4 mothers have attend high school with classes 9th and 10th.

Types of sources of income of parents: Most parents are workers in different sources of income, requiring little skilled or unskilled labor. Mostly, fathers and mothers work in the unorganized sector.

Table no. 6 Types of occupation of fathers of the child labours

Sl. No.	Types of occupation of father	No.	Percentage
1.	Labour	81	50.62
2.	Barber	3	1.87
3.	Former	16	10
4.	Driver	11	6.87
5.	Stall keeper	29	18.12
6.	News vender	6	3.75
7.	Mechanic	8	5
8.	Rickshaw puller	6	3.75
	Total	160	100

Source: Field Survey

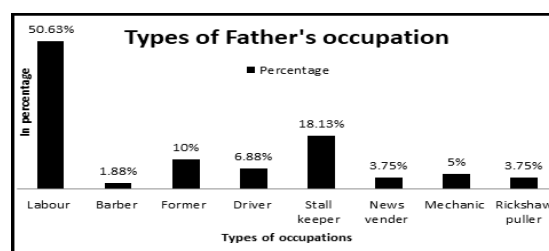
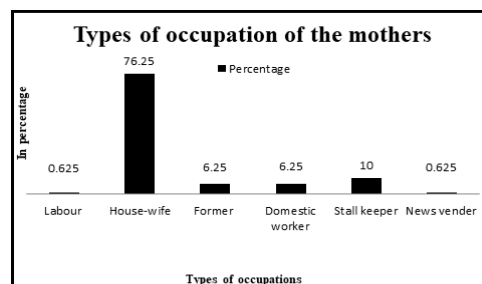


Table no. 7- Types of occupation of the mother of the child labours

Sl. No.	Types of occupation of the mothers	No.	Percentage
1.	Labour	1	0.625
2.	House-wife	122	76.25
3.	Former	10	6.25
4.	Domestic worker	10	6.25
5.	Stall keeper	16	10
6.	News vender	1	0.625
	Total	160	100

Source: Field Survey

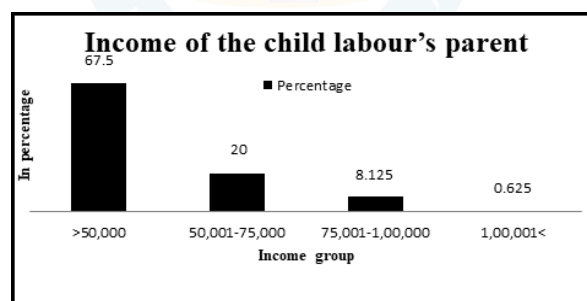


Income of the parents of the child labour: It is of enormous valuable to see at any household income. One of the pivotal reasons of working children is very low income.

Table no. 8- Income of the child labour's parents

Sl. No.	*Income of the child labour's parents	No.	Percentage
1.	>50,000	108	67.5
2.	50,001-75,000	32	20
3.	75,001-1,00,000	13	8.125
4.	1,00,001<	1	0.625
	Total	160	100

Source: Field Survey



Conclusion & Suggestion: Child labour is a heinous offence; this is the reason why the social problems have been aggravated and the growth of the children has been hindered. The outcomes of this study that working children's family size have too big. The large number of member are creating problems for the family's economy. Do problems keep mounting because earnings are low and expenses are high, leading to increased poverty. This sets off a cycle of poverty for the poor and children are forced to work to rise above this poverty. Mostly people are living in poverty are very poor. All respondents ' parents never tried to admit them to higher education, so these parents will never be able to understand how much harm child labour causes to children and how much negative impact child labour has on children, and these parents consider a child merely as an asset.

- Mapping, rescue and rehabilitation: In order to secure the needs of children visiting railway stations, child protection booths must work in their best capacity, and a system of children's railway inspection and protection must be complete.
- Shelter homes for the Urban Homeless people: These houses are of pivotal

importance for providing a shelter for the street children.

- Support from NGOs: Since most of the NGOs are already involved and committed to eliminating the social evil of child labour such as, Rotary Club Primary School, Jan Jagriti Sewa Samiti, Sanjeevni Welfare Foundation, Hirwani, World Organization, Rojgaar Shikshan aur Samajik Sewa Sansthaan, and Rising Welfare Society.
- Group insurance scheme: A similar group insurance scheme, like the one run to cover adult workers in the organized sector, could be introduced to cover children who were working in the unorganized sector.
- Law enforcement: Governments should also exercise greater restraint on recruitment exercises, especially when it comes to sectors where children make huge sacrifices as workers in unhealthy environments.
- Policies and Action Plans: "The migration policies developed by the government require a fine balance between avoiding the detrimental consequences of the relocation on the family and avoidance of the recoil effects that such displacement can have on children, especially their increased vulnerability to child labour.
- Tracing Government Schemes: The government policies and any legal provisions available to date must be implemented.
- Providing decent and safe employment opportunities with decent wages to young people of working age.
- Campaign and Publicity: The child labour battle can only be won when society in general, and more so the communities that have been most affected by the problem, should actually realise the situation and take action on it.
- Role of Media: The mass media can also prove useful in creating awareness and informing the masses about the plight of child labour in the unorganised sector.

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