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Mayas Publication®
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Former Registrar
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dr_mohanreddy@yahoo.com

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CHILD LABOR IN URBAN INFORMAL SECTOR OF MADURAI CITY OF TAMILNADU STATE

P.PARAMASIVAM

PhD Research Scholar of Economics
Bharathidasan University
(Khajamalai Campus)
Tiruchirappalli-23

Dr. J. A. ARUL CHELLAKUMAR

Professor of Economics
Bharathidasan University
(Khajamalai Campus)
Tiruchirappalli-23

Abstract

India got independence before 70 years. Till now India has n number of policy and acts for eradicate the poverty and eradicate the child Labour in the country. But still child Labour is exists in India. This is not for India alone; Child Labour still exists in all the developing countries in the world. India has 43,53,247 lakhs of child Labour approximately (Census Data 2011). Hence the study focused on socio economic condition, causes for child labour and working status of child Labour in Madurai city of Tamilnadu state. This paper makes use of primary and secondary sources, primary data collected through structured questionnaires by interview schedule. Secondary sources collected from journals and Published Reports. The study found that majority of the child Labour belongs to socially backward communities. Most of the children causes into enter to work was social cause and the poverty. All of children fathers has consuming alcohol in the study area. Also the study examine the drug habit child Labour and non drug habit child labour as well the rescued child Labour and non rescued child Labour in Madurai city of Tamilnadu state in India.

Key Words: *Child Labour, Urban Informal Sector, Madurai, Hazardous Child Labour, Drug habit child Labour.*

I. INTRODUCTION

India got independence before 70 years. Till now India has n number 'of' policy and acts for eradicate the poverty and eradicate the child labor in the country. But still child labor exists in India. This is not for India alone; Child labor still exists in all the developing countries in the world. India has 43,53,247 lakhs of child labor approximately (Census Data 2011). Particularly in India still has child labor from the socially backward communities. This is reflecting to all the states of India. According to the census data 2011 shows that Tamilnadu has 1,51,437 child labor approximately. Children from poor family they have many of the causes to become a child labor. Every citizen of the country is responsible for government, at the same time government also responsible for citizens to providing all the scares resources. In this regards, Lack of policy measures, and it does not functioning effectively to eradicate the child labor in our country. Hence, the study focused on the child labor in urban informal sector of Madurai city in Tamilnadu state of India.

Defining Child Labor

According to ILO The term "Child Labor" often defined as work that deprives children of their childhood, their potential and their dignity, and that is harmful to physical and mental development.

- It refers to work that
- Is mentally, physically, socially or morally dangerous and harmful to children and
- Interferes with their schooling by:
- Depriving them of the opportunity to attend school;

Obliging them to leave school prematurely or Requiring them to attempt to combine school attendance with excessively long and heavy work.

According to the child labor (Prohibition and Regulation%) Act 1986: Child Means a person who has not completed his fourteenth year of age.

Current Status of Child Labor at World Wide

According to ILO (2017)

Worldwide 218 million children between 5 and 17 years are in employment among them, 152 million are victims of child labor; almost half of them 73 million, work in hazardous child labor

In absolute terms, almost half of the child labor (72.1 Million) is to be found in Africa, 62.1 million in the Asia and Pacific, 10.7 million in the Americas, 1.2 million in the Arab states and 5.5 million in Europe and Central Asia.

In terms of prevalence, 1 in 5 children in Africa (19.6%) are in child labour, whilst prevalence in other regions is between 3% and 7%: 2.9% in the Arab States (1 in 35 children%); 4.1% in Europe and Central Asia (1 in 25); 5.3% in the Americas (1 in 19) and 7.4% in Asia and the Pacific region (1 in 14).

Almost half of all 73 million children victims of child labour are aged 5-11 years.

42 million (28%) are 12-14 years old; and 37 million (24%) are 15-17 years old.

Hazardous child labour is most prevalent among the 15-17 years old. Nevertheless up to a fourth of all hazardous child labour (19 million) is done by children less than 12 years old.

Among 152 million children in child labour, 88 million are boys and 64 million are girls.

58% of all children in child labour and 62% of all children in hazardous work are boys. Boys appear to face a greater risk of child labour than girls, but this may also be a reflection of an under-reporting of girls' work, particularly in domestic child labour.

Child labour is concentrated primarily in agriculture (71%), which includes fishing, forestry, livestock herding and aquaculture, and comprises both subsistence and commercial farming; 17% in Services; and 12% in the Industrial sector, including mining.

Child Labor in India

There are 33 million child labour between the ages of 5-18 years in India as per Census 2011 data, and 10.13 million between the ages of 5-14 years.

Considering that there are 444 million children in India under the age of 18, they form 37 per cent of the total population in the country. Therefore child labour in the country in real figures boils down to 10,130,000 kids involved various occupations across hazardous sectors. And this is only data from six years ago. (Source: Census 2011 data)

Every sixth child in the world lives in India (Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation- MoSPI, 2012)

India has 10.12 million child labourers aged between 5 to 14 years (National Census 2011)

The Net Enrolment Ratio (NER) at the Upper Primary Elementary Level in government schools in India is only 58.3% (Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation - MoSPI, 2012)

Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) at the Secondary Level in government schools in India is below 50% (District Information System for Education - DISE, 2011-12)

About 35% children in India with disabilities remain out of Elementary school (District Information system for Education – DSE, 2011-2012)

School dropout rate amongst adolescent girls in India is as high as 63.5% (Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation – MoSPI, 2012)

State wise details of working children in the age group of 5- 14 years per census 2001 and census 2011 are as under:

Sl.No	Name of the state/ UT	Number of Children working in the age group of 5-14 years	
		Census 2001	Census 2011
1.	Andaman & Nicobar	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 H	4274	1054
9.	Daman & Diu U.T	729	774
10.	Delhi U.T	41899	26473
11.	Goa	4138	6920
12.	Gujarat	485530	250318
13.	Haryana	253491	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 U.T	27	28
20.	Madhya Pradesh	1065259	286310
21.	Maharashtra	764075	496916
22.	Manipur	28836	11805
23.	Meghalaya	53940	18839
24.	Mizoram	26265	2793
25.	Nagaland	45874	11062
26.	Odessa	377594	92087
27.	Pondicherry U.T	1904	1421
28.	Punjab	177268	90353
29.	Rajasthan	1262570	252338
30.	Sikkim	16457	2704
31.	Tamil Nadu	418801	151437

32	Tripura	21756	4998
33	Uttar Pradesh	1927997	8963301
34	Uttarakhand	70183	28098
35	West Bengal	857087	234275
	Total	12666377	4353247

Source: Census Data 2011.

From the above table inferred that state wise details of working children in the age group of 5-14 years. Tamilnadu working child labour in 2001 is - 4,18,801 in 2011 is - 1,51,437.

Child Labour in Tamil Nadu

As per the Census Data Child Labour in Tamil Nadu in the year 2001- 4,18,801(lakhs) and 2011- 1,51,473.

Work Places for Child labour in Informal sector

The committee on Child Labour (1979) has observed that child workers are found in the following informal sector firms.

- Domestic service sectors,
- Workshops
- Helpers in hotels, Restaurants, Canteens, tea Stalls, Shops and Way side establishments.
- Bidis, Glass and Bangles
- Handloom and carpet weaving
- Zari and embroidery
- Match and fire works
- Machine tool repair shops and petrol pumbs
- Rug Picking
- Construction
- Howkers, Vendors, Newspaper Sellers, and
- Cooli etc.

Madurai

Madurai is a Temple city, Traditional city it is also head headquarters of Pandya kings. Madurai is a major city in the Indian state of Tamil Nadu. It is the administrative headquarters of Madurai District. It

is Located on the banks of River Vaigai, Madurai has been a major settlement for two millennia. Madurai has been selected as one of the hundred Indian cities to be developed as a smart city under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's flagship Smart Cities Mission. Madurai is closely associated with the Tamil language, and the third Tamil Sangam, a major congregation of Tamil scholars said to have been held in the city. Meenakshi Amman Temple is a historic Hindu temple located on the south side of the Vaigai River in Madurai and is one of the most prominent landmarks of the city. Madurai Districts stands 17th in the population in Tamilnadu, but it is ranked first in atrocities against the community.

Statement of the Problem

Taking birth onwards children in the Indian society has many of the problems. Children in India face lots of social issues and problems all through the life which are big struggle for them right from their beginning of life. They affected physically and mentally in the society. Non availability of education and lack of proper education is creating child labor. Children neglected from the education, apart from that they pushed to work by direct and indirect causes. Most of the child workers in the society form economically poor families and socially backward communities in India. So it continues backward condition of the society. Children also responsible that the household income at their earlier age. They face sexual harassment at workplaces.

Hence the study focused on Socio Economic Conditions, Causes, and Working status of the Child Labor in Madurai City of Tamilnadu.

Research Methodology

The methodology of the study involves qualitative as well quantitative research methods.

Category	Gender	Place of Birth	Nature of Family	Religion	Social Background
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There is no existing data on the size, characteristics of the child labor in Madurai city. This study was therefore exploratory and required some methodological flexibility. The sample was purposively selected, taking into consideration. So ultimate sample size was fixed in the study area is 50. A research tool such as interview schedule was used. However, information was collected from child labor and parents of the child labor in the study area. The respondents were children below 14 years. Secondary data were collected from official and non- official sources. For fin the relationship between dependent to independent variable correlation was adopted. Also find the association between observed value and expected value chi – square test was adopted for this study.

Objective of the Study

1. Socio Economic Conditions of the child labor in Madurai City
2. To find out the causes of child labor and
3. To analyze the working status of child labor in Madurai City.

Hypotheses of the Study

H₀ : There is no correlation between Total Income and Total Expenditure of the child labor Family

H₀ : There is no significant association between gender and drug habits of the child labor

Child Labor in Urban Informal Sector of Madurai City

Table No – 1: Social Status of the Child Labor in Urban Informal Sector of Madurai City

Below table stated about the social status of the child laborers in urban informal sector of Madurai city of Tamilnadu.

(Age%)	Male	Female	Village	Urban	Sub Urban	Nuclear	Joint	Hindu	Christian	Muslim	SC	ST	MBC	BC	Others
Below-5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
6-10	5(10%)	1(2%)	-	-	6(12%)	-	6(12%)	6(12%)	-	-	3(6%)	3(6%)	-	-	-
11-14	29(58%)	15(30%)	4(8%)	1(2%)	39(78%)	10(20%)	34(68%)	44(88%)	-	-	5(10%)	34(68%)	5(10%)	-	-
Sub Total	34(68%)	16(32%)	4(8%)	1(2%)	45(90%)	10(20%)	40(80%)	50(100%)	-	-	8(16%)	37(74%)	5(10%)	-	-
Grand Total	50 (100%)		50 (100%)			50 (100%)		50 (100%)			50 (100%)				

Source: Primary Data

Above table inferred that majority that is 58 percent of the child laborers belongs to male in the age group of 11-14. Followed by 10 percent male in the age group of 6-10, 30 percent female in the age group of 11-14 and 2 percent in the age group of 6-10 in females. 39 percent of the male respondents in the age of 11-14 birth place were sub urban areas followed by 12 percent in the age group of 6-10 in suburban, 8 percent 11-14 age group of respondents in village remaining 2 percent of 11-14 age group of the respondents urban areas. Child laborers nature of family were joint family system followed by 20 percent of 11-14 group of child laborers' were nuclear family system and 12 percent were 6-10 of the respondents nature of the family is joint family system. Majority that is 88 percent of the 11-14 age groups of the respondents belongs to Hindu religion. Remaining 12 percent of the respondents same Hindu religion was in the age group of 6-10 in Madurai city. Also it is understood that majority of the child labor population belongs to Dalit background in the study area.

Table No- 2: Details of Number of Family Members of the Child Labor

S. No	Family Members	Frequency	Percent
1	Below – 3	8	16%
2	4 – 5	38	76%
3	6 and Above	4	8%
	Total	50	100%

Source: Primary Data

Table Number: 2 stated that majority that is 76 percent of the child Labour family has 4-5 members. Followed by 16 percent has 3 and 8 percent has 6 and above members in their family.

Table No – 3: Age wise distribution of Child Labour Fathers

S.No	Fathers Age	Frequency	Percent
1	21-30	2	4%
2	31- 40	32	64%
3	41- 50	13	26%
4	51 and Above	3	6%
	Total	50	100%

Above table stated that 64 percent of the child laborers fathers were in the category of 31-40 age group. Followed by 26 percent in the age group of 41-50, 6 percent 51and above category, remaining 4 percent were in the age group of 21- 30.

Table No – 4: Age wise distribution of Child Labour Mothers

S.No	Fathers Age	Frequency	Percent
1	21- 30	6	12%
2	31- 40	38	76%
3	41- 50	5	10%
4	51 and Above	1	2%
	Total	50	100%

Source: Primary Data

Table no 4 enlighten that 76 percent of the respondents mothers in the age group of 31-40 category, followed by 12 percent were 21-30, 10 percent were 41-50 and 2 percent of the children mother in the age group of 51 and adobe category in the study area.

Table No – 5: Occupational Details of Child Labour Fathers

S.No	Fathers Occupations	Frequency	Percent
1	Vendor	30	60%
2	Unskilled Labor	1	2%
3	Construction Worker	4	8%
4	Driver	1	2%
5	Beggar	4	8%
6	Others	10	20%
	Total	50	100%

Source: Primary Data

Above table stated that majority that is 60 percent of the child Labour fathers engaged in vendor occupation in Madurai city. Remaining 8 percent were unskilled, another 8 percent were Beggar, 2 percent were Driver another 2 percent were Driver and 20 percent were another category of occupations in the study area.

Table No – 6: Occupational Details of the Child Labor Mothers

S.No	Mothers Occupations	Frequency	Percent
1	Vendor	30	60%
2	Construction Worker	5	10%
3	Beggar	6	12%
4	House Wife	1	2%
5	Domestic	2	4%
6	Others	6	12%
	Total	50	100%

Source: Primary Data

Above table shows that 60 percent of the respondents mothers engaged in street vending occupation followed by 12 percent of the mothers were Beggar, 10 percent construction worker, 4 percent were domestic worker, 2 percent were house wife. And remaining 12 percent of the respondents mothers engaged other occupations in the study area.

Table No – 7: Details of Child Labour Siblings

S.No	Siblings	Frequency	Percent
1	Below 2	24	48%
2	3-4	25	50%
3	5 and Above	1	2%
	Total	50	10%

Source: Primary Data

From the above table shows that 50 percent of the child Labour has 3-4 siblings in their family, followed by 48 percent below 2 and 2 percent were 5 and above siblings in their family.

Table No – 8: Annual Income of the child labour Family

S.No	Income	Frequency	Percent
1	Below 1,00,000	14	28%
2	1,00,000- 1,50,000	19	38%
3	1,50,000 and Above	17	34%
	Total	50	100%

Source: Primary Data

38 percent of the respondent family annual income was 1, 00,000 to 1, 50,000. Followed by 34 percent were 1, 50,000 and above. Remaining 28 percent were Below 1, 00,000 Rupees in the study area.

Table No – 9: Total Assets of the Child Labour Family (in Rupees)

S.No	Assets (Rupees)	Frequency	Percent
1	Below 5000	46	92%
2	5001 and Above	4	8%
	Total	50	100%

Source: Primary Data

From the above table it is inferred that 92 percent of the respondents' family assets was below 5000 Rupees. Remaining 8 percent were 5001 and above in the study area. As before mentioned in the social category majority of the children belongs to the Dalit Population so it is noticed that majority of the children family has small amount of assets. It is may be interrelated each other.

Table No – 10: Total Expenditure of the Child Labour Family

S.No	Expenditure (Rupees)	Frequency	Percent
1	Below 3000	4	8%
2	3001 – 6000	7	14%
3	6001 – 9000	38	76%
4	9000 and Above	1	2%
	Total	50	100%

Source: Primary Data

Table no 10 inferred that 76 percent of the respondent family expenditure were 6001- 9000 followed by 14 percent were 3001- 6000, 8 percent below 3000 and 2 percent were 9000 and above.

II. MAJOR FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

- 92 percent of the child labor in Madurai city attended school they drop out due to the poverty, family problem, school distance and cost of education in this 92 percent of the child labor 24 percent of them said that school experience was good because of education, Friends , playing games in the school etc. as well same 76 percent of the child labor said that school experience was bad because of teacher beating, home work and all.

- Majority that is 62 percent of the child labor working approximately 14 hours per day. Remaining 20 percent of the child labor working hours approximately 12 hours per day and 18 percent were 13 hours per day in the study area.

- 88 percent of the child labor work place does not having any facilities, remaining 8 percent of the child labor work place has only water facilitates, remaining 4 percent of the child labor work place has all of the facilities like water, toilet, etc.

- Only 6 percent of the child labor living in their own home, followed by 10 percent of the child labor living in rental home and 84 percent were living in slum area, road side, nearby bus stand and railway station etc.

- The study noted that 74 percent of the child labor in the study area were rescued child labor, that is already these child labor rescued by the NGO's or Government organizations, remaining 26 percent of the child labor were un rescued child labor in the study area.

- 68 percent of the child labor has drug habits, like consuming alcohol; smoking etc. remaining 32 percent of the child labor does not have any drug habits in Madurai city.

III. CONCLUSION

The present study examines the socio economic status such as social background, religion, and details family members. Also the study covered what are the causes influencing the child labor. Finally the study found that working status of the child labor in Madurai city. Ultimately study come to know that in the 21st century many of the governments and reports stated that there child labor declining in India, but

fact is that still not India alone every developing countries child labor is still exists. From this fact it is observed that government policies does not functioning effectively to eradicate the child labor. Government should take serious action to eradicate the poverty.

IV. REFERENCE

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