An analysis of socio-economic conditions of child labourers (A Case study of '*Katedhan* Industrial Area' in Rangareddy district, Telangana state)

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Abstract
The present paper refers to analyze the socio-economic characteristics and find out the problems of child labourers at *Katedhan* industrial area of Rangareddy district (city outskirts of Hyderabad). The main objective of this study is analyze the socio-economic characteristics of child labourers. "Child labour" is, generally speaking, work for children that harms them or exploits them in some way (physically, mentally, morally, or by blocking access to education). There is no universally accepted definition of "child labour". Varying definitions of the term are used by international organizations, non-governmental organizations, trade unions and other interest groups. Writers and speakers don't always specify what definition they are using, and that often leads to confusion. "Child labour" is work for children under age 18 that in some way harms or exploits them (physically, mentally, morally, or by blocking children from education). International conventions define children as aged 18 and under. Individual governments may define "child" according to different ages or other criteria. "Child" and "childhood" are also defined differently by different cultures. A "child" is not necessarily delineated by a fixed age. Social scientists point out that children's abilities and maturities vary so much that defining a child's maturity by calendar age can be misleading. Work ranges from taking care of animals and planting and harvesting food, to many kinds of small manufacturing (e.g. of bricks and cement), auto repair, and making of footwear and textiles A large proportion of children whom the ILO (International Labour Organization) classifies as child labourers work in agriculture. More boys than girls work outside their homes. The survey on child labour was conducted in *Katedhan* industrial area of Rangareddy district and it was restricted to the all the child workers. The survey was based on the child labour problems at their work, their education and the causes for becoming as child worker. The method used for survey was interview method on Random sampling in which each child worker was interviewed personally to get the related data. In the survey 90 child were taken as sample. Out of these 16 child fathers were dead and 5 mothers were dead. Hence 74 fathers and 85 mothers are considered.

Keywords: child labour, international labour organization (ILO), unicef, national child labor projects

Introduction
"Child labour" is, generally speaking, work for children that harms them or exploits them in some way (physically, mentally, morally, or by blocking access to education).
There is no universally accepted definition of "child labour". Varying definitions of the term are used by international organizations, non-governmental organizations, trade unions and other interest groups. Writers and speakers don't always specify what definition they are using, and that often leads to confusion.
Not all work is bad for children. Some social scientists point out that some kinds of work may be completely unobjectionable — except for one thing about the work that makes it exploitative. For instance, a child who delivers newspapers before school might actually benefit from learning how to work, gaining responsibility, and earn a bit of money. But what if the child is not paid? Then he or she is being exploited. As per the UNICEF 1997 State of the World's Children Report puts it, "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." Other social scientists have slightly different ways of

drawing the line between acceptable and unacceptable work. International conventions also define "child labour" as activities such as soldiering and prostitution. Not everyone agrees with this definition. Some child workers themselves think that illegal work (such as prostitution) should not be considered in the definition of "child labour." The reason: These child workers would like to be respected for their legal work, because they feel they have no other choice but to work.
"Child labour" is work for children under age 18 that in some way harms or exploits them (physically, mentally, morally, or by blocking children from education).
International conventions define children as aged 18 and under. Individual governments may define "child" according to different ages or other criteria. "Child" and "childhood" are also defined differently by different cultures. A "child" is not necessarily delineated by a fixed age. Social scientists point out that children's abilities and maturities vary so much that defining a child's maturity by calendar age can be misleading.

What do child laborers do?
Work ranges from taking care of animals and planting and harvesting food, to many kinds of small manufacturing (e.g. of bricks and cement), auto repair, and making of footwear and textiles A large proportion of children whom the ILO

(International Labour Organisation) classifies as child labourers work in agriculture. More boys than girls work outside their homes.

Child Labour in Telangana
Despite renewed focus on elimination of child labour and universalisation of elementary education, Telangana state seems nowhere near touching the United Nation's Millennium Development Goals. A survey by Young Lives, an International Study of Childhood Poverty says Telangana state is yet to finalise its State Action Plan. The plan is mandatory for State Governments to promote health, nutrition, education, water, sanitation and safe environment. Kerala, TamilNadu and Karnataka have action plans in place.

Table 1: State-wise distribution of working children according to 2011 census in the age group of 5-14 years.

S. No.	Name of the State / UT	No. of working children in the age group of 5-14 years	
		Census 2001	Census 2011
1.	Andaman & Nicobar Island	1960	999
2.	Andhra Pradesh	1363339	404851
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	18482	5766
4.	Assam	351416	99512
5.	Bihar	1117500	451590
6.	Chandigarh	3779	3135
7.	Chhattisgarh	364572	63884
8.	Dadra & Nagar Haiwely	4274	1054
9.	Daman & Diu (UT)	729	774
10.	Delhi	41899	26473
11.	Goa	4134	6920
12.	Gujarat	485530	350318
13.	Haryana	263491	53492
14.	Himachal Pradesh	107774	15001
15.	Jammu & Kashmir	175630	25528
16.	Jharkhand	407200	90996
17.	Karnataka	822615	249432
18.	Kerala	26156	21757
19.	Lakshadweep (UT)	27	28
20.	Madhya Pradesh	1065259	286310
21.	Maharastra	764075	496916
22.	Manipur	28836	11805
23.	Meghalaya	53940	18839
24.	Mizoram	26265	2793
25.	Nagaland	45874	11063
26.	Odisha	377594	92087
27.	Pondicherry	1904	1421
28.	Punjab	177268	90353
29.	Rajasthan	1262570	252338
30.	Sikkim	16457	2704
31	Tamil Nadu	418801	181437
32.	Tripura	21756	4998
33.	Uttar Pradesh	1927997	896301
34.	Uttarakhand	70183	28098
35.	West Bengal	857087	234275
	Total	1266377	4353247

Source: https://labour.gov.in/sites/default/files/Census-2001 & 2011. pdf.

The 15-year study started in 2000 covering 3,000 children in each of four nations -- India (Telangana), Ethiopia, Peru and Vietnam. Of 3,000 children in different districts of Telangana state including the city, 2,000 children were being monitored from their first year and 1,000 children from their eighth year to teens. Supported by Department for International Development (DFID), the project is jointly run by Save the Children UK and a consortium of universities and research institutions.

The Magnitude of Child Labor in Telangana
As shown in Table-2, the total number of children (age 5-14) as per the census 2011 is 3,72,582. According to the Labur Employment Training & Factories Department of Telangana the district-wise child labour is given below:

Table 2: Child Labour Census, 2011 (5-14 Years) – Telangana

S. No.	Name of the distirct	Boys	Girls	Total
1.	Adilabad	18578	18842	37420
2.	Nizamabad	10726	10619	21348
3.	Karimnagar	8693	8746	17439
4.	Medak	12764	12333	25097
5.	Hyderabad	44284	34523	78807
6.	Rangareddy	31960	26857	58817
7.	Mahabubnagar	28802	34861	63663
8.	Nalgonda	10569	12854	23423
9.	Warangal	10578	11247	21825
10.	Khamma	12248	12498	24746
	Total	189202	183380	372582

Source: Annual Report of Labour Employment Training & Factories Department, Government of Telangana state, 2018-19.

Objectives of the Study
- To analyze the socio-economic characteristics of child labourers.
- To find out the causes for becoming child workers.
- To examine the working conditions of the child labourers.
- To find out the problems of the child labourers and to offer suggestions to eradicate child labour.

Research Methodology
Research methodology is a way to systematically solve the research problem. It may be understood as a science of studying how research is done scientifically. In this we study the various steps that are generally adopted by a researcher in studying research problem along with logic behind them. It is necessary for researcher to design methodology for problem as the same may differ form problem to problem. To a problem the research methodology has many dimensions and research methods do constitute a part of the research methodology. The scope of research methodology is wider than that of research methods. The research methodology concern a research problem or study. The study was taken place on 90 child labourers to know the problems for becoming as the child labour.

a. Sample size
The sample size considered for the study is 90 child workers in *Katedhan* Industrial area of Rangareddy district only. These are selected by random sampling technique.

b. Method of data collection
Data was collected in systematic manner by meeting the existing child workers personally. The data, which is adopted, includes primary and secondary data. The data is collected from two types of sources.

c.   Primary data source
The primary data are that information which is collected from a fresh and for the first time with a specified purpose, and thus happens to be original in character. These data are published by authorities who themselves are responsible for their collection.

Primary data can be collected by three basic methods viz, Survey, Observations and interviews. Here the interview method is used for collecting the details.

d.   Secondary data source
The secondary data are those which have already been collected by some other agency and which have already been processed (like magazines, journals and others).

e.   Questionnaire design
Questionnaire design comes under the structured questionnaire. Usually structured questionnaire is used when the researcher wants only a specific answer to the questions.

f.   Area of the study
The study was taken place in the *Katedhan* industrial area of Rangareddy district (city outskirts of Hyderabad).

Need for the Study
1. The details are collected from a particular location only.
2. By the child workers the problems may be approximately to the whole industrial area of city outskirts of the Hyderabad.
3. Getting the required information from some child workers has been difficult as they did not want to give information.
4. Information given by the child in the questionnaire may not be true because they may not be interested to reveal the real state of mind.
5. Perceptions of individuals may vary from person to person with respect to child workers.

Review of literature
The ILO has over the years compiled a great body of information about national law and practice in the countries that have ratified the Conventions. That unique information resource was consolidated in 2007 in the publication *Modern policy and legislative responses to child labour* [1]. The technical guide provides examples of responses by countries to child labour, its worst forms and issues such as children not benefiting from schooling, and their law enforcement responses. The guide has become a major resource for training and technical cooperation activities.

Government of India's Policies and Programmes on Child Labour
The National Child Labour Policy
Increasing attention is now being paid to strengthening the enforcement machinery related to child labour. Soon after the enactment of the comprehensive Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986, the Government of India adopted a National Child Labor policy in 1987, in accordance with the constitutional provisions and various legislation on child labor. The idea of adopting a separate policy on child labor was not only to place the issue on the nation's agenda, but also to formulate a specific program of

¹ IPEC (Geneva, ILO, 2007).

action to initiate the process of progressive elimination of child labor. The policy consists of three complementary measures:
- Legal action plan: This policy envisages strict enforcement of the provisions of the Child Labor (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 and other child-related legislation.
- Focus on general development programs benefiting children wherever possible: The policy envisages the development of an extensive system of non-formal education for working children withdrawn from work and increasing the provision for employment and income generating schemes meant for their parents. A special cell - Child Labor Cell - was constituted to encourage voluntary organizations to take up activities like non-formal education, - vocational training, provisions of health care, nutrition and education for working children.
- Area specific projects: To focus on areas known to have high concentration of child labor and to adopt a project approach for identification, withdrawal and rehabilitation of working children.

Child Labor Technical Advisory Committee
Under Section 5 of the Child Labor (P&R) Act 1986, the Government of India is empowered to constitute a Child Labor Technical Advisory Committee for the purpose of addition of occupation and processes in the Schedule to the Act. The Committee consists of a Chairman and members not exceeding ten. The Committee has been reconstituted on February 5, 1996 under the chairmanship of Director General of Indian Council of Medical Research.

National Child Labor Projects (NCLP)
Under the action plan of the National Policy on Child Labor, there have been National Child Labor Projects (NCLP) set up in different areas to rehabilitate child labor. A major activity undertaken under the NCLP is the establishment of special schools to provide non-formal education, vocational training, supplementary nutrition etc. to children withdrawn from employment. Under the project based action plan of the policy, 12 NCLPs were started in the States of Andhra Pradesh (Jaggampet and Markapur), Bihar (Garwah), Madhya Pradesh (Mandsaur), Maharashtra (Thane), Orissa (Sambalpur), Rajasthan (Jaipur), Tamil Nadu (Sivakasi) and Uttar Pradesh (Varanasi-Mirzapur-Bhadohi, Moradabad, Aligarh and Ferozabad).

Rehabilitation of Children Working in Hazardous Occupations
A major program was launched on 15th August 1994 for withdrawing child labor working in hazardous occupations and for rehabilitating them through special schools. Under the program a total of two million children are sought to be brought out of work and put in special schools where they will be provided with education, vocational training, monthly stipends, nutrition and health-checks. As a follow-up, a high-powered body, the National Authority for the Elimination of Child Labor (NAECL) was constituted on 26th September, 1994 under the Chairmanship of the Minister for Labor, Government of India. The functions of NAECL are:
- To lay down policies and programs for the elimination of child labor, particularly in hazardous employment

- To monitor the progress of the implementation of programs, projects and schemes for the elimination of child labor;
- To coordinate the implementation of child labor related projects of the various sister Ministries of the Government of India (to ensure convergence of services for the benefit of the families of child labor).

Assistance to Voluntary Organizations
Under the grant-in-aid scheme, voluntary organizations are being financially assisted to the extent of 75% of the project cost for taking up welfare projects for working children where the children are provided with education, supplementary nutrition, health care and vocational/skill training.

Status of Free and Compulsory Education
All the State Governments have abolished tuition fees in government schools up to the upper primary level Education. In schools run by local bodies and private-aided institutions is almost free. However, unaided institutions (3 to 7%) do charge fees. Compulsory Education Acts have been enacted in 14 states and 4 Union Territories viz. Assam, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Bihar, Delhi, Gujarat, Haryana, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, West Bengal, Chandigarh, Pondicherry and Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Government Role on Child Labour
Initiatives towards Elimination of Child Labour – Action Plan and Present Strategy
The problem of child labour continues to pose a challenge before the nation. 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.

Way back in 1979, Government formed the first committee called Gurupadswamy Committee to study the issue of child labour and to suggest measures to tackle it. The Committee examined the problem in detail and made some far-reaching recommendations. It observed that as long as poverty continued, it would be difficult to totally eliminate child labour and hence, any attempt to abolish it through legal recourse would not be a practical proposition. The Committee felt that in the circumstances, the only alternative left was to ban child labour in hazardous areas and to regulate and ameliorate the conditions of work in other areas. It recommended that a multiple policy approach was required in dealing with the problems of working children.

Strategy for the elimination of child labour under the 10th Plan
An evaluation of the Scheme was carried out by independent agencies in coordination with V. V. Giri National Labour Institute in 2001. Based on the recommendations of the evaluation and experience of implementing the scheme since 1988, the strategy for implementing the scheme during the 10th Plan was devised. It aimed at greater convergence with the other

developmental schemes and bringing qualitative changes in the Scheme. Some of the salient points of the 10th Plan Strategy are as follows:

- Focused and reinforced action to eliminate child labour in the hazardous occupations by the end of the Plan period.
- Expansion of National Child Labour Projects to additional 150 districts.
- Linking the child labour elimination efforts with the Scheme of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan of Ministry of Human Resource Development to ensure that children in the age group of 5-8 years get directly admitted to regular schools and that the older working children are mainstreamed to the formal education system through special schools functioning under the NCLP Scheme.
- Convergence with other Schemes of the Departments of Education, Rural Development, Health and Women and Child Development for the ultimate attainment of the objective in a time bound manner.

Data Interpretation on Survey
The survey on child labour was conducted in *Katedhan* industrial area of Rangareddy district and it was restricted to the all the child workers. The survey was based on the child labour problems at their work, their education and the causes for becoming as child worker. The method used for survey was interview method on Random sampling in which each child worker was interviewed personally to get the related data. In the survey 90 child were taken as sample. Out of these 16 child fathers were dead and 5 mothers were dead. Hence 74 fathers and 85 mothers are considered.

Table 3: Annual wage of the respondent's father

	Wages (in Rs.)							Total
	7200-12000	12001-24000	24001-36000	36001-48000	48001-60000	60001-72000	72001-Above	
Fathers	-	35	22	5	5	4	3	74
Percentage	-	47.29	29.72	6.75	6.75	5.44	4.05	100

Source: computed from the collected data.

Interpretation
Out of 90 child workers, 16 children didn't have fathers and hence here the calculations are taken on 74 fathers and it to 100%. The wages are taken on Annual period. In which the wages are from Rs.7200 to Rs.72000 and above. As in the table it was clear that wage between Rs.12001- 24000 is highest percentage of all. The second highest percentage was the wage between Rs.24001-36000. By this we can say that the children are becoming child labour of their poverty.

Table 4: Annual wage of the respondent's mother

	Wages (in Rs.)				Total
	7200-12000	12001-18000	18001-24000	24001-30000	
Mothers	2	14	20	5	41
Percentage	4.87	34.16	48.78	12.19	100

Source: computed from the collected data.

Interpretation
Out of 90 child workers, 5 children didn't have mothers and 44 mothers are housewives hence the calculations are taken on 41 mothers and it to 100%. The wages are taken on Annual period. In which the wages are from Rs.7200 to Rs.30000. As in the table it was clear that wage between

Rs.18001- 24000 is highest percentage of all. The second highest percentage was the wage between Rs.12001-18000. The wage earned by the mother is low as compare with the father and it is not sufficient to the family.

Table 5: Annual wage of the respondent

	Wages (in Rs.)			
	3600- 10800	10801-18000	18001-25200	Total
No. of respondents	63	27	0	90
Percentage	70	30	0	100

Source: computed from the collected data.

Interpretation
In the table the wage of the child Rs.3600 to Rs.10800 is highest. Which is low wage for their work as they work from morning to evening? The number of child workers earning Rs.3600 to Rs.10800 is 63 and the percentage is 70%. The number of child workers earnings Rs.10801 to Rs.18000 is 27 and the percentage is 30% out of 90 child workers and 100%. It means the owners of the child workers where they are working are paying very low wage and utilizing them in maximum extent.

Literacy

Table 6: Literacy levels of the respondent's father

	Literacy levels of the respondent's mother		
	Illiteracy	Literacy	Total
Fathers	53	21	74
Percentage	71.62	28.38	100

Source: computed from the collected data.

Interpretation
The literacy of father is very important as he can tell his children how to behave in society and what to eat and how to do things etc. In table illiterate fathers are more than literate fathers. The number Illiteracy fathers are 53 and the percentage is 71.62. The number of Literacy fathers is 21 and the percentage is 28.38. The percentage of Illiteracy is more hence they cannot tell their children and they won't send their children to school because of poverty and lack of literacy.

Table 7: Literacy levels of the respondent's mother

	Literacy levels of the respondent's mother		
	Illiteracy	Literacy	Total
Mothers	70	15	85
Percentage	82.35	17.65	100

Source: computed from the collected data.

Interpretation
The literacy of mother is very important as he stays at home and can teach his children. The children generally spend their more a mother and hence literacy is very important for mother. But in table illiterate mothers are more than literate mothers. The number Illiteracy mothers are 70 and the percentage is 82.35. The number of Literacy mothers is 15 and the percentage is 17.65. The percentage of Illiteracy is more than Literacy.

Table 8: Literacy levels of the respondents

	Literacy level of the respondents		
	Illiteracy	Literacy	Total
No. of respondents	15	75	90
Percentage	16.68	83.32	100

Source: computed from the collected data.

Interpretation
Literacy of child is important because they are earning some amount of money. If they are literacy, they can know how much wage that their owner was paying to them and how much can they demand their owner. Not only this but also the trends in their work etc. can be developed. In the table the number of Illiteracy child are 15 and their percentage is 16.68. The number of Literacy child is 75 and their percentage is 83.32. The percentage of Literacy is more than the percentage of Illiteracy. It was clear that the child are literate then their parents.

Table 9: Educational status of the respondents

	Educational Status of the Respondent			
	Only read	1st class - 5th	6th class - 10th	Total
No. of respondents	2	50	23	75
Percentage	2.66	66.67	30.67	100

Source: computed from the collected data.

Interpretation
As in the above table out of 90 children 75 are literacy and 15 are illiteracy. By taking literacy people we can know that up to which class they studied.
Here out of 75 children only 2 people can read only they didn't have any class qualification. The number of child that studied up to 5th class is 50 and the percentage is 66.67. The number of child that studied up to 10th is 23 and the percentage is 30.67.
By this it was clear that the child education is up to primary level only.

Table 10: Age of the respondents

	Age of the respondent		
	10-12	13-15	Total
No. of the respondents	33	57	90
Percentage	36.66	63.34	100

Source: computed from the collected data.

Interpretation
Age of children is very important because in small age they didn't what to touch and what not to and what to do etc. Here all the children have age above 10 years. The number of children having age 10-12 years is 33 and the percentage is 36.66. The number of children having age 13-15 years is 57 and the percentage is 63.34. Thu child workers are more in age between 13-15 years.

Conclusion
This paper has described the analysis of the data in the sample area in Rangareddy district (city outskirts of Hyderabad). According to the above observations, the following are conclusions and suggestions:

1. It is observed in the study now-a-days rapid emergence of child labour in urbanizing centres has become a great concern all over the world, particularly in the third world countries. More specifically in country, like India, the number of these children is increasing at an alarming rate. Some of the metro cities, like Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai etc., have experienced tremendous growth of these children.
2. The reality of the child labour is the naked and vicious face of poverty, sickness and exploitation. The tragedy is, that those who bear it are themselves innocent, lonely and frightened young children. Have only intermittent contact with parents or family (usually mother or sisters) but live most of the time with other street children in the city streets, or are on the move.
3. It is observed that the literally abandoned by their parents/relatives, found themselves on the street from the beginning because of family problems, or have chosen to leave home due to some kind of constant abuse.
4. Regarding the responses of the respondents Literacy is important because they are earning some amount of money. In the table the number of Illiteracy child are 15 and their percentage is 16.68. The number of Literacy child is 75 and their percentage is 83.32. The percentage of Literacy is more than the percentage of Illiteracy. It was clear that the children are literate then their parents.
5. It is found that the age of children is very important because in small age they didn't what to touch and what not to and what to do etc. Here all the children have age above 10 years. The number of children having age 10-12 years is 33 and the percentage is 36.66. The number of children having age 13-15 years is 57 and the percentage is 63.34. The child workers are more in age between 13-15 years.

Suggestions

1. The study understood that the urban areas, wherever household surveys have been conducted as per the instructions of Government of India. And lists of BPL families are prepared, such lists can be used. Wherever such lists are not prepared, the list of families covered under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) may be followed. Where neither of these lists are available, as a rule of thumb, families living in urban slums, both recognized as well as those not recognized, may be covered. Also, families which are in urban informal sector and working as rag-pickers, vegetable/fish and flower sellers, pavement dwellers etc. would also be eligible. Applications may also be collected from families in non-slum areas.
2. The study also understood that the welfare programmes implemented by the State/Central Government need to reach the children and there should be proper and clear propaganda about the programme. Hence, it is suggested that while launching the programme a provision must be made in the funds allocated for the purpose for necessary propaganda.
3. In this study suggested that the child labourers have been felt both by the Government and NGOs and at various points of time, different legislative and welfare measures have been taken up by them for the welfare of these children. It is surprising to note that during the study there was not a single street child who was looking healthy. So instead of simply formulating a number of plans and programmes for the betterment and welfare of these children, much care should be taken up for the proper implementation of these measures.
4. The study is also suggested that of the total number of child labourers who have suffered from some diseases, at least on-time checking during the 6 months period. In this regard, these children to be provided with all facilities to lead their childhood, which is very essential to promote healthy citizens of our country.

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