Assessment of Nutritional Profile of Child Labourers Residing
{ with Special Reference to District Hanumangarh (Raj.)}

Ms. Veerpal Kaur
Research Scholar

Dr. Usha Kothari
Associate Professor
Head of Home Science Department
Jai Narayan Vyas University, Jodhpur

Abstract:
The children of Today are the future tomorrow, this powerful statement assumes special significance in our context as children (0-14) comprise one third of the total population in the country. Every child, on provision of a conductive and an enabling environment, may blossom into an ever fragment flower, to shine in all spheres of life. this reminds us of the onerous responsibility that we have to mould and shape their present condition in the best possible way.

In present investigation nutritional profile of 200 child labourers (10-15 years) residing in Hanumangarh was assessed. A structured interview schedule was used to collect relevant information from the subjects. Out of total subjects 63.5 percent were boys and 36.5 percent were girls and majority (53 and 70 percent) of them were Hindu and illiterate. A little more than 64.5 percent of the subjects belonged to nuclear family having large size of 5-12 members. A higher a percentage (18.5) of subjects were not immunized.

Keyword: Introduction, Objective, Method and Material, Result and Discussion, Conclusion.

Introduction
Child labour today is a global phenomenon and a harsh reality. Although the magnitude differs, the problem exists not only in underdeveloped but also in developed countries. It is a well-known fact that numerous child labourers, who work to augment their family income, are exploited and victimized. Child labour is a part of a deep rooted evil which should be weeded out if the nation is to achieve an overall socioeconomic development.

Any work whether manual or mental, which is undertaken for monetary consideration, is called “Labour” in economics. “Child Labour” refers to a work undertaken by a child who is below 15 years of age, for wage or it refers to employment of child in gainful occupation (Mehta, 1994).

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 tehcity 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.

Child labour is a conspicuous problem in India. Its prevalence is evident in the child work participation rate, which is more than that of other developing countries. Poverty is the reason for child labour in India. The meager income of child labourers is also absorbed by their families. The paucity of organized banking in the rural areas creates a void in taking facilities, forcing poor families to push their children in harsh labour, the harshest being bonded labour. That declaration stated that all ILO members have an obligation “to respect, to promote and to elaborate in good faith” a set of fundamental rights which include freedom of association the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining the elimination of all forms of forced or compulsory labour the effective abolition of child labour and the elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation. Millions of children in India today turned into child labour due to various socio-economic problems. According to one study, more than a quarter of the World’s total number of child laborers are in India and every third household in the country has a child labor.
Objectives

- The following objectives has undertaken for the study;
- To obtain general information about child labour using interview schedule.

Method and Material

The present study has been undertaken to assess the nutritional profile of child labourers (10-15) residing in Hanumangarh city.

Interview technique was adopted to collect the required information for this purpose structured interview schedule was developed and conscious effort was made to systematize the questions in order to facilitate natural discussion and allow interview to run in smooth way.

General information

General information about the child labourers:

This section dealt with the background characteristic of the respondents i.e. age, caste, educational level, family size, type of family, income, food habit and health habits.

Age of the respondents was defined as the number of years completed by the respondents at the time of interview. Based on the age range obtained the respondents were classified into 2 categories with equal intervals.

Categories:
1. 10-12 years
2. 13-15 years

“Child Labour” is work for children under age below 15 which in some way harms or exploit them physically, mentally, morally or by blocking children from education. Child labour in this research will refer to children of age below 15 years who are domestic servant, farm worker, shop worker and factory worker.

Result and Discussion

This chapter deals with the result and their interpretation in context to the objective framed for the present investigation entitled “Nutritional profile of child laborers (10-15 years) residing in Hanumangarh.

General Information

General Information for each of the subjects belonging to the age group of 10-12 and 13-15 years and occupied in either of the Labour category i.e. Domestic, Tea-stall, Farm and Shop were collected.

- Age and sex of the subjects:
  
  Distribution of the subjects according to their age and sex. An overall picture that emerges from the data indicate that, out of 200 working subject 63.5 percent were boys and 36.5 percent were girls. For the purpose of analysis all the subjects were further classified according to their age i.e. subject belonging to 10-12 and 13-15 years age group. Further the table depicts that immaterial of labor category 21 and 42.5 percent of boys, 14 and 22.5 percent of girls belonging to age group of 10-12 years and 13-15 years, respectively. Thus it can be inferred that male workers predominated in the study. Banerjee (1993), Mishra and Pande (1996), Sanon (1998) in their study on child laborers (5-14 years) obtained similar results of dominance of male workers, however percentage prevalence of male subjects revealed in their investigation ranged from 64.5-81 percent. Along with this an overwhelming majority of both the sexes were found to be in the age group of 13-15 years, while most of the child laborers in the study of Banerjee (1993), Sanon (1998), UNICEF (2000) belonged to the age group of 12-15 years.
Religion:
Two major religion groups to which these working subjects belonged Hindu and Muslim, accounting 53 and 15.5 percent of total subjects and only 31.5 percent of the subjects belonged to Sikh religion.

Educational status:
More than (70 percent) subject of all working categories had never gone to school and 36 percent of them had education up to primary level. Only a small fraction (34 percent) of them had studied up to 8th standard. A comparative analysis of labour categories in view of their educational status depicts that illiteracy was observed to be more in shop workers (58 percent) followed by tea-stall (16 percent), farm worker (2 Percent) and domestic workers (44 percent) respectively. Similarly, Panchal and Pal (1989), Banerjee (1993) and UNICEF (2000), also reported high level of illiteracy (55.8-88 percent) among the child labourers of their investigations.

Residential status
In present study all the working subjects were not staying with their parents, as some of them had come to the city in order to earn their livelihood and/or support their parents, family members who live for way from Hanumangarh.

Information in this regard it clearly, indicates that immaterial of age group, sex and working category 64.5 percent of the subject were living with their parents whereas 6.5,26,3 percent of the subject residing at their work place, with relatives and friends respectively. In particular, 16 percent of domestic, 4 percent of tea-stall and 6 percent shop workers were staying at their work places due to the job requirement.

Immunization status
The subject of present study were therefore assessed regarding their immunization status revels that 50, 30, 62 and 40 percent of subject from domestic, tea-stall, farm and shop workers category respectively were immunized but they were found to be oblivious about the completion of immunization schedule with reference to the type frequency. It was pathetic to note that inspite of the constant government efforts and free availability of the different vaccines 40, 36, 34 and 32 percent of shop tea-stall, farm and domestic workers I respectively were not found to be immunized. This must be due to the immunization programme and its benefits. However, 18.5 percent of total subjects did not report about immunization status as they did not know about the facts.
Type of family and family size of the subjects

The classification of the subjects as per their type of family and family size. Out of total subjects majority i.e. 62.5 percent of them were from nuclear families and remaining 37.5 percent subjects were belonging to joint families. No substantial difference was noted among the subjects of four respective, working categories by the type of family, as most of them belonged to nuclear families. Bansal and Banerjee (1991) AND Bhargava (1994) also found that most of the child labourers (63-64.7 percent) in their study were from nuclear family.

Further in view of family size, 47 and 29 percent of the total working subjects had family size of 5-8 and 8-12 members respectively. Whereas 1, 14.5, 8.5 percent of the subject had family size of 1-3, 3-5 and more than 12 members respectively. Labour category wise analysis of family size indicates that the greater percentage of domestic workers (24 percent) having household size of 8 members were lower among the tea-stall (26 percent), shop (32 percent) and farm workers (34 percent).

Thus the findings of the present study are consistent with the common belief that large families contribute more to the child labour population and from these families higher percentage of children are in employment. Moreover the finding also indicates toward the unawareness of their parents regarding the concepts of family planning.

Conclusion:

General information included name, age, sex, caste, religion, education, residential status, and immunization status, type of family and family size of the subjects.

Findings on general information revealed that out of 200 working subjects, 63.5 percent were boys and 36.5 percent were girls immaterial of sex were belonging to the age group of 10-12 and 13-15 years respectively. None of the female subjects of both age group in case of shop workers. Further majority (53 percent) of subject in all labour categories were found to be Hindu and remaining (47 percent) were either Muslin of Sikh. A overwhelming proportion more than (70 percent) subject of all working categories had never gone to school and 36 percent of them had education up to primary level. Only a small fraction (34 percent) of them had studied up to 8th standard. With reference to residential status immaterial of age group, sex and working category 64.5 percent of the subject were living with their parents whereas 6.5,26,3 percent of the subject residing at their work place, with relatives and friends respectively. In particular, 16 percent of domestic, 4 percent of tea-stall and 6 percent shop workers were staying at their work places due to the job requirement.

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