CHAPTER - 2

PROFILE AND REVIEW OF LITERATURE

2.1 Profile of the Bellary District and the Study Area

2.2 Location

2.3 Population and Area

2.4 Climate

2.5 Rainfall

2.6 Natural Resources

2.7 Rivers

2.8 Market

2.9 Infrastructure Facilities

2.10 Profile of the General Construction Workers

2.11 Profile of Building Construction in Bellary Town

2.12 Nature of Work or Work Activities

2.13 Working Conditions

2.14 Physical Demand

2.15 Review of Literature
CHAPTER - 2
PROFILE AND REVIEW OF LITERATURE

2.1 Profile of the District and the Study Area

Bellary is one of the important districts in Karnataka. Bellary, had been the part of Vijayanagar empire enjoys the inheritance of the glory of that great empire. The History of Bellary could be traced as far back as the Stone Age. Bellary district takes its name from its headquarters town, which is the seat of the district administration. The name Bellary has derived with Goddess Durgamma whose temple is in Gandhinagar¹. The word Bellary is used to mean a goddess and the town is said to have derived its name from this word, because Durgamma had manifested herself in this town. The old district Gazette of Bellary published in 1904 refers to a traditional account; according to which, the origin of the name is connected with the defeat and death of a demon king called Bala who was harassing the Deva Kanyas. The place where he was slain came to be known as Bala + Hari meaning the defeat of ‘Bala’. Even today the name is written and pronounced in kannada as ‘Bellary’. It’s anglicized form is Bellary.

Bellary is the eleventh largest district in the state of Karnataka with a population of 5,30,254 persons as per 2001 census². Bellary district is divided into eight taluks comprises, 31 hoblies and 613 villages. (After reorganization in 2001, Bellary District has only seven taluks) for administrative convenience, the district is organized in two revenue sub-divisions, Bellary and Hospet. Bellary is one of the developing towns in the Karnataka State. Recently all infrastructure facilities have been upgraded.

---
¹ Mysore State Gazetteer, Mysore State, Bellary District Gazetteer of India, The Director of Printing and Stationary, pp. 1-2.
²
2.2 Location

Bellary District is elongated from southwest to northeast and is situated on the eastern side, almost in the centre (North to South) of Karnataka State. The District is situated between $40^\circ -30^\circ$ and $15^\circ-50^\circ$ north latitude and $75^\circ, 77^\circ$ to $11^\circ$ east latitude. It extends from south-southwest to northeast and is situated on the east of Hospet. The district is bounded on the north by Raichur district in the west by the Dharwad district on the south by the Chitradurga district and in the east by the Anantapur and Kurnool districts of Andhra Pradesh.

2.3 Population and Area

According to 1999-2000 statistical report population of the district was 16,56,000. Of the total population 11,25,746 were living in rural areas while 5,30,254 were living in urban areas. The density of the population of district was 197 per Sq. Kms.

Bellary town according to 2001 census, had a population of 5,30,254 comprising of 54 percent male and 46 percent female. The area of Bellary is 83.95 Km. as per the latest census.

According to the Government notification Bellary has all infrastructure facilitates and eligibility condition to become a municipal corporation. Accordingly Bellary municipality has recently been converted to corporation. The notification is issued to that effect is yet to be implemented.

2.4 Climate

Bellary is popular for hot summer. People ironically say that there are only two seasons at Bellary they are dry summer and hot summer. The period from November to January is dry and comparatively cool. The maximum and minimum temperatures 35°C and 20°C respectively for this period. The hot summer season extends from February to June. In April and May the temperature reaches its peak and the heat is often oppressive. During this period the temperature varies between a maximum of 45°C and a minimum of 32°C generally.

2.5 Rainfall

The rainfall in the district is scarce and uncertain, the average rainfall in the district is 636 mm. It is mostly confined to the period from May to November. Nearly 60 percent of the annual rainfall is received during the period from June to September.

2.6 Natural Resources

The District is endowed with rich mineral resources, especially iron ore and manganese. The region between the twin ranges of the Sandur Hills is exceedingly rich in iron and Manganese with an average annual output of three million tones. The total ore reserves in the district was estimated between 1000 and 1250 million tones.

2.7 Rivers

Tungabhadra river is the major river in the district, a dam was built across Tungabhadra river near Hospet. It is one of the major sources of irrigation. The entire district lies on the right bank of the river. The two tributaries are Hagari and Chikka Hagari. The Tungabhadra is a tributary, falls river Krishna. Tungabhadra falls into the Krishna river. Tungabhadra is one of the major sources for supply of drinking water to the towns in the district.
2.8 Market

Bellary town is considered as the heart of the District. It is an important market centre from which all business activities radiate not only to different parts of the District but also to the surrounding region of other States. Bellary is famous for ready-made garments. Today it is number one in garment business in the State.

Bellary is also called as ‘Steel City’. Bellary town is a renowned marketing centre from early times. The development of market since independence and prosperity of agriculture with the completion of Tungabhadra multipurpose project enhanced the economic activity and widened the scope of marketing activities.

Hampi, the then kingdom of Sri Krishnadevaraya and world heritage centre attracts foreign tourists which are helpful in widening the scope of marketing at Bellary.

2.9 Infrastructure facilities

Bellary is having well built infrastructure facilities like transportation, communication and banking system which are the essential prerequisites for a successful market.

Finance which is one of the important element of business is supplied by well established, banking structure of the town. Bellary is also covered with optical fibre cables, it is a remarkable landmark in the development of modern communication which helps in the fast development of the town.
2.10 Profile of the General Construction Workers

General construction workers carry out semiskilled tasks in many areas of construction. The task of general construction workers vary according to the type of construction they do. Most perform physically demanding tasks. For example, they load and unload materials from trucks. They haul or hoist them into place at job sites. These works are carried by child labourers. Other than these child labourers measure and mark areas to be graded or where structures will be built. They dig ditches with picks and shovels, and level the ground to match specifications in blue prints. They also build forms for pouring concrete walls or foundations, they take apart forms after the concrete has set. Sometimes the children work with concrete or plaster. They also do other works related to building construction.

2.11 Profile of Building Construction in the Bellary Town

Bellary is one of the fast developing town in the State of Karnataka. A survey to find out the number of houses built in the town was conducted. Approximately there were two thousands of houses were built this excludes commercial complexes and government houses.

2.12 Nature of work or Work Activities

❖ Load and unload trucks and haul materials
❖ Measure and mark areas to be graded or to erect structure
❖ Dig ditches and level earth to grade specifications
❖ Build and position forms for pouring concrete and take apart forms after use
❖ Mix concrete and other compounds
- Smooth and finish poured concrete
- Spray materials such as water, and or paint to clean, coat or seal surfaces
- Erect and disassemble scaffolding braces and other temporary structures
- Raze buildings and salvage useful material

### 2.13 Working Conditions
- Often work is in outdoors, but some workers may work indoors
- Usually they work eight hours, though longer hours are also common
- Have a low level of social contact they rarely talk to other construction workers
- Repeat the same physical activities
- May work only during seasons when weather permits construction
- Are sometimes exposed to hazardous equipment there is some possibility of moderate injury
- Are exposed to Bellary hot summer when working outdoors

### 2.14 Physical Demand
- Use one or two hands to grasp move or assemble objects
- Be physically active for long periods
- Use muscles for extended periods without getting tired
- Walk around job sites
- Use hands to handle, control, tools or controls
- Hold the arm and hand in one position or hold the hand steady while moving the arm
- Repeat the same movements over and over
- Stand for long periods of time
❖ Use muscles to lift, push, pull or carry heavy objects
❖ Co-ordinate movement of several parts of the body such as arms and legs, while the body is moving
❖ Make fast simple, repeated movements of fingers, hands and wrists
❖ Bend, stretch, twist or reach out with the body arms and or legs

2.15 Review of Literature

Though a number of articles and books are available, majority of them discuss the problem of child labour in general. Considerable quantity of research literature is also available in this area. A majority of the authors have thrown light on the problems of child labour on the basis of occupations and other aspects. Some of the important works are reviewed hereunder.

Mahveer Jain (1990)³ undertook a case study on the child labour working in a quarry of the Khand Basi village of Haryana. The idea of the study was to find out the working conditions of the children, besides the implementation of labour laws. The study disclosed that the working conditions were horrible and very dangerous to the children. The children had to cut the stones. They did not worry about scratches; small cuts over their body. They are habituated to face such eventualities. The author himself witnessed children working in the stone quarries. They were vulnerable to accidents causing injury, resulting in disablement or death. The study concluded that stone quarry work was treated to be the very dangerous and the problem of child labour is very complex. Government NGOs and international agencies have to work collectively to deal with child labour.

Sanghamitra Buddhapriya (1995)⁴ in her article on “Child Labour, the Victim of Exploitation” makes a significant study on various reasons for child labour, the type of work, the condition of employment, centres of exploitation and the various health hazards to working children. According to the author, poverty, large family, absence of provision for compulsory education and ignorance of parents etc are the significant causes of child labour. Socio-economic problems also play as main factors in child labour. The study concludes that along with the Government of India the companies should be willing to contribute finance and improve working conditions of children. Finally, the author suggests that there is a need to build public opinion against child labour.

Alaka Madhok (1996)⁵ in his extensive study on “Child Labour, Some Issues, Some Suggestions”, dwells on various problems faced both by the children and parents. Madhok traces the abject poverty as the main cause for child labour throughout the world. He further gives the other major factors for child labour such as illiteracy, ignorance, deep social prejudices and backwardness. He observes that child labour is more prevalent in developing countries and this hampers the physical, mental, moral and social growth of the children. Quoting Gurupadaswamy Committee on child labour, the author highlights the radical change in child labour with the advent of industrialization and urbanization.

---


The study concludes that intervention by the Government of India, industrialists and people to come forward to reduce the social, economical and psychological problems of child labourers.

Shibani Dasgupta (1997)\textsuperscript{6} gives a legal and artistic social picture on child labour in India and the world. Shibani draws the attention of the readers to the various financial as well as statutory measures suggested and ordered by the Supreme Court in solving the world wide burning problem of child labour.

The author concludes her article by mentioning UNICEF report that, the national and international system must be put in place together and analyse globally comparable data on child labour, if the problem was to be arrested effectively.

Mittal (1997)\textsuperscript{7} in his article on child labour entitled “No End Sight” brings out the unbridgeable Gulf between the reality and the figures shown by various researchers and committees. He takes a new direction in identifying the child labourers of religious, economically weaker classes such as SC/ST, Urban poor, riot victim back grounds. He also points out in a critical light the various steps suggested by the organizations like UNICEF and others has impracticable myths. His total approach to the issue appears to be completely negative and despairing though the study has taken a negative approach to the problem but it is based on reality and facts.


Krishna Murthy and Jyothi Rani (1983) conducted a survey on the child labour working in restaurants. They have selected a few case studies to find out the nature of work, reasons and structure. Eighty percent of the employers recruit children as the adults do not accept the job in the restaurants. In restaurants wages are paid in cash as well as in kind (food, shelter and clothing). The former is a major component while the latter may vary between 40 and 50 percent of the total wages.

Kusuma Latha Tiwari (1996) in an article on problems and solutions of child labour, has presented the different problems faced by the children. She points out the failure of the various legal and other kinds of steps taken by various Governments and organizations throughout the world. In addition to the policies already made, she has given some other aspects of the problem to be considered in order to solve the issue easily. She concluded her article stating that the State and the people should give the children full protection so as to convert the child labourers into the assets of the Nation.

Achin Roy (1994) the special correspondent of a periodical gives a journalistic picture on rights of the child and U.N convention. She gives the attitude held by elders on children, in the past and in the present, as a stark reality. In the present day situation, the intonations of the study is to draw attention towards girl child, the study concluded that various organizations and national committees take steps to eliminate child labour.

Patnam and Bhale Rao A.R, (1997)\(^11\) have made an in depth study of child labour in general and the parent perceptions in particular. They have traced out the normally accepted problems of child labour and they have followed a particular methodology to make a case study. They met parents at various places and learnt their views of slum child labourers. They have given the results of the methodology they have applied and discussed the result obtained, so, the study concludes by foregrounding the over all negative views of child labourers about child labour and also the positive views of the parents on child labour.

Dwarakanath (1999)\(^12\) in his study entitled, “Child Labour - Need for New Social Revolution”, broadly covered the problem of child labour not only in India but also throughout the world. According to the recent UNICEF report 1997, 250-million child labourers are there in the world, over one-third of them are in India. Though the employment of young children is prohibited under various labour enactments. These acts have limited coverage and being applied only to organized industrial sector. But it is the informal sector, which has the largest number of child labour. So far, the organization of child labour in India and in the world remains a distinct dream.

---


Kitchlu (1994)⁰¹³, in his article on “Child Labour - Current Scenario”, quoted the problem of child labour caught the attention of the researchers, social workers, media personalities, courts and of course the Government. A number of research studies have been commissioned under the aegis of the Government and Non-Government organizations. The main aim of the study was to study the legislative measures taken by Government, other organizations and court’s verdicts. The Supreme Court has shown its concern for child workers and commented “if there is no proper growth of children of today, the future of the country will be dark. Today’s children will be leaders of tomorrow who will hold the country’s banner high and maintain the prestige of the nation”. The author in his conclusion feels that the Government of India has taken steps towards poverty alleviation but eradication of poverty is a very difficult task.

Jayanthilal Bhandari (2000)¹⁴ in her research study entitled “Child Labour - The Challenges Ahead”, he stated that problems of child labour stands as one of the most important global challenges. Billions of children today are turned into child labour due to various socio-economic problems. The intensity of the problem was understood as early as five decades back when the constitution of India was formed. Considering the magnitude of the problem, international programme for elimination of child labour has also been implemented in India by the International Labour Organization. These are Various socio-economic problems are responsible for child labour. They are casteism, poverty, family size and income levels of education etc.

---


No doubt, the child labour problem is an intensive socio-economic problem in the country that requires a long term strategy to be carried out on a continuous basis.

Shantha Sinha (2000)\textsuperscript{15} in her study has attempted to give a detailed description of the various manifestations of child labour. Child labour is an inevitable consequence of the economic forces operating at the family level. As long as poverty continues to exist, it would be difficult to eliminate it. Any attempt to abolish it through legal recourse would, not be practical since this would put already poor families under acute economic stress. In this situation the only alternative left is to ban child labour in hazardous areas and to regulate and ameliorate the conditions of work in other areas. This is the assessment of child labour, which many governments including India have adopted.

Das (1996)\textsuperscript{16} in his study stated that education is one of the very important tools to eradicate child labour in our country. Economic backwardness is one of the reasons that forces parents to send their children to work. The commitment of international organizations, constitutional obligations, observations of the Supreme Court, determination of the highest authority accompanied by prospective programmers demonstrate that child education can play a prominent role in restricting the incidence of child labour. He concluded that the compulsory education at least up to primary level is one of the means for controlling child labour.

\textsuperscript{15} Shantha Sinha, “Child Labour”, Kurukshetra, Vol.49, No.1, June 2000, pp.29-34.

Veena, R. Sankana Goudar (1997)\(^{17}\) in her article “Child Labour, Hazardous and Harmful” makes an elaborate study of the problem by giving a number of existing problems of child labour, observed at various places in India. She quotes figures and facts from the research reports and the observations of the socio-economists. To substantiate her own observation she touches on the occupational risks of child labour. She has also provided a down to earth pragmatic, pictorial information about several occupational hazard of the child labour. The study in conclusion does not give any solution, but just makes a mention of the emotional plea made by the children to the Minister for Labour in 1997 in Delhi.

Vasudeva Rao and Yerram Raju (1996),\(^{18}\) in their study, examined the issues and laws relating to child labour. They observed that incidence of child labour in India is the highest in the world. They are mostly found in various unorganized sectors. According to their opinion, poverty is the major reason for children to become child labourers. They come from families mostly belonging to backward classes and their socio-economic conditions compel them to work. According to them children are the economic assets of their parents. The authors recommend for compulsory primary education and strict enforcement of Government of India policy. The Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation Act of 1986) prohibits the employment of children in certain occupations.

---


Karunamithi (1997)\textsuperscript{19} conducted a survey on the child labourers working in the beedi works of North Arcot of Ambedkar District of Tamil Nadu. The study revealed the health risks of beedi making. The child workers were forced by their parents to make more beedies. Children are introduced into the Beedi works at the age of 4 to 6 years. After learning this work, they have to work on an average 10 hours per day. The long hours of working in a particular posture would certainly cause excessive fatigue, adverse effect on the physical development and general health condition of the children. The studies recommend that the parents and employers should make arrangements to provide basic health care. The Government can advise the beedi companies to open medical centres in their units to monitor the health standards of the workers.

Archana Sexena (1999)\textsuperscript{20} in her article, “Eliminating Child Labour Needs a Collective Approach”, suggested that collective efforts are required to abolish or eliminate child labour from the Indian society. The objective of the study was, why to pay attention towards child labour? Is child labour a problem?. What are the causes and remedial measures? She pointed out that the policy makers need to shift the focus from ‘policy making’ to ‘policy taking’, that is ensuring policy implementation.

Achala Savyasaachi (1999)\textsuperscript{21} makes spiritual, metaphorical and statistical documentary observations on child labour. She makes a mention of the practical living conditions of the children that are separated from their parents.

The writer observed about the social injustice and inequalities of the children who are disadvantaged and marginalized. She makes a chronological survey of the problem of child labour and various statutory and non-statutory steps taken by various authorities at various levels. The study concludes with the writer's suggestions on various steps to eradicate child labour.

Lyakat Ali, (1997) in his article entitled “Socio-Legal Analysis of Child Labour in India”, dwells on the various problems of the child labour. Prior to industrial revolution, child workers mostly used to work in home-based industries where there was no exploitation of the child. The author, as an advocate, approaches and analyses the problem from legal point of view. He touches upon the limitedness and the inadequacies of the legal sanctions in setting right the problem of child labour. According to him, child labour in India is a by-product of socio-cultural and economic conditions. He makes an attack on the number of myths surrounding child labour. The author concludes his article by suggesting that there must be free and compulsory education for all children, comprehensive legal protection to the rights of the child and comprehensive poverty alleviation programmes.

Rita Panicker (1998) in her article, “Child Labour in India”, emphasizes on a systematic and comprehensive analysis of the burning problem called child labour. Her approach to the problem is more realistic and based on statistical evidences. She makes


mention of the various strategies that have been adopted by the Government of India to eliminate child labour. In her opinion, poverty is the main force that makes children to town to labour. She surveyed various bills passed by the Government. She concludes with a suggestion that NGOs must deal with this problem at local as well as global levels. At the global level there is a need to support and promote solidarity among NGOs who are committed to an ideology of empowerment of the poor.