

## Child Labours from Slum Areas of Dhule City, Maharashtra: Socio-Economic and Health Determinants

R.J.BORSE

Head & Associate Professor,  
P.G. Department of Geography  
S.S.V.P.S's L.K.Dr.P.R.Ghogrey Science College, Dhule  
India

### Abstract:

*The present study is an attempt to make inquiry about the problem related with socio-economic conditions in the slums of Dhule city. The major focus of the study is Socio-Economic aspects and their impact upon the health conditions of child labours in selected slums of Dhule city, Maharashtra. The slums are an integral parts of our urban society. There is lack of basic amenities in the slums. These conditions prevailing in the slums badly affects the childhood, most of the children from these areas are forced to work in unorganized sectors of economy. Infact, they are not recorded by government agencies. The present study based upon primary and secondary data collected through quaternaries and personal interviews.*

*The present study throws light on the diseases and their distribution in the slum areas of Dhule city. Here 88 percent male child wormers are affected by malaria, 68 percent from dysentery, 61 percent from lymphoid and 18 [percent from tuberculosis.*

*Very poor hygienic conditions were found the working places of child labours particularly the conditions of female child labours are difficult. From the sampled households it is evident that 48 percent reported skin diseases, 32.5 percent have a problem of malnutrition and 26.8 percent are facing a problem of asthma.*

*The outcome of the study reveals that the health of child labour is badly affected by the environment in which they have to work.*

**Key words:** Slums, Child Labour, Socio-economic aspects, Unorganized sectors, Basic amenities, Malnutrition.

### **Introduction:**

The growing urban settlements are causing the rapid growth of slums in urban centres. The slums are now inseparable parts of cities in India (Sharma, 2006). Child labour is done by any working child who is below the specified age by the government. The word 'work' means full time commercial work to sustain self or add to the family income. Child labour is a hazard to child's mental, physical, social, educational and spiritual development (ILO, 2006). A child labour is a source of income for a poor individual or family has a high profitability of staying poor. Low income carry with them high risks of illness, limitations on mobility, limited access to education (Sajjed H. et al, 2011).

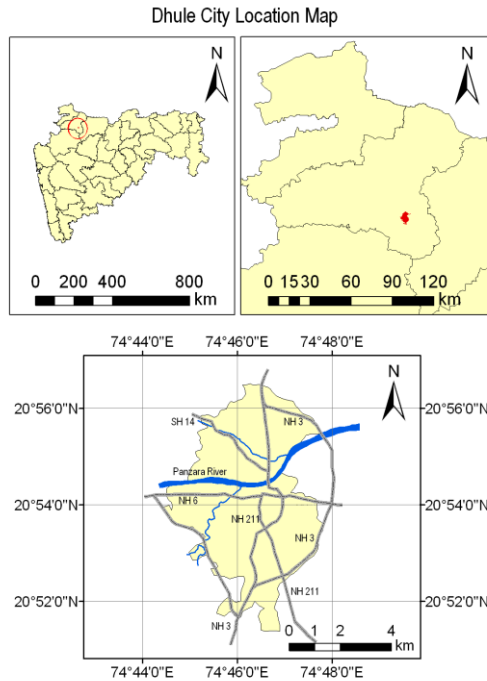
### **Study Area:**

Dhule city of northern Maharashtra has been selected for present study. The city is located on geographical co-ordinates i.e. 20°38' North latitudes and 73°50'East longitudes (Fig.Location map). The Total population of Dhule city is 5,41,000 (2001) of which near about 21 percent population lives in the slums. The slums of the city have been classified in the following table.

**Table-1: Classification of slums of Dhule City**

Sr.No.	Types of Slum	No.	Houses	Population
1.	Notified	39	8728	48777
2.	Unnotified	19	3007	19701
3.	Dispersed	59	2222	11351
4.	Along Roads	07	131	3853
	Total	124	14888	83715

Source: Municipal Corporation, Dhule (2011)



## Materials & Methods:

For the present study 5 notified slums were selected randomly and from each selected slum 10 houses were selected for sample survey. These slums represents worst living conditions in the city. The present work is based upon primary data which was collected from field survey, household surveys and interviews of child workers. The field work was carried out during the year 2010-2011. The secondary data collected from Town Planning Deptt. of State Government, Collectorate Office, District Census Handbook and Dhule Municipal Corporation.

## Discussion:

There were 54 households selected for sample. There were 130 child workers found in the sampled households. Out of which

68.2 percent were males and 31.8 percent were females. Age wise distribution of child labours was also calculated showing that about 57 percent were in the age group of 9-12 years. The socio-economic determinants including education, family size, parental literacy were also assessed. Which are summarized in the following tables.

**Table-2: Socio-Economic Determinants of Child Labours**

**(A) Education**

Level	Male	%ge	Female	%ge	Total	%ge
Illiterate	51	57.95	28	66.67	88	67.69
Dropouts	37	42.04	14	33.33	42	32.30

**(B) Family Size**

Members	Male	%ge	Female	%ge	Total	%ge
3-7	29	32.95	06	14.28	35	26.92
6-8	45	51.14	13	30.95	58	44.61
9-11	14	15.91	23	54.76	37	28.46

**(C) Parental Literacy**

Literacy	Male	%ge	Female	%ge	Total	%ge
Father Illiterate	54	61.36	26	61.90	80	61.54
Father Literate	38	43.18	12	28.75	50	38.46
Mother Illiterate	78	88.64	34	80.95	112	86.15
Mother Literate	14	15.91	04	09.52	18	13.85

Source: Based on Field Survey (2010-11)

The present study reveals that about 41 percent of the sampled child workers were illiterate and 29 percent were drop outs. The percentage of literacy is increasing among the parents but

they cannot insist for school education to their child due to poverty.

### **Living Environment:**

The field survey indicates that the slums of Dhule city are also facing the common problems faced by other Indian cities. The sampled households are facing the problems of inadequate water supply, poor drainage and sanitation etc. The outcome of the field survey is summarized in the following tables.

**Table-3: Household Environmental Conditions**

#### **(A) Housing Condition**

House Type	Male	%ge	Female	%ge	Total	%ge
Kutchha	54	61.36	24	57.14	78	60.00
Pucca	22	25.00	16	38.10	38	92.23
On Rent	10	11.36	04	09.52	14	10.77

#### **(B) Sanitation Condition**

Type of Latrine	Male	%ge	Female	%ge	Total	%ge
Public	14	20.45	05	11.90	23	17.70
Pit	14	15.91	17	40.47	31	23.85
Open Area	49	55.68	14	33.33	63	48.46
River Site	07	07.95	06	14.28	13	10.00

### **Employment and Working Conditions:**

As the child labour is a cheaper it is employed in several sectors. They are easily available from the low income families. The details regarding employment from the sampled households have been summarized in the following tables.

**Table 4 : Type of work, Working Hours and Monthly Income**

**(A) Type of Work**

Occupation	Male	%ge	Female	%ge	Total	%ge
Repair Shops	11	12.50	--	--	11	8.46
Domestic Help	05	5.68	26	61.90	31	23.85
Weavers	33	37.50	16	38.09	49	37.69
Hotel Boy	16	18.18	--	--	16	12.31
Waist Pickers	23	26.14	--	--	23	17.70

**(B) Working Hours**

Hours/Days	Male	%ge	Female	%ge	Total	%ge
3-5	16	18.18	18	42.86	34	26.15
6-8	44	50.00	14	33.33	58	44.61
9-11	28	31.82	10	23.81	38	29.23

**(C) Monthly Income**

Monthly Income (Rs.)	Male	%ge	Female	%ge	Total	%ge
100-200	07	7.95	08	19.05	14	11.54
201-300	05	5.68	06	14.28	11	8.46
301-400	42	47.73	13	30.95	55	42.31
401-500	34	38.64	15	35.71	49	37.70

**Summary of Health Problems of Child Labours is given below:**

**Table 5: Health Problems**

Health Problem	Male	%ge	Female	%ge	Total	%ge
Malaria	13	14.77	04	9.52	17	13.10
Dysentery	28	31.82	16	38.09	44	33.85
Typhoid	07	7.95	03	7.14	10	7.70
Skin Problem	16	18.18	06	14.28	22	16.92
Back Pain	13	14.80	07	16.67	26	15.38
Tuber Culasis	11	12.50	06	14.28	17	13.11

**Conclusions:**

1. Practice of child labours is found in the poor families from the weaker section of society. The child labours adds the total income of the family.

2. The child workers from the sampled house holds are facing the serious health problems like T.B., Malaria, Skin Problems, etc.
3. Due to the poverty parents are neglecting the health and educational problems of child labours.

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