



Child Labor Issues: A Case Study for Creating Child Labor Awareness

NIMISHABEN K. PATEL

1. Introduction

Child labor problems have attracted the attention of a wide cross section of people all over the world during the last two decades. People are becoming increasingly conscious of a variety of problems like global warming, ozone layer depletion, acid rain, famines, droughts, flood, scarcity of fuel, firewood, fodder, pollution of air, and water problems from hazardous chemicals and radiation. The recent increase in industry and urbanization during the last century has brought about extensive child labor. Child labor problems pose a challenge to humanity which is unprecedented in its scope and complexity.

The problem lies in the fact that nations lack a child laborily literate citizenry. Generations upon generations of citizens do not realize how and why men and their processes are closely linked to nature nor do they feel connected to or a part of nature. Therefore, individuals do not view the child labor as a "Personal Asset" that needs to be conserved as a long-term investment to safeguard their own future. More importantly, they do not realize that it needs to be conserved not by a government or a legally appointed ministry but by themselves, their lifestyles and their own demands.

2. Rationale and Significance of the Study

This makes it imperative that everyone pays proper attention to the protection of child labor. Therefore, men of every religion, race, caste, and creed worship child labor in many ways. Consequently, there were no problems of issues of child labor. In the primitive stage of the development of society, there was much sophistry about the metamorphosis of the primitive man into a civil order of life. Man was in a state of nature, a stage where he was one with nature. Man in a state of nature, wandering hither and thither without speech and industry, without home and hearth, was an equal stranger to war.

Man soon discovered innumerable modes and means of satisfying appetitive needs. Unfortunately, aided by rational faculty, man continued to attempt and adopts diverse modes of experience. Thus, man developed sophisticated ventures of life, a lust for power, poverty and dominance and his tendency towards self-preservation cut across its bounds into self-aggrandizement.

An appraisal of growth of culture and civilization has to be made from the perspective of the fullness of reality

Child labor issues have attracted popular attention and it is felt that education has to respond appropriately to this urgent need of the time. There is a paramount need to create a consciousness of the child labor. It must permeate all the ages and all the sections of society, beginning with the child. Child labor consciousness should inform teaching in schools and colleges. This aspect will be integrated in the entire educational process.

Despite the initiatives, it has been felt that although a fair amount of information about the child labor is being given through textbooks, it has not succeeded in generating a concern that may lead to effective action for conserving and further improving the child labor.

3. Statement of the Problem

In the present research the prime focus is to find out different types of child labor issues and its impact on Mehsana city life. Information related to the awareness of child labor issues will also be collected from selected sample through questionnaire and, by its analysis the researcher would suggest certain educational –formal as well as informal- programs to enhance the child labor awareness among the people of the 21st century which has been recognized as a Responsive Society. With this point in view the following problem was chosen for the present study:

“Child labor Issues of Mehsana District: A Case Study for Creating Child labor Awareness”

The present research work is dealt with different types of child labor issues of Mehsana city and its effect on everyday life of residents The findings of the study will be helpful:

1. To know the child labor problems of Mehsana district so that the future planning of the local administration can plan the development of city accordingly.
2. To identify the effects of child labor hazards on the health of School teachers, School principals and people in general of Mehsana city so that the impact of child labor hazards on the health of people can be reduced by proper planning.
3. To know the level of child labor awareness among the School teachers, School principals and people of Mehsana city so that proper strategies to implement child labor education and child labor programmes can be decided.
4. To identify different issues concerning child labor of Mehsana city so that necessary strategies can be deliberated and adopted by the local administration as well as state level administration.

4. Objectives of the Study

5. To make The Child labor Awareness Measurement Scales.
6. To collect the data of factors affecting the child labor of Mehsana.
7. To collect the data of child labor awareness among the School teachers, School principals and people of Mehsana.
8. To suggest educational implications and programs to create child labor awareness.

5. Variables of the Study

Following variables have been investigated in the present research study:

Table :1 Variables of the Study

Sr. No.	Types of Variable	Name of Variables Under Investigation
1.	Dependent Variable	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Child labor Issues▪ Child labor Awareness
2.	Independent Variables	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ School principals▪ School teachers▪ People
3.	Moderate Variables	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Gender▪ Type of schools

6. Operational Definitions of the Words

1. **Child labor Issues:** Child labor issues mean the child labor pollution of Mehsana city.
2. **Child labor Awareness:** Child labor Awareness refers to the awareness of child labor problems among the people, School teachers and School principals of Mehsana city.
3. **Case Study:** Case study refers to the study of child labor problems of Mehsana city.
4. **School principals:** School principals refer to School principals of secondary schools of Mehsana city.
5. **School teachers:** School teachers refer to School teachers of secondary schools of Mehsana city.
6. **People:** People refer to people of Mehsana city.

7. **Gender:** Gender refers male and female category of School teachers and School principals of secondary schools of Mehsana city.
8. **Type of Schools:** Types of school refers to private schools and grant-in-aid schools of Mehsana city.

7. Delimitations of the Study

The present research study has been delimited:

1. To investigate child labor issues of Mehsana city.
2. To study child labor awareness of the School teachers, School principals and people of Mehsana city.
3. To suggest the measures to improve child labor degradation by bringing child labor awareness among people of Mehsana city.

8. Major Findings of the study

Major findings of the study are given as follows.

8.1 Factors Affecting Child labor of Mehsana City

In the present study, to investigate the factors that have been affecting the child labor of Mehsana city a schedule interview of 148 people of different professions was taken selecting randomly from the population of the study. During the scheduled interview two questions were asked to each of the participant and their responses were recorded by the investigator. The responses for each question from the participants were recorded by the investigator. The response rate for the first question i.e. (i) Which Type of Issues responsible for child labour in Mehsana City? Are Social, Economic and Cultural.

8.2 Causes of child labor problems

Response for the Social Aspects of Child Labour with following frequency of the response mainly four issues like Parent's Illiteracy, Carelessness of Parents Regarding the Effects of Child Labour, Improper Execution of Compulsory Primary Education and poor education system with reference to selected sample interaction during the interview filling in the questionnaire.

8.3 Social Aspects of Child Labour

Response for the Social Aspects of Child Labour with following percentage of the response mainly four issues like Parent's Illiteracy, Carelessness of Parents Regarding the Effects of Child Labour, Improper Execution of Compulsory Primary Education and poor education system with reference to selected sample interaction during the interview filling in the questionnaire.

8.4 Economic Aspects of Child Labour

Respondents had response for the Economic Aspects of Child Labour with following frequency of the response mainly four issues like Family Size, Responsibility of family, Economic Status and position of Child Labour's Family, Availability of Adult Unemployment, Limited Incomes of Adults and Lack and limit of Resources with reference to selected sample interaction during the interview filling in the questionnaire.

8.5 Cultural Aspects

Respondents had response for the Cultural Aspects of Child Labour with following frequency of the response mainly four issues like Ancient Tradition of Learning Family Craft, Prevalence of Cultural Mythologies of Child Labour, Beliefs of Parents are the only Concerned for Child employment, Increasing Employment Opportunities in Unorganized Division, Ineffective implementation and Enforcement of Legal Provisions, Employer's Preference for Child Labour and Lack of Sense and work-out of Responsibility of Government Officials and Political Leaders with reference to selected sample interaction during the interview filling in the questionnaire.

9. The Level of Child labor Awareness among the Total Sample of School Teachers

In the present research study, the level of child labor awareness among the total sample of School Teachers of secondary schools of Mehsana city of Gujarat has been measured on following scales:

1. Child labor Law Scale.
2. Special Day and Child labor Scale.
3. Child labor International Institution Awareness Scale.
 - a) Human Being's Moral Role for Child labor Scale.
 - b) Major Issue of child labor Scale.

Total sample of the School Teachers has got above average child labor awareness scores on the Major Issue of child labor Scale. This has selected the hypothesis no.1 of the present research work which states as, "The level of child labor awareness among the total sample of the School Teachers is above average on total scores of Major Issue of child labor Scale.

Effect of Gender on the Level of Child labor Awareness of School Teachers

Female School Teachers are not significantly higher than male School Teachers on Major Issue of child labor Scale. This has rejected null hypothesis no. 2 of the present research work, which states as, 'There is no significant difference of the level of child labor awareness between the male School Teachers and female School Teachers of Mehsana city on total scores of Major Issue of child labor Scale.'

Effect of Types of School on the Level of Child labor Awareness of School Teachers

School Teachers of grant-in-aid schools are not significantly higher than School Teachers of private schools on Major Issue of child labor Scale. This has rejected null hypothesis no. 3 of the present research work, which states as, 'There is no significant difference of the level of child labor awareness between the School Teachers of grant-in-aid schools and School Teachers of private schools of Mehsana city on total scores of Major Issue of child labor Scale.'

The Level of Child labor Awareness among the Total Sample of School Principal

Total sample of the School Principal has got above average child labor awareness scores on the Major Issue of child labor Scale. This has selected the hypothesis no.4 of the present research work which states as, "The level of child labor awareness among the total sample of the School Principal is above average on total scores of Major Issue of child labor Scale.

Male School Principal are not significantly higher than female School Principal on Major Issue of child labor Scale. This has selected null hypothesis no. 5 of the present research work, which states as, 'There is no significant difference of the level of child labor awareness between the male School Principal and female School Principal of Mehsana city on total scores of Major Issue of child labor Scale.'

Effect of Types of School on the Level of Child labor Awareness of School Principal

School Principal of private schools are not significantly higher than School Principal of grant-in-aid schools on Major Issue of child labor Scale. This has selected null hypothesis no. 6 of the present research work, which states as, 'There is no significant difference of the level of child labor awareness between the School Principal of grant-in-aid schools and School Principal of private schools of Mehsana city on total scores of Major Issue of child labor Scale.'

The Level of Child labor Awareness among the Total Sample of School Teachers

Total sample of the People of Mehsana city has got above average child labor awareness scores on the Major Issue of child labor Scale. This has selected the hypothesis no.7 of the present research work which states as, "The level of child labor awareness among the total sample of the people of Mehsana city is above average on total scores of Major Issue of child labor Scale.

The Difference of Child labor Awareness among the School Teachers, School Principal and People of Mehsana City

Null hypothesis no.8 of the present research work, which states as, 'There is no significant difference of the level of child labor awareness among School Teachers, School Principal and people of Mehsana city on total scores of Child labor Law Scale.'

Null hypothesis no.8 of the present research work, which states as, 'There is no significant difference of the level of child labor awareness among School Teachers, School Principal and people of Mehsana city on total scores of Special Day and Child labor.'

Null hypothesis no.8 of the present research work, which states as, 'There is no significant difference of the level of child labor awareness among School Teachers, School Principal and people of Mehsana city on total scores of Child labor International Institution Awareness Scale.'

Null hypothesis no.8 of the present research work, which states as, 'There is no significant difference of the level of child labor awareness among School Teachers, School Principal and people of Mehsana city on total scores of Human Being's Moral Role for Child labor Scale.'

Null hypothesis no.8 of the present research work, which states as, 'There is no significant difference of the level of child labor awareness among School Teachers, School Principal and people of Mehsana city on total scores of Major Issue of child labor Scale.'

References

1. Acharya, Paromesh : "Child Labor", Seminar, no. 275, July, 1982.
2. Ball, A.R.: Modern Politics and Government. London : Macmillan, 1971.
3. Bhimgoo, K.S.: Child Labor in India, New Delhi, 1990.
4. Gangrude, K.D. : Child Labor in India, Delhi : Delhi School of Social work, 1982.
5. Geogre, Lvy : Child Labor and work, Delhi, Ashish Publishing, 1990.
6. Khatan, K.K. et al. : Working children in India, Baroda : Operation Research Group, 1983.
7. Kitchlu T.N.: A Study on Child Labor in Unorganised Sector in Kashmir, (Mimeo).
8. Nangia, Parveen and Rita Pinto : "Situations! Analysis of children in Especially.
9. Patel, B.B. : "Work, Working Conditions and Earning : Agarbatti workers in Ahmedabad" in Patel (ed.) Problems of Home based workers in India ; A National workshop. Oxford and IDH Publsihing Company, Bombay, 1986.
10. Patel, B.B.: "Child Labor in India Dimensions, Issues and Policies", in Hirway Jacqui, Pandya (ed.)Towards Eradication of Child Labor:An International View, Oxford and IBM Publishing Co., Bombay, 1991.
11. Patil, B.R.: Working children in urban India, Bangalore, B.D., 1988.
12. Prasad, Dr. Narendra : "Child Labor in India", Yojana, vol. 34, no. 8, May 15, 1990.
13. Pratiyogita Darpan, June 1997 and October 1997. Pratiyogita Vikas, March 1997.