



## CHILDHOOD UNDER BURDENED LITTLE HANDS: CHILD LABOUR PATTERNS AND ISSUES IN ANANTNAG DISTRICT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR.

**Talib Hussain Shapoo**

*Research Scholar, Barkatullah University Bhopal.*

### **Abstract**

Child labour is most well-known issue throughout the world and has been considered a dealing concern since 1919 by ILO, and also has been seen with great concern by the developing countries. The growth of the service sector with an increase in the demand for more flexible and part-time workers have contributed to the expansion of child labour market in the developing countries. Many millions of these children work in occupations and industries which are dangerous, hazardous and exploitative. In this study, an attempt has been made to find out the employment patterns, causes and child labour issues. Also the socio-economic factors, which play a significant role in pushing children into the labour force and the repercussions of early employment, have been studied in detail.

**Keywords:** Child Labour, Employment Patterns, Wage Rate, Illiteracy. Schedule, Education, Family Size, Poverty, Economic Reasons.

### **Introduction**

Children are engaged in every type of work whether it is organized or unorganized, formal or informal mean every sartorial work is performed by the tender aged children. It has been observed that child labour is correlated with the poverty, illiteracy, unemployment, low wages, ignorance, poor standard of living, backwardness and social prejudices. Child labour can leave many serve consequences on children and their families. Children usually work to contribute and provide financial support to their families. Their health is often ignored by their parents or they may not be aware about their children's health. The objective of this study is to present the employment patterns of child labour, their participation in different sectors of labour type at an early age in District Anantnag of Jammu and Kashmir on the basis of primary data. Child labour from poor and large families who are living in the rural hilly areas of the study area are forced to join labour force to supplement the family income. Instead of receiving free education up to middle level there is need to raise the adults wage rate which can reduce the chances of child labour incidents. There is also need of to raise the parental illiteracy particularly of women's education and active participation of local citizen and enforce the strict role by Govt. agencies can cut back the chances of children in labour force. According to recent global estimates, 168 million children aged 5-17 and 120 million children aged 5-14 are involved in child labour, with boys and girls in this age group almost equally affected.<sup>1</sup> This persistence of child labour is rooted in poverty and lack of decent work for adults, lack of social protection, and a failure to ensure that all children are attending school through to the legal minimum age for admission to employment, among other factors.

As per the NSSO result the estimated total number of working children was 13.3 million in 1993-94, 8.6 million in 2004-05 and 4.98 million in 2009-10. As per the census report 2001 the child labour number was 12.6 million, and in 2011 census the number was 43.5 million. The Constitution of India under (Article 24) prohibits child labour below the age of 14 years in any factory or mine or engaged in any other hazardous employment.

So far as the education of study area is concerned according to census of 2011, 68.74% is total literacy level in Jammu and Kashmir. Male constitutes 78.26 and females constitute 58.01 percent. At the all India level total literacy level is 74.04. In District Anantnag it is 64.69 percent total, for males it is 74.66 and for females it is 54.19 percent. State level it is 14<sup>th</sup> out of 22 districts. As of 2011 India census, Anantnag district had a population of 11, 70,144. In Anantnag, males constituted 51.6% and females 48.4% of the population. Sex ratio is 937 females per 1,000 males compared to national average 940. The State of Jammu and Kashmir has child population of 2825826 Lakhs in the age group of 5-14 years according to the 2011 census. Out of these 114923 are workers forming 4.07 per cent of child population and 2.65 percent of total work force in the State. Further exploration of Census data shows that incidence of child labour in Jammu and Kashmir is higher for age group 10-14 years than the age group of 5-9 years. It can also be observed that rural areas have higher percentage of child workers than urban areas. According to Census 2011, 4.18 percent of total child population in rural areas and 3.64 percent of total child population in urban areas is working. The proportion of working children to total child population has decreased from 6.61 in 2001 to 4.07 in 2011.

### **Objectives of the Study**

- To know the social background of child labour.
- To study employment patterns of child labour.
- To know the causes of child labour.



## Methodology

**Field of Study:** The district Anantnag is taken as field of study for this research paper. It one of the 22 districts of Jammu and Kashmir. Kashmir division has 10 districts. Anantnag district is 3<sup>rd</sup> in population which comprises 10, 70,144 in number. It has the literacy of 64.34 percent.

**Sampling:** To study the nature, extent and factors of child labour, the researcher has selected the area for the present study. For the present study convenience sampling method was used, because the study area is not well defined in terms of child labour. 100 respondents were analyzed in the present study, among them 75 boys and 25 girls were chosen for the study. The study was carried out in 2 blocks of district Anantnag.

**Method of Data Collection:** The primary and secondary data was used in the present study. Primary data was collected by Interview schedule. . In the present study main attention was given to study the employment patterns of child labour. Secondary data was collected from Statistical Abstract, books, ILO reports and Census Reports.

**Social Background, Employment pattern of Respondents:** To understand the social background and employment pattern of respondents we would analysis the distribution, age, education, family size and family income of the respondents.

## Results and Discussions

### 1. Distribution of child labour in different sectors.

Serial No.	Type of work	No. of child worker	Percentage
1	Labour work	50	50%
2	Bonded labour	15	15%
3	Carpet work	15	15%
4	Stitching work	10	10%
5	Seasonal work	10	10%
6	Total	100	100

The above table shows that the children were engaged in different sectors of work. In above mentioned children 50 children were engaged in labour work. They usually take migration from their rural areas to urban areas, because they don't found continue work in their hilly villages and also wage rate is low in their rural areas. Second number is bonded labour they consists 15%. Their fathers took loan from the rich people and when they don't have anything to pay, they send their children for work, or by the reason of poverty. Another 15% consists of carpet worker; this type of work is mostly done by girls they went to any Kaleen center for work. And another type of work is stitching work. They did this type of work at their homes when they get time from domestic work. And the last group consists of seasonal worker. They work for few months during tourism season. They sell biscuit toys near the tourist spots.

### Age wise distribution of child labour.

Age	Boys	Girls	Total	Percentage
7-9	2	2	4	4%
10-12	28	10	38	38%
13-14	45	13	58	58%

## Education

Education is the most important tool for social, economic and political transformation. A well educated and skilled population not only drives economic and social development but also ensures personal growth.

Poverty, absence of accessible schools in the villages, and the shortage of teachers prevent children from attending school and keep them in employment with merge returns (Ravallion and Wodon 2004).

Now talking about the field area that most of the hilly areas people are very poor and they do not have availability to raise their economic level. As they migrate from lower area to hilly tops for almost 5 months which intern affects badly their living standard and mostly their children's educational part. And during winter season they remain idle due to snowing, and cold. So they remain poor and compelled to send their children to work and help economically their families.



#### Educational status of children

Educational level	Sex wise distribution		Total
	Boys	Girls	
Illiterate	53	17	70
Middle	17	6	23
Still studying	5	2	7
Total	75	25	100

Educational status of child workers shows that 70% of child workers are illiterate. 23 % had reach to middle level education. And only 7% are those who still manage to continue their study in this group of children they do the seasonal work like nut picking, and work during seasonal tourism season, they work for few months and also they continue their study

#### Reason for work

Reason for work	No. of workers	Percentage
Poverty	76	76%
Death of father	5	5%
Parents decision	12	12%
Poor performance in school	7	7%
Total	100	100%

Data regarding reason for work from the children's perspective is clearly shows the poverty is the main cause for child labour in study area which comprises the highest number of percentage, 76%. They were initially involved in school education but soon they left school and start working. 5% were found those who lost their fathers and they don't have elders one's and they were compelled to work. After that 12% were those who were send for work by their parents. And 7% were those who were poor in reading and they left school and their parents send them to work.

#### Family income

Monthly income	No of household	Percentage%
2000-4000	37	37%
4000-6000	51	51%
6000-8000 and above	12	12%
Total	100	100%

The above table shows that the highest number of income was found only in 12 percent between 8000-10000 thousand rupees. Followed by the 37% families who are dependable on the 2000-4000. And further the 51% comprises 4000-6000. Their total monthly income which comes from the both parents as well as children's work, and most of the part in majority of families comes from Childs side. Increasing real income of the adult workers is vital for a decline in the incidence of child labor. Therefore, one has to look for reasonable conditions under which liberalizing capital flow does deliver the desired outcome.

#### Conclusion

At the end it was observed that child labour is present in the study area covertly. Many children are involved in doing different types of works for their survival, they help their parents economically. Because their parents do not effort good financial support to their families, as they do not get the good working options throughout year. Because most of the families of survived area were living in hilly areas where the geographical location do not allow them to continue work.

Another major problem is that difficulty is inherent fact that children working in rural areas, in urban informal sector and in domestic service are not readily visible. An integrated and effective measure to save children from hazardous or abuse should, therefore, begin by exploring the invisible visible. As long as child labour is part of the harsh reality that makes good economic sense, the conditions for change will not be met.

Kashmir valley has a peculiar geographical location its moderate temperature attracts the outsiders from all over the India. This brings many nomad families to this place during summer days and along with these families there is a huge influx of migrant child workers (Up, Bihar, Tamilnadu etc). Who are mostly seen as rag pickers on the road sides and in many streets



in rural and urban areas. The untidy and clad in tattered garments, these children are prone to contract life threatening infection. Many children in Kashmir are caught in domestic labour where affluent class mostly in urban areas do employ little children to look after household affairs which keep these children away from, their parental affection.

Pointing to the fact that to understand the root cause of child labour one needs to look at the developing v/s developed society dialogue. It is in the fact that why, where there is poverty and who is poor that we can understand child labour.

1. By providing adults with opportunities of decent work, decent wages and ensuring social protection for the vulnerable, individuals and communities can begin to work their way out of poverty. This in turn will mean they are less dependent on the work of children.
2. There is need to study and address the linkages between village economy and global markets and production processes. Like how to promote village level industries in-terms of cottage industries.
3. Poverty issue is main problem of the study area unless and until it will not address a proper solution it may continue. So the need is to uplift the economic condition of poor families by providing them good working opportunities and good wages.

### Reference

1. A.K. Kanth and Anupama Sahay, (2004), *Globalization, Vulnerability and Child Labour: Indian Context*, Journal of V.V. Giri, National Institute, New Delhi.
2. Accelerating Action Against Child Labour, (2010), Global Child Labour Trends 2000, 2004 and 2008.
3. Aggarwal, Suresh Chand, (2008), Child Labour in India: Magnitude, Trends and Distribution: Evidence from the 55th and 61st NSS0 Rounds International Journal of Employment Studies.
4. Aggrawal Suresh Chand: (2004), *Child Labour and Household Characteristics is Selected States Agriculture* . Kurukshetra. Vol. 54, No.7, pp 21-28.
5. Ahmad, Ashad, (2004), *Child Labour in India: A Politico-Legal Study*, Kalpaz Publications, New Delhi.
6. Basu, K. (2005), Child Labour: Cause, Consequence, and Cure, with Remarks on International Labour Standards, *Journal of Economic Literature*, September 10 p,83 .
7. Chandra, (2001), Child labour and poverty: The nexus. *Social Welfare*, 43(11), 3-8
8. Dipa Mukherjee (2011), *Child Workers in India: An Overview of Macro Dimensions* MPRA Paper No. 35049, 'Regal Publications, New Delhi.
9. Giri. D. K (2006), *Panchayat and Child Labour*, Deep & Deep Publication Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi
10. Gomongo, S.P, (2001), *Child labour, A Precarious Future*, Authors press New Delhi
11. ILO Child labour, Report of the Director-General, Labour Conference, 73 Session, Geneva, (1995)
12. International Labour Organization, (2013), *Marking Progress Against Child Labour: Global estimates and trends 2000-2012*, ILO, Geneva,
13. Khadria Binod, *Child Labour, reform though a fiscal instrument*, *Economic and Political weekly*, 30(31) (2009)
14. Niti Mehta, (2007), *Child Labour in India: Extent and Some Dimensions*, *National Workshop on Socio-Economic Issues in Child Labour: Conference Proceeding*, Mahatma Gandhi Labour Institute, Ahmadabad.
15. Ravallion, M and Wodon, Q. 2000, 'Does child labour displace Schooling Evidence on behavioral responses to an enrolment subsidy', *The Economic Journal*, 110, pp. 158-175.
16. S.K. Patel and R.C. Talati,(2000), *Child Labour in India : A Multidimensional Problem*, In M. Koteswara Rao (ed.,) *Exploited Children*, Kanishka Publications, New Delhi.
17. Subhash Barman (2011), *Socio-Economic and Demographic Impact on Child Labour in India* *Journal of Alternative Perspectives in the Social Sciences* Vol 3, No 2,376-40
18. UNESCO, (2001), *Education for Street and Working Children in India*, Indian National Commission for Co-operation with UNESCO, Ministry of Human Resource and Development, New Delhi,