

A statistical analysis of child labour in india during the period of 2004-2009

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ABSTRACT: In a developing economy like India, people talk about the prospects of industrialisation on employment and education. But, somehow we miss those who have been deprived of all the benefits due to some reason or another. In this paper, we have tried to understand the problem of child labour and the factors which gives rise to this problem. For this, we have done some literature survey and also used statistical data to address the problem to a certain extent. We have used MS-Excel & SPSS to perform the statistical analysis.

Keywords: Labour; Diseases; Child education; Poverty; Urbanisation; Child health

INTRODUCTION

Child labour is not child work. Child work can be beneficial and can enhance a child's physical, Mental, spiritual, moral or social development without interfering with schooling, recreation and rest. ² Helping parents in their household activities and business after school in their free time also contributes positively to the development of the child. When such work is truly part of the socialization process and a means of transmitting skills from parents to child, it is not Child labour. Through such work children can increase their status as family members and Citizens and gain confidence and self-esteem. Child labour, however, is the opposite of child work. Child labour hampers the normal Physical, intellectual, emotional and moral development of a child. Children who are in the Growing process can permanently distort or disable their bodies when they carry heavy loads Or are forced to adopt unnatural positions at work for long hours. Children are less resistant To diseases and suffer more readily from chemical hazards and radiation than adults.

1. CHILD LABOUR

1. 1 CHILD LABOUR IN INDIA

The position of India in terms of child labour is not an appreciable one; with a credible estimates ranging from 60 to 115 million, India has the largest number of working children in the world. Whether they are sweating in the heat of stone quarries, working in the fields 16 hours a day, picking rags in the city streets, or hidden away as domestic servants, these children endure miserable and

difficult lives. They earn little and are made to work more. They struggle to make enough to eat and perhaps to help feed their families as well.¹³

They do not go to school. Many of them have been working since the age of four or five, and by the time they attain adulthood they may be irrevocably sick and deformed they will certainly be exhausted, and in this way they are debarred from enjoying the basic human rights, which are essential for the advancement of one's personality. ²¹According to a 2001 census, an estimated 185,595 children are employed as domestic help and in small roadside eateries. Most child domestic workers in India are trafficked by placement agencies operating in states like Orissa, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. ²⁰India has announced a National Policy of Child Labour as early as 1987, and was probably the first among the developing countries to have such a progressive policy¹². Through a notification dated May 26, 1993, the working conditions of children have been regulated in all employment not prohibited under the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986. Further, following up on a preliminary notification issued on October 5, 1993, the government has also prohibited employment of children in occupations such as abattoirs/slaughter houses, printing, cashew de-scaling and processing, and soldering.⁸

According to the statistics given by Indian government there are 20 million child labourers in the country, while other agencies claim that it is 50 million. ⁹ According to the statistics given by ILO and other official agencies 73 million children between 10 to 14 years of age reemployed in economic activities all over the world. The figure translates into 13.2 of all children between 10 to 14 being subjected to child labour..¹⁰ The child labour is prevalent at a large scale in the country. In Punjab it is found in hotels, restaurant, tea-stalls, rag collecting as domestic help in brick kilns etc. for which the authorities ,parents ,educationist, police and employers or responsible. ¹¹

1.2 CHILD LABOUR IN DIFFERENT AREAS

a. Diamond industry

Nearly, two-third of child labour in the diamond industry (62%) lives in rented house. Three-fourth of the household of child labour in the diamond industry (75.40 %) pays more than Rs.301/- as monthly rent.64.50 per cent of the households of child labor in the diamond industry have two rooms in their houses. 95.50 per cent of the households in the diamond industry have electricity facility in their houses. More than one half of the households in the diamond industry (55.75 %) do not have protected water supply tap connection in their houses. ²² The ILO report of 1999 claims the causes for child labour also include such parents who force their children to work since they consider education as highly expensive, with no real addition to value and artisan work in diamond industry as a source of continuous remuneration. ¹

b. Fireworks manufacturing

A study conducted on Sivakasi revealed the realities of the fireworks industry where the youngest child found to work was around 3and1/2 years. Further investigations revealed that number of girls outnumbered the number of boys in the ratio of 3:1.In match industries, they work in filling frames, making boxes, counting, pasting labels etc, while in the fireworks industry they work in dying outer paper, make small crackers, roll gunpowder and packing. They had a work schedule of almost 12 hours, and young children between 4 to 10 years earned Rs. 2 per day and little older ones use to get

Rs 6 to 7 per day.¹⁴ Moreover, the increase in demand of fireworks annually in India has sparked infusion of more children in this industry.

c. Silk manufacture .

Silk Industry in India employs bonded child labours in areas such as Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu. Children are involved in activities such as boiling cocoons, hauling baskets of mulberry leaves, and embroidering saris. According to report focuses on silk thread production and sari weaving because these are the stages most reliant on bonded children. These children work twelve or more hours a day, six and a half or seven days a week, under conditions of physical and verbal abuse. They suffer injuries from fumes, machinery, sharp threads, boiling water, and dead worms. Girls face particular abuses, including sexual abuse by employers.¹⁵ Children often work for weeks and they are even not aware about the money earned by them since it goes straight to their parents without their knowledge or consent.

d. Domestic labour

Child domestic labour (CDL) is culturally accepted in India and widely accepted as a general norm. Even highly educated people in India consider such practices as normal and considerable. CDL applies to those children who work for employer or third party (on behalf of agencies). According to International Labour Organization (ILO), Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention (No. 182), 1999, where child domestic labour undergoes exploitation and includes child trafficking, child slavery, or practices similar to slavery, or work which, by its nature or the circumstances in which it is carried out, is hazardous and likely to harm the health, safety, or morals of the child, it constitutes a worst form of child labour.¹⁶ On October 16, 2006 two important notifications to the existing Child Labour Prohibition (And Regulation) Act 1986 came into effect which banned the employment of children below the age of 14 as domestic servants and in the hospitality trade such as in roadside-highways dhabas, restaurants, hotels, motels and spas. But, the problem is way away from being eradicated. Moreover, children from poor states voluntarily or involuntarily continue to migrate to bigger cities in search of better lives & earning and most probably end up on the barrels of exploitation

e. Coal mining

According to the Impulse NGO Network, in a report released on 19 March 2010, an estimated 70,000 Nepalese and Bangladeshi children work as bonded labourers in the coal mines of Jaintia hills district in Meghalaya (north-eastern India). The children are being bought from their parents and forced to work in narrow and crude holes dug in the hills of Meghalaya. The medical facilities are almost negligible and accidents are rampant and chances of survival are almost nil since local availability is limited to aspirin and bandages.¹⁷ Even, in places like West Bengal, children are employed to break down big coal lumps into smaller pieces that are intended to be sold in local markets.

f. Rag Picking

India's growing urbanisation culture has led to increase in quantity of wastes deposited over weeks. These rag wastes lead to the growth of rag-pickers who don't require any formal or technical skills to pick them from garbage and segregate recyclable ones from the rest and cater them to junkshops or middlemen who further send them for recycling. It employs mostly female children. Since, most of them are migrants from poor states, they don't have identity cards, which further hinders them from the medical facilities from govt. Hospitals.¹⁸ This work is considered as most dehumanizing and dangerous since they run risks of being exposed to chemicals, needles, syringes, used condoms, saline bottles, soiled gloves and other hospital wastes.

g. Prostitution

According to UNICEF, trafficking of children continues to be a serious problem in third world countries like India. Some current studies reveal that more than 40 per cent of women sex workers enter into prostitution before the age of 18 years. Moreover, for children who have been trafficked and rescued, opportunities for rehabilitation remains scarce and reintegration process arduous.¹⁹ Even, the growth of metropolitan cities has led to swift inflow of children from smaller cities from places such as Bihar, Jharkhand, U.P, & north-eastern states and are being trafficked into prostitution.

1.3 HAZARDS OF CHILD LABOUR

Hazardous child labour³ is defined by Article 3 (d) of ILO Convention concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour, 1999 (No. 182) as:

(d) work which, by its nature or the circumstances in which it is carried out, is likely to harm the health, safety or morals of children.

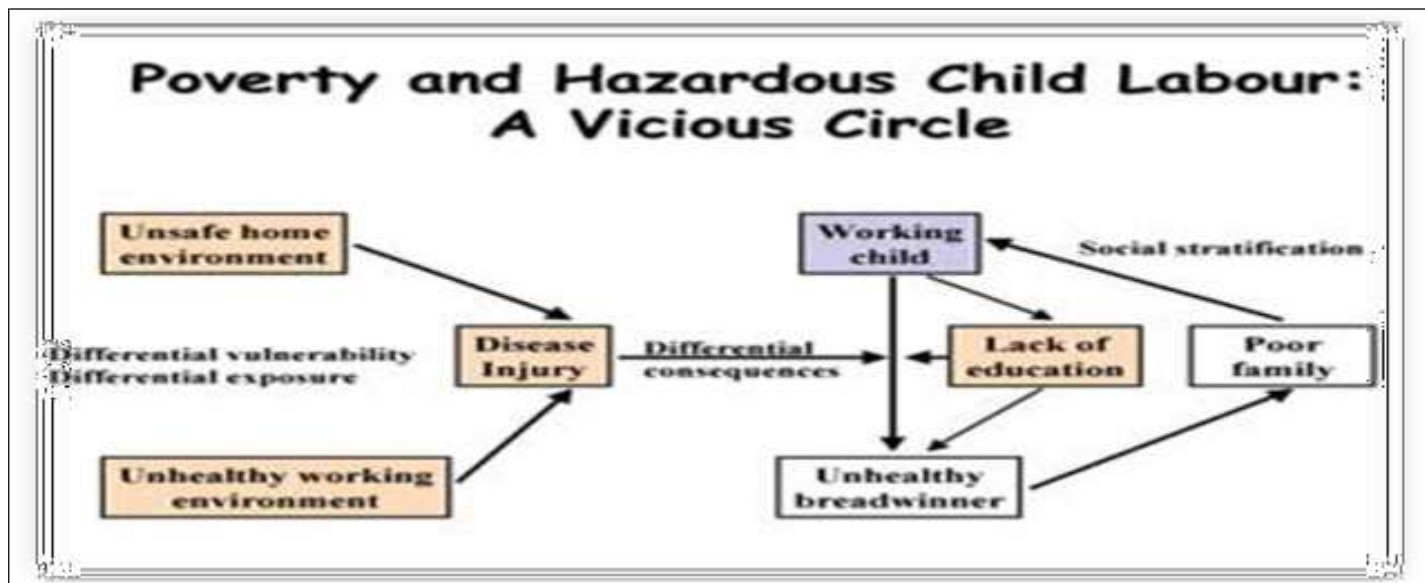


Figure 1. Potential Health Hazards for Child Labour
 (Source: <http://www.who.int/ceh/risks/labour/en/index.html>)

Some of the potential hazards as mentioned by ILO (International Labour Organization, may 2002) ⁴

• Air pollution

Children working in factories such as glass manufacturing, minerals excavations, brick laying and other manufacturing units are exposed to high levels of carbon dioxide, sulphate & lead particles emitted from machinery’s of production. Also, indoor air pollutants caused due to cooking & burning of biomass fuels such as agricultural residues, dung, straw, wood or coal causes acute lower respiratory infections in children under five, and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and lung cancer & related diseases. ⁵

- **Lack of water and inadequate sanitation**

Availability of safe drinking water is a cause of concern for majority of the manufacturing industries around India. Specially, when it comes to children the non availability of drinking water. There are also cases where inefficient preservation of water leads to toxication of ground water with lead, arsenic, fluoride. Lead & arsenic may lead to respiratory diseases while fluoride leads to fluorosis (teeth & bones deficiencies). In Bangladesh and India (West Bengal), high concentrations of arsenic have been found in tube wells and arsenicosis has become widespread. ⁶

- **Disease vectors**

The various diseases that affect the child during their work includes rapid skeletal growth, Development of organs and tissues, Greater risk of hearing loss, Developing ability to assess risks, Greater need for food and rest, Higher chemical absorption rates Smaller size (non-proportionate height & weight i.e. age wise), Lower heat tolerance. Some psychological effects include long hours of work on a regular basis which can harm children's social and educational development. Some of the unconditional worst forms of child labour (e.g., slavery, soldiering, prostitution, drug trafficking) may render trauma effects, including longer term health and socioeconomic effects. ⁷

- **Chemical hazards**

Exposure to dangerous chemicals such as mercury, lead in firecrackers industry may pose serious respiratory problems for children involved in long term working hours. Also, non-regularisation of daily work periods also leads to higher levels of toxic coming into contact with body parts such as eyes, nose, ears, tongue and other body systems which causes long term damage to the children involved. Also, lack of precautions, non-availability of hand gloves, face mask, body gear and metallic shoes makes them vulnerable to toxic and non-biodegradable wastes such as plastic in various forms of usage.

- **Accidents and injuries**

Children in India working at places such as dangerous manufacturing units are mostly unskilled and labour-intensive jobs may be too risky for them to operate. The training and supervision provided to them may be inadequate and people employing them are quite in a hurry to get work instead of taking measures to protect them. Many such works may be illegal, inappropriate and may not be permissible to law Also, lesser experience at work may potentially increase the risk of accidents due to unhygienic conditions, ill-managed machines and lack of proper spacing inside the workplace. Also, First-aids and fire proof cylinders are rarely available in most of the places. ⁷

2. RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

The research objectives primarily concerns on the following:

- To identify the various causes of child labour in india.
- To locate the places where efforts have been made to reduce child labour during 2004-2009.
- To suggest possible measures to overcome existing & rising challenges which act as hurdles in child development.

3. HYPOTHESIS

We have three possible hypotheses either of which can be true:

- Null hypothesis (h_0): there has been a significant reduction in child labour during the period 2004-2009.
- Alternate hypothesis (h_1): there has been no change in child labour growth during the period 2004-2009.
- Alternate hypothesis (h_2): there has been a significant increase in child labour during the period 2004-2009.

4. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

In this research paper, we have used a combination of literature studies along with excel data. We have used Microsoft excel & SPSS to find different measurements related to child labour.

5. DATA COLLECTION

The excel data has been collected from World Bank dataset repository (http://api.worldbank.org/datafiles/ind_country_metadata_en_excel.xls) & other literature data have been collected from various online sources.

6. DATA ANALYSIS

6.1 DESCRIPTIVE STATISTICS

Table 1. Descriptive statistics

RURAL	Valid N	Mean	Minimum	Maximum	Std.Dev.
RURAL STATES	22				
YEAR 2004	22	667.9545	0.0000	7445.000	1564.622
YEAR 2009 (Observed)	22	277.0636	1.1820	3057.998	667.770
Expected decrease from 2004 to 2009 @ 10 % per year	22	394.4205	0.0000	4396.198	923.894
URBAN	Valid N	Mean	Minimum	Maximum	Std.Dev.
URBAN STATES	22				
YEAR 2004	22	135.6364	1	1525	326.6356
YEAR 2009	22	174.6805	0	1925.873	415.3279
Expected decrease from 2004 to 2009 @ 10 % per year	22	80.0919	0.5905	900.497	192.8751

There were 21 states that have been considered namely Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chattisgarh, Delhi, Goa Gujrat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal, West Bengal & all states combined.

6.2 DECREASE PATTERN IN CHILD LABOUR

6.2.1 All States

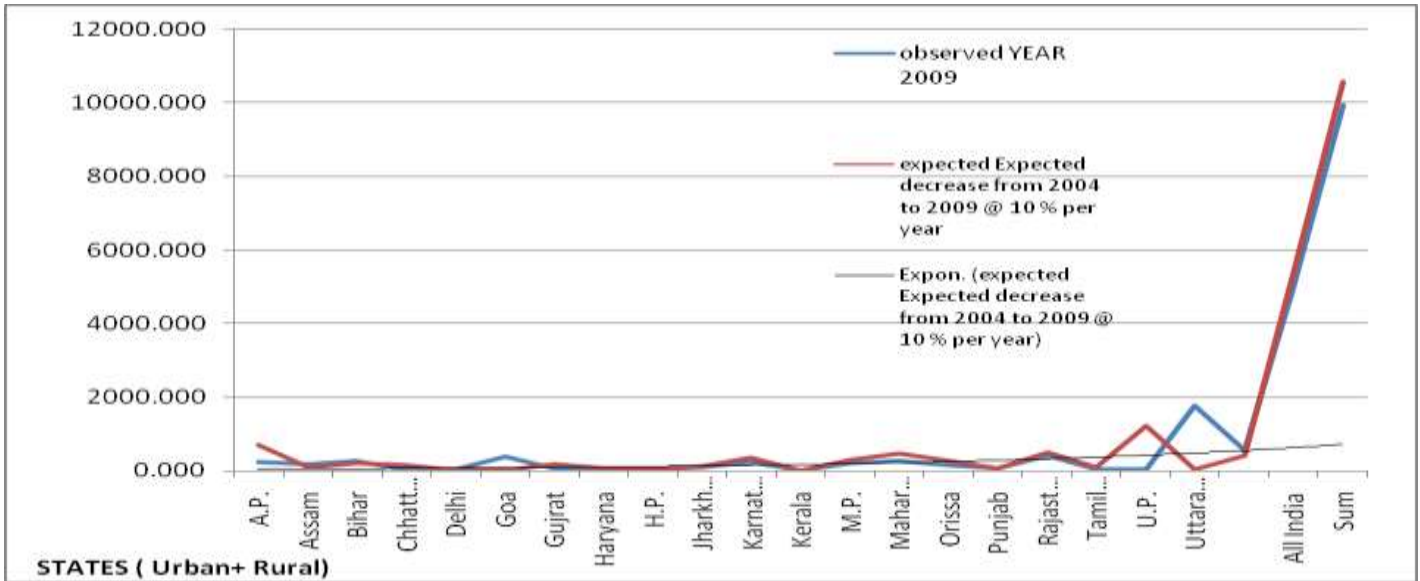


Figure 2. Comparison of expected decrease from 2004 to 2009 with actual decrease in year 2009

We have considered expected decrease (10 % per year), for arriving at Expected decrease from 2004 to 2009, and compared it with actual data for all the states (urban & rural inclusive). Difference was recorded for all the 21 states, and major differences were found in Andhra Pradesh(-474.51), Goa (387.14),U.P (-1197.31), Uttaranchal(1737.54).This means that other states performed more or less in achieving decrease in child labour. So, Andhra Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh performed much better in controlling the problem child labour.

6.2.2 URBAN STATES

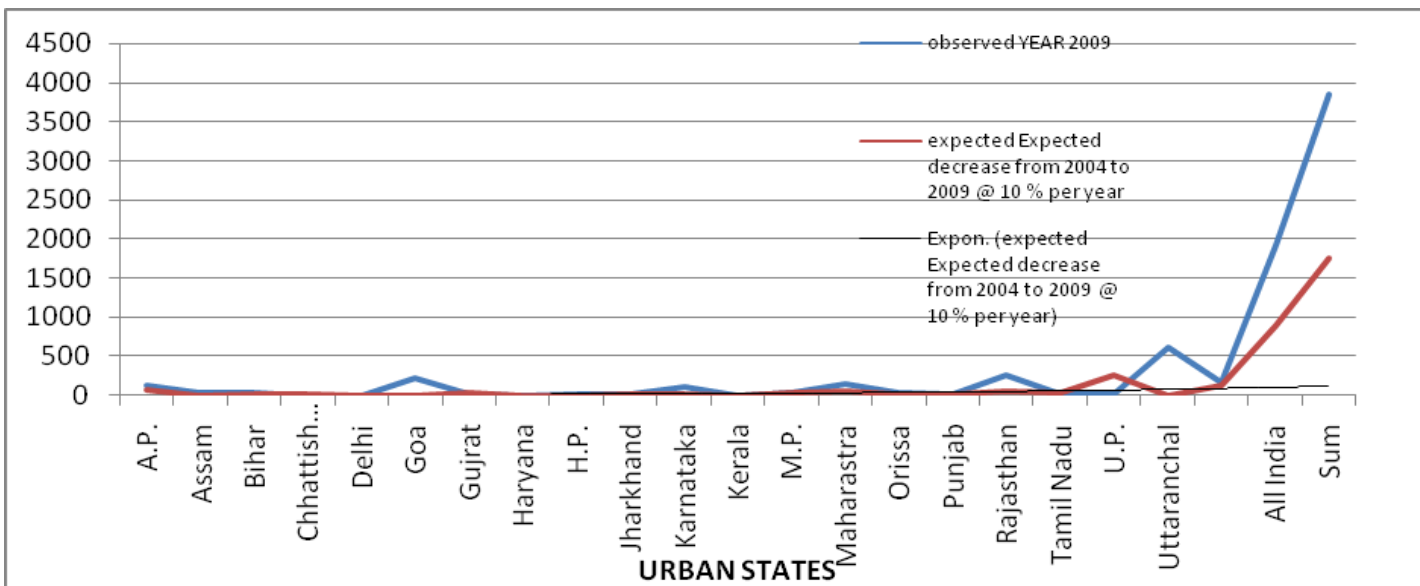


Figure 3. Comparison of expected decrease from 2004 to 2009 with actual decrease in year 2009 in Urban states

In urban areas of the 21 states, major difference was found at Goa(223.07), Karnataka(91.69), Maharashtra(90.47),Rajasthan(204.74), Uttaranchal (613.48). Uttar Pradesh was found to be more successful in controlling child labour with (-261.69).

6.2.3 RURAL STATES

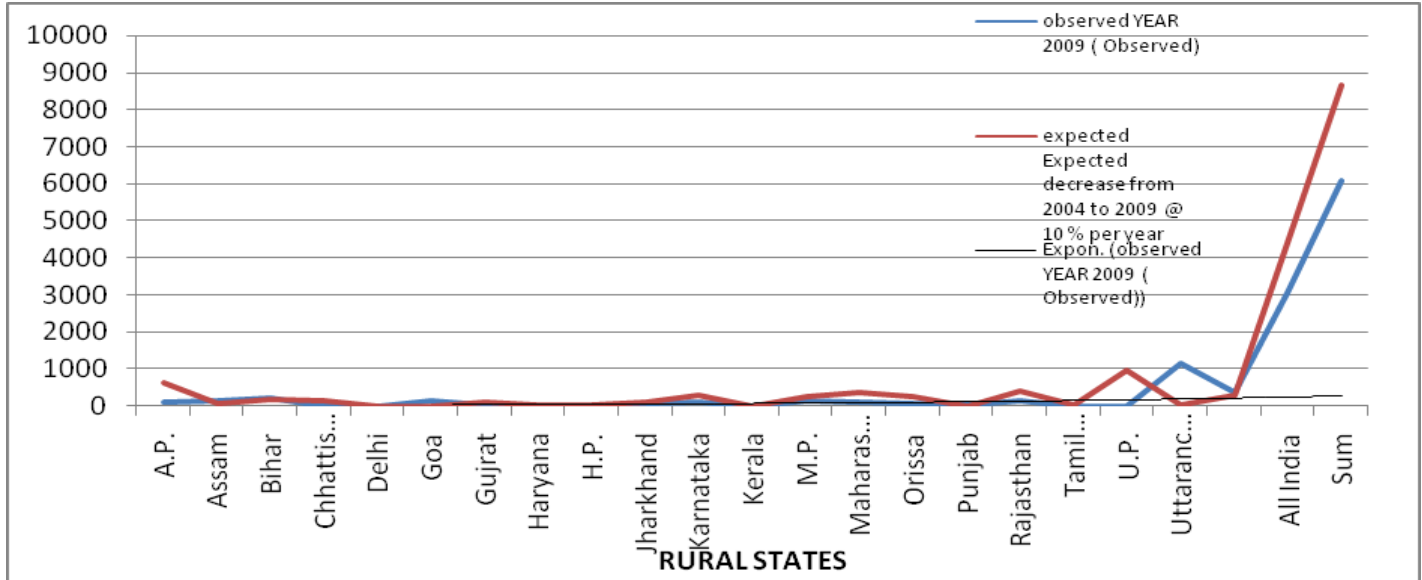


Figure 4. Comparison of expected decrease from 2004 to 2009 with actual decrease in year 2009 in rural states of India

In rural states, Difference was recorded in Uttaranchal(1125.28) while Andhra Pradesh (-938.56) performed very well in rural areas.

6.3 CHILD IN EMPLOYMENT

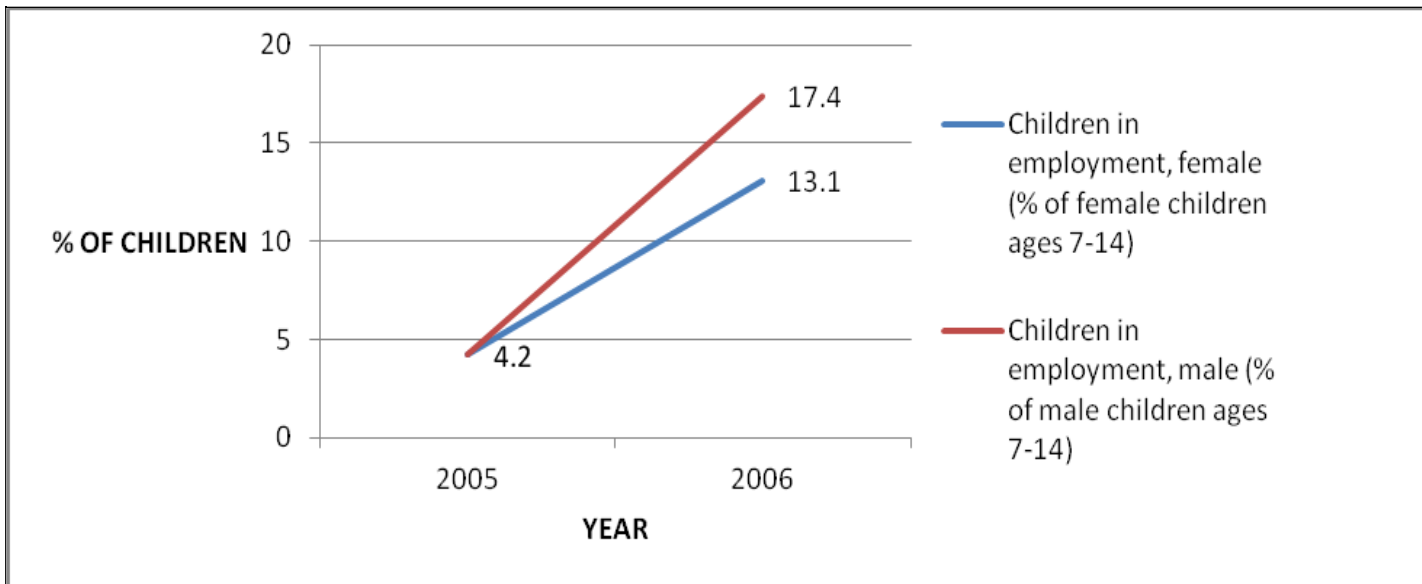


Figure 5. Percentage of children employed in time period of 2005 to 2006.

The child employed in india was around 4.2 % in the year 200 for both male and female.in the year 2005 , the number of female children increased to 17.4 % whereas the number of male children employed was around 13.1%.therefore, more female children were employed during 2005-2006.

6.4 CHILD WORKING IN MANUFACTURING SECTOR

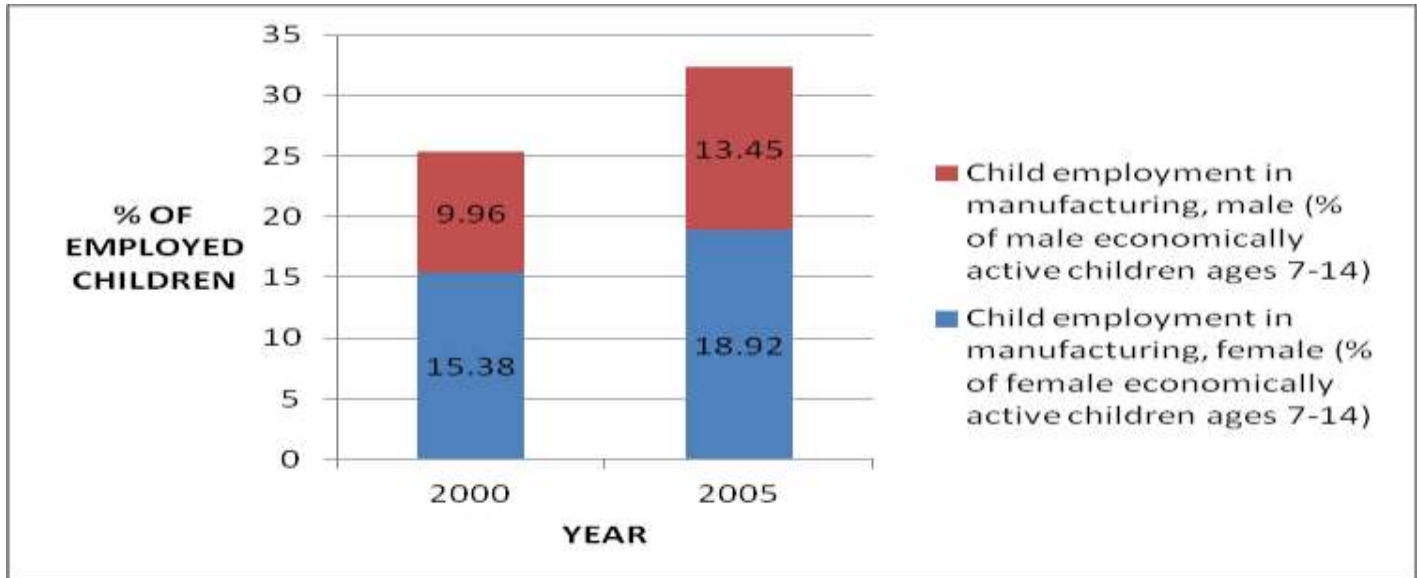


Figure 6. Percentage of children employed in manufacturing sector in time period of 2000 to 2005

The number of female child (7-14 yrs) working in manufacturing sector had gone up from 15.38 % to 18.92% which means increase in 3.54 % in manufacturing sectors employabilty of children.Similarly, the number of male children (7-14 yrs) in year 2000 was 9.96 %, and increased to 13.45 % in the year 2005 i.e an addition of 3.49%.

6.5 CHILD EMPLOYMENT IN SERVICE SECTOR

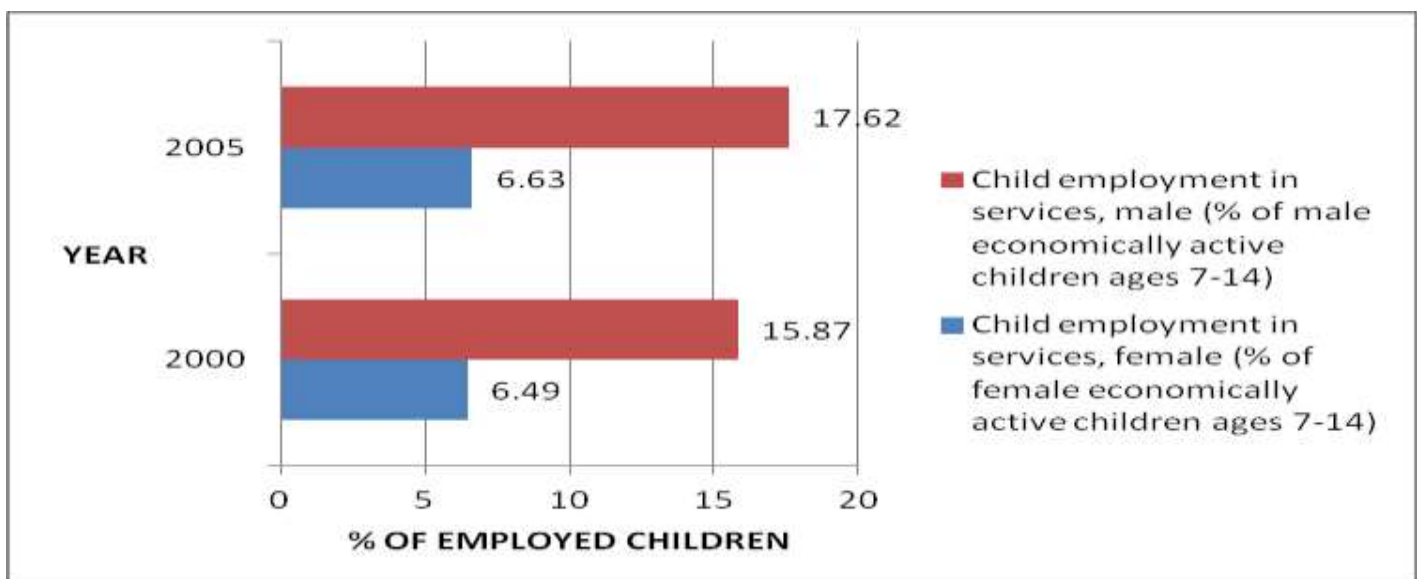


Figure 7. Percentage of children employed in service sector in time period of 2000 to 2005

The number of female child (7-14 yrs) working in service sector had gone up from 6.49 % to 6.63% which means increase in 0.14% in service sectors employability of children. Similarly, the number of male children (7-14 yrs) employed in service sector, in the year 2000 was 15.87 %, and increased to 17.62 % in the year 2005 i.e an addition of 1.75%.

7. RESEARCH FINDINGS

1. Child labour is a growing problem which has several factors attached such as poverty, unemployment, growing population and lack of education.
2. States such as Andhra Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh performed much better than others when urban and rural areas were cumulatively taken together. They had managed to bring down the child labour to much below expected levels (of 10 % per year for 5 years) i.e. 2004-2005 to 2009-2010).
3. Among urban states, Uttar Pradesh was more successful bringing down child labour below expected levels.
4. Among the 21 rural states, Andhra Pradesh performed very well in reducing child labour @ 10% per year for 5 years.
5. Child employment Between the age group (7-14) years has increased more in case of female children (2005-2006) rather than male children which maybe due higher female birth rates among the poor or female child migration to urban areas.
6. In manufacturing sector, the total number of children employed increased from 25.34 % (male- 9.96%,female-15.38 %) in the year 2000 to 32.37 % (male- 13.45 % , female- 18.92%) in the year 2005.
7. In service sector, the total number of children employed increased from 22.36% (male- 6.49%, female-15.87 %) in the year 2000 to 24.25 % (male- 6.63 % , female- 17.62%) in the year 2005.

8. CONCLUSION

From the above discussions, we can conclude that the number of children working has increased during the period 2004 to 2009. The figures have been rising at a considerable rate. Only few states have done a little to control it. Although, a long list of legislatures, rules & acts have been passed to control the problem, it still miles away from being actually solved. Therefore, our alternate hypothesis (h_2) is true & other two (h_0) & (h_1) alternative hypothesis becomes false.

9. SUGGESTIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

Some of the suggestions for controlling the increasing rate of child labour are:

1. The government should allocate more funds for generating awareness among poor people about the children's future.
2. The governments, both central and states should work along with NGO's to collectively & honestly implement the needed steps to uncover & eradicate the problem of child labour.
3. Primary education should be prioritised and should be made free for all children in rural areas as well as urban areas. It is much easier to monitor children in schools rather than in factories.
4. Core Labour standards should be set up for all the countries around the world. An industry, in one country should have same work standards as similar industries in all parts of the world.
5. Trade Unions should be strengthened so that they can bargain for proper wages and they shall stop sending their children to work.
6. Proper education & training given to women may enlighten them and they can understand the ill effects of sending children, specially female children to work.
7. More corporate should come forward to develop common forums where Social responsibility related work can be prioritized and coordinated at required levels.
8. Special awareness campaigns should be undertaken specially in slums & rural areas to encourage dwellers to control population & fertility issues.
9. Community should be made aware on sponsoring child through NGO's where funds donated could help deprived children to live & get what a child deserves.
10. Child labour eradication may take time, given each year addition to the child population. This should be understood as an activity of prime concern.

11. FUTURE WORK

We know that our present work is limited in finding the growth rate of the child labour and the factors associated have also been introspected to a certain extent. In our future course of work, we shall try to go into much depth of the underlying causes and relate them with the present problem of concern.

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