

## **PORTENTOUS EVALUATION OF CHILD LABOUR: AN INDIAN PERSPECTIVE**

**<sup>1</sup>RICHA MEHTA**

Assistant Professor, Department of Management Studies, RDIAS,  
NAAC A+, Approved by AICTE, HRD Ministry, Affiliated to GGSIP University, Delhi.

**<sup>2</sup>DR. ANSHU TYAGI,**

Associate Professor, Department of Management Studies, RDIAS,  
NAAC A+, Approved by AICTE, HRD Ministry, Affiliated to GGSIP University, Delhi.

**<sup>3</sup>SHIKHA DUA**

Assistant Professor, Department of Management Studies, RDIAS,  
NAAC A+, Approved by AICTE, HRD Ministry, Affiliated to GGSIP University, Delhi.

**<sup>4</sup>VARUN KHANIJAU**

Student, Department of Management Studies, RDIAS,  
NAAC A+, Approved by AICTE, HRD Ministry, Affiliated to GGSIP University, Delhi.

### **ABSTRACT**

This paper focuses on the children from low-income families in India who are susceptible to child labour. They are constantly included in various manifestations of works and, as a result, stay out of school during their valuable junior years. The future of such children is jeopardized. The main cause of child labour is the widespread unemployment and underemployment among the adult impoverished strata of the population, which is exacerbated by population expansion. Large families with poor money, a lack of educational facilities, illiteracy, and parental ignorance about the importance of education are highly susceptible to child labour cases.

**Keywords:** Child Labour, Education, Poverty, Population Prediction,

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### **INTRODUCTION**

Child labour is described as the employment of children in any work that robs them of their childhood, interferes with their ability to attend regular school, and is psychologically, physically, socially, or morally unsafe and harmful. Many international organizations consider this activity to be exploitative. Child labour is illegal under international law. Every person has the right to grow his or her personality and create a future by having access to education. Child labour is one of the most serious challenges facing the future of children from low-income families in developed countries. They are engaged in different forms of labour at such a tender age that they are unable to attend school to get the basic

education.

## **REGIONAL PREVALENCE OF CHILD LABOUR**

In Indian society, children have always been a taboo topic. Children have always been regarded as humanity's greatest gift in every society. Childhood is a vital stage of human development because it holds the potential for every society's future development. Children who are brought up in an environment, which is helpful to their intellectual, physical and social development, go on to be responsible and productive part of the society. In general, it is said that due to economic difficulties, children are forced to forego educational and other growth opportunities in order to work in jobs that mostly exploit them, since they are typically underpaid and work in hazardous conditions. Owing to the weak economic conditions, parents send their child to work as a desperate measure. Child labour is considered a violation of human rights because it physically harms a child by subjecting him to hard labour when he is not physically fit for it. Furthermore, it has emotional and psychological ramifications that will be evident in his actions for the rest of his life. These children suffer from anxiety, stress, and low self-esteem. Poverty ranks first among the causes of child labour. Although some child labour is caused by a lack of access to schooling, fragmented families, cultural patterns of child labour, a lack of emphasis placed on education, and the state of the national economy, most households send their children to work because they are poor.

Poverty is widely regarded as the leading cause of child labour because it denies children the opportunity to attend school and learn human skills. Poor children grow up to become unskilled workers earning low wages as adults. As a result, poverty persists. Therefore, parents must send their children to school and college to make them skilful. A child labour trap has been established. Poverty, illiteracy, and child labour are all significantly correlated in the Indian context, according to an econometric analysis using state-level panel data. The findings show that poverty has a negative impact on children's schooling and education, resulting in poverty persistence and the creation of a child-labour trap. In Asia and the Pacific, there are approximately 122 million child labourers, at least 15 million in Latin America, and 72.1 million in Sub-Saharan Africa. Although child labour has reduced by 38% in the last decade, 152 million children continue to be affected. The COVID-19 epidemic has exacerbated the situation, but coordinated and decisive effort can reverse it. Child labourers have the following characteristics: they violate a country's minimum wage legislation, endangers the physical, mental, or emotional well-being of children. Child slavery, child trafficking, debt bondage, forced labour, or illegal activities are the examples of unbearable maltreatment.

## **PROBLEM OF CHILD LABOUR IN INDIA**

Child labour is a major issue in India. It is undeniably a socioeconomic issue. According to a national survey, over 16 million children aged 8 to 14 years, work primarily in hotels and lodgings, coffee shops, restaurants, commercial businesses, factories, and fisheries. They are employed in some capacity in order to provide for their families. As a result, they are also denied access to primary education, and without it, they have little chance of achieving success in life. Children are employed as farm labourers. They drive carts and look after cows. The young lady works as a housekeeper and babysitter. They cook, clean, do laundry, and collect fuel. Many laws have been enacted to protect children from child labour. But they are quite confusing than obeying. Child labourers have the following characteristics: they violate a country's minimum wage legislation, endanger the physical,

mental, or emotional well-being of children. Children are used to undermine labour norms. In India, the magnitude of child labour has decreased dramatically over the last two decades, both in terms of magnitude and workforce participation rates. According to data from the National Sample Survey, India's child labour force in 2004-05 was estimated to be slightly more than 9.07 million, compared to 21.55 million in 1983. During this time, the number of children working has dropped dramatically by 12.48 million. There is a significant drop in child labour force participation among boys compared to girls. Between 1983 and 2004-05, the number of boys and girls in the labour force fell from 12.06 to 4.76 million and 9.49 to 4.31 million, respectively. According to the NSSO survey 2009-10, the number of working children was estimated to be 49.84 lakh, with a decreasing trend. The activity rate of children in India was 5%.

### **CAUSES FOR CHILD LABOUR**

**Primary causes:** According to the International Labour Organization (ILO), poverty is the single most important cause of child labour. Revenue from a child's job is generally important for his or her own survival or the survival of the household in a poor household. Working children's earnings, while small, can account for 25 to 40% of household earnings. The lack of significant alternatives, such as affordable schools and quality education, is another major factor driving youngsters into hazardous labour. It works because the children are unable to do anything else. Many communities lack proper school facilities, particularly in rural areas where 60 to 70 per cent of children are employed. Even if there is a school, the guardian wonders if it is worth going to school because the school is too far out of reach, or the quality of education is very low.

**Cultural causes:** Certain cultural attitudes have rationalised and hence fostered child labour throughout European history, as well as in contemporary child labour in the modern world. Work, according to some, is beneficial to children's character development and skill development. Child labour is a way for children to learn and practise a trade from a young age in many cultures, particularly where the informal economy and small household businesses exist. Similarly, in many cultures, girls' education is undervalued, or females are just not believed to require formal education, leading to these girls being forced into child labour, such as providing domestic services.

**Macroeconomic causes:** Both the demand and supply sides of the equation have a role in child labour. While poverty and a lack of adequate schools explain the supply side of child labour, the demand side is said to be caused by the expansion of the low-paying informal economy rather than the higher-paying formal business. Macroeconomic factors affecting demand and acceptability of child labour include an inflexible labour market, the magnitude of the informal sector, the incapacity of enterprises to scale up, and the lack of contemporary manufacturing technologies.

### **EFFECTS OF CHILD LABOUR**

There is no easy or universally accepted way to categorise the negative consequences of labour work on children's and community's health. With children working in hazardous conditions in various sectors such as agriculture, mining, construction, and manufacturing, as well as in hotels, bars, and restaurants, it has proven to be catastrophic in their overall development. Dangerous child labour specifically refers to working in dangerous or unhealthy conditions, which can cause the death, injury or illness of children due to poor health and safety standards and poor work arrangements. It is quite

likely to result in long-term impairment, poor health, and psychological harm. Working in dangerous workplaces might generate health problems that don't manifest until children reach adulthood. The International Labour Organization estimates that around the world, around 22,000 children die at work each year. The number of people injured or ill due to work is not yet known. Children, for example, frequently assist farm tasks, particularly during harvest season, while working in all types of weather and at all hours of the night. Vehicle crashes and deaths can occur as a result of poisoned or unattended injury to complex farm equipment. Rollovers, the chance of crashes and animal kicks, and various age-related vulnerabilities, pesticide and fertiliser exposure, as well as overloading, are further issues to be cautious about.

In the Andhra Pradesh countryside, children working in cottonseed oil production worked an average of 12 hours a day, were exposed to chemicals, and were not provided with protective equipment. After dispersing the pesticides, they were regularly irritated on the skin and eyes, resulting in dizziness and headaches. Mining is particularly vulnerable to such risks since the child is still developing physically and cognitively, and you may not completely comprehend the dangers you are confronting. It can be utilised for labour in perilous tight circumstances that adults cannot access because of its small size. To take another example, children make up 10% of Jaipur's 200,000 jewellery polishing employees, who are frequently seated at workstations with inadequate ventilation and illumination, as well as prolonged exposure to harmful chemicals. Children are required to carry large weights, work at heights without safety equipment, or risk damage from dangerous machines in the construction business. Children in manufacturing can be exposed to poisonous solvents, perform repeated work in unpleasant environments, and be injured by sharp instruments. Children who labour long hours at home and live alone from family and friends are at risk of physical, mental, and sexual abuse. Other serious health issues associated with vitamin deficiencies have been observed, including starvation, anaemia, skin allergies, respiratory and gastrointestinal infections.

Instead of learning how a child interacts with classmates and socialises effectively in cooperative play, he spends most of his time working, which can have a significant negative impact on society's growth. Only working youth may be affected, and youth who work more than 20 hours per week have been proven to be more likely to acquire social behaviours such as substance misuse and physical aggressiveness. Sexually transmitted diseases, including as sexual exploitation and abuse, HIV/AIDS, and rape, are well-known consequences of child labour. Risk also has an impact on educational development, as seen by low school grades, refusal to attend school, or dropout. According to studies, three hours of labour each day can have a negative impact on school performance and attendance.

## **GLOBAL TRENDS IN CHILD LABOUR**

Child labour is still a problem around the world today. According to the most recent global estimates, 160 million children – 63 million girls and 97 million boys – were working as youngsters at the start of 2020, accounting for nearly one in ten of all children on the planet. 79 million children – nearly half of all children working – were engaged in hazardous work that jeopardises their health, safety, and moral development. In Asia and the Pacific, as well as Latin America and the Caribbean, sustained progress against child labour is hidden behind the global image. In both regions, child labour has decreased in percentage and absolute terms during the last four years. In Sub-Saharan Africa, similar progress has eluded them. Since 2012, both the number and proportion of children in child labour in

this region has increased.

Child labour decreased in both percentage and absolute terms in both age groups, continuing a declining trend seen in prior estimates. Child labour increased among young children aged 5 to 11, despite global figures from 2016 indicating a declining trend for this age group. In 2020, 16.8 million more children aged 5 to 11 worked as children than in 2016.

Unless immediate mitigation steps are done, the COVID-19 situation threatens to destroy worldwide advances against child labour. According to new research, 8.9 million more youngsters will be working as children by the end of 2022 as a result of increased poverty brought on by the pandemic.

### **Other Important Trends around the World:**

- (a) At all ages, boys are more likely than girls to be involved in child labour. 11.2 per cent of all boys work as children, compared to 7.8 per cent of all girls. In terms of absolute numbers, guys outweigh girls by 34 million.
- (b) In rural places, child labour is far more widespread. Child labour affects 122.7 million rural children compared to 37.3 million urban youngsters.
- (c) Agriculture continues to be the most common source of child labour for both boys and girls. Agriculture employs 70% of all children in child labour, or 112 million children in total.
- (d) The vast majority of child labour occurs within households. 72% of all child labour and 83% of child labour among children aged 5 to 11 takes place within families, typically on family farms or in family microenterprises.
- (e) Child labour is usually linked to a child's absence from school. Despite coming inside the age range for obligatory education, a considerable number of younger children in child labour are excluded from school.

### **CHILD LABOUR DURING COVID – 19**

According to the International Labour Organization, global child labour has been gradually falling for the previous two decades, but the epidemic threatens to reverse this trend. This year alone, up to 60 million individuals are anticipated to fall into poverty, forcing families to put their children to work. A joint report by the International Labour Organization and the United Nations Children's Fund, a 1% increase in poverty correlates to a 0.7 per cent increase in child labour. Even as the globe grapples with COVID-19, records from India suggest that children are still being exploited for child labour, despite the fact that the outbreak was followed by lockdown. While the coronavirus outbreak pushed India's youngsters out of school (as they were officially closed), many were secretly transported to farms and factories to work, exacerbating the country's child labour problem. There were 2,473 interventions related to child labour in March (the national Indian lockdown went into place on March 25, 2020), dropping to 446 in April but gradually increasing as the lockdown limitations lifted, reaching 734 in May.

This decrease, however, does not necessarily reflect the actual number of youngsters working; rather, it reflects those who have been identified. As a result, the lower numbers could simply reflect the

pandemic's disruption of routine reporting and investigation systems. 35 per cent (1264) of the 3653 interventions were for begging, 21 per cent (763) for hazardous activities, 14 per cent (513) for working in restaurants, 10 per cent (371) for domestic workers, 8 per cent (286) for family units, and 4 per cent (156) for bonded labour. It's important to recognise the COVID-19 pandemic's diverse effects on society. While some of us are aggressively practising social distancing and exploring work from home choices in the hopes of a brighter tomorrow, there is a chance that a significant number of children will become victims of such ostensibly helpful practises. A rise in the number of child labourers would be one of the consequences. Along with the health catastrophe and the economic and labour market shock caused by the epidemic, the vulnerability of millions of children to child labour is another issue that needs to be addressed.

## **CHILD LABOUR AND THE LAW**

- **International Conventions**

A global legal framework for dealing with child labour has been explored through international accords. The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) (1989), which covers child labour and the right to education, as well as two ILO treaties - the Minimum Age Convention (No. 138, 1973) and the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention (No. 182, 1999), are the most important international legal tools for addressing issue. Although the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) and the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights both mention the right to education, the CRC and the ILO are the most important international instruments for children's rights.

- **UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)**

The CRC is a human rights convention that establishes the rights of children in a comprehensive manner. Unless national legislation specifies otherwise, a child is defined as someone under the age of 18 years. The Convention establishes in international law that States and Parties must ensure that all children, without discrimination, receive special protection and assistance; have access to services such as education and health care; can fully develop their personalities, abilities, and talents; and grow up in a happy, healthy environment.

- **International Labour Organization**

ILO's Minimum Age Convention (no. 138). The ILO Minimum Age Convention No. 138 defines 15 as the minimum age for work, while 14 years is sometimes permitted for a limited time. The minimal age for labour below which a young person's health, safety, or morality are likely to be jeopardised is 18 years, but youngsters aged 13–15 years are allowed to do light work that does not impair their health or schoolwork.

- **ILO Worst forms of Child Labour Convention (no. 182)**

The ILO's Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention No. 182 requires ratifying countries to take immediate action to prohibit and eliminate the worst forms of child labour, which are defined as all forms of slavery, commercial sexual exploitation of children, and any work that is harmful to children's health, safety, or morals.

## **CHILD LABOUR LAWS IN INDIA**

Article 21(A) of the Indian Constitution of 1950 guarantees free and compulsory education for all children aged 6 to 14. Article 24 also expressly forbids the employment of minors under the age of 14 in unsafe factories that could cause them physical and mental harm. Article 51 of the Constitution - a part of the Directive Principles of State Policy – imposes a fundamental obligation on everyone, including parents and guardians of children, to offer educational opportunities for their children aged 6 to 14. The Government established the first committee (known as the Gurupadaswamy Committee) in 1979 to explore the issue of child labour and propose solutions. In 1986, the committee's recommendations led to the passage of the Child Labour Prohibition and Regulation Act. In 2016, a new amendment called the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2016 was passed, which for the first time established the idea of teenage labour for minors aged 14 to 18. The purpose of this new Act was to address the shortcomings of the 1986 Act.

### **Other Major National Legislative Developments:**

**The Factories Act of 1948.** The Act makes it illegal to employ minors under the age of 14 in any factory. The law also established guidelines for who and how long pre-adults aged 15–18 might work in factories.

**The Mines Act of 1952.** Children under the age of 18 are not permitted to work in mines under the Act.

**The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection) of Children Act of 2000.** Anyone who procures or employs a minor in any dangerous occupation or in bondage is guilty of a crime punishable by a prison sentence under this legislation.

**The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act of 2009.** This law requires all children aged 6 to 14 to receive free and compulsory education. The law also stipulated that 25% of places in private schools must be reserved for students from underserved groups and children who are physically challenged.

**The Apprentices Act, 1961.** Unless a child reaches the age of 14 and meets the educational and physical fitness requirements, he or she is not eligible for apprenticeship training.

**The Plantation Labour Act, 1951.** This Act forbids the employment of minors under the age of 12; a child over the age of 12 can only be employed provided a fitness certificate is issued by an appointed doctor.

## **REVIEW OF LITERATURE**

Joydeb Sasmal and Jorge Guillen (2015); *Poverty, Educational Failure and the Child-Labour Trap: The Indian Experience*; describes the problem of child labour pitfalls caused by poverty. Parent is forcing a child to go to work to supplement the family's income. When a child works as a worker, he is deprived of the acquisition of school education and skills and grows into an unskilled worker. As an immature adult worker, he is an adult earning low wages, resulting in poverty, and he is forced to send children back to work. This leads to the chain of poverty and the child labour trap.

Bishnu Mohan Dash, Lokender Prashad and Mili Dutta (2018); Demographic Trends of Child Labour in India: Implications for Policy Reforms; investigates the demographic trends in child labour in India. Studies show that a decrease in major child labourers and an increase in marginal workers indicate a change in the nature of the work done by children. It also shows that the overall proportion of female child labour is lower than that of male child labourers. The results show that children belonging to the lower caste are engaged in most of the work and exploited.

Navpreet Kaur and Roger W Byard (2021); Prevalence and potential consequences of child labour in India and the possible impact of COVID-19 – a contemporary overview; Reports that the health pandemic of COVID-19 has had a major impact on people's lives and has had a significant impact on the economy and employment. The blockade of COVID-19 has exposed the gap in child protection services in India. And it shows the urgent need for a cooperative and proactive approach. The eradication of child labour is a necessary step in the development of a free and equal society, but only through the cooperation of all sectors of society and law enforcement agencies.

Dr. G.L. Parvathamma (2015); Child Labour in India –A Conceptual and Descriptive Study; Describes that the government has taken active steps to address this issue through strict enforcement of legislative regulations along with simultaneous rehabilitation measures. The appropriate enforcement authority, the national government, is conducting regular inspections and raids to detect violations. Since poverty is the root cause of the problem and cannot be solved by enforcement alone, the government has put a lot of emphasis on rehabilitation of these children and improving the economic situation of their families.

Sudeep Limaye and Dr. Milind Pande (2013); A study of Child labour in India – Magnitude and challenges; Conveys the National Children's Program will be a very good article to eradicate child labour in India. The purpose of the plan is to protect children from all kinds of economic exploitation in dangerous occupations, eliminating child labour and gradually moving towards the complete eradication of all forms of child labour.

## **OBJECTIVES**

The objectives of this study are as follows:

- (a) To study the factors that contribute to child labour, such as the reasons for working, the challenges that children face, and the working conditions.
- (b) To study the governments' and non-government organizations'/agencies' social welfare schemes and efforts to alleviate child labour.
- (c) To know the problems and prospects of child labour and to suggest the suitable remedies to overcome them.
- (d) The relationship between poverty, literacy, and child labour in Indian states, as well as the prediction of child labour population



## DATA AND METHODOLOGY

The majority of the information in this study comes from secondary sources, and it is a descriptive study. Data on child labour, literacy rates, and poverty were collected from India's prior five censuses in 1971, 1981, 1991, 2001, and 2011. Data on the child labour population was gathered from the National Sample Survey Organization, the Ministry of Labour, and Joydeb Sasmal's book "Poverty, Educational Failure, and the Child-Labour Trap: The Indian Experience." We used Tendulkar and Lakdawala poverty metrics from the Niti Aayog State Statistics, as well as literacy data from the RBI handbook of Statistics on Indian States.

## ANALYSIS

Using the state level panel data from Indian states and union territories (UTs), linear regression was used to investigate the association between poverty, literacy, and child labour in [Table 2](#) and [Table](#)

[3](#). Similarly, linear regression has been used to anticipate the population of child labourers in 2021 and to examine the relationship and make predictions in [Figure 1, 2, 3 and 4 \(Trend Analysis\)](#) The analysis was done using the (H-C) ratio, which is a percentage of child labour, poverty, and literacy, whereas the population forecast was done using the identical data from [table 1](#), but in figures (thousands) instead of percentages. For linear regression, the equation is  $y = mx+c$ , where  $y$  represents the dependent variable,  $x$  represents the independent variable,  $c$  represents the intercept and  $m$  represents the slope. Microsoft Excel was used to do all the analyses. Child labour is defined as anyone between the ages of 5 and 14 who works in any form of economic activity. Dependent Variables: Child labour Data (Male and Female combined, Urban and Rural areas combined) Independent Variables: Poverty Data (Male and Female combined, Urban and Rural areas combined), Literacy data (Male and Female combined, Urban and Rural areas combined)

## REGRESSION RESULTS

The results of the regressions are presented in [Tables 2 to 3](#) and [figure 1 to 4](#). [Table 1](#) shows the number and the percentage of children working in different states of India throughout time. There is no discernible pattern or trend. Using regression analysis, it is attempted to gain insight into the relationship between the chosen variables. The data in [Table 2](#) support the idea that poverty is the root cause of child labour. [Table 2](#) shows that the percentage of children working is positively connected to the poverty rate. [Table 3](#) shows that the percentage of children working is inversely connected to literacy rates. [Figures 1 to 4](#) demonstrate that the population of child labour in India is expected to grow in the future. The population of most states and union territories appears to be increasing; however child labour population is decreasing in a few states and territories.

**Table 1:** Distribution of Working Child Labour, in the Age Group 5–14 Years in Major Indian States and Union Territories

Number of Child Labour According to Census of India (in thousands)					
Name of the State	1971	1981	1991	2001	2011
Andhra Pradesh	1627 (3.74)	1951 (3.64)	1661 (2.49)	1363 (1.80)	673 (1.35)
Assam	239 (1.63)	283 (1.42)	327 (1.46)	351 (1.31)	284 (0.91)
Bihar	1059 (1.87)	1101 (1.57)	942 (1.09)	1524 (1.38)	1088 (1.04)

Gujarat	518 (1.94)	616 (1.80)	523 (1.26)	485 (0.95)	463 (0.766)
Jammu and Kashmir	700 (1.52)	258 (4.31)	217 (2.81)	175 (1.74)	114 (0.93)
Karnataka	808 (2.76)	1131 (3.04)	976 (2.17)	822 (1.55)	421 (0.68)
Kerala	111 (5.23)	092 (3.64)	034 (1.19)	026 (0.08)	045 (0.13)
Madhya Pradesh	1112 (2.67)	1698 (3.25)	1352 (2.04)	1429 (2.36)	700 (0.96)
Maharashtra	988 (1.96)	1557 (2.48)	1068 (1.35)	764 (0.78)	727 (0.64)
Orissa	492 (2.24)	702 (2.66)	452 (1.42)	377 (1.02)	334 (0.79)
Punjab	232 (1.71)	216 (1.29)	142 (0.70)	177 (0.72)	176 (0.63)
Rajasthan	587 (2.27)	819 (2.39)	774 (1.75)	1262 (2.23)	848 (1.23)
Tamil Nadu	913 (1.737)	975 (2.01)	578 (1.03)	418 (0.67)	284 (0.39)
Uttar Pradesh	1326 (1.50)	1434 (1.29)	1410 (1.01)	1927 (1.14)	2176 (1.08)
West Bengal	511 (1.15)	605 (1.10)	711 (1.04)	857 (1.06)	550 (0.60)
Haryana	137 (1.37)	194 (1.50)	109 (0.66)	253 (1.20)	123 (0.48)
Himachal Pradesh	71 (2.06)	99 (2.32)	56 (1.09)	107 (1.77)	126 (1.84)
Manipur	16 (1.52)	20 (1.42)	16 (0.89)	28 (1.20)	34 (1.32)
Meghalaya	30 (3.00)	44 (3.36)	34 (1.95)	53 (2.33)	44 (1.49)
Nagaland	13 (2.65)	16 (2.09)	16 (1.36)	45 (2.30)	63 (3.24)
Sikkim	15 (7.46)	8 (2.70)	5 (1.37)	16 (3.04)	10 (1.70)
Tripura	17 (1.12)	24 (1.17)	16 (0.59)	21 (0.68)	13 (0.36)
Andaman and Nicobar	5 (4.96)	13 (6.93)	12 (4.50)	19 (5.50)	1 (0.43)
Arunachal Pradesh	17 (3.83)	17 (2.84)	12 (1.43)	18 (1.69)	17 (1.23)
Delhi	17 (0.42)	25 (0.41)	27 (0.29)	41 (0.30)	36 (0.21)
Chandigarh	1 (0.42)	1 (0.43)	1 (0.29)	3 (0.41)	4 (0.40)
Pondicherry	3 (0.78)	3 (0.59)	2 (0.33)	1 (0.19)	2 (0.17)
India Overall	10753	13640	11285	12666	4353

**Source:** Ministry of Labour, Government of India and Census of India, 1971, 1981, 1991, 2001 and 2011.

**Note:** Figures in brackets are the percentage of child labour in the total population.

**Table 2:** Linear Regression of Child Labour on Poverty Dependent Variable: Percentage of child labour in the state/UT.

Independent Variable: Percentage of poverty (H-C ratio) in the state/UT. Number of Groups (State/UT): 27

Number of Observations: 135 Time Period (T): 5

	Coefficients	Standard Error	t Stat	P-value	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	Lower 95.0%	Upper 95.0%
Intercept	0.90068867	0.2521	3.573	0	0.38158	1.4198	0.38158	1.4198
Poverty (2011)	0.00130878 3	0.0114	0.115	0.91	-0.0222	0.02483	-0.0222	0.02483
		Standard			Lower	Upper	Lower	Upper

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	Coefficients	Error	t Stat	P-value	95%	95%	95.0%	95.0%
Intercept	1.052463	0.45214	2.327715	0.02831	0.121254	1.983671	0.121254	1.98367
		4		6				1
Poverty (2001)	0.017499	0.01721	1.016492	0.31913	-0.01796	0.052955	-0.01796	0.05295
		5		2				5
	Coefficients	Standard Error	t Stat	P-value	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	Lower 95.0%	Upper 95.0%
Intercept	0.964766	0.57799	1.669157	0.10756	-0.22564	2.155171	-0.22564	2.15517
		6		3				1
Poverty (1991)	0.012763	0.01681	0.759044	0.45492	-0.02187	0.047395	-0.02187	0.04739
		5		4				5
	Coefficients	Standard Error	t Stat	P-value	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	Lower 95.0%	Upper 95.0%
Intercept	1.686702	0.88125	1.913989	0.06713	-0.12827	3.50167	-0.12827	3.50167
				6				
Poverty (1981)	0.015259	0.02145	0.711162	0.48356	-0.02893	0.05945	-0.02893	0.05945
		7		7				
	Coefficients	Standard Error	t Stat	P-value	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	Lower 95.0%	Upper 95.0%
Intercept	0.586	1.49578	0.391768	0.69854	-2.49462	3.666624	-2.49462	3.66662
		4		9				4
Poverty (1971)	0.035335	0.02931	1.205188	0.23941	-0.02505	0.095718	-0.02505	0.09571
		9		5				8

**Source:** The results are based on data from Table 1 for the Census of India in 1971, 1981, 1991, 2001, and 2011; and poverty estimates from Lakdawala and Tendulkar.

The findings in Table 2 support the notion that child labour is caused by poverty. The regression results in Table 2 reveal that the percentage of children working is positively connected with the poverty rate, with a significant coefficient. The p-value is also positive, indicating that the regression is significant. The coefficients are positive (0.001308783, 0.0174994, 0.012763, and 0.015259) are positive and the p-values are likewise more than 0.05 (0.91, 0.319132, 0.454924, 0.483567 and 0.239415) indicating that the outcome is promising.

**Table 3:** Linear Regression of Child Labour on Literacy Dependent Variable: Percentage of child labour in the state/UT. Independent Variable: Percentage of literacy in the state/UT. Number of Groups (State/UT): 27

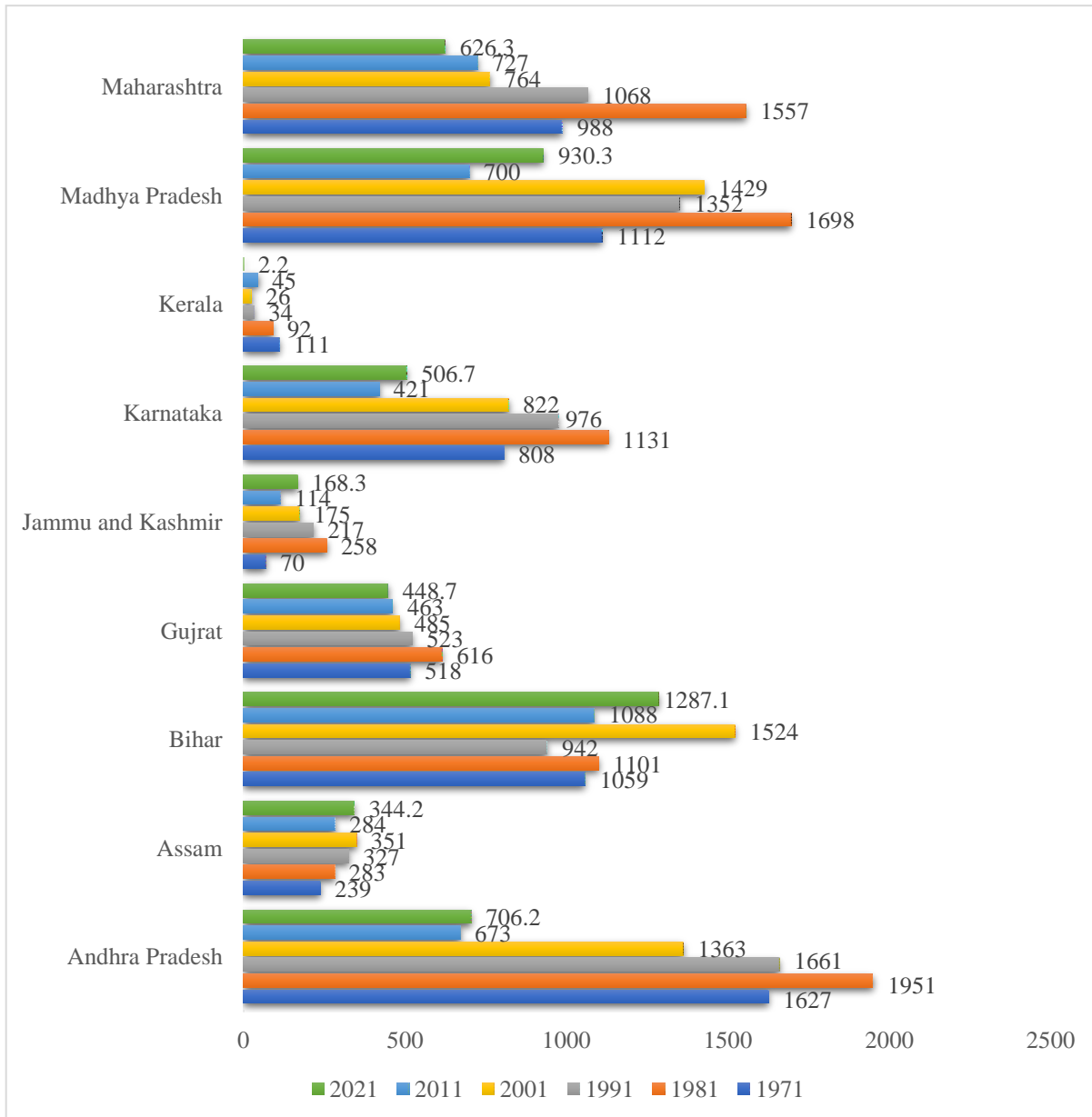
Number of Observations: 135 Time Period (T): 5

	Coefficients	Standard Error	t Stat	P-value	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	Lower 95.0%	Upper 95.0%
Intercept	2.946409	1.190639	2.47464	0.02047	0.494243	5.398576	0.494243	5.398576
			6	4				

Literacy (2011)	-0.02629	0.015406	-1.70617	0.100372	-0.05802	0.005444	-0.05802	0.005444
	Coefficients	Standard Error	t Stat	P-value	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	Lower 95.0%	Upper 95.0%
Intercept	2.954057	1.532737	1.927309	0.065378	-0.20267	6.110787	-0.20267	6.110787
Literacy (2001)	-0.02173	0.022066	-0.98459	0.334258	-0.06717	0.02372	-0.06717	0.02372
	Coefficients	Standard Error	t Stat	P-value	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	Lower 95.0%	Upper 95.0%
Intercept	2.323665	0.78169	2.972616	0.006448	0.713744	3.933586	0.713744	3.933586
Literacy (1991)	-0.01634	0.013261	-1.23247	0.229238	-0.04366	0.010968	-0.04366	0.010968
	Coefficients	Standard Error	t Stat	P-value	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	Lower 95.0%	Upper 95.0%
Intercept	2.822661	0.973265	2.900198	0.007664	0.818184	4.827137	0.818184	4.827137
Literacy (1981)	-0.01141	0.01977	-0.5769	0.569167	-0.05212	0.029312	-0.05212	0.029312
	Coefficients	Standard Error	t Stat	P-value	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	Lower 95.0%	Upper 95.0%
Intercept	3.106979	0.83148	3.736684	0.000971	1.394513	4.819445	1.394513	4.819445
Literacy (1971)	-0.02054	0.021081	-0.9744	0.339194	-0.06396	0.022876	-0.06396	0.022876

**Source:** The results are based on data from Table 1 for the Census of India in 1971, 1981, 1991, 2001, and 2011; and literacy estimates from RBI handbook of Statistics on Indian States.

The results in Table 3 establish hypothesis that percentage of child labour is negatively related with literacy rate and the result is significant, the p-value is also positive, so the regression is significant. This demonstrates that when education improves, child labour decreases. The coefficients are negative (-0.02629, -0.02173, -0.01634, -0.01141 and -0.02054), and the p-values are likewise more than 0.05 (0.100372, 0.334258, 0.229238, 0.569167, 0.339194), indicating that the outcome is promising.

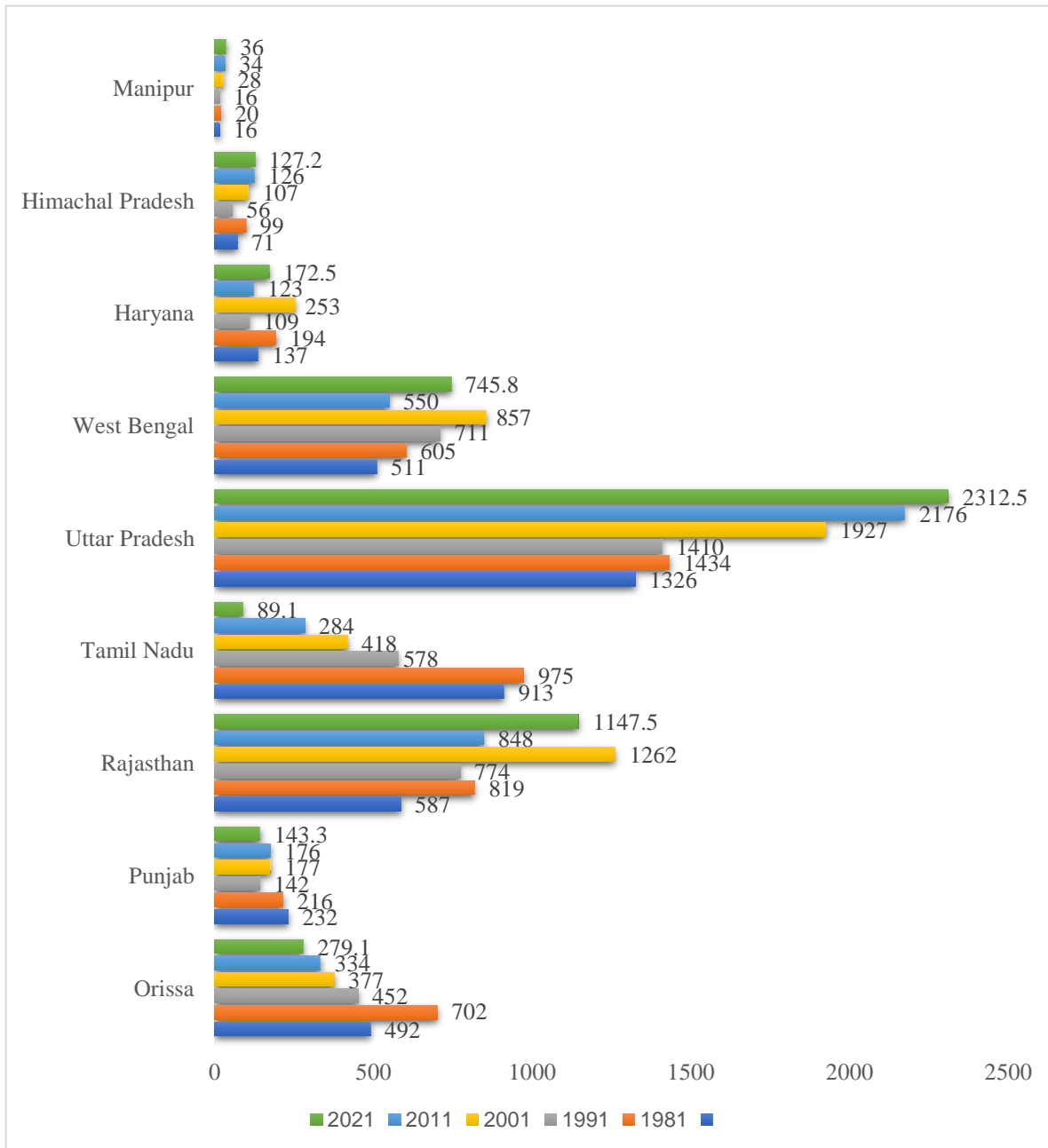


**Figure 1:** The child labour population and forecasts are shown using trend analysis. The results were calculated using data from Table 1 for the Indian Censuses of 1971, 1981, 1991, 2001, and 2011.

Linear regression on Child labour: Dependent Variable: Year 2021, Independent Variable: the population of children labour in 1971,1981,1991,2001, and 2011, Number of Groups (State/UT): 27, Number of Observations: 162, Time Period (T): 6

The percentage of children working in the states of Andhra Pradesh (706.2), Assam (344.2), Bihar (1287.1), Jammu and Kashmir (168.3), Karnataka (506.7) and Madhya Pradesh (930.3) are predicted to rise. This may be valid to some degree or it may be the opposite, as this study is only a forecast based on statistics and no recent data is available, so it may not be correct. The increase in child labour may be due to Covid-19 situation. Gujrat (448.7), Kerala (2.2) and Maharashtra (626.3) have lower rates of child labour. This may be valid to some degree or it may be the opposite, as this study is only a forecast based on statistics and no recent data is available, so it may not be correct. Furthermore, these states could have stricter enforcement of regulations, improved school services, or good

implementation of poverty-reduction policies.

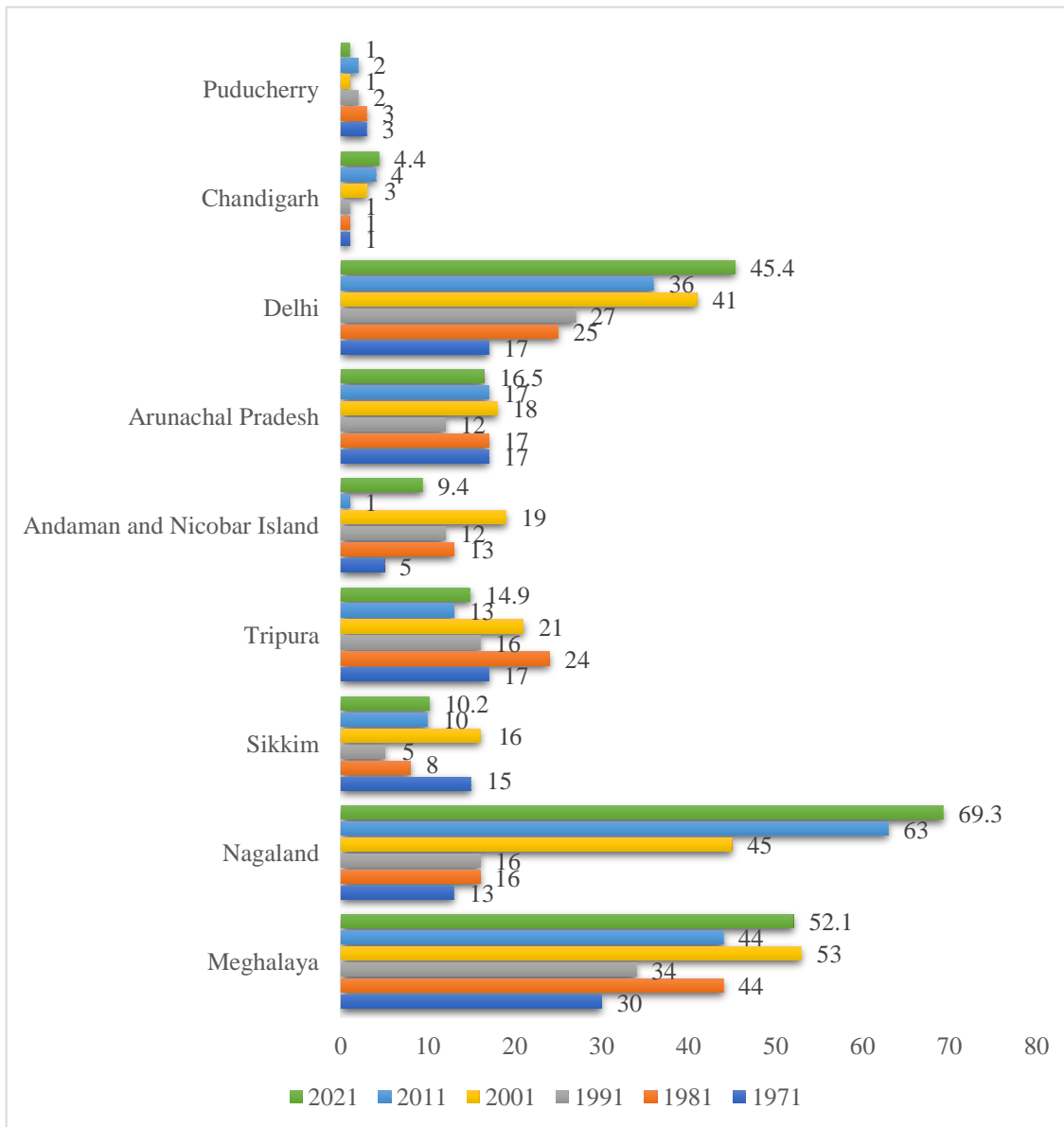


**Figure 2:** The child labour population and forecasts are shown using trend analysis. The results were calculated using data from Table 1 for the Indian Censuses of 1971, 1981, 1991, 2001, and 2011.

Linear regression on Child labour : Dependent Variable : Year 2021 , Independent Variable : the population of children labour in 1971,1981,1991,2001, and 2011 , Number of Groups (State/UT): 27, Number of Observations: 162 , Time Period (T): 6, Trend analysis has been used to represent data.

The percentage of children working in the states of Rajasthan (1147.5), Uttar Pradesh (2312.5), West Bengal (745.8), Haryana (172.5), Himachal Pradesh (127.2) and Manipur (36) are predicted to rise. This may be valid to some degree or it may be the opposite, as this study is only a forecast based on statistics and no recent data is available, so it may be incorrect. The increase in child labour may be due to Covid-19 situation. Orissa (279.1), Punjab (143.3) and Tamil Nadu (89.1) have lower rates of

child labour. This may be valid to some degree or it may be the opposite, as this study is only a forecast based on statistics and no recent data is available, so it may be incorrect. Furthermore, these states could have stricter enforcement of regulations, improved school services, or good implementation of poverty-reduction policies.

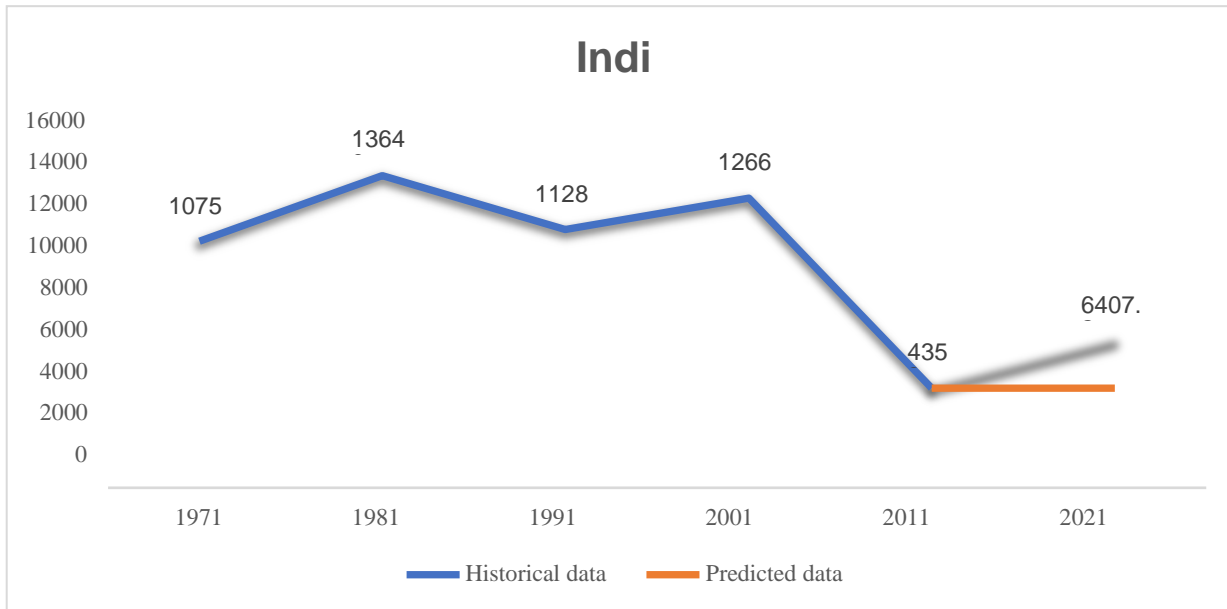


**Figure 3:** The child labour population and forecasts are shown using trend analysis. The results were calculated using data from Table 1 for the Indian Censuses of 1971, 1981, 1991, 2001, and 2011.

Linear regression on Child labour: Dependent Variable: Year 2021 , Independent Variable : the population of children labour in 1971,1981,1991,2001, and 2011 , Number of Groups (State/UT): 27, Number of Observations: 162 , Time Period (T): 6The percentage of children working in the states of Meghalaya (52.1), Nagaland (69.3), Sikkim(10.2), Tripura(14.9) Andaman and Nicobar Island(9.4), Delhi(45.4) and Chandigarh(4.4) are predicted to rise.

This may be valid to some degree or it may be the opposite, as this study is only a forecast based on statistics and no recent data is available, so it may not be correct. The increase in child labour may be

due to Covid-19 situation. Arunachal Pradesh (16.5) and Puducherry (1) have lower rates of child labour. This may be valid to some degree or it may be the opposite, as this study is only a forecast based on statistics and no recent data is available, so it may not be correct. Furthermore, these states could have stricter enforcement of regulations, improved school services, or good implementation of poverty-reduction policies.



**Figure 4:** The child labour population and forecasts are shown using trend analysis. The results were calculated using data from Table 1 for the Indian Censuses of 1971, 1981, 1991, 2001, and 2011.

Linear regression on Child labour : Dependent Variable : Year 2021 , Independent Variable : the population of children labour in 1971,1981,1991,2001, and 2011, Number of Observations: 6 , Time Period (T): 6

**Interpretation:** Child labour in INDIA is projected to rise from approximately 4353 to about 6407.2 or more. It may be related to the Covid-19 situation or other circumstances

### CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This article has investigated the relationship between child labour and crucial issues, as well as forecasts. The Findings include. As can be seen in the study, when child labour is linked to poverty, there are positive coefficients, indicating that poverty is the primary cause of child labour because impoverished parents have no other option. The study demonstrates that child labour has an inverse relationship with literacy, which means that as literacy increases, child labour declines this will help in eradicating child labour. Furthermore, it can be seen in this study that child labour in India has been declining since 2001 and has continued, but it is on the rise again from 2021 due to unforeseeable events and the covid-19 situation, as many people have lost their jobs due to the Lockdown, poverty has increased significantly, and there is a large population of moving labouring parents.

Child labour is a recurring issue in India. Child labour must be abolished if a free and equal society is



to be developed. The government does not have total responsibility for children. Society, parents, and all families, kith and kin are also responsible, but this can only be accomplished with the cooperation of all members of society and law enforcement agencies. The legislation pertaining to child labour should be properly implemented. Governments and their oversight agencies must play an active role in this process. Furthermore, current laws must be followed, and offences must be punished with sufficient fines and penalties.

A national survey must be done to assess the prevalence, nature, and extent of child labour in both the organized and unorganized sectors and to properly execute child labour regulatory legislation, working children must enroll in school and choose between bridging courses in education/life skills and other methods. To prevent and abolish all forms of child labour, it is necessary to guarantee that national poverty-eradication and development programmes are coordinated. Furthermore, society should be educated on the significance of not hiring or exploiting youngsters. A mechanism should be put in place to ensure that children are not being trafficked for domestic labour, sexual harassment, or physical and emotional abuse and neglect. The Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, as well as the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, must be strengthened and rigorously enforced in order to ensure that criminals are brought to justice. It must be ensured that children are not offered for jobs, license and control placement programmes, and that the Interstate Migrant Worker's Act is followed.

## SCOPE

A better study and more data could have been gathered by personally visiting NGOs and organizations, but due to the ongoing pandemic, this was not possible. In order to achieve a better understanding of the problem and to cover all aspects of the conditions these children face on a daily basis, personal contact with children affected by child labour should also be made thereby expanding the scope of research. Furthermore, using data from economic surveys, it is possible to examine the economic impact of child labour. Also, based on measures taken to prohibit child labour, comparisons between countries can be made, with the possibility of their policies being adopted by us if they are successful.

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