
COMPLETED RESEARCH PROJECTS

Theme : Children and Adolescents

Social Labelling and Child Labour in Carpet Industry

Collaboration/s: International Labour Organization (ILO)

Project Director/ Project Coordinator: Prof. Alakh N. Sharma and Dr. Rajiv Sharma

Based on a field survey of 36 villages in the states of Uttar Pradesh (UP), Bihar and Rajasthan, and sponsored by ILO, Geneva, the study assesses the impact of various interventions on child labour and schooling in the carpet industry. It has also been published in the form of a book.

Child Labour in Textile Industry of Varanasi

Collaboration/s: V.V. Giri National Labour Institute

Project Director/ Project Coordinator: Prof. Alakh N. Sharma and Mr. Nikhil Raj

This study investigates the phenomenon of child Labour in the textile industry, particularly the *sari* industry, in Varanasi. It was conducted jointly with the VV Giri National Labour Institute, Noida.

Agency in Children and Development

Collaboration/s: Amsterdam Foundation for International Research on the Exploitation of Working Children, Amsterdam

Project Director/ Project Coordinator: Mr. Anup K. Karan

The study aims to obtain a detailed view of how the energies and expectations of children are applied and how the latter contribute to or are detrimental to their future, which would help in judging how development projects centred on children, can best be conceived. The study is based on primary data both quantitative and qualitative collected in the states of Bihar, Delhi, Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan.

The Nowhere Children: A Study of Daily Practice and Hidden Concerns

Collaboration/s: Indo Dutch Programme on Alternatives in Development (IDPAD)

Project Director/ Project Coordinator: Dr. G.K. Lietaen and Dr. Preet Rustagi

Sponsored by the Indo-Dutch Programmes on Alternatives in Development (IDPAD), this study investigates issues related to child labour and education. The study focuses on identifying the complex issues relating to 'nowhere children' (who neither work as child labour nor go to school). The study was carried out in collaboration with University of Amsterdam.

Survey of Homeless and Shelter less in Delhi**Collaboration/s:** Government of NCT of Delhi**Project Director/ Project Coordinator:** Dr. Shipra Maitra

Sponsored by the Delhi Government, this survey entailed carrying out a headcount of the homeless and shelterless people in Delhi. It also examines the socio-economic background of the problem, and in addition, focuses on street children.

India Country Study on Child Poverty and Deprivations – First Phase**Collaboration/s:** UNICEF**Project Director/ Project Coordinator:** Dr. Preet Rustagi

The United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and IHD, New Delhi, are jointly preparing a country report for India as part of a 40-country global study on ‘Child Poverty and Disparities’, undertaken by UNICEF. The India country study on child poverty is mainly based on the conceptual framework provided by UNICEF. The five pillars of child well-being, viz. household income, health, nutrition, education and protection, are being analysed thoroughly from policy and statistical perspectives. The study seeks to contribute to a wider discourse within which sectoral policy-making and programming take place. The interconnections between livelihoods, expansion of economic opportunities and human development outcomes for children will form the focus of this study.

India Country Study on Child Poverty and Deprivations – Second Phase**Collaboration/s:** UNICEF**Project Director/ Project Coordinator:** Dr. Preet Rustagi

UNICEF has partnered with IHD for undertaking two significant studies in the areas of Child Poverty and Disparities, and Adivasi children. The country study on Child Well-being and Social Inclusion provided evidence of the incidence and causes of child poverty, and the need to review policy efforts for the promotion of child well-being and equity. As regards the Child Poverty and Disparities project, ten technical background papers were commissioned as part of the IHD–UNICEF working paper series titled ‘Children of India: Rights and Opportunities’. Six of these were published last year, while the four remaining papers were published in 2011. These papers were written by Mahendra Dev, Virginius Xaxa, Soumya Kapoor, and Preet Rustagi, Sunil Kumar Mishra and Balwant Singh Mehta.

All the papers are available on the IHD website.

This study was based on a detailed analysis of the National Family Health Survey (NFHS) and the National Sample Survey (NSS) data on child deprivations at the all-India level as well as the level of the major states. The findings of the analysis, along with other papers on child and social policy concerns, were presented at a workshop organized jointly by IHD and UNICEF on 2-3 September 2011. About 20 papers were presented at the workshop, including these findings and the commissioned papers. A select set of the papers would be edited and printed as a volume entitled, 'India's Children: Essays on Social Policy'.

A report based on the work undertaken as part of the project titled, 'Beyond Averages: Child Well-being through an Equity Analysis' by Preet Rustagi, Soumya Kapoor, Sunil Kumar Mishra, Balwant S. Mehta, and Ramya Subrahmanian, is being worked on and would be finalized during the coming year for publication by UNICEF.

The second project pertains to the development of a comprehensive analytical document and policy agenda for promoting the inclusion of Adivasi children in the development process. IHD arranged reading material for training and sensitization on tribal issues and organized a workshop on Adivasi children in November 2011. The collection of selected papers from this workshop has been edited to include in a volume titled Social Exclusion and Adverse Inclusion (ed. Dev Nathan and Virginius Xaxa), Oxford University Press.

Vulnerable Workers in Global Production Networks: Case Studies of Trafficked and Forced Labour in Brazil and India

Collaboration/s: Chronic Poverty Research Group, UNDP, Brazil

Project Director/ Project Coordinator: Dr. Dev Nathan and Mr. Upendranadh

This study explored the issues of social compliance, especially with reference to child labour in the garment value chain covering readymade garments and embellishments. The purpose of the study was to identify the vulnerabilities of different sections of workers in the value chain. The study was conducted in and around Delhi (the NCR region) and the field data for it was gathered from various communities, garment units, intermediary agencies, monitoring and certification agencies, and government officials.

Trafficking of Children

Collaboration/s: Save the Children

Project Director/ Project Coordinator: Dr. Preet Rustagi

Conducted in two poor and flud programme district of Bihar, the study the extent of child trafficking in the larger context and found that approximately 7.7 per cent of the children in the sample were actually trafficked. They were sent either with family

members who transported them to their employers, and left them under their control, or were actually delivered into the hands of third parties in the village itself, and thence on, were under the total control of the latter. Under-employment among adults in the area emerged as the main reason for children getting trafficked, as it was mentioned by 63 per cent of the households of the trafficked children. The study made rural recommendations for various stakeholders to address this problem.

Survey of Street Children in Delhi

Collaboration/s: Asha Deep Foundation

Project Director/ Project Coordinator: Dr. Preet Rustagi

The Institute has conducted a survey of street children in Delhi for Ashadeep Foundation as part of its project titled 'Stronger Voices to Excluded Children in Government and NGO Policies and Programmes', which was supported by Save the Children. The project sought to facilitate access of socially excluded children to benefits from development programmes, policies and schemes. It also estimated the number of street children in Delhi and also studied their socio-economic condition.

CSR Initiatives and Child Labour in India

Collaboration/s: International Labour Organization (ILO)

Project Director/ Project Coordinator: Prof. Dev Nathan, Dr. Ann George and Dr. Preet Rustagi

This project attempted to a comprehensive mapping of the relevant domestic business initiatives that directly or indirectly contribute to the elimination of child labour in India. The purpose of this output was to ensure that all the relevant initiatives were identified and that their main features were described. It attempted to particularly focus on what businesses may be doing within their own operations and supply chains, as opposed to philanthropic initiatives. The work involved both desk review and field visits. On the basis of the findings, the study aimed to make recommendations to ILO-IPEC regarding one or more initiatives for more in-depth study.

The study found that pressure from both international agencies and media exposure worked to push for elimination of child labour from the main workspaces such as factories. With growing real incomes and educational facilities supported by mid-day meals and NREGA, there was a generally reported decline in the incidence of child labour. However, the incidence of child labour still continued, mainly in home-based work and in work in the informal sector. The various projects could not tackle the supply side problem of new cohorts of children coming into the labour market. The study drew attention to the need to amend the Child Labour Act for removing the clause on

exemption for children working with their families, to promote universal and compulsory education, along with an increase in adult wages. The study also argued for the need to distinguish between corporate accountability in implementing child labour and other such laws; and for corporate social responsibility (CSR), which goes beyond legal requirements.

Poverty and Gender Analysis Study with Special Reference to primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs) -Jharkhand

Collaboration/s: IFAD

Project Director/ Project Coordinator: Prof. Dev Nathan and Dr. Harishwar Dayal

This study was conducted to address the poverty status including the gender perspective with reference to Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs). The study was supported by IFAD in partnership with the Government of India and the Government of Jharkhand.

The overall objective of the study was to ensure household food security and to improve livelihood opportunities and the quality of life of the tribal population on the basis of the sustainable and equitable use of natural resources.

The study was conducted in 14 villages, including 10 general tribal and 4 PTG villages in two administrative zones of Jharkhand, viz. Santhal Parganas and South Chotanagpur, by using Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) methods. The data collected from the selected villages have been analysed to gauge the extent of the poverty, deprivation, and vulnerability of the marginalized groups, including the Scheduled Tribes (STs), the Scheduled Castes (SCs), and the PTGs with special focus on gender role and relations.

The study found that the incidence of poverty is very high among the tribals, and stands at about 60 per cent among the general tribals and about 97 per cent among the PTGs. Poverty has resulted in high migration, and high drop-out levels from school, as also malnutrition. The women are vulnerable and disadvantaged. The incidence of poverty, deprivation, and vulnerability is higher among people in the remote villages than among those which are accessible.

The final report, incorporating the suggestions made in the draft report, has been submitted to IFAD.

Promoting the Inclusion of Adivasi Children

Collaboration/s: UNICEF

Project Director/ Project Coordinator: Dr. Dev Nathan

Recently, IHD had organised an International Seminar on Adivasis, which was supported by UNICEF, for promoting the inclusion of Adivasi children in the development process. This study will fill the knowledge gaps and develop a comprehensive analytical document and policy agenda for promoting the development of Adivasi children.