



PSYCHO-SOCIAL STATUS AND ATTITUDE TOWARDS LIFE OF CHILDREN AT SPECIAL TRAINING CENTRES, NCLP, CHENNAI

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Abstract

The status of rescued child labourers has not yet been changed expectedly during their rehabilitation process at different special training centres (STC), operational under National Child Labour Project (NCLP) in Chennai. Still they have been viewed as untouchables and stigmatized as arrogant in the society. While government agencies, civil society organizations, national and international NGOs have been trying their part to mainstream those rescued child labourers, yet there have been inadequacies in infrastructure, care and in their educational and developmental initiatives. After having a thorough literature review, both from local and international sources, it has been revealed that there is hardly any study which can throw light on the psycho-social status and the attitude of the child labourers, who have been rescued and have been undergoing through a planned process of rehabilitation at different STCs or similar establishments. The present paper is based on a doctoral study. The main objective of the study has been to understand and disseminate the social and psychological status of the rescued child labourers. The findings of the study are expected to contribute to the better understanding of the life of those children and it will help the related organizations understand them better and to provide them an adequate care and service, so that they can change the perceptions of their respective societies and make them free from social taboos and different types of stigmatizations. The essence of the study is to understand their expectations and requirements for their satisfactory rehabilitation in the society.

Keywords: Child Labour, STC, NCLP, Psycho-Social Status, Attitude, Rescue And Rehabilitation.

Introduction

Childhood appears after infancy. It is the formative period in our life. During this period the individuals are very soft, receptive and they demand attention to be shaped in a right manner. A child normally has to enjoy his/her childhood days with his/her parents, teachers and friends etc. Childhood is the best time to develop intellectually and emotionally. Dak (2002) in the book 'Child Labour in India' expresses his concern on millions of children all over the world today who are working mainly in servitude and under hazardous conditions. A large number of children of tender age are being exploited and compelled to work for long hours for low wages and under conditions damaging to their health and to their physical, social, psychological and mental development. Millions of children are thus being deprived of their healthy childhood and are vulnerable to different psycho-social problems such as fear, grief, hopelessness and helplessness syndrome, guilt, low self-esteem, adjustment problems, low emotional competencies, anxiety and depression, denial, anger, aggression etc. But every children should enjoy the childhood, identify their own identity and needs to grow in a health way. However due to different reasons a large number of children are deprived of their rights and enjoyment and many of them, either voluntarily or involuntarily, are engaged in different occupations, including those of hazardous nature throughout the world. There have been efforts, where those children are rescued from the labour market in order to rehabilitate them and transform them to go back to live a normal life. However it is not clearly known about how far such efforts would be practically effective for those children. Such rehabilitation processes require continuous research interventions to understand their effectiveness and potentials. The present study is an attempt in that regards to investigate the psycho-social status of those children and their attitude towards life. The statistical information obtained through RTI Act 2005 – Lr.No.T5/29215/15, reveals that as of July 2015, there have been 404 Children (Table-1) in Chennai district and 9562 Children in Tamil Nadu (Table-1.1) enrolled in NCLP-STC.

S.no	STC	No. of children
1	CHS – otteri	15
2	Karunalaya	15
3	Samudayasevaimayyam	20
4	Ambedkar mandram	20
5	CPS, Kuil kuppam	15
6	Kallukuttai	11
7	CHS – Adyar	13



8	Govt. Girls Home Kellys	25
9	Govt. Boys Home, Royapuram	12
10	ICDS	18
11	CPS, Ashok Nagar	19
12	Srinivasapuram	18
13	CMS Mylapore	18
14	CPS Anderson Road	20
15	CMS Panthion Road	17
16	CPS pallavansalai	20
17	CPS kotturpuram	16
18	CMS Mannady	14
19	CMS Annapillai Street	16
20	CHS Stanley Nagar	17
21.	CMS Earikarai	38
22.	CMS Puraisaivakkam	15
23.	CBHSS Lioyds Road	12
Total		404

Source: Obtained through RTI Act 2005 - NCLP/4/2015 – As on 13.7.2015

	No. of District	No. of STC	No. of students Enrolled
1.	Chennai	23	404
2.	Coimbatore	21	725
3.	Dharmapuri	20	652
4.	Dindugul	17	561
5.	Erode	29	833
6.	Kanchipuram	28	884
7.	Krishnagiri	24	747
8.	Namakkal	20	560
9.	Salem	26	1115
10.	Tirunelveli	15	509
11.	Tiruvannamalai	9	247
12.	Trichy	20	504
13.	Tuticorin	12	371
14.	Vellore	43	1069
15.	Viruthunagar	18	381
	Total	325	9562

Source : Obtained through RTI Act 2005 – Lr.No.T5/29215/15 – As of July 2015

Methodology

A combination of descriptive and empirical research designs was used for the present study. Researcher used lottery method to choose the NCLP – Special Training Centres in Chennai. An interview scheduled was used to collect primary data and secondary data were collected from books, journals, reports and websites. All the rescued children, in the age group of 9-14 years, from the selected STCs were included in the sample.

Objectives

1. To study the psycho-social status of Rescued child labourers.
2. To understand the attitude of Rescued Child labourers.

Null Hypothesis

To fulfill the above objectives, the following null-hypotheses were formulated for testing.

1. There is no association between age and psycho-social status of the rescued child labourers.
2. There is no association between the psychosocial status of RCLs and their attitude.



Operational Definitions

1. **Rescued Child labourers:** The children in the age group of 9 – 14 years, rescued from labour market and undergoing the rehabilitation process are included in the definition.
2. **Rehabilitation:** It means providing a comprehensive package of education with components of health, nutrition, recreation and skill training which may help them to get back to his/her normal life and earn a livelihood (Zutshi & Dutt, 2003). This is accepted as the operational definition of rehabilitation in the present study.
3. **Special Training Center (STC):** It is a center for the rescued children labourers to train them before sending to the formal schools. All the STCs covered under the study are functioning under NCLP (MLE, 2014).
4. **Measures :**

Psycho-social status of RCL: It is related to one's psychological development in and interaction with a social environment. To measure the psycho-social status of RCLs a scale was constructed. It consists of 30 items, focusing on 6 different parameters of psycho-social status, such as avoiding substance abuse, social relationship, social responsibility, emotional attachment, depression and motivation. There are 30 keyed items with a distribution of five items in each parameter. This is a Likert type scale having 5 response categories, with scale value 1 through 5. The scholars have tested the scale as a whole and have recorded the split half reliability coefficient of it as Cronbach alpha = 0.755.

Level of Attitude of RCL: Attitude has been defined as the degree of positive or negative effect associated with the selected items in the scale developed. To measure the level of attitude a scale was constructed with 30 items, focusing on 6 different parameters of attitude, such as interest towards studies, ambition, confidence, obedience, anticipation and excitement. Each parameter includes five items. This is also a Likert type scale having 5 response categories starting from 1.Strongly disagree (SDA), 2.Disagree (SA), 3.Undecided (U), 4.Agree (A), 5. Strongly agree (SA). There are total 30 keyed items assigned scale values 1 through 5. The scholars have tested and recorded that the scale as a whole has split half reliability coefficient by Cronbach alpha = 0.793.

Universe of the Study

The universe is comprised of the rescued children from child labour who have been rehabilitation through the special training centers (STCs) which are functioning under the National Child Labour Project (NCLP), in the District of Chennai. The total strength of the target population is estimated to be 404 as on July 2015.

Sampling Procedure

The samples included RCLs from the STCs of the Chennai district. The lottery method was used to select 4 (four) STCs. Total 64 respondents were selected for the study, however during the time of visits for interview only 49 responded properly. Hence, the actual sample size for the study was 49 (Table-2).

District	Total No. of STC in Chennai District	Selection of 4 STCs from Chennai District	Total no. of RCL in each selected STC	Selection of respondent by census method in STC
Chennai	23	Ambedkar Mandram	20	15
		Kallukuttai	11	11
		Srinivasapuram	18	13
		Kuil kuppam	15	10
Total			64	49

Inclusion / Exclusion Criteria

- Ñ The RCLs in the age group of 9 to14 years were included.
- Ñ Both the genders i.e. male and female children were included.
- Ñ Parents and relatives were excluded.
- Ñ Trainers of STCs were excluded.
- Ñ Those who were not interested to respond excluded.
- Ñ The RCLs unavailable during data collection due to sickness were excluded.

Source of Data collection

Primary Source and Data: The sampled respondents had been the primary source for the data collection, **Secondary Source and Data:** In addition to the above source and data, necessary information and data were collected from research journals, books, census, reports, websites etc.



Tools for Data Collection and Analysis

The researcher adopted Interview Schedule (IS) method to collect the data from the respondents. The collected data were subjected to a number of closely related operations such as establishment of categories, applying the established categories to the raw data through coding etc. After completion of the coding work, the coded data were classified and tabulated. The tabulated data were organized in to a few manageable groups and were analyzed by using SPSS.

Results and Discussion

The interpretation for the frequency distribution of demographic status of respondents is given below (Table: 3) ,The majority (41 percent) of the respondents are 13 years old. The 14 years old share 20.4 per cent and the remaining shares 38.6 percent of the sample size. The male female ratio of the respondents is nearly to 3:2 (with 59 percent male and 41 percent female) and nearly the same ratio has been revealed when the respondents have been categorized in to rural and urban origins. Most of them (82 percent) belong to Hinduism, while there are 8 per cent from Muslims and remaining 10 percent are Christians. Their caste wise distribution shows that 55 per cent are in the scheduled caste category, 33 per cent in scheduled tribe and the remaining 12 per cent are from general category. Most of them (88 percent) speak Tamil as their mother tongue and remaining 16 percent are equally shared by four linguistic communities such as Hindi, Kannada, Malayalam and Telugu. Only 43 percent of them have both the parents, while parents of 14 percent are no more and 42 percent have either father or mother living in this world. However, only 16 percent of them are living with both of their parents and remaining either living with father / mother or grandparents or relatives.

It has been evident that the majority (82 percent) of respondents have willingly or unwillingly entered the labour market when they were in the age group of 6-10 years. Only 10 percent of them became labourers at the age of 10-14 years and remaining at the age of 4-6 years.

Now let us see the prospective pull and push factors which could be responsible for bringing the children in to the labour market. While 47 percent of the respondents expressed that their families have forced them to work, 35 percent accepted it by their own choice and 18 percent accused that they became labourers due to pressure of their peer groups. In addition to that there had been several other factors, such as being drop-out from schools, family conflicts etc., which might have led them to engage in different types of work. While 75 percent of them now confessed that they had been child labourers just to support their families and about 12.2 percent considered it was an opportunity to learn new skills. At STC, the majority of respondents (79 percent) found the educational services are fair and good only around 21 percent identified the services either as poor or bad. However, 90 percent of them are either very happy or happy with the process of education followed at the STC.

Table-3, Demographic status of respondents

Profile of Respondent		Frequency (N=49)	Percentage
Age	9	2	4.0 %
	10	4	8.1 %
	11	5	10.2 %
	12	8	16.3 %
	13	20	41 %
	14	10	20.4 %
Gender	Male	29	59 %
	female	20	41 %
Birth Place	Rural	20	59 %
	Urban	29	41 %
Religion	Hindu	40	82 %
	Muslim	4	8 %
	Christian	5	10 %
Caste	SC	27	55 %
	ST	16	33 %
	Others	6	12 %
Mother Tongue	Tamil	43	88 %
	Hindi	2	4 %
	Kannada	2	4 %
	Telugu	1	2 %
	Malayalam	1	2 %



Parents	Both parent a live	21	43 %
	Father is deceased	10	20 %
	Mother is deceased	11	22 %
	Both parents deceased	7	14 %
Living With	Both parents	8	16 %
	With the Father	13	26.5 %
	With the mother	10	20 %
	With the grandparents	10	20 %
	Relatives	8	16 %
Became CL At the Age of	4-6	4	8 %
	6-10	40	82 %
	10-14	5	10 %
Duration as CL	Week	2	4 %
	Month	14	29 %
	Years	33	67 %
Source of household income	Father and children	13	26.5 %
	Mother and children	12	24.5 %
	Children only	5	10.2 %
	Father, Mother and children	2	4.1 %
	Relatives and children	17	34.7 %
Monthly family Income	Less than 2000	2	4 %
	2000 – 4000	19	39 %
	4000 – 6000	28	57 %
Who Sent you to Work	Parents	23	47 %
	Peer Group	9	18 %
	Self Interest	17	35 %
Cause of Work	Forced	6	12.2 %
	Learn a skill	6	12.2 %
	Help / support family	37	75.5 %
Parents Education	Primary	15	30.6 %
	Illiterate	34	69.4 %
School Drop Out	Yes	41	83.7 %
	No	3	6 %
	Never to School	5	10 %
Past Education	Nil	5	10 %
	primary	44	90 %
Studies Discontinued	Family Problem	17	35 %
	Forced to work	19	39 %
	Afraid of teacher	12	24.5 %
	Not Interested in studies	1	2 %
Present Status of Study	Good	7	14 %
	Fair	32	65 %
	Not Bad	3	6 %
	Poor	7	14 %
Duration in STCs	Month	18	36.7 %
	Years	31	63.3 %
Process of Education	Very Happy	24	49 %
	Happy	20	41 %
	Not Sure	5	10 %

While testing the null hypothesis, it was found that that there is an association between age and psycho-social status of the rescued child labourers. Hence, the null hypothesis is rejected. Thus it has been revealed that there is an association between age and psycho-social status of the rescued child labourers. In another test it has been found that there is no association between the psycho-social status of RCL and their attitude.



Ho1: There is no association between age and psycho-social status of the rescued child labourers.

Table 4,ANOVA Test based on age and Psycho-social Status of respondent

S.No	Variables	Age (N = 49)												F Value	Stat Result
		9 Years (2)		10 Years (4)		11 Years (5)		12 years (8)		13 Years (20)		14 Years (10)			
		Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD		
1.	Avoiding Substance abuse	1.0000	.00000	3.0000	1.15470	1.4000	.89443	2.8750	1.55265	2.4000	1.39170	3.4000	1.07497	2.501	.045
2.	Social Relations hip	4.5000	.70711	2.7500	1.25831	5.0000	.00000	3.0000	1.92725	3.7500	1.20852	3.7000	1.49443	1.882	.117
3.	Social Responsib ility	4.0000	1.41421	4.5000	.57735	4.8000	.44721	4.2500	.70711	4.1500	.93330	4.2000	.91894	.575	.719
4.	Emotional Attachment	3.5000	2.12132	4.7500	.50000	4.8000	.44721	4.6250	.74402	4.5000	.76089	4.7000	.67495	1.022	.417
5.	Depression	2.0000	.00000	4.0000	.00000	3.6000	.89443	3.2500	.88641	3.7000	.97872	3.2000	1.03280	1.815	.130
6.	Motivation	2.5000	.70711	4.5000	.57735	3.4000	.89443	3.8750	1.24642	3.6000	1.18766	4.1000	1.19722	1.211	.320
All composite Level of Psychosocial Status of RCL		17.5000	4.94975	23.5000	1.00000	23.0000	2.00000	21.8750	2.99702	22.1000	3.22653	23.3000	3.02030	1.481	.216

*Significant at p<0.05 level

Ho2: There is no association between the psychosocial status of RCL and their attitude.

Table 5,Correlations between the Psycho-social status and Attitude of RCL

	Mean	Std. Deviation	N	r – value	Stat Result
Psycho-social Status	15.9510	3.50756	49	.289**	.000
Level of Attitude	12.2451	2.93253	49		

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).



Table 4 - ANOVA Test based on age and Psycho-social Status of respondent .

Composite level of psycho-social status of RCL

ANOVA was applied to find out the difference between the means of the groups based on age and key variables and to test the null hypothesis stating that there is no association between age and psycho-social status of the rescued child labourers. The results of the table are interpreted below.

The table 4 shows that respondents who are in the age group of 10 years perceive that the overall composite score of psycho-social status (Mean=23.50, S.D=1.00), when compared to respondents of 14 years (Mean=23.30, S.D=3.02), 11 years of age group (Mean=23.00, S.D=2.00), 13 years of age group (Mean=22.10, S.D=3.22), 12 years of age group (Mean=21.87, S.D=2.99) and 9 years of age group (Mean=17.50, S.D= 4.94).The F^* value is 1.48, thus the observed difference is statistically do not significant at 0.05 level.

While testing the null hypothesis, it was found that that there is association between age and psycho-social status of the rescued child labourers. Hence the null hypothesis is rejected. Thus it is inferred that there is association between age and psycho-social status of the rescued child labourers

The Table 5- Correlations between the psycho-social status and attitude of RCL

It shows that In order to examine the hypothesis that there is no association between the psychosocial status of RCL and their attitude, (r) Test was applied. This null hypothesis cannot be accepted since there is a high positive correlation (at 0.01 level) between the psycho-social status of RCL and the level of attitude towards the same.

Findings

Findings related to Objectives

(Obj-1) To study the psycho-social status of Rescued child labour.

- RCL have high level of psycho-social status in STCs.
- STCs are plays a vital role in the development of RCL.
- In over all, age group of 11 years are perceive that they have high level of psycho-social status of RCL in STCs

H_A - There is association between age and psycho-social status of the rescued child labourers

H_o - There is no association between age and psycho-social status of the rescued child labourers

(Obj-2) To understand the attitude of Rescued Child labour.

- STCs are helps the RCL to mold their attitude.
- They have high level of positive attitude towards the surrounding.
- Their psycho-social status and level of attitude have high level of positive correlation

H_A - There is association between the psycho-social status of RCL and their attitude

H_o - There is no association between the psycho-social status of RCL and their attitude

Other findings

- The 14 years old respondents have high avoiding tendency for substance abuse (Mean=3.40, S.D=1.07) when compared with all the other age categories.
- Compared to other, the respondents at the age of 11 years perceive that the social relationship (Mean=5.00, S.D=0.00) is important. Also the social responsibility score of this age category was higher than other categories (Mean=4.80, S.D=0.44). Again, their emotional attachment (Mean=8.80, S.D=0.44) score was higher than the others.
- Age group of 10 years are (Mean=4.00, S.D=0.00) are they have low level of depression when compared with all the other age group of respondents.
- Compared to other age categories, the 10 years old respondents have higher motivation scores (Mean=4.50, S.D=0.57).
- Nearly half of the respondents (49 percent) have positive habits in their daily life.
- About 64.2 percent of respondents have high scores in good social relationship such as collaborating well with other children, Interest in team work etc.
- A larger majority (82 percent) of the respondents are having high scores in social responsibility and emotional attachment (91 percent) with others.
- Rescued child labourers are enjoying their time in STC. Only 16 percent have moderate level of depression, 65percent have low depression and 19 percent are found to have high depression scores.



- As per their self-motivation scores, 37.7 percent have moderate, 34.3 percent have low and 27.9 percent are in high in scores. It shows that more than half of the rescued child labourers need better motivational interventions or care at the STCs. This observation is to be recorded purposively for the improvement of services because the data revealed that 73 percent of the rescued labourers have interest towards education, majority of them have moderate to higher level of ambitions towards life, most of them (75 percent) have adequate confidence level and about 89 percent of them many anticipations about their future.
- Lastly it has been encouraging to note that a larger majority (89.2 percent) of the respondents feel that they have lot of excitements at the STC and if this opportunity is properly utilized by the NCLP authorities and other functionaries, then we can hope a better rehabilitation and transformation of life of the rescued child labourers.

Conclusion

The position of rescued child labourers and their status in any society has a negative impression and it has been suffering from social stigma. They deserve same care and attention like other children in the society. After the rescue and rehabilitation process the child labourers appear to have an appreciative level of psycho-social status and they too have a favorable attitude. Due to their past bitter experience, they may have variations in their psycho-social status and level of attitude. Hence, the present study was undertaken to understand the rehabilitation process of the RCLs, their psycho-social status and attitude towards life. The study included a sample of 49 RCLs from 4 STCs in Chennai. The findings of the study revealed that there is association between age and psycho-social status of the rescued child labourers and they have high level positive correlation between psycho-social status and their level of attitude. It helps to understand psycho-social status and attitude of rescued child labourers. Through processed data and observation it has been understood and felt that they just need some special attention with love and support from the teachers/trainers at the STCs and other functionaries of NCLP. The centers with their current strengths and limitations have potentials to contribute effectively towards rehabilitation and transformation of life of the rescued child labourers.

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