

An Educational Appraisal on the Causes of Child Labour among Upper Primary Students in Uttar Dinajpur, West Bengal

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Abstract: *Child labour continues to be a persistent socio-educational problem in many parts of India despite constitutional safeguards, compulsory education policies, and child protection laws. The present study attempts an educational appraisal of the causes of child labour among upper primary students in Uttar Dinajpur district of West Bengal. The focus of the study is to examine how socio-economic conditions, family background, school-related factors, and local labour demand contribute to the engagement of children in labour activities during the upper primary stage of schooling. A descriptive survey method was adopted, and data were collected from students, parents, and teachers using structured questionnaires and interviews. The findings reveal that poverty, parental illiteracy, seasonal migration, lack of academic support, and poor school engagement are the major factors compelling children to participate in labour while continuing or discontinuing their education. The study highlights the educational consequences of child labour, including irregular attendance, low academic achievement, grade repetition, and school dropout. The paper concludes with educational and policy-oriented suggestions to strengthen school retention, improve socio-economic support, and ensure effective implementation of child protection measures*

Keywords: Child Labour, Upper Primary Education, Socio-Economic Factors, School Dropout, Uttar Dinajpur, Educational Appraisal