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A study on profile characteristics of child labour in rolled gold industry in Krishna district of Andhra Pradesh

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ABSTRACT

The child is believed to be the gift of the god. He must be nurtured with care and affection within the family and society. Unfortunately, due to socio-economic factors, the incidence of neglect, abuse, and deprivation particularly in the poverty-afflicted sections of the society has gradually increased. It is a tragedy that the children who are hidden as desire in the hearts of their mothers and enjoy immense affection of their parents are, in million, compelled to work as labourers. In this article reviewed the profile of the child labour employed in the Rolled Gold Industry. This included and data collected on age of the child, social status of the family caste, economic status of the family housing possession, family type, family size, ordinal position of the child, Occupation of the parents, Parents living status.

Keywords— Child labour, Rolled gold industry

1. INTRODUCTION

The problem of child labour in India has of late assumed the proportion of a social menace threatening the very fabric of a social milice. The appalling faces of a vast number of ill-clad, ill-fed and ill-paid teenaged and mostly under 15 years age group of young boys brings to our mind the view of a very skewed distribution of the fruits of development, despite after crossed so many years of independence. What seems more intriguing is that the phenomenon of child labour shows little sign of diminishing despite government efforts and enunciation of various protective acts and policies from time to time.

Since India does not have a population control policy, it will have to live with the problem of child labour for a long time to come. And now India has opted for compulsory schooling. However, by itself, it may not achieve the desired results, as the Indian experience has already shown unless it is accompanied by growth strategies, which focus directly on labour absorption methods.

Andhra Pradesh was at the topmost in the list of child labour in the country even according to the NFHS data 1998-99. As per Census 2001, child labour declined when checking in national level to 1.24 percent and further to 0.36 percent in 2011. According to the NSSO (66th round of survey) on child labour in the Major Indian States, 2009-10, gives the to2011 NSSO statistics Andhra Pradesh was in fourth place. A total number of child labor in the country at 49,83,871 while census 2011 gives the number of child labour in the country at 43,48,249 and thereby providing credibility to the later. Looking at both the estimates and also taking into account the declining trend in child labor in the country, the data seems to be reliable and consistent in its estimates.

The study was conducted at Machilipatnam, the head-quarters of Krishna District in Andhra Pradesh where the maximum number of Rolled gold industries was present at the time of the study. The study was mainly exploratory in nature and focused attention on children of 7-14 years age. The study was aimed to explore the profile status of child labour, the economic contribution of the child to a family in their tender age.

The study was aimed at creating awareness in the parents, sensitizing the employers, workers, government authorities and the trade unions about the problem of child labour and at motivating them to work for its elimination.

The present study offered suggestions for planning suitable programmes and policies to prevent their entrance into child labour in their half bloom stage. Suitable action plans can be made and implemented in these areas for the perfect development of the children. The results of this study could be taken into consideration by the professionals in planning intervention programmes at various levels that is at individual child level and at the community level.

Child labour is a shame in our globalized society. Elimination of such a problem is possible with commitment at the individual level to national level authorities. The present study might be a good contribution in this direction.

2. MATERIAL AND METHODS

The chapter deals with the detailed description of methods and procedures employed in conducting the research in an organized manner. The various components of this chapter are grouped under the following sub-headings.

- 2.1 Research design
- 2.2 Locale of the study
- 2.3 Sampling procedure
- 2.4 Measurement of profile characteristics of child labourers.
- 2.5 Economic contribution status of the child to a family in their tender age.

Keeping in the view of the objectives of the study, the available literature was reviewed, analyzed and synthesized and an explorative research design was used for conducting the study. The state of Andhra Pradesh, Krishna District, and Machilipatnam mandal were purposively selected. From the list of industries of the mandal 5 industries were selected randomly. From each industry, 20 child labourers comprising of 10 girls and 10 boy child labourers were selected as a sample for the study.

The information regarding the profile of child labourers was collected and tabulated by employing the appropriate existing scales. Schedules were developed for collecting information on other aspects. The data thus collected through the interview schedules were coded, tabulated, analyzed with the help of frequency, percentages are presented in the form of Tables.

3. PROFILE OF CHILD LABOURERS as per the study

3.1 Age of the child

The distribution of respondents based on their age in completed years was presented in Table 1.

Table 1: Distribution of child labourers according to their age

S. no.	Age (in completed years)	Frequency	Percentage
1.	7-8	01	01.00
2.	9-10	09	09.00
3.	11-12	31	31.00
4.	13-14	59	59.00
		100	100.00

From table 1 it can be seen that majority of children (59.00 %) were in the age group of 13-14 years while 31.00 percentage of children were between 11-12 years of age followed by small percentage (9.00 %) of children in 9-10 years age group and negligible percent of children (1.00 %) were in 7-8 years of age group. These results are matching with the results of Satyanarayana (2017).

3.2 Education

The child labourers were categorized into four groups based on the education. The distribution is given in table 2.

Table 2: Distribution of child labourers based on their education

S. no.	Education levels of child	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Illiterates	17	17.00
2.	Up to 3 rd class	14	14.00
3.	4 th to 6 th class	48	48.00
4.	7 th to 9 th class	21	21.00
		100	100.00

Table 2 reveals the majority of children belonged to 4th-6th class comprising 48.00 percent of total child labourers followed by 21.00 percent of children (7th to 9th class), illiterates (17.00 %) and up to 3rd class (14.00%).

3.3 Social status

3.3.1 Religion

Table 3: Distribution of child labourers based on their religion

S. no.	Religion	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Hindu	53	53.00
2.	Muslim	45	45.00
3.	Christian	02	2.00
		100	100.00

From table 3, it can be seen that majority of children belonged to the Hindu religion with 53.00 percent of total child labourers followed by 45.00 percent (Muslim religion) and 2.00 percent (Christianity).

3.3.2 Caste

The child labourers were categorized into four groups based on their caste. The distribution is given in table 4.

Table 4: Distribution of child labourers according to their caste

S. no.	Caste Category	Frequency	Percentage
1.	O.C	46	46.00
2.	B.C	39	39.00
3.	S.C.	12	12.00
4.	S.T.	03	03.00
		100	100.00

From the table 4, it is clear that a considerable number of child labourers belonged to open category with 46.00 percent followed by Other Backward Caste (39.00%), Schedule Caste (12.00%), and Schedule Tribes (3.00%). These findings were in disagreement with the results of Satyanarayana (2017).

3.4 Economic status of the parents

3.4.1 Gross income of parents per annum

The gross income levels of the parents per annum are divided into 6 categories and the distribution is given in table 5.

Table 5: Distribution of child laborer’s parents according to their gross income per annum

S. no.	Annual income (Rs.)	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Up to 6,000	06	06.00
2.	6,000 – 12,000	28	28.00
3.	12,001 – 18,000	32	32.00
4.	18,000 – 24,000	32	32.00
5.	24,001 – 30,000	01	01.00
6.	30,001 – 36,000	01	01.00
		100	100.00

It can be observed from the table 5 that maximum number of parents belonged to Rs. 18,001–Rs. 24,000 income group with 32.00 per cent followed by Rs. 12,001–Rs. 18,000 (32.00%), Rs. 6,001 to Rs. 12,000 (28.00%) income up to Rs. 6,000 (6.00%) and only one per cent each belonged to the category of Rs. 24,001-30,000 and Rs. 30,001 to 36,000.

3.4.2 Housing possession

The housing possession of the parents is divided into two categories.

Table 6: Distribution of child laborer’s based on their housing possession

S. no.	House possessed	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Own house	46	46.00
2.	Rented house	54	54.00
		100	100.00

Based on the obtained data (table 6), it was noticed that most of the children’s parents did not possess their own houses. Most of them (54.00%) were staying in rented houses, and the rest of the parents were staying in their own houses (46.00%).

3.5 Family type

Based on the family type the child labourers were categorized into nuclear and joint families.

Table 7: Distribution of child labourers according to their family type

S. no.	Family type	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Nuclear	86	86.00
2.	Joint	14	14.00
		100	100.00

It was found from table 6 that a considerable number of children (86.00%) belonged to the nuclear family and the rest of the children belong to joint families (14.00%).

3.6 Family size

The child labourers were categorized based on the size of their family and presented in table 8.

Table 8: Distribution of child labourers based on their family size

S.No.	Category	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Small (1-3 members)	11	11.00
2.	Medium (4-6 members)	85	85.00
3.	Large (7-9 members)	03	03.00
4.	Very large (above 9 members)	01	01.00
		100	100.00

Data presented in table 8 revealed that majority of the children (85.00%) belonged to medium size families, followed by small families (11.00%), large families (3.00%) and very large families (1.00%).

3.7 Ordinal position of the child

The child labourers were categorized according to their birth position and presented in Table 9.

Table 9: Distribution of child labourers based on their ordinal position in the family

S. no.	Category	Frequency	Percentage
1.	First	28	28.00
2.	Second	46	46.00
3.	Third	22	22.00
4.	Fourth	04	04.00
		100	100.00

It was observed from the table 9 that a good number of child labourers (46.00%) had a second birth position in their families followed by first (28.00%) and third (22.00%) birth position. A negligible number of children belonged to the fourth position (4.00%).

3.8 Occupation of the parents

3.8.1 Occupation of mother

The occupation of mothers is divided into four categories and the distribution is given in table 10.

Table 10: Distribution of child labourer's mothers based on their occupation

S. no.	Occupation of mother	Frequency	Percentage
1.	House wives	76	76.00
2.	Construction work	10	10.00
3.	Working in the same industry	11	11.00
4.	Sales women	03	3.00
		100	100.00

From table 10 it can be seen that majority of the mothers were house wives (76.00%) followed by mothers with skill jobs (11.00%), mothers performing building construction work (10.00%) and mothers working as sales women (3.00%).

3.8.2 Occupation of father

The occupation of fathers is divided into four categories and the distribution is given in Table 11.

Table 11: Distribution of child labourer's fathers based on their occupation

S. no.	Occupation	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Unemployed	11	12.09
2.	Manual work	32	35.16
3.	Working in the same industry	44	48.35
4.	City bus conductor	04	04.40
		91	100.00

From table 11, it can be seen that majority of the fathers of the child labourers were skilled workers in the rolled gold industry (48.35 %) followed by fathers working as manual workers (35.16 %). Nearly 12.09 percent of fathers were unemployed and only 1.00 percent were doing other work.

3.9 Parents living status

3.9.1 Living status of the mother

Based on the living status of parents, the data were categorized into two categories and the same is presented in table 12.

Table 12: Distribution of child labourer's mothers based on their living status

S. no.	Living status	Mother		Father	
		Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Alive	100	100.00	91	91.00
2.	Dead	00	00	09	09.00
		100	100.00	100	100.00

From table 12, it can be observed that all the mothers of the child labourers were alive where as only 9.00 percent of fathers were dead at the time of the study.

4. CONCLUSION

From the findings, it was found that majority of child labourers who were taking up work at around 13-14 years of age were school dropouts, belonged to Hindu religion and belonged to open category. Most of the parents of the child labourers enhanced their income by way of earnings of the child labourers to the extent of Rs. 12,001 to 24,000 per annum. Most of the parents did not possess their own houses, belonged to nuclear families and had medium size families. Majority of the children were born as a second child in their family, their mothers were housewives and fathers were workings as skill workers in the same rolled gold industry.

5. REFERENCES

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