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THE POSITION OF CHILD LABOUR IN THE STATE OF UTTARAKHAND: AN EMPIRICAL STUDY

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Abstract:- As we know, the extreme exploitation of child labour is prevalent in whole India including hill areas of the state of Uttarakhand. In this article an attempt has been made to find out the real position of child labour after doing an empirical study in five districts of Uttarakhand i.e Dehradun, Haridwar, Ruderpur, Ramnagar, Nainital. In this study, 100 parents and 100 employer of the child labour have been interviewed in the year 2013 and the result is shown through the graph and the tables. This article is significant in two ways; firstly, it would reveal the real position of child labour in the state of uttrakhand and secondly, it would suggest means and ways which will greatly enhance the chance of eradication of child labour

Keywords: Child labour , empirical study , Scientists, Philosophers, Rulers, Administrators, Engineers.

INTRODUCTION

THE CHILDREN ARE the greatest gift of “GOD” to the humanity. They are the messengers of our ideologies, thoughts, knowledge and cultural heritage. Hidden in their innocence is the greatest potential of Scientists, Philosophers, Rulers, Administrators, Engineers, Doctors, Statesmen or the best citizen ready to serve the nation and even to dedicate their lives if need so arises. Laid in them is the foundation of the Nation and therefore, the future and stability of a society depends on the quality of its Children. The strength, prosperity, culture and dignity of a nation depend, to a great extent, upon how its Children are brought up and trained.

The time is not far away when the Nations will be judged neither by their military or economic strength nor by the splendor of their Capital Cities and public buildings but by their people’s well being, the levels of their health, nutrition and education, opportunities to earn a fair reward for their labour, ability to participate in the decisions that affect their lives, the respect that is shown for their civil and political liberties, the protection that is afforded to the growing minds and bodies of their Children.

The Children are subjected to work at a early age when they require the utmost love, affection, care and proper education. They become the direct victims of the existing exploitative set up of the society. This may be due to poverty, lack of education or worse socio-economic conditions that when the Children should have been at schools, are forced to live in streets and to search work for themselves for their subsistence. Various factors force them to work in factories, shops, hotels or where ever they could get job even involving hazardous processes. In this way emerged a separate category of labour popularly known as Child Labour.

It should be the constitutional or at least legal responsibility of the Nations to ensure that latent potential of every Child gets suitable nutrition to develop. But, the harsh reality is that the Nations have miserably failed to arrange for Children even the bare necessities of life like education, food, drinking water and medicines. Instead of taking proper care, these buds are squeezed by the society before they bloom though the society itself becomes the ultimate sufferer of its own misdeed.

AN EMPIRICAL STUDY IN THE STATE OF UTTARAKHAND

AN EMPIRICAL STUDY was conducted in an unorganised sectors in the year 2013 by distributing the

questionnaires and getting the answer from some employers of the Hotels, Dhabas, Tea installs, Sweat Shops, Cycle repairing centre, Automobile repairing centre and Brick-Kilns etc. at various districts of State of Uttarakhand. Secondly, the questionnaires have been distributed to the parents of child workers and received the answer of the questions to ensure the position of the child labour. The questionnaires for employers and parents are attached in appendix as annexure 1 and 2 in the last of this article.

GRAPH OF EMPLOYERS RESPONSE IN PERCENTAGE

Q.1 What is the name and address of the firm?

Q.2 What is year of establishment of the firm?

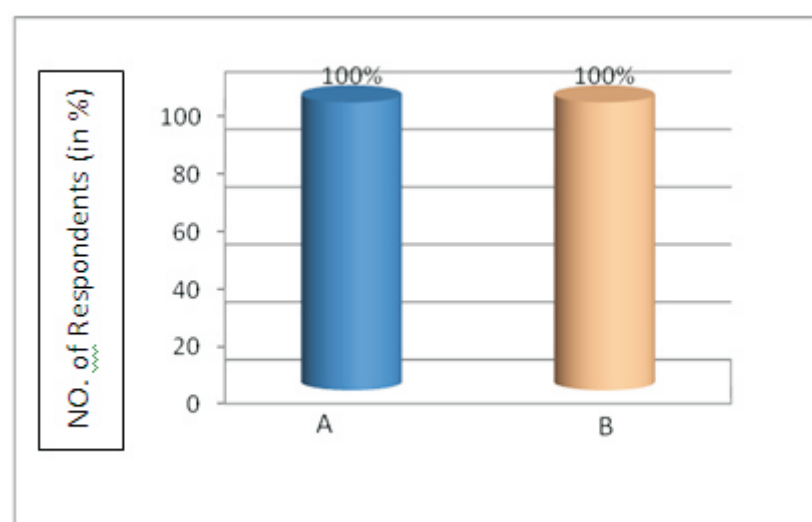


Fig. 1: Showing response of employers about Q.1 and Q.2

Interpretation: The figure indicates that all respondents given their answer about name and address of the firm and year of establishment.

Q.3 What is total number of labours employed?

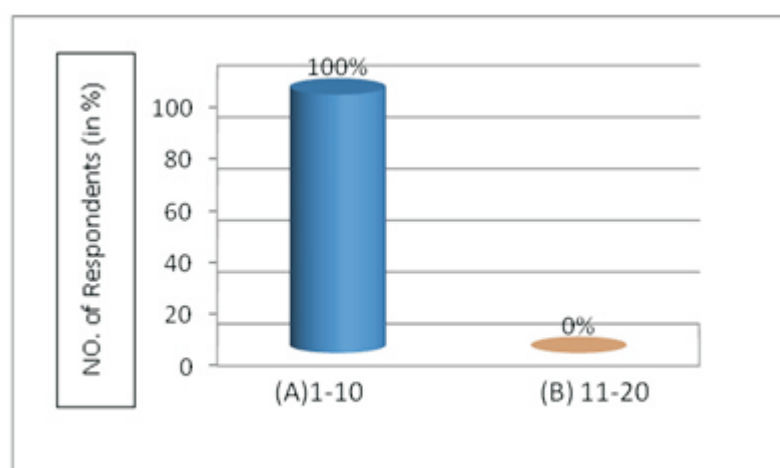


Fig. 2: Showing response of employers about Q.3

Interpretation: The figure indicates that all respondents have given their answer that the total number of labour in there establishment is 1 to 10.

Q.4.What is number of the child employed from 5 to 14years?

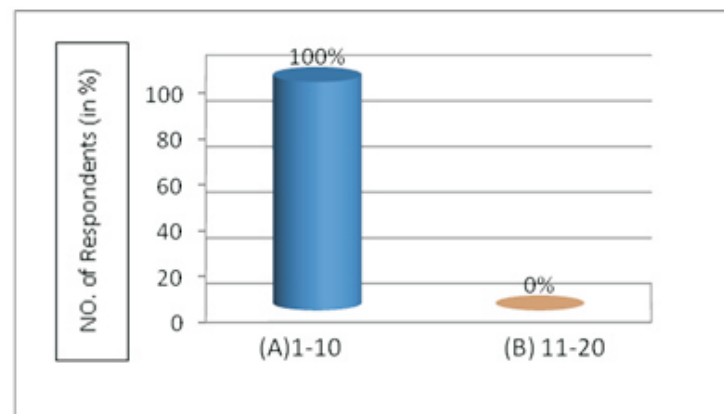


Fig. 3: Showing response of employers about Q.4

Interpretation: The figure indicates that all respondents have given answers that the total number of child workers from 5-14 years of age employed in their establishment are 1 to 10.

Q.5.What is nature of the work?

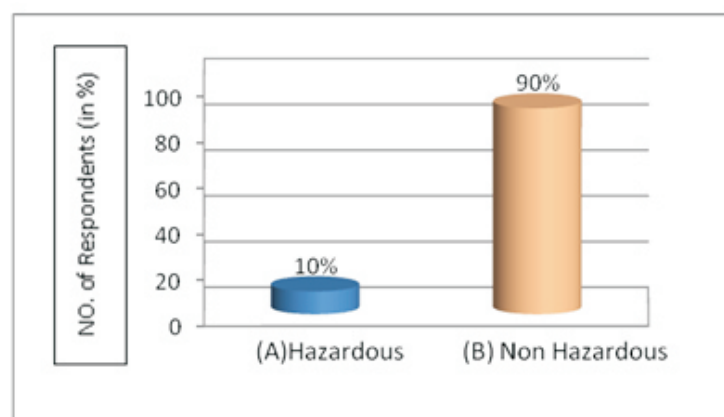


Fig. 4: Showing response of employers about Q.5

Interpretation: The above figure indicates that 10% of the respondents given the answer that the nature of the work is hazardous while 90% told no hazardous.

Q.6.What is the hours of the work?

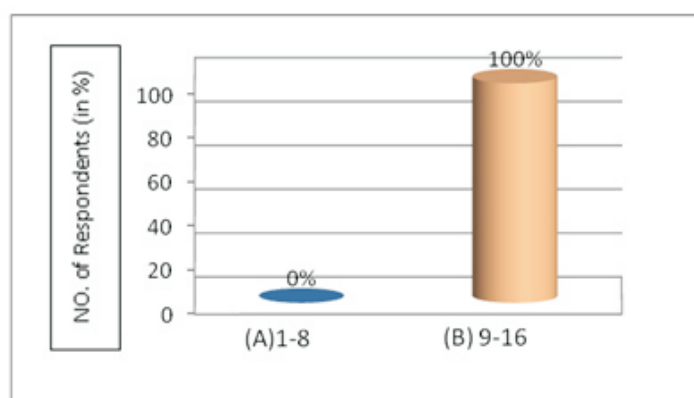


Fig. 5: Showing response of employers about Q.6

Interpretation: The sample survey indicates that 100% respondents answered that the workers do their job for 9 to 16 hours in their establishment.

Q.7.What is daily wages of the child workers?

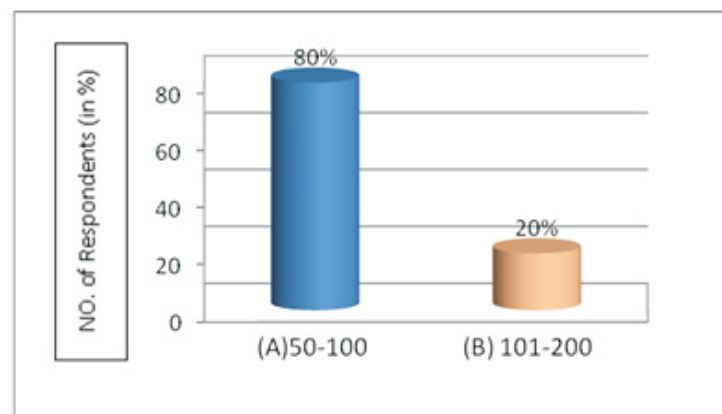


Fig. 6: Showing response of employers about Q.7

Interpretation: The sample survey indicates that 80% respondents answered that they are giving 50-100 rupees per day as a daily wages while 20% told 101-200 to the child workers.

Q.8.What are Numbers of holidays in a month?

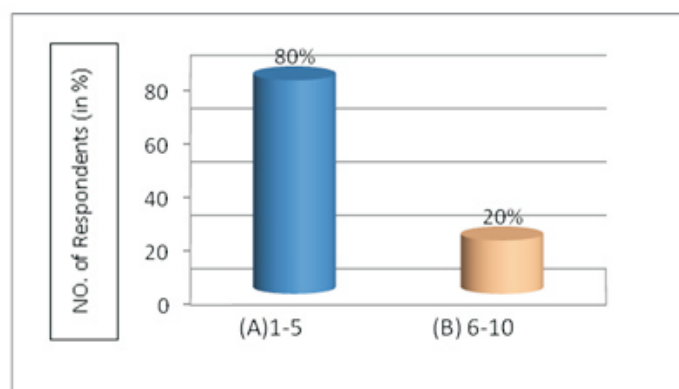


Fig. 7: Showing response of employers about Q.8

Interpretation: The sample survey indicates that 80% respondents answered that they are availing 1 to 5 holidays in a month while 20% told 6-10.

Q.9. Whether child workers are provided food?

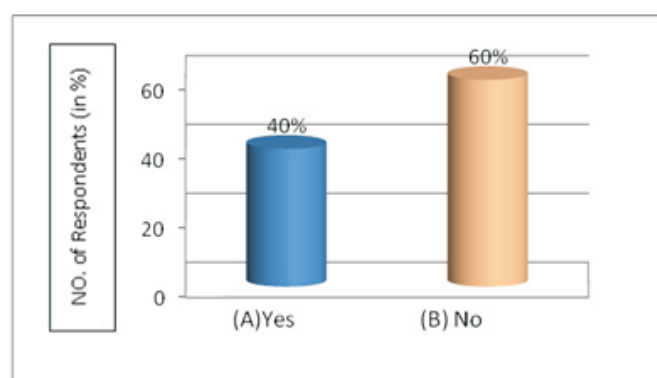


Fig. 8: Showing response of employers about Q.9

Interpretation: The above figure indicates that 40% of the respondents given the answer that they are provided food to the workers while 60% denied.

Q.10. Whether the child workers are provided clothes/dress?

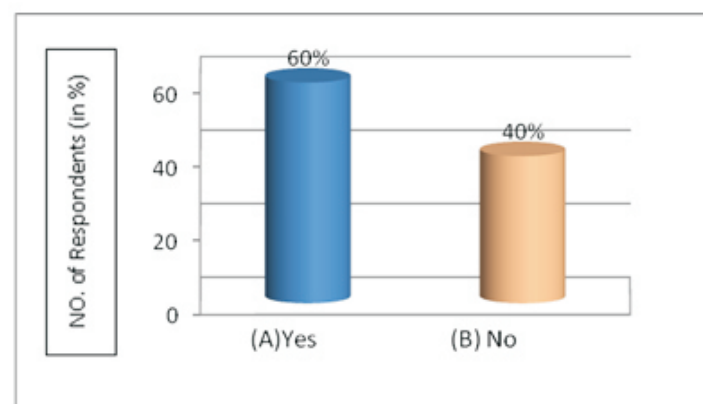


Fig. 9: Showing response of employers about Q.10

Interpretation: The above figure indicates that 60% of the respondents given the answer that they are provided clothes/dress to the workers while 40% denied.

GRAPH OF PARENTS RESPONSE IN PERCENTAGE

Q1. What is name of the father/mother?

Q2. What is address of the father/mother?

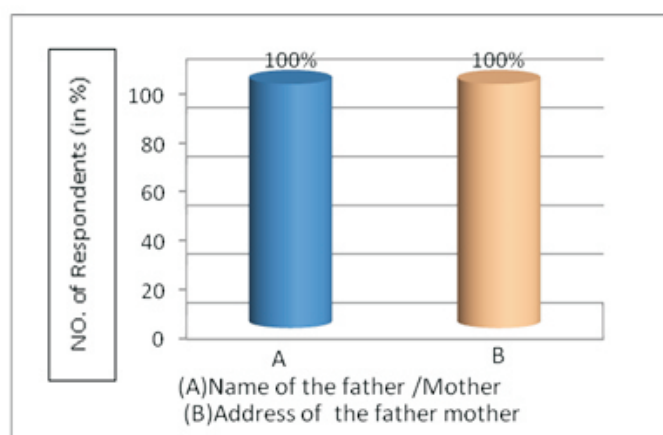


Fig. 10: Showing response of parents about Q.1 and Q.2

Interpretation: The figure indicates that all parents given their answer about name and address.

Q3. What is your educational qualification?

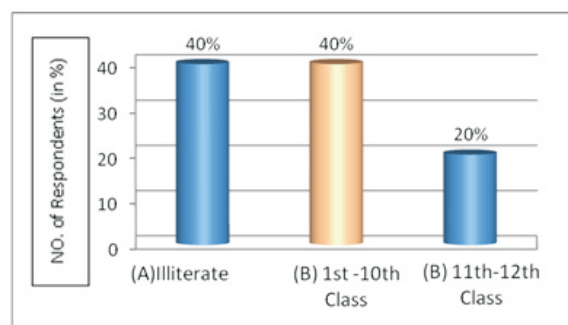


Fig. 11: Showing response of parents about Q.3

Interpretation: The figure indicates that 40% parents given their answers that they are illiterate, 40% told that they got education from 1st to 10th class while 20% responded 11th to 12th.

Q4.What is your occupation?

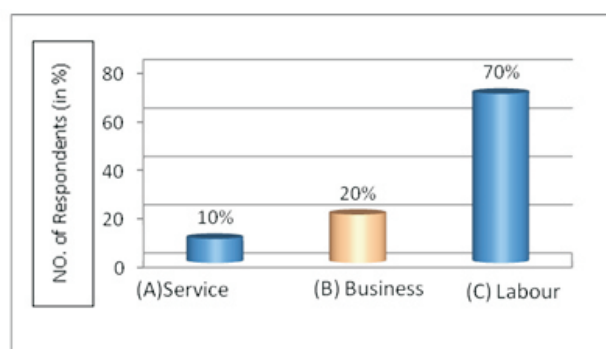


Fig. 12: Showing response of parents about Q.4

Interpretation: The figure indicates that 10% parents given their answers that they are doing Service, 20% told that their occupation is business while 70% responded as labour.

Q5.What is your monthly Income?

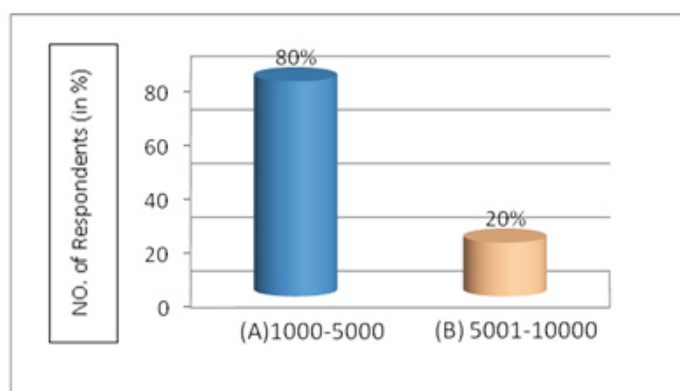


Fig.13: Showing response of parents about Q.5

Interpretation: The sample survey indicates that 80% respondents answered that they are earning Rs. 1000 to 5000 while 20% told Rs. 5001 to 10000 per month.

Q6.How many members are in the family?

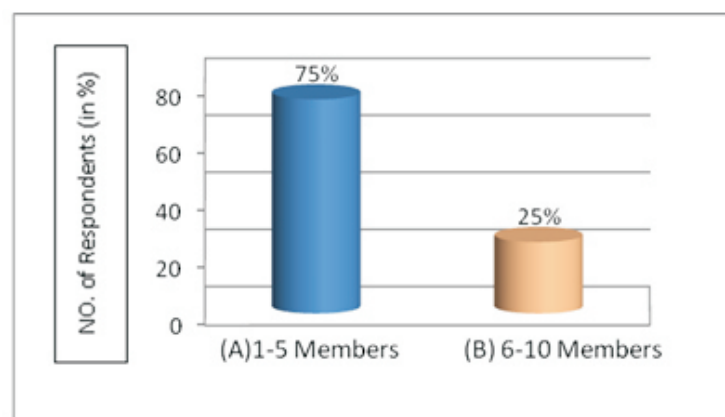


Fig. 14: Showing response of parents about Q.6

Interpretation: The sample survey indicates that 75% respondents answered that they are 1 to 5 members in family while 25% told 6 to 10.

Q7.How many Children are employed from 5 to 14 years?

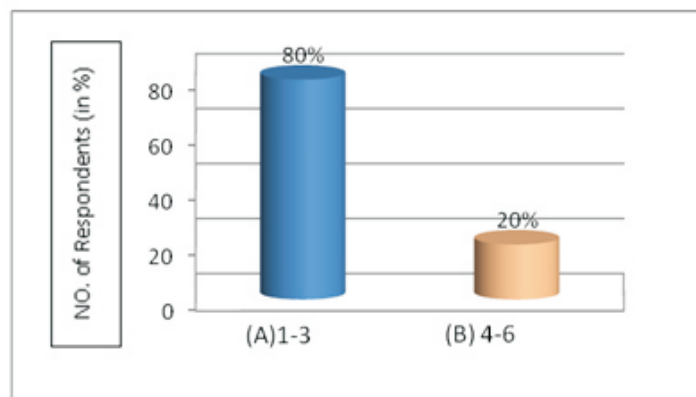


Fig. 15: Showing response of parents about Q.7

Interpretation: The sample survey indicates that 80% parents answered that 1 to 3 children up to the age of 14 years are employed in their families while 20% told 4 to 6.

Q8.What is education Qualification of child workers?

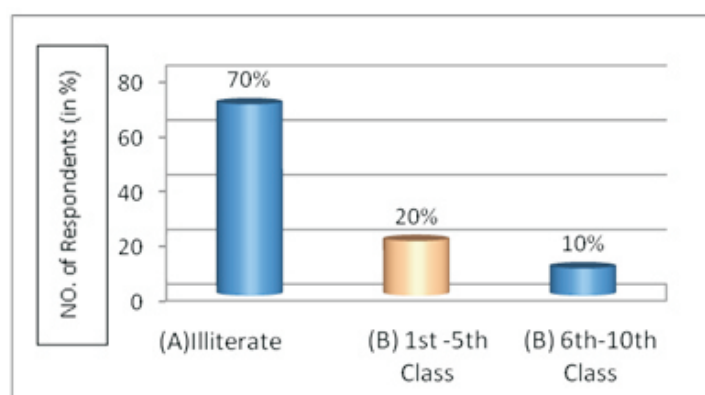


Fig. 16: Showing response of parents about Q.8

Interpretation: The figure indicates that 70% parents given their answers that their children are illiterate, 20% told that their children are educated from 1st to 5th Class while 10% responded 6th to 10th class.

Q9.What are reasons due to which the parents allowed their children to do child labour?

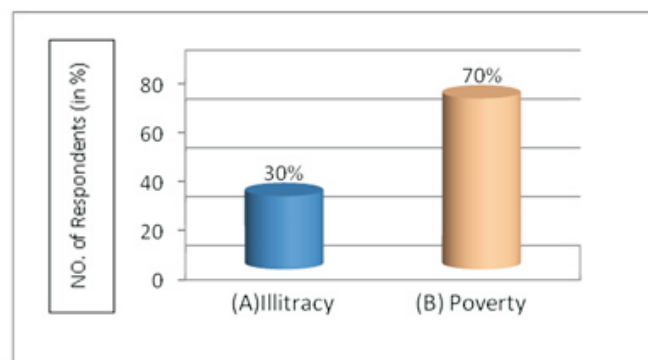


Fig. 17: Showing response of parents about Q.9

Interpretation: The sample survey indicates that 30% parents answered that they are allowing their children to do labour due to illiteracy while 70% told due to poverty.

Q10.Whether you are satisfied from the salary of your children?

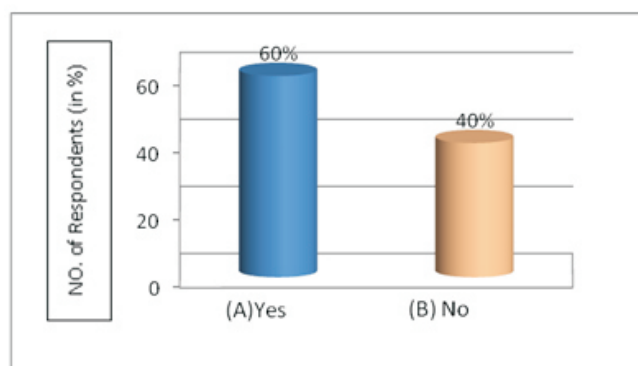


Fig. 18: Showing response of parents about Q.10

Interpretation: The figure indicates that 60% parents given their answers that they are satisfied from the salary of their children while 40% answered not satisfied.

TABLES SHOWING RESPONSE OF EMPLOYERS AND PARENTS THROUGH QUESTIONNAIRES

Table 1:Showing response of employers

Question No.	Options(sample size 100 Respondents)		
	A	B	C
3	100	0	-
4	100	0	-
5	10	90	-
6	0	100	-
7	80	20	-
8	80	20	-
9	40	60	-
10	60	40	-

Table 2: Showing response of Parents

Question No.	Options(sample size 100 Respondents)		
	A	B	C
3	40	40	20
4	10	20	70
5	80	20	-
6	75	25	-
7	80	20	-
8	70	20	10
9	30	70	-
10	60	40	-

AN EMPIRICAL STUDY CONDUCTED IN FIVE DISTRICTS OF UTTARAKHAND

The employers of some establishments in District Dehradun, Haridwar, Rudrapur, Ramnagar and Nainital have been interviewed and data of the child labour have been collected by getting the answer of the questionnaires which are shown by the following tables

Table 1: An Empirical study at Distt. DEHRADUN

<u>Name of Establishment</u>	<u>Strength</u>	<u>Total Workers</u>	<u>Child Workers from 5 to 14 yrs</u>	<u>Working Hours</u>
1. Tea Stalls	4	17	4	9-13
2. Hotels and Dhabas	4	25	4	9-12
3. Auto Mobile Repairing Centre	4	15	4	9-10
4. Cycle and tyre/tube Repairing Centers	4	7	2	9-10
5. Sweet Shops with Tea Stall	4	27	4	9-14
Total	20	91	18	-

Interpretation: - In district Dehradun, 20 employers of the units have been interrogated by providing them Questionnaires and the answers received from them shows that in all units 91 workers are employed in which 18 are children upto the age of 14 years i.e 19.78 percent of the total labour employed.

Table 2: An Empirical study at Distt. HARIDWAR

	<u>Name of Establishment</u>	<u>Strength</u>	<u>Total Workers</u>	<u>Child Workers from 5 to 14 yrs</u>	<u>Working Hours</u>
1	Tea Stalls	4	16	3	9-13
2	Hotels and Dhabas	4	25	4	9-12
3	Auto Mobile Repairing Centre	4	12	3	9-10
4	Cycle and tyre/ tube Repairing Centers	4	12	3	9-10
5	Sweet Shops with Tea Stall	4	25	4	9-14
	Total	20	90	17	-

Interpretation :- In district Haridwar, 20 employers have been interrogated, their answers shows that in all units

total workers employed are 90 in which child workers upto 14 years are 17 i.e 18.88 percent of the total labour employed.

Table 3: An Empirical study at Distt. RUDRAPUR

	Name of Establishment	Strength	Total Workers	Child Workers from 5 to 14 yrs	Working Hours
1	Tea Stalls	4	12	3	9-12
2	Hotels and Dhabas	4	20	4	9-11
3	Auto Mobile Repairing Centre	4	13	2	9-10
4	Cycle and tyre/ tube Repairing Centers	4	12	2	9-10
5	Sweet Shops with Tea Stall	4	28	5	9-14
Total		20	85	16	-

Interpretation :-In district Rudrapur, 20 employers have given the answers that in all 20 units 85 employers are employed in which 16 are child workers upto the age 14 year i.e 18.82 percent of the total labour employed.

Table 4: An Empirical study at Distt. RAMNAGAR

	Name of Establishment	Strength	Total Workers	Child Workers from 5 to 14 yrs	Working Hours
1	Tea Stalls	4	16	3	9-12
2	Hotels and Dhabas	4	14	2	9-11
3	Auto Mobile Repairing Centre	4	13	3	9-10
4	Cycle and tyre/ tube Repairing Centers	4	12	2	9-10
5	Sweet Shops with Tea Stall	4	20	3	9-13
Total		20	75	13	-

Interpretation :-In district Ramngar, the employers have given the answers that in all 20 units 75 employers are employed in which 13 are child workers upto the age 14 year i.e 17.33 percent of the total labour employed.

Table 5: An Empirical study at Distt. NAINITAL

	Name of Establishment	Strength	Total Workers	Child Workers from 5 to 14 yrs	Working Hours
1	Tea Stalls	4	16	3	9-13
2	Hotels and Dhabas	4	24	3	9-12
3	Auto Mobile Repairing Centre	4	12	3	9-9
4	Cycle and tyre/ tube Repairing Centers	4	12	3	9-10
5	Sweet Shops with Tea Stall	4	16	4	9-14
Total		20	80	16	-

Interpretation :-In district Nainital, 20 employers have given the answer that in all units 80 workers are employed in which 16 are child workers up to the age of 14 years i.e. 20 percent of the total labour employed.

The response of parents in five district of Uttarakhand

In above five districts of Uttarakhand 20 parents from each district have been interviewed and the data

collected from the answer of the questionnaires about the child labour is shown in following table.

Table

Districts	Sample size 100 respondents				
	Total Parents	Total Members of the family	child employed upto 14 years	parents who employ their children due to poverty	parent who employ their children due to illiterate
Dehradun	20	110	24	20	5
Haridwar	20	120	26	20	6
Rudrapur	20	90	12	13	4
Ramnagar	20	140	28	12	5
Nainital	20	60	10	10	5
Total	100	520	100	75	25

CONCLUSION

In all above mentioned districts 100 employers of all the establishments have been provided questionnaires and from the data collected, it is concluded that total labour employed in all above establishment are 421 in which child labour upto the 14 years are 80 i.e 19.00 percent of total labour employed.

In all five districts 100 parents also have been provided questionnaires and after getting the answer I came to the conclusion that there are 520 members in all above families in which 100 children up to 14 years are employed. 75 out of 100 parents told that they enforced their children to do child labour due to poverty while 25 are careless about their children due to illiteracy.

The literacy rate in Uttarakhand has seen upward trends and 79.63 percent as per 2011 population census. Of that, male literacy stands at 88.33 percent while female literacy is at 70.70 percent. In 2001, literacy rate in Uttarakhand stood at 71.62 percent of which male and female were 81.02 percent of which male and female were 81.02 percent and 63.36 percent literate respectively.

After comparing the data collected from the employer of the establishment and the parents of the children I came to the conclusion that about 19.04 percent children of the total labour are employed in un-organised sectors while in organised sectors it is nil in the state of Uttarakhand.

SUGGESTIONS

Now, the abolition of child labour is the goal of every nation. To eradicate the child labour following suggestions may be given:-

1. The poverty and illiteracy is the main cause of the childlabour. Therefore, there must be economic development to remove poverty and illiteracy. The government should take the steps to make the education less expensive, so that parent may send their children to school as compared to employment.
2. Child labour laws must be effectively implemented by making the implementing authority more powerful.
3. The compulsory education programme for children should be taken up at war footing. Funds can be provided from scam money recovered from different scam steers in the country. Now Govt. should wage a war against Child Labour and will come out victorious.
4. The childlabour ablation act must be amended and should be extended to cover establishments of all types including the unorganized sectors where any kind of work is carried on with the help of children. The penalty provided in the Act must be enhanced to make deterrent effect on the offenders .

APPENDIX

Annexure-1

The questionnaires for the employers and parents are as follows:-

QUESTIONNAIRES FOR EMPLOYERS

1. What is name and address of the firm?
2. What is year of establishment of the firm?
3. What is total number of Labour employed?

a.1-10

☐

b. 11-20

☐

4.What are numbers of the child employed from 5 to 14 years?

a.1-10

☐

b.11-20

☐

5.What is nature of the work?

a.Hazardous

☐

b.Non Hazardous

☐

6.What are the hours of the work?

a. 1-8

☐

b. 9-16

☐

7.What is daily wages of the child workers?

a.50-100

☐

b.101-200

☐

8.What are Numbers of holidays in a month?

a.1-5

☐

b.6-10

☐

9. Whether child workers are provided food?

a.Yes

☐

b.No

☐

10.Whether the child workers are provided clothes/dress?

a.Yes

☐

b.No

☐

Annexure-2

QUESTIONNAIRES FOR PARENTS

- 1.What is name of the father/mother?
- 2.What is address of the father/mother?
- 3.What is your educational qualification?

a.Illiterate

☐

b.1st - 10th class

☐

c.11th - 12th class

☐

4.What is your occupation?

a.Service

☐

b.Business

☐

c.Labour

☐

5.What is your monthly Income?

a.1000-5000/-

☐

b. 5001-10000/-

☐

6.How many members are in the family?

a.1-5 Members

☐

b.6-10 Members

☐

7.How many Children employed from 5 to 14 years?

a.1-3

☐

b.4-6

☐

8.What is education Qualification of child workers?

a.Illiterate ☐

b.1- 5th class ☐

b.6- 10th class ☐

9.What are reasons due to which the parents allowed their children to do child Labour?

a.Illiteracy ☐

b.Poverty ☐

c.Child himself interested ☐

10.Whether you are satisfied from the salary of your children?

a.Yes ☐

b.No ☐



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