A STUDY ON CHILD LABOUR POPULATION BY SOCIAL GROUPS (SC AND ST) IN ANDHRA PRADESH

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ABSTRACT

Child labour is the practice of having children engage in economic activity on part or full time basis. Child labour jeopardizes children' rights and prevents children from getting an education, learning skills. The Indian Constitution and many later policy resolutions have stressed universal access to education and enrolment of children of school-going age irrespective of class and caste. Nevertheless, there is no equal access to education across social groups. In Andhra Pradesh as well as in India, the SC and ST are the most backward in terms of education. Article 46 of the Constitution provides that the State shall promote with special care the educational and economic interests of the weaker sections of the society and in particular, of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and shall protect them from social injustice and all forms of exploitation. This paper presents the district wise child labour by social groups (SC and ST) in Andhra Pradesh, constitutional provisions and some suggestions about to reduce of child labour problem in the society.

KEYWORDS: *Child labour, Social groups (SC &ST), Constitutional provisions*

INTRODUCTION

Andhra Pradesh has a sizeable Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes population (ST). The S C population in 1961 was 4.9 million constituting 13.8% of the total population in the state. The S T population was 1.3 million, accounted for 3.7% of the state population. The latest census (2011) indicates a three-fold increase in the number of SCs and four-fold increase of STs in the state during last five decades period i.e. between 1961 and 2011. In 2011, population of SC and ST is about 13.9 and 5 million comprising 16.4% and 5.6% respectively of the total population in the state. Andhra Pradesh accounts for about 6.9% of total population of SCs, and 6.0% of the total STs in India. In a brief, the definition of Child Labour is any work within or outside of the family that threatens health and mental development of the child by denying her or him fundamental as well as non-

fundamental rights. The Child Labour is a work which involves some degree of exploitation i.e. physical,mental, economic and social which impairs the health and development of children. In passing the 86th Amendment to the Constitution of India, education is a fundamental right. This has implications for fulfillment of the obligation of the State to ensure that every child is in school. Since most children who do not attend schools are engaged in some form of work or another, it is essential that there is a comprehensive plan to withdraw children from work and mainstream them into schools.

OBJECTIVES

1. To find out the district wise child labour by social group (SC & ST) in Andhra Pradesh
2. To find out the constitutional provisions for children

3. To suggest remedial measures 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.

Table-1
District wise distribution of working children in Andhra Pradesh in the age group 5-14 years

S.No	Districts	1991	2001	2011
1	Srikakulam	59955	40931	12752
2	Vizianagaram	62627	57739	14857
3	Visakhaptnam	70130	51536	35516
4	East Godavari	75970	49550	18433
5	West Godavari	83397	55630	16290
6	Krishna	81247	60197	27647
7	Guntur	118275	92075	35530
8	Prakasam	73920	59954	25096
9	SPS Nellore	51443	32988	14662
10	YSR Kadapa	43762	30809	19569
11	Kurnool	112037	138326	66981
12	Anantapuram	92255	73685	32608
13	Chittoor	62730	46841	24032
	Total	**987748**	**790261**	**343973**

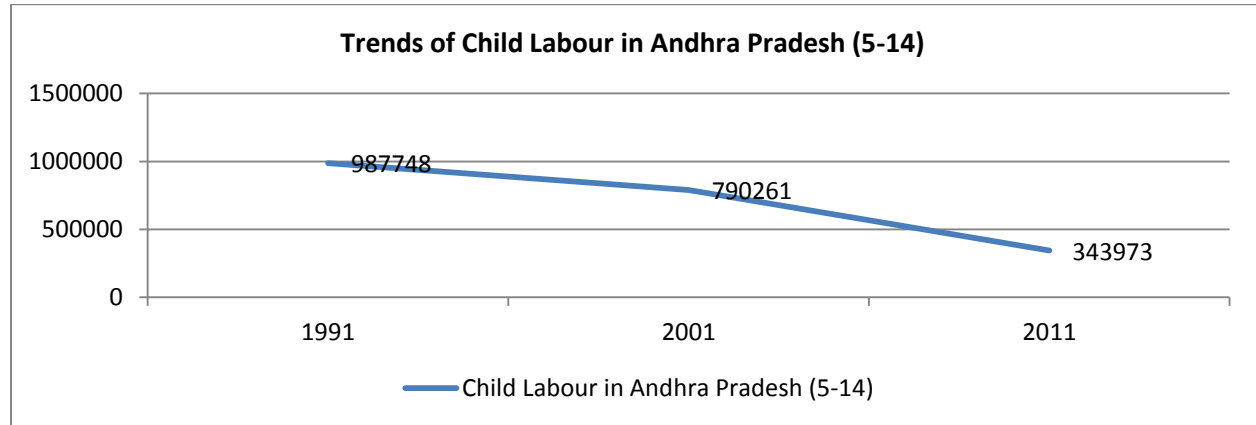*Source: Census of India, 1991, 2001, 2011*

Fig.1; Trends of child working population in Andhra Pradesh

As per the Census 1991, 2001 and 2011 figures, the total child labour population is 9.87 lakhs, 7.90 lakhs and 3.43 lakhs respectively in Andhra Pradesh. Overall the child labour population declined from 1991 to 2011 in the state (Fig.1)

Table-2
District wise, Gender wise Scheduled Caste (5-14 years) work participation in Andhra Pradesh

S.No	Districts	General Child Population (5-14)			General Child Labour (5-14)			Scheduled Caste (SC) Child labour (5-14)		
		Child Population	Boys	Girls	Personsa	Boys	Girls	Persons	Boys	Girls
1	Srikakulam	492358	254381	237977	12752	6280	6472	1187	554	633
2	Vizianagaram	418819	215010	203809	14857	7319	7538	1258	621	637
3	Visakhaptnam	760993	389461	371532	35516	18373	17143	1735	953	782
4	East Godavari	885491	448660	436831	18433	11978	6455	3968	2466	1502
5	West Godavari	664222	336907	327315	16290	9457	6833	4909	2792	2117
6	Krishna	738897	379630	359267	27647	15192	12455	6401	3161	3240
7	Guntur	843988	435554	408434	35530	17025	18505	8545	3873	4672
8	Prakasam	635312	328557	306755	25096	11584	13512	8226	3704	4522
9	SPS Nellore	514870	266793	248077	14662	8587	6075	3355	1842	1513
10	YSR Kadapa	851218	438592	412626	19569	10152	9417	3610	1794	1816
11	Kurnool	719789	371042	348747	66981	30700	36281	11662	5132	6530
12	Anantapuram	746174	385245	360929	32608	17512	15096	5188	2678	2510
13	Chittoor	536371	277683	258688	24032	13058	10974	4532	2421	2111
	Total	**8808502**	**4527515**	**4280987**	**343973**	**177217**	**166756**	**64576**	**31991**	**32585**

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

The table.2 indicatea 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 Scheduled Cast (SC) child labour population is (0.64 lakh) with the percentage of (18.8%) to the total child labour population.In that, boys child labour population is 0.31 lakhs with the percent of (49.54%) and rest of the 0.32 lakhs are girls child labour with the percent of (50.45%) to the total Scheduled Caste (SC) child labour population in Andhra Pradesh (Fig.2)
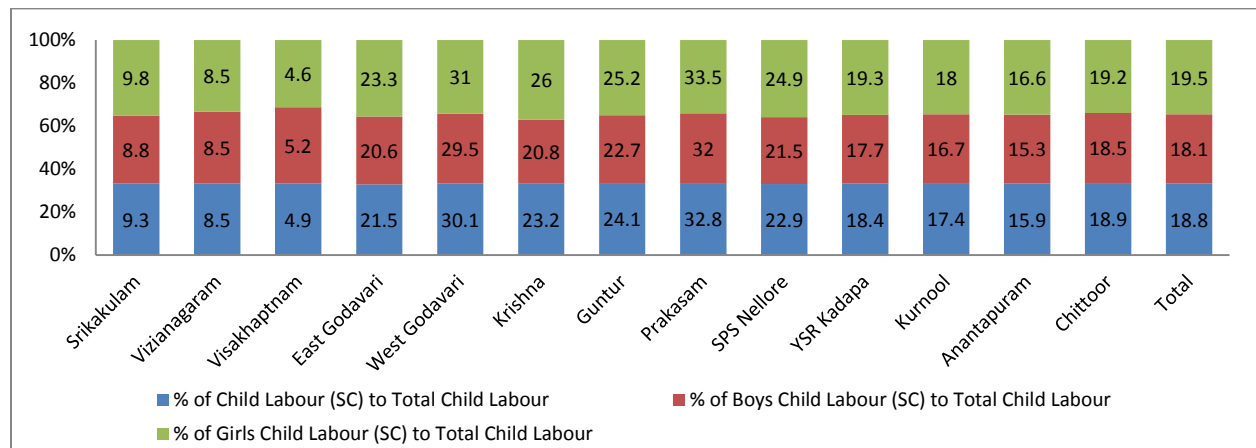

Fig.2 District wise percentage of child labour (SC) to child labour population (5-14) of respective districts

Table-3
District wise, Gender wise Scheduled Tribe (5-14 years) work participation in Andhra Pradesh

S.No	Districts	General Child Population (5-14)			General Child Labour (5-14)			Scheduled Tribe (ST) Child labour (5-14)		
		Child Population	Boys	Girls	Personsa	Boys	Girls	Persons	Boys	Girls
1	Srikakulam	492358	254381	237977	12752	6280	6472	1977	928	1049
2	Vizianagaram	418819	215010	203809	14857	7319	7538	4311	2086	2225
3	Visakhaptnam	760993	389461	371532	35516	18373	17143	16105	7708	8397
4	East Godavari	885491	448660	436831	18433	11978	6455	2114	1192	922
5	West Godavari	664222	336907	327315	16290	9457	6833	1493	825	668
6	Krishna	738897	379630	359267	27647	15192	12455	1826	884	942
7	Guntur	843988	435554	408434	35530	17025	18505	4960	2279	2681
8	Prakasam	635312	328557	306755	25096	11584	13512	2781	1420	1361
9	SPS Nellore	514870	266793	248077	14662	8587	6075	4811	2890	1921
10	YSR Kadapa	851218	438592	412626	19569	10152	9417	1218	704	514
11	Kurnool	719789	371042	348747	66981	30700	36281	1399	675	724
12	Anantapuram	746174	385245	360929	32608	17512	15096	1311	673	638
13	Chittoor	536371	277683	258688	24032	13058	10974	1935	1105	830
	Total	**8808502**	**4527515**	**4280987**	**343973**	**177217**	**166756**	**46241**	**23369**	**22872**

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

Table.3 shows 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 Scheduled Tribe (ST) child labour population is (0.46 lakh) with the percentage of (13.44%) to the total child labour population. In that, boys child labour population is 0.23 lakhs with the percent of (50.53%) and rest of the 0.22872 lakhs are girls child labour with the percent of (49.46%) to the total Scheduled Tribe (ST) child labour population in Andhra Pradesh (See Fig.3)
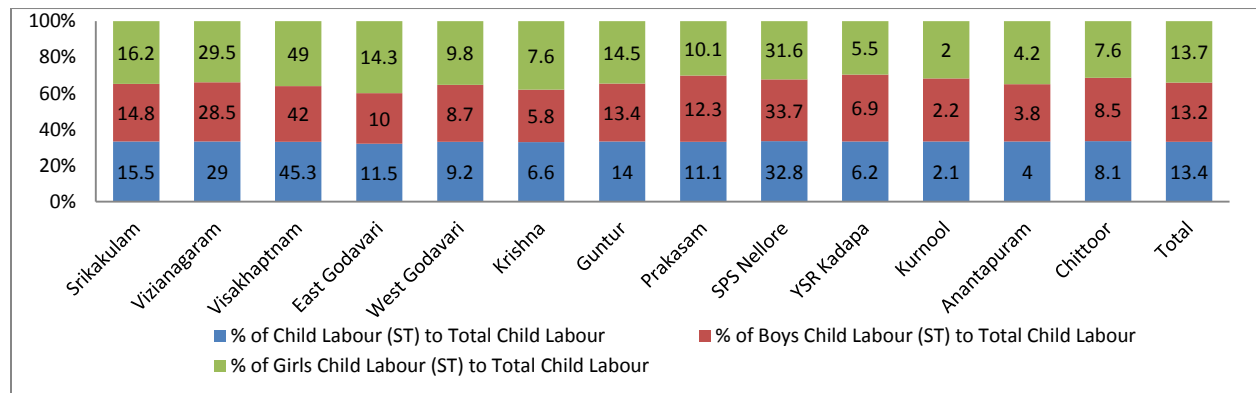

Fig.3 District wise percentage of child labour (ST) to child labour population (5-14) of respective districts

Table-4
District wise, Gender wise, area wise Scheduled Caste (5-14 years) work participation

S.No	Districts	Rural			Urban		
		Persons	**Boys**	**Girls**	**Persons**	**Boys**	**Girls**
1	Srikakulam	1027	459	568	160	95	65
2	Vizianagaram	1075	510	565	183	111	72
3	Visakhaptnam	850	476	374	885	477	408
4	East Godavari	3447	2137	1310	521	329	192
5	West Godavari	4636	2618	2018	273	174	99
6	Krishna	5161	2435	2726	1240	726	514
7	Guntur	7300	3174	4126	1245	699	546
8	Prakasam	7937	3533	4404	289	171	118
9	SPS Nellore	2882	1537	1345	473	305	168
10	YSR Kadapa	3068	1464	1604	542	330	212
11	Kurnool	9735	4095	5640	1927	1037	890
12	Anantapuram	4506	2297	2209	682	381	301
13	Chittoor	4022	2102	1920	510	319	191
Total		**55646**	**26837**	**28809**	**8930**	**5154**	**3776**

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

Table.4 indicates the among all 13 districts, Kurnool district (0.09lakhs) has highest rural Scheduled Caste (SC) child labour population followed by Prakasam (0.079 lakhs), Guntur (0.073 lakhs) and Visakhapatnam district (0.008 lakhs) has lowest rural Scheduled Caste (SC) child labour population (5-14 years). In that, Kurnool district has highest boys child labour (0.04 lakhs) and girls child lobour (0.05 lakhs) in rural areas.

Kurnool district (0.019 lakhs) has highest urban Scheduled Caste (SC) child labour population followed by Guntur (0.01245 lakhs), Krishna (0.012 lakhs) and Srikakulam district (0.001lakhs) has lowest urban Scheduled Caste (SC) child labour population (5-14 years). In that, Kurnool district has highest boys child labour (0.01 lakhs) and girls child lobour (0.008 lakhs) in urban areas.

Table-5
District wise, Gender wise, area wise Scheduled Tribe (5-14 years) work participation

S.No	Districts	Rural			Urban		
		Persons	Boys	Girls	Persons	Boys	Girls
1	Srikakulam	1965	920	1045	12	8	4
2	Vizianagaram	4269	2066	2203	42	20	22
3	Visakhaptnam	15551	7322	8229	554	386	168
4	East Godavari	2051	1149	902	63	43	20
5	West Godavari	1383	765	618	110	60	50
6	Krishna	1319	602	717	507	282	225
7	Guntur	4108	1856	2252	852	423	429
S.No	Districts	Rural			Urban		
		Persons	Boys	Girls	Persons	Boys	Girls
8	Prakasam	2437	1247	1190	344	173	171
9	SPS Nellore	4365	2588	1777	446	302	144
10	YSR Kadapa	1056	621	435	162	83	79
11	Kurnool	1153	540	613	246	135	111
12	Anantapuram	1089	542	547	222	131	91
13	Chittoor	1709	962	747	226	143	83
Total		42455	21180	21275	3786	2189	1597

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

Table.5 shows the among all 13 districts, Visakhapatnam district (0.15 lakhs) has highest rural Scheduled Tribee (ST) child labour population followed by SPS Nellore (0.04 lakhs), Vizianagaram (0.04 lakhs) and YSR Kadapa district (0.01056 lakhs) has lowest rural Scheduled Tribe (ST) child labour population (5-14 years). In that, Visakhapatnam district has highest boys child labour (0.07 lakhs) and girls child lobour (0.08 lakhs) in rural areas.

Kurnool district (0.008 lakhs) has highest urban Scheduled Tribe (ST) child labour population followed by Visakhapatnam (0.0054 lakhs), Krishna (0.0050 lakhs) and Srikakulam district (0.0001lakhs) has lowest urban Scheduled Caste (SC) child labour population (5-14 years). In that, Guntur district has highest boys child labour (0.004 lakhs) and girls child lobour (0.004 lakhs) in urban areas.

CHILD LABOUR AND CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS IN INDIA

Wherein several articles are incorporated dedicated to children, viz.:-

The framers of the Constitution of India deemed it necessary to include special provisions in the Constitution for the protection of the rights of working children.

Article	Title	Description
21A	Right to Education	The State shall provide free and compulsory education to all children of the age of 6 to 14 years in such manner as the State, by law, may determine.
24	Prohibition of Employment of Children's in Factories	No child below the age fourteen years shall be employed in work in any factory or mine or engaged in any other hazardous employment.
39	The state shall in Particular direct its policy towards securing	That the health and strength of workers, men and women, and the tender age of children are not abused and that citizens are not forced by economic necessity to enter avocations unsuited to their age or strength

As per Article 24 of the Constitution, no child below the age of 14 years is to be employed in any factory, mine or any hazardous employment. Further, Article 39 requires the States to direct its policy towards ensuring that the tender age of children is not abused and that they are not forced by economic necessity to enter avocations unsuited to their age or strength. Recently, with the insertion of Article 21A, the State has been entrusted with the task of providing free and compulsory education to all the children in the age group of 6-14 years.

Consistent with the Constitutional provisions, Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act was enacted in 1986, which seeks to prohibit employment of children below 14 years in hazardous occupations and processes and regulates the working conditions in other employments. In the last 5 years, the number of hazardous processes listed in the schedule of the Act has increased from 18 to 57 and occupations from 7 to 13. Recently, Government has also decided to include children working as domestic servants and those working in dhabas/roadside eateries/motels etc. in the category of hazardous occupations.

Article 46 of the Constitution provides that the State shall promote with special care the educational and economic interests of the weaker sections of the society and in particular, of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and shall protect them from social injustice and all forms of exploitation.

Article 14 The State shall not deny to any person equality before the law or the equal protection of laws with in the territory of India.

Article 15 The State shall not discriminate against any making any special provisions for women and children.

Article 21 No person shall be deprived of his life or personal liberty except according to procedure established by law.

Article 23 Traffic in human beings and begar and other forms of forced labour are prohibited and any contravention of this provision shall be an offence punishable in accordance with the law.

Article 45 The State shall endeavour to provide early childhood care and education for all children until they complete the age of six years.

Article 243G read with Schedule 11 provide for institutionalization of child care by seeking to entrust programmes of Women and Child Development to Panchayat (Item 25 of Schedule 11), apart from education (item 17), family welfare (item 25), health and sanitation (item 23) and other items with a bearing on the welfare of children.

INTERNATIONAL DECLARATIONS AND CONVENTIONS RELATING TO CHILD LABOUR

Universal Declaration of Human Rights Agreed on December 10, 1949 by the General Assembly of the United Nations. This declaration lists the fundamental rights and freedoms that every individual, without reservation, is born with. They include the right to education and the right to be free from exploitation and slavery.

Major findings:

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 Scheduled Cast (SC) child labour population is (0.64 lakh) with the percentage of (18.8%) to the total child labour population. Scheduled Tribe (ST) child labour population is (0.46 lakh) with the percentage of (13.44%) to the total child labour population in the state. Overall the child labour population declined from 1991 to 2011 in the state.

- Poverty of parents is main cause to child labour problem
- Child labour is engaged in work is more than for Scheduled Caste (SC) than Sched Tribe (ST)
- Illiteracy of parents of Scheduled Cast (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) children
- Lack of education or poor quality education is another factor that contribute to high incidence of child labour
- Many parents prefer to send their childre to work rather than school for their family livelihood.
- Gender: the children are engaged in work are more for female than male in Scheduled Cast (SC) and for male than female in Scheduled Tribe (ST)
- The children are engaged in work are more female of SC and ST in Rural areas than urban areas
- Child labour is engaged in work is more in rural areas than urban areas

RECOMMENDATIONS

- The Government should create awareness among the children and their parents regarding the need for sending Scheduled Cast and Scheduled Tribechildren to school and government provisions.
- The government must implement its literacy programs more effectively for Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST)
- To prevent the poverty from the society especially regarding Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST)
- School provides children with guadance 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 povery

CONCLUSION

There is a lot of provision added in the constitution of India for child welfare to overcome child labor and to avoid the situations that comes as a consequence of the child labor. At an International level, different organizations are also working for the same cause. Child labour problem is an evil that requires awareness and change in approach in all sections of society. Education is one of the key solutions in the elimination of child labour. Education and skills training help to prevent and reduce child labour by providing them better opportunities. Non formal education programmes can teach children skills that will provide immediate economic alternatives as well as psycho-social support. The government of India introduced various programmes like mid- day meal programme, free and compulsory education provision of books and uniforms etc. to reduce school dropouts which reduce the child labour. The analysis indicates that although there has been progress on many development indicators across these SC and ST communities in the state, they still lagged behind the 'other' social groups. Although the gaps between social groups are getting narrower in literacy and child schooling, gaps remained same with respect to educational levels among the adults.

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