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**STUDY OF PROBLEMS AND REMEDIES OF CHILD LABOUR IN INDIA**

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**ABSTRACT**

*The main purpose of the paper is to discuss the problems and remedies of child labour in India. The children whose age is less than fourteen years and frequently compelled to work every day are called child labor. The facts and information used in the paper were acquired through reports, newspapers, articles, etc. There are many reasons of child labor such as family tradition, economic and social backwardness, less educational resources, the curse of poverty, addiction and disability, poor acquiescence of laws and greed of cheap labour. The most serious issue with child labor is that it interferes with their schooling and limits their opportunities for vocational development. Children in some workplaces are subjected to physical and mental abuse. The primary remedy to it is not to draft and adopt laws and codes. There is requirement of the detection of the crime of child labor and the strict application of the legal penalties.*

**KEYWORDS**

child labour, exploitation, migration, poverty, socioeconomic problem.

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**INTRODUCTION**

Child labor is frequently defined as work that poor kids of their early life, self-respect, prospective and is destructive to their psychological and bodily growth. It concentrates on the labor which is harmful to physical, mental, moral and societal growth of children. In India, child labor is acknowledged as a major and extremely complex socioeconomic problem. The children whose age is less than fourteen years and frequently compelled to work every day are called child labor. They are vulnerable to undernourishment, abnormalities and decreased vision, as a result of working for long time in overloaded places of work; they are simply victim for lethal infections such as serious respiratory ailments, cancer, and tuberculosis. They are frequently forced to live apart from their family, with no real education or training options to educate them for their future prospects.

**OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

The present paper tries to meet the following objectives:

1. To discuss the problems and causes of child labour in India.
2. To recommend suggestions to resolve the constraints of child labour.

**RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

The paper is based on information and data gathered from reports, newspapers, articles, census surveys, journals, websites, etc.

**CAUSES OF CHILD LABOUR IN INDIA**

The primary causes of child labor in India are as follows:

**FAMILY TRADITION**

This is very surprising and malicious fact that in the social order, this is quite simple to assign the name of child labor to many families. At the intentional stage, customary ethics of family put in to the difficulty of child labor in India. Various people believe that a happy living isn't their destiny and longstanding tradition of manual labour is their only basis of revenue and endurance.

**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL BACKWARDNESS**

Economic and social backwardness is also a major cause of child labor in India. Socially disadvantaged parents don't give permission to their kids to go to school. Consequently, their kids are enforced to utilize as child labour. Uneducated parents are ignorant of the effects of child labor on their children. Because of illiteracy, many parents are unknowledgeable of numerous initiatives for the schooling of their children. Child labor has been promoted by unawareness and ignorance, therefore, an unawareness of their privileges amongst them.

**LESS EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES**

In India, so many villages have lack of adequate educational facilities. The governmental slackness is partly to blame for child labor in our country. Poor families who cannot afford to educate their children are the hardest affected. When there are no inexpensive schools for underprivileged children to attend, they become illiterate and defenseless. Children are forced to survive without attending school. And such compulsions might occasionally lead kids into the trap of child labor in India.

**THE CURSE OF POVERTY**

The primary cause for child labor in India is poverty or scarcity. On account of scarcity, parents insist their children to work from a young age because they can't pay for the education of their children. In fact, they are well aware of the anguish of trailing treasured ones to scarcity on several circumstances. They sent their small children to work in manufacturing units, shops and houses. These judgments are made solely to provide a living for their family. Though, this type of trials demolishes emotional and physical health of their children, causing them to lose their upbringing at a youthful time.

**ADDICTION AND DISABILITY**

There is no earning in many households because of disability, addiction and sickness and the money earned by their children are the only source of income for the family. Populace expansion raises unemployment, which has a negative impact on child labor prevention. As a result, parents are inclined and don't send their children to school, so that their children could earn some wages in order to enhance family income.

**POOR ACQUIESCENCE OF LAWS**

The child labor in India continues in the absence of sufficient adherence to the rules. The laws in present social order in India state that persons contain the right to a proper edification, access to physical and mental fitness. All people have the right to participate in the sports activities which they prefer and to take pleasure in all forms of enjoyment, as well as to acquire occupation where they can make a good living and supply to the country as they grows.

**GREED OF CHEAP LABOUR**

Some corporations, shops and industrialists occupy children in greed for cheap labor with the intention that they have to pay them smaller amount. Shopkeepers and small business owners make children labor as hard as they do the elderly, yet pay half as much.

**PROBLEMS OF CHILD LABOUR IN INDIA**

1. Child labor gives rise to a slew of economic issues, for example, utilization of labor at its lowly production, meaning an ineffective use of labor force.
2. The most serious issue with child labor is that it hinders their schooling and limits their opportunities for occupational growth. They are uneducated, subjugated, and trodden workers for the rest of their life since they do not learn any skills or gain any education.
3. Trail of utilizing children allows for unjust contest with fully developed labor, potentially leading to unnecessary joblessness of real unemployed labor, low earnings and fewer suitable working circumstances.
4. As a result of the problem, poor and unsafe working circumstances on the part of working children result in tragic accidents that result in abnormalities. Children's vulnerability is worsened by their high prevalence of malnutrition and undernourishment, which makes them less resistant to devastating diseases.
5. Child labor promotes the disintegration of social structure and disrupts usual family existence; a child rose with before time financial sovereignty begins a bad habits at a young age, acquiring venereal illnesses and becoming addicted to intoxicants. In general, he or she marries young and begins reproducing early.
6. Child involvement in labour action decreases the prospective for educational and schooling progress. In several workplaces, children are subjected to psychological and bodily mistreatment. This entails prolonged and frequently everlasting disconnection from family, as well as loneliness, which can intermittently amount to implicit jail and bodily brutality.
7. Unless and until a systematic examination of employment in which children are engaged is conducted on a regular basis, and specific policy decisions are made to address weaknesses, the current situation is unlikely to alter in any dimension, qualitative, or quantitative way.
8. Other issues that workers face include a lack of clear and documented contractual obligations, a lack of programs, services of welfare, societal protection, lack of indemnity and health concern conveniences. Law regulates the children employment in just a subset of these jobs and even where guideline is required, enforcement is haphazard and sluggish.

**GOVERNMENT MEASURES TO ELIMINATE CHILD LABOUR**

Government of India practiced various measures to eradicate child labour in India. Main initiatives are as under:

**NATIONAL POLICY OF 1974 FOR CHILDREN**

This is the first government policy addressing privileges and requirements of children. It acknowledged that children are a vital talent to the nation. The purpose of the policy is to go one step further in ensuring the constitutional guarantees for children.

**NATIONAL POLICY OF 1987 ON CHILD LABOR**

It envisioned a lawmaking plan of action coordinating and paying attention on common progress programs to help children wherever feasible. It is plan of action for beginning schemes for the happiness of children, who are working in high child labor absorption places. So, the policy outlines plan of action for solving the problem of child labor.

**THE RIGHT TO EDUCATION ACT 2009**

This act requires the status to make sure that every child age of six to fourteen years get education free of cost and attend school. In conjunction with 21A article of Indian constitution, which recognizes that education is a fundamental right, it is an opportune chance to use education to eliminate child labor in India.

**PUNISHMENT**

Anyone found employing a teenager and minor in an illegitimate employment faces punishment of prison (6-24 months) and/or a fine of Rs. 20,000 to Rs. 50,000. If a person is found to be engaging in child labor again after being punished once, they face a prison sentence of 1-3 years.

Despite multiple targeted government schemes focusing the varied requirements of children, there is an urgent need to develop their situation in every area of child progress, safety and survival. Gender discrimination is especially prevalent in these locations, necessitating specific care to the girl child.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

The issue of this bad practice, child labor is one which is extremely entrenched in the social order. The implementation of limitations and regulations eliminating child labor is not enough. The paper offers the following remedies that can be constructive in preventing and discontinuing the problem of child labor:

1. Children are allowed to work in family businesses or as household helpers. In order to prevent the provision from being abused by the weak, this is very crucial to explain in order to take in the institution of Hindu complete family and parents when using the term "family institutions".
2. It is not simple to eradicate child labor, and long-term prevention measures are more viable. Any national child labor eradication policy must include social mobilization and community involvement as one of the key prevention tactics. It is crucial to make sure that kids attend formal schools at home rather than leaving to work full-time.
3. There is no precise definition of child labor under the Indian Statutes. Given the wide range of job minimum ages, it is difficult to avoid child labor. There should be a thorough definition of child labor that covers all workplaces and occupations.
4. The children, who are observed doing work in risky institutions must be included in rehabilitation and reformatory programs. After being rescued from dangerous facilities, provisions should be taken to ensure that their mental, emotional, and physical wellness is obtained.
5. Due to his financial situation, a child is forced to work in unfavorable circumstances. By suggesting guidance in a definite skill and training an expertise, stipulations must be prepared to encourage self-sufficiency.
6. The labor department cannot be the only entity responsible for ending child labor. The society must be involved in a movement, and its members must be given a formal or legal standing.
7. This is trouble-free to stay children beyond the grip of child labor when they are enrolled in school and given a proper education. Child labor and Education are directly associated.

**CONCLUSION**

Thus, it is clear from the study that there are many contributing aspects to the problem of child labor, which looks to be substantial. The most innocent period of a person's life is their childhood. A youngster is at the age when all tensions are gone. However, they are now dealing with a variety of issues. Caused by a lot of troubles in the social order, together with scarcity, less economic safety, unfavorable societal circumstances, etc., child labor is a destructive practice. This not only prevents development of children but also eliminates all prospects for future growth that may have given the child better opportunities. It turns into difficult to prevent the lawbreakers when they have authorization to work in family institutions after school hours and no clear description of family institutions is given. The primary remedy to it is not to draft and adopt laws and codes. There is requirement of the detection of the crime of child labor and the strict application of the legal penalties. The responsibility does not end here; the child must also be rehabilitated and given all the educational, recreational, and reformatory support he needs to become independent and seize possibilities that will assure a bright future in accordance with his or her abilities.

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**A STUDY ON SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITION ON FISHERMEN IN CUDDALORE DISTRICT****V. SINDHUJA****RESEARCH SCHOLAR****ST. JOSEPH'S COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCE (AUTONOMOUS)  
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CUDDALORE****ABSTRACT**

*Fishing is one of the oldest human occupations and a major human activity in many nations. It supports coastal areas' economies, employment opportunities, and food supplies. It is regarded as one of the most important sources of employment that provides the coastal population with a living wage. International trade had an export value of 129 billion USD in 2012, which was 37% of the value of all fish production, 70 billion USD of which came from shipments to poorer nations. According to estimates, small-scale fisheries provide nearly half of the world's fish catches when taking into account both direct and indirect contributions to food security produced through the provision of affordable fish and employment to populations in poor nations. Any business or action involved in catching, breeding, processing, preserving, reserving, storing, moving, promoting, or dispensing fish or fish products is included in this industry. Over the years, millions of individuals worldwide have engaged in fishing and fish trading profitably. Approximately two-thirds of the world's population currently lives within 60 kilometers of a coastline. Fish is one of the foods that is traded internationally the most, and the value of fish trade globally is greater than the value of trade of all other animal proteins combined. The socioeconomic circumstances of fisherman are different, though. The socioeconomic circumstances of the fishermen in the Cuddalore district are more validly explained in this article.*

**KEYWORDS**

Cuddalore, fisherman, socio-economic conditions.

**JEL CODE**

Q22

**INTRODUCTION**

Any industry or activity involved in raising, processing, preserving, storing, moving, promoting, or selling fish or its byproducts falls under the umbrella of fishing. It is a type of work that is done by people who are known as fishermen. This profession is practiced along every seashore. According to Ambili, C.S. (2008), a fisherman is someone who relies heavily on fishing and other associated activities for their living. Their professional endeavors produced fish for human consumption, bait, and other uses. This community has unique qualities, is geographically situated in coastal areas, has a unique way of life and culture, and shares the environment and the sea. Over the year, millions of people have profitably engaged in fishing and fish trading around the world. The activities are known by name like Mukkuvars and paravars in the southern part of the state and pattinavars in the northern part. Mukkuvars and Paravas are the only two fishing communities in Kanyakumari. The degree of social cohesion and financial security among Tamilnadu's fishermen determines their relative way of life. They are viewed as an unusual and remote community as a result. This essay examines the socioeconomic status of the fishermen in Tamilnadu's Cuddalore Districts.

**STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM**

Cuddalore Districts are located on the east coast of the Bay of Bengal, fishing and other associated occupations will inevitably develop among the residents of coastal villages who are commonly known as fishermen. Their standard of life, level of comfort, societal contributions, and financial situation all influence their ability for productivity, performance, and earnings.

Although the number of fishermen has greatly increased, the government's measures of their income, welfare, and development appear to fall short of expectations. As a result, this must be addressed. Most fishing families are below the poverty line. They were pulled down to earth by their unstable finances and low socioeconomic level, which prevented them from thriving in life. The children of fisherman strive to receive a good education, but they are unable to do so because the family head cannot set a sizable sum of money for that purpose.

All of these variables are dependent on the well-being of the fishing population, which lives in places with poor access to basic amenities like clean drinking water, sanitary facilities, and toilets.

Given the circumstances, it will be important to research the socioeconomic variables and issues facing the fishing population in the Pondicherry Region.

**OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

The prime object of the research is to ascertain the socio-economic situation of the community of fishermen in the Cuddalore Districts of Tamil Nadu.

**RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

In the current study, the researcher employed a descriptive approach in an effort to briefly summarize the numerous socioeconomic factors affecting fishermen. The research universe for this study is the Tamil Nadu district of Cuddalore, where it was carried out. For this investigation, non-probability sampling was employed to gather data. To be more precise, non-proportional quota sampling was used in this investigation. The study's sample size is 100 fishermen from Tamil Nadu's Cuddalore Districts. To evaluate the questioner and to assess the viability and feasibility of the study, the researcher also conducted pre-tests and a pilot study. The data have been analyzed using simple percentage analysis. No significant studies have been conducted on the problems of the fish marketing; so there exists a wide data gap or blank past in this regard. This study must be essentially seen as a starting point in attempting to reveal the facts of a marginalized community.

**ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION**

Since the beginning of time, those who live along the country's shore have relied heavily on fishing as a source of income. From the perspective of generating revenue and jobs, fish and fisheries play a significant role in the majority of developing and industrialized nations worldwide. It ranks right behind agriculture as one of the most ancient human economic activities. The marine environment is solely responsible for the day-to-day operations of the fishing community and is regarded as the keeper of livelihood security. The fishing industry supports the creation of jobs, exports, and the safeguarding of food nutrition. About 1% of India's overall population relies on the fishing industry as their main source of income. In terms of global rankings, India comes in second for aquaculture production and third for fish production. In 2014–15, the nation produced 100.69 lakh tons of fish, of which 34.91 lakh tons were collected from the marine sector and the remaining from the inland sector. A sizable market for fresh and processed fish and fisheries products has been developed in India as a result of the country's rapid

economic growth and expansion of the domestic retail sector (Sathiadhas, et al. 2011). The Indian fishing industry also makes a sizable contribution to foreign exchange.

**TABLE 1: DISTRIBUTION OF THE RESPONDENTS BY THEIR AGE**

S. No.	Age Group	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Below 30	24	24.0
2	31 – 35	12	12.0
3	36 – 40	10	10.0
4	41 – 45	18	18.0
5	46 – 50	26	26.0
6	Above 51	10	10.0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100.0</b>
S. No.	Marital Status	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Unmarried	11	11.0
2	Married	73	73.0
3	Divorced	4	04.0
4	Widower	12	12.0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100.0</b>
S. No.	Age at Marriage	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Not married	10	10.0
2	Below 20	11	11.0
3	21 – 25	62	62.0
4	26 – 30	15	15.0
5	Above 30	2	02.0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100.0</b>
S. No.	Type of Marriage	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Arranged Marriage	62	62.0
2	Love Marriage	11	11.0
3	Love & arranged	27	27.0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100.0</b>
S. No.	Type of family	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Joint Family	72	72.0
2	Nuclear family	28	28.0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100.00</b>

Source: Computed from primary data

The traditional livelihood of the fishermen is fishing. They must go fishing to meet their immediate needs and the needs of their families, whether they are young or old. That is also revealed in the No. 1 table mentioned above. From the age of 31 and up to age 50, 66 (66%) of the 100 respondents who participated in the survey said they went fishing. They are spread out between ages 31 and 35 (12%), 36 and 40 (10%), 41 and 45 (18%), and 46 and 50 (26%).

According to Table No. 1, the majority (84%) of them received an education, with 20 (20%) of them receiving instruction up to the middle school level, 13 (13%) receiving instruction up to the high school level, 14 (14%) receiving instruction at the higher secondary level, 2 (2%) receiving instruction at the undergraduate level, and 4 (4%) receiving instruction in technical fields.

It can be assumed that 84 (or 84%) of them received education, ranging from primary schooling to technical education. The marital status of the respondents is described in table No. 1 above. 73 (73%) out of the 100 respondents were married, which is the majority. Four (4%) and twelve (12%) married people were divorced or widowed, respectively. Here, the term "widower" refers to males who have lost their wives. Regarding their age at marriage (Table No. 1), the majority (62%) of them stated that they were married between the ages of 21 and 25 years. The remaining 10%, 11%, 15%, and 2% of them stated that they were still single at the ages of 20 years, 26 to 30 years, and after 30 years, respectively.

In villages, it is typical to have planned marriages between close relatives or sects (Table-1)

However, in more recent times, about one-third of them were married in love or in planned weddings. The bulk of them—62 (62%) had planned marriages, and their parents had chosen the bridges, so the system did not collapse.

The above table (No. 1) displays the different types of families that the respondents came from. Of the total respondents, 72% belonged to a nuclear family, and 28 (28%) were a part of a joint family system. Due to their willingness to help others and lack of changes, they developed their own families and nuclear families, however some families still use the traditional joint family structure. After their son or daughter marries, most families become nuclear.

**TABLE 2: DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDERS BY FISHING EXPERIENCE, INCOME, AND ITS SOURCES**

S. No	Experience in Fishing	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Below – 5 years	13	13.0
2	6 years - 10 years	16	16.0
3	11 years - 15 years	8	08.0
4	16 years - 20 years	10	10.0
5	21 years - 25 years	14	14.0
6	26 years - 30 years	25	25.0
7	Above - 30 years	14	14.0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100.00</b>
Income of the Respondents (per month)		No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Rs 5000 – 10000	84	84.0
2	Rs 10001 – 15000	16	16.0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Sources of Income		No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Fishing +Money lending	18	18.0
2	Fishing +Fish vending	61	61.0
3	Fishing +Petty Shop	6	06.0
4	Fishing +Agriculture	15	15.0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100.00</b>

Source: Computed from primary data

The age of fishermen when they begin a career in fishing is indicated in Table No. 2. Out of 100 respondents, 59 (59.0%) started their traditional occupation—fishing between the ages of 16 and 20. Next, 35 (35.0%) started when they were under 15 years old, and 6 (6.0%) started when they were between the ages of 21 and 25. According to reports, the majority of fishermen began their careers in fishing when they were young, between the ages of 16 and 20, for a variety of reasons, including taking care of family responsibilities, being influenced by their peers, being uninterested in academics, etc.

It demonstrates that they occasionally engage in fishing on their own due to their lack of interest in education, their obligations to their families, and peer pressure, as well as their desire to live a happy life by making money and keeping it for their own expenses.

Income is very important to run families to meet out the day-to-day affairs including that of education, marriage, and health and purchase property. As far as the fishermen community is concerned, they need income for their day-to-day affairs, health and for their children's education. During the fish ban period and rough season, the boat owners can manage somehow but the fishing laborers suffer lot. The families of the fishing laborers are forced to borrow money or seek the help of their friends and relatives. Some fishermen could manage as they could do some petty jobs like running shops and involving in business like real-estate. As per the table No. 2 that the majority 81 (81%) of the respondents were able to earn more than Rs 10000 per month and 19 (19%) of them were able to earn below Rs 10000 per month. With these small earnings, they were not able to manage their family expenses.

Apart from the primary source of income through fishing, all of them had another source of income. Among them as per the table No. 2, 41 (41%) had income through secondary source like fish vending, 28 (28%) had income through money lending; 31 (31%) of them had been involving in fish net selling through their shops. It shows that the fishermen were well aware of the fact that they could not get a regular income, and for their future the fishermen were involving in other businesses that gave some additional income. It shows the income generation capacity of the fisher folk is almost necessary in all the times.

As far as their expenditure is concerned that the majority 97% of them spent more money for purchase of food grains, dress, celebration of festivals, and other levies expenditures such as drinks, picnic, pilgrimages etc., which cost about more than Rs 1 lakhs per year of the total respondents the majority 57 (57%) said that they bought jewel through their savings; 52 (52%) of them said that they used their savings for buying more than 1 property; 28 (28%) of them said that they bought 2 wheeler through their savings; 1 (1%) of them said that he bought a car. During the time of more income, they purchase assets such as jewels, vehicles, land. Later, during unexpected occasions, they get loan from bank, money lenders, etc.

When they were not able to spend within their earnings, they got some loan from many sources such as relatives, friends, colleges, money lenders, owners of the both etc., almost all of them had debt depend upon their size of the family and its occasions. In Such a way nearly 76% of them had debt upon Rs. 2 lakhs at present.

## CONCLUSION

It is clear from the examination of primary data that if the socioeconomic circumstances of the fishing community improve, there will undoubtedly be improvements in their standard of living as well. However, when income is really low, there are great chances of an increase in starvation, difficulties with their children's education, and a bad quality of life that results in a terrible social life that would negatively affect their life. An increase in the cost of food, essentials, health care, and education. This survey reveals that the majority of fishermen attended elementary and middle schools before starting their careers in fishing at a young age. i.e., under 15 years old, which significantly impacts their generations. Their involvement in politics was limited to voting; they were unable to assert their representation in a suitable and acceptable capacity across all political parties. Despite there being national and international policies, the fishermen's community has not been included. The Quality of Life of the fishing community will be improved if the study's recommendations are put into practice. Setting up the necessary policies and implementing them will greatly improve the quality of life for the fishermen.

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