

‘Lokmanya’s Dream of Education For Nation Building: An Exploration of Present Situation of Child Labours with Special Reference to Selected Suburban Areas of Mumbai City’

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INTRODUCTION

As per the filtration theory gains of the education among the upper classes would help the people at the bottom of the society. Lokmanya Tilak, Jyotiba Phule, Shahu Maharaj of Kolhapur, and latterly Bhaurao Patil advocated and spread of development. Tilak has view that girls should be educated however he was against to extravagant westernisation. Lokmanya Tilak felt that social reform is possible through the process of education. (Inamdar 1983) According to Lokmanya Tilak to be able to read and write alone is no education. He felt that if people did not take education needed for their survival and living quality life. Hence all Indian should have conscious and clear about it is not fault on our part if person or people unable to get employment even after getting so much education. Further the fault goes to the education we receive. (Hariprasad 2018). Lokmanya Tilak with his friend had dream to serve people in terms of education, because they watched dreadful ignorance among the society and its pathetic consequences. Hence they were thinking to establish institution that would be cheap, effective and accessible to all. (Pagadi 2019). After Mahatma Phule, Lokmanya had dream of education however still India is struggling to give primary education to children.

Child labour is one of the biggest social problems in developing countries. It acts as an obstacle to sustainable development. It is the policy of the Government of India to abolish all forms of child labour. Due to child labour children are devoid of their childhood. They have to work for prolonged hours in very bad conditions. Child labour affects the physical, mental and emotional

health of children. These children do not have basic rights, like right to play, right to education and right to entertainment. Child labour is found in urban and also rural parts of India.

According to International Labour Organization (ILO, 2013) there are 215 million child labourers in the world. In India there are 10.13 million child labourers in the age group of 5-14 years (Census 2011). In Maharashtra there are 4,96,916 child labourers (Census 2011). As per the report of the Action Aid, 1 in every 11 children in India has to undertake labour work to make a living.

There is an urgent need to generate awareness on child labour. The ILO has declared 12th June as the 'World Day against Child Labour' for awareness generation. The government of India is also involved in awareness generation and prevention of child labour. But the problem in India is closely linked to socio-economic deprivation of the poor families. In light of the high poverty and unemployment, the problem of child labour still persists in large extent. Hence, it requires continuous efforts of awareness generation and prevention.(Tilak ,2020).

The current report is prepared based the survey of child labourers in the city of Mumbai conducted in 2019. In this introduction section, the background of child labour is provided in form of its meaning, laws, demographics and important aspects.

According to the National Policy on Child Labour, 1987, "no, child below age of 14 years shall be employed to work in any factory or mine or engaged in any hazardous employment". The Government of India classifies child labourers into two groups, viz., main child workers who work 6 months or more per year and marginal child workers are those who work at any time during the year but less than 6 months in a year. Child labour has close association with access to education. Hence, the Rightof Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act of 2009 plays an important role in abolishing child labour. The law mandates free and compulsory education to all

children aged 6 to 14 years. This legislation also mandated that 25 percent of seats in every private school must be allocated for children from disadvantaged groups and physically challenged children. As per the Census 2011 there are 10.13 million child labourers in India in the age group of 5-14 years. According to the NGO Save the Children, following five states in India have the biggest child labour employers: Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra. The national capital region of Delhi has 1 million child labourers. Based on the analysis of the Census 2011, the NGO CRY shows that the overall decrease in child labour is only 2.2 per cent year on year, over the last 10 years. It also shows that child labour has grown by more than 50 per cent in urban areas. As per the NGO HAQ Centre for Child Rights, child labour is highest among backward classes such as OBCs, Muslims, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

Review of Literature:

Dr. Tilak Deepak and Tilak Geetali (2019), right to education was proposed by Lokmanya Tilak seventy years back and common language is important as the element of nationality.

Kaur Gangadeep (2018), highlighted in the study that as a social reformer Lokmanya advocated education for women and women empowerment and believed that growth of any nation independence is basic necessity.

Randeep Kaur (2018), revealed Lokmanya started various educational institutions to provide quality education. The aim of such institution was to devise educational program which provide an intelligent popular basis for rebirth of Indian Nation. His firm belief on create new system of thought of Indian nationalist ideas.

M. C. Naidu and K. Dashratha Ramaiha have studied that Child Labour in India: An overview. The data revealed that the prevalence of child labour is one of the most important problems confronting the world at large, especially developing countries such as India. In many cases, child labour is mainly necessitated by economic compulsions of the parents. The main reason which gives rise to child labour is widespread unemployment and underemployment among the adult poor strata of the population, inter alia, due to sharp growth of population. Large families with low income and often lack of educational facilities, illiteracy and ignorance of parents about the importance of education as well as about the impact of labour on the health of their children are some of the reasons which breed child labour.

Dr. Sudeep Limaye and Dr. Milind Pandey have studied that A study of Child labour in India – Magnitude and challenges. Data revealed that Children in Indian society has always been a topic less spoken or discussed. The reasons of the same can be traced back to the socio-cultural background of the country. In the world children are taken as the greatest gift to humanity. Childhood is an important stage of human development as it holds the potential to the future of any society. Children who are brought up in an environment which is helpful to their intellectual, physical and social development will go on to be responsible and productive part of the society. Thus every society links its future to the present status of its children.

Bhupen Barman and Nirmalendu Barman have studied that A Study on Child Working Population in India. The study reveals that Child working people are unequal in India. They are also called child labour. Any child out of school is a child labour. According to International Labour Organization (ILO); the term „child labour“ is often defined as work that deprives children of their childhood their potential and their dignity and that is harmful to physical and mental development. It refers to work that is mentally, physically, socially or morally dangerous

and harmful to children; and interferes with their schooling by depriving them of opportunity to attend school; obliging them to leave school prematurely; or requiring them to attempt to combine school attendance with excessively long and heavy work". Child labour is recognized as a serious and enormously complex social problem in India. Children, under age 14 are often forced to work for as many as 18 hours a day.

Objectives of the study:

- To study relevance of Lokmanya Tilak's view towards education and social problems.
- To know the personal details, socio economic condition and family background of children in the pre-determined areas of Borivali, Andheri, and Kurla.
- To find out educational status of children and factors responsible for the same.

Methodology:

This study is combination of exploratory and descriptive research design. Through exploratory research design the researched would like to find the needs of intervention for child labor more precisely. The descriptive research design will help researcher to describe the possible socio economic situation, family background, educational status. The said study was conducted in selected Suburban areas of Mumbai city. Out of total three Suburban areas i.e. Borivali, Andheri, and Kurla was the study region. From the study area such as, Chembur, Govandi and Mankhurd from Kurla Block, Andheri and Varsova area, Goregaon and Jogeshwari, from Malad, Malavani, Santacruz, Bandra and Borivali etc. totally 1557 child labour from the age group of 5 to 14 and adolescent labour from the age group of 14 to 18 years were selected as samples. For the present study Non – probability sampling method was used out of which Snow – Ball and purposive sampling method was adopted for the selection of sample units. Data was collected structured interview schedules prepared by National Child Labour Rehabilitation Project, Mumbai, Sub Urban, Mumbai.

FINDINGS AND SUGGESTIONS

- According to Lokmanya's view education is basis for individual development as well as it is the medium for nation development. Skill training is essential because formal education may creates clerks .
- Most of the parents are illiterate so they have least interest in child education. Some parents are single due to divorce or death of the spouse so to meet daily expenses and daily living the children have to work or help their parents in work such as selling vegetables, domestic work, cooking street food etc. Some children are facing the some familial problems related second marriage or extra marital relationship of parents so the children from these families are neglected by parents. Especially fathers from such families are looking after the second family and so these children are deprived from education, they have to work with their mothers.
- It shows that children who are working in hazardous work were between the age group of 11 to 16 years and above. However children between the age group of 5 to 10 years were working in non hazardous. work.
- Work type of children shows that fifty percent of respondents were engaged in home based activities. Considering the nature of employment of children, study shows that more number of respondents was working in non hazardous employment.Children become worker because of poverty and financial problem, and very less number of respondents were trafficked.
- It is observed that some children are having addiction such as smocking, taking drugs or chewing tobacco etc. hence these children are not willing to take education. Another problem is observed that some children are physically *divyang* due to lack of facilities in school these children preferred to stay at home only rather than to attend the schoolIt

shows that there were more number of children were studied at secondary level and then drop out.

- There are many reasons such as lack of documents, far distance from home, higher fees, medium of school and lack of higher standard school nearby. Some parents don't have birth certificate, caste certificate as their children were born at home or village. Distance of school is nearly 10 to 15 km from home, and due to low economic condition they couldn't pay the travelling fare from home to school. Due to high fees in private school the children are unable to pay the fees. Hence, most of the schools are of Marathi medium in Mumbai, the migrated children from other states could not able cope with the instruction and teaching language and so they don't go to school. Some part of Mumbai the schools are up to secondary level only so parents are not willing to send their children to higher secondary schools which are far away from their homes.
- **Suggestions :**
 - The present study highlights overall socioeconomic and education as well as employment status of children, hence study suggest that there is need of intervention for mainstreaming the children for education because more number of children were found school dropout at various level of age.
 - Child labour found in respective blocks which is quite sensitive issue that still children are working though India have all necessary measures such as policy, laws, commitment towards convention. Awareness, implementation of law, and mainstreaming will help to reduce this number.

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