

Co-relation of sex and occupation of working children

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Abstract

48.57% male children were employed in sale while their counterparts, female 75% in service sector. 14.28% male children were found earning more than Rs.1000/- per month while only 6.25% female were getting more than Rs. 1000/- per month

Keywords: Sales, service sector, working hours.

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INTRODUCTION

The economic exploitation of children in India has always been an areas of concern. In rural areas, it is fact that the children who doesn't attend a formal school is a working child¹. Child labour is the result of exploitation of weak and vulnerable, it is always the poorest who suffers most. When children starts working in young age, they remain illiterate, unskilled and incapable of to demand their rights for better conditions of work and better wages. Their health is severely impaired because long working hours and they burn themselves out. In 1996, at annual conference of Indian academy of paediatrician at Manglore, adopted comprehensive child care approach as its motto. Thereafter a child abuse and neglect and child labour (CANCL) group was established which demand justice for children². Child labour can be considered as a form of participation, a way in which children share in redistribution of wealth through earning wages with need in mind.

As per recommendations of a group set up by World health organization in 1957 and taking it into consideration the above facts³, the authors have undertaken this study to evaluate the child labourer as per their sex and occupation.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

A total of 51 children; 35 males and 16 females were included in study. The study was carried out infield practice area of Urban health centre, Mangalwarpeth which was divided in nine areas as P.M.C. colony, Shramik nagar, Indiranagar, Bhimnagar, pl. no. 14, kalawada, gaditala, junabazar, kagdipura (kasbapeth), out of which three slums were selected randomly by lottery method. An house to house survey conducted in the selected areas and data was collected in a pretested proforma. An interview was held with the head of the family and in case of nonavailability interview of other family members who was of major age was conducted. Occupation were classified as follows;

Manufacture: food products (Bakery), Furniture (Carpenters) and Printing etc.

Sales: Small shops, hawkers etc.

Service: Garages, Hotels, Tea stalls, household work etc.

Others: Ragpickers, murti painting, tile works etc.

In rural areas, child who doesn't attend a formal school is a working child i.e. no income. Wages were categorized as (per month); Nil; Rs. 500 – 700; Rs. 700 – 1000; more than Rs. 1000

OBSERVATION AND RESULTS

Table 1: Working children as per their occupation

Sr. No.	Occupation	Children	Percentage
1	Sales	19	37.25
2	Service	23	45.09
3	Manufacture	05	09.80
4	Others	04	07.84
	Total	51	100.00

Table 2: Type of occupation as per sex of child labour

Sex	Manufacture	Sales	Service	Other	Total
Males n-35	04(11.42)	17(48.51)	11(31.42)	03(08.57)	35(100)
Females n-16	01(06.25)	02(12.5)	12(75.00)	01(06.25)	16(100)

Table 3: Income in rs of per month of child labour

Income IN RS/Month	Children	%
500-700	16	31.40
701-1000	18	35.24
More Than 1000	06	11.86
No- Income	11	21.54
Total	51	100.00

Table 4: Income per month in Rs as per age of child labour

Age in years	Income per month			
	500-700	701-1000	>1000	No Income
<10(n-1)	00.00	00.00	00.00	01(1.96)
10-12(n-6)	01(1.96)	2(3.92)	00.00	03(5.88)
12-14(n-44)	15(29.41)	16(31.37)	06(11.76)	07(13.72)

Note: Figures in bracket shows Percentage

Table 5: Monthly income in rupees as per sex of child labour

Sex	Income per month				Total
	500-700	701-1000	>1000	No Income	
Male n-35	11(31.42)	16(45.71)	05(14.28)	03(08.57)	35(100.00)
Female n-16	05(31.25)	02(12.05)	01(06.25)	08(50.0)	16(100.00)

Note: Figures in bracket shows Percentage.

Table 6: Working hours per day of working children

Hours/Day	Number of Children	Percentage
<6	12	23.52
6-8	08	15.68
8-10	24	47.04
>10	07	13.72
Total	51	100

DISCUSSION

On analysis of the collected data, it was observed that maximum i.e. 45.09% were engaged in service sector while those in sales were 37.20%. Only 9.80% and 7.84% child labourer were involved in rag picking and Painting, tile works respectively. On further analysis it has been revealed that children of 10 to 14 years of age were found involved in all occupations. Children less than 10 years of age served in service sector only. Gouradeve k⁴ noted in his study that 19.69%, 15.15%, 13.63%, 08.33%, 06.06% and 05.30% were engaged in hotel work, garage, collie, brick makers, part time workers, car painters as well as maid servants respectively. While Niveditha T *et al*⁵ noted that 48% and 35% children found working in shops and homes respectively. Similarly as per the the present study, Gouradeve K found that in 12-14 years age group children were found in every sector as compared to children less than 10 years of age. Table 2 shown that as per sex distribution, 75% of females working in service sector. While maximum 48.57% males were in sales. In the modern age of great demands of domestic servants with increasing number of nuclear families and both husband and wife are working, Slivia de mendoca⁶ findings were in consistent with the findings of present study. Table 3 shown that, maximum i.e. 35.24% working children were getting just Rs. 701-1000/- per month while only 11.86 %were getting more than Rs. 1000/- per month. The table further revealed that 21.53% children were in nil income group though they are working with their parents and contributed to family income. Gouradeve K. found that , large number of children were paid low wages i.e. between Rs. 300-600 per month, though these finding were not consistent with the present study , the reason was simple because Gouradeve K conducted study much earlier i.e.in 1997 than the present study as inflation rises and wages has gone up. Table 4 shown that as per age group wise monthly income, all 6 children who were getting more than Rs. 1000/- per month as were expected belong to 12 – 14 years age group. This higher percentage of 12-14 years of age group children were maintained in all income group even in no income group. Again these findings were similar to the findings of slivia de mendoca. As per sex wise monthly income concerned it was noted that higher proportion 14.28% of male children getting more than Rs. 1000/- per month compared to their female counterpart i.e. 6.25%. While in no income group female proportion were higher than males as were expected female child most engaged in domestic works to assist her mother i.e. in kitchen, bringing up her younger brothers and sisters etc. Ghariabeth M *et al*⁷ found in their study that the female child were usually low paid and sometimes they were getting no remuneration at all as found similar in present study. Table 6, revealed that maximum proportion

i.e.47.04% of child labourer usually does their duty 8 to 10 hours per day. Some 13.72% even do their duty more than 10 hours while only 23.52% were doing their duty less than 6 hours per day. Vainkuth⁸, slivia de mendoca and Niveditha T noted in their study that majority of children working in urban areas were working in various occupations for more than 6 hours per in contravention to law.

CONCLUSION

From above observations and discussion the authors reached to conclusion that most of the child labourer were working in contravention to law i.e. ill paid, working more than prescribed hours etc. This practice of contravention to law must be strictly deal with those found guilty must be punished. Child labour must be banned immediately and all children must enrolled in schools and their parents must be paid compensation what child supposed to earn and if any parents/guardian found guilty even after compensation then it should be treated as crime and deal accordingly.

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