CHAPTER – XI

CASE STUDIES-CHILD LABOUR AT THE MINES OF PROJECT AREA

CASE STUDY-1

Miss M. Ravana, third daughter of Mr. Anjaneyulu, is eleven years old girl and height of four feet. She belongs to vaddera community. She works in slate mines at Konakanmittla mandal, whose owner is G. Venkatareddy. She stays at Poola Subbaiah Colony of Markapur. She works in mines from 9 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. Her father also works at slate factory at Markapur B.C. Colony. Her family consists of her parents, four sisters, two brothers, in total nine members. Her father is of 52 years old and mother is 45 years old. Her mother works as house maid, cleaning the utensils in five to six houses at Markapur and getting Rs.300/- per house per month. Eldest daughter who was married but stays with her father and mother, as her husband has given divorce, also works in mines. The last son is studying fifth class at Assist India school at Rayavaram near Markapur.

The traditional occupation of family is earth work. The total family income is around Rs.6,500/- to 8,000/-The family has four members of child workers, who goes to work in slate mines. The family
knows about the legislations on child labour as well as programs of government for eradication of child labour. The work has become compulsory because they are unable to get any help from the government programs. The financial position has made them to go for work in mines along with their children. The girl who is now interviewed would like to go back to school. Regarding the health of the family, the father and mother fall sick very often. The elder sister's husband is a drunkard and divorced her. Miss Ravana does not report any form of abuse at home, but says that the supervisor at mine resorts to oral scolding which are objectionable.

When asked her father, why she has been sent to work, even by knowing the dangers of child labour, he replied that economic conditions of family has forced him to send her to the mine as he has taken debt from the mine owner for the marriage of his elder daughter. Ravana is suffering with body pains, fever and continuous illness due to falling while climbing and same times soaked with dust while bringing waste from mines to the ground level.

It is not that the parents do not know the harm for the child and it is not that they do not know the schemes of the government and by NGOs but the constraints before them made them to accept even the harm. They also know about the resolutions of Trade unions. However only the reason of debt taken from the mine owner is making them to send their children to mine work. They have also taken the bank loan to build the house, with the help of mine owner as guarantor. This type
of indirect help from the mine owners has helped the existence of child labour even with the number of legislations. Is there any philanthropist to help the families like Mr Anjaneyulu such that his children can go to schools and educated? Some more children of different families and parents are also interviewed. All of them have expressed only one common reason for sending their children is only due to debt and poverty. Also they do not have an alternative employment rather than the mining work. Most of them wanted to have an alternative employment for them so that their children can be sent to schools. Also they wanted programs must be implemented whole heartedly. Main points expressed by them during the discussion with different families and the view of researcher is given below.

Implementation method can be devised by using the attendance registers and inspection by the officials of the mines with their offices shifted to Markapur. The payment of wages through the labour contractors must be discontinued. The owner must directly arrange for payments of wages through his employee.

The working labour of the same village is divided by the labour leaders and sent to different mines at different places. This indicates that the formation of a cooperative society, which will have an authority to help them in need, cannot be formed due to the division of labour of same village. This division also helps the labour leader and mine owner in not entering their names in the registers and they can escape in case of any accident.
There should be reporting agency for slate mining and factory to take care of them instead of labour officers and others who are given this extra work in addition to their original work. The factory owners must respond positively to the programs and policies set by the legislature, executive, labour organizations and they will have to be controlled by a separate agency set up for Markapaur slate mines. There must be a separate registering agency for registering labour and check the employment given by the mine owners.\textsuperscript{74}

\textbf{CASE STUDY-2}

Mr. Kotha Subbaiah, aged 13 years is the first son of Mr. Butchiah. He stays at Rayavaram along with his uncle (paternal) and goes to work in the mines of K.P. Reddy, which were sub leased to Butchi Prasad. His mother died and father has married another lady and gone to near by town, Ongole, and driving auto rickshaw at Ongole. He got migrated from Darimadugu (a village near Markapur). Earlier to migrating to Ongole, he was working in Govindaram slate factory located on Cumbum Road, Markapur. He has two sons and one daughter, for second marriage, and they are studying in government school at Ongole. They are aged five years to eight years. Mr. Subbaiah (Child labour who is interviewed) has no study and was working as agriculture labour till he attained age of eight years. From eighth year to

\textsuperscript{74} As per the questionnaire filled and interview with the girl child labour Miss M. Ravana at the mine of Konakanmitla mandal and also interview with parents at Poola Subbaiah colony, Markapur where she is staying.
tenth year he worked in slate factory where his father was working before migrating to Ongole.

After tenth year, he started working in mines by staying at the residence of his uncle at Rayavaram. His work is to collect the waste material from inside the mine pit at a depth of 40ft to the lift box which brings the material out of the mine. His father took loan of Rs.20,000/ from Butchi Prasad, (mine sub-lease holder) for his second marriage end kept his first child for work in the mines of Buchiprasad. He is actually in perpetual bonded labour situation. He is paid only Rs.45/- per day and remaining is debited for the debt taken by his father. Even in odd conditions like rain also he has to go for the work. Even in fever he has to go to mines for work. He has to work in his uncle’s house also after the mine work is over. One day the people from Assist India (local NGO) has come to take the child labour to the release camp. His uncle has kept him for two days in other locked house to avoid the officers of Assist India.

Since the boy thought that researcher is from the government, he did not reveal his story. However at the assurance by the supervisor who is working at mine, known to the researcher, the boy could open his mouth and tell his pathetic story. The supervisor told that this boy has got the habit of drinking and now wants to marry. The boy could accept the same and Commented that while marrying, the girl can also work with him and both can go to some other mine and earn more
wages and get rid of bonded labour at the present mine owner and at his uncle’s house.

When the researcher has asked him about his correct age, he could not tell it correctly. Supervisor told that his age will be around sixteen years. But researcher estimated that his age may be thirteen years. When we have asked that how he can marry at this age, he answered that most of his friends have got married only recently.

In this case, it is that the boy who likes this mine work and wants to settle down in this work. He wants to marry and bring another girl child into this work.

Thus more than likes and dislikes, it is the economic compulsion, livelihood, which are forcing the children to work in mines. Further the main reason is being an alcoholic and wants to become separate and independent person of his own such that no body of his relatives can question him any thing about his habits and way of life. It is confirmed from various other sources that drinking is very wide spread in all the villages and especially among children aged between ten to fifteen years. Marriages are very common at the age of fifteen years. Discussions where held with several administrative officials including MRO, RDO and Municipal Commissioner, elected members including MPP, Municipal Chairman, MLA, members of political parties and Trade union leaders. They are aware of the problem of child marriages and habit of drinking among child labour. However, very little
practical measures are suggested by them, in terms of evolving and implementing developmental measures, to safe-guard the children. Some of the officials felt that the functioning of the rehabilitation program run by voluntary organization, Assist India, is not satisfactory. All the above officials feel that measures (not able to give any practical suggestion) are needed for over-all development, but throw the blame on Assist India and Jagruthi society by saying that their work is not satisfactory.

On discussion with Trade Union leaders, they blame the mine owners, as they employ the workers of least paid category. The trade union leaders felt that the structure of the system has to be changed, such that proper records have to be maintained by the owners and pay the stipulated compensation in case of the accident directly to the family. Some unions like Bharath Slate Workers Union (whose secretary is also AICTU leader) is of the view that enactment of law that empowers the society of workers to get lease rights over the mines under the authorization of the workers lease corporation, would help a long way in improving the conditions of workers.

However no trade union, except some leaders are deeply concerned about the roots of child labour, but they are concerned only on the rights of the worker. Regarding such cases we should think of different aspects of rehabilitation. The child who is interviewed is not cared by his father and has no mother. His uncle is taking advantage
of this situation. Such people are more attracted to wards the mine work and other habits.

Hence we may have to provide them shelter in residential technical schools where, he can be taught the job work and skilled work of wage earning.

Trade unions must adopt such child labour and bring them up to become a productive adult rather than becoming an adult who will waste his full life span.

Government must involve Trade unions and promote them for taking care of such children and grants must be sanctioned to such programs.

The Mine Workers Development Society must be formed to rehabilitate such type of child labour and create a rehabilitation cum welfare fund, as being maintained by some of the child workers organizations.75

**CASE STUDY-3**

Miss Madarbee, twelve years of age is a resident of Tummalacheruvu Village in Tarlupadu Mandal. In this village most of the child labour from Muslim community is working in slate mines. The family of Madarbee stays at out skirts of Tarlupadu in a thatched hut.

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75 As per the questionnaire and interview conducted by the researcher with the child labour Mr Kotha Subbiah at the mine near Tarlupadu mandal and at his house near Rayavaram (a village near the Markapur railway station).
The family has nine members, three daughters and four sons. Her father was educated up to primary level and work as a cycle mechanic at Tarlupadu. Her mother is illiterate and work in mines along with three daughters Madarbee, Nagurbee and choti and one son Lattif. Another son aged seventeen years is helping his father in cycle repair work. One son aged three years is with mother only. Madarbee is third daughter. She has never gone to school. The total income of family is around 10,000/-. The traditional occupation of the family was preaching Islam. The family has not been benefited by government sponsored programs. They have incurred debts amounting to Rs 30,000/- from the mine owner for the eldest son’s marriage (who is of seventeen years) and Rs.10,000/- for his cycle shop from a contractor.

The main food item of consumptions in the house hold is rice and wheat. Occasionally Bajra and Ragi (different pulses) are also being used. Consumption of pulses is very less. The two sisters of the Madarbee will very often fall sick and they approach the private medical practitioner at Turlupadu.

The Madarbee wanted to go to school if the economic condition of the family improves. She is aware of the child rehabilitation programs. Maderbee is working in the mines for the past two years. Her work involves carrying waste material to out side of the quarry and dumping it at one hundred feet away from mine. Madarbee is illiterate but she is interested in studying and learning some skills. She has stated that she does not like slate mine work and wish to learn some skills and get a
better future life. Madarbee is about four and half feet tall. Symptoms of cracked lips and soared mouth are observed. She has not suffered from any major illness for the last one year. On retuning from the mines Madarbee helps in the house hold work such as fetching water, cleaning and bringing fire stock etc. She does not get any time for playing. She wanted to study but never attended school.

In this case the respondent would like to stop slate work and study in a school. However because of the family income position and debt she was forced to work in mines along with her mother. The Assist-India must take care of such Children and give place in the residential schools run by assist-India. However the debt in which the family has been involved is to be taken care of by some organization.

The government must see that such families should get interest free loans to improve the business what they are doing and which the family owns. By doing so the family can pay back the debt taken from mine owner and improve their family status and think of the welfare of children.76

CASE STUDY-4

Miss Ananthamma, an orphan, is a child labour of age thirteen years belongs to Muthrasi Community. Her mother and father died at

76 As per the questionnaire and interview with the girl at the mines near Tarlupadu mandal and also with her parents at their cycle shop at Tarlupadu.
her age of ten years. She has been brought to Markapur from Tarlupadu by her distant relative. She stays at Ekalavya colony on Markapur- Ongole road and goes to slate factory work at out skirts of Markapur. She works under a contractor Mr Kasim sahib who has taken the work of cutting and sizing the design slates as a contract work in the factory. She has been working in this factory for the past one year. Earlier to this she was working for two years at the mines near Pothalapadu village.

She is not educated and never attended the school. She was attacked with T.B. during the work in heavy dust. Blood comes out during coughing. She being very poor cannot afford to go to costly medicines and doctor.

This type of child needs the medical care. With the proper medical care, she can survive. Trade unions and local NGO’s can look after her by taking it as a concern for eradication of child labour. The government officials and NGO’s are well aware of such type of problems, but they are avoiding such cases due to the fact that they are not concentrating on the working out the solution. In this case she needs medical aid and other care. The medical help centers may be created to look after such type of cases.77

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77 Interview conducted with the child labour Miss Ananthamma (an orphan) at the slate-factory in industrial area near Markapur railway station and the relatives of child at her house in Ekalavya colony, Markapur.
CASE STUDY-5

Mrs.Kotla Lakshmi, dumb and deaf girl, is third daughter of Mr. Dara Solmon and Krupamma. They have five daughters and two sons K. Laxmi is staying alone with her small child of one year at Nayudupally S.C.Colony, but migrated from Donakonda. Her age as told by supervisor is fifteen years, but looks as she is still younger. She was married but her husband died in auto accident with in the year of her marriage. She is also not getting any help from her father, mother or from maternal family side. Because she is dumb and deaf as well as uneducated all of his close blood relations who are also poor kept her away with out any sympathy.

In view of the conditions of poverty and to take care of small child, she has opted for mine work. The mine contractor has given her one small hut in the Nayudupally for her stay. She goes to work early at 9a.m. with her small child. She prepares her food at house. She is affected by health as well as financial problems. She spends at least Rs.15/- per day to the milk of her child. She has ration card and the rice, kerosene, are received from ration shop, with subsidized price, and they are sufficient for her food. Only problem arises when she has fallen sick and in such cases there is no body to look after her child as well as no money for payment to doctor and medicines.

This is a pathetic condition of a child labour that has got married at so early age and got child also and there is no body to look after her.
On questioning she could not answer anything except replying by signals only. The fellow workers have translated her actions and signals.

If any body can help her, she wants to join her child in an orphanage. Also if Assist India or any organization can help her as well as her child, she can learn some skills, some tailoring and can stop this mine work. The trade union leaders also could not help her, except arranging a house for her stay.

We should think of such child labour and concentrate on the type of help what we can give to her. The government may think of having the centers like that started by child worker organizations at Delhi. These centers will help such type of child labour in giving shelter, medical aid and food by taking some type of suitable work from them. The voluntary organizations may help for the cause.\textsuperscript{78}

\textsuperscript{78} Interview conducted with the girl and her colleagues at the mine where she works and also with her neighbors at Nayudupally S.C.Colony where she lives.