

# A Geographical Analysis of Child Labour of Rajasthan, 2011

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## Abstract

The phenomenon of child labour is neither new nor confined to any particular region or state. Child labour is work that harms children or keeps them from attending school. Around the world and in the United State, growing gaps between rich and poor in recent decades have forced millions of young children out of school and into work. The International Labour Organization estimates that 215 million children between the ages of 5 and 17 currently work under conditions that are considered illegal, dangerous, or particularly abusive. Underage children work at all sorts of jobs around the world, usually because they and their families are extremely poor. Large numbers of children work in commercial agriculture, fishing, manufacturing, mining, and domestic service. In India as per survey conducted by NSSO in 2004-05, the number of working children is estimated at 90.75 lakh. As per Census 2011, the number of working children in the age group of 5-14 years has further reduced to 43.53 lakh. It shows that the efforts of the Government have borne the desired fruits. This paper presents the spatial variation of child labour (Total, male, female, rural and urban child labour) in Rajasthan; according to census of India, 2011, average child labour is 5.17%, Male child labour average is 4.56% and female child labour average is 5.85%.

**Keywords:** Child Labour, Mental and Physical Development, Particularly Abusive, Poor.

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## Introduction

Child Labour is basically exploiting the underage children in any form, forcing them to work illegally which harms or abuses them. This abuse may be physical, mental or sexual; depriving the children (child labourers) of their right of basic education. Be it Asia, Africa, U.S.A or Europe, child abuse is prevalent everywhere (Nishant Agarwal, Deepak Bansal, Shreyansh Gattani). According to the International Labour Organization (ILO), "child labour is where children are deprived of their childhood and futures because they are forced to work long hours for little or no money, deprived of education and in conditions harmful to their mental and physical development." As per ILO the term "child labour" is often defined as work that deprives children of their childhood, their potential and dignity, and that is harmful to physical and mental development.

Child Labour in India: An Overview" observed that the prevalence of child labour is one of the important problem confronting the world at large, especially developing countries such as India. They expressed the view that child labour is mainly necessitated by economic compulsions of the parents. The main reason which give rise to child labour is wide spread unemployment and underemployment among the adult poor strata of the population. They also observed that large families with low income are illiterate and ignorant about the importance of education as well as about the impact of labour on the health of their children M. C. Naidu and K. D. Ramaih ( 2006 )". It is estimated that 150 million children aged 5–14 are engaged in child labour worldwide. Child labour is a marked loss of childhood interfering with education and reinforces the intergenerational cycles of poverty. It is associated with exploitation of children who often work in hazardous conditions harming both their physical and mental development (Rajasthan state report, 2014). India has made considerable progress towards addressing the issue of child labour in recent years with an overall decline by nearly half in the number of child labourers.

According to the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO), India, an estimated 5 million children were engaged in child labour in 2009-10 as compared to 9 million in 2004-05.

Juan Somavia, ILO Director-General: - "No to child labour is our stance. Yet 215 million are in child labour as a matter of survival. A world without child labour is possible with the right priorities and policies: quality education, opportunities for young people, decent work for parents, and a basic social protection floor for all. Driven by conscience, let's muster the courage and conviction to act in solidarity and ensure every child's right to his or her childhood. It brings rewards for all".

### Characteristics of Child labour

**Dr. G.L. Parvathamma;** Child labour involves at least one of the following:

- Violates a nation's minimum wage laws
- Threatens children's physical, mental, or emotional well-being
- Involves intolerable abuse, such as child slavery, child trafficking, debt bondage, forced labour, or illicit activities
- Prevents children from going to school
- Uses children to undermine labour standards

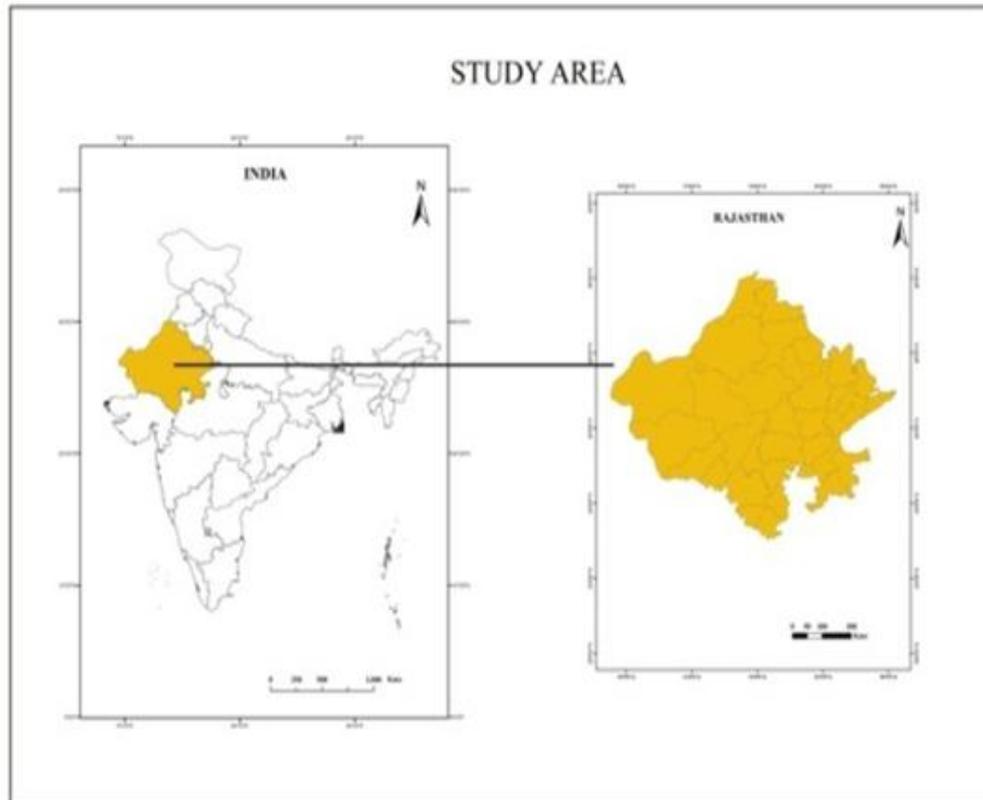
### Legislation for Child Labour in India

**Dr. G.L. Parvathamma;** The first protective legislation for child labour in India was seen in 1881 in the form of Indian factories Act which had the provisions prohibiting employment of children below 7 years, limiting the working hours for children to 9 hours a day and providing 4 holidays in a month and rest hours. This was actually made by the ruling British Government to decrease the production in Indian industries through some legal restrictions. It may be submitted that the labour legislations in India including protective legislation for children have been greatly influenced with the result of various Conventions and Recommendations adopted by International Labour Organisation. Besides Constitutional provisions, there are several legislative enactments which Provide legal protection to children in various occupations.

- The Children (Pledging of Labour) Act, 1933
- The Employment of Children Act, 1938
- The Minimum Wages, Act 1948 and rules made there under by the government
- The Factories Act, 1948
- The Plantations Labour Act, 1951
- The Mines Act, 1952
- The Merchant Shipping Act, 1958
- The Motor Transport Workers' Act, 1961
- The Apprentices Act, 1961
- The Atomic Energy Act, 1962
- The Beedi and Cigar Workers (Conditions of Employment) Act, 1966
- The Shops and Establishment Act in Various States, and
- Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986.

### Study area

Rajasthan is the largest state in India in terms of geographical area. Rajasthan, state of north-western India, located in the north-western part of the Indian subcontinent. Geographical location of Rajasthan is between 23°03' to 30°12' north latitude and 69°30' to 78°17' east longitude. It is bounded to the north and northeast by the states of Punjab and Haryana, to the east and southeast by the states of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh, to the southwest by the state of Gujarat, and to the west and northwest by the provinces of Sindh and Punjab in Pakistan. The capital city is Jaipur, in the east-central part of the state. Rajasthan area 132139 square miles (342239 square km) and Population is (2011) 68621012. The Aravali Range forms a line across the state running roughly from Guru Peak on Mount Abu. The Aravallis form Rajasthan's most-important watershed. Chambal River in the east part and the Luni River is significant river in west of the Aravallis. The predominant vegetation of Rajasthan is scrub jungle. Less than 10 percent of Rajasthan is under forest cover.



### Objective

- Examine the spatial variation of child labour in Rajasthan.
- To examine the difference between urban and rural male and female child labour in the study area (Rajasthan).

### Database and methodology

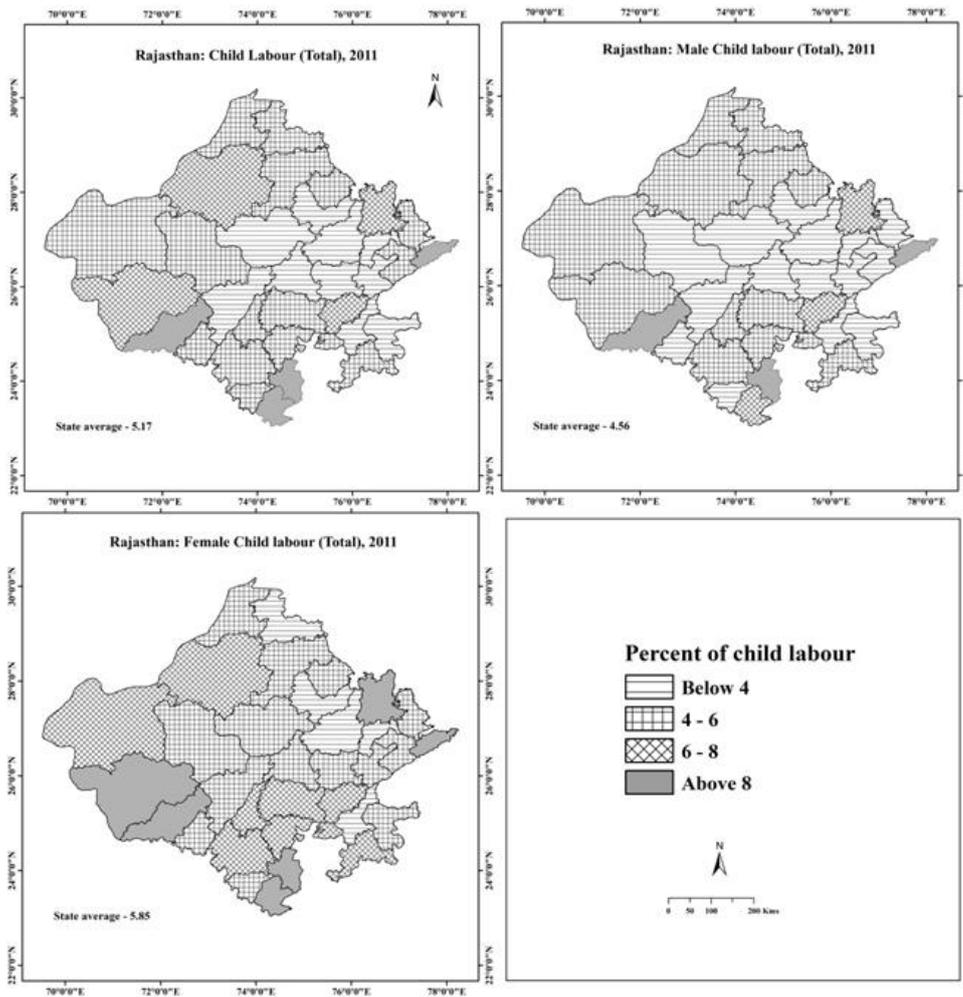
This paper aims to analyse the present situation, (2011) of the child labour in Rajasthan. The present study is based on the secondary source of data. Data has been obtained from census of India, 2011. The data is processed with the help of simple statistical technique and has been displayed by the Choropleth maps with the help of Arc GIS 10.0. The data has been calculated following the formulas:-

$$\text{(Total, Male, Female) Child Labour} = \frac{\text{(Total, Male, Female) Child Worker (5-14 year)}}{\text{(Total, Male, Female) Child Population (5-14 year)}} \times 100$$

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Spatial variation of total, male, female child labour in Rajasthan

Figure 1 represent that the total, male, female child labour of Rajasthan based on census of India, 2011. The state average of child labour is 5.17% of total area of Rajasthan. Male child labour state average is 4.56% and female child labour average is 5.85%. Lowest child labour is 2.51% in Jaipur and highest in Pratapgarh 12.70%. The male child labour is lowest in Jaipur 2.42% and highest in Pratapgarh 11.35%. Beside it total and male child labour; female child labour is lowest in Kota 2.50% and highest in Pratapgarh 14.13%. The pattern is almost same of total and male child labour in Rajasthan but female child labour pattern is different to both; total and male child labour. The maps divided into four categories; very low, low, medium and high. Total and male child labour is high in Jalor, Pratapgarh, Banswara and Dhaulpur.



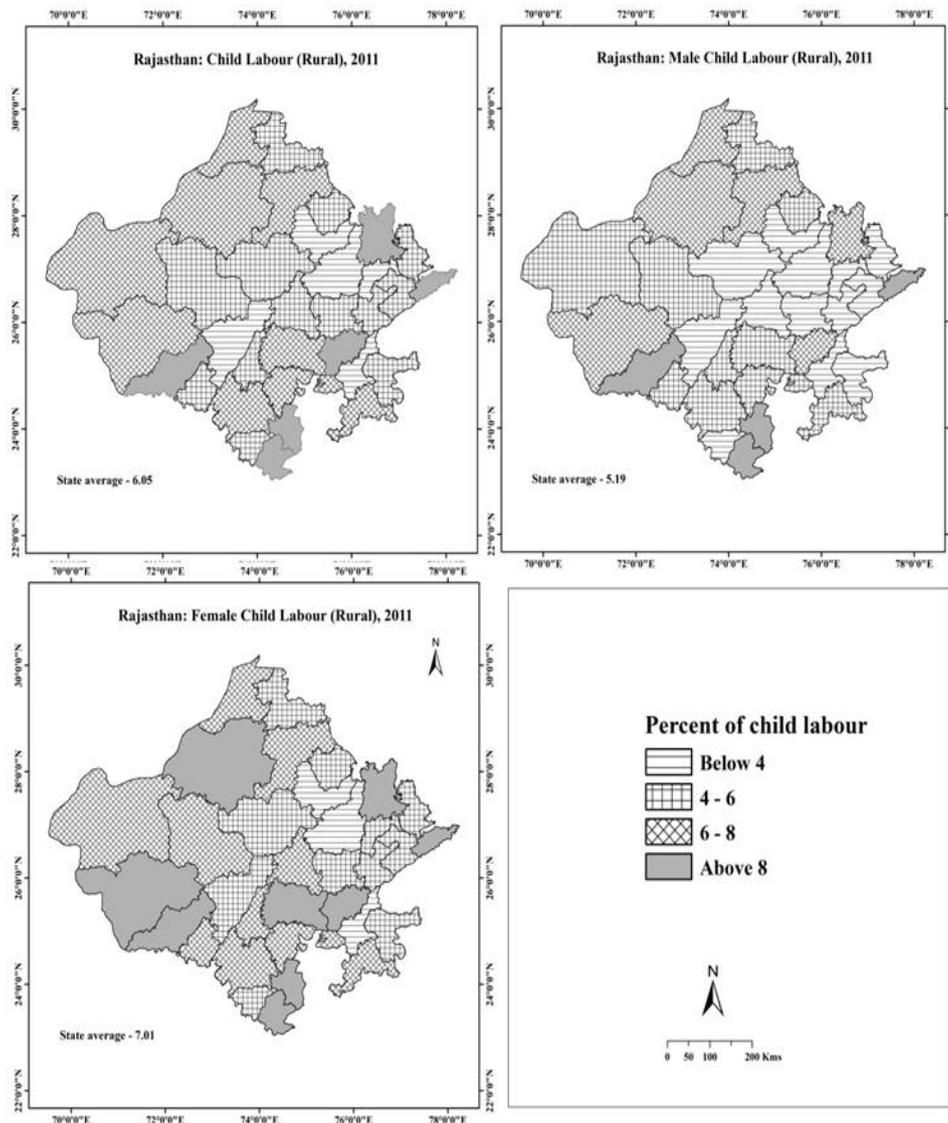
**Figure 1: Rajasthan Child Labour (Total); 2011**

Banswara comes under medium category male labour child. North West region of Rajasthan male and total child labour comes under low and medium categories. Only Baran and Bikaner district comes under medium category of total child labour in Rajasthan. Middle East region of Rajasthan total and male child labour is very low. Female child labour is high compare male and total child labour of Rajasthan. Hanumangarh, Sikar, Jaipur, Dausa districts comes under very category beside it Baran, Jalor, Paratagarh, Banswara, Alwar and Dhaulpur district of Rajasthan Female child labour is high. Except very low and high category all Rajasthan districts comes under low and medium category.

**Spatial variation of total, male, female child labour in rural area of Rajasthan**

Figure 2 reveals that the total child labour, male child labour and female child labour of rural Rajasthan based census of India 2011. The rural state average is 6.05%; male child labour state average is 5.19% and female child labour average is 7.01% of rural Rajasthan Female child labour state average is highest compare to total and male child labour of rural Rajasthan. Jaipur district of rural area 3.07% child labour is low and high in Pratapgarh 13.48% and male child labour of rural area is low in Jaipur 2.58% and high in Dhaulpur 13.07%. Female child labour is low in Sikar 3.45% and in Pratapgarh (15%) district of rural Rajasthan.

Female child labour is high more districts of rural Rajasthan compare to total and male child labour. Only three districts under very low category, Sikar Jaipur, Kota of female child labour in rural area on the other side male child were force is very low in thirteen districts of rural Rajasthan which is located in Middle East region of rural Rajasthan. All districts in western side of Aravali and some districts south east region comes under low and moderate categories of total child work force in rural area. Only four districts Sikar, Jaipur, Dausa, Pali comes under very low category of child labour in rural Rajasthan.

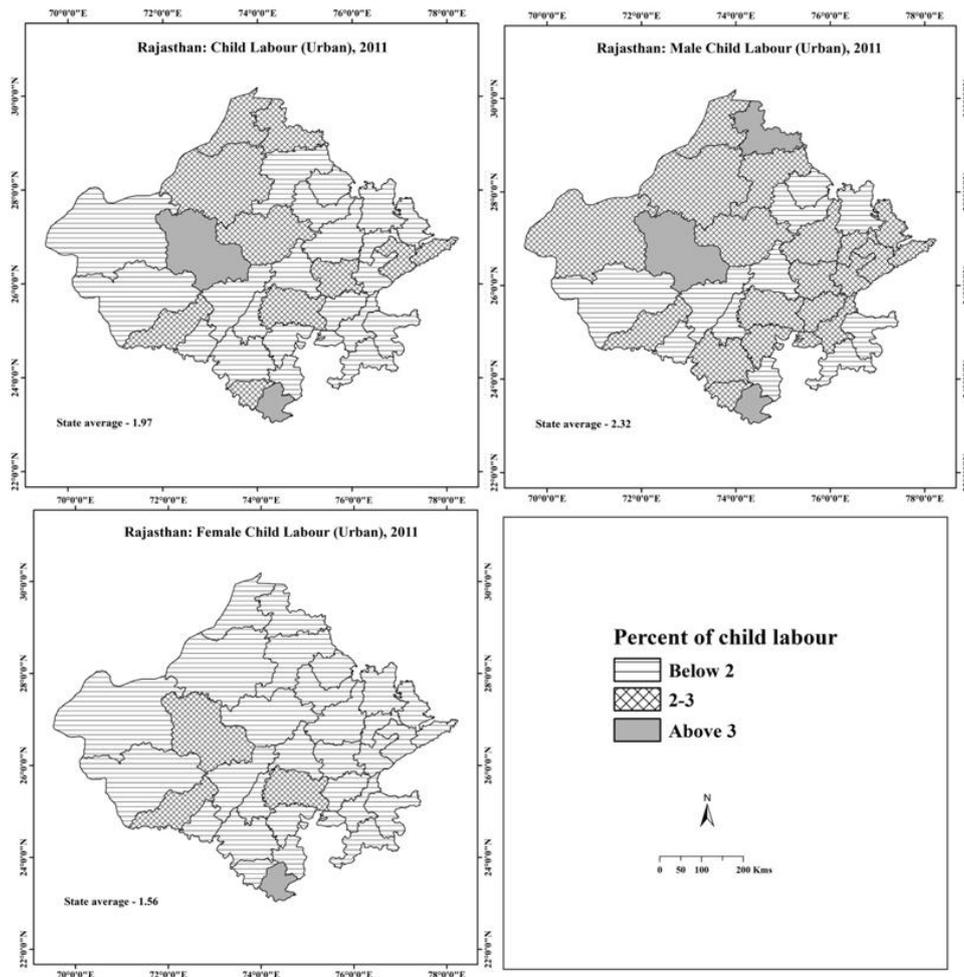


**Figure 2: Rajasthan Child Labour in Rural area; 2011**

**Spatial variation of total, male, female child labour in urban area Rajasthan**

Figure 3 shows that the male, female and total child labours of urban area of Rajasthan according to census of India, 2011. The state average of urban child is 1.97% and male child average is 2.32% and female child labour average is 1.56%. Lowest child labour is in Jhunjhunun (1.20%) district of urban area and highest child labour in Banswara 3.46%. Male child is highest in Banswara 3.78% and lowest in Jhunjhunun 1.32%. Female child is more in Banswara district 3.09% and lowest in Barmer 1.02%. Banswara district is common where total, male, female child labour is more above to all district of urban Rajasthan. The maps divide into three categories high, medium, low.

The pattern is different of total, male, female to each other in urban area. Total child labour is very low in 21 districts of urban areas and in 10 districts its medium and high in two districts; Jodhpur and banswara. North West and south east region of urban Rajasthan male child labour is moderate and only three districts; hanumangarh, Jodhpur, Banswara where male child labour is high. Except high and medium district; all districts under low categories of urban Rajasthan. if compare male child labour and total child labour to female child labour then gets male child and total child labour is high to female child labour. In all districts female child labour is low except four districts; Jodhpur, Jalor, Banswara and Bhilwara of urban Rajasthan. Only in Banswara district child labour is high of urban areas.



**Figure 3: Rajasthan Child Labour in Urban area; 2011**

### CONCLUSION

Child labour is a complex and multi-faceted issue. Widespread inter-generational poverty and social acceptance of child labour are the greatest drivers of child labour. Social and financial exclusion based on caste, ethnicity, economic status and religion are other contributory factors that perpetuate child labour. Majority children and families working in cotton fields live below the poverty line and belong to SC and ST communities. The Project ‘Promoting Protection and Education Rights of Children in Cotton Areas’ is an initiative that was implemented in Gujarat, Maharashtra and Rajasthan over the period 2009-2013 to tackle the problem of children working in cotton fields. In study area child labour which belonging to rural area of Rajasthan; total, male, female child are highest in Jalor, Dhaulpur, Pratapgarh and banswara districts of Rajasthan and male child labour is lowest in Middle Eastern region of rural area compare to female child labour. Child labours which are working in all area of Rajasthan (total, male, female) are highest in Jalor, Pratapgarh and Dhaulpur; these districts are common in context to total, male, female. Female child are more working compare to male child. Like this child labour is very low in urban area compare to rural and total area of Rajasthan. Female child labour is very low in urban area to both (total and rural) area of Rajasthan. Only banswara district of Rajasthan has high female child labour.

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