

BASIC EDUCATION OF CHILD RAGPICKERS OF WEST**BENGAL : AN OVERVIEW**

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ABSTRACT

Basic education is the foundation of any nation; courtiers' development depends on basic education. Like other Asian country embrace socioeconomic, shelter, and poverty problems due to lack of basic education at all levels; In India lot of children are deprived of the basic school education, child rag pickers one of them. Rag picker's children are playing a salvages role in our society from unused and waste, broken material, and unhealthy things. All over the different magnitude ragpickers has subsistence; no one can disapprove of their emergent. But instead of these child rag pickers educations still remain incomprehensive in the modern society. As a result educational life of the child ragpickers is spent rummaging rags. This paper discusses about basic educational scenarios of child ragpickers; what are the factors associated with affecting their educational life in west Bengal and what are the problems faced by the child ragpickers on basic education. To Unfulfilled educational needs of the child rag pickers, those were contributed to the ecology; the society needs to be addressed.

Keywords : Salvage, magnitude, subsistence, incomprehensive and rummaging.

Introduction

In India picking rags is utterly most hazardous works, it work like dehumanizing, but millions of family are all over the world emergent with this profession, they make a living from searching; collecting and processing materials (Naaz, Health Hazards and Social Stigma Faced by Rag-Pickers in Delhi - A Review, 2019) Child rag pickers are live their life bottom of the economic hierarchy. Urbanization, and rapid growth of population and less employment are the major causes of rag pickers. In the Waste management child ragpickers play a vital role, each and every day lots of rags, unused by-products of humans and waste materials are collected by the child rag pickers for earning to live better life. Economic is a complex multidimensional problem for the ragpickers they are not aware of education so they compiled to live a vulnerable life in the society. In India ragpickers are basically two types one formal and informal, due to the

increasing demand for child labour millions of child ragpickers work as child labours, child labour is a global phenomenon (Tipathy, 1989) indifferent small industries, rag crusting or selling centers in different parts of the country because of the small amount of paying system.

Basic education is the base of society, if the base has concurred with good materials so society will be stable. In a child's life, basic education play profound importance, Kothari commissions (1964-1966) also formulate the general principle for primary (basic) education.

Education of the ragpickers' children remains untouched by the researchers' lots of studies happened on their working and health condition but no one talks about the basic school education condition and problems of the rag pickers. Children are the age of future building where a child learn basic education, the national policy 'talk about the holistic development of the children

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(NEP:2020), according to children psychology it is a period of life where has full of enthusiasm, constructive, creative, and rational thinking construct. As far away of education rag pickers child has opposite of normal child. They never get full attention from the society; the Agenda for sustainable development SDG4 2030 “ensures inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all” (NEP, 2020). Since independence, lots of educational commissions and policies have been taken by the government for universal access to education, but a bigger section of the society, rag pickers in India remain the as it is same. Illiteracy is one of the main causes of their conditions In India, rag pickers face terrible discrimination, and their communities are often blighted by alcoholism, literacy, and drug abuse and are highly vulnerable to sexual abuse (Naaz, Health Hazards and Social Stigma Faced by Rag-Pickers in Delhi - A Review, 2019).

According to Eva Naftalin (2004), the west Bengal ragpickers rag pickers were not fully picking rags on the regular basis in Baranagar station, Kolkata. So many Rag pickers were sometimes working as migrant labour side by side they are also picking rag. They are not aware of Education it seems like a wonder to them, apart from schools they are forced to go to dumping yards and street areas for searching for broken things. Census report 2001 motioned that child workers between ages 5-14 years around 4.5% and only 7.4% are attending schools and reaming 92.6 % are drop-out (Roy & Barman, 2012) these children like rag pickers are the exclusion group in the society.

Method

The study mainly used conceptual understanding and reviewed previous research papers and journal articles. This study will mainly use secondary data for the content analysis techniques. Sample of the study child rag pickers (8-15years old) of the Malda district of West Bengal and purposive sampling methods used, observational methods also applied here.

Result and Discussion

Factors of Illiteracy of child rag pickers

The level of education of the family of the ragpickers is poor maximum members are illiterate so it's

forced them to work in an informal sector, the study found the level of education of the ragpickers in Jorhat town 60% were illiterate while 23.33% are educated up to primary and 16.67% primary level (Nath & Hussain, 2020). The Number of siblings is also a factor in the illiteracy of the child ragpickers.

Economic condition

Poor economical coition of the rag pickers forced them to leave the formal education; this is the primary reason of child rag pickers drop out (Aiyavoo, 2018) and lack of awareness of education of the parents of child rag pickers so they preferred to send them for collection of rag instead to schools for education.

Social factor

Maximum rag pickers' in West Bengal belong to minority communities and poor social backgrounds; most of the rag pickers mothers were indulged in Beedi, mini- cigarette making works. The female child ragpickers were also sometimes working as binding workers.

Working hours

From Morning to evening the child rag pickers are working in dumping yards or moving one place to another for searching scrapes or broken materials, plastics, and bottles so they have no time for formal education, poverty is the main challenge of them.

Health Hazards

Most of the rag pickers are working in an unhygienic environment, surrounded by pigs, dogs, and other animals without taking any preclusion or protection. Dumping site maximum child are spends 7-8 hours per day and inhale harmful toxic gasses as a result they suffered health issues. The most commonly experienced disease among the rag pickers is Tuberculosis, Bronchitis, Asthma, and Pneumonia (Naaz, Health Hazards and Social Stigma Faced by Rag-Pickers in Delhi - A Review, 2019).

Habitual Factor

In west Bengal, lots of child rag pickers found much dull habitual addiction, due to monotonous life and working condition they often fall on drinking, smoking, drugs, and gambling as well as several anti-social activities as a result, they not able to get time for

education.

Hopeless and self-confidence

Hopelessness is one of the major causes of no education or lack of education of the child rag pickers. The study found that rag pickers adolescents were found to suffer from significantly poor quality of life as well as a higher degree of hopelessness (Hussian & Sharma, 2016).

Government initiative

Government policies and planning are also the causes of not access to education of rag pickers, ground level of the policies is not implemented as a result education remains untouched of them. Lack of monitoring process of education at all levels is not so planned so rag pickers' education seems like a dream.

Present Educational scenario of rag pickers

Basic Educational problems are not a new concept of child Rag Pickers as well as not an urban or rural it is Global Phenomena. Rag picking is bottom of the society and its works a child inferior because of illiteracy, society never looks back on them; the maximum numbers of children at the age of 10-14 years of poverty-stricken lower or minorities are engaged in such activities. Compared with to the other children when other children are going to school with schools bag the rag pickers child can be seen without a schools bag they with large plastics bags in the back of solder with pieces of plastics or waste materials. In India, rag pickers face terrible discrimination, and their communities are often blighted by alcoholism, literacy, and drug abuse and are highly vulnerable to sexual abuse (Naaz, Health Hazards and Social Stigma Faced by Rag-Pickers in Delhi - A Review, 2019). No awareness of their parents has about education, so they live in a world that teaches them violence and abuse and exposes them to unhealthy behaviors and lifestyles (Subedi, 2001). Due to being far away from education, they spend their maximum time on dumping sites, gamboges areas, and railway stations, and track sides. Lots of education protraction law has but they are only paper works not for implementations of front ground level or spots practically. Article 45 for early childhood care and education as well as the United Nations Conventional on the Child (UNCRC), also talked about

the protection of every child and development but without education how is it possible for development of the child Rag Pickers. These programs have to create socio economic-conditions in which compulsions to send children to work diminish and children are encouraged to attend school rather than take up employment (SINGH). Large numbers of studies had been undertaken since independence but the results are not satisfactory different parts of India rag pickers still remain to have unchanged conditions. In West Bengal Malda district has 9.53%, child labours, Utter Dinajpur 7.57%, and Bankura 6.95% (Roy & Barman, 2012)

Suggestions

- Government should take strong initiatives of education for the weaker session society.
- Not only free and compulsory education for all children but also social background.
- NGOs and government provide a different level of awareness programmes for education.
- Eradicating poverty is one of the important initiatives for the education of the rag pickers.
- Job opportunities and skills-based training it also needs for the ragpickers.
- Life skills training for the ragpickers also provides them knowledge of solving various problems.

Conclusion

The present study focuses on the educational scenarios of the child rag pickers, it is examined that quality of life depends on education but maximum child rag pickers have no formal education. Importance of Education in life they are not aware of it so their parents force them to earn instead of education, as well as children are also thing about earning of money for their family education is not important of them. According to Anees Jung "According to parents garbage is gold, it is their daily bread, the roof over their head and for the child it is wrapped in wonder". The government and policymakers have the responsibilities to look after these vulnerable groups of the society for their education, health, and social issues, and give them opportunities for employment or education so universalized education really happened to all of them besides disparities in access to education equally.

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