

**A Study of Impact of Economy on the Status of Children with Special Reference to  
Kurhani Block of Muzaffarpur District**

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**Abstract**

Child constitutes a major portion of population. The structure of Indian population is paramedical in which the lower age group is broader. It means the size of unproductive population is more than the size of productive population. Already Indian economy suffers from the problem of over population. Various social, economic and historical factors are responsible for supply of domestic child servant to meet the growing demand of domestic child labour in semi-feudal system like the social life of Bihar. Poverty stricken Muzaffarpur district and Kurhani Block in particular cannot do away with child labour with its antecedent's drawbacks and disabilities.

**Key Words:** Child, Literacy, Population, Economy, Slavery

In fact, India suffers from the problem of population explosion. As the explosion of bomb using chaos and confusion, it is the situation of population explosion that Julian Huxley had to say that man had become concern on the earth and Collin Clark feared. "Another Dark Age" that is total annihilation of mankind. The increasing number of babies has put the Indian economy in the situation the horse in Alice in the Wonderlands i.e. whatever the achieved during the plan period is devoured by the increasing number of new babies and children. Today Indian population is increasing by 17 million a year whereas the total population of Australia is 17 million. The annual increase in population requires additional 500000 teachers, 50000 schools, 5.7 million tons of food grains and 34 lakh new houses to live in. A new baby is becoming burdensome and unwanted. It is one of the reasons that abortion has been legalized ignoring the effect on social and ethical values of mankind. For planned family, child by choice and not by change

by design and not be accident is the motto of present society not only in India but in most of the Afro-Asian enveloping economies.

Gone are the days when children were considered blessings of God. A large number of children in a family of society is proving curse for the social well-being and proper development of human civilisation. Today everything is evaluated on economy considerations. Henceforth the most of the families, a new baby means further reduction in the standard of living which is already low. The maximum number of children is suffering from malnutrition in India. One can easily see the half-naked, half-fed starving and begging children roaming in the streets of India. Malthus is dead but Malthusian ghost is roaming visibly in the shape of suffering and tottering masses in general and children and women in particular in the streets of India.

In the present day society also child domestic servants lead the life of slavery

age. Various social, economic and historical factors are responsible for supply of domestic child servant to meet the growing demand of domestic child labour in semi-feudal system like the social life of Bihar. Poverty stricken Muzaffarpur district and Kurhani Block in particular cannot do away with child labour with its antecedent's drawbacks and disabilities. However, education has vital role in diminishing child labour system, since children are the future resources. Development of the physical and mental condition of the children is considered one of the most vital steps towards human resource development. India is struggling hard to win the battle against child labour poverty, illiteracy, meager resource, low income of the family. Large size of the family is the main cause behind the prevalence of the practice of child labour. Reliance on stagnant laws cannot stop the old evil in the Indian economy in general and in Kurhani Block in particular. Poverty alleviation and compulsory population control are the two weapons along with effective implementation of ICDC to meet the challenge effectively. According to ILO estimate 16 there are nearly 250 million child workers aged 5 to 14 in the world and this estimate does not take into account these who work with their families in domestic activities. The greatest numbers are in Asia (44.6 million) followed by Africa (23.6million). In India it is 17.367 million UNICEF cites figures ranging from 75 million to 90 million child labour under the age of 14 in India. Although the figures for the number of child labour varies, they are all significantly high when considering that the child activity rate for 1991 was 13.5% for males and 10.3% for female child labour. In India child labour (between the

ages of 5 - 14) is divided into nine industrial divisions.

1. Cultivation
2. Agricultural labour
3. Livestock, forestry, fishing and plantations
4. Mining and quarrying
5. Manufacturing, processing, surviving and repairs
6. Constructions
7. Trade and Communications
8. Transport storage and Communications
9. Other services

The percentage of population living below the poverty line is 26% poverty has obvious relationships with child labour. Studies have prospect proved a strong positive correlation between child labour and poverty. In relation to caste structure, Nangia Rao observed that a comparatively high proportion of scheduled caste child work at a younger age because of their family's poverty. The combination of poverty and the lack of social security network form the basis of the even harsher type of child labour or bonded child labour. Employment of child domestic servant is the modern form of slavery. Virtually they are living in soils in human conditions in the barbarous behaviour of their masters.

In fact, these child domestic servants mostly belong to lower castes. So, both economically and socially, they constitute the lowest strata of society. There is a positive correlation between poverty and the status of the caste. So, poverty, socially tower strata and illiteracy make a triangle within which child labour system is perpetuating in India. A major section of children are malnourished, no provision of school, no protection of social security or social welfare programmes and destined to

work as labourer for survival of the family at bare subsistence level.

In India in general and Kurhani Block in particular, under whose reference the present study has been completed, the position of children differs social class to class and also economic status of the family. In the upper caste family mostly male child goes to school, and enjoy other entitlement which the family can bestow. They are considered hope of the future. They are provided proper medical treatment and special attention is given for the sound health and sound mind of the child. But the female child is not given so much concentrated attention. With increasing demand for an educated bride, girl is also admitted to school but the proper educational equipments are rarely given mostly they are engaged in minor domestic works specially kitchen works in the family. Even in the medical treatment discrimination is observed. In most of the families, male child when sick is treated by an allopath physician whereas a girl child is treated by Homeopathic or Ayurvedic method.

It was also observed during the survey that children of the families below the poverty line suffer from inferiority complex and feel humiliated in participation in community games. Even then, 75% children were found eager for play and games unfortunately most of the Anganwadi centre lacked adequate items of games and play to fulfill the eagerness of children.

Now we may, further measure to study the nature of children by statistical method using the data from the families surveyed.

Sl. No. Percentage of Children

Sl. No.	1	2	3	4	5
Analysis			Total		
1.	13	28			I
2.	15	45			II
3.	17	32	57		III
4.	25	42	72		IV
5.	30	50			V

$$N = 5 \quad \langle x = 100$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Medium} &= \text{Value of } N + 1 \text{ the item } 2 \\ &= \text{Value of } 5 + 1 \text{ the item} \\ &= \text{Value } 3^{\text{rd}} \text{ item} \\ &= 17 \end{aligned}$$

Mode = By group Analysis it is clear that frequency of 25 is highest mode is 25

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Mean } (X) &= \frac{\sum Ex}{N} = \frac{100}{5} = 20 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Now Skewness} &= \frac{x-z}{N} \\ &= \frac{20-25}{5} \\ &= -1 \end{aligned}$$

Here, it is clear that the distribution is not symmetrical. Its co-efficient of skewness is negative but amount is very low. The relation between non-formal education social health of the children calculated from calculation it has come to the point that the distribution is summericial. It means the socially strong families have benefit from the scheme. It is also clear from the statistical analysis that the programme was meant for SC children but the real beneficiaries are upper castes. Even after 58 years of independence; the SC children are extremely backward section of the society is deprived of the benefits of education.

During the survey, it also became clear that the attitude of 93% mothers was traditional and conservative. The reason is illiteracy and ignorance. Such other considerations are spending money on the education of children is the useless and

waste. Consequently girls could not get encouragement to go to school to study.

The most challenging socio-economic and political issue of India is to bring scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and socially and educationally backward classes and other weaker section of the society into main stream of national development. These sections have been deprived of their social and economic claims since long. Hence, it is necessary to provide them special opportunity to bring in the main stream of national life. The

maximum number of crippled, blind, handicapped sick are in scheduled caste, scheduled tribe, socially and education backward classes and below the poverty line families.

#### **Conclusion:**

In this way we see also that the women and the child development programmes have been implemented in a defective manner particularly in the context of the Kurhani Block. It is the greatest challenge to us. We shall have to solve it.

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