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**A STUDY ON DISTRICT WISE CHILD LABOUR
POPULATION IN RURAL AND URBAN AREAS OF
ANDHRA PRADESH**

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ABSTRACT

Child labour is the practice of engaging children in economic activity, on part-time or full time basis. Contrary to the notion that it is better when all members of a family, irrespective of age, work and earn money, child labour actually makes poverty worse. Depriving children of education, child labour results in poverty passing down from generation to generation. In India, the children are engaged mostly in various low-key jobs of the unorganized sectors which are hazardous in situation. This paper study aims at identifying the population of child labour whose age ranged from 5 to 18 years in rural and urban areas of Andhra Pradesh and various legal provisions of age for defining the child, for the purpose of protections and realizing the rights of the children in India.

KEYWORDS: *Child Labour, Age, child working population, Hazardous work, Legal provisions.*

INTRODUCTION

Child labour is the practice of engaging children in economic activity, on part-time or full time basis. Contrary to the notion that it is better when all members of a family, irrespective of age, work and earn money, child labour actually makes poverty worse. Depriving children of education, child labour results in poverty passing down from generation to generation. According to the International Organization (ILO, United States policies to Address Child labour Globally, 2010), the definition of the term 'child' depends on the definition of 'age', which has a historical time-frame and socio-cultural frame. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child defines a 'child' as "any person who has not reached

the age of eighteen unless a different age of maturity is specified in any country's law, applicable to the child". The subject 'minimum age for admission to employment' is discussed in different ILO Conventions. According to Article 2 of the ILO Convention No.182, the term 'child' shall apply to all persons under the age of 18. As per Article 24 of the Constitution of India, no child below the age of 14 years is to be employed in any factory, mine or hazardous work. In the context of free and compulsory education for children, the Constitution defines the age of a child as 14 years. The Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Amendment Bill, passed by Parliament on 22 July 2016, prohibits employment of children below 14 years completely and prohibits

employment of adolescents (14–18 years) in hazardous occupations/processes.

OBJECTIVES

The following objectives has undertaken for the study;

1. To find out the district wise child working population in Andhra Pradesh
2. To find out the legal provisions of age for defining the child in India
3. To suggest solutions to solve the problem of child labour

METHODOLOGY

For analysis this study is based on mainly secondary data on census of India, 2011 and some data collected from different books, journals and internet etc. Methodology applied in the study is totally statistical analysis and represented by various graphical techniques.

Definitions:

Child: Under 15 (Set by ILO's Convention No. 138) in the most used standard. ILO (1996) let ages depend on work contents, under 13 for "light" works and under 18 for "hazardous" works.

Labour: "Economically active", when a person works on a regular basis for which he/she is remunerated or that results in output destined for market.

Article 1 of the UNCRC defines everyone under the age of 18 years as a child. It lays down a detailed charter of children's social, economic, cultural, civil and political rights and mandates their protection from any practice prejudicial to their rights. Article 32 of the Convention obliges states parties to proscribe children from working in any condition that is likely to be hazardous, or interfere with their education, or be harmful for their health, physical, mental, social, moral and spiritual development.

The ILO's International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC) classifies child labour by drawing upon ILO Convention No. 138, Convention No. 182, and the UN CRC. This classification includes three types of work in age groups as follows

- a) All children aged 5-11 years engaged in economic activity are considered to comprise child labour that requires elimination;
- b) Children aged 12-14 years performing economic activities are considered to comprise child labour unless they are engaged in light work;
- c) Children aged 15-18 years engaged in the worst forms of labour are to be "categorized as child labourers".

CHILD LABOUR IN ANDHRA PRADESH

The incidence of child labour exists across all states in India in varying degrees. In terms of the demographic share, children constitute more than one-third (37 per cent) of the total population of the country while working children constitute 18.4 per cent of the

total children in the age group of 15-17 years (adolescents).⁴ According to the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) estimates, in 2009-10, around 6 per cent of the children in the age group of 5-17 years and 3.3 per cent in the age group of 5-14 years were working. The incidence of working children in the older age group (15-17 years) was significantly higher (18.4 per cent).

According to 2011 census, Andhra Pradesh is having 3,80,422 Child Labour where as it was 13.63 lakh in 2001 in the combined State and 3.80 lakhs in A.P. in 2011. Data of out of school children according to survey conducted by RVM was 6.2 lakh in 2003-2004 and 1.09 lakh in 2013. High incidence of child labour in Andhra Pradesh occurs in employments like agriculture, hotels and dhabas, domestic sector, construction activity, shops and establishments, small factories, street vending, rag picking and such informal sector.

In fact Andhra Pradesh has been one of those Indian states with very high incidence of child labour. Although, there has been drastic reduction in the incidence of child labour in the state, the efforts towards making child labour – free state is not yet materialized. The Government of Andhra Pradesh has made policy initiatives and intervention programmes especially since mid-1990s to eradicate child labour in the state. The initiatives of civil society and NGOs are noteworthy in this endeavor.

RURAL-URBAN DIVIDE

The important characteristic of child labour in India is that about 90 percent of the working children are concentrated in the rural areas. They not only work in farm sector but also in various non-farm activities in rural areas. The same trend is reflected in Census as well as NSSO data. This is also a reflection of narrow jurisdiction of the law which focuses only on visible forms of child labour in urban areas. Further they remain as reservoir of cheap labour supply to be migrated to urban areas along with their families in the event of any distress in rural areas. Thus, the problem of child labour in India is essentially a rural problem. As per 2010-11 NSSO data, out of 9.07 million child labourers, 12.16 million were in rural areas. Though there is a declining trend in the general magnitude of child labour in India, the concentration of child labourers in rural areas continue.

DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE OF ANDHRA PRADESH

Andhra Pradesh state has 162975 Sq. kms, 8th largest state in the country. 4.96% of country's area. It has two regions, one is coastal andhra and other one is Rayalaseema. It has 13 districts with 495.77 Lakhs population., constituting 4.09% of country's population and 997 females per thousand males,

second best in the country after Kerala. 29.47 % of the percentage population resides in rural areas. state’s population resides in Urban areas rest of the

Table-1
District wise, Gender wise child population in Andhra Pradesh (Age 5-14), 2011 census

S.No	Districts	Child Population (5-14)	Boys	Girls	Child Labour (5-14)	Boys	Girls
1	Srikakulam	492358	254381	237977	12752	6280	6472
2	Vizianagaram	418819	215010	203809	14857	7319	7538
3	Visakhaptnam	760993	389461	371532	35516	18373	17143
4	East Godavari	885491	448660	436831	18433	11978	6455
5	West Godavari	664222	336907	327315	16290	9457	6833
6	Krishna	738897	379630	359267	27647	15192	12455
7	Guntur	843988	435554	408434	35530	17025	18505
8	Prakasam	635312	328557	306755	25096	11584	13512
9	SPS Nellore	514870	266793	248077	14662	8587	6075
10	YSR Kadapa	851218	438592	412626	19569	10152	9417
11	Kurnool	719789	371042	348747	66981	30700	36281
12	Anantapuram	746174	385245	360929	32608	17512	15096
13	Chittoor	536371	277683	258688	24032	13058	10974
	Total	8808502	4527515	4280987	343973	177217	166756

Source: Census of India, 2011 and Child statistics, Andhra Pradesh, 2014-15

Table.1 indicates the district wise details of child population and child labour population. Andhra Pradesh state having (88.08 lakh) total child population in 2011. Among the districts, East Godavari district (8.85 lakh) has the highest total child population and Vizianagaram district (4.18 lakh) has the lowest child population in the state. The state has (3.43 lakh) child labour population with the percentage of (3.90%) to the total child population of the state (5-14 years). The

data reveals that again Kurnool district (0.66 lakhs) has top place in the child labour population and Srikakulam district (0.12) has lowest child labour population. Kurnool district (0.30 lakhs) has highest boys child labour population with the percentage of (8.3%) to the boys child population of the respective district and (0.36 lakhs) also highest girl child labour population with the percentage of (10.4%) to girls child population of the respective district (See fig.1)

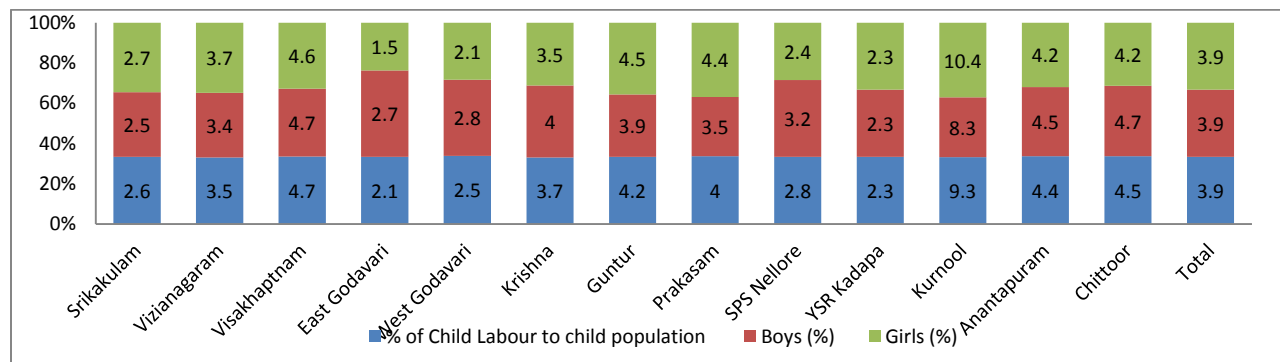


Fig.1; District wise percentage of child labour to child population (5-14) of respective districts

Table-2
District wise, Gender wise child population in Andhra Pradesh (Age 15-19), 2011 census

S.No	Districts	Child population (15-19)	Male	Female	Child Labour (15-19)	Male	Female
1	Srikakulam	256804	133026	123778	91751	47982	43769
2	Vizianagaram	214869	110391	104478	77789	41507	36282
3	Visakhaptnam	388888	197546	191342	120007	66375	53632
4	East Godavari	487559	249462	238097	136608	98330	38278
5	West Godavari	373437	192631	180806	119818	75628	44190
6	Krishna	443109	231151	211958	120912	71081	49831
7	Guntur	461689	238430	223259	143940	78870	65070
8	Prakasam	307602	165413	142189	113705	62007	51698
9	SPS Nellore	301772	161569	140203	80950	50642	30308
10	YSR Kadapa	264768	138176	126592	76405	44502	31903
11	Kurnool	407679	214548	193131	180925	96541	84384
12	Anantapuram	388002	203027	184975	152393	85917	66476
13	Chittoor	376355	195547	180808	105258	62487	42771
	Total	4672533	2430917	2241616	1520461	881869	638592

Source: Census of India, 2011

Table.2 shows the district wise details of child labour (15-19 years), As per the 2011 Census figures, the total child population (15-19 years) of Andhra Pradesh is (46.72 lakhs), in that the male child population is (24.30 lakhs) and female population is (22.41lakhs). The state total child labour (15-19 years) population is (15.20 lakhs) with the percentage of (32.54%) to the total child population of the state (15-19 years), in that male child labour population is (8.81 lakhs) and female child labour population is (6.38 lakhs) in the state. Kurnool district (1.80 lakhs) having the highest child labour (age 15-19) population with

the percentage of (44.4%) to the child population of respective district and YSR Kadapa (0.76 lakhs) having the lowest child labour population with the percentage of (28.9 %) to the child population of respective district. East Godavari district (0.98 lakhs) has highest male child labour population with the percentage of (39.3%) to the male child population of respective district and Kurnool district (0.84 lakhs) has highest female child labour population with the percentage of (43.7%) to the female child population of respective district (See Fig.2)

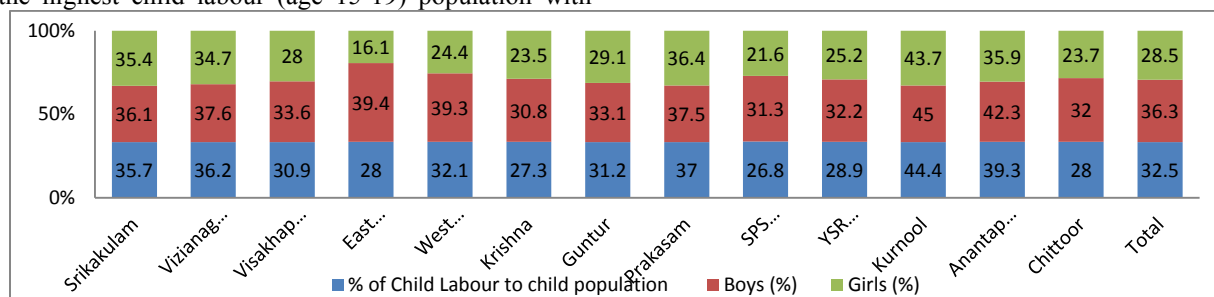


Fig.2; District wise percentage of child labour to child population (15-19) of respective districts

Table-3
District wise, Gender wise, area wise child working population in Andhra Pradesh (Age 5-14)

S.No	Districts	Rural			Urban		
		Child Labour (5-14)	Boys	Girls	Child Labour (5-14)	Boys	Girls
1	Srikakulam	11543	5562	5981	1209	718	491
2	Vizianagaram	13529	6495	7034	1328	824	504
3	Visakhapatnam	24468	12057	12411	11048	6316	4732
4	East Godavari	14668	9566	5102	3765	2412	1353
5	West Godavari	14494	8344	6150	1796	1113	683
6	Krishna	17103	8841	8262	10544	6351	4193
7	Guntur	26837	12077	14760	8693	4948	3745
8	Prakasam	22933	10328	12605	2163	1256	907
9	SPS Nellore	12125	6920	5205	2537	1667	870
10	YSR Kadapa	14843	7249	7594	4726	2903	1823
11	Kurnool	55032	23962	31070	11949	6738	5211
12	Anantapuram	25951	13412	12539	6657	4100	2557
13	Chittoor	20135	10674	9461	3897	2384	1513
	Total	273661	135487	138174	70312	41730	28582

Source: Census of India, 2011

As per 2011 Census figures, the total child population (5-14 years) of the state is 88.08 lakhs in that the child labour population (5-14 years) is 3.90 % (3.43 lakhs) and Rural child labour population is (2.73 lakh) with the percentage of (79.55%) to the total child labour population and urban child labour population is (0.70 lakhs) with the percentage of (20.44%) to the total child labour population (See Table.3)

Among all 13 districts, Kurnool district (0.55 lakhs) has highest rural child labour population followed by Guntur (0.26 lakhs) and Ananthapuram (0.25 lakhs) and Srikakulam district (0.11 lakhs) has lowest rural child labour population (See Table.3)

Kurnool district (23962) has highest rural child labour (boys) population with the percent of (6.5%) and (31,070) rural child labour (girls) with percent of (8.9%) to total boys and girls child population of respective district. Srikakulam district (0.05 lakhs) has lowest rural child labour (boys) population with the percent of (2.2%) and East Godavari district (0.05

lakhs) has lowest rural child labour (girls) with the percent of (1.2%) to the total boys and girls population of respective districts (5-14 years) (See Fig.3)

Among all 13 districts, Kurnool district (0.11lakhs) has highest urban child labour population followed by Visakhapatnam (0.11lakhs) and Krishna (0.10lakhs) and Srikakulam district (0.01lakhs) has lowest urban child labour population (5-14 years) (See table.3)

Kurnool district (0.06 lakhs) has highest urban child labour (boys) population with the percent of (1.8%) and (0.05 lakhs) urban child labour (girls) with percent of (1.5%) to total boys and girls child population of respective districts. Srikakulam district (0.007 lakhs) has lowest urban child labour (boys) population with the percent of (0.3%) and (0.004 lakhs) has lowest urban child labour (girls) with the percent of (0.2%) to the total boys and girls population of respective districts (See Fig.4)

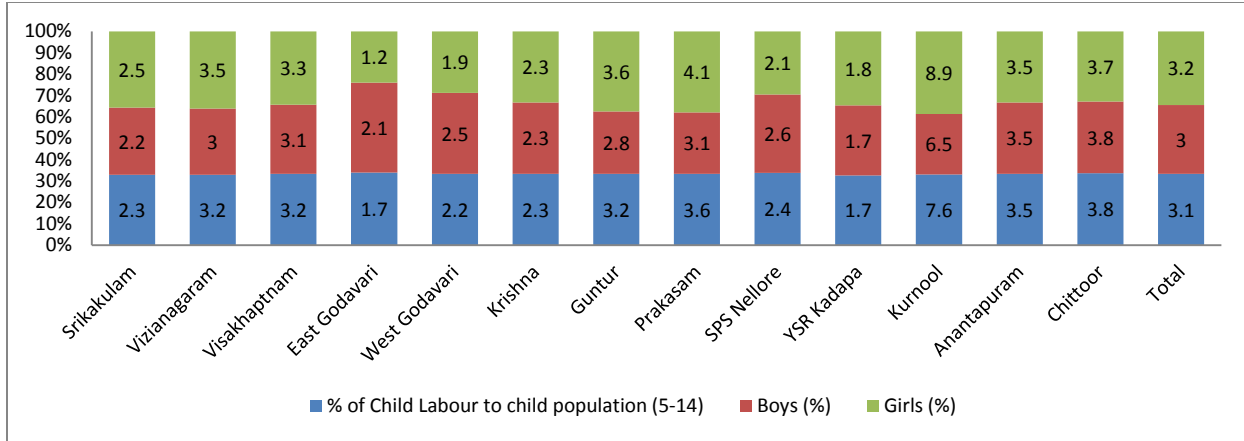


Fig.3; District wise percentage of child labour to child population (5-14) of respective districts-Rural

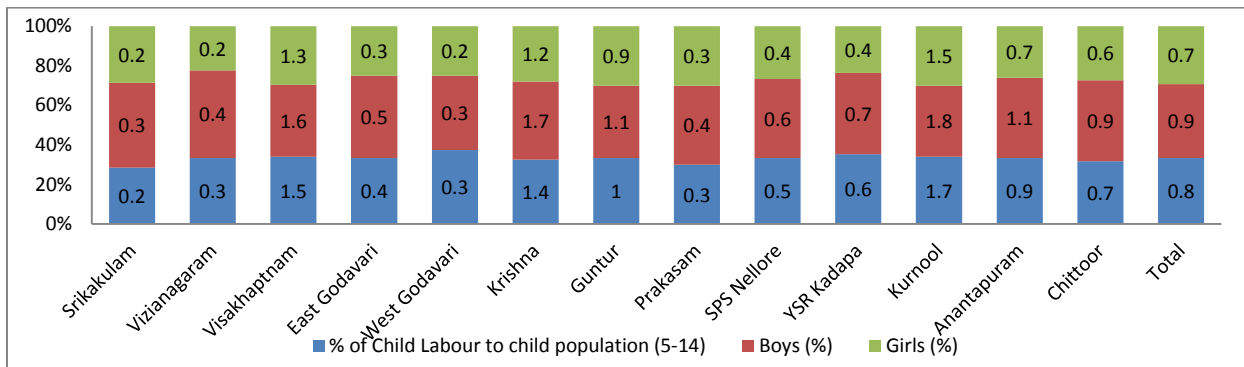


Fig.4; District wise percentage of child labour to child population (5-14) of respective districts-Urban

Table-4
District wise, Gender wise, area wise child working population in Andhra Pradesh (Age 15-19)

S.No	Districts	Rural			Urban		
		Persons	Boys	Girls	Persons	Boys	Girls
1	Srikakulam	84486	43434	41052	7265	4548	2717
2	Vizianagaram	70078	36238	33840	7711	5269	2442
3	Visakhaptnam	92441	48204	44237	27566	18171	9395
4	East Godavari	116710	83507	33203	19898	14823	5075
5	West Godavari	107678	67058	40620	12140	8570	3570
6	Krishna	88315	49916	38399	32597	21165	11432
7	Guntur	112511	58413	54098	31429	20457	10972
8	Prakasam	104141	55564	48577	9564	6443	3121
9	SPS Nellore	68475	41411	27064	12475	9231	3244
10	YSR Kadapa	58520	32142	26378	17885	12360	5525
11	Kurnool	150651	77592	73059	30274	18949	11325
12	Anantapuram	126175	68395	57780	26218	17522	8696
13	Chittoor	88586	50904	37682	16672	11583	5089
	Total	1268767	712778	555989	251694	169091	82603

Source: Census of India, 2011

As per 2011 Census figures, the total child population (15-19 years) of the state is 46.72 lakhs in that the child labour population (15-19years) is 32.54 % (15.20 lakhs) and Rural child labour population is (12.68 lakh) with the percentage of (83.45%) to the total child labour population and urban child labour population is (2.51 lakhs) with the percentage of (16.55%) to the total child labour population. (See table.4)

Table.4 showing the Kurnool district (1.50 lakhs) has highest rural child labour population followed by Ananthapuram (1.26 lakhs), East Godavari(1.16 lakhs) and YSR Kadapa (0.58 lakhs) has lowest rural child labour population (15-19years)

Kurnool district (0.77 lakhs) has highest rural child labour (boys) population with the percent of (36.2%) and (0.73 lakhs) rural child labour (girls) with percent of (37.8%) to total rural boys and girls child population of respective districts. YSR Kadapa district (0.32 lakhs) has lowest rural child labour (boys) population with the percent of (23.3%) and district

(0.26 lakhs)has lowest rural child labour(girls) with the percent of (20.8%) to the total boys and girls population (15-19 years) of respective districts (See Fig.5)

Krishna district (0.32 lakhs) has highest urban child labour population followed by Guntur (0.31 lakhs), Kurnool (0.30 lakhs) and Srikakulam district (0.07 lakhs) has lowest urban child labour population (15-19 years) (See Table.4)

Krishna district (0.21 lakhs) has highest urban child labour (boys) population with the percent of (9.2%) and (0.11 lakhs) urban child labour (girls) population with percent of (5.4%) to the total boys and girls child population of respective districts (15-19 years). Srikakulam district (0.04 lakhs) has lowest urban child labour (boys) population with the percent of (3.4%) and Vizianagaram (0.02 lakhs) has lowest urban child labour(girls) with the percent of (2.3%) to the total boys and girls population of respective districts (15-19 years) (See Fig.6)

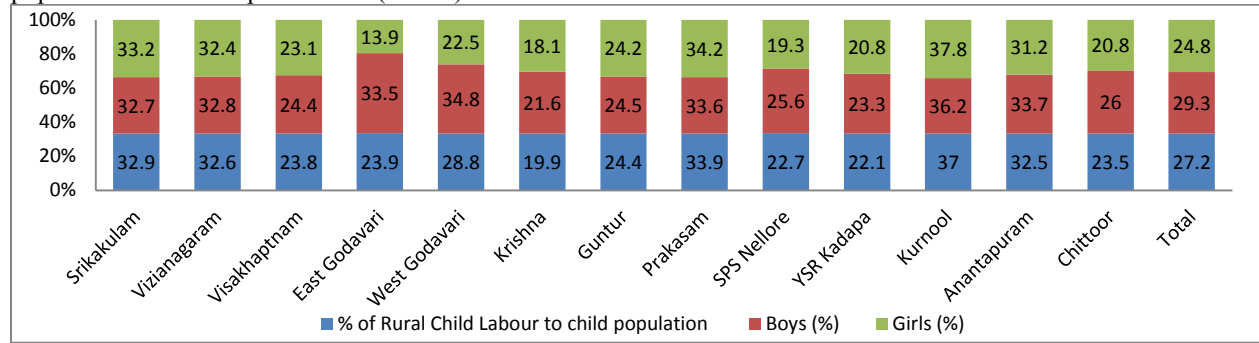


Fig.5; District wise percentage of child labour to child population (15-19) of respective districts-Rural

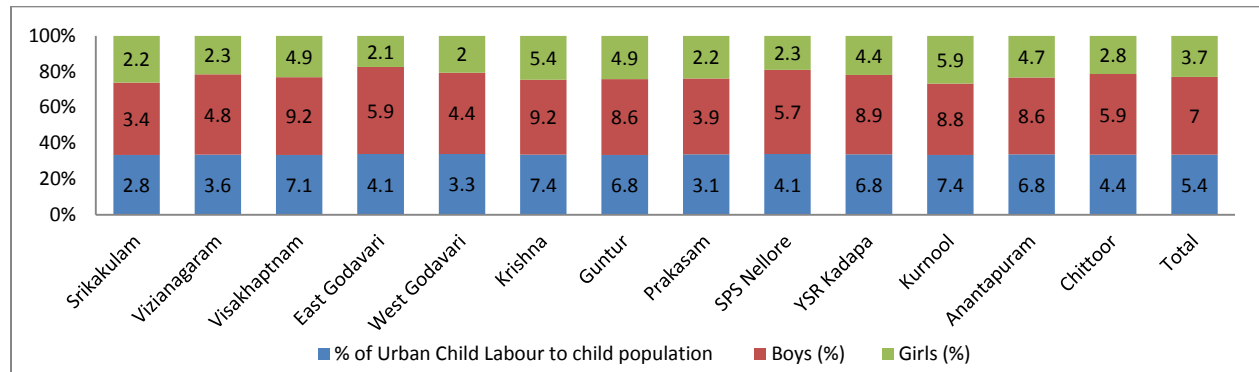


Fig.5; District wise percentage of child labour to child population (15-19) of respective districts-Urban

THE INTERNATIONAL LAW

The I.L.O. Minimum Age Convention No. 138 proclaimed that the basic principle that minimum age for admission to employment or work should not be less than the age for completing compulsory schooling and in no event less than the age of 15. It also provided

that the minimum age should be progressively raised to a level consistent with the full physical, mental and spiritual development of young persons. It allows an element of flexibility for countries not sufficiently developed in economic and education facilities. Those countries can initially specify a general minimum age

of 14 instead of 15. On the other hand the convention sets a higher minimum age of 18 for hazardous work. However, India has not ratified this convention so far.

The Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999: The latest and most recent convention on child labour is the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 accompanied by the Worst

Forms of Child Labour Recommendation, 1999. The 87th Annual International Labour Conference has unanimously adopted this convention which applies to all persons under the age of 18 and calls for immediate and effective measures to secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour as a matter of urgency.

Legal safe guards and Age limits:

S.No	Acts	Age Limit
1	Mines Act, 1952	The Minimum age of a person to be employed in mine is eighteen years as specified under sub-section (1) of Section 40 of the Mines Act, 1952.
2	Section 45 of Mines Act, 1952	It prohibits presence of any person below 18 years of age in any part of the mine above ground where any operation connected with or incidental to any mining operation is being carried on.
3	Factories Act, 1948	It prohibits employment of child who has not completed 14 years.
4	The Merchant Shipping Act, 1958	It prohibits children less than 14 years of age to or carried to sea work in any capacity in any ship, subject to certain exceptions.
S.No	Acts	Age Limit
5	The Motor Transporters Act, 1961	It prohibits employment of children less than 14 years in any motor transport undertaking.
6	The Beedi and Cigar Workers (Conditions of Employment) Act, 1966	It prohibits the employment of children less than 14 years of age in any industrial premises manufacturing beedi or cigar.
7	Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act 1976	It prohibits the employment of any person including children.
8	Explosive Act, 1984	It prohibits the employment of children below the age of 18 years.

CHILD LABOUR ENGAGED IN MAJOR SECTORS, ANDHRA PRADESH

Child Labour is recognized as a serious and enormously complex social problem in India. Child labour work largely in the unorganized sector, both rural and urban, within the family or in household-based units. The following are some of the situations in which children are engaged in work:

Agriculture-- Children working long hours and under severe hardships on the fields. They are also exposed to the hazards of working with modern machinery and chemicals.

Hazardous Industries/ Occupations-- Like glass making, mining, construction, carpet weaving, zari making, fireworks and others as listed under the Child Labour Act.

Small industrial workshops and service establishments,

On the streets-- Rag pickers, porters, vendors etc.

Domestic work-- Largely invisible and silent and hence face higher degree of exploitation and abuse in the home of employees.

MAJOR FINDINGS

- Poverty of parents is main cause to child labour problem

- Illiteracy of parents, parents education plays a large in determining child schooling or employment.
- Many parents prefer to send their childre to work rather than school for their family livelihood.
- Age of the child is an important factor influencing the entry into work.
- Gender: the child is engaged in work is more for male than female.
- urbanisation is an important factor influencing the incidence of child labour.
- Child labour is engaged in work is more in rural areas than urban areas

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Creating awareness among various stakeholders including parents and teachers on the need for sending children to school.
- The government must implement its literacy programs more effectively for adults
- To prevent the poverty from the society
- School provides children with guidance and opportunity to understand their role in our society
- Need diferent income generating programmes for the parents of children who are in below porverty line to avoid poverty

CONCLUSION

Government has accordingly been taking proactive steps to tackle this problem through strict enforcement of legislative provisions along with simultaneous rehabilitative measures. Government has been laying a lot of emphasis on the rehabilitation of these children and on improving the economic conditions of their families. For all protective purposes the age of the child should be uniformly up to 18 years. This includes the age for employment which means any person employing the child under 18 shall be prohibited. Since poverty is the root cause of this problem. Child labour denies the child of his basic right that is the right to education. In order to eliminate the social evil of child labour there is a need for more intensive initiatives to tackle poverty and promote education opportunities to all children to help children and families in crisis.

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