

Percentage Analysis Study on Profiles of Child Labour in Dum Dum Municipality of North 24-Parganas District

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ABSTRACT

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 crucial to development, concerns many people. What are the causes of child labour in an urban area like Dum Dum Municipality? How do governmental policies affect it? What role does education play in regard to child labour in Dum Dum Municipality? A critical analysis of the answers may lead in the direction of a possible solution. These questions will be answered through an analysis of the problem of child labour by investigating how prevalent it is. The necessity of child labours to poor families, and the role of poverty as a determinant is examined in this paper. The present study was mainly based on first hand data collected from the field. The percentage analysis of independent and dependent variables are main focus of the study.

INTRODUCTION

Children are gifts of God. They are blooming flowers of the garden. It is our duty to protect these flowers of the garden from damaging effects of excessive exposure to heat, cold and rain. The significance and importance of child lie in the fact that the child is the universe. If there was no child there would be no humanity and there can't be a universe without humanity. Therefore, mankind owes to the child the best that it has to be given. If there is no proper growth of child today, the future of the country will be in dark. It is thus an obligation of any generation to bring up children who will be citizen of tomorrow in a proper way. Today's children will be the leaders who will hold country's banner and maintain prestige of the nation. If a child goes wrong for want of proper attention, training and guidance, it will indeed be a deficiency of the society and of government of the day. Every society must, therefore, devote full attention to ensure that children are properly cared for and brought up in a proper atmosphere where they would receive adequate training, education and guidance in order that they may be able to have their rightful place in society when they grow up.

Child Labour is the practice of having children engage in economic activity, on part or -time basis. The practice deprives children of their childhood, and is harmful to their physical and mental

development. Poverty, lack of good schools and growth of informal economy are considered as the important causes of child labour in India. The 1998 national census of India estimated the total number of child labour, aged 4–15, to be at 12.6 million, out of a total child population of 253 million in 5-14 age group. A 2009-2010 nationwide survey found child labour prevalence had reduced to 4.98 million children (or less than 2% of children in 5-14 age group). The 2011 national census of India found the total number of child labour, aged 5–14, to be at 4.35 million, and the total child population to be 259.64 million in that age group. The child labour problem is not unique to India; worldwide, about 217 million children work, many full-time. (Source : https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Child_labour_in_India).

The present paper is a humble attempt to show the percent distribution of both dependent and independent variables. The paper mainly focuses on identifying different sectors of the study area where the child labourers were mainly engaged. Reason of engagement, their views on child labour, their earning and savings potentiality, recreation, health and hygiene, schooling, knowledge about 'Sarbo Siksha Avijan', significance of 'Children's Day', awareness level of National Child Labour Programme etc. issues are also emerged from the study. Thus we can get a overall view of present condition of urban child labour in general and child labour of Dum Dum Municipality in particular.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Sampling Method

The field investigation was carried out during April 2011 to June 2011 in Dum Dum Municipality of North 24 Parganas district. The district was selected purposively for the study considering the need for availability of data and usual limitations of a student research project. From each selected wards eleven respondents were selected randomly with judgement sampling. In this process, 10 wards were selected from Dum Dum municipality. Hence, the total sample size was one hundred ten (110).

The ten independent variables selected for the study as follows :

Presence of owner, Residence , Gender , Age Caste , Education of the respondent , Religion , Family type , Family size and Family educational status.

The six dependent variables selected for the study as follows :

Job pattern, Earning potentiality , Safety and Comfort aggregate , Schooling concern, Health and Hygiene concern and Awareness.

For the measurement of independent variables, scales already available were used.

Data Collection Method

Data mainly collected through structured Interview Schedule.

Statistical Method

The present paper based on only percenta distribution or Frequency distribution of the collected raw data.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results of the study are discussed in this chapter after appropriate statistical analysis. In the present survey, Different job types, Earning, Safe and comfortable job environment, Schooling, Health & hygiene and Awareness are dependent variables denoted by Y1, Y2, Y3, Y4, Y5, Y6 respectively. Nine variables (X1, X2, X3, ..., X9) related to general profile of child labour are the independent variables.

General, Socio-economic & Technical Information Related Variables

Percent Distribution of Studied Independent Variables

Table 1 shows that 79.09% child labour responded in absence of owner or employer or appointer and the rest 20.91% responded in the presence of owner by chance.

Most of the respondents (62.73%) were belong to urban area followed by village (27.27%) and semi-urban area (10%).

Maximum no. of respondents (77.27%) were male and only 22.73% respondents were female.

Most of the child labourers were belonging to the age group of 12-14 years (44.55%) followed by 8-11 years (40%) and below 7 years (15.46%) respectively.

Most of the respondents (68.18%) were belonging to general category followed by schedule caste (28.18%). Same percentage of respondents belonged to both Schedule tribe and Other backward classes (1.81%).

Most of the respondents had primary education (38.18%) just followed by middle school education (36.36%). Illiterate (15.46%), Can read and write (6.36%), High school (2.73%) and can read only (0.91%) categories were coming after that respectively.

Most of the respondents were Muslim (66.36%). Only 33.64% of the respondents were Hindu.

Maximum no. of respondents were belonging to nuclear family (54.55%) followed by joint family (44.55%). Only one respondent was orphan which represented 0.91% of the total sample size.

Maximum no. of respondents (54.55%) were belonging to the family which have upto 5 members and followed by families which had more than 5 members (44.55%). Only one respondent was orphan which represented 0.909% of the total sample size.

Table 1: Percent distribution of studied independent variables

VARIABLES	TYPES	PERCENT
Presence of owner	Absence	79.09
	Presence	20.91
Residence	Village	27.27
	Semi-urban	10
	Urban	62.74
Gender	Male	77.27
	Female	22.73
Age	Below 7 years	15.46
	8-11 years	40
	12-14 years	44.55
Caste	General	68.18
	Schedule cast	28.18
	Schedule tribe	1.818
	Other backward classes	1.818
Education	Illiterate	15.46
	Can read only	0.91
	Can read & write	6.36
	Primary	38.18
	Middle school	36.36
	High school	2.73
	Religion	Hindu
	Muslim	66.36
Family type	Orphan	0.91
	Upto 5 members	54.55

	More than 5 members	44.55
Family size	Orphan	0.91
	Upto 5 members	54.55
	More than 5 members	44.55

Percent Distribution of Studied Dependent Variables

Table 2 shows that respondents were engaged in various types of jobs in almost uniform percentage. Maximum respondents were engaged in hotel and restaurants (15.46%) followed by Garage (13.64%), factory (12.73%), Tea stall (10.91%) , Domestic worker (9.91%) and hawker (9.91%) , Sweet shop (8.182%) , Grocery shop (6.364%), Labour (5.455%), Tailor (3.64%) and butcher (3.64%) and at last Shoe polish (1.81%).

Most of the respondents (58.18%) confessed that the work in which they were engaged was laborious and 41.82% said that it was not laborious.

Most of the child labourers (36.36%) were engaged in work since more than 1 year just followed by those (35.46%) who engaged in work recently and those (28.18%) engaged for 1 year.

Most of the respondents (36.36%) became child labour due to force from home just followed by parents' disability to feed and cloth them(29.09%).Brought by someone and self interest had equal responsibility (15.46%) behind transformation of a child into child labour. In very few cases (3.64%) the children had no idea about their reason of engagement.

Equal percentage of respondents (50%) were interested and not interested to do their job.

Maximum no. of respondents earned Rs 1001-3000 per month (53.64%) followed by less than Rs 1000 per month(44.55%).Only 1.82% earned more than Rs 3000/- per month.

Most of the respondents (79.09%) confessed that their earning was not sufficient to run their family. Only 20.91% confessed that their earning was sufficient to run their family.

Maximum no. of respondents (57.27%) had savings from their earning. Rest of the respondents (42.73%) gave their full income to the family.

A huge percentage of respondents (86.36%) said that they had time left for recreation while a few percentage (13.64%) said they didn't have it.

Most of the respondents (51.82%) had rest for more than 1 hour during work followed by 1 hour (39.09%) and 30 minutes (9.09%) resting time.

Most of the respondents (58.18%) slept in their home followed by working place (28.18%) and other places rather than home (13.64%).

Maximum no. of respondents (62.73%) took meal thrice in a day followed by twice (18.18%) , four times a day (16.36%) and once in a day (2.73%).

Most of the respondents (54.55%) were not ill treated by their employer while rest of them (45.46%) ill treated by their employer.

Most of the respondents (51.82%) got scold for any mistake followed by nothing (41.82%) , slap (4.55%) and others (1.82%).

Most of the respondents (55.55%) thought about leaving their present job in near future while rest of them (44.55%) didn't have any thinking like this.

A huge percent of respondents (90.91%) didn't face any accident while working where only 9.09% of the respondent had to face accident while working.

A huge percent of respondents (81.818%) did not get any compensation for accident. Only 18.182% of the respondent got compensation for any work related accidents.

Most of the respondents (76.36%) did not protest against their laborious work while a few percentage (23.64%) protested.

Most of the respondents (88.18%) did not face sexual harassment while others (11.82%) had faced it.

A huge percentage of respondents (80%) denied that they were ill- treated for their caste and religion while few percentage of respondent (20%) confessed that they faced the problem.

Maximum respondents (80%) were willing to engage in other profession while a few percentage (20%) engaged in same type of profession in the future,

A huge percentage of the respondents (88.18%) didn't able to continue schooling and their work simultaneously while a few percentage of respondent (11.82%) were able to do this.

A huge percentage of respondents (82.47%) said that they went to school in earlier days while only 17.53 % said that they did not went to school.

Maximum no. of respondents (67.67%) thought that their unwillingness to go to school was the reason behind their dropout while the rest 33.33% said they were forced from home to dropout.

Maximum no. of respondents (83.05%) thought that their inability to understand their lesson was the reason behind unwillingness to go to school followed by Uncomfort environment (8.48%) , Parents' unwillingness to send to school (6.78%), and other reasons (1.70%).

Maximum no. of respondents (70%) had no idea about mid day meal while the rest 30% had the idea.

Most of the respondents (52.58%) said that they had the feeling of willing to go to school watching other school going children followed by no such feeling (41.24%) and depressed (6.19%) respectively

Most of the respondents (70.10%) agreed to continue schooling if anybody or any organization offered them monetary compensation but the rest (29.90%) disagree to continue schooling even getting the advantage.

Maximum n. of respondents (76.29%) were not willing to return to schooling while a very few percent of children (23.71%) said that they were willing to return to schooling.

A huge percent of children (82.73%) said that they didn't have any idea about 'Sarbo Siksha Avijan'. Rest of them (17.27%) said that they had some idea about it.

Most of the respondents (71.82%) said that they suffered from disease due to work. The rest (28.18%) said that they didn't suffer.

Most of the respondents (34.18%) said that they had Headache just followed by Fever (31.65%) , Bronchitis (18.99%) , Skin disease (10.13%).Same percentage of respondent (2.53%) suffered from Bronchitis and Stomach ache & Diarrhea.

A huge percent of respondents (73.64%) said that they don't suffer from malnutrition. Rest of them (26.37%) said that they suffer from malnutrition.

Maximum no. of respondents (50%) said that they were self treated when they were suffering from any disease. 27.27 % respondent said that they were treated by physician and 22.73% said that nobody even bothered when they were suffering from any disease.

A huge percent of respondents (77.27%) said that they were not compelled to do work during their illness and the rest 22.73% said that they were compelled to do work.

Smoking habit existed in maximum percent of respondent (51.82%).But in 48.18% respondent it did not exist.

Most respondents (57.27%) took 'Gutkha' & Khaini but the rest (42.73%) did not take.

A huge percent of respondents (84.55%) said that they took bath regularly but the rest of them (15.46%) said they didn't.

Most of the children (45.46%) took bath in home followed by Street tap water (32.73%) and Working place (21.82%).

Most of the children (45.46%) used latrine in Sulav souchagar' followed by Home (31.82%) and Working place (22.73%)

Maximum no. of respondents (71.82%) changed clothe everyday and the rest (28.18%) changed clothes once in a week.

Most of the respondents (60.91%) used only detergent to wash utensils followed by both ash and detergent (35.46%).Very small percent (2.73%) used ash and only water (0.91%) to wash the utensils.

Most of the respondents (76.36%) said that they got nutritious food according to their laborious work and rest (23.64%) said that they didn't get it.

Maximum no. of respondent (80.91%) were very much aware of the fact that child labour is legally prohibited. Only 19.09% said that they were not aware.

Most of the respondents (80%) said that they intended to study in school under NCLP.Only 20% said that they did not.

Almost all respondents (95.46%) said that they had no information about any step taken by Govt. or NGO for upliftment of their livelihood. Only 4.55% said that they had some information about it.

Maximum no. of respondents (80.91%) said that they didn't know about the fact that employer of child labourer was obliged for monetary punishment and even imprisonment. Only 19.09% said they were aware of the fact.

Maximum no. of respondents (66.36%) did not have any idea about Children's Day where the rest 33.64% had a idea about it.

Most of the respondents (57.90%) had correct idea about Childrens' Day. The rest 42.10% did not have any idea.

Table 2 : Percent distribution of studied dependent variables

DEPENDENT VARIABLES ABOUT	VARIABLES	TYPES	PERCENT
Different job pattern	Different job sector	Hotel & Restaurant	15.46
		Grossary Shop	6.36
		Tea Stall	10.91
		Garage	13.64
		Domestic Worker	9.09
		Hawker	9.09
		Sweet Shop	8.18
		Factory	12.73
		Labour	5.46
		Tailor	3.63
		Butcher	3.63
		Shoe Polish	1.81
	Laborious	Non laborious	41.81
		Laborious	58.18
	Time of engagement	Recent	35.46
		1 year	28.18
		More than 1 year	36.36
	Reason of engagement	No idea	3.64
		Forced from home	36.36
		Parents cant afford to feed or cloth	29.09
		Brought by someone	15.46
		Self interest	15.46
	Interest	Not interested	50
Interested		50	
Earning potentiality	Monthly Income	Less than Rs 1000/-	44.56
		Rs 1001-3000/-	53.64
		More than Rs 3000/-	1.82
	Earning	Not sufficient	79.09
		Sufficient	20.91
	Savings	Did not have	42.73

		Had	57.27
Safety and comfort aggregate	Time for recreation	Did not have	13.64
		Had	86.36
	Taking rest during work	30 mins	9.09
		1 hour	39.09
		More than 1 hour	51.82
	Place of sleep	Working place	28.18
		Other places rather than home	13.64
		Home	58.18
	Time of taking meal in a day	Once	2.73
		Twice	18.18
		Thrice	62.73
		Four times a day	16.36
	Ill – treated or abused by employer	Did not agree	54.55
		Agree	45.46
Way of treating	Monetary punishment	1.82	
	Slap	4.55	
	Scold	51.82	
	Nothing	41.82	
Think of leaving job	Did not think	44.55	
	Thought	55.46	
Accident	Did not face	90.91	
	Faced	9.091	
Compensation	Did not get	81.82	
	Get	18.18	
Protest against laborious job	Did not protest	76.36	
	Protest	23.64	
Sexual harassment	Did not face	88.18	
	Faced	11.82	
Ill treated for caste & religion	Did not agree	80	
	Agree	20	
Safety and comfort aggregate	Schooling	Did not continue	88.18
		Continue	11.82
	Went to school in earlier days	Did not go	17.53
		Went	82.47
		Forced by parents	33.33
	Reason behind dropout	Unwilling to go to school	66.67
		Forced by parents	33.33
	Reason behind unwillingness	Parents don't want to send	6.78
		Can't understand the lesson	83.05
		Uncomfort environment	8.48
		Others	1.70
	Idea about mid day meal	Did not have	30
		Had	70

	Feeling of watching other school going children	Nothing	41.24
		Depressed	6.19
		Willing to go to school	52.58
	After offering monetary compensation continue schooling	Disagree	29.90
		Agree	70.10
	Idea about 'Sarbo siksha avijan'	Did not Have	82.73
Had		17.27	
Health and hygiene concern	Disease	Do not have	28.18
		Have	71.82
	Type of disease	Bronchitis	2.53
		Respiratory problem	18.99
		Stomach ache and diarrhoea	2.53
		Headache	34.18
		Skin disease	10.13
		Fever	31.65
	Malnutrition	Did not suffer	73.64
		Suffered	26.36
	How to get medical treatment	By physician	27.27
		Self treated	50
		Nobody bothered	22.73
	Doing work inspite of illness	Did not compel	77.27
		Compelled	22.73
	Smoking	Did not have the habit	48.18
		Had the habit	51.82
	'Gutkha' & 'Khaini'	Did not take	42.73
		Took	57.27
	Taking bath regularly	Did not take	15.46
Took		84.55	
Latrine	Home	45.46	
	Working place	22.73	
	Sulav souchagar	45.46	
	Home	31.82	
How often change clothes	Once in a week	28.18	
	Everyday	71.82	
What is being used to wash utensils	Nothing	0.91	
	Water	2.73	
	Ash	60.91	
	Detergent	35.46	
Nutritious food	Did not get	23.64	
	Got	76.36	

Awareness	Child labour is prohibited	Didn't know	19.09
		Knew	80.91
	Having information that Govt. or NGO take steps for upliftment	Did not have	95.46
		Had	4.55
	Appointer of child labour is obliged to give money and can go to jail	Didn't know	80.91
		Knew	19.09
	Having any idea about 'Children's Day'	Did not have	66.36
		Had	33.64
	Idea about 'Children's Day'	Incorrect	57.90
		Correct	42.11

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

The problem of child labour is a burning problem of the present day. The child labour is one of the basic components of the labour force whose exploitation by employers has become a matter of disgrace to humanity. In Dum Dum Municipality there are mainly urban child labour who are not engaged in agricultural activities. Hence to identify the different sectors where child labourers are employed and the reason for their employment , socio-economic background of their family to describe, analyze and interpret the characteristics , determinants and consequences of urban child labour and above all to concern people about their distressed condition , this study undoubtedly able to hammer at the very grass root level of thinking. If the study atleast able to generate awareness about livelihood of child labourers among the people and help them to act more sympathetically to the child labourers and ofcourse help them to protest against the people who compel the children to become child labours, the researcher will be obliged and thankful.

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