

“A study of child labour in Automobile repairing workshops in Kalwa and Kharegaon, Thane district, Maharashtra”

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Abstract: *Child is future of any nation, but in India a large number of children are neglected because of various social and economic reasons like poverty, illiteracy, lack of facility, natural disaster and terrorism. This leads to employment of children in various economic activities like working as agricultural labourer, in shops, hotels and factories. The child labour is a complex problem that is basically rooted in poverty. The meager income of child labourers is absorbed by their families. By the factories Act 1948 and child labour prohibition and regulation Act 1986, child labour is prohibited before certain age(14 years) to work. In practice we observe, child labour is very uncontrolled in our society. It may be any society, if it is not regulated, we can see child labour employed there. Specially, we find one of them is the Automobile repairing workshops. It was observed that, lots of Automobile repairing workshops are seen in every city, town, suburban areas in the roadside of national highways, etc. They are not regulated and maximum of them use child labour. It is required to find out the scenario of child labour in Automobile repairing workshops. My study is focused on use of child labour in Automobile repairing workshop in Kalwa and Kharegaon, Thane District, Maharashtra.*

Keywords: *Automobile repairing workshops, Child labour, Employer, ILO.*

I. Introduction

The term child labour is often defined as work that deprives children of their childhood, potential and dignity, and that is harmful to physical-mental development. It refers to work that is mentally, physically, socially or morally dangerous and harmful to children, and interferes with their schooling by depriving them of the opportunity to attend school, obliging them to leave school prematurely or requiring them to attempt to combine school attendance with excessively long and heavy work.

The position of India in terms of child labour is not appreciable. According to International Labour Organisation(ILO), India has the largest number of working children in the world. These children are sweating in the heat of stone quarries, working in the fields for 16 hours a day, picking rags in the city streets, or hidden away as domestic servants, they endure miserable and difficult lives. These children earn very little and are made to work more; they struggle to make enough to eat and perhaps help to feed their families as well.

The phenomenon of child labour was prevalent in all over the world in the pre-industrial revolution period; however the problem was not visible as it is today. During post-industrial revolution period the problem of child labour became a growing problem particularly in developing countries. Since 2000 as per new estimates of International Labour Organisation (ILO), number of children in child labour has declined by one third, from 246 million to 168 million children. Out of which half of them i.e. 85 million, are in hazardous work (down from 171 million in 2000). Asia and the Pacific still has the largest numbers (almost 78 million or 9.3% of child population), but Sub-Saharan Africa continues to be the region with the highest incidence of child labour (59 million, over 21%). There are 13 million (8.8%) of children in child labour in Latin America and the Caribbean and in the Middle East and North Africa there are 9.2 million (8.4%). Agriculture remains by far the most important sector where child labourers can be found (98 million or 59%), the problems are not negligible in services (54 million) and industry sectors (12 million). Since 2000 in the informal economy sector, the girls child labour fell by 40%, compared to 25% for boys child labour.

According to National Census, India has 10.12 million child labourers aged between 5 to 14 years. In Maharashtra 496916 are child labourers working for others, doing household chores for more than four hours a day and doing other family work. The main reasons are poverty, poor parental support or lack of education. There is great need to dig out the causes of child labour and to tackle the issues of child labour in India.

II. Objectives

- 1) To identify child labour in Automobile repairing workshop.
- 2) To find causes for the employment of child labour.

- 3) To study whether child labourers like their employment.
- 4) To study whether child labourers are interested to seek education.
- 5) To study the safety measures at workshop.

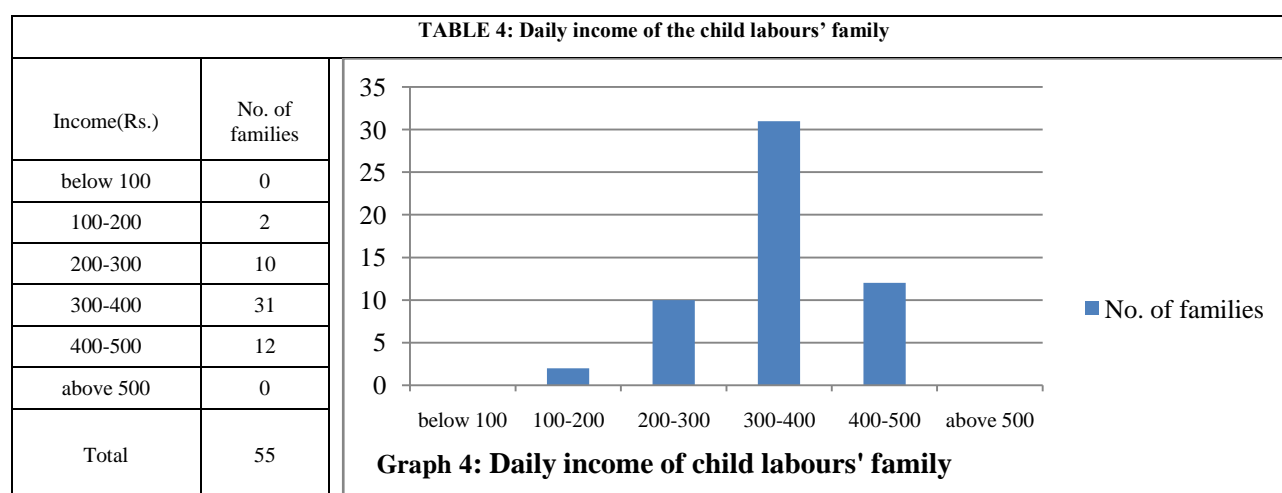
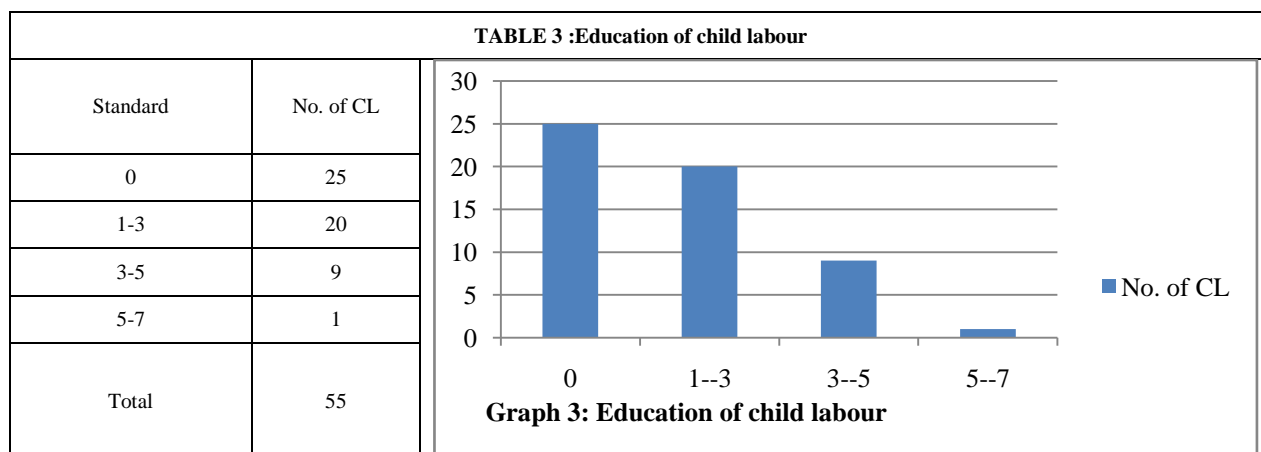
III. Methodology

The data is collected by using questionnaire method. It is a primary data from the Kalwa and Kharegaon area. A total of 72two wheeler and four wheeler workshops visited and surveyed. There were 55 number of child labourer found and interviewed. All the child labourers are in the age group 5-14. The data is analysed. The frequency tables are constructed using frequency distribution method .The corresponding percentages and graphs are drawn.

IV. Tables

TABLE 1: Daily income of child labour		
Income(Rs.)	No. of CL	
below 35	0	<p style="text-align: center;">Graph 1: Daily income of child labour</p>
35-45	1	
45-55	4	
55-65	6	
65-75	10	
75-85	14	
85-95	16	
95-105	4	
above 105	0	
Total	55	

TABLE 2: No. of hours spent in the shop		
Time(hrs.)	No. of CL	
below 7	0	<p style="text-align: center;">Graph 2: No. of hours spent in the shop</p>
7—8	5	
8—9	6	
9—10	9	
10—11	25	
11—12	10	
above 12	0	
Total	55	



V. Findings

Sr. no.	Description	No. of CL	Percentage of CL
1	Satisfied with their work	30	54.55
	Not satisfied with their work	25	45.45
2	Happy with employer	8	14.55
	Not happy with employer	47	85.45
3	Wish to work elsewhere	46	83.64
	Not wish to work elsewhere	9	16.36
4	Availability of drinking water	46	83.64
	Non availability of drinking water	9	16.36
5	Availability of toilet	21	38.18
	Non availability of toilet	34	61.82
6	Availability of first aid kit	18	32.73
	Non availability of first aid kit	37	67.27
7	Provision of medical help	2	3.64
	Non provision of medical help	53	96.36

VI. Observations

From table 1: Most of the child labourers income lies between Rs.85 to Rs.95.

From table 2: Maximum number of child labourer work for 10 to 11 hours.

From table 3: 45.45% of the child labourers responded that they had never been attended school. The remaining 56.56% are school dropouts, the reasons are they did not like to go to school, parents were not ready to send them in school, they regularly failed in their exams and parents were not sufficiently earning.

From table 4: Maximum number of child laborers' family income lies between Rs. 300 to Rs. 400.

The reasons behind child labour in workshops, they are quick learners and hence expert in their work. They are very flexible and hence capable to move under the vehicles. They do not waste time like many senior workers take frequent breaks during working hours hence they complete maintenance of more vehicles. They are from poor families and hence they are punctual in their work. They are needy and hence ready to work on low wages. They are not aware of any rules and regulations and hence forced to work long hours in low wages. But it is found that the few employers are aware about rules and regulations of child labour. Most of child labours interviewed are happy with their work but do not happy with their employer. Most of them responded that, they are not aware of first aid kit and medical help to be provided by the employer.

VII. Suggestions

To remove the child labour from this sector a number of steps should be taken ranging from making aware to the customer not to take the services of children and employer that not to engage child labour. It is necessary that the rehabilitation of children effectively through residential education and accommodation. It is important to generate a positive political will to tackle this social problem.

NGO's can support these children by introducing government plans and they can create awareness among the child labourer about the rules and regulation of their wages. Government can adopt the child labourer for their education through admitting them in the night schools. Government can also support them for their professional development.

VIII. Conclusion

It is found that many children are working in the Automobile repairing workshops. There is not any formal study made by the government agencies as well as Non-government Organizations about the child labour engaged in Automobile repairing workshops as well as their socio economic, exploitation and other issues related to this child labour in Automobile repairing workshops. In spite of the laws and measures dealing with child labour, the reality is that children are exploited and working in such places, where the guardians of law implementing authority are visiting most to repair their vehicles. People were not noticing or intentionally ignorant that the "chotu's", "babu's"(means young boy's) as child labour. Poverty and illiteracy are the main causes behind child labour.

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IX. Annexure

Questionnaire

1. Name of Automobile Workshop: _____
2. Area: Kalawa Kharegaon
3. Name of child labourer: _____
4. Name of Parents: _____
5. No. of Siblings: _____

6. Residential Address: _____
7. No. of working members in the family: _____
8. Daily income of the family: below 70 70-80 80-90 90-100
100-200 300-400 400-500 above 500
9. Daily income of child labourer: below 35 35-45 45-55 55-65 65-75
75-85 85-95 95-105 above 105
10. Whether attended school? Yes No
11. If yes, class studied: 1-3 3-5 5-7 any other _____
12. Do you wish to go to school? Yes No
13. No. of hours spent at the workshop? Below 4 4-5 5-6 6-7 7-8
8-9 9-10 10-11 11-12 above 12
14. Are you satisfied with the work you do? Yes No
15. Are you happy with your employer? Yes No
16. Do you wish to work elsewhere? Yes No
17. Is drinking water available in the workshop? Yes No
18. Are toilets available in the workshop? Yes No
19. Is a first aid kit available in the workshop? Yes No
20. In case of injury/accidents are provide medical help? Yes No

Note: Information gathered from the respondent would be used purely for educational purpose.

The author of the paper ensures secrecy of the information provided by the respondents.