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Evaluating the health and education relating problem of the children of the brick kiln workers: A case study of Rohtak district, Haryana

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Abstract

The children are the future of tomorrow of the country and an integral part of society. It is because of the future significance; the government and non-government organization should pay an adequate attention to provide a safe guard to the children, particularly the children, belonged to the BPL families. The present study examining the health and educational status of the children belonged to the brick kiln workers who were migrated from the different states and now working in five blocks of district Rohtak of Haryana. The study is based on the first hand information acquired from the 200 households, collected from five brick kiln, located in five different blocks of the Rohtak district. On the basis of the field survey, based on structured questionnaires, the findings of the study show that the health and the educational status far below of the required standards. It is because of some of socio-economic and institutional factors which have always been proved a hindrance for deteriorating the health and the basic education of these grieved children of these disadvantageous immigrated households of these brick kiln workers. Lastly, there were some of the suggested which were made to make a significant improvement in the health status and the education level of these poor children of the brick kiln workers at various brick kiln, located at various sites of Rohtak district.

Keywords: Disadvantageous households, health status, educational standard, brick kiln workers, migrated labours

Introduction

The children are the prospective human resource of the future of the country. There are various reports of the national and international organizations which shows the deteriorating conditions of the children who often work in the un organized sector are now facing health problem with the consumption of low nutrition value. They also suffer with their neglecting their carried out studies which either working or affiliated with their parents, who are mostly migrant labours and work in the un organized sectors like agricultural labours, brick kiln labour, working in the sand loading unloading in the rivers and canals etc. Throughout the World, any well reasoned step or planning for development of the children underline the importance of bringing up of the children in an environment It was observed that the average share of the children labours is 5.1 percent in all India level. The migrant labours which often work on the brick kilns on the periphery of the villages. In this situation, the children; often suffer from low level nutrition and deprive from education, as shown by the numerous of studies (Srivastava 2017) ^[13]. It is widespread, particularly in the developing countries like India; where the situation is completely far from satisfactory. In this context, a report of the International Labour Organization (ILO) estimated that 13.8% of the children; within the age-group 5-17 years of the developing countries are away from the requisite nutrition and access to school facilities for their education (ILO 2017) ^[14]. The major salient feature that there are 179 million children, belonged to these poor families, working in the brick kiln industries have been deprived from the required nutrition, as the parents are not in a position to afford for their children.

However, the quantum of the children workers in the developing country like India is growing at the fast rate and posing a great challenge to the society.

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But, the problem of children of these BPL families in India; which has identified mainly in the rural areas rather than the urban areas. The Uttar Pradesh state ranks first position (15.55%) share of the children of the BPL families in the state of Andhra Pradesh (10.85%), followed by Rajasthan (10.50%), and Bihar (8.88%) (Yadav 2017) [15].

According to Stein and Davis (1940) [16], the conditions of children of these disadvantaged households, now it becomes imperative to pay full attention towards these children, so that these children may avail their opportunity to get the desired health and the educational services for them (Davis and Stein 1940; Shandilya *et al.* 2006) [16, 17]. In this context, Giri has insisted on paying the full attention towards these neglected children of the working labours at the brick kiln industry across the country parents (Giri 1956). However, it was reported by Gurupadaswamy Committee (1979) that neglecting situation of these children so measureable to reform easily. It is therefore, an effective diagnostic survey is urgently needed before giving an effective treatment to address these children relating pressing problems (Shandilya *et al.* 2006) [17].

At a global level, in the developed countries, all process of the brick manufacturing is now automatic but in case of the developing countries, the manual labour is used for making the bricks and their children often deprived with the problem of health relating problem and also tend to neglect their study to a considerable extent (Bhukuts, *et al.* (2005) [2]. The problematic areas of health and education for the children living with their parents; who are working in the brick kiln industry across the country. The author has attempted to create a theoretical framework for economic activities that includes education and serves as a perfect substitute for the children's child labor. Education is a fundamentally important aspect of human nature that calls for institutional support, which is the only other option available to remove the children from the deplorable conditions brought about by the unhealthy conditions of the brick kiln. Similarly, on this pressing issue of the Rights of these deprived children for their compulsory and free education Act. which was executed on April 1, 2009, in fact that Dr. Baba Sahab Amdekar has already mentioned in the constitution for free education for the children of the disadvantaged families across the country, but even after the 76 years of the independence of country, and making consistently efforts the situation remained more or less same among these neglected children (Khulte, 2024) [5].

The deficiency of the nutrition value in the meal of these children and the least opportunities for education of these deprived children have also been put forward by the various authors like Rajshahi, who has examined these pressing problems of the children who are living with their migrant parents for the purposes of the seasonal employment are vulnerable "at risk" group in terms of their educational and the capability development for their children. It is therefore, it has become imperative to ameliorate the educational level by providing the school opportunity and the mid day meal for these grieved children. (Majumdar, 2011) [6]. The study on Health problems among child laborers working in brick kilns of Nepal found that 35 percent of children aged nine to eleven years who work in brick kilns were found to have serious health problems. It has been found in the study that excessive work load, maximum working hours, poor workplace environment, unsafe working hours, health problems, respiratory problems, injury problems and long-

term persistence of injuries etc. have been found. In these places, human rights are ignored as per the Constitutional law (Banstola. *et al.*, 2019) [18].

Present study is confined to district Rohtak where there were five brick kiln which have taken from the five blocks; where the children of the brick kiln workers are suffering from low nutrition value of food and deprived from receiving basic school education. It is because of adverse socio-economic and physical environmental conditions; faced by these innocent children, belonged to varied age-groups.

Statement of the problem

The children of the parents; working in brick Killen industry the Haryana is generally found in the rural area of Haryana, located near the large and small cities. It has been the endeavor of the Haryana state which has prepared a 'State Plan of Action' too for the children which is a very detailed document which contain the different critical matters like health, nutritional value, educational level and the environment with the children; particularly under varied field conditions. While the other state departments; involved in the mission of rehabilitation of these children suffering with the low nutrition and inaccessibility to even for the basic educational facilities for these children Further, the department of health has been instructed to get the children who are medically examined in the brick Killen industry and issued health cards in the districts. Haryana state is not having any child who endemic area as per the norms of government of India yet the states government is fully cognizant of taking the responsibility of the health and educational programme to boost up the these children. The state efforts are not only trying to fulfill the constitutional and statutory obligation to lift up and rehabilitate the children's family with proper food and educational facilities for this deprived segment of society. The present study is an attempt to examine the problems of the food intake and the educational barriers on 200 respondents; belonged to disadvantaged households, residing on the sites of the bricks; belonged to five blocks of the district Rohtak, Haryana.

Objectives of the study

The following are the objectives of the present study which are as follows

1. To review the health and educational level of the children of the brick kiln workers; situated on the periphery of the five the five villages, of five blocks of Rohtak district.
2. Give suggestions to improve the conditions of the children of these brick kiln workers

Materials and Methods

The statement of the problem, shows that there were some of the research design was formulated by applying the various research methods and the tools chosen by a researcher to conduct the firsthand information for the study. The design allows the researchers to review the research tools which are most suitable for analyze the undertaken and set up their studies for success. However, is a micro-level study, which require a research design in accordance with the needs of the study which is briefly discussed as follows:

Size of the samples of the respondents

There were 27 numbers of the questions which have administered from the structured questionnaires which are comprised of the questions on the family schedule and the responses of the respondents who are parents of their children; who are facing the problems of the insufficient nutritional values; consumed by these children and the availability of the school facilities at their sites of this brick kiln, on the periphery of the five sample villages, belonged to five blocks of the Rohtak district. To show worked out figures, various tables and pie diagrams and bar graphs have been drawn to represent graphically for various worked out the taken qualitative parameters of the study.

Table 1: Size of the samples

Name of the sample villages	Name of block	No of respondents
Ladhaut	Rohtak	40
Kahanaur	Kalanaur	40
Atail	Sampla	40
Mokhra	Meham	40
Kharanti	Lakhan Majra	40
Rohtak district	Total	200

Structured questionnaire: To collect data on first hand information, a questionnaire and the open-ended questions were administered on 200 respondents of the households on the pressing problems of the children’s in terms of their food and the school going habits and the other environmental problems, faced by their parents and their children’s of their poor households, working on this brick kiln, situated at the five sample villages, undertaken. In this context, the

respondents have taken as follows:

Table 2: Shows type of questions, no of respondents types of respondents

Type of questions	No of respondents	Types of respondents
The questions on family schedule	8	Parents of the children
The health relating questions for the children	9	Parents of the children
Questions relating to the education of the children of these brick kiln workers.	7	Parents of the children
Open ended questions	Open discussion	Mixed respondents

The study area

The study areas are the five above mentioned sample villages, belonged to different five blocks like Rohtak, Kalanaur, Sampla, Mehama and Lakhan Majra. All the five sample villages; where the brick kilns are located are well connected with roads with state highways and approach roads with the block/ district headquarters. All the five sample villages are characterized with sound agricultural, irrigational and all the basic amenities and services. All the five villages enjoy the good infrastructural development and the institutional support like Panchayati Raj Institutions and other social, economic institutions. The sample villages are characterized with the agrarian economy and the farmers practiced with the mixed farming. The study area is shown in a Google map as follows:

District Rohtak: The study area



Results and Discussion

Keeping in view the worked out figures of the stay wise period of the parents of the children of the brick kiln worker, the tabulated figures of these children show a significant variability in the stay period of the parents of these children. There were 90% of the parents who worked in this brick kiln, stayed for 0 to I years. On the other hand; there were only 10% of the respondents who stayed from 1 to 2 years at this brick kiln. It means that most the brick kiln workers used to stay for short term and they pay their frequent visit

for their home town/ villages either in Bihar or in the eastern part of the Uttar Pradesh. Hence, it is quite clear that there is significant variability of the age-groups of the children, of the brick kiln workers, at a brick kiln, situated on the periphery of the five sample villages, of the five blocks of the Rohtak district. Thus, the worked out and tabulated figures of the family schedule of the 200 households, taken for the study areas; indicates a significant variability in terms of their native place; where all these brick kiln workers have migrated with varied caste

and the religious background. Almost every immigrated family has a different numbers of the children, belonged to different age-groups with more or less consumption pattern of the intakes, consumed by varied families. All these migrants' brick kiln workers, usually stay for a short time and usually visits to their home town or villages. Further, discussion with their parents.

With regarding to varied 'perceptions' on the pressing issues of the acquiring the basic education and making available adequate nutrition values for these poor children of the brick kiln workers who are working with the five brick kilns, situated in the five sample villages, located in different blocks of the Rohtak have given with subjective responses as follows:

Table 3: Response of the parents of the children on food intakes by their children

Perception / view point of the parents of the children	Yes	No	No answer	If opportunity available, then. Yes	Total No of Respondents
Ever your children went to school?	40 (20)	160 (80)	0	0	200 (100)
Are you willing to send your children?	102 (51)	98 (49)	0	0 (0)	200 (100)
Where You are working in this brick kiln; Village Sarpanch suggested for you to send your child to school.	30 (15)	130 (65)	40 (20)	0 (0)	200 (100)
Any villager suggested you send your children to school?	20 (10)	150 (75)	Suggested but children are not wiling 0	Children are Willing but economic condition do not allow 3 (15)	200 (100)
Ever the school principal has advised you to send your children to school?	Yes 20 (10)	No 130 (65)	We never met to the school principal. 7 (35)	We do nt know the address of the school. 0	200 (100)
Ever government has conducted survey on education of your children?	Yes 0	No 170 (85)	Can't say anything 30 (15)	Survey was conducted but we never enquired from govt.--	200 (100)
If government provides an opportunity, then will you send your children to school?	Yes 170 (65)	No 0	Depend on circumstances 10 (5)	Can't say any thing 20(10)	200 (100)
If they are financially helped by the governs, then they are willing to send their children to school?	Yes 170 (65)	No 0	It depends on circumstances 20 (10)	Can' say any thing 10 (5)	200 (100)
Do you understand on importance of education for your children?	Yes 140 (70)	No 30 (15)	It on upon circumstances 0	Can't say any thing = 3 (15)	200 (100)

Table 4: The Responses of the Parents of the children on food habits who live with the brick kiln workers

How many take meal in a day?	Once --	Twice 40 (20)	Three times 140 (70)	Four times 30 (15)	Total No of respondents 200 (100)
What you take meal for yourself, the same meal you provide for your children?	,Yes, same 160 (80)	No differ rent at all --	Sometime different 2 (10)	No specific difference 2 (10)	200 (100)
What type of meal you provide for your children?	Dal Roti 50 (25)	Dal rice 80(40)	Roti-Sabzi 30 (15)	Roti Sabzi, Dal 40 (20)	200 (100)
What is the Menu of meal throughout week or make change?	Yes, same memo follow 120 (60)	No, keep on changing 40 (20)	It depend on circum-stances 40 (20)	Cannot say any thing 0	200 (100)
If your children study in school, are they get the mid-day meal?	Yes 30 (15)	No 140 (70)	It depend on circum-stances	Cannot say any thing 30 (15)	200 (100)
Is there any survey, conducted by any NGO, on meal standard of your children ?	Yes 0	No 180 (90)	Cannot say any thing 0	No information is available 20 (10)	200 (100)
If government is ready for arrange the meal for your children. Will you accept it ?	Yes 150 (75)	No 30 (15)	It depend on circum-stances	Cannot say any thing 20 (10)	200 (100)
Are you satisfied with the meal; providing for your children?	Yes 110 (55)	No 90 (45)	No nutrition-on has asked	Cannot say any thing 0	200 (100)
If any organization is ready to arrange the meal for your children. Will you accept it?	Yes 170 (85)	No --	It depend on circum-stances 30 (15)	Cannot say any thing	200 (100)

Source: Field survey *Percentages are given in brackets

Keeping in view the worked out figures on issue of the low nutrition value which is consumed by the children and there is no opportunity for the basic school education for these disadvantaged children of the brick kiln workers, it was observed during the field study with varied response of the parents of these deprived children. The observed values of the field study show that 80% of the children never went to school, but over 50% of the parents were found willing to send their children to school. On the other hand, there were 65% of the household who have told that the *Sarpanch* have never suggested that their children should go to schools in their respective areas. More or less same was responses were received from the villagers on the suggestions for sending their children to schools. With regarding to this issue the responses of the school principals were more or less same, as responded by the precedent respondents.

On the 'perception' of the brick kiln workers who are helped by financial assistance from the government, as a result, their tendency to send their children to the schools were received in a varied way. On this issue, a considerable numbers of the households were agreed on these conditions but 10% of the respondents have told that it depends upon the prevailing circumstances. Lastly, 10% of the respondents have failed to give any answer on this issue. On the perception of the understand about the importance of education for your children? At this, there were 70% of the respondents who have given their answers in affirmative but 15% of the respondents who have denied it. Lastly, there were 5% of the respondents who have failed to answer any thing on this issue. With regarding to meal taking habits by the children of the brick kiln workers, it was observed during the field study, that there were 20% of the respondents have replied that the children take two times a day, but 70% of the respondents have pointed out that they take three times their meal in a day. On the other hand, there were 30% of the parents have told that their children take even four times in a day. On the question of their tendency for taking the meal for themselves and the same meal is provide for their children? On this issue; there were 80% of the respondents have pointed out that the provide the same meal to their children; as they usually consume, but 10% of the respondents have told that the it was slightly different and 10% of the respondents have pointed out with no specific difference. On the question of type of meal you provide for their children? In this context, they have pointed out that there were 25% of the respondents have told that they provide *Dal -Roti*, whereas; 40% of the respondents have told that they provide *Dal-Rice* and 15% tend to eat *Roti, Sabzi and Dal*.

On 'perception's of the Menu of meal throughout week or make change; as a result, there were 60% of the respondents have told that there is same menu; followed by them, but 20% of the respondents have told that they keep on changing the menu of meal for their children. On the other hand, there are 20% of the respondents who have pointed out that it depends on the circumstances and decide the menu for their children accordingly. In case their children go to school, they their children get the Mid-day-meal or not. On this issue, there were only 15% of the children have admitted for availability of mod-day-meal, but 70% of the respondents have denied it. Lastly, there were 15% of the respondents who have failed to form any opinion on it. With regarding to any survey, conducted by any N.G.O; on meal standard of your children; as a result, there were 90% of the

respondents who have denied for any type of survey conducted by any NGO etc. on the situation of nutrition in take by their children and 10% of the brick kiln workers were failed to inform anything on this issue. In case, government is ready for arrange the meal for your children. Will you accept it? On this perception, there were 75% of the respondents who were given their answers in affirmative but there were 15% of the respondents have denied for this proposal. Lastly, 10% of the respondents were failed to form any opinion of this perception. On this perception of their satisfaction with the meal; providing for your children? On the perception of their satisfaction, there were 55% of the respondents who have declared themselves as 'satisfied' but 45% of the respondents have not felt 'satisfied' at all. Lastly, in case any organization is ready to arrange the meal for your children. Will you accept it? On this issue, there were 85% of the respondents who have given their answers in affirmative; but 15% of the respondents have pointed out that it depend upon the circumstances.

Hence, it obvious from the field study there has been considerable variability in the responses of the 200 respondents of the brick kiln workers on the issues of the meal consumption tendency and school going tendencies of their children who are living with them. Thus, the study shows a 'cause-effect relationship' which was established by the varied views given of the different type of respondents with more or less similar background; have given their views on varied pressing problematic areas on the issues of the nutrition values; consumed by their children who are either illiterates or acquired very low level of formal education. These pressing problems are hampered by some of their socio-economic factors and their inevitable circumstances; as observed during the field study; carried out for the five brick kilns workers.

Suggestions for ameliorate the health and educational statuses of these deprived children: In order to make an improvement in the health and the educational level among these deprive children; are summed up as follows:

- 1. Healthcare controlled by brick kiln owners:** The brick kiln managers are the responsible person to hear the grievances of the immigrant workers for deteriorating the health status of the workers and their children. They are supposed to take the action for their health and education for what are the action which are to be taken. The first action is often to prescribe the medicines, the secondly, step to refer to a non-qualified medical practitioner. Thirdly, a private hospital, should be vigilant on the cost factor which is tend to often drive their decision-makings
- 2. location of Brick kilns; as a potential health hazard factor:** It has been observed from the field study that the brick kilns are located very near to a road; where the continuous flow of the traffic tend to make available the health facilities, as compared with the other organizations; located far away from the roads. This accessibility; dependent on the cooperation of the brick kiln manager, as results from the social segregation which show, easier a physical accessibility; very rarely translates in accordance with the actual accessibility for the children of the brick kiln workers and the mobility potential which is wasted. There are some of the workers views on accessibility to an adequate facilitate

by the brick kiln managers positively, particularly for minor ailments.

3. **Lack of accessibility to the community health outreach rendering of the services a:** The field study shows that the five activities of the ASHA workers which are expected to carry out, only one immunization, was made available to the children of the brick kiln labours. Secondly, the services rendered by the *Anganwadi* workers were not made available at all to the brick kiln labours and their children. Thirdly, the ASHA workers were assigned the brick kiln inhabitants have been given top priority of their regular workload. In addition, the extensive stigma in the local habitants against the brick kiln labours, this resulted in the ASHA to keep their visits to the brick kiln's sites to a bare minimal extent. As a result, the mothers of these children never know who their ASHA workers was and modes of their meet them to address their health problem of their children.
4. **Lack of their documentation and immunization cards or the Aadhaar cards:** It has been observed from the field study, due to migratory nature of their work; as most of the brick kiln workers, either migrated from Bihar and the some of the seastern pockets of the U. P., as a result, they often fail to produce the evidences of their identification, as *Adhar card*, voter card or any immunization card to availing the health facility for the children of the brick kiln workers; working in the different sites in the different areas of the district. These types of the problematic areas are to be addressed without any further delay so that these uprooted families may avail the health services provided by the state health services of PHC/CHC nearby located to them.
5. **Financial challenges and exploitation:** It has been observed from the field study that there are large numbers of the seasonal migrants have found themselves in the debt trap. This tendency has given a tendency of applying the monopolistic approach in managing in terms of an absolute control. However, the Seasonal payouts mean for the brick kiln workers are not having any other alternative to pay their attention towards their health during the working season. If the manager denies an advance, they are unable to seek out care. This tendency should be declined without any further delay and address the health problem by providing the health facility to these neglected children so that these children may lead a normal healthy life at their respective working sites.
6. **Stigma and discrimination:** The study shows that the beliefs that the workers of the brick kiln are all habitually drunkards, fake their sickness to avoid working, and do not care; provided their children die influence healthcare services rendered by the health centers, perceptions of and their tendency to make available health services to the children of the brick kiln workers. Further, it was also observed that there are some of the questions as open ended questions which have been taken place various pressing issues of acceptability to the maternal and the children's healthcare for these migrants' workers of the brick kiln industry. Seasonal migrants in the other unorganized industries, such as agriculture, construction, mining, and small and cottage industries, are also likely to face

the exploitative tendency and the challenges around the portability of the benefits. Addressing the maternal and child health is one of the pressing issues which deserves an urgent action to address the problem of low nutrition value among these ill fated children.

Recommendations for improving the education for the children of brick kiln workers: As suggested as follows:

For the government agencies. Prioritize implementation of non-formal schooling and alternative learning opportunities for children of the brick kiln workers, not just in brick industry but in overall seasonal work sector, by making budgetary provisions and developing policies that incentive and support the migrant workers' families to ensure continuity of the children's education. ii. Regular monitoring by the local government should be encouraged to keep updates on the status of children's education within their local constituent, keeping track of their migration status (if applicable), their duration of migration, access to education, and continuity of education and so on. iii. Establishment of social protection schemes for the brick workers (and other informal sector workers) that provide financial incentives to families for sending their children to school regularly, thereby reducing the economic pressures that contribute to child labor. iv. Formulation of targeted interventions that improve access to equitable quality education and prioritize the children to have an access to education regardless of their migratory patterns.

Findings and Conclusions: The health and the education issues of the migrant brick kiln worker's children are one of the pressing problems for the society, as well as for the social workers. Since the period of independence, whole country is facing the problem of health, particularly the children of these migrant workers. They also tend to deprive from the right of their education, right from their tender age of these disadvantageous children of the disadvantageous families, who often migrate, from the less developed part of the country to relatively well off part of the country. It was endeavor of the Haryana state which has also formulated a 'State Plan of Action' for the children with their comprehensive documents encompassing the varied crucial areas like nutrition, health, environment and the education with their children; particularly during the complex circumstances. The other department of the state government; including the task of children rehabilitation who have been suffering from the the low level of the nutrition value and the inaccessibility to even for the basic educational facilities for these children Further, health department has been instructed to get the children who are medically diagnosed at the sites of the brick kilns and issued the health cards at the district level in the Haryana state in accordance with the prescribed health norms of the state health department; yet the states government is fully cognizant of its responsibility for undertaking of the health and educational programmes of progressive elimination of these children. The state government is not only trying to fulfill the constitutional and statutory obligation to lift up and rehabilitate the children's family with proper food and educational facilities for this deprived segment of society. The present study is an attempt to examine the problems of the food intake and the educational barriers on 20 respondents and their conditions. The study is confined to the migrated workers, presently working on a brick kiln,

situated besides the five sample villages of the Rohtak district. The study shows that there were 200 respondents with varied socio-economic and religious background have shown their subjective view points on the various pressing issues, particularly health and education relating problems of the children with varied age groups have tried to establish a 'cause-effective relationships' between socio-economic and the institutional problems, on these two burning issues, closely associated with the children of these brick kiln workers, situated near the five brick kilns, located near the five sample villages, belonged to five different blocks of the Rohtak district, Haryana.

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