



A STUDY ON CHILD LABOUR

Introduction:

Child labour in India has a vast definition and meaning. Different laws define child labour differently. Juvenile Justice Act, 2015 defines child labour as ever involved in the employment or work without biological parents with certain restrictions. Child Labour violates the children's rights, involving their exploitation through work that robs them of their childhood, disrupts their education, and harms their physical, mental and emotional development.

Economic hardship often forces children into these roles, denying them opportunities for education, play, and personal growth. Parents, driven by poverty, may resort to sending their children to work under hazardous conditions for low-paying jobs. This complex social issue highlights the need for protective measures to ensure children's well-being and access to a proper childhood.

Data:

The data for this study was collected using the web tool Child MISS, Homelink Network. The data covers the period from 2019 to 2023 and includes a sample size of 83 children, which consists of 14 girls and 69 boys from the provinces of Guwahati and Shillong.

Limitations:

The limitation of this study is the potential for sampling bias. The study relied on secondary data from childcare institutes, focusing on specific populations, which limits the generalizability of its findings to broader contexts. Other limitations could include the potential for incomplete or missing data, limited resources and the inability to control all relevant variables that may influence child labour.

Research Objectives:

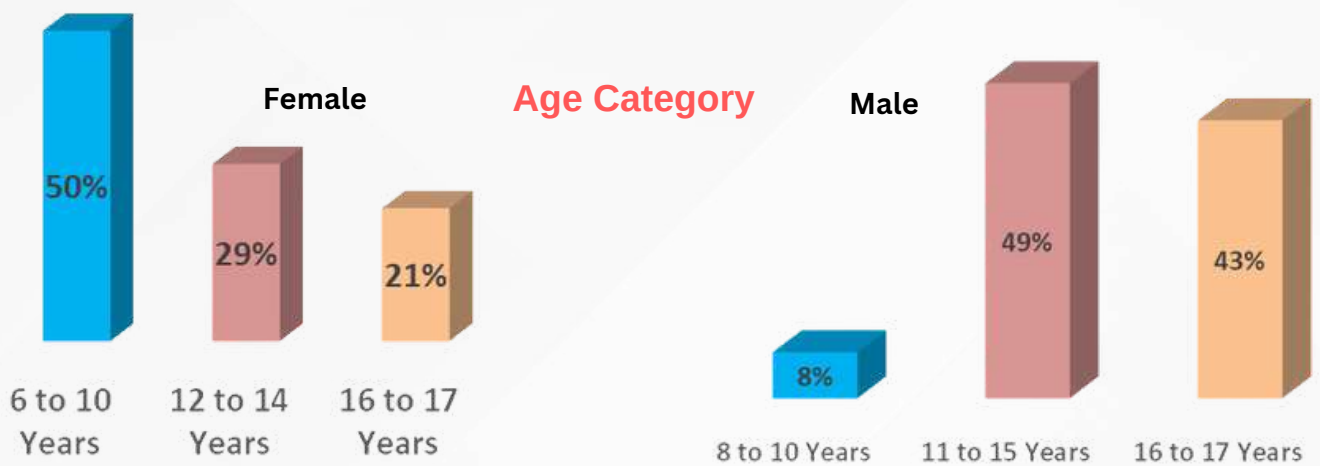
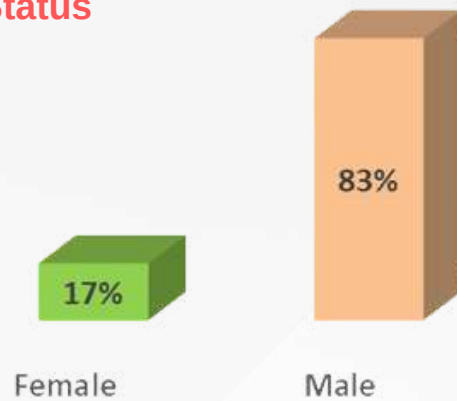
To examine the background and circumstances faced by child labourers arriving at childcare institutions within the Homelink Network in the provinces of Guwahati and Shillong.



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Gender Status

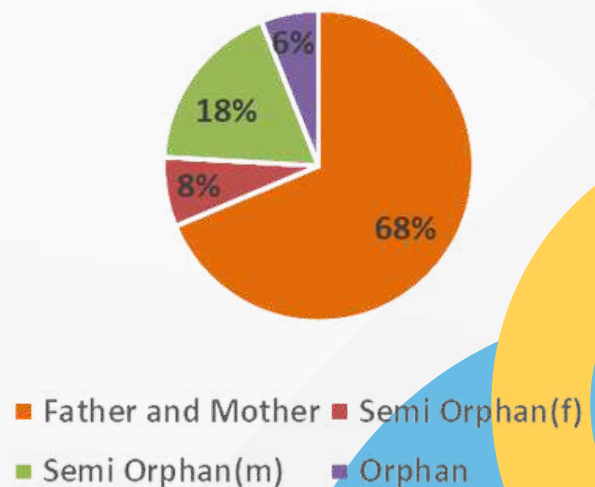
The graph shows that most child labourers are boys, likely due to family situations prioritizing work over education. In these families, males are expected to support the household financially and often encouraged to work and assist with chores.



The graph indicates that most male child labourers are aged 11 to 17, with 93.50% of children in this group working. For female child labourers, 52.94% are between 6 and 10. Boys typically start working at age 11, while girls start at age 6. Starting work early can cause difficulties and negatively impact their interest in studies.

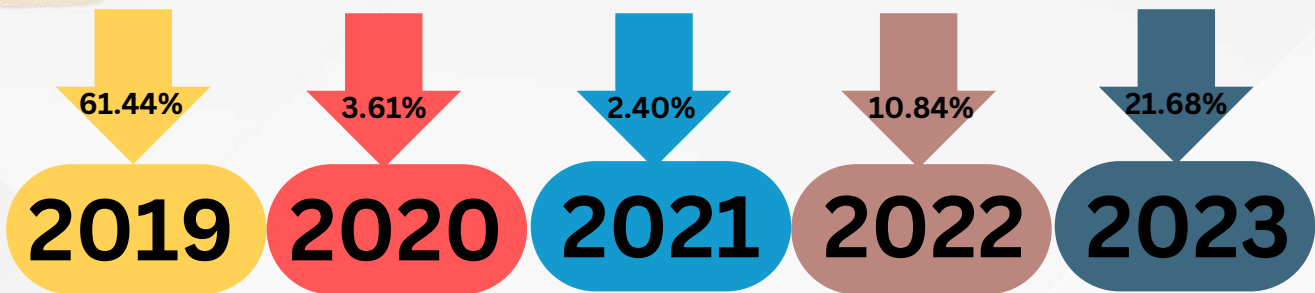
Parental Status

Children often fall victim to child labour due to their parents' illiteracy and their upbringing environment. Society significantly influences children's development in workplaces, playgrounds, schools, and other settings. Instead of studying, many children are forced to work, diminishing their interest in education, largely due to their family situations. The graph shows that most child labourers have both parents, while 22.34% have single parents. These children lack support and guidance, leading them to work instead of attending school.



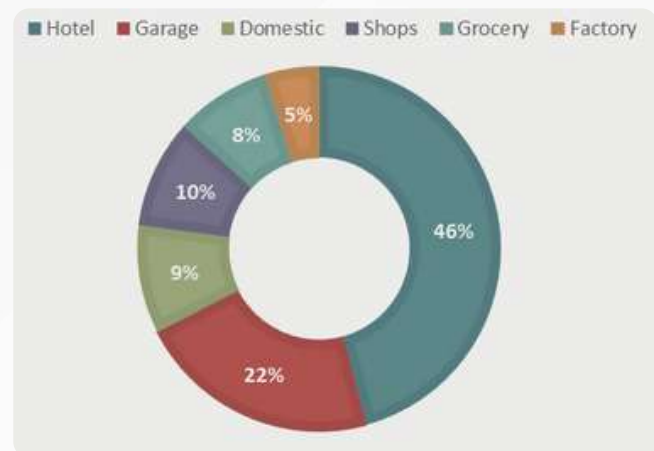
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Year wise Children Rescued

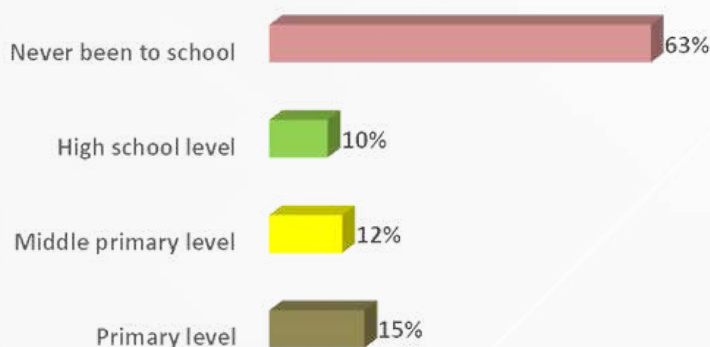


Types of work

As the graph depicts 46% of children work in hotels as these jobs are easy to obtain. Garage and grocery store jobs are also accessible to children and preferred over adults. Children receive lower wages, making them more economical for employers. Consequently, children are often seen in these jobs to earn money and support their families.



Academic Status



The graphics show that most child labourers have not attended school. Although some children are enrolled in primary and middle schools, these numbers are low. This lack of education and awareness is a significant reason why children become victims of child labour. Without proper education, they are more likely to be misled and exploited.

Causes of Child Labour:

- **Poverty:** Poverty is a major driving factor, as impoverished families often rely on their children's income to make ends meet.
- **Lack of Education:** Insufficient access to quality education contributes to child labour.
- **Cultural and Social Norms:** Some communities view child labour as a tradition or a necessity, perpetuating the practice.
- **High Unemployment Rates:** Adults' inability to find stable employment can lead to child labour as a source of family income.



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PREVENTIVE SYSTEMS/ SUGGESTIONS:

1. Collaborate with like-minded organizations, communities and stakeholders.
2. Spread awareness in the local areas and the places where the possibility is high to involve children in work.
3. Strengthening the educational institutes and assisting to enrol the children in the schools.
4. Frequent intervention by the government and non-government organizations.
5. Upliftment of the families, economically, culturally and socially.

Conclusion:

Child labour has been addressed in the Constitution of India, as well as in the laws, policies, and plans of the government of India. These plans and policies have outlined goals that have evolved over the years, yet still remain to be fully achieved. When we examine the graphic data provided, we can see significant gaps in bringing about change within our region.

Parents, teachers, and guardians need to motivate younger children, and educational institutions should take the initiative to raise awareness by collaborating with government agencies. The figures also highlight that most children become victims of child labour due to the illiteracy of their parents. This issue might also stem from a lack of education for the children themselves or the educational facilities not being provided by their parents.

Despite the efforts of both non-governmental and governmental organizations, the data on child labour is rapidly increasing year after year. It is high time to think deeply and raise our voices on behalf of the children to stop child labour in the states. The involvement of stakeholders and the local community can bring about change and pressure the government to address the issue effectively, without compromising the laws and regulations designed to protect children.

Thanks to all for your supports



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