

The Study on Child Labour in the Workplace at Sivakasi

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Abstract: *Child labour is a global concern that violates the rights of children and impedes their overall development. The practice of employing children in hazardous occupations deprives them of their right to education, jeopardizes their health and well-being, and hinders their ability to break the cycle of poverty. Sivakasi, a town located in the Virudhunagar district of Tamil Nadu, India, has been a focal point for studying child labour due to its prominence in the firecracker and matchstick industries. It should bring effective measures to eliminate child labour. the objectives are To know about child labour and their problems, To understand the child labour rights with reference to Indian constitution, To create awareness about prevent of child labour and To analysis the causes of child labour in Sivakasi. For the purpose of this research, an empirical method was followed and the data was collected through both online and offline survey analysis. The SPSS software by IBM was used to calculate the empirical statistics. The sample size was 200. Dependent variables are child labour still exist in Sivakasi, child labour are mostly working at Sivakasi, child working in hazardous factories is violation of Indian constitution, child labour is prevalent at Sivakasi, government taking several measures for child labour in India. Independent variables are Age, Gender. Various tools like Bar graph were used*

Keywords: Child labour, factory, below 14 years, working, hazardous condition, industries, lack of education, measure, awareness, public, wages

I. INTRODUCTION

Child labour in Sivakasi, a town in Tamil Nadu, India, has long been a concerning issue due to its prevalence in various industries, particularly in fireworks and matchstick manufacturing. This study delves into the complexities surrounding child labour in Sivakasi, aiming to uncover the underlying causes, socio-economic factors, and impacts on children's well-being and education. By examining these aspects, the study seeks to propose effective interventions and policies to combat this pervasive problem and ensure a safer and healthier environment for the children of Sivakasi. Child labour remains a poignant issue in Sivakasi, Tamil Nadu, where it is deeply entrenched in industries such as fireworks, matchstick production, and other manufacturing sectors. This study endeavors to provide a comprehensive analysis of the factors contributing to child labour in Sivakasi, including economic pressures, lack of educational opportunities, and societal attitudes towards child employment. By exploring these factors, the study aims to highlight the adverse effects of child labour on children's physical and mental well-being, their education, and long-term prospects. Furthermore, the research seeks to identify effective strategies and interventions that can be implemented to eradicate child labour in Sivakasi, promoting sustainable development and ensuring that every child has the opportunity to thrive in a safe and nurturing environment. Certainly! Here's a more detailed explanation of the sections and articles that deal with child labour and protection in India: Constitution of India: Article 24: Prohibition of employment of children in hazardous industries or occupations. It states: No child below the age of 14 years shall be employed to work in any factory or mine or engaged in any other hazardous employment. The state is empowered to legislate further on the regulation of child labour and to determine what constitutes hazardous employment.

Legislation: The Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986: Objective: The primary objective of this Act is to prohibit the engagement of children in certain employments and to regulate the conditions of work of children in

others. Prohibitions: It prohibits the employment of children below 14 years in specified hazardous occupations and processes such as mining, explosives, and certain chemical industries.

Regulation: It regulates the working conditions for children in non-hazardous occupations, prescribing maximum working hours, conditions of work, and provisions for their health and safety.

Penalties: The Act provides for penalties for contravention of its provisions, including fines and imprisonment for employers who engage children in prohibited occupations.

Rehabilitation: It includes provisions for the rehabilitation of child labourers, including their education and skill development. The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015: While primarily dealing with juveniles in conflict with the law, this Act also addresses the care and protection of all children, including those involved in child labour. It emphasizes the rehabilitation and social reintegration of children in need of care and protection, including child labourers rescued from exploitative situations.

Other Legislation and Policies: Right to Education Act, 2009: While not solely focused on child labour, this Act guarantees free and compulsory education for all children aged 6 to 14 years. It aims to ensure that every child has access to quality education, thereby reducing the incidence of child labour by promoting attendance in schools.

National Policy on Child Labour (1987): This policy outlines the government's commitment to tackle child labour through legislative measures, enforcement, and rehabilitation. It emphasizes the importance of education, social protection, and poverty alleviation to prevent child labour and protect children's rights.

Implementation and Challenges. Enforcement: Despite these legislative frameworks, challenges remain in the effective enforcement of laws, particularly in informal sectors and rural areas.

Poverty: Poverty remains a root cause of child labour, as many families rely on children's income to make ends meet.

Awareness and Education: Efforts are ongoing to raise awareness about child rights and the importance of education, aiming to change societal attitudes towards child labour.

OBJECTIVES

- To know about child labour and their problems.
- To understand the child labour rights with reference to Indian constitution.
- To create awareness about prevent of child labour.
- To analysis the causes of child labour in Sivakasi.

II. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

(Shilpa Tripathi 2010) Child labour is widespread and bad for development of individual child, the society and economy in which she or he lives. The present paper underlines the role of education in eradicating child labour. Studies have concluded that eliminating child labour and children into education would have huge aggregate development.

(Elliot J. Schrage and Anthony P. Ewing 2005) Reports of forced child labour on the cocoa farms of Côte d'Ivoire surfaced in 2000 and quickly became an important business issue for a number of prominent companies. Media coverage and the threat of regulatory action mobilised the international cocoa industry to collaborate with other stakeholders to eliminate the worst.

(DEV NATHAN and ANN GEORGE 2012) Reviewing case studies that examine the role of corporate governance initiatives to eliminate child labour from the production process, the authors examine the important distinction between eliminating and ending child labour from production networks as the former deals with the demand-side while the latter deals with labourer.

(Lorna F. Hurl 1988) This paper investigates the changing experience of child factory labour in late 19th and early 20th century Ontario. It explores the largely accepted, though untested assumptions that restrictive legislation (the Ontario Factory Act of 1884) was achieved at the behest of middle and upper-class social reformers.

(JANE HUMPHRIES 2013) Quantitative and qualitative analysis of a large number of autobiographies by working men who lived through the industrial revolution has demonstrated that there was an upsurge in child labour in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries with children's work entrenched in traditional sectors as well as spread.

(Iftikhar Ahmed 1999) This paper, based on a quantitative empirical cross-country study, provides policy insights to the tackling of the root causes of child labour. The econometric model applied explains for a substantial proportion of the cross-country variations in child labour.

(Augendra Bhukuth 2008) While it is internationally agreed that the worst forms of child labour should be eliminated in order to promote children's welfare, the consensus breaks down when trying to define what constitutes 'light work'. This article seeks to show why it is difficult to get everyone to agree on this issue, focusing on the definition of child labour.

(G. K. Lieten 2003) In the drive for universal education all children not in school have been subsumed as working children. Such a development is ill-advised. This article analyses this changing definition in the context of the Labour Commission Report 2001. With a redefinition of child labour, the number of working children.

(ATHENA K. RAMOS 2018) Tobacco production is a multi-billion-dollar global industry. Unfortunately, the cultivation of tobacco engages the labour of children throughout the world in extremely dangerous environments, which has both immediate and long-term consequences for children and society. This paper explores the human rights concerns child labour in tobacco production.

(SABIHA HUSSAIN 2015) It is a well-known fact that child labour denies children basic rights. The exploitation of children in the labour force further leads to the creation of an unskilled adult labour force, which ultimately results in early deterioration of health, economic insecurity, low quality of life and ultimately further poverty.

(Kate Manzo 2005) This paper analyses child trafficking and slavery in relation to media coverage of West African children, international law and academic research within geography and development studies. The meaning and practice of child trafficking is examined in the context of related debates about child labour and exploitation.

(Nanjunda DC and Steven Wind 2009) The problem of child labour is symptom of the disease, which is widespread due to exploitative structure, lop-sided development, and inequities in resource ownership.

(G. K. Lieten 2006) Child labour, for all the advocacy towards its abolition, remains a confusing social phenomenon. If child labour is to include all types of work done by children, even by children.

(Sadhana Chaturvedi, Sushma Rampal and Abhay Vikram Singh 2011) Child labour has been widely associated with poverty that deprives them of their childhood and dignity and is detrimental to their health, education and it more importantly in areas.

(Jane Humphries 2003) Child labour was more prevalent in 19th-century industrializers than it is in developing countries today. It was particularly extensive in the earliest industrializers.

(Michael E. Nielsen 2005) In 1995-after more than two-and-a-half years-a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) concerning child labour in the Bangladeshi garment industry was signed by the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA), UNICEF (Bangladesh) and the International Labour Office (ILO).

(J.S. Sodhi 2014) There has been an all pervasive recognition that the county needs to reform its labour law regime. It has become counterproductive to the twin objectives of job creation.**(Don M. Baridam 1996)** The purpose of this study was to examine the determinants of female labour force participation and family size. Data were obtained from 300 female staff of Shell, University of Port.

(Sungkyu Lee, Pamela M. Ling and Stanton A. Glantz 2012) Purpose: To understand transnational tobacco companies' (TTCs) practices in low and middle-income countries which serve to block tobacco-control policies and promote tobacco.

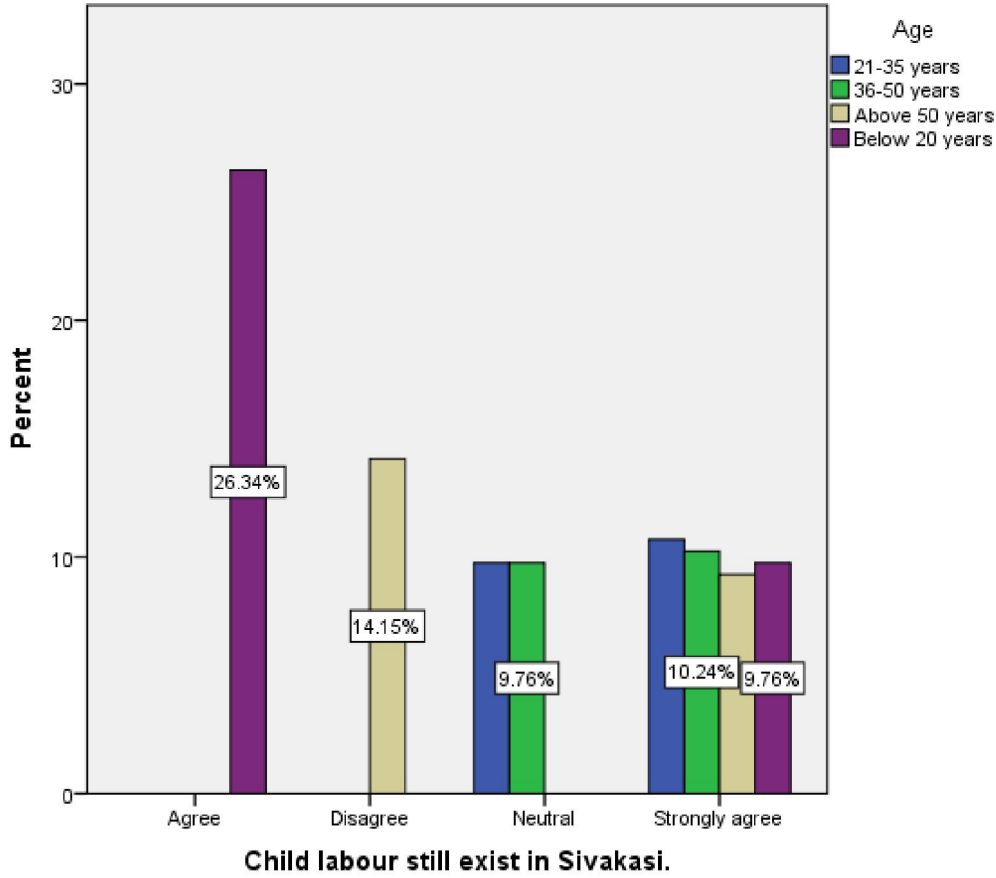
(Umesh Ch Sahoo 1990) While there have been numerous acts passed to protect child workers, the overall trends in organisation of production in industry and agriculture are such as to facilitate and make changes in country.

III. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

For the purpose of this research, an empirical method was followed and the data was collected through both online and offline survey analysis. The SPSS software by IBM was used to calculate the empirical statistics. The sample size was 200. Dependent variables are child labour still exist in Sivakasi, child labour are mostly working at Sivakasi, child working in hazardous factories is violation of Indian constitution, child labour is prevalent at Sivakasi, government taking several measures for child labour in India. Independent variables are Age, Gender. Various tools like Bar graph were used.

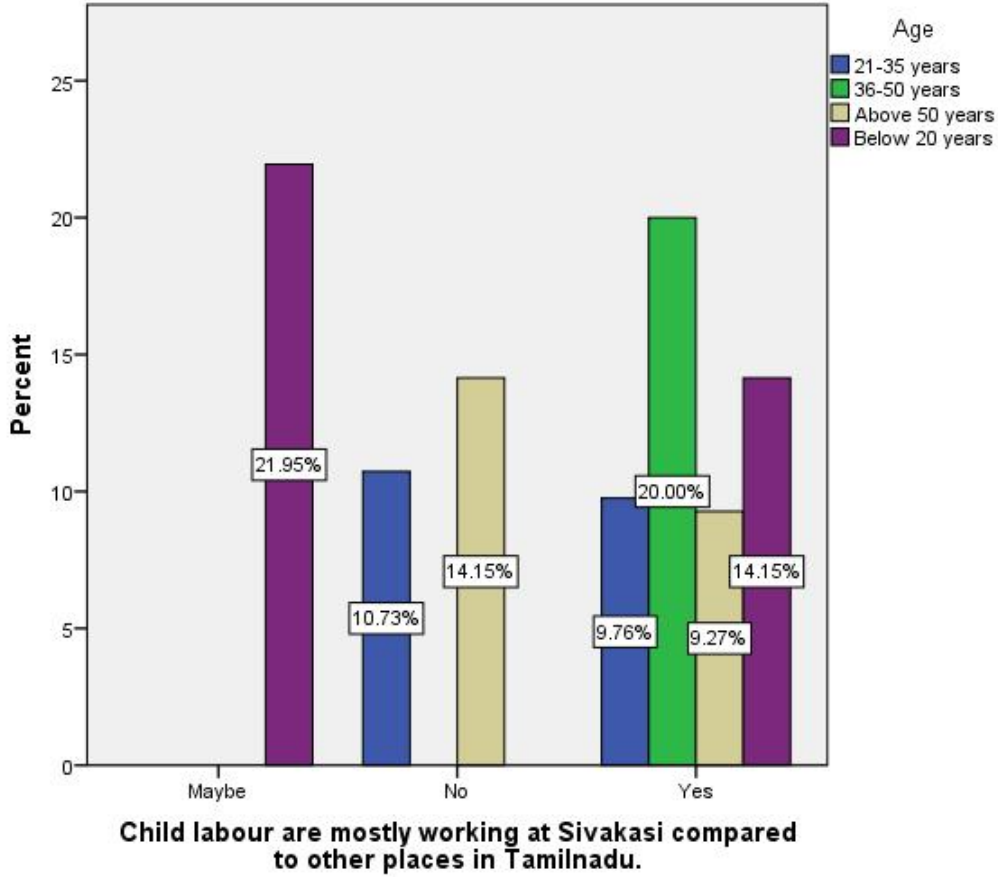
IV. ANALYSIS PART

FIGURE 1



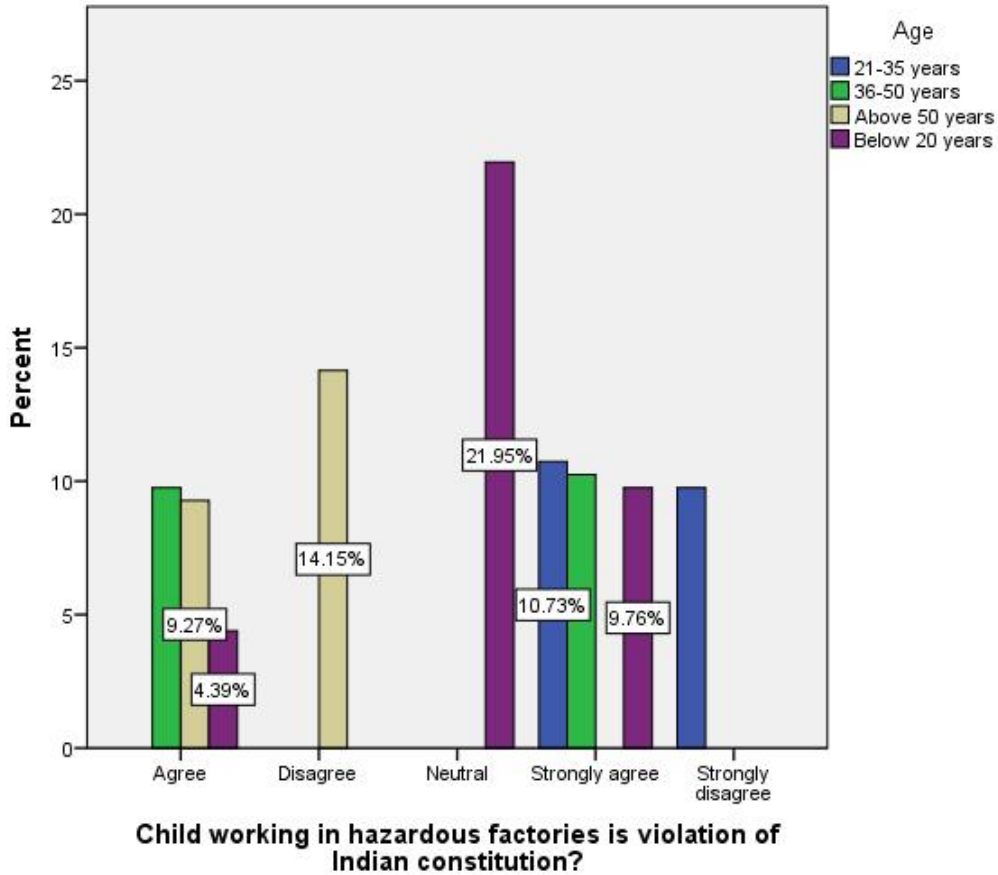
LEGEND This figure shows that distribution of the respondents of 'Age' and child labour still exist in Sivakasi

FIGURE 2



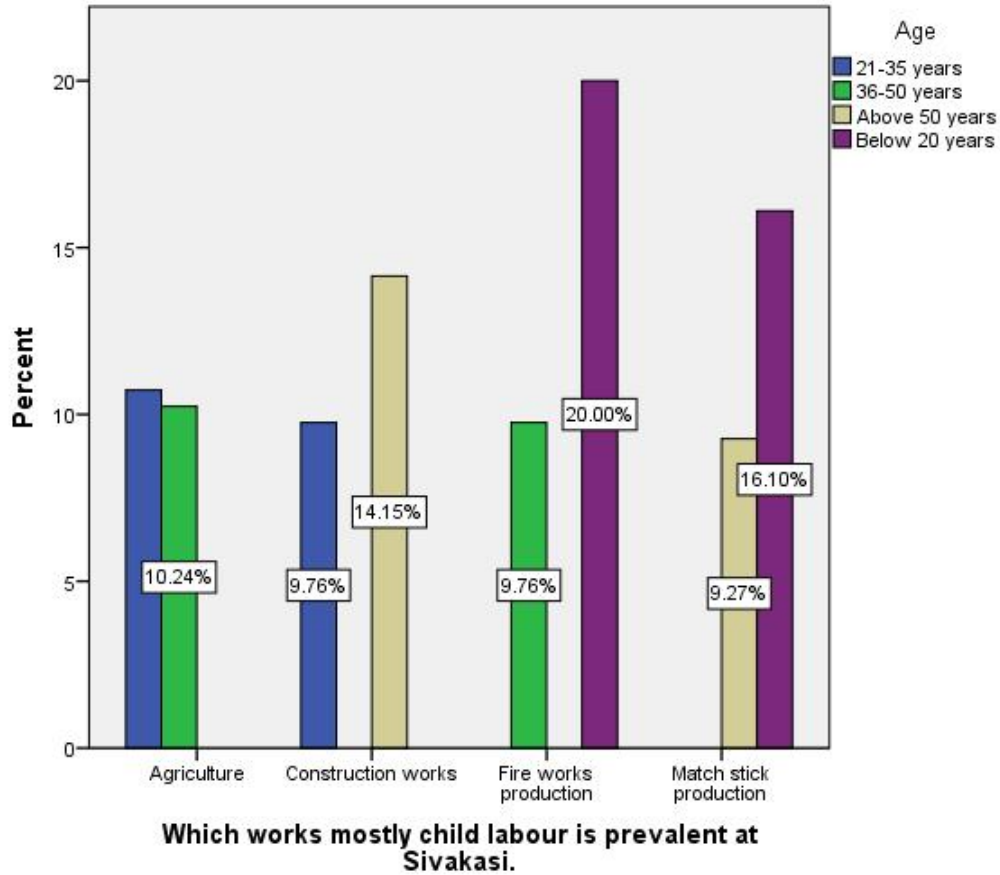
LEGEND: This figure shows that distribution of the respondents of 'Age' and child labour are mostly working at Sivakasi

FIGURE 3



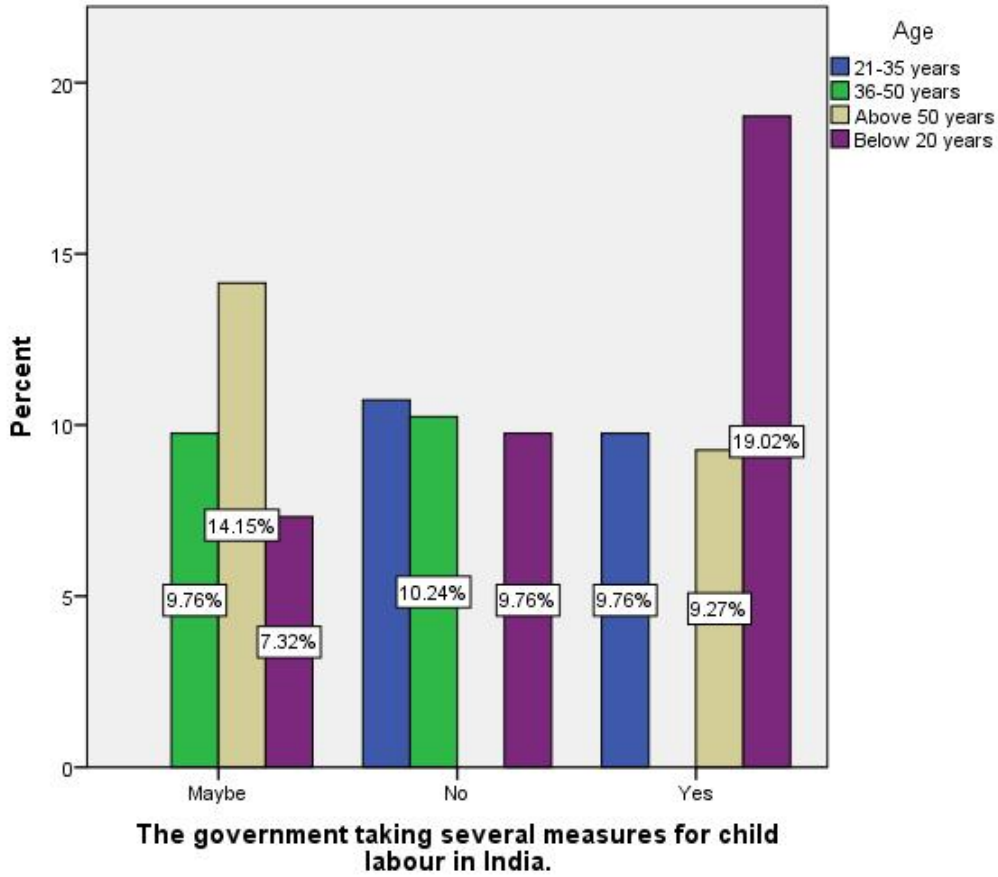
LEGEND This figure shows that distribution of the respondents of 'Age' and child working in hazardous factories is violation of Indian constitution.

FIGURE 4



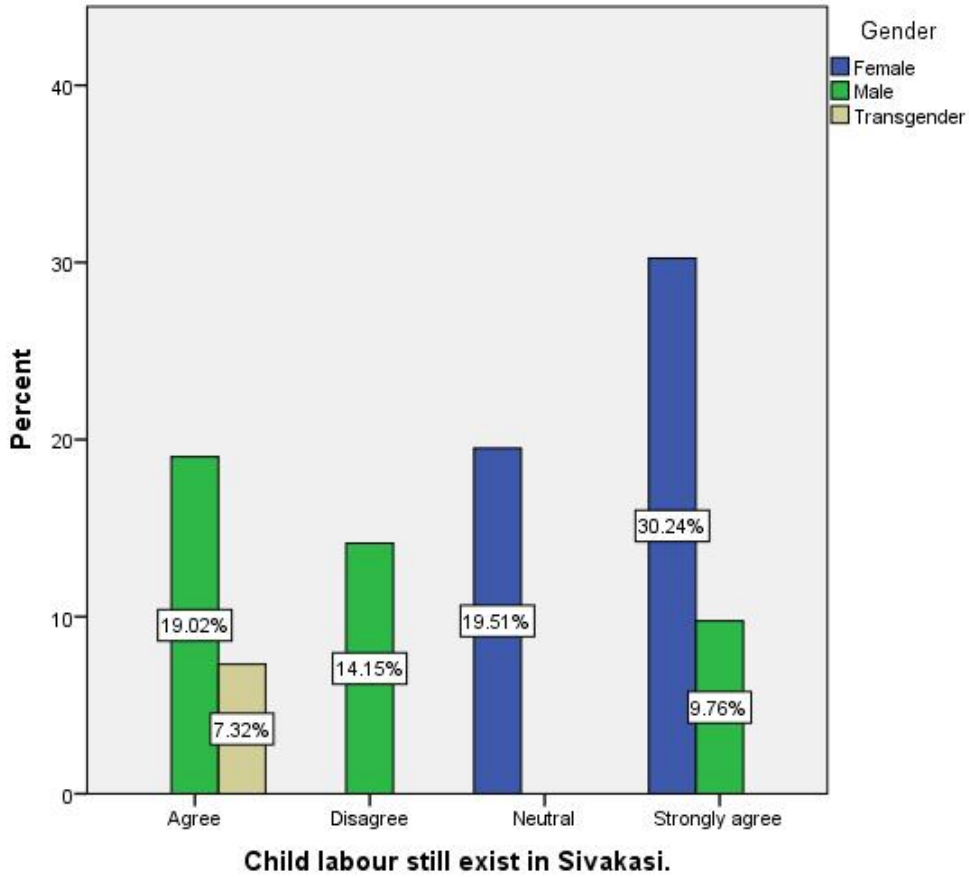
LEGEND This figure shows that distribution of the respondents of 'Age' and child labour is prevalent at Sivakasi

FIGURE 5



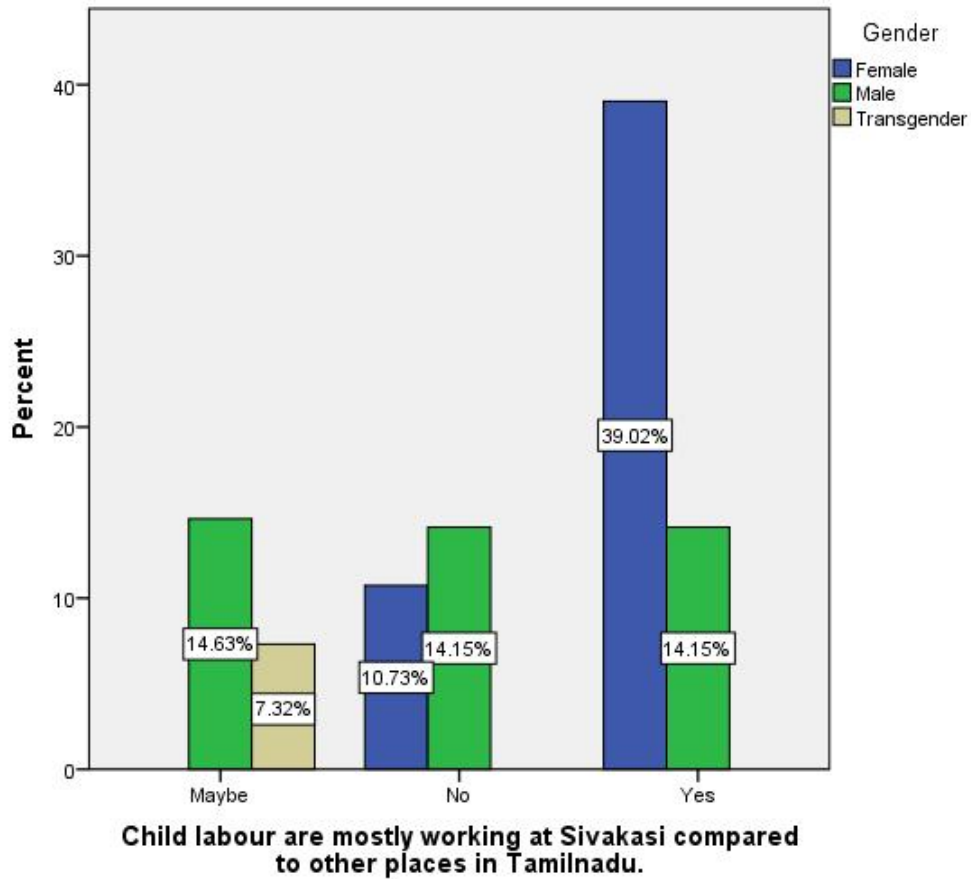
LEGEND This figure shows that distribution of the respondents of 'Age' and government taking several measures for child labour in India.

FIGURE 6



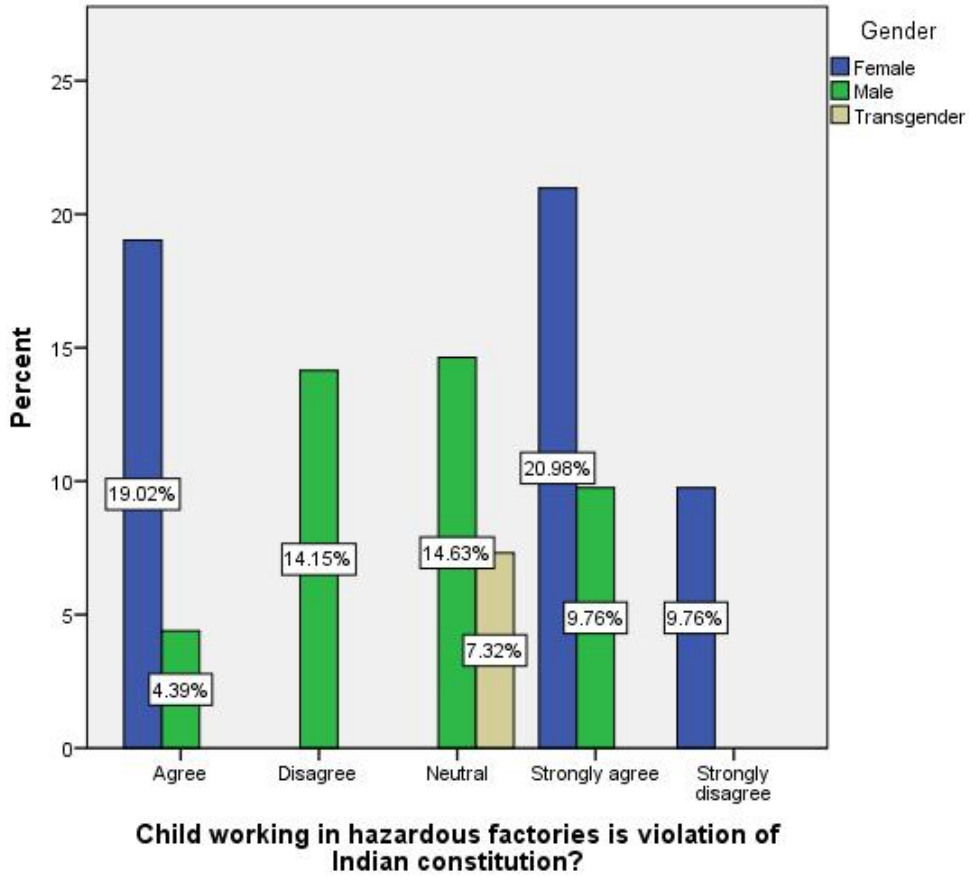
LEGEND This figure shows that distribution of the respondents of 'Gender' and child labour still exist in Sivakasi

FIGURE 7



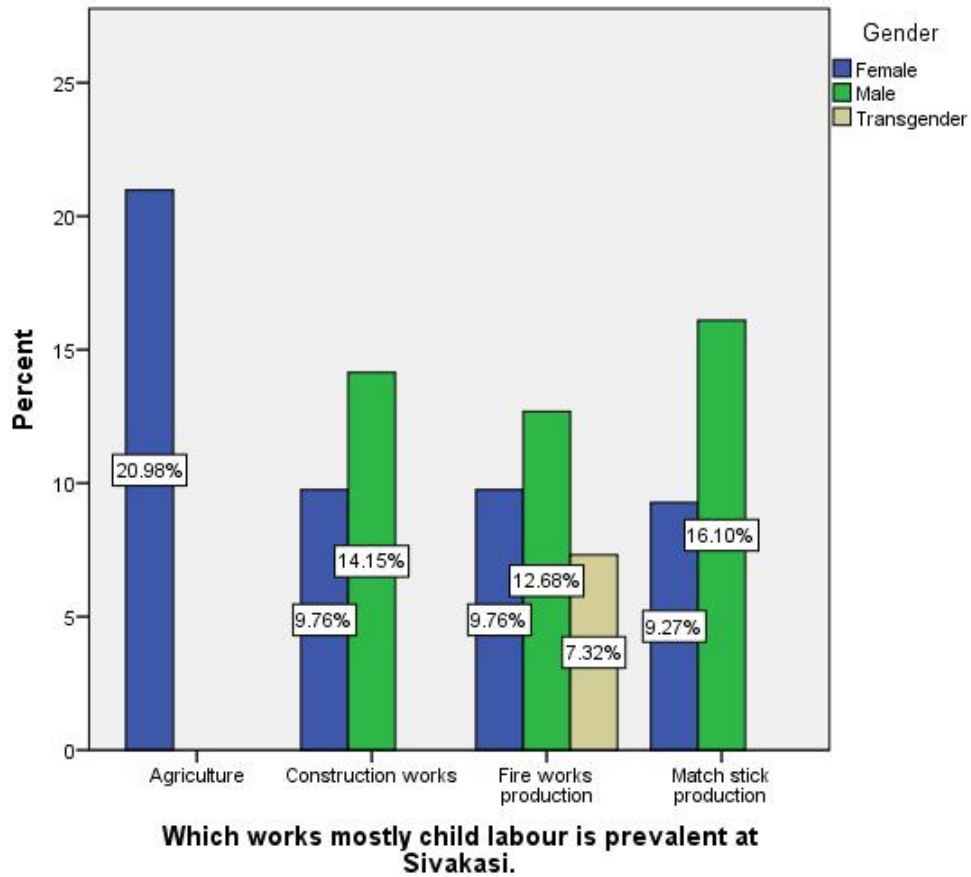
LEGEND This figure shows that distribution of the respondents of 'Gender' and child labour are mostly working at Sivakasi.

FIGURE 8



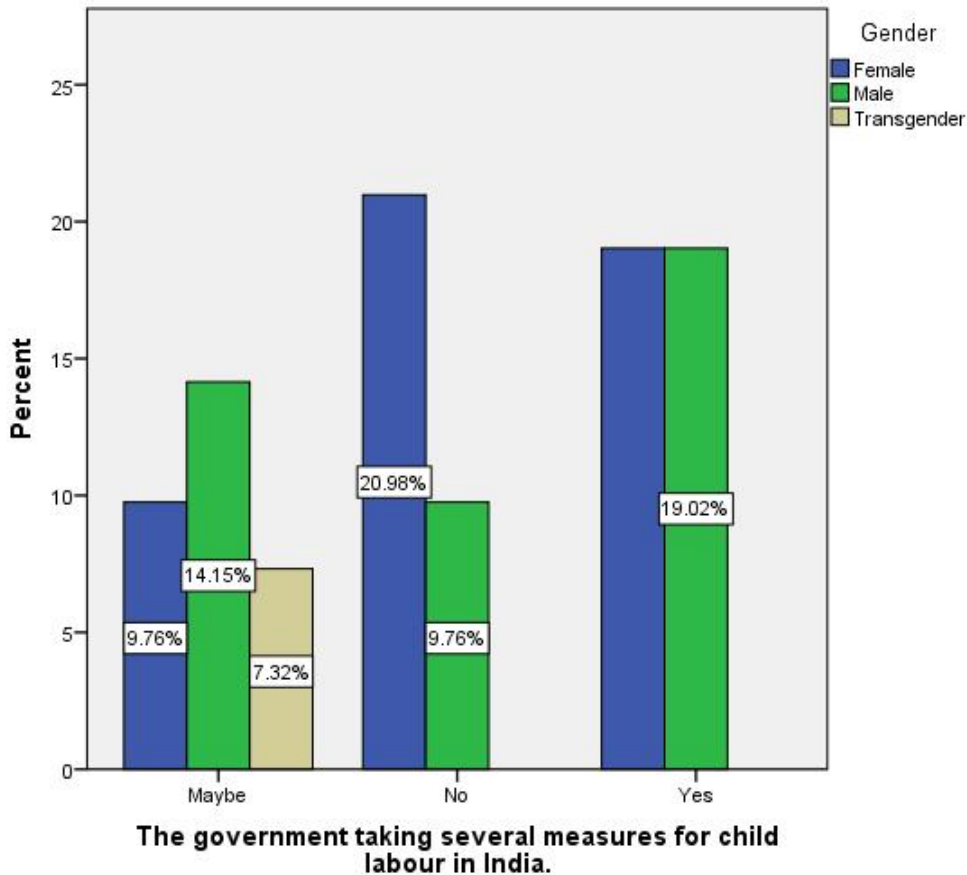
LEGEND This figure shows that distribution of the respondents of 'Gender' and child working in hazardous factories is violation of Indian constitution.

FIGURE 9



LEGEND This figure shows that distribution of the respondents of 'Gender' and child labour is prevalent at Sivakasi.

FIGURE 10



LEGEND This figure shows that distribution of the respondents of 'Gender' and government taking several measures for child labour in India.

V. RESULT

FIGURE 1 result of the survey shows that Age group of Below 20 respondents says 26.34% says that agree,21-35 years respondent says 9.76% neutral,36-50 aged respondents says 10.24% strongly agree and above 50 aged respondents 14.15% says Disagree that child labour still exist in Sivakasi. In this graph most of them says child labour still exist in Sivakasi. **FIGURE 2** result of the survey shows that Age group of Below 20 respondents says 21.95% says that maybe,21-35 years respondent says 10.73% No,36-50 aged respondents says 20% yes and above 50 aged respondents 14.15% says No that child labour mostly working in Sivakasi compared to other places in Tamilnadu. In this graph most of them says child labour mostly working at Sivakasi. **FIGURE 3** result of the survey shows that Age group of Below 20 respondents says 21.95% says that Neutral,21-35 years respondent says 10.73% that strongly Agree,,36-50 aged respondents says 9.27% agree and above 50 aged respondents 14.15% says Disagree that child working in hazardous factories is violation of Indian constitution. **FIGURE 4** result of the survey shows that Below 20 respondents says 20% says that fire works production,21-35 years respondent says 9.76% that Construction works,36-50 aged respondents says 10.24% agriculture and above 50 aged respondents 14.15% says construction works that child labour is prevalent at Sivakasi. **FIGURE 5** result of the survey shows that Age group of Below 20 respondents says 19.02% says that Yes,21-35 years respondent says 9.76% Yes,36-50 aged respondents says 10.24% No and above 50 aged respondents 14.15% says Maybe that government taking several measures for child labour in India. In this graph

respondents says that government taking several measures for child labour in India. **FIGURE 6** of the survey shows that Gender group of respondents from Male 19.02% says that agree and female respondents 30.24% says strongly agree that child labour still exist in Sivakasi. **FIGURE 7** result of the survey shows that Gender group of respondents from Male 14.63% says that Maybe and female respondents 39.02% says yes that child labour are mostly working at Sivakasi compared to other places in Tamilnadu. **FIGURE 8** result of the survey shows that Gender group of respondents from Male 14.63% says that Neutral and female respondents 20.98% says strongly agree and transgender 7.32% says Neutral that child working in hazardous factories is violation of Indian constitution. **FIGURE 9** result of the survey shows that Gender group of respondents from Male 16.10% says that Match stick production and female respondents 20.98% says Agriculture and transgender 7.32% says fire works production that child labour is prevalent at Sivakasi. **FIGURE 10** result of the survey shows that Gender group of respondents from Male 19.02% says that yes, female respondents 20.98% says No and transgender 7.32% says May be that government taking several measures for child labour in India.

VI. DISCUSSION

FIGURE 1 of the survey shows that most number of respondents from the Age group of Below 20 respondents says that agree that child labour still exist in Sivakasi. In this graph most of them says child labour still exist in Sivakasi. **FIGURE 2** of the survey shows that most number of respondents from the Age group of Below 20 respondents says that may be that child labour mostly working in Sivakasi compared to other places in Tamilnadu. In this graph most of them says child labour mostly working at Sivakasi. **FIGURE 3** of the survey shows that most number of respondents from the Age group of Below 20 respondents says that Neutral child working in hazardous factories is violation of Indian constitution. Article 24 of the Constitution of India says, 'No child below the age of fourteen years shall be employed to work in any factory or mine or engaged in any other hazardous employment.' It concerns prohibition of employment of children in factories, etc. **FIGURE 4** of the survey shows that most number of respondents from the age group of Below 20 says that fire work production that child labour is prevalent at Sivakasi. because Sivakasi is famous for cracker industries and production. **FIGURE 5** of the survey shows that Most number of respondents from the age group of Below 20 respondents says that Yes that government taking several measures for child labour in India. **FIGURE 6** of the survey shows that Most number of respondents from the gender group of Male says that agree that child labour still exist in Sivakasi. **FIGURE 7** of the survey shows that Most number of respondents from the Gender group of respondents from female respondents says yes that child labour are mostly working at Sivakasi compared to other places in Tamilnadu. **FIGURE 8** of the survey shows that Most number of respondents from the Gender group of respondents from female respondents says strongly agree that child working in hazardous factories is violation of Indian constitution. **FIGURE 9** of the survey shows that Most number of respondents from the gender group of female respondents says Agriculture that child labour is prevalent at Sivakasi. but In reality is child labours are working in cracker industries. **FIGURE 10** of the survey shows that Most number of respondents from the Gender group of female respondents says No that government taking several measures for child labour in India.

VII. LIMITATION

The Major limitation of the study is the sample frame. The sample frame Collected through bus stands, malls, etc. where the respondents aren't devoted enough to answer the questions. The restrictive area of sample size is yet another drawback of the research. The foremost downside whilst presenting the research topic is that not many people are wise enough to distinguish from the idea of the child labour and their problems which shows clear lack of awareness.

VIII. SUGGESTION

Child labour is a significant problem in India, and addressing it requires a multi-pronged approach that involves various stakeholders, including the government, civil society, and the private sector. Here are some suggestions on how to tackle child labour in India: Strengthening laws and enforcement: India has laws in place to protect children from labour, but there is a need for stronger enforcement and penalties for violators. Providing access to education: Access to education is crucial in reducing child labour, and efforts should be made to improve access to quality education for all children, especially those from disadvantaged communities. Addressing poverty and inequality: Poverty is a significant

driver of child labour, and efforts should be made to reduce poverty and inequality through social safety net programs and other measures. Promoting decent work for adults: Creating more job opportunities and promoting decent work for adults can reduce the need for children to work and support their families. Empowering communities: Communities can play a vital role in preventing child labour by raising awareness, advocating for children's rights, and supporting children's education. Working with the private sector: Companies can also play a role in addressing child labour by adopting responsible business practices, including monitoring their supply chains and ensuring they are free of child labor. Providing support to affected children: Children who have been engaged in child labour need support, including access to education, healthcare, and psychosocial support. Addressing child labour in India requires a long-term commitment from all stakeholders, and a sustained effort is needed to ensure that all children have access to education and are protected from exploitation.

IX. CONCLUSION

Child labour remains a significant problem in Sivakasi, with an estimated more than 1000 above children engaged in various forms of labour. The majority of these children are from poor families and come from marginalised communities. Many of them are forced to work in hazardous and exploitative conditions, which can cause long-term physical and emotional harm. One of the main drivers of child labour in India is poverty, which forces families to send their children to work in order to survive. The lack of access to education, particularly in rural areas, also contributes to the problem. In addition, weak enforcement of laws and regulations, coupled with widespread corruption, make it difficult to eradicate child labour entirely. The problem of child labor in India is compounded by a range of related issues, including the lack of access to healthcare, poor working conditions, and low wages. These issues often exacerbate the negative impact of child labour on children and their families. To address the problem of child labour in Sivakasi, there needs to be a concerted effort by the government, civil society organisations, and individuals to promote education, improve working conditions, and enforce laws and regulations that protect children's rights. Additionally, consumers can play a role in reducing child labour by supporting products and companies that are committed to ethical labour practices. In conclusion, while India has made some progress in reducing child labour, the problem remains a significant challenge. To ensure that all children in India have the opportunity to grow and develop in a safe and nurturing environment, there needs to be a sustained effort to address the root causes of child labour and implement effective solutions to protect children's rights.

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