

# Chapter-10

## CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF GIRL CHILD DROPOUT AND INCREASE IN DOMESTIC CHILD LABOUR IN STATE OF CHHATTISGARH

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*Chapter Id: ASU/NSP/EB/AGRLWC/2022/Ch-10*

*doi: <https://doi.org/10.52458/9789391842680.nsp2022.eb.asu.ch10>*

## **ABSTRACT:**

*In order to achieve prosperity a country needs to have balance its aims and objectives so that greatest good of greatest number. India is a developing country with nearly 138 crore population and the government had humongous task to ensure that vulnerable are uplifted and any adverse problems are solved with keeping future in mind. India has rich and vibrant culture with numerous religions, customs and traditions. Society somehow disregarded the importance of women in society. This leading to malpractices, economic and social vulnerability of women in India. The research aims to study the plight of girls and young women due to loss of education and child labour. Invisible child labour in form of domestic worker is responsible for loss of education specially girl child. The research attempts analyse the state's efforts to tackle the problem of child labour, school dropouts and the adverse impact of Covid 19 on children education especially girl child.*

## **INTRODUCTION:**

India is emerging as developed country amongst world community. The Government of India was looking for building a 5 trillion dollars economy and have achieved 3 trillion dollars economy target in 2022. Constitution of India founded and support democratic principles reflected in the vision of freedom fighters and political thinkers. The academicians, activists and lawyers have contributed in drafting Constitution of India considering the requirement of general population and solution for various difficulties faced. One of the major problems which India faces is the problem of 'Child labour' associated with loss of education. Researcher aims to highlight child labour in form of domestic workers and loss of education of the girls in state of Chhattisgarh.

### **Who is a child labourer?**

Firstly, it is important to understand the term labourer. The term labourer is extremely hard to define, various national and international organisations have defined the term labour. The complexity increases when attempt to define child labour is made. The International Labour Organisation and other conventions define a child as anyone with age below 18 years. Different countries have age variation for the term child labour. Zoe Chafe commented on the dilemma claiming "all children who report having worked at least one hour on the day during a seven-day period are considered as economically active".

In India the labour class can be classified into different sector where they are employed. The different types organised (operate according to legal guidelines and have legal recognition) and unorganised (do not have separated existence and legal recognition) sector utilizes numerous forms of labours. Domestic workers are a class of workers under unorganised sector who provides manual labour services. Domestic workers provide essential daily needs services in the homes of other people, which is work outside the home. The term domestic worker is difficult to define as the nature of services provide as domestic worker is customised as per need. The domestic work can be broadly divided as cleaning, cooking and care taking or every day-to-day household chorus are included. Considering the antiquity of the domestic services the domestic workers are found across the world. Currently Domestic services are accepted means of livelihood for millions across countries.

The nature of domestic services is manifold and diverse. In India and other Asian countries majority of household tasks are performed by women of family along with domestic workers. The domestic worker work is mostly choosing this form of labour due to lack of education, occupational skills. Poor worker seeks economic opportunity of livelihood in domestic work.

Unfortunately, unlike other services the domestic services being part of unorganised sector are not subject to general labour laws. The state legislations in Asian countries do not recognize or provide protection to domestic workers. Employment in domestic work is not restricted by age or education qualification. Payment, leave, timing rules are subjective in domestic services. Due to its subjectivity, there can be no comparative test possible.

### **Laws on domestic worker:**

As part of unorganised sector laws do not extent protection to domestic workers. At international level International Labour Organisation's Domestic Workers Convention (C189) 2011(herein after C189) made an attempt to recognize and protect domestic workers across the world. The C198 aims to secure decent working condition to domestic worker services. Common wealth countries and other governments have not rectified the same.

India have not ratified the C198, with millions working as domestic worker calculations of type of domestic services and exact number of domestic workers is extremely difficult. The C189 imposes obligation on the country like setup of national legal frame work for labourer, agreement between employer and employee, and compliance of minimum wages guidelines and rules regarding working conditions

along with relevant guidelines. India's official figures claim 4.75 million domestic workers however the international Labour Organisation and others denies the claim stating nearly 20 to 80 million domestic workers in India.

The ratification of the C189 along with its obligation is humongous burden which was refused by India government.

### **Child labour:**

In context to research problem, researcher wants to Highlighting child labour issue. The ILO pointed out that "effective abolition of child labour is one of the most urgent challenges of our times" Various researches have established that child labour cannot be eradicated without breaking down the causes of child labour like poverty, civil unrest, environmental problems, economic depression.

The statical calculation of child labour especially exploitive child labour is extremely difficult as their work is often hidden from law enforcement agencies and other organisations. When a child is sent work instead of school it is a grave loss of countries future. The plight of domestic worker aggravates due to association child labour with domestic work. Research aims to point out along with problem of child labour the malicious discrimination on ground of gender is responsible for extensive girl child misery.

As per the Asian cultural women are considered weaker and subordinate to male. A girl child in India is subject to many prejudices based of horrible traditions and practices, misinterpretation of religious texts, in almost all regions in India is as weaker class of person and preference of male child over girl is clearly establishes discrimination against women. The female must be responsible for the household domestic work irrespective of education or monetary position of lady.

### **Domestic work:**

In India the household chores are being performed manually. If we classify domestic-work it can be classified as cooking, cleaning and care-taking which are singlehandedly performed only by ladies of house. In India however according to financial condition the help for domestic work is availed in almost all the families. The labour laws in India provides protection against child labour but it is restricted in its application only on organised sector. In India the labour of children is permitted from 14 years within certain extent. In India workers are mostly restricted to formal sector employee. The employment of child in domestic work is impossible task.

Considering the vulnerability of labour class the government has made different policies for informal labour class. Latest government effort for upliftment is creation of portal to recognise informal sector employment “e Shram” is launched in the year 2019 supported by digitalization. The new policy is not full proof as it includes up-to-labour 16 years old, they can register in e Shram under provided conditions, rest of the labourers are still without recognition.

The global minimum age for employment is 18 years however in India neither constitution nor other relevant legislation even with new labour laws code of 2019 the minimum age of employment is not amended, it is still 14 years.

As per census 2011 nearly 10 million child labourer exists. The number of child labour in India is hard to estimate in 2022 as the rampant economic loss and wide spread of poverty due to Covid 19 made it hard to calculate. Researcher has focused on the child domestic worker of state of Chhattisgarh. Their standing and working conditions. The state of Chhattisgarh is 9 state area wise and 17 most populated state in India. The research aims to analyse social and economic condition of domestic workers in the state.

The state of Chhattisgarh has various aspects regarding its educational and employment. The state has low education level with 67.68 % literacy rate. The vibrant cultures have tribal and urban population in the state. The state of Chhattisgarh is an oxymoron being rich in natural resources but poor at economic development level. The state ranked as 7<sup>th</sup> most poor state as per NITI Aayog central brain storming body. The report by Aayog said 29.91 percent of the state population is living Below Poverty Line (BPL). Apart from financial gap the malnutrition and health problems are found in the state. Adverse financial condition is partially responsible for domestic workers associated with school dropouts in state. V V Giri “The term child labour is commonly interpreted in two different ways: first as economic practice and second as social evil”. The definition of ILO 1983 and other attempts to define the child labour yet to meet success. Child labour hence can be called as any work outside or within the family, that threatens the health and development of the child violating fundamental rights or any other legal rights.

To support girls’ education the state of Chhattisgarh had various schemes. Bearing in mind gender disparity and vulnerability of girl child government of India and state government with mutual collaboration launched various schemes to uplift girl child educational and social status. The schemes are focused on different aspects like education, nutritional requirement, health and prevention of child marriages, some schemes cover various different aspects together.

The priority of the government in India working for girl child upliftment was schemes to ensure female literacy is improved in rural and backward areas with union and state collaboration. 2011 SABLA Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for empowerment of adolescent cover 200 districts in India to ensure nutrition among 11-18 girls and medicines for girls.

Focused only on Chhattisgarh in 2015 Sukanya Samridhi Yojana aims to prevent child marriage and promote higher education of girl child. Funds deposited for 10 years old girl will be utilized for girl child higher education and marriage.

### **State of Chhattisgarh focusing nutrition level and lack of education:**

Battling female foeticide menace in society Noni Suraksha Yojana 1 lakh rupees are to be given to unmarried XII standard passed girl of BPL card holder for higher education or marriages. Saraswati Cycle yojana distributes cycles to children to go to school and reduce school dropouts in 10<sup>th</sup> grade. Kanya Shashkarta Protsahan Yojna the scheme aims to promote education among girls. Incentives are offered at different grade to encourage students and reduce drop outs

### **Pandemic:**

The pandemic of COVID 19 has created an unprecedented social and economic crisis for children. The economic hardships of the children led 42-66 million children to fall under extreme poverty condition. The pandemic has created a new class of forced employment for vulnerable children. The minor children especially girl child is vulnerable to human trafficking, sexual exploitation, debt bondage and child labour. It is well documented that child labour is prevalent in informal sector. The rampant child employment in labour market pushes millions of children out of schools.

The term dropout has been defined in two ways one student leaves education at terminal point before completion and second is when a student is absent from 45 days continuously. The definition available just provides a rough idea of student(s) discontinuation of education. The dropout rates in the states were dreaded, in 2019-20 secondary rate was 18.3 and girl's dropout rate was 17.2 %. The rate may be a little lower than boys but the rate of dropout is quite high after Covid 19. The Covid 19 crisis had left millions unemployed struggling to meet the ends. The child labour is raised exponentially. The data of the school dropout in the state is available.

Girl dropout from education and child labour in Chhattisgarh must be tackled to protect. The loss of education must be prevented to secure the future of girls.