



## **Geography**

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### **Socio – economic status of child labourers in Patna Municipal Corporation Area**

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**Abstract :** *One of the greatest maladies that has spread across the world today is that of child labour. ILO defines child labourers as all those children belonging to the age less than 12 engaged in any economic activity. In India the working children between the age group of 6 – 14 are considered to be child labourers. India has the largest numbers of child labourers in the world and Bihar stands fourth in the country in this particular aspect. In spite of several policies and rules implemented, a large number of child*

*labourers are employed in various spheres of activities all over the country. Amid these circumstances the present study attempts to examine the socio-economic conditions of child labourers working in the Patna Municipal Corporation Area. The study has been carried out specifically in two circles of the PMC Area namely the New Capital and Patna City Circles respectively, in order to furnish the intra-city variations regarding the overall socio-economic status of child labourers. The findings reveal that the overall status of the working children in the study area is far from being satisfactory. However, there have been certain noticeable spatial variations regarding the different aspects related to the socio-economic standards of the child labourers working in the PMC Area. The child labourers working in the New Capital circle which is incidentally the newer part of the city have shown slightly better socio-economic status, especially in terms of income and living conditions than their counterparts in Patna City circle, the oldest part of Patna.*

**Key words:** *Child labour, Poverty, Migration, Exploitation, Economic Status, Social Status.*