Impact of Socio-Economic Factors on Child Labour among Tea Tribes of Assam with Special Reference to Kaliabor Sub Division, Nagaon District

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Abstract

Child is the flower, which spread its perfume in the economic development of the country. However, child labour is infectious diseases which spoil the diversified quality of perfumes hidden in the childhood. Socio-economic factors are highly responsible in any plight of child labour.

This article, therefore, highlights on the impact of socio-economic factors on child labour among tea tribes community of Assam with special reference to Kaliabor Subdivision of Nagaon District

Keywords: Child Labour, Socio-economic factors, Tea-Tribes community.

INTRODUCTION

The child is the most precious human resources; childhood represents the most tender, most formative and most impressionable stage of human development. A community’s health is gauged through the expose of potentialities of each child. It is, therefore, allowed to grow in an environment which is essential for making eligible on social, emotional and educational needs.

Child labour hijacks their creativity by putting them into a hazardous works which makes them into a mechanized life. Most of the socio-economic factor generates the child labour. Child labour deprives them from formal education, the most precious possession of human being and hinders their mental, physical and intellectual growth.
In this afford, it is striving to find out the various socio-economic reasons why the child engage in various working field instead of going school for making the base of a man. According to International Labour Organisation (ILO) almost one billion children are working as child labour for their survival. As per the report published by the Department of Labour in United States of America, India has the largest child labour that is either paid or unpaid by throwing their precious childhood to toil almost for 12 hours per day on an average at a very early days\(^1\).

The market demandable carpet was prepared in terrible environments by the destitute child during 1980s.(Amulya Hazarika)\(^2\). Children are forced to work as bonded labour in brick kilns to pay off family debts owed to money lenders and employers, (Oliver Wainwrite, 2014)\(^3\).

**ISSUES OF DEFINING CHILD LABOUR**

The word ‘Child Labour’ has been differently defined in various studies. Burra (1999)\(^4\) defined that a child labour is basically a child who is deprived of the right to education and childhood. She stated that child who is assumed to be staying at home away from schools so that they can take over some of the house hold duties of the parents and allow the parents to go out for work are to be treated as child labour. According to this definition, India has around 80 million of child labour.

In the study conducted among the working children in Bombay, Singh and others have a view that child labour means a working child who is between the age group of 6 and 15 years who are not attending school and working under an employer or learning some trade as an apprentice (Singh, 1998)\(^5\). In the other study on working children conducted by the Indian Council of Child Welfare every child below 14 years of age who contribute to the family income or has treated as a worker.

Child labour is now more generally used in assessing the nature and extent of social evil, it is necessary to take into account the character of the jobs on which children are engaged. The danger relates to which they are exposed and the opportunities of development of which they have been denied. Afterwards, the benefit goes to the master and exploits the destitute children. It involves wage labour as well as non-wage labour that are self employed in hazardous family enterprises working independently by throwing their precious childhood.

**SELECTED ARTICLES OF INDIAN CONSTITUTION TO PROHIBIT CHILD LABOUR**

Article - 21(A): Provision of free and compulsory education of children of the age of 6 to14 years (86\(^{th}\) constitutional amendment Act – 2002)
Article – 23: Prohibition of traffic in human beings and forced labour.

Article – 24: Prohibition of employment of children below the age of 14 years in factories, mines or any other hazardous employment.

Article 39 (f): Directive principles of the State Policy require the state to direct its policy that children are given opportunities and facilities to develop in healthy manner.

Article - 45: Provision of early childhood care and education for children until the age of 14 years (86th constitutional amendment Act – 2002).

Article – 51 (A) (k): Fundamental duty of parent or guardian to provide opportunities for education of children between the age of 6 and 14 years.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF TEA TRIBES IN ASSAM

The Tea industry is an integral part of Assam Economy. It is the 2nd largest after oil and gas industry in the State. People of Assam believed that indigenous people Bodo Tribe initially brought tea to Assam (India line, 2008). Robert Bruce, merchant and soldier of fortune, was provided some plants by Singpho Chief in 1823. Bruce handed over these plants to his brother C.A. Bruce. Bruce submitted it to David Scott and sent to Calcutta Botanical garden for experiment. British East India Company, in 1824 discovered tea and started with tea forest as business wing (Bhuyan, 1974). Since, 1860, the indentured tea garden labourers are brought into Assam from present day State Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Orissa, West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh (k. Bhoumik).

Assamese noble man Maniram Dutta Barma, popularly known as Maniram Dewan was the first Indian tea planter who started two tea garden at Jorhat and Sonary. Cinnamora tea Estate: First Tea Garden of Assam Established by Maniram Dewan in 1850 (North East Enquirer, 2002).

The Recent Uprising of Tea-Tribe People in Assam influence on tea plantation, tea estates and the tea industry as a whole. Many tea gardens are abandoned by their owners and many others are somehow functional. The deteriorating economic condition has further been made worse by the tough competition in the international market, falling prices and recurrent slumps (Orange, 2008). These factors have led to deterrent economic conditions of tea labourers in Assam. The tea garden labour who were brought as slaves or bounded labourers by the British to Assam, have now well settled in Assam and the new generation that grew up in Assam has became well-integrated with the Assamese culture (Kar, 1975, 2001). The Tea Garden Labourers in Assam: Assam's tea industry is dependent on about two million labourers almost all of whom are the descendents of those who were brought to Assam as slaves first by
the East India Company and later by the British rulers and entrepreneurs from 1830’s to 1920’s, mostly from the Santhal Parganas district of Bihar (now in Jharkhand state). The descendents of these slaves are now called tea tribes\textsuperscript{12}. The tea tribes are the backbones of the Assamese tea industry. The tea-tribes are available mainly in the districts of Darrang, Sonitpur, Nagaon, Jorhat, Golaghat, Dibrugarh, Cachar, Hailakandi, Karimganj, Tinsukia and almost all the districts of Assam\textsuperscript{13}.

Many of indentured labourers were brought into Assam from present day Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Orissa, West Bengal, and Andhra Pradesh, there were occasional clashes between the management and the tea garden labourers in Assam (Sanjay Barboa, July, 1999)\textsuperscript{14}. Tea labour migration towards Assam was ended in 1950 at 23,100 in numbers\textsuperscript{15}. So, it was the last year of migration of tea tribes. The tea tribes have no uniform literature, because they are migrated from various regions and they have to create a mixture language in Assam which is popularly known as ‘Garden Language’ (Baganiya Bhasa)\textsuperscript{16}. This garden society have a number of cast belonging to :Asur, Guwala, Kayan, Kanwar, Kandapan, Karmakar, Kanhar, Kalindi, Kishan, Kurmi, Mahato, Kumbhakar, Kairy, Kool, Katowal, Kharia, Kheruwar, Orang, Bhuitali, Lohar, Pachi, Boraik, etc. From 1902 to 1950, the total numbers of migrated tea tribes were 17,59,437.\textsuperscript{17}

Initially, Tea tribes are migrated for doing service in tea estate of Assam on the basis of two types of agreement. They are: \textbf{Girmetia Chalan and Arikathia Chalan}. The first one implies certain rules and regulation binding at the time of labour chalan. The second one has no certain rules and regulation to chalan the labour. These labourers are well known as coolie and all the migrated labourers are kept in Coolie Depot. Even today, staying place of coolie is regarded as Coolie Line\textsuperscript{18}.

Kaliabor subdivision is in Nagaon District, situated at a distance of 48 k.m. from Nagaon Town. Kaliabor was the head quarter of Borphuksans during the Ahom era. The Nagaon District (spelled by British as Nowgong) is one of the largest districts of central Assam which is demarcated by three sub-divisions as Nagaon, Hojai and Kaliabor till December, 2015. At present it has two sub divisions as Nagaon and Kaliabor since January, 2016, declared by Assam Government.

Kaliabor subdivision has four Block Development Offices, viz,

1. Kaliabor Block,
2. Pachim Kaliabor Block,
3. A part of Lawkhowa Block and
4. A part of Bajiagaon Block.

The culturally advanced Kaliabor Subdivision of Nagaon District considered as backward especially in Tea-Tribes for the lack of proper care of their children under
Impact of Socio-Economic Factors on Child Labour among Tea Tribes of Assam.

different tea garden area. They are economically and literally backward. Children of tea tribes being the tea garden area folk are not enlightened enough to come to the school specially for higher education. Drop-out rate is very high. Kaliabor sub-division has 41 numbers of tea estates and the total population under various Tea Estates have 38,174 and tea tribe population outside tea estate (i.e. 19 numbers of tea tribes dominated villages) is 14937 as per 2011 Census record (supplied by Circle Office, Kaliabor).

Kaliabor sub-division is in Northern Part of Nagaon District. In the North- there is Brahmaputra River and Lakhimpur District, in the South- there is Karbianlong District, in the East- there is Golaghat and Jorhat District, and in the West- there is Morigaon District and Nagaon Sub-division, covers the boundary of Kaliabor sub-division. According to the Gazet of Nagaon District (1911), most of the tea labourers of Nagaon District come from Chotanagpur area.

OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY DETAILS

The proposed study is primarily concerned with an assessment on the various socio-economic reasons of child labour among the Tea-Tribes in the Kaliabor sub-division of Nagaon District, Assam.

The specific objectives of the study are:

1. To study the socio-economic factors responsible for child labour amongst tea-tribe.
2. To suggest measures to motivate children and their parents against child labour.

METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY

The methodology of this study is followed by explorative study.

Methods:

The study follows both qualitative and quantitative method.

The qualitative data collects the information based on interview with observations.

In quantitative data collection, a set of questions are prepared in a schedule relevant to the objective of the study and collected from household level. Kaliabor sub-division has three blocks where tea tribes are available. It follows 161 child labour from 200 child population to collect data through schedule questionnaire from tea tribe dominated three villages under Amluckie and Udmari Gaon Panchayat of Bajiagaon Development Block and Pachim Kaliabor Block under Kaliabor sub-division of Nagaon District, Assam. In the collection of data, the preference is given in child
available households depending on local inhabitants.

The secondary sources of information would be the Annual Reports of Ministry of labour, parliamentary debates on enactment of child labour legislations like Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000, the commissions for protection of Children Act, 2005 and Tribal Research Institute, books, journals - magazine and news papers, Right to Education Act 2009 as well as the books, articles published in journals, news papers and Census Records 2011.

**Analysis & Interpretation of Data:**

In the field study, it is considered 3 numbers of tea tribe dominated villages under Amluckie and Udmari Gaon Panchayats in Bajiagaon and Pachim Kaliabor Development Block of Kaliabor Subdivision under Nagaon District, Assam. These villages are mainly dominated by Tea Tribe community people. The study considers 200 numbers of child population out of which 163 children are working in these villages as depicted in the following table. These three villages are:

1) Amluckie
2) Borjuri gaon
3) Udmari Gaon

Children age range is from 6 - 14 and has considered 3 class interval as given in the following Table – 2(A). Following Table-1, reflects socio economic characters of child labour in the study area. These are explained below in a chronological order. The analysis data are collected during January, 2015 to December, 2015.

**Table-1**

**Status of the parents/Guardian of Child Labourers:**

(Total number of guardian is: 200 as per field survey picked up from 200 child population shown in the Table.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable of Parent/Guardian</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Educational Status:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Literate</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>28.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illiterate</td>
<td>143</td>
<td>71.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Economic Status</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employment in-i) tea estate :</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>35.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ii) Unorganised and Domestic Sectors:</td>
<td>109</td>
<td>54.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table-1 reflects the Economic and Educational status of parent/guardian of 200 as total number of child population among tea tribes. It shows that 71.5% of the parents/guardians of child workers are illiterate. Furthermore, the table also focused that only 35.5% of parents/Guardians are employed in tea estate where as 54.5% are employed in unorganized and household sectors. Here, unorganized sector workers, most of them are employed on casual basis as about two/three days in a week. Percentage of Farmer is 10. They are employed specially during planting and harvesting of crops in a year at their own piece of land and other landlords’ land. It is observed that many of them are landless farmer.

From this picture it is clear that in the study area one of the fundamental causes of child labour is the poverty and children are working for their survival. Due to poor economic and social status, 161 child populations compelled to work in order to support their family member.

Table – 2(A):

Demographic character of Child Labour in the study area: (Age group is 5 – 14)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of the Village</th>
<th>No. of Child Population</th>
<th>Characters</th>
<th>Child Labour</th>
<th>Percentage of Child Labour</th>
<th>Percentage of Child not as Labour</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amluckie</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>6 – 8</td>
<td>07</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>8 – 11</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>28</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>11 - 14</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>44</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Borjuri Gaon</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>6 – 8</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6.25</td>
<td>18.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>8 – 11</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>25</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>11 - 14</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>50</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Udmari Gaon</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>6 – 8</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>24.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>8 – 11</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>22.8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>11 - 14</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>42.8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 2(A)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>200</th>
<th>-</th>
<th>161</th>
<th>80.5</th>
<th>19.5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

(This table is based on exclusive method)

Interpretation:- The above table -2(A), represents total child population in the age group of 6 to 14 years only of the three villages under Amluckie and Udmari Gaon Panchayat from which 200 child populations have been drawn. The numbers of working child population at different age level are found in the above table.

Amluckie has the total Child population 50 and it has 14% in the age group of 6 to 8; 28% in the age group of 8 to 11; 44% in the age group of 11 to 14 of child workers.

Accordingly, the investigation report found that in Borjuri Gaon out of 80 child population, 6.25% of child workers are found in the age group of 5 to 8, 25% in the age group of 8 to 11 and 50% in the age group of 11 to 14.

Likewise, in the village Udmari Gaon total child population are 70, and 10% are the child worker in the age group of 5 to 8 years, 22.8% are the child worker in the age group of 8 to 11years, 42.8% rate the child workers in the age group of 11 to 14 years.

In Amluckie only the 10% Child Population are not going to working field, in Borjuri Gaon 18.75% Child Population are not going to working field and in Udmari only 24.4% Child Population are not in the working field by throwing their precious childhood.

Findings: Survival is the cause of child worker. It is seen that high percentage of children are the school dropout child labour. Most of the employer remarked that in between the age 11 to 14 are untraceable and hence to toil the childhood in various productive works.

Table-2(B)

Social Status of the Child Labour

(Total child labour: 161)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characters</th>
<th>No. of child labour</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sex (Below 14 yrs.)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>60.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>39.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 2(B) represents the social status of the child labour.

Interpretation: - From table 2(B), it is found that male child labour 60.8% which is more than female labourers which is only 39.1%.

In Educational Status, it is found that 37.8% child workers are illiterate, can read & write only 19.2%, attained primary education 26.7% and completed High school level Education 16.1%.

The data also focused Educational provision for child workers that 96.8% have the educational provision and 3.1% have no chance to take the opportunity of education. Table also reflects the religion of child labour among tea tribe in the study area that 47.8% are belonging to Christianity and 52.1% belonging to Hindu.

It is also focused that the transport & communication facility to school for the child workers have 40.3% and 59.6% of the child workers have got no facility to go to school.

Findings: This table reflects consciousness of children and their parents about the formation of human capital by taking proper education. It is observed that social
environment do not permit them to go to school instead of attaining in the field of working. A terrible situation is faced from the elders of the child especially at night when family member came back from days work and as such they are ready to join in the working field by sacrificing the school education.

Table- 3

Working Conditions Of the Child Labour:
(Total no.s of child labour is: 161)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variables</th>
<th>Respondent No.</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reasons for being child labour</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poverty</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>51.5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parental Loss</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>9.3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parental Separation</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>11.1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shortage of food</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>15.5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonded labour</td>
<td>05</td>
<td>3.1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Old Age family member</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>9.3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Types of work</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Domestic Work as Slave</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>10.5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agricultural Work</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>26.0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quarry Work</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>38.5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Working in the Street</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>19.2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Working in the Firm (Piggery, Milk, Broiler Firm)</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>5.5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of daily Income</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less than Rs.150/-</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>55.9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Impact of Socio-Economic Factors on Child Labour among Tea Tribes of Assam.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rs. 150 – 199/-</th>
<th>41</th>
<th>25.4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rs. 200 - above</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>18.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Interpretation:- Among 161 numbers child labour, Table-3 reflects that 51.5% child workers among tea tribes are in Poverty; 9.3% of them are in loss of parent; 11.1% are fall in child labour due to separation from their parents. It is observed that the children are compelled to leave their house due to abuse getting from their elders because their elders frequently drinking wine at night (remarks from respondents). Another cause of child workers is shortage of foods, found 15.3%. Due to old age of earning family member, 9.3% of children engage in the field of working.

In the study of various types of work, it is seen that children who are working as Domestic Slave is 10.5%, in the Agricultural Field during harvesting and crop plantation 26.0%, in quarry (crashing Stone by hammer) is 38.5%, working in the Street (construction & repairing roads) is 19.2%, working in various firms (e.g. piggery, broiler, milk firm) is 5.5%.

In the study of income earnings by child workers are categorized in three levels where less than Rs. 150/- has 55.9% of child worker, in between Rs. 150 to Rs. 199/- has 25.4%, and more than Rs. 200/- has 18.6% child workers only. The variation of income earnings may take place due to non-organization of child workers. They are preferred more because they have more energetic power than elders.

Findings: From this table, it is obvious that highest percentage of child labour among tea tribe is due to poverty or low income earned by family member. The lowest percentage of child labour is due to indebtedness of their parents. It observed that child workers who are working as domestic servant, working for more than 12 hours per day which is quite embarrassing. Parental loss and separation from parents is another important cause of child labour among this community. The employer prefers children to work with their smooth finishing hand who have high energetic working capacity and no problem of labour union.

Table – 4

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Health Status of Child worker (Total no. child worker: 163)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Characters Faced health problem</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Diseased encountered (no. 93)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Disease</th>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Malaria like fever</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>35.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jaundice</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>21.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respiratory</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>7.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skin disease</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>16.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eye problem</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rupture of hearing</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Health care source (no. 93)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>From Govt. hospital</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>11.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private pharmacy</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>13.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homeo medicine</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Traditional Ayurvedic medicine</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>50.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not willing to go anywhere for treatment</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>17.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Interpretation:- Table-4, reflects the health status of child labour under this study area. It is found that out of 161 numbers of child workers, 93 number children are suffering from health hazards. The children are working with bare food due to which they are suffering from various diseases as mentioned in the table. Illnesses severely from Malaria are 35.4%, Jaundice 21.5%, Respiratory 5.3%, Skin disease 18.2%, Eye problem 8.6%, Rupture of hearing are 10.7%.

Table 4 also focuses the various treatment facilities undertaken by the health hazards child as: from govt. sector 11.8%, from private pharmacy 13.9%, from Homeo medicine 4.3%, from Ayurvedic (traditional) medicine 50.5%, not willing to do any treatment for their various diseases are 19.3%.

Findings: It reflects the long term economic growth of the community. 57.7% of child workers are suffering from various diseases as shown in the table-4. It is clear that they will be the burden for their own family. They themselves have to loss of preparing human asset.
SOCIO-ECONOMIC REASONS OF CHILD LABOUR IN THE STUDY AREA

From the above empirical analysis the main socio-economic reasons concentrate to the child labour are:

i) ‘Poverty’ is the most important cause of child labour where 60.8% of tea tribes are the sufferers as they earn few but want more and they compelled to send their child in the earning field.

ii) ‘Economic Status’ is pitiable in this area because they earn 150/- per day from tea estate and the employment in the tea estate is seasonal. They are living by maintaining very low profile. It is difficult to support their family members with meager income. It is observed in the study area that they have large numbers of family members and have least numbers of income earners. It is observed that the inhabitants have no electricity provision, pure water supply.

iii) ‘Family disability’ is another important cause of child labour in the study area. 9.3% children are orphan and 11.1% children are separated from their parent. Earning family members have less earning capacity due to old age.

iv) The area is far from ‘government incentive scheme’. Thanks to the illiteracy and ignorance of the community, various government schemes like Indira Abash Yojana, pure water scheme, hospital facility, education facility, employment opportunity etc. are yet to be properly activated. These schemes may change the mindset of the inhabitants and can assist to move against the child labour.

v) ‘Illiteracy’ is one of the main causes of child labour. The community is backward because 71.5% of guardian in the study area is being illiterate. They have no idea what to do for their coming generation. They are interested with earnings only instead of sending their children into the school. They have no capacity to think that child is a human asset. People of tea tribes are debarred from enjoying government’s welfare schemes as because of illiteracy.

vi) ‘Social Environment, Community Customs and Social Evil’ are equally responsible for child labour. They are the inhabitants in such an area in which prevail traditional customs and believe and as such social environment is deteriorated. They drink homemade wine and used very often which disturbs family environment. Society takes opportunity to capture the child for own household purposes.

vii) ‘Landless community’ influence in child labour. 10% Tea tribe people in the study area have agricultural farming land. They are seasonal employee who is working in tea estate. Due to least source of income, the children are engage in work to support the family income.
viii) ‘Indebtedness’ is another important cause of bonded child labour. Family member takes loan at the time of financial crisis when they have no earning sources due to seasonal employment. 3.1% of children are being in the working field due to indebtedness.

ix) ‘Family abuse’ is responsible for child labour among tea tribes. When child is the age of 10+, then the guardian are keen to employ their child into the field of earning and in consequence they are to be unskilled labour in the long run in the sophisticated technical World. What a child earns at present will be least in the future and as such, they will have to employ their own child as earning source.

Remarks and suggestions:

Kachhap (2006)\(^1\) in his study on tribal expressed that the tribal were living with numerous problems and challenges. They had neither been empowered by economic development to tackle the challenge nor had been converted into a different way of life by plentiful opportunities. This was due to financial crunch and lawlessness in the tribal areas susceptible to the propaganda and the constructive work of left-wing extremism organizations.

Assam State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (ASCPCR) organized its first ever “Public Hearing on Right to Education”, on September 24, 2011 at 11a.m. at Salonah under Kaliabor Sub-Division in Nagaon district of Assam, which was facilitated by the Legal Cell for Human Rights (LCHR), a Guwahati based voluntary organization. The hearing was attended by Dr. Suchitra Kakoty, Chairperson and Mr. Pranjal Saikia, Member of ASCPCR. Concerned officials from Block, District and State Level also attended the hearing\(^2\). She explained that while examining the safeguards for the effective implementation, ASCPCR enquires into the complaints and takes necessary steps relating to the violation of the provisions of RTE-2009\(^3\).

Children constitutes the most crucial period in life, when the foundations are laid for cognitive, social, emotional, physical development and cumulative lifelong learning. Survival, development and growth of a child have to be looked at in a holistic manner and there have to be balanced linkages between education, health and nutrition for proper development of a child.

Obviously, child labour is a socio-economic crime, where a child is compelled to invest his childhood to earn bread for himself and family, remaining far away from play ground, school, healthcare but his childhood is interested in search of earnings.

Child Labour may be defined as:

• Deprivation of rights to health & education
• Basically to earn some money for livelihood

The initiatives have sought to fill the supply gap by offering more and better equipped facilities and also to improve effectiveness of public education system by focusing upon pedagogy and aspects of teacher motivation.

Voluntary Organisation should also be roped in by forming an apex body comprising of government authority. Members of management should better be involved to seek solutions to the problems of child labour.

Suggestions to move against child labour and employer are:

A close study, analysis and understanding of this problem provide practical solution to tackle it more effectively. Some of the suggestions to move against child labour are given below:

1) The National Child Labour Project must have to identify the working children at district and Panchayat level under the age of 14 and withdraw them from paid and unpaid works and provide them with education and vocational training.

2) The Fund for NGO to be released adequately in order to motivate the children and guardian against child labour. The government corporate fully in the practice of NGO in the magnitude of child development.

3) Family members are to be recruited properly with fair remuneration so as to fulfill their basic amenities. It helps to increase household income and expenditure for child education.

4) Various government welfare schemes must cover these poor tea tribe communities in reality. It can be properly managed with the help of local body.

5) In tea tribes’ community, provision of appropriate schooling with qualified teachers should be properly recruited.

6) The State Action Plan must prefer the grass root level administration at the time of executing the programmes to eliminate the child labour.

7) Reduce barriers to education access through programs to address teacher absentee, improve school infrastructure with sanitation, midday meal.

8) Shelter opportunities of children in the age group of 5 to 10 years require a fast pace system of education. It is necessary due to loss of regular schooling until now. These camps lay stress on the overall development of the child if it is properly monitored.

9) The role of Anganawadi with special facility can motivate the mindset of the children into the regular school and against the child labour. The existing food facility should be extended to the working children also.

10) The concept of compulsory elementary education does not mean to force the students to attend school, more government fund to be released to create
attention like urban area school. It must be running with complete free of cost education from food to cloth with nutrition.

11) Children attendance at school is based on the right atmosphere which can be created by the teachers’ endeavor. Teacher must have resourceful quality, bright and well educated with good certificates.

12) To war against child labour will be successful only when there is the positive community action against this practice. Community decision through proper planning process can mobilize the people to come up with their problems and solutions for child labour.

13) Local retired teacher should better to appoint in order to redirect the children and their parents. It will be the most successful and the new dimensions in the forth coming era.

14) Labour laws should be enforced strictly. Enforcement of law is an important requisite for eliminating child labour.

At last my study would like to say that the research work would be helpful for government, parents of child, institutions and NGOs. It will be the path through which the basic conditions of child labour in various sector will be promoted in national and international view.

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