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The Present Situation of Child Labour in India: A Case Study of Dhanbad District

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ABSTRACT

Child labour refers to the employment of children in any work that deprives children of their childhood, interferes with their ability to attend regular school, and that is mentally, physically, socially or morally dangerous and harmful. Of an estimated 215 million child laborers around the globe: approximately 114 million (53 per cent) are in Asia and the Pacific; 14 million (7 per cent) live in Latin America; and 65 million (30 per cent) live in sub-Saharan Africa. Global number of children in child labour has declined by one third since 2010, from 246 million to 168 million children. More than half of them, 85 million, are in hazardous work (down from 171 million in 2010). 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 per cent). (International Labour Organization, 2022). Today in India, there are more than 10.12 million children who are spending their childhood learning carpet-weaving, beedi-rolling, domestic labour, agriculture, firework and apparel manufacture and countless other occupations instead of going to school and receiving quality education (Bhalotra S. 2001). The present paper highlights the characteristic and causes for child labour in India with special reference to Dhanbad District, bonded child labour, consequences and exploitation of child labour. It mainly focused on policy initiatives of government of India to protect child labour in the region of Dhanbad district. Most child laborers are male with a family size of 5-8 members, never attended any school and living in a family whose monthly income is less than 8000 Indian Rupees and the major reason of work was low family income and poverty.

Keywords: *Child labour, Dhanbad, poverty, population, government.*

I. INTRODUCTION

Child labour in India is addressed by the Child Labour Act 1986. More than 10.12 million youngsters in India are currently learning how to weave carpets, roll beedi, work as domestic help, in agriculture, make fireworks, manufacture clothing, and engage in a myriad of other occupations instead of attending school and obtaining a good education (Aditya Kumar Patra et

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al, 2018). Work that endangers children or prevents them from going to school is known as child labor. Millions of young children have been pulled out of school and into the workforce in the United States and around the world in recent decades due to widening wealth and poverty divides. According to estimates from the International Labor Organization, 215 million children between the ages of five and seventeen are employed in circumstances that are either unlawful, dangerous, or highly exploitative. Around the world, minors labor in a variety of jobs due to their extreme poverty and that of their families. Many young people are employed in manufacturing, mining, fishing, domestic service, and commercial agriculture. Some kids are involved in stressful jobs like being soldiers, or they work in illegal industries like prostitution and drug trafficking (Dhurjati, 2009).

Child labor is defined by the International Labour Organization (ILO) Convention as any hazardous occupations or work activities performed by any child under the age of sixteen in the labor market or in their own household; any child working in the labor market or household and interfering with their primary education; any child under the age of fifteen in full-time employment; and any child under the age of thirteen in part-time employment. The impact that child labor has on the kid is what defines it, not the type of work that is done. More than 90% of all child employment occurs in Asia and Africa combined, where child labor is most prevalent. Even though Asia is the region with the highest number of child laborers, a larger proportion of African children are employed². Asia is dominated by India, which has the world's largest child labor force (44 million). Ten per cent of Indian laborers are in the age range of 10 to 14 years old². Twelve million children labor in Nigeria. In South America, child labor is also widespread; in Brazil, 7 million children are employed as laborers (Gawai B.E. 2008). Moreover, one must deal with a high rate of inflation. The percentage of the population living below the poverty line in 2008 was 17.2%, the lowest in India's history. Half of the 11 million children who were reported to be working in the nation in the 1990s by the National Human Rights Commission were under the age of ten (Aditya Kumar Patra and Sujan Nayak 2018). The median age at which a youngster entered the labor force was seven years old in 1996, compared to eight years old two years earlier. Child laborers were thought to make approximately 25% of the workforce in the nation. India recently established legislation banning child labor and indentured slavery, but the regulations are mostly disregarded, and 11 million children between the ages of four and fourteen work in the nation's industries, frequently in filthy and cruel conditions. (Kailash Satyarthi, 2008). The child labour involves at least one of the following:

- Violates a nation's minimum wage laws

- Threatens children's physical, mental, or emotional well-being
- Involves intolerable abuse, such as child slavery, child trafficking, debt bondage, forced labor, or illicit activities
- Prevents children from going to school
- Uses children to undermine labor standards

There is child labor in almost every business. The sectors of forestry, fishing, hunting, and agriculture are thought to account for 60% of child labor. Harvesting bananas in Ecuador, cotton in Egypt and Benin, cut flowers in Colombia, oranges in Brazil, cocoa in the Ivory Coast, tea in Bangladesh and Argentina, and fruits and vegetables in the United States has been observed by children. Children who work in commercial agriculture may have to put up with long hours in hot weather, pesticide health hazards, little or no remuneration, and subpar food, water, and sanitary conditions. Manufacturing; About 14 million children are estimated to be directly involved in manufacturing goods, including: Carpets from India, Pakistan, Egypt, Clothing sewn in Bangladesh; footwear made in India and the Philippines, Soccer balls sewn in Pakistan, Glass and bricks made in India, Fireworks made in China, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, India, and Peru, Surgical instruments made in Pakistan. Mining and Quarrying; Child laborers suffer extremely high illness and injury rates in underground mines, opencast mines, and quarries. Children as young as 6 or 7 years old break up rocks, and wash, sieve, and carry ore. Nine- year-old work underground setting explosives and carrying loads (Kiran Sharma, 2008).

The Center for Child Rights (HAQ) reports that Muslim schedule tribes have the greatest rates of child labor. Children of Schedule castes and OBCs. Child labor continues because employers benefit from it by being able to lower overall wage levels, as well as because of the inefficiencies of the legal and administrative systems. HAQ contends that making a distinction between dangerous and non-hazardous work will not help end child labor. Children are being compelled to leave school and enter the workforce due to a number of escalating problems, including forced relocation brought on by development projects, special economic zones, parent job losses during economic downturns, farmer suicide, armed conflict, and the highest cost of health care. In their homes, girl children are frequently employed as domestic helpers. There is a lack of political will to actually see to complete ban of child labour (Rasvirs, Dhaka and Jagbir Narwal, 2005).

II. CAUSES FOR CHILD LABOUR

According to the International Labour Organization (ILO), the main factor for child labor is poverty. In destitute households, a child's earnings from employment are typically essential to the child's survival as well as the household's. Even in tiny amounts, working children's income can account for 25–40% of the household's total revenue. Because they have nothing else to do, children work. Many communities lack proper school facilities, especially rural ones where child labor is common, accounting for 60–70% of cases. Even in cases when there exist schools, parents may question whether attending is truly worthwhile because the schools are either too expensive, too remote, or too hard to get to (Saho U.C. 1995).

Some people believe that work helps kids develop their skills and character. Child labor is a way for young children to learn and practice trades from their parents because it is a cultural tradition in many countries, especially those where small household enterprises and the informal economy are flourishing. Similar to this, girls' education is often undervalued in many cultures, or girls are simply not seen to need a formal education, and as a result, these girls are forced into child labor, such as providing domestic services. Brazilian child labor, departing after removing recyclables from an abandoned site. Seventy percent of child labor worldwide is used in agriculture (Kiran Sharma, 2008).

Studies on the macroeconomic variables that promote child labor have been conducted by Biggeri and Mehrotra. Five Asian countries India, Pakistan, Indonesia, Thailand, and the Philippines—are the subject of their investigation. They contend that while child labor is a significant issue in all five, it is not a brand-new one. For the majority of human history, macroeconomic factors have fostered widespread child labor throughout the world. They propose that there are supply-side as well as demand-side factors that contribute to child labor. While poverty and the lack of quality education account for the supply side of child labor, they also point to the expansion of the low-wage informal economy as a cause of the demand side, as opposed to the higher-wage formal economy. According to other academics, the extent of the informal economy, the rigidity of the labor market, the incapacity of industries to expand, and the absence of contemporary industrial technologies are significant macroeconomic variables that influence the demand for and acceptance of child labor. Additional causes include raising a disadvantaged family's income, lowering labor costs in a production company, and using domestic help since the kids are less likely to be violent or misbehave or to distrust the honesty of their parents (Mukherje, 2008).

(A) Objectives of the study

- To discuss the present situation of child labor in India.
- To identify the main reason of child labor in India.
- To examine the present situation of child labor in Dhanbad District, Jharkhand.

(B) Methodology

This is cross-sectional community-based study. A total of 350 hundred children were surveyed. Areas surveyed included Commercial markets of Dhanbad, Sindri, Nirsa, Jharia, Tundi, Baghmara, Hirapur Hatia Market, Zila Parishad Market, Park Market and some residential areas of district Dhanbad. In this study, stretching for 09 months from January to September 2022, over 500 child laborers were identified at random and invited to participate in a questionnaire-based study. A total of 350 children agreed to participate (over 150 were excluded owing to difficulties in speaking and understanding or partly as they were afraid of their employers). Only those who understood the nature of study, could answer questions being asked from them and agreed for consent were included in the study. Demographic details of the child and details on child family members, earning members, education status, reason for work at this age, total family income /month, total money earned by child/month, place of work, nature of job, time spent at job and punishment at workplace were recorded on a structured performa. Data collected was entered in computer for analysis using Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS).

III. CHILD LABOUR IN INDIA

The magnitude of child labour in India has been witnessing enormous decline in the last two decades, both in terms of magnitude and workforce participation rates. Evidence drawn from the National Sample Survey data suggest that India's child workforce during 2014-15 was estimated at little over nine million (9.07 million) as against twenty-one and half million (21.55 million) in 1983. During this period, the number of child employment has declined sharply by 12.48 million. Boys exhibit a significantly lower rate of child labor than girls. From 1983 to 2004–05, the number of boys and girls in the workforce fell correspondingly, from 12.06 to 4.76 million and 9.49 to 4.31 million, respectively. The gender gap (adverse versus boys) that was present in the early 1980s has, in fact, nearly disappeared in recent years, slowing down from 2.57 million to approximately 0.45 million. But when expressed in absolute terms, the issue is significant. 1.26 crore children between the ages of 5 and 14 are economically active, according to the 2001 Census. In the 1991 Census, it was 1.13 crores. According to the 2009–

10 NSSO study, there are an estimated 49.84 lakh working children, indicating a downward trend. According to the International Labour Organization's Global Report on Child Labour, which was released last year, Latin America and the Caribbean region has the lowest global rate of child activity among children aged 5 to 14 years. It is 18.8 per cent in the Asia-Pacific region. In contrast, children's activity rates in India, according to the 2001 census, are 5 per cent (Das, D. 2011).

Table 1 Child Labor based on Employment Unemployment Survey (2017-18)

| Major states all India | Rural | Age group 5-14 | | Urban |
|------------------------|--------|----------------|---------|-------|
| | | Male | Female | |
| Andhra Pradesh | 88156 | 110191 | 20767 | 15548 |
| Assam | 144655 | 31909 | 11833 | 757 |
| Bihar | 224292 | 38665 | 11017 | 2548 |
| Chhattisgarh | 3669 | 7321 | 636 | 0 |
| Delhi | ----- | ----- | - 18576 | 0 |
| Gujarat | 150487 | 207973 | 15945 | 16282 |
| Haryana | 22664 | 17471 | 28073 | 3988 |
| Himachal Pradesh | 2300 | 2942 | 21560 | 0 |
| Jammu & Kashmir | 11274 | 16872 | 1139 | 0 |
| Jharkhand | 63684 | 14661 | 4123 | 0 |
| Karnataka | 89796 | 113429 | 20763 | 2479 |
| Kerala | 1182 | 0 | 0 | 1583 |
| Madhya Pradesh | 91454 | 32812 | 57688 | 9063 |
| Maharashtra | 66370 | 127996 | 54230 | 12077 |
| Orissa | 54390 | 38288 | 36522 | 5363 |
| Punjab | 16802 | 6433 | 15664 | 9937 |

| | | | | |
|---------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|
| Rajasthan | 93055 | 261871 | 43184 | 7826 |
| TamilNadu | 0 | 13880 | 3471 | 0 |
| Uttarakhand | 14810 | 7239 | 3219 | 2103 |
| Uttar Pradesh | 1012294 | 546320 | 147820 | 68899 |
| West Bengal | 357265 | 134657 | 31946 | 27716 |
| India | 2511101 | 1727271 | 546897 | 198602 |

Source: India, Ministry of Labour and Employment, Annual Report 2018-19

IV. GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES FOR CHILD LABOUR

The Indian Constitution's founders felt it was important to include specific provisions in the document to safeguard the rights of minors who work.

Table 2 Government Acts for Child Labour

| Article | Title | Description |
|---------|--|---|
| 21 A | 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 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. |

Source: Aditya Kumar Patra and Sujan Nayak (2018)

V. LEGISLATION FOR CHILD LABOUR IN INDIA

The Indian Factories Act, which was passed in 1881, was the first piece of protective legislation against child labor in India. It forbade the employment of minors younger than seven years old, set a daily maximum work hour of nine hours, and provided four monthly holidays in addition to rest periods. The British government in power created this in an effort to reduce production in Indian industry by imposing certain legal constraints. It may be argued that the International Labour Organization's adoption of numerous Conventions and Recommendations has had a significant impact on India's labor laws, particularly the country's child protection laws. In addition to the safeguards found in the Constitution, a number of legislative actions offer legal protection to children working in a variety of industries.

- The Children (Pledging of Labour) Act, 1933
- The Employment of Children Act, 1938
- The Minimum Wages, Act 1948 and rules made thereunder by the government
- The Factories Act, 1948
- The Plantations Labour Act, 1951
- The Mines Act, 1952
- The Merchant Shipping Act, 1958
- The Motor Transport Workers' Act, 1961
- The Apprentices Act, 1961
- The Atomic Energy Act, 1962
- The Beedi and Cigar Workers (Conditions of Employment) Act, 1966
- The Shops and Establishment Act in Various States, and
- Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986.

Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act (1986) was the culmination of efforts and ideas that emerged from the deliberations and recommendations of various committees on child labour. Significant among them were the National Commission on Labour (1966-1969), the Gurupadaswamy Committee on Child Labour (1979) and the Sanat Mehta Committee (1984). The Act aims to prohibit the entry of children into hazardous occupations and to regulate the services of children in non-hazardous occupations. In particular it is aimed at (i) the banning of the employment of children, i.e. those who have not completed their 14th year, in 18 specified occupations and 65 processes; (ii) laying down a procedure to make additions to the schedule

of banned occupations or processes; (iii) regulating the working conditions of children in occupations where they are not prohibited from working; (iv) laying down penalties for employment of children in violation of the provisions of this Act and other Acts which forbid the employment of children; (v) bringing uniformity in the definition of the child in related laws (Gawai B.E. 2008).

VI. DHANBAD DISTRICT

Due to the numerous coal mines that are located in this area, Dhanbad is heavily dependent on the production of coal. It is therefore renowned as "The Coal Capital of India." Large-scale industrial facilities and coal mines are two of Dhanbad's most well-known features as an industrial and coal mining city. This city has developed into one of India's busiest commercial hubs as a result of the daily increase in industrial activity. With almost 100 mines, Dhanbad produces 29.54 million tons of coal annually. This city has a large number of coal washeries in addition to coal mines. In addition to having an abundance of coal, Dhanbad is well-known for its power plants. ONGC generates power with the use of CBM (Coal beded methane) at some coal mines here. Hydro power generation is being done at Maithon and Panchet dams. Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) and Tata Power are also setting up their thermal power plant of 1050 MW at Maithon. At present, one unit is perfectly running under this project (JSAC, 2022).

Road connections between Dhanbad and major metropolises are excellent. In Dhanbad, lorries, taxis, and autorickshaws are the modes of local transportation available. Dhanbad is traversed by National Highways 2 and 32, two important thoroughfares. Dhanbad is connected to Delhi and Kolkata via National Highway 2. As of 2011 census, Dhanbad City had a population of 1,162,472. Males (614,722) constitute 53% of the population and females (547,750) 47%. It has a sex ratio of 891. Dhanbad has an average literacy rate of 79.47%, higher than the national average of 74.04%: male literacy is 86.14% and female literacy is 71.96%. 10.57% of the population is under 5 years of age (Government of Jharkhand, 2022).

Table – 3 Dhanbad District at a Glance

| Title | Count | Details |
|------------|-------------|-------------------------|
| District | – | Dhanbad |
| Created On | – | 26th October 1956 |
| Area | 2886 Sq. Km | North East Of Jharkhand |

| | | |
|------------------------|----------------------|--|
| Location | – | Latitude:-23.795399 & Longitude:-86.427040 |
| Blocks | 10 | Dhanbad, Baghmara, Nirsa, Topchanchi, Tundi, Purbi Tundi, Govindpur, Baliapur, Egarkund and Kaliasole |
| Circle | 09 | Dhanbad, Baghmara, Nirsa, Topchanchi, Tundi, Purbi Tundi, Govindpur, Baliapur, Jharia |
| Panchayat | 383 & 256 | As per old gazette & As per new gazette |
| Villages | 1209 | – |
| Population | 28,46,954 Persons | Male-14,98,305 Female-13,48,649 (As per Census 2011) |
| Population Density | 1300 | Persons per Sq. Km |
| Schools | 1990 | Primary, Middle schools and High schools |
| Technical Institutions | 07 | ISM, Bit Sindri, CIMFR, PMCH, Mining Institute, ITI, Others |
| Hospitals | 192 | 1 District Hospital, 8 Community Health Centers, 7 Primary Health Centres, 148 Health Sub Centres and 28 Additional Public Health Center |

Source: Government of Jharkhand, 2022

VII. REASONS OF CHILD LABOUR IN DHANBAD DISTRICT

In the Dhanbad district, there are numerous and diverse reasons why children work. As a result, there are several reasons why child labor is employed. The only significant factor contributing to child labor is poverty.

- Many employers prefer to engage children because they are cheap. Moreover, children tend to be less troublesome, more disciplined and: highly adaptable.
- School dropouts
- Loss of an earning member of the family
- Absence of any State sponsored scheme of family allowance in India

- Non-existence of any general scheme of compulsory education up to a minimum age.
- Slow advance of protective labor legislation
- The evasion of the existing laws for the protection of children
- Introduction of the factory system
- Death of parents
- Habituated father or any adult male member of the family spending money on drinking etc.
- Illegality of child

The social structure of a society can occasionally be held accountable for child labor. The caste system in our nation is a defining feature of its social structure. The lower castes' and oppressed communities' members are meant to work for the upper castes. They are thereby robbed of their dreams. India's underdeveloped and outdated economy and exploitative socioeconomic structure are the main causes of the country's child labor issue. This evil is sustained by other socioeconomic institutions, ignorance, and a lack of employment possibilities. In contemporary society, there is a lack of widespread awareness, which contributes significantly to child labor.

VIII. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A total of 350 working children between 4-18 years of age with a mean age of 13.5 years, were enrolled. Male to female ratio was 5.4:1. Majority of the children had a family size of 5-8 members while 60 belonged to a family having 9-12. 64 children had 1-4 earning family members while only 5 child laborers were from families having 10-12 earning members. Regarding the education, 279 children out of 350 study population ever attended the school as compared to 221 (32 per cent) who never went to school. Majority of children (291, 42 per cent) attended school till primary level followed by preschool level (141, 20 per cent) and only (67, 10%) could continue till secondary level. Data showed that majority (38.65) of children worked in shops followed by workshops and homes 28.9 per cent and 15.4 per cent respectively.

Table 4 Family Members of the Children

| Levels | Frequency | Percent |
|---------------|------------------|----------------|
| 1-4 members | 64 | 18.1 |
| 5-8 members | 176 | 46.6 |

| | | |
|--------------------|------------|--------------|
| 9-12 members | 60 | 17.6 |
| Grand Total | 350 | 100.0 |

Source: Data collected from child labor from Dhanbad district

Figure 1 Family Members of the Children

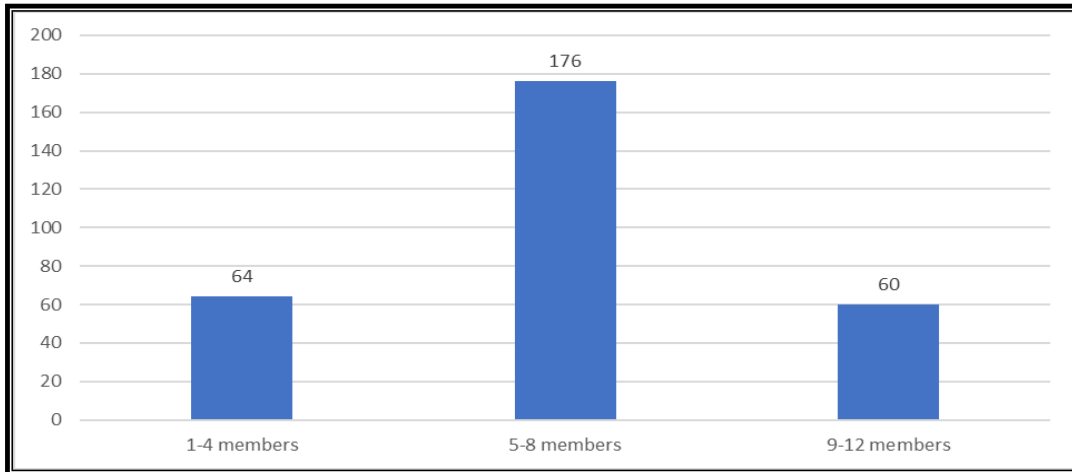


Table 5 Level of School Attended by the Children

| Levels | Frequency | Percent |
|----------------------|------------|--------------|
| Pre-school | 71 | 20.1 |
| Primary | 146 | 41.6 |
| Secondary | 33 | 9.6 |
| Total | 250 | 71.3 |
| Never went to school | 100 | 28.7 |
| Grand Total | 350 | 100.0 |

Source: Data collected from child labor from Dhanbad district

Figure 2 Level of School Attended by the Children

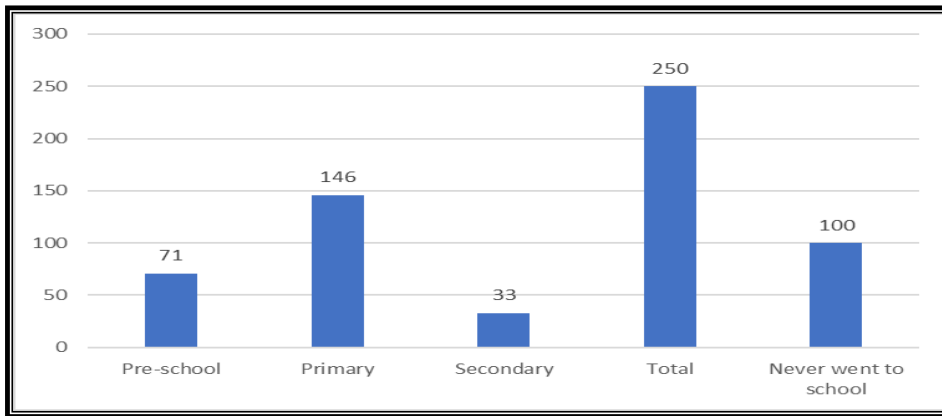


Table 6 Reason for not Attended School by the Children

| Reason | Frequency | Percent |
|------------------------------------|------------|------------|
| Cannot afford | 162 | 37.4 |
| Do not want to study | 82 | 23.3 |
| To work for pay | 75 | 21.4 |
| Help at home with household chores | 14 | 4.1 |
| Other | 9 | 2.7 |
| School is too far | 8 | 2.3 |
| Total | 350 | 100 |

Source: Data collected from child labor from Dhanbad district

Figure 3 Reason for not Attended School by the Children

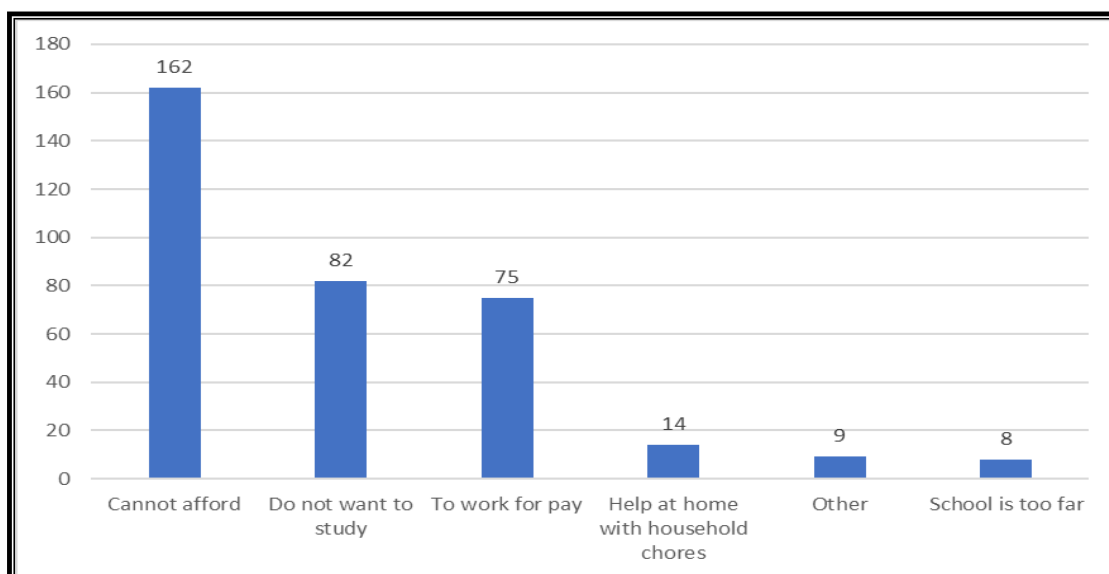
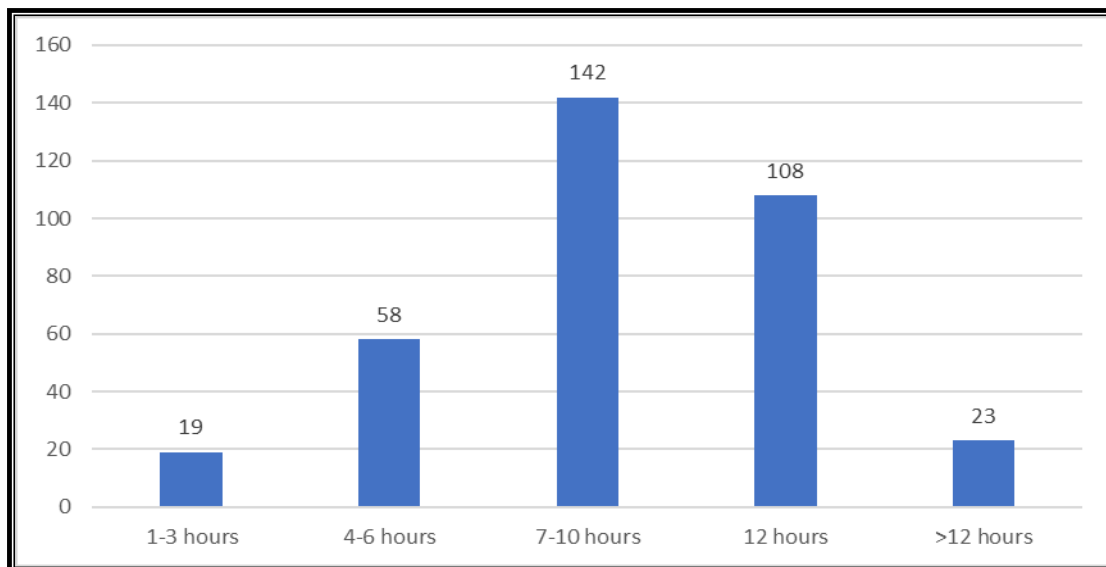


Table 7 Total Working Hours at Workplace of Children

| Working Hours | Frequency | Percent |
|---------------|------------|------------|
| 1-3 hours | 19 | 5.6 |
| 4-6 hours | 58 | 16.4 |
| 7-10 hours | 142 | 40.4 |
| 12 hours | 108 | 30.9 |
| >12 hours | 23 | 6.4 |
| Total | 350 | 100 |

Source: Data collected from child labor from Dhanbad district

Figure 4 Total Working Hours at Workplace of Children

Majority of the children (222, 31.7%) were working due to low income of the family and poverty 207 (12.6%) while in 106 (15.1%) children, working at younger age was a trend in their families. Lack of support was another factor in 79 (13.1%) children that forced them to work followed by lack of education responsible for 59 (8.4%) children to work. Total time spent by these children at their respective workplaces is shown in table 3. Majority of the children 183 (40.4%) were found to work 7-10 hours per day, followed by 116 (30.9%) who work for the whole week while 115 (16.4%) work for 4-6 hours, 45 (6.4%) for more than 12 hours and 39 (5.6%) for 1-3 hours only, mostly on weekends and in homes. Results of the study showed that monthly income of working children was less than 1000 rupees in most of the cases (33.3%).

Twenty seven percent had income between 1000- 2000 rupees, 22% less than 500 rupees and 15% were getting 500 rupees per month only. Frequency and types of punishments being given to these children are shown in figure 1 and 2 respectively. When asked about work-related injuries sustained during the past 12 months, response was yes in 184 (40.6%) while 216 (59.4%) denied of having any injury in this time period.

IX. SUMMARY AND DISCUSSION

This study was conducted by observing the present situation of child labour in India with special reference to Dhanbad District of Jharkhand. The child labour is one of the major issue around the nation. The government has been proactively addressing this issue by enforcing the law strictly and implementing concurrent rehabilitative initiatives. The proper implementing authorities, the state governments, have been conducting routine searches and inspections to find instances of breaches. The government has placed a strong emphasis on the rehabilitation of these kids and on enhancing the financial circumstances of their families because poverty is the underlying cause of this issue and enforcement measures alone cannot assist solve it. Due to poverty, hundreds of thousands of youngsters are compelled to work as laborers before they even start school, and the majority of them drop out in order to work. The problem of child labour is closely associated with poverty and underdevelopment in Dhanbad District, Jharkhand. As in all the developing countries including India, China, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Papua New Guinea, Ethiopia, Uganda, Mozambique, Malawi, Sudan, and Chad, the prevalence of poverty is high and therefore, child labour in these developing countries, particularly in Asia and Africa, does exist to a larger extent. The majority of youngsters were working as laborers due to poor family income and poverty, which is reflected in our data (222 and 207, respectively). Additionally, of the 700 children who were enrolled in the study, 479 (68.4%) had attended school prior to beginning their careers, and 291 of them had dropped out of elementary school as a result of their commitments at work. Children's normal growth, education, and relationships are disrupted when they are forced to work instead of attending school. Over 72% of employees in India's sports goods sector who did not attend school did so because they were unable to pay for their education, according to a poll. The current study finds the same thing. A significant rise in primary school enrollment has been observed in many countries, such as Egypt and Zimbabwe, that have quickly extended their primary school curriculum. This has led to a decrease in child labor¹³. Nonetheless, a major contributing reason to the rise of child labor in India is the absence of adequate educational resources and the importance of education from a socioeconomic standpoint.

In their investigation, Bequele and Boyden found that among all laborers, minors put in the most hours and received the lowest pay. In this study, 216 (30.9 per cent) of the 305 (46.6 per cent) youngsters worked 12 hours a day, seven days a week. According to an ILO survey carried out in India, working children typically come from low-income homes with big families. It was shown that working children had households with an average of eight people, which is greater than the national average. The bulk of the workers, according to the current survey, were from households with 10–12 family members¹⁴. According to estimates made by the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) last year, a youngster may be found in every industry, workshop, and field and makes around one-third of what an adult makes. The bulk of the youngsters in our study work in shops and workshops, and 22.5% of the participants make less than INR 500 (about USD 6) per month. These findings are consistent with previous research. The majority of child laborers are forced to work because of their huge families and poverty. In comparison to the money they get paid, they work harder.

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