



## CHILD LABOUR: A STUDY ON PREVAILING CONDITIONS ACROSS THE DISTRICTS OF WEST BENGAL IN 2011.

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### Abstract

Child labours in urban areas of West Bengal are predominantly main workers while in rural areas they are predominantly marginal workers. The presence of job seeking children is also high in rural areas. In this state males are working more as main workers and females are more prominent as marginal workers. Urban areas of the state are generating long time works for children in informal sectors but in rural areas children are working in agricultural fields. Moreover, the presence of child labour is more related with urban population and per capita income. In this state poverty condition is driving the children towards working in urban and rural areas. In urbanized districts like Kolkata presence of child labours are prominent due to in migration of many poor families.

**Key Words:** Child Labour, Work Participation Rate, Main Workers, Marginal Workers.

### Introduction

'Child Labour' is a word associated with miserable condition of children in their schooling days. Presence of Child labour exists in two forms like 'paid' who are getting wage for specific works they perform and 'unpaid' who are helping their families in household works or industries. In economically backward areas it is believed that more hands mean more income for family and the children in spite of their age for schooling and playing are sent to workplace to economically support the family. Behind this practice one mindset is that early engagement in work will help the children to evolve as a better worker in future (Das and Das, 2012). According to ILO, Child Labour comprises work that children are too young to perform and probably harm their health, morals or safety. The work performed by children can be classified in two broad categories like permitted light work by laws and regulations and other in the form of child labour like hazardous work, unpaid household works etc. The Constitution of India states that no child below the age of 14 shall be employed in any kind of hazardous work or factories or mines (Das and Das, 2012).

Chaudhuri and Dwibedi (2016) expressed that presence of child labour in developing countries should be addressed with its associated problems like adult unemployment and welfare of the poorer section. Avasthi and Avasthi (2016) expressed that some determinants of child labour are parental literacy and unemployment, child's poor performance in education and cheap labour force. Charles et al. (2018) by their study on Itiam community found that root cause of child labour is poverty which is ultimately associated with family income and number of household members. Nanda (2019) by assessing the impact of NCLP stated that it helped in reducing the child labour problems from census 2001 to 2011. He also suggested about conducting recurrent surveys to obtain the actual numbers of