

Body discomfort analysis among child labour working in various unorganized sectors

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ABSTRACT: *Child labour is a worldwide phenomenon but more focus is required on developing countries. It has been reported that about 250 million children of ages 4-15 are working in developing countries. Child labor is the employment of children when they are too young to work on wages or when they are employed for jobs unsuitable or unsafe. The majority of child labour is involved in dangerous or hazardous occupations such as agriculture, manufacture, construction, retail and marginal activities. The main aim of present study is to assess the postural discomfort in child labour involve in different unorganized sectors. These five sectors were identified where the prevalence of child labour is high i.e. construction site, brick kilns, Chikankari workers, workshop and bakeries/ restaurant. Exploratory research design was adopted to conduct the study on 150 sample comprised of 30 sample from each area by using multistage random sampling. Data were collected through interview schedule by using Nordic Musculoskeletal Questionnaire (developed by Dickinson C.E.K., A.F. Foster and S.J. Newman). Sample was selected by using Multi stage random sampling. The findings of study showed that Children who work in construction site, Workshop and Brick kilns they have high risk of body pain compared to Chikankari worker and workshop, because they do high intensity of hard work like lifting heavy loads, risk of shock, they use hard material.*

KEYWORD: *Child labour, unorganized sectors, postural discomfort.*

I. INTRODUCTION

Child labour has become a burning issue throughout the world in present era especially in developing countries. According to ILO, children or adolescents who participate in work that does not affect their health and personal development or interfere with their schooling, is not child labour; rather it may generally be regarded as being something positive. Such harmless work includes activities such as helping their parents around the home, assisting family or earning pocket money outside school hours and over holidays. Homer Floks, (Chairman of the United States Child Labour) the Factories Act of 1948 defining that “a person below the age of 14 years is to be regarded as a Committee, defined child labour “as work by child. Therefore, any physical labour undertaken children that interferes with their full physical by a child below 14 years either under compulsion development, their opportunities for desirable or voluntarily in an organized or unorganized minimum of education or their needed qualifies to be called as ‘child labour.’ Child labour became a global phenomenon. The prevalence of child labour is more or less today and is ‘harsh reality.

According to Folk (1987) child labor is any work by children that interferes with their full physical development, their opportunities for a desirable education or their needed reaction. Ahmed (1987) defined child labor as “any mental or physical work done by a child for earning wages”. Shah (1997) said that child labor as “all children under the age of fifteen (15) years in work or employment with the aim of earning a livelihood for themselves or for their families”. The ILO recognizes that child labor is a complex and often stubborn problem deeply entrenched in poverty and rises even due to inequitable economic systems. This problem cannot be eliminated at once, but needs long term approaches within each country. Work, environmental and occupational conditions have a negative impact on health and development of the children (CHSICL 1998). Child labour is more harmful if it interferes with school, recreation and rest.

Engagement in economic activities at an early age and participation especially in hazardous and exploitative work could have a devastating effect on children's physical and mental development and might also cause irreversible damage leading to permanent disability (1). Children engaged in such activities are deprived of their childhood and potential by the demands of long hours and exposure to physical, social or psychological stress (2-4). Inadequate pay, high responsibility and lack of access to education all contribute to undermining the dignity and self-esteem of children.

Children are involved in highly hazardous and heavy work which may lead to discomfort in various body parts. Hence the present study is taken up to assess the postural discomfort among child labour involved in various types of work.

II. OBJECTIVE

[1]. To assess the postural discomfort among child labour involved in various types of work.

III. METHODOLOGY

This study was conducted between the years July 2012 to May 2013 in Lucknow district. Purposive sampling was used to select the Lucknow district. The methodological approach to this study was based on primary data through face to face interview. This study included these five sectors construction site, brick kilns, Chikankari workers, workshop and bakeries/ restaurant where the prevalence of child labour is high. This cross-sectional study was conducted on 150 samples, 30 samples were selected from each area aged between 7-14 years by using multistage random sampling. Data were collected from December 2012 to February 2013. Research design of study was exploratory research. Demographic data of respondents was collected using self made questionnaire To assess their body discomfort Body Discomfort Scale developed by Dickinson C.E.K. Campion (1992), A.F. Foster and S.J. Newman) were used. Data was collected through face to face interview method. Statistical Package and System Software (SPSS) was used in the analysis. The Pearson Chi-square test and F-test were used to test the strength of association between various categorical variables. Simple frequency distribution and cross tabulation were used to facilitate presentation of the findings.

IV. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Table-1 Assessment of overall body discomfort of child labour in different unorganized sectors.

Place of Work						
Level of discomfort	Chikankari (N=30)	Workshop (N=30)	Brick Kilns (N=30)	Bakery/Restaurant (N=30)	Construction Site(N=30)	Total (N=150)
Low	7 (23.33)	---	---	---	4 (13.33)	11(7.33)
Average	16 (53.33)	17 (56.66)	17 (56.66)	9 (30)	23 (76.66)	82 (54.66)
High	7 (23.33)	13 (43.33)	13 (43.33)	21 (70)	3 (10)	57 (38)
Total	30 (100)	30 (100)	30 (100)	30 (100)	30 (100)	150 (100)

$$x^2 = 51.880^{**} (P=0.00)$$

The above table depicted highly significant differences in different body parts of children according to their working sector because of their working pattern and work pressure. Majority (76.66%) of worker in construction site have high percentage of body discomfort. The children working in Workshop (56.66%) and Brick kilns (56.66%) have equal percentage of average discomfort in body parts. Only 23.33 percent children who were working in Chikankari and 13.33 percent children working in construction site reported low body pain.

It is also noted that equal percentage of child labour in workshop and brick kilns (43.33) children suffering from high pain in different body parts. Majority (70%) of children working in bakery/restaurant have high body pain compared to other sectors. Table depicted that no one have low body pain in workshop, brick kilns and in bakery restaurant.

Children who work in bakery/restaurant (70%), workshop (43.33%) and brick kilns (43.33%) have high risk of body pain, because they do hard work like lifting heavy loads, risk of shock, use hard material etc. These places are hazardous for the children.

Table also depicted that overall 54.66 percent children who are working in different unorganized sectors reported average body discomfort in different body parts, 38 percent children have high body discomfort/pain and 7.33 percent children reported low body discomfort. It indicates that majority of the children suffer from average body discomfort and their differences was highly significant.

Table-2 Assessment of body discomfort of child labour in different unorganized sectors.

S.No	Statement	Place of Work										F-Test	P-value
		Chikankari		Workshop		Brick kilns		Bakery/ restaurant		Constructi on site			
		Mean	Sd	Mean	Sd.	Mean	Sd.	Mean	Sd.	Me an	Sd.		
1.	Neck	2.07	1.04	2.53	.507	2.53	.629	2.60	.531	2.60	.498	24.09**	0.00
2.	Shoulder	1.97	.850	2.23	.817	2.47	.629	1.77	.728	2.50	.682	5.44**	0.00
3.	Upper back	1.23	.858	2.07	.944	1.73	.691	1.43	.858	2.13	.860	6.38**	.000
4.	Upper arms	1.33	.959	1.63	.615	1.47	.730	0.93	.785	2.07	.828	8.23**	0.00
5.	Mid back	1.10	.885	1.67	.959	1.50	.682	1.20	.925	2.20	.484	8.77**	0.00
6.	Lower arms	1.27	.868	1.70	.915	1.53	.629	1.03	.615	1.93	.365	7.51**	0.00
7.	Lower back	1.47	.937	2.10	.923	1.70	.596	1.53	2.06	1.87	.571	1.48	.292
8.	Buttocks	1.23	.728	1.97	.809	1.67	.606	1.47	.681	2.00	.455	7.23**	0.00
9.	Thigh	1.70	.890	2.47	.571	2.67	.479	2.07	.980	2.13	.776	6.95**	0.00
10.	Leg	1.97	.952	2.37	.490	2.63	.490	1.97	.781	2.50	.682	6.27**	0.00

The above table explains the body discomfort of child labor's who work in different unorganized sectors of Lucknow district. Pain in legs was reported by majority ($\mu=2.67$) of children works in brick kilns children. Pain in upper arms was reported by child labour ($\mu=0.93$) in Bakery/restaurant. Table depicted that majority of children suffering from neck pain who work in Construction site and Bakery/restaurant have same mean score ($\mu=2.58$), children work in Brick kilns and workshop also have same mean value ($\mu=2.53$) and in Chikankari industry ($\mu=2.07$).

Majority of children in construction site ($\mu=2.50$), Brick kilns ($\mu=2.47$) and in workshop ($\mu=2.23$) suffer from high shoulder pain compared to Chikankari worker ($\mu=1.97$) and bakery/ restaurant ($\mu=1.77$). Construction site ($\mu=2.07$) children have more discomfort in upper arms compared Chikankari worker ($\mu=1.63$) and bakery/ restaurant ($\mu=0.93$), Brick kilns ($\mu=2.47$) and in workshop ($\mu=1.47$). Children who work in bakery/restaurant and Chikankari industry suffer from less postural body discomfort comparison to other sectors (workshop, brick kilns and construction site). Children who work in workshop, Brick kilns and construction site suffer severe body discomfort in neck, shoulder, upper back, upper arms, mid back, lower arms, buttocks, thigh and leg except lower back pain, because they work very hard at their work place.

Nikhil (2005) work related risks were observed, workplace that could potentially have adverse effect on health. These include chemicals, ergonomics and physical risks (lighting, heat, noise, and air-conditioning) in all work place. No attempts to manage these risks were being carried out in this work place. Chemical with toxic effects can results in health problem in the respiratory system. Using sharp tools and other factors (electrical tools, slipper and surfaces) may lead to accidents. Cadas reported the rate of these tools as 39.5 % and accident frequency as 26.9%. Eyes, nose, throat, musculoskeletal system problem and headache were very common in child labour. This rate was also found high (67%) in the study by Firat (2001).

V. CONCLUSION

From the findings of above study it can be concluded that child labour is harmful for children's development. Children who involve in work have poor educational and socio-economic status. The main cause of taking up employment is poverty and low educational attainment of children and parents pressure. Highly significant differences were found in the feeling of discomfort in different parts of body like neck, shoulder, thigh, leg and buttock. No significant differences in lower back pain were reported among child laours. Overall body discomfort in various body parts of children working in different unorganized sectors has highly significant difference, because of their working condition, work pressure and work type. Children who work in construction site, workshop and brick kilns have high risk of body discomfort, because they do work in sun light and do hard works like lifting heavy loads, risk of shock and they use hard material. Children working in brick kilns reported high pain in legs and thigh because they make brick in sitting position and in sunlight. Child labour a known evil has to be eradicated to protect the childhood of the children. As poor economic status of the family is found to be the main reason for sending the children to work, government has to make certain reforms

to support families economically. So parents are encouraged to send their children to school and relieve them from heavy work burden.

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