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Causes 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 major problems and causes of child labour in commercial area of Gorakhpur city.

Keywords: Child labour, Education, Income, Poverty, Employment.

Introduction-

Child labour 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 labourers in the world. Child labour is not a recent phenomenon in business and industry; it cannot be pinned down to a specific date and time period. Children have been at work in one way or another in human history.

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).
- Census of 1981 and the National Sample Survey on Employment and Unemployment are further

classifying individuals between the age of 5-14 years as child workers.

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.
- As of the 2011 Census of India, child labour involves any person under the age of 17 years in any economically productive activity with or without compensation or wages. This work may be either physical or mental or both.

Literature Review-

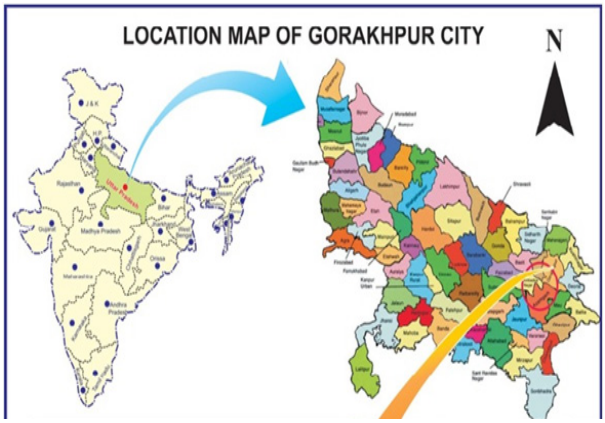
- A Study of the prevalence of Child Labour in Kanpur district – Trivedi Tripati (2007) – In this research work, he has explained how the number of working children increased in Kanpur district.
- Three Essays on the Economics of Child Labour – Soumya Sachin (2017) – details discussed on the economy of the working children. This economy is a hidden economy that is not visible, but is happening on an immense scale all around us. He has suggested ways for working children to escape this hidden economy.

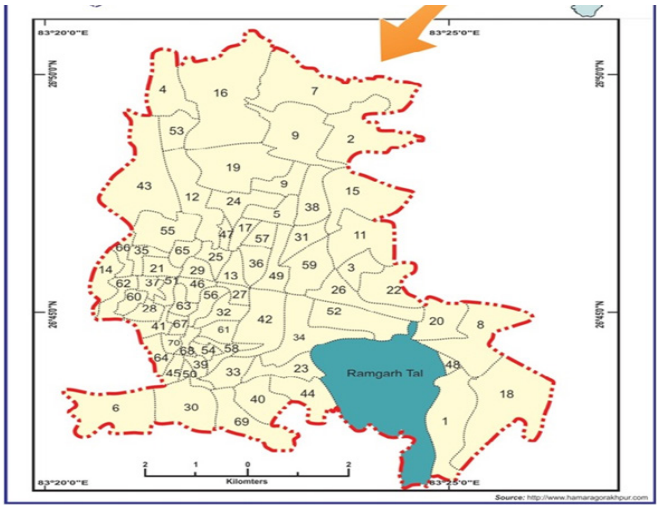
Objective of the Study : To identify causes of child labour.

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. People do not want to give information or any facts/data about children who engage in domestic work.
2. Data regarding child labor is not available in the labor department office in Gorakhpur city.
3. 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.





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 o N and 26 47 o N and 83 20 o E and 83 25 o E on the confluence of Rapti and Rohini rivers between the left and right banks. The city extends its municipal jurisdiction to the south-western side of the city as well. The north and eastern sides of the city are bordered by defense establishments and Kusmi forest, respectively. About Commercial area - A commercial area defines an area, primarily focused on commercial buildings and economic activities such as shopping centers, showrooms, a lot of offices who involved in business, like as 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.

Causes of child labour–

A large number of them do not even have families or cannot count on them for support. In these circumstances, the alternative to work may be idleness, destitution or worse, crime. Employers give certain justifications for employing children to suppress their guilt feelings. They say that the work keeps children away from starvation. They are prevented from committing crimes, which they would have indulged in if they had no jobs. The bureaucrats have told that the total eradication of child labour is not feasible because the government cannot provide substantial alternative employment to them. The social scientists believe that the main cause of child labour is poverty. The children either supplement their parents' income or are the only wage earners in the family. According to United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) report , India will have 23.4 crore people lifted out of poverty by 2024, although the figure varies depending on different definitions, with some reports putting as many as 86 crore people below than the poverty line. According to the Deutsche Welle (DW) a Germany Journal, to the 2011-2012 reports, there will be 27 crore people below the poverty line by 2022 and the number is projected to be around 25 crore by 2024, which also matches the Tendulker Committee (2011-2012) report. Child labour is driven by several interconnected causes, primarily poverty and lack of access to quality education, which leaves children with few alternatives to work for survival or family income. A great majority of children have reported that their parents have sent them to work in order to supplement their earnings, which are invariably too meager to support their large family. Most of the child workers are found to be drawn into the work places as no adult wage earners exists in their families. By taking jobs at the tender age children play the role of a family supporter.

Table no. 1 - Causes of child labour

Sl. No.	Causes	No. of frequency	Percentage of frequency
1.	Insufficient income of your family	160	100
2.	To support the family	160	100
3.	Do not have the family	2	1.25
4.	Family cannot support you	59	36.88
5.	To pay the loan of your family	84	52.50
6.	To save the family from starvation	145	90.63
7.	You was not going to school	73	45.63
8.	Your all family members involved in work	59	36.88
9.	Saving for your sister's marriage	106	66.25
10.	Father involved in crime	7	4.38
11.	Working at home with family on contract basis	10	6.25
	Total	160	100

Source: Field Survey

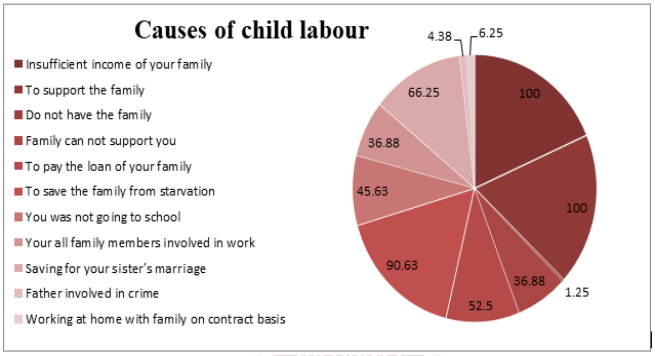


Table no. 1 shows very details information of causes of child labour due to which he was inspired to work. This research work find out eleven reasons behind child labour which is based on the answers given by the total no. of the respondent. The one hundred sixty means total hundred percent child labours told the major reason behind child labour is insufficient income of your family. The one hundred sixty means total hundred percent child labours highlighted the another major reason behind child labour is to support their own family. The one hundred forty five means more than ninety percent child labours mentioned the third major reason behind child labour is to save the own family from starvation. The one hundred six means more than sixty six percent child labours told the fourth major reason behind child labour is saving for their sister's marriage. Only seven means more than four percent child labours told that their father involved in crime so they came to work for family' survival. Only two respondents do not have family so they came to work. The ten respondents told that their families take up work on contract basis. The eighty four means more than fifty two percent child labours highlighted the another major reason behind child labour is to pay the loan of their families. The fifty nine means near about thirty seven percent child labours highlighted the another major reason behind child labour is family can not support you. The seventy three means near about forty six percent child labours highlighted the another major reason behind child labour is they was not going to school. The fifty nine child labours mentioned that their total family members are involved in work.

Conclusion: 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 effectiveness of these laws in the process of solving the problem is considered in the paper and the gap of current legal practices is identified. The government has one of the most significant roles in combating child labour in the country, as the national legislation determines specific rights and obligations and specifies the way of action in case of complaints and investigation.

Suggestion:

- 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. This system should also include of sensitive

and trained police officers, child-friendly police stations and trained railway staff and vendors that come into first-hand contact with children and always help in identifying and referring them. .

- Shelter homes for the Urban Homeless people: These houses are of pivotal importance for providing a shelter for the street children.
- Improving access to early childhood education: It has been well known that mothers' education is a huge factor that enhances education and reduces the child labour factor in schools.
- 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, they need to be approached and encouraged to implement the programmes that are beneficial to the child labours who were employed 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. The labor inspectorates are supposed to be improved to increase surveillance
- 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, and the ones concerning labour and child rights, with particular reference to the enforcement of the RTE.
- 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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