

CHILD LABOUR OF FIREWORKS INDUSTRY IN WEST BENGAL: HAZARDOUS FIELD, HEALTH AND EDUCATION

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Abstract: India has a large number of child workers, but unfortunately, there is hardly any research done or policies framed for their occupational safety in working field, health and education. The relationships between child labour and occupational safety, health with education are complex. They can be direct and indirect, static and dynamic, positive and negative, causal and spurious. Documented reports show the impact on health viz. poverty related (e.g. Malnutrition, fatigue, anemia etc.), psychological effects and distress of child labour, occupational cancers, neurotoxicity, injuries, exposures to adverse physical factors, skin ailments etc. Child labour in fireworks industry are hidden specially in west Bengal because no specific rule present for protected them. No infrastructure or instrument present in there working place which is house based and No safety tools present there. Education is the birth rights of children but they are deprived. Government is not conscious for protect those child labour.

Key words: child labour, occupational safety, health, education.

1. INTRODUCTION

The Census 2011 data for children in labour, states that 6.5 million children in India in the age group of 5 to 14 years work in agriculture and household industries. This makes a staggering 64.1% of child labourers in this age group. CRY's (Child Rights and You) on ground experience reveals that a large number of children engaged in these occupations are working with their families, thus exempting them from the proposed ban. Allowing children to work in family enterprises is likely to have far reaching implications affecting not only their education and learning outcomes but also their health and overall development.

According to NCLP (National Child Labour Project), a child labour can be differentiated from an adult worker on the ground of age. Usually a child worker is one below the age of 17 years who is engaged in any productive activity whether paid or unpaid with the parents, family or outside. There are two kinds of child labour. The first is the traditional mode of children assisting their parents, either in the family production unit, which is often subsistence and the second is work done by children outside the family for remuneration either in real terms or in cash to prop up the family income.

According to UNICEF (United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund) Child labour means employment of children in gainful occupations, which are injurious to their physical, mental moral and social development. The child labour is, at times, used as a synonym for 'employed child' or working child. But a working child is one who subjects himself or herself to work, unpaid or free, instead of being at the school at tender and formative stage of his or her life. Some experts say that the work that does not detract children from other essential activities such as leisure, play and education is not child labour. Child labour therefore, is the work that involves some degree of exploitation. Physical, mental, economic that impairs the health and development of children.

1.1. CHILD LABOUR

According to the International Labour Organization (ILO), "child labour is where children are deprived of their childhood because they are forced to work long hours for little or no money, deprived of education and in conditions harmful to their mental and physical development."

1.2. OCCUPATIONAL SAFTY

Operational Safety is the integrated approach to identifying and managing safety risk in the operational environment and defining and implementing changes that can affect system safety, while ensuring safety risks arising from human factors are minimized.

1.3. HEALTH

According to the World Health Organization (WHO) (6/6/2013), Health encompasses three dimensions: It is a complete state of physical, mental, and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity. In this research, the researcher measure information about health, type of injured, drug addiction of child labour.

1.4. EDUCATION

In this research, education mean dropout from school, interest in education, available school facility, etc. has been considered.

2. OBJECTIVES:

- To find out the socio-economic status of the child labour in Fireworks Industry.
- To study the working condition of child labour in Fireworks Industry.
- To find out the Physical impact of the child labour in Fireworks Industry.
- To study the label of education of child labour in Fireworks Industry.

3. POPULATION AND SAMPLE:

All child labour in Fireworks Industry in west Bengal was taken as population of the study. A large number of child labour works in fireworks field. According to **West Bengal pollution control board (WBPCB)** in this field approximate 40% labour are child whom age are 10-17 years. In West Bengal fireworks industry present in 7 places. Which are- 1) Champahati (Haral), South 24 Parganas, 2) Nungi, Maheshtala, South 24 Parganas, 3) Singrah, Haturia, Howrah, 4) Majherchar, Nadia, 5) Amdanga, North 24 Parganas, 6) Balia, Murshidabad, 7) Leusipokur, Darjeeling.

Champahati and Nungi, is two villages in South 24 Parganas district are a key hub of fireworks manufacturing in West Bengal. Ahead of Diwali and Kali puja, thousands throng to Champahati and Nungi to buy high-quality firecrackers available for sale at dirt cheap rates. (According to Q_iÇf_iq_jçV q_is_im B-a_ip h_iS£ hÉ_jhp_iu£ pçjçæa)

The methodology of the present study is Descriptive Survey type research. Population of the study is all type of child labour in fireworks industry in west Bengal. But for this study the sample is collect from 50 fireworks worker from Champahati (Haral), which is located in Baruiipur, South 24 Parganas. Their age between 10-17 years old. In this research researcher used Purposive Sampling Technique.

Child labour identified by survey in fireworks industry and some house based small cottage industry at Champahati (haral). The researcher met those child labour and collected information by interview Schedule technique. The researcher also collected data through informally discussion with those child labours in there working place.

4. TOOLS OF THE STUDY:

In this research select interview Schedule technique tools used for collection the data by the researcher. Interview schedule was prepared by the researcher in consultation by professor Md. Kutubuddin Halder, Department of Education, University of Calcutta. The schedule consisted of 50 items. It contains information regarding family income, parent's education and occupation of child labour. Demographic information was also included. Information about work in field, occupational safety, education and health are covered in this schedule. Socio-economic Status tools adopted from **National Psychological Corporation**. Which is developed by Prof. R. P. Verma, Prof. P.C. Saxena and Dr. Usha Mishra.

5. DATA ANALYSIS:

Figure: 5.1: Age of Child Labour

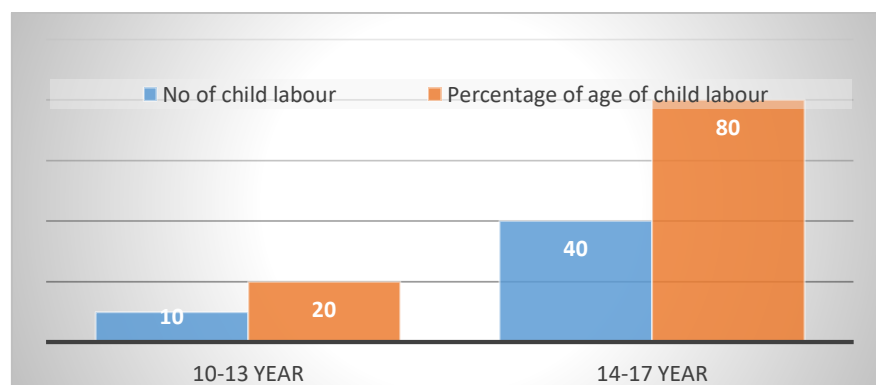


Figure: 5.1: 10-13 years old child labours work in house-based fireworks industry, 14-17 years old child labours work in fireworks industry and house-based fireworks industry. A major percent of child labour are Hindu, Schedule cast and schedule tribe are majority in this area.

Figure: 5.2: Educational qualification of Parents

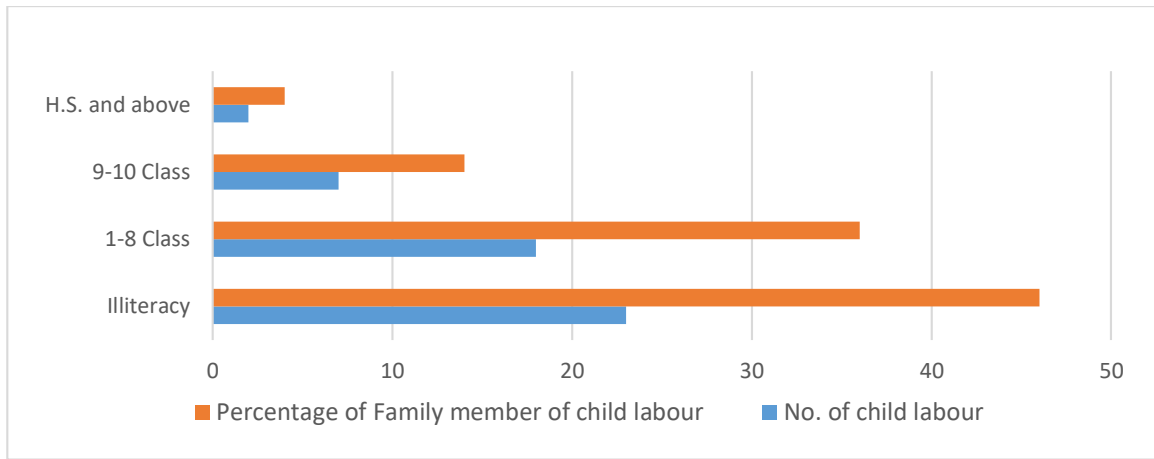


Figure: 5.2: Illiteracy of parents are the cause of maximum number of child labour. H.S and above educated parents are the cause of minimum number of child labour. If parent’s qualification is moderate low, then percentage of child labour are increase.

Figure: 5.3: Parents occupation.

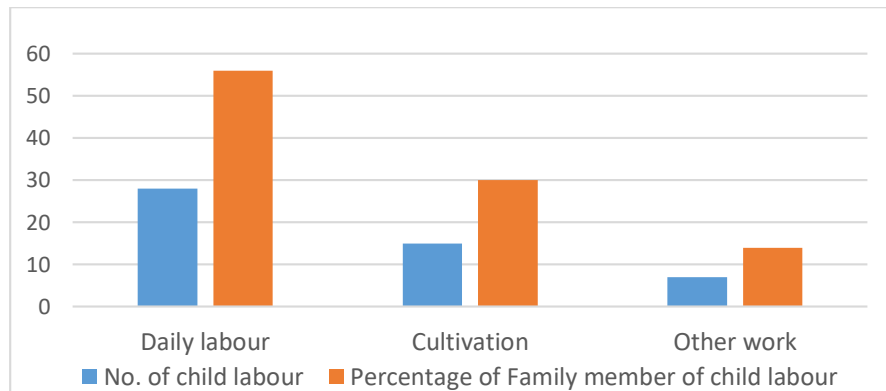


Figure: 5.3: Maximum number of parents of child labour are daily labour and they are work in fireworks industry. Who are cultivator, they are part time fireworks worker. Other works meaning they are work in urban area.

Figure: 5.4: Family income

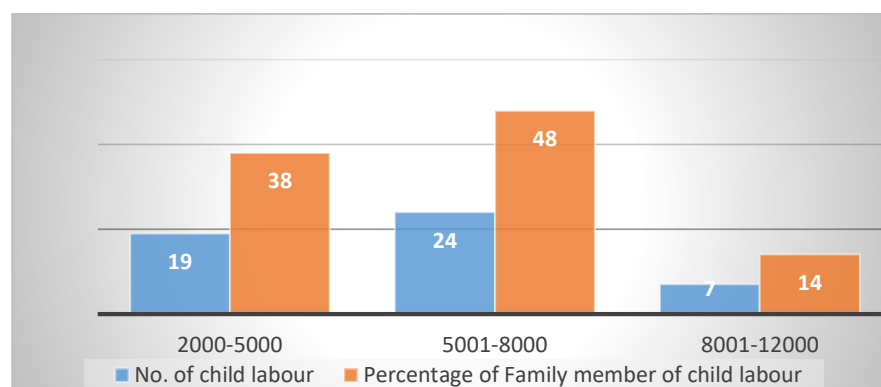


Figure: 5.4: Maximum number of child labours family income is between 5001-8000 Rs. Who are very poor their family income is 2000-5000.

Figure:5.5: Types of work

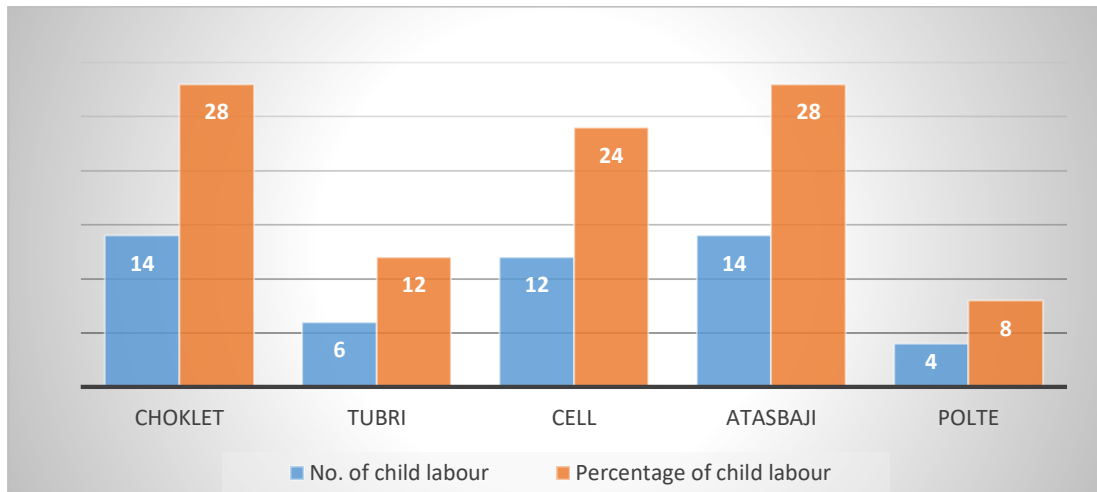


Figure:5.5: Choklet making is profitable work for child labour. Atasbaji making is second profitable work. Cell making also profitable but it is for owner.

Figure: 5.6: Reason for joining this work

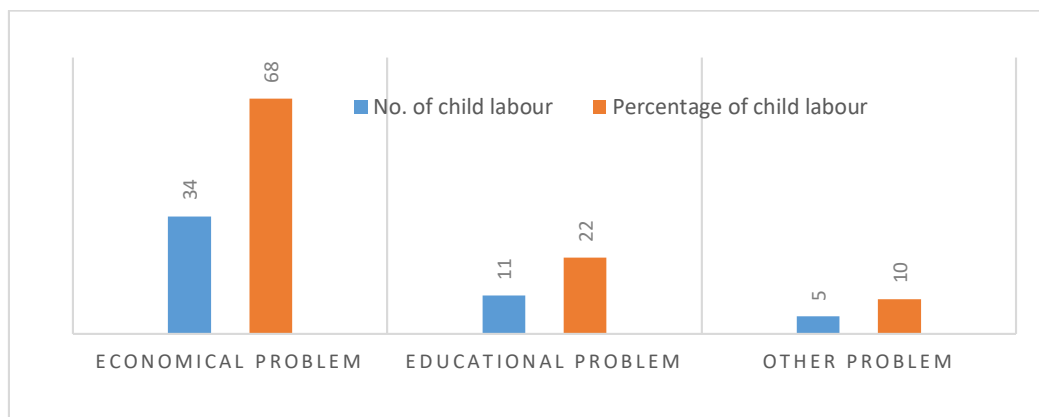


Figure: 5.6: A major percent of child labour join this work because they are facing economical problem. They have no family backup for their education. Some child labour are leave school because their behavioral problem in school. Major percent of child labour starting work between 1-2 year from leave the school. Some are between 6-12 month from leave the school.

Figure: 5.7: Situation of work.

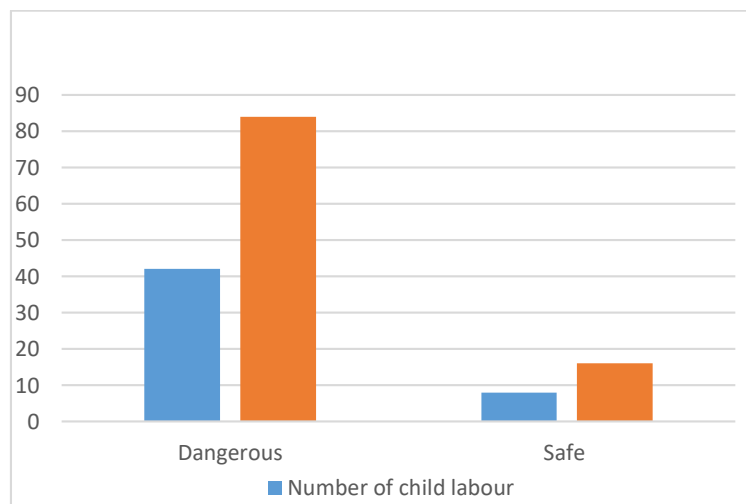


Figure: 5.7: All child labour have no training for this work. Major number of child labour work in dangerous situation.

Figure: 5.8: Working time

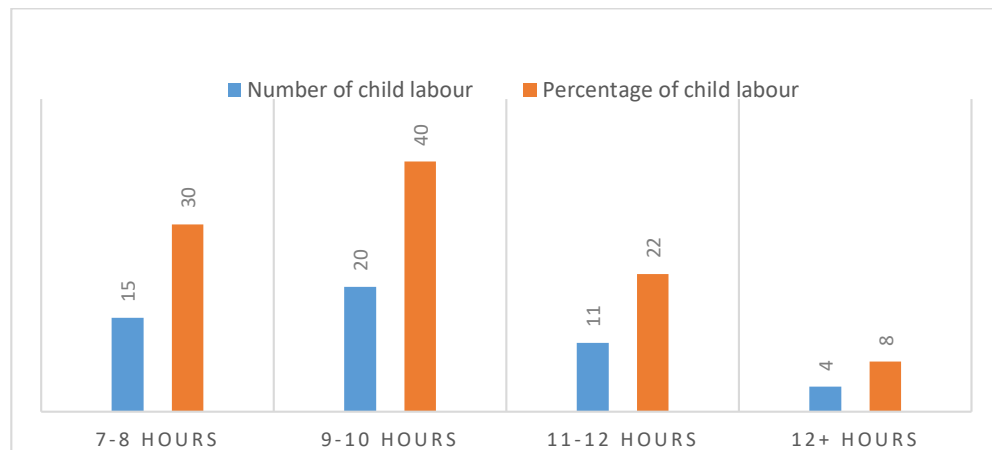


Figure: 5.8: Those child labour are work 12+ hours they are take a rest 1-2 hours. Who are work 9-12 hours they are take a rest 30 minutes-1 hours. Who are work 7-8 hours they are take a rest below 30 minutes.

In this field, 12% child labour injured by instrument during work. And 18% child labour injured by their own fault. 70% child labour not injured in their working time. 46.67% child labours injured Below 6 months during work. 40% child labour injured between 6-12 month during work. 14.43% child labour injured between 1-2 year during work.

36.84% child labours are bidi, cigar etc. addict and 64.26% child labours are Alcohol addict. They are drug addict because their co-worker is drug addict. It is company fault.

29.17% child labour are earn daily. 25% child labour are earn Monthly. 45.83% child labour are earn basis of total work. owners are prefer done the work basis of total work. If a person prepares 1000 fireworks, then he takes 60-80 rupee.

54% child labour are says that they join the work below 3 months from leave the school. 30% child labour are says that they join the work 3-6 month from leave the school. 16% child labour are says that they join the work 6-12 month from leave the school.

36% child labour are says that they interested in go to school. 64% child labour are says that they not interested in go to school. Because their family are fully or partially dependent of those child labour. Major are interested in earn money, and some are don't know their future plane.

6. DISCUSSION:

1) By interview the researcher know that every year 7-10 worker died by fireworks explosion, in their child labour are 2-4. When the accident occurs, the police and fire brigade are not informed by association. Because a major percent of home-based industry has no trade license and no permission from West Bengal Pollution Control Board.

2) Majority of Store Room have safe distance from locality. Because it may be explored any time. Especially in humid weather and the rainy season.

3) When a firework has completed, it goes to 7 to 8 steps.

4) More than 2000 workers directly or indirectly engaged in haral (Champahati) fireworks which help them to earn livelihood and this also creating employment and income opportunities to some local people.

5) A majority of worker work based on contract basis.

6) They don't smoke bidi or cigar while working. Because a piece of fire is enough for explore this factory, and burned the worker.

7) Owner has approximately 50 percent profit in the total amount.

8) There is absolutely no provision for fire-fighting measures - this applies equally to households as well as factories. But the more serious hazard involves the health of the workers themselves. People who make firecrackers are usually covered in gunpowder - a mixture of charcoal, Sulphur and barium nitrate - which, besides being bad for the skin, eyes and lung leads to severe respiratory problems.

9) The firecrackers in Haral (Champahati) are mostly handmade and machine is very minimum, so its products become costly as compared to Sivakashi firecrackers and Chinese Products.

10) Haral (Champahati) firecrackers face tough competition from the firecrackers made in Sivakashi in Tamil Nadu and China in terms of cost and availability.

11) During monsoon due to high moisture and humid content the productions stop completely or partially.

7. CONCLUSION:

On the basis of findings of the present study the researcher suggests that parents should more responsible for their children, because fireworks are a hazards full work. They should not send their child in this field. Parents should send their children in school, at least class 8. This is compulsory and basic education. Owner of fireworks industry should be must develop their security and safety system for worker. They should increase the infrastructure facilities so that it will cause less damage to the products, save time of transportation of products. Government should implement their law and regulation for all type of child labour. Police and govt. officer should be implementing the law in grass root level. ICDS (Integrated Child Development Services) employer should go to the home of child labour and meant their parents for bad effect of their health and future. Fire brigade should be going to survey in fireworks industry for firefighting security system.

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