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DISTRICT WISE SITUATION OF THE CHILD LABOUR (AGE 5-14) IN ANDHRA PRADESH

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ABSTRACT

ILO defined the term "child labour" is as work that deprives children of their childhood, their potential and their dignity, and that is harmful to physical and mental development. ILO estimated approximately 114 million (53%) child labour are in Asia and the Pacific; 14 million (7%) live in Latin America; and 65 million (30%) live in sub-Saharan Africa. As per the recent Census 2011 in India, 42% of India's total population is children and sadly India is the home to the largest number of child labourers in the world. According to estimate there are over 60 million child labour is India constituting nearly twenty-five per cent of the working children of the world (Reported in Mishra, 2004, pp.1-3). Notably, Constitution of India prohibits child labour in hazardous industries (but not in non-hazardous industries) as a Fundamental Right under Article 24 and the law in Indian (called The Child and Adolescent Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986, Amendment Act, 2016) says that any no child below age of 14 shall be employed or permitted to work in any occupation or process. Andhra Pradesh has 13 districts with 5 crores population. As per 2011 Census above 52 (0-6 years) lakh children are living in the state. The state had the dubious distinction of having the largest number of child labour compared to other States in the country till 2001. In order to reduce the number of child labour in the State, the government of Andhra Pradesh adopted a proactive approach on child labour and as a result of all these measures, there has been a substantial decline in child labour in the State between the periods 2001 and 2011, the percentage of child labour being 24.96 in 2001 compared to 14.10 in 2011. With this background this paper analysed child labour situation in all the districts of Andhra Pradesh. The main objectives of the paper to highlight the districts specific number of child labour in the state and find out the trends of the state in decreasing/ increasing the number of child labour.

KEYWORDS

child labour, hazardous, child and adolescent labour (prohibition and regulation) act, 1986, amendment act, 2016.

INTRODUCTION

Child labour is a visible manifestation of violations of a range of rights of children and is recognized as a serious and enormously complex social problem not only in India but in entire world. Working children are denied their right to survival and development, education, leisure and play, and adequate standard of living, opportunity for developing personality, talents, mental and physical abilities, and protection from abuse and neglect. Under extreme economic distress, children are forced to forego educational opportunities and take up jobs which are mostly exploitative as they are usually underpaid and engaged in hazardous conditions.

ILO defined the term "child labour" is as work that deprives children of their childhood, their potential and their dignity, and that is harmful to physical and mental development. ILO estimated approximately 114 million (53%) child labour are in Asia and the Pacific; 14 million (7%) live in Latin America; and 65 million (30%) live in sub-Saharan Africa. The UNICEF estimates that India with its larger population has the highest number of labourers in the world less than 14 years of age. As per the recent Census 2011, 42% of India's total population is children and sadly India is the home to the largest number of child labourers in the world. Child labour is the practice of having children engages in economic activity, on part- or full-time basis. The practice deprives children of their childhood, and is harmful to their physical and mental development. Poverty, lack of good schools and growth of informal economy are considered as the important causes of child labour in India.

Before the development of the industrial sector, child labour was vastly engaged in agriculture and informal sectors. Agriculture and small industrial sector consisting of match industry, diamond industry, brass ware industry, carpet industry, lock making industry, slate industry, handloom and power loom industry, zari work, hosiery, pottery industry, beedi industry are some of the units which absorb large number of child labour in India. The 1998 national Census of India estimated the total number of child labour, aged 4–15, to be at 12.6 million, out of a total child population of 253 million in 5–14 age group. A 2009–10 nationwide survey found child labour prevalence had reduced to 4.98 million children (or less than 2% of children in 5–14 age groups). According to Census, 2011 found the total number of child labour, aged 5–14, to be at 4.35 million, and the total child population to be 259.64 million in that age group.

According to (2004-05) NSSO estimates 68.14 percentage of Child Labour is working in agriculture followed by manufacturing trade and hotels in India. The percentage of Child Labour engaged in agriculture is still high in the States like Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Uttaranchal, Himachal Pradesh, Gujarat, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan and Orissa. It is found very low in Kerala and Tamil Nadu. This can be attributed to the social development activities initiated in early 1980's in the southern states. The population of Child Labour engaged in manufacturing sector is high in Kerala, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal as compared to other states in India. According to 1991 Census the number of working children in A.P was 16.61 lakh which reduced to 13.63 lakh in 2001, which was second largest number after Uttar Pradesh.

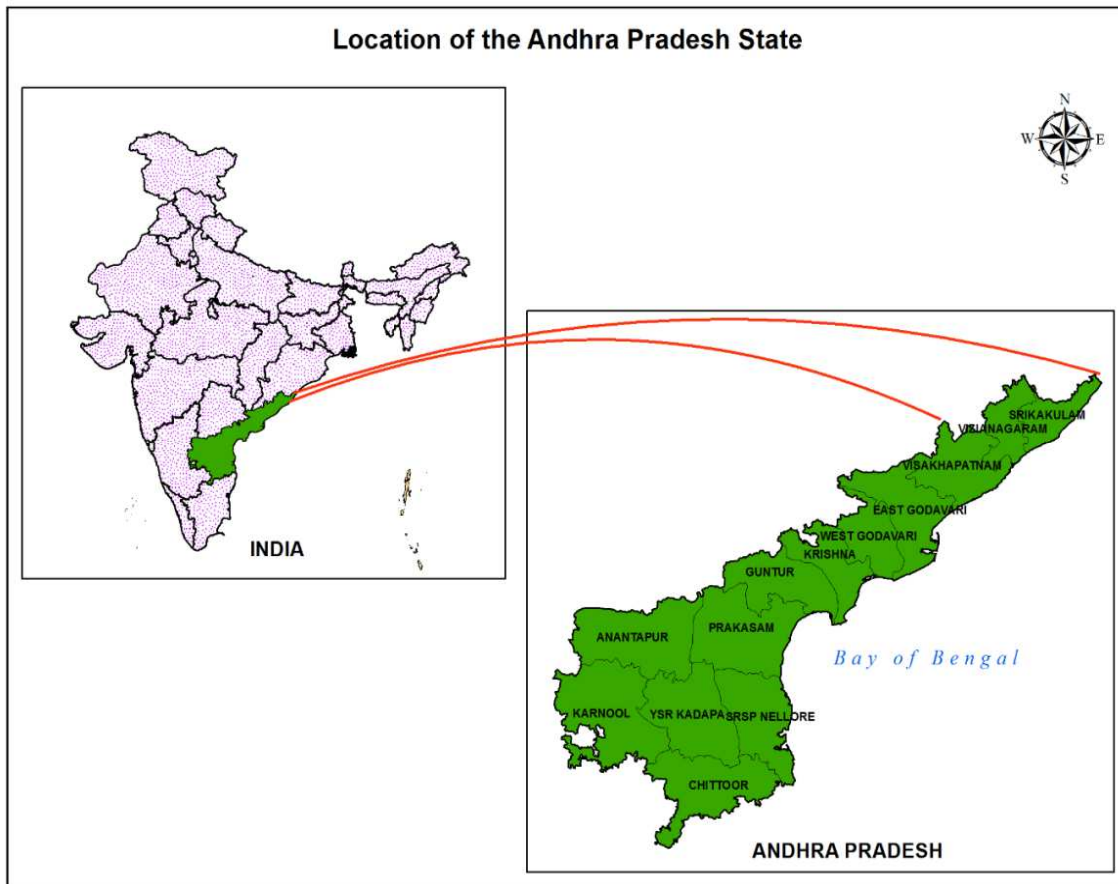
OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To highlight the districts specific number of child labours in the state and find out the trends of the state in decreasing/ increasing the number of child labour.
2. To give recommendations to the policy makers to tackle the issue in the changing socio-economic and political context.

OVERVIEW OF ANDHRA PRADESH STATE

Andhra Pradesh state has 162000 sq. km area (Approx.) and it has 13 districts; these districts have 670 revenue Mandals with 4 crores 95 lakhs population. 248 lakhs male and 247 lakhs female population are living across the state.

FIGURE 1: LOCATION OF THE STUDY AREA



Rural Population is 70.4% and urban population 29.6%. It has 1crore 26 lakhs households. In those 90 lakhs and above are located in rural areas rest of the households (36 lakhs) in urban areas. State has two regions, one is Coastal Andhra and other one is Rayalaseema. These regions are having 9 and 4 districts respectively (See Figure 1). Godavari and Krishna and its tributaries are flowing through the state. It has a coast line of 974 Kms. Running from Ichapuram in the North to Sullurpet in the south. Visakhapatnam, Vijayawada, Kurnool cities are major in the state. After bifurcation of the two states (Telangana state and Andhra Pradesh) central government declared Hyderabad as a joint capital city for the 10 years period. Recently Andhra Pradesh government declared Amaravati as the capital city of the state.

CHILD POPULATION

As per the 2011 Census figures, the total population of Andhra Pradesh is 4.93 crores, in that the child population (5-14 years) share is 17.8% (88 lakhs) and male child population is 45.2 lakhs and female children are 42.8 lakhs. 0 - 6 years age share is only 10.5% to the total population on of the state. Among all the 13 districts, YSR Kadapa (21%) has highest child population followed by Prakasam (18.7%). Only YSR Kadapa district has above 20% child population. Four districts like Chittoor, Anantapur, Srikakulam and Vizianagaram districts are having above the state (17.8%) average. Visakhapatnam, SPSR Nellore, Guntur, East Godavari and Kurnool districts are having between 17 to 17.8% of the child population.

TABLE 1: DISTRICT WISE TOTAL POPULATION AND CHILD POPULATION IN ANDHRA PRADESH (AGE 5-14)-2011

District Name	Total Population	Child Population (5-14)	% of Child Population	Boys	Girls
YSR Kadapa	4053463	851218	21	438592	412626
Prakasam	3397448	635312	18.7	328557	306755
Chittoor	2882469	536371	18.6	277683	258688
Anantapur	4081148	746174	18.3	385245	360929
Srikakulam	2703114	492358	18.2	254381	237977
Vizianagaram	2344474	418819	17.9	215010	203809
Andhra Pradesh	49386799	8808502	17.8	452751	4280987
Visakhapatnam	4290589	760993	17.7	389461	371532
SPSR Nellore	2963557	514870	17.4	266793	248077
Guntur	4887813	843988	17.3	435554	408434
East Godavari	5154296	885491	17.2	448660	436831
Kurnool	4174064	719789	17.2	371042	348747
West Godavari	3936966	664222	16.9	336907	327315
Krishna	4517398	738897	16.4	379630	359267

Source: Census 2011

West Godavari and Krishna districts having 16.9 and 16.4% respectively. Among the 13 districts, Krishna has least child population with 16.4%. The table 1 shows the state total population and child population figure. Male child population is more than female child population. East Godavari, YSR Kadapa and Guntur districts are having more than 4.3 lakhs male child population and lowest is Vizianagaram. It has only 2.1 lakhs male child population were as female child population East Godavari is in top position with 4.3 lakhs child population followed by YSR Kadapa with 4.1 lakhs population.

CONSTITUTIONAL SAFEGUARDS

Indian constitute has given articles and it is protecting to the children from various situation. They are explained in the below box.

TABLE 2

Articles	Contents
Article 21A	The State shall provide free and compulsory education to all children of the age of six to fourteen years.
Article 23	Traffic in human beings and beggar and other similar forms of forced labour are prohibited and any contravention of this prohibition shall be an offence punishable in accordance with law.
Article 24	No child below the age of 14 years shall be employed to work in any factory or mine or engaged in any other hazardous employment.
Article 39 (e)	The State shall, in particular, direct its policy towards securing the health and strength of 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.

STATUTORY PROVISIONS TO ELIMINATE CHILD LABOUR:

In relation with the above mentioned Constitutional provisions, the country has enacted various laws time to time to address the issue of child labour in the line with ILO Conventions and various international standards including Convention on the Rights of Child (CRC). The legal provisions prohibiting child labour are as follows

TABLE 3

Name of the Act	Prohibition of child labour	Penalties
The Children (Pledging of Labour) Act, 1933	An agreement to pledge the labour of a child shall be void. [section 3]	Parent or guardian, contractor, and employer of a child shall be punished with fine up to Rs. 200. [sections 4, 5 & 6]
The Factories Act, 1948	No child who has not completed his fourteenth year shall be required or allowed to work in any factory. [section 67]	The occupier and manager of the factory shall each be guilty of an offence and punishable with imprisonment up to two years or with fine up to one lakh rupees or with both. [section 92]
The Mines Act, 1952	No person below 18 years of age shall be allowed to work in any mine or part thereof. [section 40]	The owner, agent or manager of such mine shall be punishable with fine up to Rs. 500. [section 68]
The Apprentices Act, 1961	A person shall not be qualified for being engaged as an apprentice to undergo apprenticeship training in any designated trade, unless he is not less than 14 years of age. [section 3]	He shall be punished with imprisonment up to six months or with fine or with both. [section 30 (1)]
The Beedi and Cigar Workers (Conditions of Employment) Act, 1966	No child shall be required or allowed to work in any industrial premises. [section 24]	He shall be punished with fine up to Rs. 250. [section 33]
The Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976	According to the definition given in section 2(g) of the Act, bonded labour represents the relationship between a creditor and a debtor wherein the debtor undertakes to mortgage his services or the services of any of his family members to the creditor for a specified or unspecified period with or without wages accompanied by denial of choice of alternative avenues of employment, or to deny him freedom of movements.	Every offence under the Act is cognizable and bailable. Offences for contravention of provisions of the Act are punishable with imprisonment for a term, which may extend to three years and also with fine, which may extend to two thousand rupees.
Child and Adolescent Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986, Amendment Act, 2015	The Act prohibits employment of children (a person who has not completed 14 years of age) in any occupation and Process and also prohibits employment of adolescents (a person who has completed his fourteenth year of age but has not completed his eighteenth year) in certain hazardous occupations and processes.	He shall be punished with imprisonment for three months to one year or with fine Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 20,000 or with both. [section 14 (1)]
The Juvenile Justice (Care & Protection of Children) Act, 2015	The Act prohibits punishment for exploitation of a child employee.	For exploitation of a child employee, a person shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to 5 years or with fine of one lakh rupees

PERCENTAGE OF CHILD LABOUR TO CHILD POPULATION

Andhra Pradesh state has 5.1% of Child labour to child population which is less than India’s (6.03%) average. Asper the Census 2011, Kurnool (9.53) district having highest child labour in the state and other district such as Visakhapatnam (6.6) and Anantapur (5.6) districts are having above the 5% of child population and only these three districts are having above the state average (See figure).

FIGURE 2: PERCENTAGE OF CHILD LABOUR TO CHILD POPULATION (5-14 YEARS)

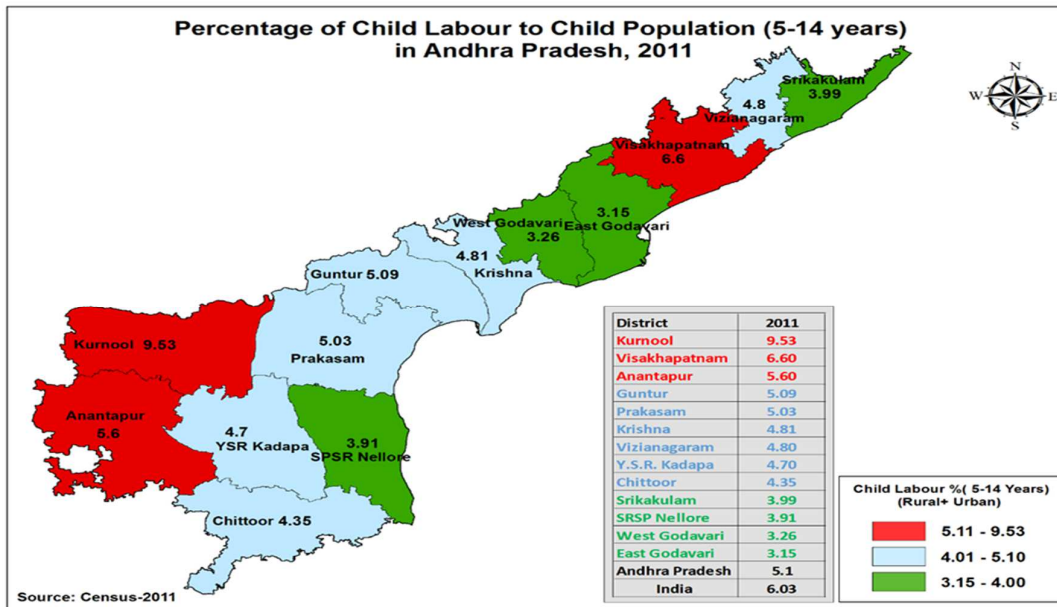


Figure 2 indicates the %age of child labour to child population. The red color values are indicate districts having child labour above the state average, blue color indicate these districts are having medium average child labour like Guntur, Prakasam, Krishna, Vizianagaram, YSR Kadapa and Chittoor districts fall under this category (4% - 5.1%). Rest of the four districts (Srikakulam, SRSP Nellore, West Godavari and East Godavari) are having very low (below 4%) child labour population. East Godavari (3.15%) district is having lowest child labour population in entire Andhra Pradesh state.

Government of Andhra Pradesh with ILO support made effort to reduce the child labour in Kurnool district. It sponsored Elimination of Child Labour Project but starting it not functioning well and not achieving the hundred percentage. Asper the Complied from 2001 Census data, 138326 no. of Child Labour were found in the Kurnool district. The NCLP Schools have been sanctioned to the selected districts on priority basis in 1995-96. But, at present the number of the schools has declined in Kurnool district since 2010-11. NCLP schools 93 in 1995 but 2010 -11 only 9 schools are functioning (Office records of NCLPs).

PERCENTAGE OF CHILD LABOUR TO TOTAL WORKER POPULATION

Andhra Pradesh state having total 2.46 crores total worker population in 2011. Guntur (24.9 lakhs) districts having highest total worker population followed by East Godavari (22.5 lakhs). Anantapur, Krishna and Kurnool having 21 lakhs and above total worker population. Visakhapatnam, Chittoor, West Godavari and Prakasam districts are having 18 to 20 lakhs workers population. And other four districts like Srikakulam (15 lakhs), YSR Kadapa and SRSP Nellore districts are having 14 lakhs workers population and Vizianagaram (12.6 lakhs) having the lowest workers population in entire Andhra Pradesh state.

FIGURE 3: PERCENTAGE OF CHILD LABOUR TO TOTAL WORKER POPULATION (5-14 YEARS)

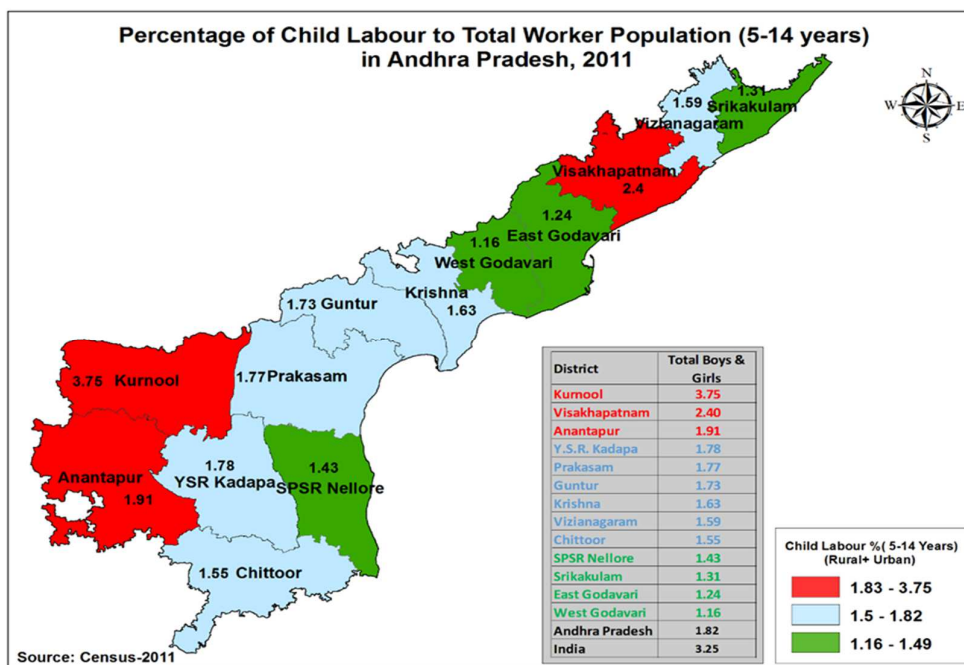


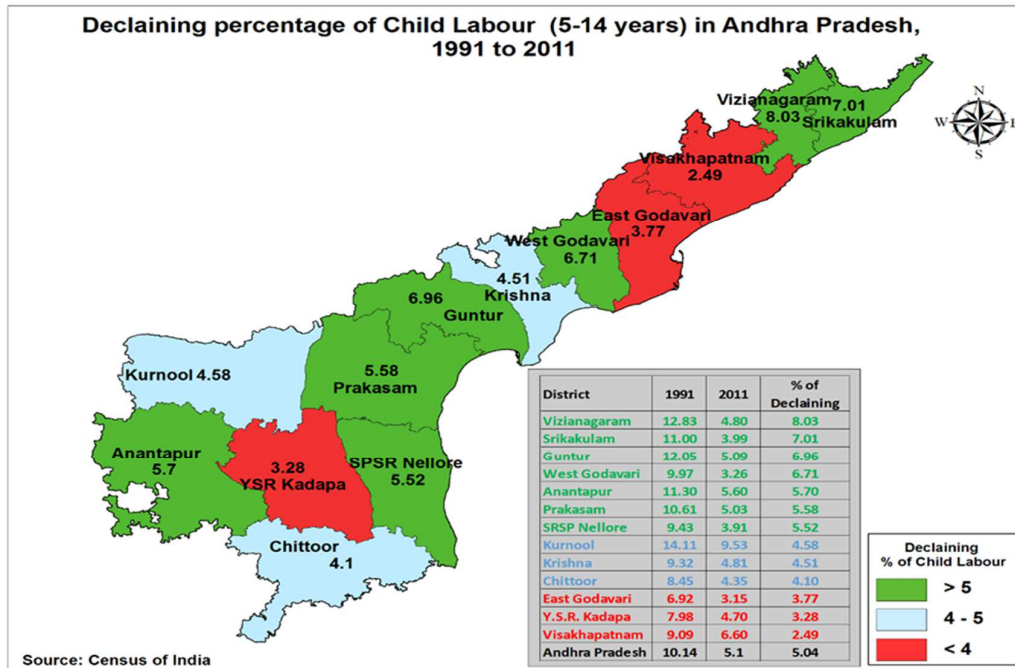
Figure 3 depicts, child labour to the total worker population in the state. The data reveals that again Kurnool (3.75%) district having top place. Visakhapatnam (2.4%) and Anantapur (1.91%) districts are also having high percentage of the child labour to the total worker population. The state average is 1.82% but it is very low when compare to the country average (3.25%). Out of 13 districts 10 districts are having below the state average. SPSR Nellore, Srikakulam, East Godavari and

West Godavari districts are having below 2% of the child labour to the total worker population. West Godavari (1.16%) has least child labour percentage to the total worker population. Rest of the 6 districts are having 1.5% to 1.8% of child labour to the total worker population.

Declining Percentage of Child Labour

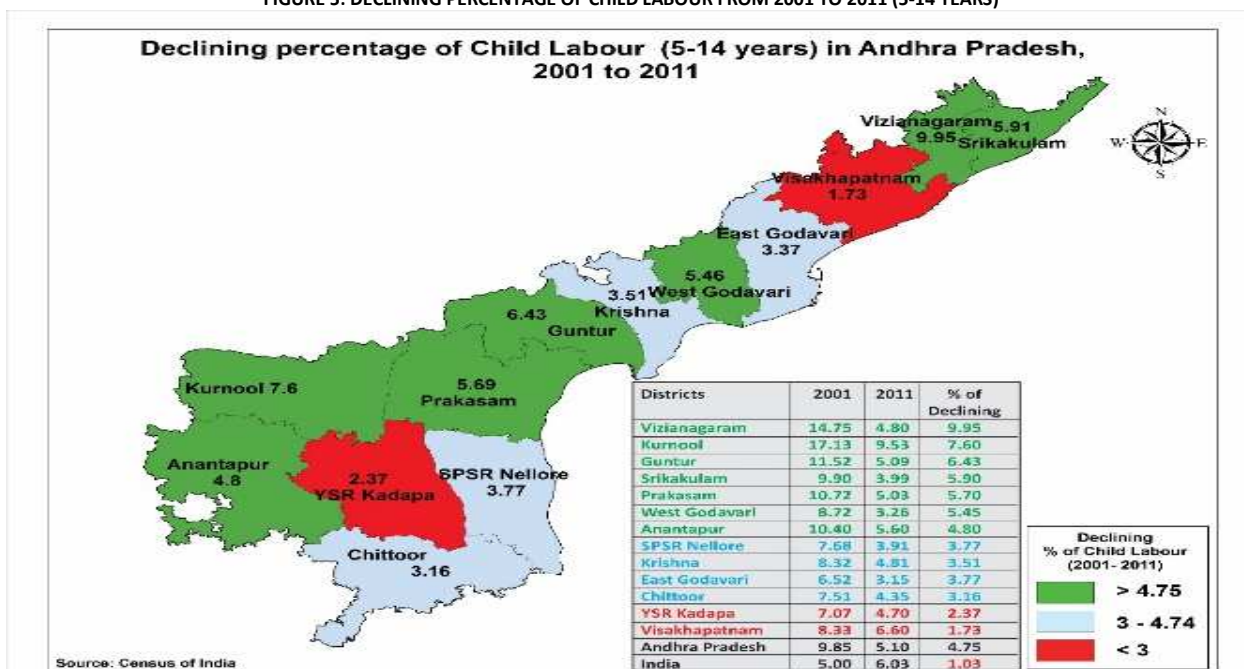
The recent figures shows the Child labour percentage in Andhra Pradesh is declining stage. Asper the Census data from 1991 to 2011, 5.04% of the child labour declined. In 1991 it was 10.14% but while the 2011 Census data showing 5.1% only. The figure 4 showing the % of the declining rate in all the districts of the Andhra Pradesh state. Past two decades Vizianagaram has registered highest declining rate with 8.09% followed by the Srikakulam district with 7.01%. Out of 13 districts, 7 districts are recorded above the state declining (5.04%) rate. Guntur, West Godavari, Anantapur, Prakasam and SPSR Nellore districts are showed 5 to 7% declining rate. Kurnool (4.58), Krishna (4.51) and Chittoor (4.1) districts are also in positive way in the context of the declining rate. Other three districts such as East Godavari (3.7), YSR Kadapa (3.2) and Visakhapatnam (2.49) districts are recorded lowest declining rate. Among the all districts Visakhapatnam noted least declining rate.

FIGURE 4: DECLINING PERCENTAGE OF CHILD LABOUR FROM 1991 TO 2011 (5-14 YEARS)



The figure 5 showing declining percentage of child labour from 2001 to 2011. State average of the child labour declining rate from 2001 to 2011 is 4.75% and it is less compare to 1991 to 2011 average of the state (5.04%). In last decade, the child labour population in Andhra Pradesh has declined at the rate of 4.75%. Vizianagaram district displayed highest declining rate at 10% and districts of Kurnool, Guntur, Srikakulam, Prakasam and West Godavari displayed more than 5% decline rate. SPSR Nellore, Krishna, East Godavari and Chittoor districts are registered 3 to 4% declining rate. Visakhapatnam district reported lowest decline at 1.73% followed by YSR Kadapa district at 2.37%. From 2001 to 2011, Country wise declining percentage of child labour increased from 5 to 6.03% but the Andhra Pradesh state has in declining stage (4.75%) in the same period.

FIGURE 5: DECLINING PERCENTAGE OF CHILD LABOUR FROM 2001 TO 2011 (5-14 YEARS)



RECOMMENDATIONS

- Innovative ways of ensuring retention among children in schools and in this context the need for provision of child friendly bridge courses and remedial teaching methodologies
- Set up and strengthen Block level and Village level child protection committees (BLCPC and VLCPC) as mandated under Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS) to track child labour in household/village/block level
- Appropriate budgetary allocations for children in need of care and protection and to ensure overall development of children
- Mapping of 'hot spots' and vulnerable pockets/ communities of the district through the District Needs Assessment (DNA) under ICPS and through surveys. Link the needy children with sponsorship support to eliminate and prevent child labour
- Notify guidelines and strengthen sponsorship support under ICPS to the vulnerable families to prevent children from being engaged in work and also to ensure that the child continues his/her education within their own families
- Putting adequate monitoring mechanisms in place for ensuring that children are not made to work in occupations/processes hazardous for their health in family based occupations or in the informal/unorganised sectors.
- Ensuring inter departmental coordination to prevent and eliminate child labour in Andhra Pradesh
- Creating mass awareness among various stakeholders including parents and teachers on the need for sending children to school and ensuring that children do not drop out of school.
- Reviving the NCLP schools culture as a transitory mechanism for mainstreaming working children into regular schools
- Monitoring the implementation of the MGNREGS scheme and plugging in loopholes in the implementation of this scheme.
- Working in close collaboration with civil society organisations and corporate houses as part of the Public Private Partnership (PPP) model

CONCLUSION

As per the Census-2011, the Kurnool district has highest child labour in the state followed by Visakhapatnam and Ananthapur. These three districts are having more than 5% of child labour to total child population. Overall Child labour percentage declined from 1991 to 2011 in the state. Vizianagaram district recorded highest declined rate were as Visakhapatnam has the lowest declined rate.

In order to reduce the number of child labour in the State, the government of Andhra Pradesh adopted a proactive approach on child labour, resulting in a number of welfare programmes and regulatory measures. The ILO AP State based project (Phase II) implemented during 2007 -2009 has facilitated drafting of State Action Plan for Elimination of Child Labour 2009. The implementation of SAP 2009 witnessed sea changes in the legislation with the emergence of RTE Act, 2009 that translated the constitutional right to education into a statute mandating the state to provide free and compulsory education to all children in the age of 6-14 years which required amendment of Child Labour (P&R) Act, to provide for total prohibition of employment of children up to the age of 14 years, which is in active process. In the changing socio-economic condition, the state government again revised the SAP and came up with an updated "State action plan for elimination of child labour 2013". The new State Action Plan (SAP) for prevention and elimination of child labour 2013 aims at total prohibition of employment of children up to the age of 14 years by December 2015. The SAP, 2013 approaches child labour with a wide definition that all children out of school are either child labour or potential child labour and the employers engaging the child labour as well as the public consuming the goods and services produced by the child labour abetting the offence, are employers. These measures included stricter punitive action against employers of children, stricter enforcement of child labour legislation etc. As a result of all these measures, there has been a substantial decline in child labour in the State past two decades.

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