



Situational analysis of Child Labour in Patna Municipal Corporation Area (PMC)

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Abstract : *The term 'Child Labour' refers to the employment of children as regular and sustained labour. This practice is considered exploitative by many international organizations and has been declared illegal in many countries. The Indian Constitution in this regard has laid down the following rules related to child labour in the country. No child below the age of 14 years shall be employed in any factory or in any hazardous employment (Article 24); and the state shall endeavor to provide within a period of ten years from the commencement of the constitution free and compulsory education for all*

children until they complete the age of 14 years (Article 45). In spite of all these efforts, policies, and rules one comes across the stark reality – a large number of children are employed in various sphere of activities all over India and Bihar as well. So the purpose of the study is to examine the different fields of employment of child labourers found in the study area, to estimate the number of migrant child labourers, to find the causes which force children to work as child labourers, to observe the social status of child labourers in terms of caste, religion, health conditions, living status, educational level and so on, to find out the work load of the child labourers and the facilities provided to them by their employers, to assess their working conditions and wage, to judge the spatial variations, if any regarding the status of child labourers in Patna Municipal Corporation Area.

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Introduction:

The concept of child labour is complex in nature. The term “child labour” is a combination of two components, that is, ‘child’ in terms of his chronological age, and ‘labour’ in terms of its nature, quantum, and income gathering capacity. The term ‘Child Labour’ refers to the employment of children in a regular and sustained manner. This practice is considered exploitative by many international organizations and has been declared illegal in many countries.

International Child Labour (ILO) Conventions 138 (1973) and (1999) define child labourers as ‘all children younger than 12 working in any economic activities, children 12-14 years old engaged in more than light work and all children engaged in the worst form of child labour – in which they are enslaved, forced into illegal activities or exposed to hazards. In India, working children belonging to the age group of 6 -14 are considered to be child labourers. The Indian Constitution in this regard has laid down the following rules related to the child labour in the country. No child below the age of 14 years shall be employed in any factory or in hazardous employment (Article 24); and the state shall endeavor to provide within a period of ten years from the commencement of the constitution free and compulsory education for all children until they complete the age of 14 years (Article 45). According to the ILO estimates, there were 253 million children involved in child labour in 2014, incidentally the highest in the world. According to the Labour commission, Bihar stands fourth in the country after Andhra Pradesh, UP & MP. In terms of the Child Labour population, the number of child labourers in the state is more than 11 lakhs.

India, one of the leading countries in Asia, has a whopping 33 million children employed in various forms of child labour. According to a Campaign Against Child Labour (CAC) study May 2016, India has 1,26,66,377 child labourers. There are a few states which have India’s largest number of child labour employers - Bihar, U.P., Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, and Maharashtra. Over half of child labour is in U.P. and it accounts for almost 20 percent of India’s child labourers. Bihar contributes 11 percent of child labourers of India. India has seen a dramatic fall in child labour in the last two decades. There was 45 percent reduction in child labour between 2004-05 and 2009-10, due to Right to Education and schemes, like Mid- day Meal, which gave

children an incentive like education. The role of NGOs was also important in bringing this fall in the number of child labourers.

Objectives :

Amid this existing scenario, the main objectives of this proposed study is:

1. To examine the different fields of employment of the child labourers found in the study area.
2. To estimate the number of migrant child labourers.
3. To find causes which force children to become child labourers.
4. To observe the social status of child labourers in terms of caste, religion, health conditions, living status, educational level and so on.
5. To find out the work load of the child labourers and the facilities provided to them by their employers.
6. To assess their working conditions and wage given to them.
7. To judge the spatial variations, if any regarding the status of child labourers in Patna Municipal Corporation Area.

Hypothesis :

The proposed study would be based on the following working hypotheses

1. Child labour is rampant in the domestic and business sectors of the study area owing to unawareness of the resultant problems.
2. The numbers of male children are greater compared to the numbers of female children, as far as child labourers are concerned.
3. Poverty and unhygienic condition of child labourers are hazardous to their physical and mental health.

Methodology :

The research work is based on a distinct methodology, which follows the three following stages:

- **Pre Field Survey Stage:** Study of relevant literature; Collection of study materials, data

and maps_ Visit to libraries, concerned websites and government offices.

- **Field Survey:** Preparation of questionnaire; and schedule survey of 50 samples of child labourers and generation of primary data.
- **Post field survey stage:** Analysis of secondary data, Compilation, tabulation and cartographic treatment of primary data and Preparation of project report.

Study Area : The area of the proposed study is the Patna Municipal Corporation Area. Patna, the capital city of the state of Bihar, is situated at a crossroads of 25°36'0"N latitude and 85°7'0" E longitude. It is the largest city of the state, spreading over an area of 99.45 sq.km. The population of Patna is over 5,838,465 (census of India, 2011) with a density of 3202 persons per sq.km. (<https://www.census2011.co.in/census/district/82-patna.html>) Patna Municipal Corporation Area has been divided into 72 Corporation wards, which have been further arranged into 4 circles, namely: New Capital, Bankipur, Kankarbagh and Patna City. (District Gazette, 2007).

The database of the proposed study will constitute of 50 samples of child labourers, collected from the New Capital and Patna City Circle. (Fig. 1)



Fig. 1. Study Area

The researchers faced many problems in completing their research project, such as communication problem, children were unaware of the questions asked during the survey, as a result there were an unsatisfactory response and child labourers were afraid of answering the questions.

Analysis : Under this study 50 child labourers were taken for survey from two different divisions of Patna

Municipal Corporation Area. The situational analysis of child labourers was studied with reference to their economic condition, health and nutrition, and their social status. Out of total number of child labourers surveyed, 50 per cent each belonged to Patna New Capital and Patna City.

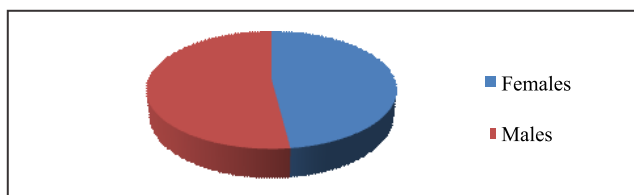
General Information : The employment of children in any work that deprives children of their childhood, interfere with their ability to attend regular school, and that is mentally, physically, socially or morally dangerous and harmful (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Child_labour_in_India). It is based on purposive random sampling, entitled "Situational analysis of Child Labour in Patna Municipal Corporation Area". 50 child labourers were chosen for survey. Variables have been chosen with utmost care to explain the problems of child labour. The number of female child labourers in the survey was 24 and male child labourers were 26. The sample includes child labourers, who started working from a very early age, that is, 5 years, and it was analyzed in the survey that the average age of child labourers was 11 years.

Table 1. Child Labourers of PMC Area: Age Structure

Age group	No. of respondents	% Share
Below 5	2	4
6–8	9	18
9–11	12	24
12–14	27	54
Total	50	100

*Based on sample survey 2018.

Table 1 shows that the highest Percentage of child labourers was of the age group 12 -14 that is 54 per cent, followed by the group 9 –11 that is 24 percent and 6–8 that is 18 percent. Since they had started working from a very early age, only 4 percent of the child labourers were below 5 years old.



*Based on sample survey 2018.

Fig. 2. Child Labourers of PMC Area: Sex Structure

As shown in the Figure 2, it is clear that the ratio of male child labourers was higher than that of the female child labourers, as the percentage of male child labourers was 52 per cent and the percentage of female child labourer was 48 per cent.

In the sample survey of child labourers, it has been analyzed that the number of child labourers belonging to Patna was 45 and percentage share was 90 per cent, whereas the number of children belonging to other cities was 5 and the percentage share was 10 per cent. 5 child labourers were those who had fled from home due to poor economic condition of their families.

Table 2. Child Labourers of PMC Area: Caste Composition

Caste Composition	No of respondents	% share
General	19	38
OBC	13	26
SC	10	20
ST	8	16
Total	50	100

*Based on sample survey 2018.

As shown in Table 2, the highest percentage share of general categories was 38 per cent, whereas those of OBC was 26 per cent, then SC was 20 per cent and the last ST was 16 per cent.

Table 3. Child labourers of PMC Area: Staying With

Staying with	No of respondents	% share
Parents	31	62
Relatives	7	14
Employers	8	16
Others	4	8
Total	50	100

*Based on sample survey 2018.

As it is clear from Table 3, the number of child labourers living with parents is the highest, whose percentage is 62. Those living with their relatives is 14 per cent. Some child labourers are engaged in household works or in shops. So these child labourers live with their employers and others, including their friends and companions, and that is 8 per cent.

Economic Condition : Economic condition is a measure of a person’s work experience and of an individual’s or family’s economic and social position, based on income, education and occupation. Economic condition is also called economic status. (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Socioeconomic_status) Economic status is the status of a person’s financial position at a specific period of time. It is often used to measure people’s welfare. It usually refers to the economic level achieved by an individual, household or firm. The sample survey was a complete analysis regarding the child labourers and their families.

Table 4. Child Labourers of PMC Area: Nature of work

Types of work	No of respondents	% share
Commercial	30	60
Domestic	15	30
Industrial	5	10
Total	50	100

*Based on sample survey 2018.

As shown in the Table 4, the maximum number of child labourers were engaged in commercial work, of which 60 percent worked in restaurants, hotels, transport, storage and retail trade. The percentage share of domestic work is 30 percent which includes housekeeping, cooking, and childcare in a home environment. 10 percent of child labourers were working in industries like cement or sugar industry.

Table 5. Child Labourers of PMC Area: Duration of work

Duration of work	No. of respondents	% share
2–4 years	19	38
5–8 years	21	42
6–8 years	10	20
Total	50	100

*Based on sample survey 2018.

As shown in the above Table 5, it can be analyzed that the working years of the child labourers has started from an early age. The percentage share of child labourers in the category of 2- 4 years is 38 percent, 5- 6 years is 42 percent and 6-8 years is 20 per cent. Even the child labourers were unaware, due to their work, of the educational facilities available to them. The mean

average duration of their work is 4-6 hours per day.

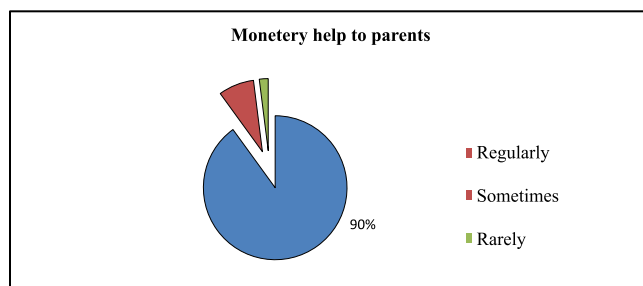
The child labourers have entered the employment field for several reasons. In the conducted survey, we got to know that 98 percent of the child labourers were working to supplement their family income, since they were from a poor background also, they are persuaded by parents. Only 2 percent of child labourers were working due to other reasons, either they had fled from home or been influenced by others.

As given in the following Table 6, the percentage share of monthly income of child labourers is divided according to their type of work. The monthly income of child labourers <500 is 4 percent, and 501-750 is 4 percent. Child labourers of this category are very poor. Child labourers whose monthly income is 751-1000 is 6 percent and 1001-1500 is 4 percent. They live a slightly better life than the previous group. Where the child labourers belong to the category of 1501-2000, the monthly income is 8 percent and those who belong to the category of more than 2000, their economic condition is better. 74 per cent of child labour are from this category.

Table 6. Child Labourers of PMC Area: Monthly Income

Monthly Income	No. of respondents	% share
< 500	2	4
501 – 750	2	4
751 – 1000	3	6
1000 – 1500	2	4
1500 – 2000	4	8
>2000	37	74
Total	50	100

*Based on sample survey 2018.

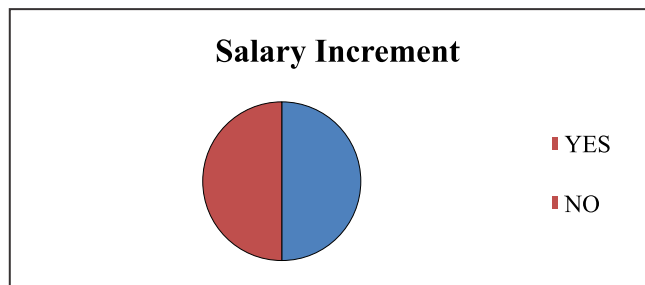


*Based on sample survey 2018

Fig. 3. Child Labourers of PMC Area: Monetary help to Parents

As given in the above Fig. 3, it was found that 90 percent of children send their money to parents regularly and these children are the helping hand of their family, 8 percent of them give their money to parents sometimes and 2 percent of children give money to their parents rarely.

As shown in the following Fig. 4, the percentage share of child labourers, whose salary is raised on a regular basis is 50 percent and those whose salary remains constant throughout the year is also 50 percent.



*Based on sample survey 2018.

Fig. 4. Child Labourers of PMC Area: Salary Increment

Table 7, shows that 72 percent of child labourers spend less than 500 and 28 percent of the child labourers spend in the range of 501-1000 on food. 80 percent of child labourers spend less than 500 and 20 percent of them spend money ranging between 500-1000 on clothes. However, 54 percent of them spend less than 500 and 46 percent spend in between 501-1000 on home rent, and 62 percent of the child labourers spend less than 500 and 32 percent spend between 500-1000 on medical treatment. 92 percent of them spend less than 500 and 8 percent of the child labourers spend in between 500-1000 for entertainment purposes. We found that child labourers earn a smaller amount of money and so they cannot afford to spend more than 1000 rupees for any purpose on their basic needs.

Table 7. Child Labourers of PMC Area: Monthly Expenses

Other expense on	Numbers (<500)	% share	Numbers (501-1000)	% share
Food	36	72	14	28
Clothes	40	80	10	20
Home rent	27	54	23	46
Medical	31	62	19	32
Entertainment	46	92	4	8

*Based on sample survey 2018.

However, it is quite different in case of child labourers; these are working children with meagre income. Most child labourers give their income to their parents. So they are left with very little money. In the conducted survey, it was found that only 24 percent of child labourers and their families have some saving in banks or at home that 76 percent of child labourers had no savings. The economic condition of these families is poor, so, they have insufficient money for saving; they are unable even to have two meals a day.

Health and Nutrition : Health and nutrition of child labourers includes details regarding his or her personal health, disease, physical disability, place of treatment, quality of food, etc. Good health is a state of being free from illness; so good nutritious food is a necessary component for good health. Nutritious food maintains body growth and physical metabolism. Food provides energy in forms of proteins, carbohydrates, minerals. (www.buisnessdictionary.com/definition/health.html) According to the World Health Organization, "Health is a state of complete physical, mental, and social wellbeing and not merely the absence of disease". Good nutrition leads to good health and may include a diet that contains vitamins, proteins, etc. Lack of good food remains a serious problem in developing countries. Good nutrition can help prevent disease and promote a healthy life. Engagement in economic activities at an early age and participation, especially in hazardous and exploitative work, have a devastating effect on the health of child labourers.

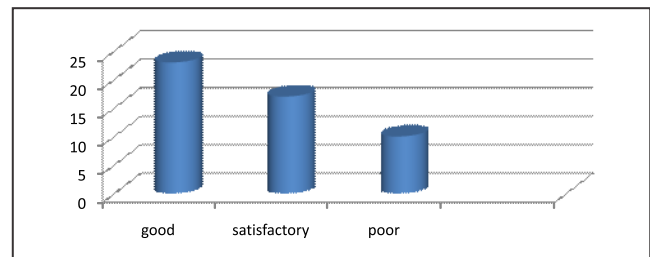
Table 8. Child Labourers of PMC Area: General Health

General health	No. of respondents	% share
Good	19	38
Satisfactory	23	46
Poor	8	16
Total	50	100

*Based on sample survey 2018.

From the above Table 8, it is clear that only 16 percent of child labourers have poor health while 38 percent have good health and 46 percent of the child labourers' health status is satisfactory. The main reasons behind having poor health were unhygienic living conditions and lack of nutritious food.

According to the sample survey Figure 5, it was found that 46 percent of the child labourers were provided with good quality food, while 34 percent were satisfied and 20 percent of them were provided with poor quality food. A large number of child labourers are getting poor quality food because of low income and all of them focus on earning as much money as possible. So they are not so concerned about the quality of food.



*Based on sample survey 2018.

Fig. 5. Child labourers of PMC Area: Food Quality

It is important to satisfy the hunger, but rising food prices greatly affect the availability of food to child labourers. It was found in the survey that the child labourers were spending 60 percent of their income on food.

Table 9. Child Labourers of PMC Area: Availability of Food

Food provided by	No of respondents	% share
Provided by employers	14	28
Self cooked	31	62
Obtained from shops	0	0
Other sources	5	10
Total	50	100

*Based on sample survey 2018.

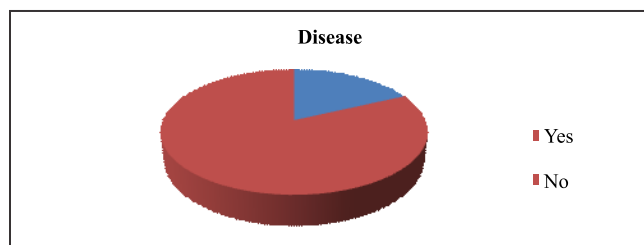
The Table 9 shows that 28 percent of the child labourers are receiving food provided by the employers, 62 percent of them eat self cooked food while 10 percent of them get food from other sources.

Table 10. Child Labourers of PMC Area: Affordability of Food

Affordability of food	No of respondents	% share
Always	28	56
Most of the days	16	32
Not always	6	12
Rarely	0	0
Total	50	100

*Based on sample survey 2018.

From the Table 10, it is clear that 56 percent of the child labourers can afford two square meals a day from their monthly income, 32 percent of them on most of the days. Only 12 percent of them cannot afford it. Child labourers are prone to diseases, as they are exposed to polluted air and noise pollution, they also suffer from diseases occurring due to frequent use of contaminated drinking water, more often they suffer from malaria, typhoid, dengue.

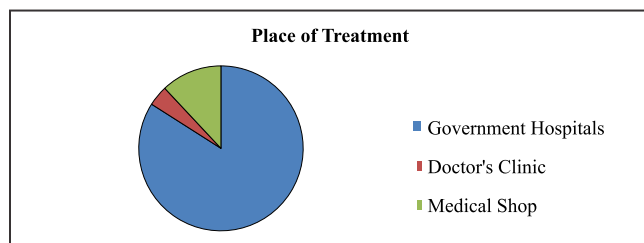


*Based on sample survey 2018.

Fig. 6. Child Labourers of PMC Area: Disease

From Fig. 6, it is clear that 18 percent of the child labourers are suffering from diseases, though the rest 82 percent of child labourers enjoy good health. Professionals provide health examination, diagnosis, and medicines.

From Fig. 7, it is clear that the child labourers visit different hospitals, doctors' clinics, medical shops etc. 84 percent of the total surveyed child labourers are dependent on government hospitals for their treatment, while 4 percent are dependent on doctors' clinic and 12 percent are dependent on medical shops for their treatment. Most of them prefer government hospitals because of free treatment.



*Based on the sample survey 2018.

Fig. 7. Child Labourers of PMC Area: Place of Treatment

Social Status: Social status is the relative respect, competence and deference accorded to people, groups and organizations in a society. At its core, status is about the members of society who are considered to hold more social values. Social status is simply a social standing of a person as compared to others in a group or situation. (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/social_status)

Social status of the child labourers include details regarding their living standard, level of education, time for recreation, source of recreation, leisure activity, and satisfaction from their present life. The hazardous works of child labourers force them to adopt a miserable living standard.

Table 11. Child Labourers of PMC Area: Living Standard

Types of room	No of respondents	% Share
Individual	15	30
Shared	20	40
No room	15	30
Total	50	100

*Based on sample survey 2018.

The Table 11 presents the availability of room facility among the child labourers. A majority of child labourers live in shared rooms and their percentage share is 40 percent, 30 percent of child labourers in individual rooms, 30 percent of them have no room at all, they have to live on streets or on the roadside.

Regarding the availability of other civic amenities, however like toilet, the child labourers review do not seem to be that fortunate. The findings reveal that of 50 child labourers covered in the survey, 10 percent do not have any toilet facility, leaving them to look for a place like drains, railway tracks or some open wasteland to answer nature's call.

Many of these appear to be drop outs trying to get employment to support their family income. Some of them are not interested in availing of education. In fact, poverty, lack of interest, and lack of resources have been the chief causes for all. Some child labourers seem to learn some writing or reading skills from sources like employers, or parents.

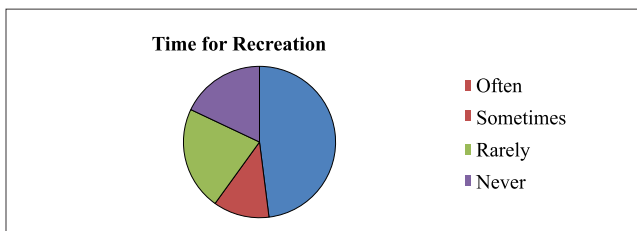
Table 12. Child Labourers of PMC Area: Level of Education

Level of education	No of respondents	% Share
Writing	10	20
Reading	05	10
Both	20	40
None	15	30
Total	50	100

*Based on sample survey 2018.

From the Table 12, it is clear that 20 percent of child labourers can write, 10 percent of them can read, 40 percent of them can both write and read and 30 percent of them are illiterate. So, it is clear that more than half of them know to read or write. So it is satisfactory that they can be considered literate by the census of India.

Fig. 8, shows that, in order to have relatively more earnings, the working children seem to have compromised with their recreational activities. However, amid this gloomy scenario, there are some fortunate child labourers who get a little time to enjoy themselves. 48 percent of child labourers often go in for recreational activities, while 12 percent sometimes, 9 percent rarely manage time and 18 percent of them never try recreational activities



*Based on sample survey 2018.

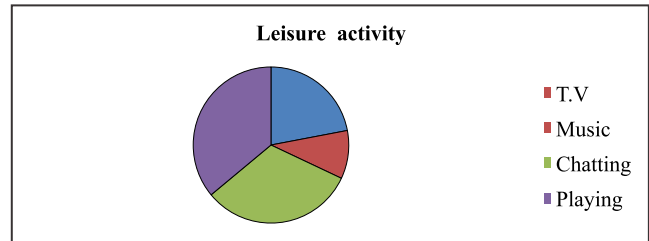
Fig. 8. Child Labourers of PMC Area: Time for Recreation

Table 13. Child Labourers of PMC Area: Sources of Recreation

Sources of Recreation	No of respondents	% Share
Going to movies	9	18
Visit to the zoo	12	24
Going for entertainment	21	42
Other	8	16
Total	50	100

*Based on sample survey 2018.

Table 13 shows that 18 percent of child labourers go to movies, 24 percent of them visit the zoo, 40 percent of them go to a fun fair, while 16 percent choose other options for recreational activities. Child labourers try to entertain themselves, by watching TV, listening to songs, playing, chatting etc.



*Based on sample survey 2018.

Fig. 9. Child Labourers of PMC Area: Leisure Activity

Fig. 9, shows that 22 percent of the working children watch TV during leisure time, 10 percent of them listen to music, 32 percent of them chat and 36 percent of them play during leisure.

Different types of addiction are found among the child labourers under consideration. Altogether 12 percent of the working children seem to be addicted. 6 percent of them smoke and 6 percent of them chew tobacco and gutkha. It is indeed a matter of concern that, at this tender age, the child labourers are addicted, which is harmful for their health.

Child labourers are being harassed mainly in the form of beating, use of abusive language, mental torture and so on. Often, the child labourers have to bear the agony of harassment, generally from their respective employers. It was found that 8 percent of the child labourers were the victims of abusive language and 12 percent of the child labourers were suffering from mental torture and as regards the rest 80 percent, it was unknown, because they were afraid to provide any detailed information regarding violence from their employers.

Table 14. Child Labourers of PMC Area: Satisfaction from Present Life

Satisfied from Present life	No of respondents	% Share
Yes	34	68
Somewhat	8	16
Not much	6	12
Not at all	2	12
Total	50	100

*Based on sample survey 2018.

The above Table 14 shows that 68 percent of the working children are fully satisfied with their present life, as they are able to fill their stomachs by their earnings, while 16 percent are somewhat satisfied, 12 percent are not quite satisfied and only 4 percent of them are not at all satisfied with their present life.

Government Schemes and Laws to Eradicate Child Labour :

The Indian government has enacted acts, laws and organizations to combat the prominence of child labour. Some of the initiatives include the child labour prohibition and regulation act, which is a piece of legislation that prohibits the engagement of children in certain employment and regulate the conditions of child labourers.

The Constitution of India too provides certain rights to children and prohibits child labour. There are acts like Factories acts, Child labour prohibition and Regulation act which restricts the work done by child labourers between 7pm and 8am. The Domestic worker (registration social security and welfare) act 2008 specifies that no child shall be employed as domestic worker or any such incidental work which is prohibited under law. Government has initiated the National Child Labour Project (NCLP) Scheme in 1988 to rehabilitate working children. And the Ministry of Labour and Employment functions to provide and supervise a range of policies concerning child labour in India. Besides, there are NGOs, such as, Care India, Child Labour and You, Global March against child labour, <https://labour.gov.in/childlabour/nclp>. Here are some suggestions to reduce or eradicate the problems of child labour:-

- Implementation of the Child Labour Acts should be done properly, the Government and concerned authorities should take strict action in the case of the violation of the same.
- Those children who get involved in work should be encouraged to go for free education.
- Parents should be made aware that sending their children to work is illegal; authorities may take legal action against them.
- Related topics should be included in the course of school curricula.

Conclusion :

Child Labour is an employment of children, in any work that deprives children of their childhood, interferes with their ability to attend regular school and is mentally, physically, socially or morally dangerous and harmful. It is based on purposive random sampling, entitled "Situational Analysis of Child Labour in Patna Municipal Corporation Area", 50 child labourers were chosen, and which we categorized a number of sections in the survey. The sample survey was a complete analysis regarding the child labourers and their family. So their economic condition was also analyzed. The nature of work and monthly income were among the factors that were included in the study. In spite of having a salary of more than 2000, their basic needs do not get fulfilled and so they have to compromise with their studies and their health. The Health and nutrition of the child labourers of the PMC area is not that satisfactory. A large number of child labourers have poor health; the main reason behind having poor health was unhygienic living conditions and lack of nutritious food. Child labour involves some degree of exploitation, mainly physical, mental, economic and social. Therefore, it impairs the health and development of children. In spite of all the efforts, policies, and rules by The Indian Government, NGOs, one comes across the stark reality – a large number of children are employed in various spheres of activity, all over India, and Bihar as well.

The maximum number of child labourers were engaged in commercial work, the percentage share is 60 percent, followed by the domestic work that is 30 percent and then industrial work that is 10 percent. Hence this proves that the child labourers were working in both domestic and business sectors. So the 1st hypothesis has been validated. The number of female child labourers were 24 and male child labourers were 26 from which it is clear that the number of male child labourers is greater than the female child labourers the 2nd hypothesis of male child labourers is more as compared to female ones has been proved. The nature of work and monthly income were some of the factors that were included in the study. 56 percent of the child labourers can afford two meals a day from their monthly income. 18 percent of the child labourers are suffering from diseases due to frequent use of contaminated drinking water. They are thus prone to disease like malaria, typhoid, etc., even though 82 percent of the

child labourers are disease free. 84 percent of total surveyed child labourers are dependent on government hospitals and 4 percent are dependent on doctors' clinic. Thus 3rd hypothesis, "Poverty and unhygienic conditions of the child labourers are hazardous to physical and mental health." seems valid.

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