

**“CHILD LABOR IN URBAN INFORMAL SECTOR OF PALLADAM
TALUK IN TIRUPUR DISTRICT”**

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ABSTRACT

Child labor in India is to be found in almost every sector of the informal economy. There are also arguments that child labor reinforces poverty. According to Census data, there are over 82 lakh child labourers (aged between 5–14 years) in India. Hence, this study focused on working condition of child labor and their socio- economic conditions in Palladam taluk of Tirupur District of Tamilnadu. Palladam Besides being a first grade municipality of Tirupur District, act as an agglomerate in unorganized textile industries and power loom industry and so attract labor in general and child labor in particular for cheap employment. This paper makes use of primary and secondary sources, primary data collected through structured by interview schedule. Secondary sources collected from journals and Published Reports. In palladam taluk children are engaged in textile related works, power loom, hotel, workshops and Poultry forms. The study found that majority of the children in palladam taluk become a labor is the main causes are poverty and lack of awareness about importance of education. It is found that most of the child workers from socially backward communities. Child workers participation in textile related works are high. Also, it is noted that in the textile related works share of migrant child workers participation is significantly high in the study area. They are earning low amount of wages compare to adult workers, but work timing and targets as well as same.

Keywords: Child labor, Urban Informal Sector, Textile industry, Power loom, Palladam Taluk

Introduction

Child labor in India is to be found in almost every sector of the informal economy. Despite India’s fast economic growth since the 990s, many challenges remain for youth at risk, particularly working children. The Indian children face many problems at various levels. Due to their lower status in the society, also child labor is more deprived. Child labor is still prevalent

issue in India. There are also arguments that child labor reinforces poverty. Hence, this study focused on what are the problems faced by child labor and their socio- economic conditions in urban informal sector of Palldam taluk of Tirupur District of Tamilnadu.

Child Labour

All those persons who are engaged in an economic activity between 5- 14 years of age, have been taken as the working children.

Status of Child Labour in India

- ✓ Every sixth child in the world lives in India (Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation- MoSPI, 2012)
- ✓ India has 10.12 million child labourers aged between 5 to 14 years (National Census 2011)
- ✓ The Net Enrolment Ratio (NER) at the Upper Primary Elementary Level in government schools in India is only 58.3% (Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation - MoSPI, 2012)
- ✓ Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) at the Secondary Level in government schools in India is below 50% (District Information System for Education - DISE, 2011-12)
- ✓ About 35% children in India with disabilities remain out of Elementary school (District Information system for Education – DSE, 2011-2012)
- ✓ School dropout rate amongst adolescent girls in India is a high as 63.5% (Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation – MoSPI, 2012)

State wise details of working children in the age group of 5- 14 years per census 2001 and census 2011 are as under:

Sl.No	Name of the state/ UT	Number of Children working in the age group of 5-14 years	
		Census 2001	Census 2011
1.	Andaman & Nicobar	1960	999
2.	Andhra Pradesh	1363339	404851
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	18482	5766
4.	Assam	351416	99512
5.	Bihar	1117500	451590
6.	Chandigarh	3779	3135
7.	Chhattisgarh	364572	63884

8.	Dadra & Nagar H	4274	1054
9.	Daman & Diu U.T	729	774
10.	Delhi U.T	41899	26473
11.	Goa	4138	6920
12	Gujarat	485530	250318
13	Haryana	253491	53492
14	Himachal Pradesh	107774	15001
15	Jammu & Kashmir	175630	25528
16	Jharkhand	407200	90996
17	Karnataka	822615	249432
18	Kerala	26156	21757
19	Lakshadweep U.T	27	28
20	Madhya Pradesh	1065259	286310
21	Maharashtra	764075	496916
22	Manipur	28836	11805
23	Meghalaya	53940	18839
24	Mizoram	26265	2793
25	Nagaland	45874	11062
26	Odessa	377594	92087
27	Pondicherry U.T	1904	1421
28	Punjab	177268	90353
29	Rajasthan	1262570	252338
30	Sikkim	16457	2704
31	Tamil Nadu	418801	151437
32	Tripura	21756	4998
33	Uttar Pradesh	1927997	8963301
34	Uttarakhand	70183	28098
35	West Bengal	857087	234275
	Total	12666377	4353247

Source: Census Data 2011.

From the above table inferred that state wise details of working children in the age group of 5-14 years. Tamilnadu working child labour in 2001- 4,18,801 in 2011- 1,51,437.

Child Labour in Tamil Nadu

- ✓ As per the **Census Data** Child Labour in Tamil Nadu in the year 2001- 4,18,801(lakhs) and 2011- 1,51,473.
- ✓ As per the **NSSO** data child Labour in Tamil Nadu 1.73(lakhs) in the year 2004-05 and 17,351 in 2009- 10 respectively.
- ✓ As per the information from India's National Newspaper (**The Hindu**) in Tamil Nadu (24-01-2015) More than **1.5** lakh children are still labouring under the sun and in dingy factories, every day. Child labour continues to exist in textile industries, agriculture fields during cotton plucking, brick kilns, beedi- making units and matchstick factories in Tamil Nadu.

Work Places for Child labour in Informal sector

The committee on Child Labour (1979) has observed that child workers are found in the following informal sector firms.

- ✓ Domestic service sectors,
- ✓ Workshops
- ✓ Helpers in hotels, Restaurants, Canteens, tea Stalls, Shops and Way side establishments.
- ✓ Bidis, Glass and Bangles
- ✓ Handloom and carpet weaving
- ✓ Zari and embroidery
- ✓ Match and fire works
- ✓ Machine tool repair shops and petrol pumps
- ✓ Rug Picking
- ✓ Construction
- ✓ Howkers, Vendors, Newspaper Sellers, and
- ✓ Cooli etc.

Tirupur District and Textile Industry

Tirupur is also known as Knit city, Dollar City and Textile City of India. Tirupur District one of the Indian state of Tamilnadu, formed in February 2009. The district is well developed and industrialized. Tiruppur District is an inland district in the Southern Part of Peninsula. It is bounded on the north by the Erode District, on the east by the Karur and Dindigul districts. On the west side is Coimbatore district. It is located at about 500 Km southwest of Chennai, the capital of Tamil Nadu. It is also one of the fastest developing cities and seventh largest city in Tamil Nadu. The nearest International airport is in Coimbatore. It is well connected by rail as well as road. AREA: The Total Area of Tiruppur District is as follows: 1. Avinashi : 672.10

Sq.km 2. Tiruppur : 373.33 Sq.km 3. Palladam : 488.39 Sq.km 4. Kangeyam : 846.41 Sq.km 5. Dharapuram : 1372.84 Sq.km 6. Udumalpet : 896.69 Sq.km 7. Madathukulam : 536.66 Sq.km.

Palladam Taluk and Textile Industry

Palladam is a town of tirupur in the state of Tamil Nadu. It is a First grade Municipality in Tirupur district. It is one of the fastest growing suburbs of Coimbatore. Palladam is one among the seven taluks namely Udumalaipattai, Kangeyam, Dharapuram, Palladam, Madathukulam, Tirupur, Avinashi Taluk of Tirupur District. Palladam is a major panchayat with large source of income collected from the business community.

In and around Palladam there are many weaving and knitting centers mostly meant for export to foreign countries, thus earning a considerable foreign exchange. Most of the major textile houses are set up as vertically integrated units enabling them to produce clothing at a better quality and competitive price. This sector along with the poultry sector provides direct and indirect employment to numerous people in the region. The region also attracts laborers from other part of the nation.

Statement of the Problem

Taking birth children in the Indian society has many of the problems. Children in India face lots of social issues and problems all through the life which are big struggle for them right from their beginning of life. They affected physically and mentally in the society. Non availability of education and lack of proper education is creating child labor. Children neglected from the education, apart from that they pushed to work by direct and indirect causes. Most of the child workers in the society form economically poor families and socially backward communities in India. So it continues backward condition of the society. Children also responsible that the household income at their earlier age. They face sexual harassment at workplaces.

Hence the study focused on problems faced by the child labor and their socio economic conditions in Palladam taluk of Tirupur District.

Methodology

The present study was taken up in Palladam city of Tirupur district. The study mainly based on primary survey. 20 child laborers were interviewed through structured interview schedule. Percentage analysis used for getting the result.

Objectives of the study

1. To study Socio-Economic conditions of the Child Labor in the Study Area.
2. To find main causes for child became a labor.
3. To find Problem Faced by Child Labor.

Problems Faced by the Child labor in Palladam Taluk

The empirical evidence attained from the statistical analyze are presented and discussed on socio economic conditions of child labor and what are the problems faced by the child labor in Palladam taluk of Tirupur District.

Table No: 1 Age wise distribution of Sample Respondents

To understand the age of the sample respondents, data were collected and presented in the following table. The age of the sample respondents were classified under different categories as 6 – 10 Years and 11- 14 years.

S. No	Particlulars	No. of Respondents	Percent(%)
1	6-10 Years	1	5%
2	11-14 Years	19	95%
3	Total	20	100%

Source: Primary Survey

From the above table is inferred that majority of the respondents that is 95 percent belonging to the age group of 11 to 14 years and 5 percent of the respondents belonging to 6 – 10 years.

Table No: 2 Religion Details of the Sample Respondents

Background information of the sample in terms of the distribution of sample by religion is presented in the following table.

S.No	Particulars	No. of Respondents	Percent(%)
1	Hindu	13	65%
2	Christian	6	30%
3	Muslim	1	5%
4	Total	20	100%

Source: Primary Survey

From the above table it is inferred that majority of the respondents that is 65 percent belonging to the Hindu Religion and Remaining 30 percent is belonging to Christian and 5 percent of the sample respondents belonging to Muslim Religion.

Table: 3 Social Backgrounds of the Sample Respondents

Social Background of the sample Respondents presented in following table.

S.No	Particulars	No. of Respondents	Percent(%)
1	SC/ST	10	50%
2	MBC	4	20%
3	BC	3	15%
4	Others	3	15%
5	Total	20	100%

Source: Primary Survey

The above table shows majority of the sample respondents that is 50 percent belonging to SC/ST. Remaining 20 percent belonging to MBC, 15 percent Belonging to BC and 15 percent belonging to other categories. Hence, it does clearly enlighten that there is highest child labourers belonging to socially backward classes.

Table No: 4 Type of Working Company Engaged by the Child Workers

Following table shows Child Labor working in the type of company in the study area.

S. No	Particulars	No. of Respondents	Percent(%)
1	Banian Company	13	65%
2	Power Loom	4	20%
3	Thread Company	2	10%
4	Others	1	5%
5	Total	20	100%

Source: Primary Survey

From the above table is inferred that majority of the sample respondents were engaged in Banian Company work that is 65 percent. Remaining 20 percent were engaged in Power loom, 10 percent engaged in Thread Company and 5 percent were other works, like service boy at restaurants, hotels and teashops etc.

Table No: 5 Type of Work

Following table Mentioned Type of work that are engaged the children.

S.No	Particulars	No. of Respondents	Percent(%)
1	Assistant	6	30%
2	Checking	9	45%
3	Packing	4	20%
4	Others	1	5%
5	Total	20	100%

Source: Primary Survey

From the above table shown majority of the child workers that are 45 percent engaged in checking work in textile industries. Remaining 30 percent were engaged in Assistants, 20 percent were Packing and 5 percent of the sample respondents were other works in hotels, restaurants and teashops etc.

Table No: 6 Nature of Family

The following table shows the details about nature of the family

S.No	Particulars	No. of Respondents	Percent(%)
1	Joint Family	2	10%
2	Nuclear	18	90%
3	Total	20	100%

Source: Primary Survey

From the above table shown majority of the sample respondents belonging to Nuclear family that is 90 percent. Remaining 10 percent of the sample respondents belonging to joint family system. It is enlighten that highest number of child workers from nuclear family system than the joint family system.

Table No: 7 Details of Weekly Income

Basically children are engaged in informal sector of the economy. Informal sector employments are giving the wage to workers as per day and weekly basis. Monthly income are very low compare to day and weekly income. The Weekly Income of the sample respondents is analyzed under 2 Categories 501-700 and 701- 1000.

S.No	Particulars	No. of Respondents	Percent(%)
1	501-700	13	65%
2	701-1000	7	35%
3	Total	20	100%

Source: Primary Survey

The above table shows the weakly income of the sample respondents. Majority of the sample respondents earn up to 700 Rs per week that is 65 percent. Remaining 35 percent of the sample respondents earn up to 1000 Rs per week.

Table No: 8 Main Causes for Children Became a Labor

The main cause for children became a labor shown in following table.

S.No	Particulars	No. of Respondents	Percent(%)
1	No Father	2	10%
2	No Mother	4	20%
3	Economically Poor	13	65%
4	Other	1	5%
5	Total	20	100%

Source: Primary Survey

From the above table inferred that Majority of the child became a labor is the are economically poor that is 65 per cent. Remaining 20 percent of the child did not have mother as well as 10 percent of the child not having father. Because father or mother were died. Remaining 5 percent of the sample respondent has other reason.

Table No: 9 Details of Respondents Father Drinking Habit

In Indian society is consuming alcohol. This habit is creating n number of problems. Alcohol consumption in poor class people is also one of the cause for their children enter into work Following table shows Details of Children Father and his Drinking habit

S.No	Particulars	No. of Respondents	Percent(%)
1	Father Having Drinking Habit	18	90%
2	Father Not Having Drinking Habit	2	10%
3	Total	20	100%

Source: Primary Survey

Above table inferred that 90 percent of the respondent's Fathers has drinking habit. Remaining 10 percent of the respondent's Fathers not having drinking habit. This clearly shows that one of the another main cause for child become a labor is father having drinking habit.

Table No: 10 Main Problems Faced by the Children at Work Place

Following table shown Main Problem Faced by child worker in the work place.

S.No	Particulars	No. of Respondents	Percent(%)
1	No Rest Time	6	30%
2	Night Shift	13	65%
3	Others	1	5%
4	Total	20	100%

Source: Primary Survey

From the above table observed that 65 percent of the sample respondents faced main problem in work place is Night shift. 30 percent of the respondents not having rest time in work place. Remaining 5 per cent of the sample respondents have other type of problems.

Major Findings of the Study

1. Majority of the Child workers that is 95 percent belonging to the age group of 11 to 14 years.
2. 65 percent of the child workers belonging to Hindu Religion.
3. 50 percent of the Child workers belonging to SC/ST.
4. 65 percent of the child workers engaged in unorganized banian companies. In that Banian companies they are engaged in checking work that is 45 per cent.
5. 65 percent of the child worker earning up to 700 Rs per week.
6. 65 percent of the child became a labor is economically poor.
7. 65 percent of the child main problem in working place is night shift and continues work.

Limitations of the Study

The study covered only 20 sample respondents only because Due to cost and time. Also the study focused only male child workers in the study area, there are female child workers also. But the study not covered female child workers. The study based on primary sources.

Hence, it has its limits.

Conclusion

Palladam is a town of tirupur in the state of Tamil Nadu., It is a First grade Municipality in the Tirupur district. It is one of the fastest growing suburb of Coimbatore. Majority of the child became a labor because economically poor. The study mainly found the socio economic conditions and problems faced by child labor in palladam taluk.

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