

A study on socio-economic status of child labour in India with special reference to carpet insutry

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ABSTRACT

In this paper, the socio-economic status of child labour working in the carpet industry of Uttar Pradesh has been investigated. Lack of awareness about the basic rights of a child has led to easy violation of those very laws which are meant to protect and empower him. Thus, this paper examined some flaws associated with child labour laws. The various reasons lying behind this problem have been analyzed and have been suggested some better measures that can be implemented on the part of policies to tackle this problem.

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The complex issue of child labour is a developmental issue worth investigating. The notion that children are being exploited and forced into labour while not receiving education is crucial to development. India is the largest example of a nation plagued by the problem of child labour. Statistics reveal that India has 20 million child labourers, the highest in the world.

Child is said to be father of man and a citizen of tomorrow. In that case however, a child in Indian society is being deprived of the opportunity to evolve further into a human being. Though child labour is prohibited all over the world, still it continues to flourish in India. India is the largest example of a nation suffering from this problem. Child labour in India is both rural and urban in nature. Approximately 90% of the rural children work in agriculture and allied activities while the situation is no different in urban society. This does not imply that law encourages child labour. In fact, our constitution has made provisions to safeguard rights of children by way of making their education compulsory (Article 45), prohibiting their employment in factories (Article 24), and forced labour prohibition (Article 25). Even the UNICEF *i.e.* United Nation International Child Emergency Fund is actively involved in these efforts. Still the situation is aggravating day by day.

Objectives:

- Assessing the prevalence of child labour in the carpet industry through a simple survey on domestic children.
- Study about the socio-economic reasons and effects to make them labourer.
- Suggestive measures and recommendations.

METHODOLOGY

This study is based on the survey conducted at the Mirzapur district of Uttar Pradesh where plenty of carpet industries are running nowadays. As it is a very vastly populated area and convenient sampling was adopted for collecting a complete set of data. A well structured, closed as well as open ended questionnaire was framed to interview the child labourers.

ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

The findings of the present study as well as relevant discussion have been summarized under following heads

Child labour:

Apparently, child labour includes the employment of children at the age of below 14 years, but it entails several other dimensions which make it critical. Industrialization has made them a commodity. Poor families give away their children to well off families, which in turn use them as domestic labour. Sometimes, children even work as mortgaged commodity until the debt taken by their father is relived. This adds another dimension of bonded labour

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