ABSTRACT

The present study deals with the various social, economic, educational and work related aspects of the child labourers working in the urban informal sector. The analysis is based on the primary data collected from 300 migrant child workers. The locate of study is the city of Chandigarh, which is beautiful and planned city, hub of administrative and commercial offices, the city is called sub-metro with Tier II urban area status.

Main objectives of the study were to examine wage rate, mode of payment, hiring practices, duration of employment, working conditions, welfare scenario, health, duration of migration, place of birth and reasons for entry of migrant children into workforce.

The hypothesis that have been tested in the study are that the urban informal sector migrant child workers live below officially defined poverty line, they are illiterate or semi literate, They move as part of family which affects their schooling and they have been devoid of all forms of welfare, basic amenities and health care set up provided by the state.

The analysis shows that large majority of migrant child workers belonged to rural areas, most of them belonged to mainly 11 states. It was found that children between 12 to 14 years of age group were more prone to fall in child labour supply. The major portion of child labour belonged to backward and other backward classes. Migrant child workers were found to be illiterate or less literates. The migrant workers have been found to be involved in 24 types of occupations or tasks. Majority of them did not receive any kind of training, they were entering to labour force through the family network. The phenomenon of child labour is inherently complex and as with all other economic activities it too has demand and supply components thereby necessitates action on both sides. Action need to be taken on all the factors which directly, indirectly and remotely promote and sustain the child labour including the economic and social institutions and practices.