

STATUS OF CHILD LABOUR IN THE U.T. OF Puducherry

Incidence of child labour is low in the U.T. of Puducherry. This has reflected in the survey conducted in the year 1997, Dropout survey in 2000, in the fresh survey conducted in 2002 and in the periodical inspection conducted by the Enforcement Authorities. The details of the survey conducted so far are furnished hereunder:

Survey Report 1997

Pursuant to the directions of Supreme Court, this Administration conducted a survey during April 1997. During the course of survey, 15,840 units in the area of catering establishments, motor transport, factories, slaughterhouses, construction sites, etc., were covered. 29 survey teams involving 64 officials from the Department of Labour, Revenue and Industries conducted the survey through out the length and breadth of the Union Territory. A copy of the Survey Report is furnished hereunder. The report of the survey shows that there is no child labour in any hazardous occupations in the Union Territory of Puducherry. However, there were 617 children working in non-hazardous establishments at the time of survey.

Region	No. of Child Labourers Identified In	
	Hazardous Occupations	Non-Hazardous Occupations
Puducherry	Nil	530
Karaikal	Nil	62
Mahe	Nil	1
Yanam	Nil	24
Total	Nil	617

In order to impart 2 hours of education to the identified working children in non-hazardous establishments, Child Labour Welfare and Protection Centres - 5 in Puducherry, 2 in Karaikal and 1 in Yanam - were opened under the Women Labour Welfare Officers in the respective centres, Play materials and study materials were provided to them. The children were given supplementary meals while imparting education. The employers of the child labour concerned were instructed to pay Rs.250/- p.m. per child (now reduced to Rs.50/- per child labour) towards the cost of education. However the working children were not regular to school. Eventually there was poor attendance of child labour and finally they stopped.

Drop-out Survey

In order to ascertain the position whether the children below 14 years drop-out from school for possible engagement in any employment, a survey on the drop-out students studied in classes I to VIII during the academic year 1999-2000 was conducted. The survey was conducted by the NGOs in the following regions and by the Grama Sevaks of Block Development Office in Mahe region.

1. Puducherry region :

- i. Community Seva Centre
- ii. Immaculate Heart of Marys' Social Service Society

2. Karaikal region :

Village Beneficiaries Education and Development Society

3. Yanam region :

- i. Gopal Nagar Youth Association
- ii. Velaga Narayana Rao Youth Association

During the survey on the drop-out students, out of 2446 drop-out students, 204 students were found employed and 853 idling at home. The remaining either joined in other schools or migrated to other villages/ states. A detailed report is furnished hereunder.

Region	Commune	Total no. of drop-out students	Position of the drop-out students						
			Joined in other schools	Migrated to other villages	Migrated to other state	Idle at home	Employed	Died	Details not known
Puducherry	Puducherry	696	290	163	34	140	41	-	28
	Oulgaret	288	150	67	10	34	5	2	20
	Villianur	201	47	18	25	78	33	-	-
	Mannadipet	181	34	15	27	96	8	-	1
	Nettapakkam	73	2	19	3	49	-	-	-
	Bahour	235	19	33	31	124	27	1	-

	Ariankuppam	183	15	20	22	77	48	1	-
KaraiKal		307	30	100	-	136	41	-	-
Mahe		62	18	-	28	12	1	-	3
Yanam		220	76	37	-	107	-	-	-
Total		2446	681	472	180	853	204	4	52

This survey showed various reasons for the drop-out of students, not interested in studies, inability of the parents to send their wards to school, discrimination of girl child, etc. The outcome of this survey was sent to the Director of Education to take follow-up action in finding out the ways and means to reduce the school dropouts in the Union Territory of Puducherry.

Survey Report 2002

Necessity for Survey

Since more number of additional occupations have been included in schedule II of child labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986, in the year 1999 and 2000 and more than 5 years, have been lapsed since the conduct of survey and that the State Level Committee has recommended to conduct fresh survey, it has been decided to conduct fresh survey.

a) Report on survey conducted in Establishments:

A survey was conducted in Establishments between March 2002 to May 2002 in all the four regions of Puducherry by engaging Government Officials, who have been declared as Inspectors under Child Labour Act, working in Labour Department, Industries, Revenue and DIC. Eighteen survey teams were constituted comprising of 67 officials for all the Municipalities and communes in Puducherry, Karaikal, Mahe and Yanam regions. They were provided with the vehicles drafted from other Departments and from private travel agencies. On the whole 11,676 establishments were inspected by the inspectors in all the four regions of the U.T. of Puducherry. 10 children were found in hazardous occupations/ processes and 27 children were found in non-hazardous occupations/ processes. 10 cases for the prosecution of the employers engaged in hazardous occupations have been filed in the court. The outcome of the survey is detailed hereunder

Commune	No. of Child Labourers identified
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	Shops & Estt.	Catering Estt.	MTU	Construction work	Factories	Others	Total
Puducherry(wards 1 to 21)	8	1	-	-	-	-	9
Puducherry(wards 22 to 43)	7	-	-	-	-	-	7
Oulgaret(wards 1 to 18)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Oulgaret(wards 19 to 36)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ariyankuppam	4	2	-	-	-	-	6
Bahour	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Nettapakkam	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Villianur	10	3	-	-	-	-	13
Mannadipet	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
TOTAL	30	7	-	-	-	-	37
Karaikal region	Nil						
Mahe region	Nil						
Yanam region	Nil						
TOTAL NO. OF CHILD LABOURERS IDENTIFIED							37

b) Report on Survey conducted on domestic work, rag picking, etc. by NGOs

Survey was also conducted simultaneously to identify children engaged in domestic work, rag picking and on street children by engaging NGOs in all the four regions. They have identified 520 children within the age of 14 years as idling at home and working as coolie. Suitable strategy is being evolved for sending them back to school and for their rehabilitation. A report on children identified in such occupations, identified by the NGOs is given hereunder.

Name of the Region & Position of employed children below 14 yrs.				
Area Surveyed	Domestic work	Idle at home/ Working at own House	Coolie	Total
Puducherry				
Mannadipet Commune	4	8	92	104
Villianur Commune	8	43	14	65
Puducherry Municipality	36	19	28	83
Ariankuppam Commune	19	1	10	30
Bahour Commune	3	6	62	71

Oulgaret Municipality	35	14	20	69
Nettapakkam Commune	Nil	17	12	29
				451
KARAIKAL				
Karaikal Municipality	Nil	--	--	--
Thirunallar Commune	Nil	--	--	--
Neravy	Nil	--	--	--
Nedungadu	14	--	--	14
Kottuchery	4	--	--	4
T.R. Pattinam	21	--	--	21
				39
MAHE				
	1	--	--	1
	4	--	--	4
				5
YANAM				
	--	8	--	8
	17	--	--	17
	Nil	--	--	--
				25
TOTAL	166	116	238	520

The following NGOs were involved in the survey.

Name of the NGO	Area Surveyed
Puducherry Community Seva Centre	Region Ariyankuppam and Bahour communes
Immaculate Heart of Mary's Social Service Society	Puducherry Municipality
ADECOM	Villianur commune
Volontariat	Oulgaret Municipality
SOJAHUR	Mannadipet Commune
SFDRT	Nettapakkam Commune
Karaikal St. Rock's Dispensary Convent	Region Karaikal Municipality
VEBEDS	Thirunallar, Neravy, Nedungadu, Kottuchery and T.R. Pattinam communes

Mahe	region	
Sree Samajam, Mahe		
S.K.B.S. Mahila Samajam Mahe, Choodikota		
Nava Jyothi Mahila Samajam, Parakkal		
Anaswara Vanitha Samajam, Cherukallai		
Abhaya Mahila Samajam, Naluthara	Mahe	
Chembara Mahila Samajam		
Prabha Mahila Samajam, Koyyottu theru		
Kasthurba Mahila Samajam, Palloor		
Palloor Mahila Samajam, Palloor		
Chaithanya Mahila Samajam, Chalakkara		
Yanam	Region	
Gopal Youth Association, Gopal Nagar, Yanam		
Bharat Ratna Dr. Ambedkar Yuvajana Samkshema Sangam, Darialatippa, Yanam	Yanam	
Jeevan Youth Associations, Bheem nagar, Yanam		