

## Aspiration of Domestic Girl Child Laborer

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### Abstract

Present study was aimed to explore the aspirations of girl child laborer; to find out the relationship of socio-economic status and aspirations of girl child laborer; to explain the relationship between education of father and mother in relation to aspirations of girl child laborer. It was hypothesized that the girl child laborer has low aspirations; there is a positive relationship between socio-economic status and aspirations of girl child laborer and aspirations of girl child laborer vary with the education of father and mother. The findings of the study revealed that 24% of girl child laborer has low aspirations, 52% have average aspirations and 24% have high aspirations. There was significant relation between aspirations scores of the lower and middle class respondents. Again, findings revealed that there was significant relation between aspiration scores of respondent whose father and mother's education was below 5<sup>th</sup> Std. and above 5<sup>th</sup> Std.

### Introduction

In poor countries children work to share the burden of their families. Children gave their helping hands to their parents in household chores and also in family occupations. It was never a problem till children were used as helping hands. In India 29.9 percent of the total population of the country or about 25 crore 23 lakh people live below poverty line. Of these, 20.6 crore living in rural areas and 5.17 crore in urban areas. So, millions of families are living below the poverty line. These families find difficulty to make their both ends meet. That is why they do not hesitate to send their children for odd jobs even if they fetch very nominal earnings. Child labor has assumed an alarming proportion over the years. Millions of unfortunate children who work in the farms and fields, tea-stalls and shops, buildings and brick-making operation, industrial workers, carpenters or sweepers or working as domestic servants. Children who should be studying in schools are compelled by circumstances to forgo education and take up all types of jobs in most unhygienic working condition. For these children good food, good clothes and good education is a luxury of life.

The term child labor is at times used as a synonym for 'employed child' or 'working child'. In this sense, it is co-extensive with any work done by a child for gain. George (1984) defined child labor as the work of children under conditions that interfere with the physical development, education and recreational opportunities which they require. It is working of children of unfit ages for unreasonable hours under unhygienic conditions. Yadav (1993) explained that the problem of child labor though is a global one; this is more acute in India than elsewhere in the world. Children are working in all the three sectors of Indian economy i.e. agricultural, industrial and the service sectors. There are several forms of Child labor- migrant labor, invisible labor, bonded labor, wage-based labor, self-employed and so on. Gender is a crucial determinant of whether a child engages in labor. Girls often start working at an earlier age than boys, especially in the rural areas, where most working children are found.

Girls also tend to do more work in the home than boys. As a result of adherence to traditional gender roles, many girls are denied their rights to education or may suffer from the triple burden of house work, school work and outside the home (paid or unpaid). Gupta and Dhillon (2003) explored that the price like, economically unsound, irregular income, large family size, drinking habits of the head of the family, chronic illness and forcefulness of parents. Kumar (2003) observed that poverty and lack of educational opportunities push them in the quagmire of childhood labor. Mitra (2003) investigated that the legislation has failed to eliminate child labor in India. Poverty, lack of awareness of educational opportunity and ineffective enforcement of child labor related laws contributed to the extensive and acceptance of this social evil. The improvement in the living and working conditions of parents and improvement in their economic condition is considered crucial to the elimination of child labor. Agarwal (2004) emphasized that poverty reduction, physical and social infrastructure development may also help in reducing child labor. Najeeb (2007) examines that poverty and low parental education are associated with lower schooling and greater child labor. Zafiris (2003) explored that children withdrawn from school and enter labor force because families cannot afford the cost of education. Nancy (2006) explores records which show that school enrolment for girls is still lagging behind in some areas in the Asia and Pacific region, which poses challenges for the region to achieve Education for All (EAF) by 2015 and girl's labor in the Asia and Pacific region continues to constitute a major obstacle towards gender parity in education. Dyer (2007) found that the republic of Yemen has a very high number of working children, employed in a variety of occupations, ranging from street vending to guards on farms, and domestic labor.

### **Objectives**

1. To study the aspirations of girl child laborer.
2. To find out the relationship of socio-economic-status and aspirations of girl child laborer.
3. To explain the relationship between education of father in relation to aspirations of girl child laborer.
4. To explore the relationship between education of mother in relation to aspirations of girl child laborer.

### **Hypotheses**

1. The girl child laborer has low aspirations.
2. There is a positive relationship between socio-economic status and aspirations of girl child laborer.
3. Aspirations of girl child laborer vary with the education of father.
4. Aspirations of girl child laborer vary with the education of mother.

### **Methodology**

The method and procedure was designed keeping in mind the aims of the study to know the aspiration of domestic girl child laborer in relation to selected parental variable in Jalandhar district of Punjab. Parental variables were studied by selecting the socio-economic status of the parents and education of the parents. The study was conducted on

100 subjects belonging to Jalandhar district of Punjab. Purposive sampling technique was applied to collect information. For collection of information two tool were used i.e. aspiration questionnaire and socio-economic status scale.

**Results**

Present study aimed at finding the aspiration of domestic girl child labor in relation to selected parental variables. After applying appropriate statistical technique the result have been presented under following heads:

**Level of Aspiration of Girl Child Laborer**

The first objective of the present study was to know the aspirations of the girl child laborer. The scores of the aspiration scale were calculated and on the basis of Q1 and Q3 values, 3 groups were formed i.e. low aspiration group (LAG) those whose scores are less than 84, average aspiration group (AAG) having scores between 84-105 and high aspiration group (HAG) with scores higher than 105. The results have been presented in table 1

**Table 1  
Level of Aspirations of Girl Child Laborer**

Level of Aspiration	N	% age	Quartile
Low aspiration	24	24%	Below 84
Average aspiration	52	52%	Between 84-105
High aspiration	24	24%	Above 105

It has been observed that 24% of girl child laborer has low aspirations, 52% have average aspirations and 24% have high aspirations. The first hypothesis of the present study states that the girl child laborer has low aspirations. The finding of the study has gone against it. Hence the hypothesis stands rejected. To the best knowledge of the investigators no such study has been conducted to find out the aspiration of girl child laborer.

**Relationships of Socio-Economic Status and Aspiration of Girl Child Laborer**

The second objective of the present study was to know the relationship of socio-economic status and aspirations of girl child laborer. The scores of socio-economic status were calculated and divided into three groups on the basis of cut points given in the manual i.e. lower socio economic status group (LSES) with range below 29, average socio economic status group (ASES) from 30-50 and higher socio economic status group (HSES) from 60 and above. It was found that all the respondents belong to lower and middle class only. Again the scores of the aspirations scale of the respondent belonging to each socio-economic status were calculated and correlation was applied. The result has been presented in the table 2

**Table 2  
Relationship of Socio-Economic Status and Aspiration of Girl Child Laborer**

Level of the status	N	R
Middle class	9	0.2724814
Lower class	91	

The table shows that the values of the correlation between aspiration scores of the lower and middle class respondents was 0.2724814, which was found to be significant at .01 level. The second hypothesis of the study states that there is a positive correlation between socio-economic status and aspirations of girl child laborer. The finding of the study support it, as significant relationship has been found between socio-economic status and aspirations of girl child laborer. Hence the said hypothesis was accepted. The studies conducted by Bhagowal (1996), Jindal (1999), Sinha (2000) have revealed that as long as poverty continuous to exist, it would be difficult to eliminate girl child labor. Jindal (1999) in his study on female participation revealed that economic necessities were the major reason for the female child labor participation, which was belonging to the low income group. Kenneth (2004) studied that even when parents and children care about each other's utility, increase in parental income need not always lead to decrease in child labor. Shafiq (2007) examines household schooling and child labor decision in rural Bangladesh. The result suggests that poverty and low parental education are associated with lower schooling and greater child labor.

**Relationships of Education of Father and Aspiration of Girl Child Laborer**

The third objective of the study was to find the relationship between education of father and aspirations of girl child laborer. The scores of the aspirations scale were calculated and divided into two groups on the basis of level of education of their father and correlation was applied. The results have been presented in the table 3:

**Table 3**

**Relationship of Education of Father and Aspiration of Girl Child Laborer**

Level of the status	N	R
Below-5 Std.	38	0.067558
Above-5 Std.	62	

Table shows that the values of the correlation between aspiration scores of below 5<sup>th</sup> Std. and above 5<sup>th</sup> Std. respondents was 0.067558, which was found insignificant at .05 level. The hypothesis of the present study states that the aspirations of girl child labor vary with the education of father. The findings have proved that there is a positive correlation between the education of the father and aspirations of the girl child laborer. Najeeb (2007) examines that poverty and low parental education are associated with lower schooling and greater child labor. Tzanntos (2003) traced recent trends in the child labor conditions of employment and schooling in Thailand. The findings explored that children withdrawn from school and enter labor force because families cannot afford the cost of education. He also described the effect of education subsidies on poor families. Das (2007) found that though school dropout rates are not small in urban female child laborer, but the parent's level of education plays an establishing role in reducing this tendency.

**Relationships of Education of Mother and Aspirations of Girl Child Laborer**

The fourth objective of the study was to find the relationship between education of mother and aspirations of girl child laborer. The scores of the aspiration scale was calculated and divided into two groups on the basis of level of education of their mother and correlation was applied. The results have been presented in the table 4:

**Table 4**  
**Relationship of Education of Mother and Aspiration of Girl Child Laborer**

Level of the status	N	R
Below-5	73	0.488948
Above-5	27	

Table shows that the values of the correlation between aspiration scores of below 5<sup>th</sup> Std and above 5<sup>th</sup> Std respondents was 0.488948, which was found to be strongly significant at .01 level. The hypothesis of the present study states that the aspirations of girl child laborer vary with the education of mother. The findings have proved that there is a strong positive correlation between the education of the mother and aspirations of the girl child laborer. Najeeb (2007) examines that poverty and low parental education are associated with lower schooling and greater child labor. Tzanntos (2003) traced recent trends in the child labor conditions of employment and schooling in Thailand. The findings explored that children withdrawn from school and enter labor force because families cannot afford the cost of education. He also described the effect of education subsidies on poor families. Sawati and Mukherjee (2007) found that though school dropout rates are not small in urban female child laborer, but the parents' level of education plays an establishing role in reducing this tendency. The mother's education now appears as a very important factor in curbing these incidences.

### **Conclusions**

From above study following conclusions have been drawn.

1. 24% of girl child laborer has low aspiration, 52% have average aspiration and 24% have high aspiration.
2. There was significant correlation between aspiration scores of the lower and middle class respondents.
3. There was significant correlation between aspiration scores of respondent whose father's education is below 5<sup>th</sup> Std. and above 5<sup>th</sup> Std.
4. There is significant correlation between aspiration scores of respondent whose mother's education is below 5<sup>th</sup> Std. and above 5<sup>th</sup> Std.

### **Recommendations**

1. Government should play more proactive role in educating the public regarding the importance of education for children.
2. Parents should be educated about the adversity child labour on the life of children.
3. Policies should be framed and implemented strictly by the government for providing financial assistance to the poor children belonging to school going age.
4. Different media should be used to expose the incidents of child laboring.

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