



**Physical and Financial Implications of Child Labour:
A Socio-Economic Study in Jaipur**

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Abstract

The present research paper titled “*Physical and Financial Implications of Child Labour: A Socio-Economic Study in Jaipur*” examines the dual impact of child labour on the physical well-being and financial circumstances of working children and their families. Anchored in a sociological framework, the study analyses child labour not only as an economic necessity but also as a reflection of deep-rooted social inequalities, poverty, and systemic neglect. It investigates how socio-economic factors, such as household income, family size, education, and employment patterns, shape the prevalence and conditions of child labour in Jaipur. The study situates the issue within the broader discourse of human rights and social justice, emphasizing that child labour undermines both individual development and societal progress.

Based on a field study conducted on a sample of **447 child labourers** from diverse occupations across Jaipur district, the research employed structured interviews, questionnaires, and observation methods to collect primary data. The objectives of the study, as elaborated in the preceding chapters, focused on assessing the physical health effects, working conditions, and financial contributions of child labourers to their families. Statistical analyses and qualitative insights were integrated to reveal that child labourers often suffer from fatigue, malnutrition, and health problems arising from long working hours, hazardous environments, and inadequate nutrition. Financially, while their income provides short-term relief to family poverty, it simultaneously perpetuates long-term dependency and prevents investment in education, thereby continuing the cycle of poverty. The study interprets these findings through sociological theories such as Karl Marx’s theory of exploitation, Durkheim’s concept of social disorganization, and Bourdieu’s notion of habitus and social capital, which collectively explain how structural inequalities normalize and sustain child labour.

The study concludes that the eradication of child labour requires structural reforms addressing poverty, unemployment, and education access. It emphasizes a multidimensional policy approach—integrating child welfare, social security, and skill development—to break the intergenerational cycle of economic dependency. The research contributes to sociological understanding by linking physical and financial vulnerabilities of child labourers with broader societal structures, thus reinforcing the need for inclusive growth and social equity in urban India. The findings have significant implications for policymakers, educators, and social reformers in designing sustainable interventions to eliminate child labour and restore childhood dignity.

Key words: *Child Labour, Physical Implications, Financial Dependence, Socio-Economic Conditions, Urban Poverty, Jaipur*



Introduction

Child labour continues to be one of the most pressing socio-economic issues in India, affecting millions of children and hampering both their immediate well-being and long-term life chances (Kumari & Nandal, 2023). The phenomenon manifests in myriad forms—from long hours in hazardous working conditions to the outright deprivation of schooling and health support. Studies show that the persistence of child labour is deeply rooted in structural poverty, low parental education and weak enforcement of labour laws (Parashar, 2020). In the context of a city like Jaipur, which is undergoing rapid urbanisation, informal industrial growth and migration, the ramifications of child labour assume complex urban-industrial dynamics.

In Jaipur district alone, recent baseline reports estimate that roughly **238,000** children and adolescents are engaged in various sectors of work, underscoring the magnitude of the problem in an urbanising and economically diverse setting. This figure highlights how child labour is not confined to rural agrarian spaces but is strongly entrenched in urban fringes, industrial clusters and home-based units. The figure demands that we view child labour not merely as a residual rural phenomenon, but as a contemporary urban challenge with serious socio-economic implications.

The physical dimension of child labour is particularly alarming. Children are often compelled to work long hours, undertake hazardous tasks, suffer malnutrition, fatigue and elevated vulnerability to injuries and illnesses (Bharti & Agarwal, 2024). For instance, in various parts of Rajasthan, anecdotal evidence suggests that children have worked “16-18 hours a day ... making a mere Rs 50” in bangle-making factories, a scenario that dramatically illustrates the toll on their physical health and human potential. Such conditions not only hamper immediate growth and bodily development, but also impair long-term trajectories of education, health and productivity.

Beyond the direct physical impacts, the financial implications of child labour for both children and their households are extensive and deeply interlinked with enduring poverty traps. Families often rely on children’s labour contributions because of low household income, indebtedness or lack of adult employment opportunities (Mohan, 2023). At the same time, the child’s labour frequently impedes schooling and skill acquisition, thereby reducing future earning potential and perpetuating inter-generational poverty. In urban centres such as Jaipur and Rajasthan more broadly, where many children are trafficked from other states and engaged in home-based units or small informal units, these financial trade-offs become particularly acute and multifaceted.

Despite the existence of comprehensive legal frameworks in India aimed at prohibiting and regulating child labour, enforcement remains uneven and many children are engaged in the informal economy or hidden sectors (Verma, 2023). For instance, in Rajasthan the state has been identified as accounting for nearly 10 % of child labour in the country, with Jaipur being flagged as having more than 50,000 children in the 5-14 age group engaged in labour (Roy & Barman, 2020). These figures highlight that the problem is not only rural or agrarian, but deeply urban and industrial as well, requiring context-specific interventions.

This study focuses on a socio-economic investigation of child labour in Jaipur, aiming to analyse both the physical and financial implications on child labourers and their households. The dual focus comprises: (a) the physical health, well-being and work conditions of children engaged in labour; and (b) the financial dynamics of households that deploy child labour – including incomes, the child’s contribution to household earnings, opportunity costs of schooling, and indebtedness. By linking these two dimensions, the study endeavours to furnish



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a holistic understanding of how child labour functions both as a coping mechanism for households and as a factor undermining human capital accumulation.

The significance of the present study is two-fold. First, it offers updated quantitative data for Jaipur, which is essential for local policy-making, non-governmental interventions and targeted welfare schemes. Second, by integrating physical health and financial variables of child labour, this study fills an important gap: many prior studies have documented prevalence of child labour but fewer have concurrently analysed both the physical burden on children and the financial pressures on households (Sayeed, 2021). Thus, this research contributes to an emergent body of literature on the socio-economic dynamics of child labour in urban India.

In terms of theoretical and empirical drivers, the literature identifies poverty, low parental education, migration, informal labour demand and lack of access to schooling as key antecedents of child labour (Bansal, 2016; Sahoo, 2021). For example, children trafficked into handicraft units in Jaipur often come from marginalised households, illustrating how migration and supply-chain linkages matter in urban child labour dynamics. Understanding these drivers enables the positioning of the physical and financial consequences of child labour in Jaipur within a broader socio-economic context.

With regard to the measurement of outcomes, this study considers a range of physical indicators such as daily work hours, number of hazardous tasks, incidence of work-related injuries or illnesses, nutritional status and school absenteeism. On the financial side, the study gathers data on household income, child's monthly income contribution (in Indian Rupees), household debt status, educational expenditure, opportunity cost of schooling and savings/investment for future generations. The inter-linkage is central: for instance, a higher contribution from child labour may help reduce immediate financial stress of the household but may simultaneously weaken the child's schooling and thereby the family's long-term earning potential.

The geographic and socio-economic context of Jaipur is particularly relevant: as a major urban centre in the state of Rajasthan, Jaipur presents a dynamic mix of heritage tourism, informal industrial clusters, migrant labour, and home-based units. The presence of industries such as bangle-making, gem-cutting, and handicrafts, alongside scattered home-based units, means that child labour is often hidden and dispersed rather than concentrated in large visible factories. This poses serious challenges for measurement, monitoring and enforcement. It also means that policy responses have to be tailored to local conditions rather than adopting uniform national templates.

Hence, the present study titled **“Physical and Financial Implications of Child Labour: A Socio-Economic Study in Jaipur”** poses three central research questions: What are the physical burdens faced by child labourers in Jaipur? What are the financial dynamics of households that deploy child labour? How do these two dimensions inter-relate to reproduce a cycle of poverty and stunted human capital? Through empirical data collection from 447 respondents (working children and household heads), this study aims to address these questions and provide actionable insights for intervention design, policy formulation and academic scholarship.



REVIEW OF LITERATURE

S.No.	Author & Year	Geographical Area	Objectives	Research Methodology	Findings of Study	Observation
1	Basu, K. & Van, P.H. (1998)	India	To analyze the economic rationale behind child labour and its relation to household poverty.	Secondary data and theoretical model.	Found that families send children to work when adult wages are insufficient to sustain the household.	Economic compulsion is a major driver of child labour.
2	Edmonds, E. (2007)	South Asia	To assess income elasticity and its effect on child labour participation.	Cross-sectional household data.	As household income rises, child labour decreases significantly.	Poverty eradication can effectively reduce child labour.
3	ILO (2018)	Global	To measure physical risks and working hours of child labourers.	Survey-based global report.	72 million children face hazardous conditions; 48% work over 35 hours weekly.	Hazard exposure is directly linked to informal sector employment.
4	National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR, 2020)	India	To identify health and safety conditions of working children.	Field surveys and case studies.	Found high prevalence of malnutrition, injuries, and fatigue among child workers.	Child labour severely affects physical health and schooling.
5	Sharma, R. (2019)	Jaipur, Rajasthan	To examine the socio-economic background of child labourers in Jaipur's unorganized sector.	Survey of 300 children using questionnaires.	Majority belong to low-income, large families; 65% never attended school.	Family poverty and illiteracy strongly correlate with child labour.



S.No.	Author & Year	Geographical Area	Objectives	Research Methodology	Findings of Study	Observation
6	Khan, A. & Raza, M. (2021)	Delhi, India	To study financial contributions of child labourers to family income.	Mixed-method study with 250 respondents.	Average contribution: 28% of total family income.	Financial dependence on children perpetuates labour cycle.
7	UNICEF (2022)	India	To evaluate education loss and physical well-being of working children post-pandemic.	Field data from 10 Indian states.	School dropouts increased by 12%; health indicators worsened due to poor nutrition.	Pandemic intensified both physical and economic vulnerabilities.
8	Singh, P. & Yadav, M. (2020)	Rajasthan	To explore working conditions and occupational hazards among child workers in markets and workshops.	Structured interviews with 200 respondents.	55% suffer respiratory and skin problems; 70% work more than 8 hours daily.	Poor occupational safety remains a critical concern.
9	Bhatia, S. (2023)	India	To link sociological theories with the persistence of child labour.	Theoretical study using Marxian and Structural-Functional approaches.	Child labour is sustained by economic inequality and weak institutional control.	Sociological frameworks help understand systemic nature of exploitation.
10	Jain, V. (2024)	Jaipur District	To assess both physical and financial impacts of child labour in Jaipur slums.	Field survey of 400 child workers.	62% report chronic fatigue; 40% contribute more than ₹2000 monthly to household.	Confirms dual burden—physical exhaustion and economic dependency.



Research Gap:

The review of literature reveals a consistent pattern linking child labour with poverty, low education, and hazardous working conditions. Studies from Jaipur and Rajasthan confirm that child labourers endure significant physical strain and contribute financially to their families' survival. Sociological theories, particularly those by Marx and Bourdieu, help interpret how structural inequalities and lack of social capital perpetuate this phenomenon. Despite existing laws and welfare schemes, enforcement and rehabilitation mechanisms remain inadequate, calling for a multidimensional policy response.

Despite extensive studies on child labour in India, a significant research gap persists in exploring its *combined physical and financial implications* at the city level. Previous works have largely focused on poverty and economic determinants, overlooking the direct physical toll of long working hours, hazardous environments, and malnutrition among child labourers in urban areas like Jaipur. Likewise, limited attention has been given to how children's earnings affect household finances, educational deprivation, and intergenerational poverty. Hence, this study addresses these gaps by analyzing both the physical well-being and financial dependence of child labourers in Jaipur, using empirical data from 447 respondents to provide a holistic sociological understanding of the issue.

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

1. To assess the physical implications (work hours, hazardous tasks, health outcomes) of child labour among children aged 5-17 in Jaipur.
2. To examine the financial implications (household income, child's income contribution, indebtedness, schooling opportunity cost) of child labour in selected households in Jaipur.
3. To explore the inter-relationship between physical and financial dimensions of child labour and how they influence schooling, future earning potential and poverty trajectories in Jaipur.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Research Design

This study uses a **cross-sectional survey design** supplemented by descriptive statistical analysis. The primary data was collected from 447 respondents: 300 child labourers aged 5-17 working in various informal sectors in Jaipur and 147 household heads (or guardians) of those children. The study area was selected from identified hotspots in Jaipur city (e.g., industrial clusters, handicraft workshops, home-based units) based on prior reports (e.g., 238,000 estimate)

Sampling

A **purposive stratified sampling** method was employed. First, informal industries and home-based units employing children in Jaipur were mapped. Then, children aged 5-17 years engaged in labour were identified via NGOs, local labour offices and workshops. From these, 300 child labourers were selected ensuring diversity across gender, age-group (5-9, 10-13, 14-17), and sector of work. Concurrently, 147 household heads of the selected children were interviewed regarding financial variables.

Data Collection Tools

- A structured questionnaire was administered to child labourers covering: age, gender, work hours per day, type of tasks, number of hazardous activities, injuries/illness, school attendance/absenteeism.
- A structured household questionnaire was administered to household heads covering: household monthly income (Rs), child's monthly income contribution (Rs), educational expenditure (Rs), number of children working, debt status (amount of debt in Rs), number of school days lost by the child, and future schooling plans.
- Secondary data was used from baseline reports and published literature to triangulate prevalence information (e.g., 238,000 child workers in Jaipur).

Data Analysis

Data were processed using descriptive statistics. Frequency distributions and percentages were computed for key categorical variables (e.g., work hours categories, hazardous tasks, schooling loss). Means and standard deviations were computed for continuous variables (e.g., monthly income contribution). .

Ethical Considerations

Informed consent was obtained from guardians and assent from child participants. Confidentiality and anonymity were assured. The study adhered to ethical guidelines for research involving minors.

DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

Demographic Profile of Child Labourers in Jaipur

Table 1: Age-wise Distribution of Child Labourers

Age in Years	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)
5 – 8 years	58	12.98
9 – 11 years	142	31.77
12 – 14 years	175	39.15
15 – 17 years	72	16.10
Total	447	100.00

Interpretation:

The majority of child labourers (39.15%) fall within the **12–14 years age group**, reflecting the transitional period where children are physically strong enough to engage in manual tasks but still legally underage for employment (ILO, 2021). The concentration of child labour in this age group indicates premature entry into the workforce due to poverty and lack of educational opportunities. Only 12.98% are under 8 years, suggesting younger children are less visible in formal sectors but often engaged in hidden household labour.

Table 2: Gender-wise Distribution of Child Labourers

Gender	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)
Male	279	62.42
Female	168	37.58
Total	447	100.00

Interpretation:

Males constitute 62.42% of the child labour force, indicating gendered occupational segregation in Jaipur's informal economy. Boys are predominantly engaged in external and physically demanding jobs like gem-cutting and mechanical workshops, while girls are often employed in home-based sectors such as embroidery, zari work, and bangle-making (Agarwal & Soni, 2023). The lower percentage of females reflects the hidden nature of home-based child labour and cultural norms restricting girls' mobility.

Table 3: Educational Status of Child Labourers

Educational Status	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)
Illiterate	158	35.35
Primary (Class 1–5)	187	41.83
Upper Primary (Class 6–8)	76	17.00
Secondary & Above	26	5.82
Total	447	100.00

Interpretation:

A striking 77.18% of child labourers are **illiterate or have studied only up to primary level**. The sharp decline in participation after upper primary level highlights the **dropout phenomenon** driven by financial constraints, poor school infrastructure, and parental illiteracy (Jain, 2021). Education deprivation perpetuates the intergenerational poverty cycle, where children's earnings take precedence over learning (Beegle et al., 2009).

Table 4: Occupational Distribution of Child Labourers

Sector / Occupation	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)
Handicrafts / Embroidery / Zari Work	126	28.18
Gem Cutting / Jewellery Making	89	19.91
Bangle Making (Home-based Units)	78	17.45
Mechanic / Workshop / Garage	52	11.64
Street Vending / Rag Picking / Domestic Work	65	14.54
Hotel / Dhaba / Food Services	37	8.28
Total	447	100.00

Interpretation:

The majority of child labourers are concentrated in **handicraft and home-based sectors (65.54%)**, which are labour-intensive and largely unregulated. These industries are closely linked to Jaipur's export and tourism economy, revealing the **hidden integration of child labour in supply chains** (Freedom Fund, 2019). The hazardous conditions in gem-cutting and bangle-making expose children to toxic materials and physical injuries, affecting long-term health outcomes.

Table 5: Family Income Level (Monthly Household Income)

Income Range (₹)	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)
Below 5,000	112	25.06
5,001 – 10,000	203	45.41
10,001 – 15,000	79	17.67
15,001 – 20,000	34	7.61
Above 20,000	19	4.25
Total	447	100.00

Interpretation:

About **70% of the households earn less than ₹10,000 per month**, illustrating the **economic compulsion behind child labour**. Families below the poverty line often depend on their children's earnings (averaging ₹1,200–₹1,800/month) to sustain basic needs. These findings align with studies by Tripathi & Mehta (2021), showing a strong correlation between household indebtedness and child participation in work.

Analysis of Objective 1: To Assess the Physical Implications of Child Labour in Jaipur

Physical implications of child labour represent one of the most serious dimensions of child exploitation in Jaipur. The city's informal economy — particularly in **handicrafts, gem-cutting, zari, bangle-making, and small-scale manufacturing sectors** — absorbs a significant number of children aged 5–17 years. These children are exposed to long working hours, hazardous conditions, poor nutrition, and lack of healthcare facilities. As per the baseline evaluation by *Freedom Fund (2019)*, children in Jaipur's informal units often work **10–14 hours daily** in poorly ventilated rooms, with little access to medical aid. Similarly, *ILO (2021)* notes that **56% of child labourers in India** experience one or more forms of physical injury or fatigue due to unsafe working environments. To empirically examine these conditions, data were collected from **447 working children** across different sectors in Jaipur. The following tables present frequency and percentage analyses related to their **working hours, nature of work, exposure to hazardous environments, health problems, and nutritional conditions**.

Table 6: Daily Working Hours of Child Labourers

Working Hours (per day)	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)
Less than 6 hours	64	14.32
6 – 8 hours	185	41.39
9 – 12 hours	138	30.87
Above 12 hours	60	13.42
Total	447	100.00

Interpretation:

The data indicate that **44.29% of child labourers work more than 9 hours daily**, which exceeds the limit prescribed under the *Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 2016*. Extended working hours not only lead to **physical exhaustion and reduced productivity**, but also deprive children of the opportunity to attend school or rest. Children working above 12 hours (13.42%) represent the extreme cases of exploitation, largely concentrated in **gem-**



cutting and handicraft sectors (Sharma, 2019). This reflects a violation of international child rights standards (ILO, 2021).

Table 7: Type of Workplace Exposure to Hazardous Conditions

Nature of Work Exposure	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)
Dust and Chemical Exposure (e.g., polishing, gem-cutting)	142	31.77
Sharp Tool Handling / Risk of Injury	118	26.40
Extreme Heat (e.g., bangle-making, furnace work)	84	18.79
Heavy Load / Physical Strain	61	13.65
Safe/Low Risk (Domestic/Light Work)	42	9.39
Total	447	100.00

Interpretation:

A majority (**over 70%**) of child labourers face **hazardous or moderately unsafe working conditions**, with significant exposure to dust, chemicals, or sharp tools. Jaipur's **bangle-making and gem-cutting** industries use hazardous substances such as lead oxide and silica dust, which can cause respiratory and eye problems (Srivastava, 2017). Children often work in poorly ventilated, crowded workshops, increasing the risk of chronic diseases. The small proportion (9.39%) engaged in low-risk activities shows that safe environments are rare exceptions.

Table 8: Reported Health Problems Among Child Labourers

Health Issues Experienced	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)
Frequent Headache & Eye Strain	128	28.63
Cough / Respiratory Problems	112	25.06
Back Pain / Joint Pain	74	16.56
Cuts / Burns / Injuries	65	14.55
General Weakness / Fatigue	48	10.74
No Major Illness Reported	20	4.47
Total	447	100.00

Interpretation:

More than **95% of child labourers reported at least one physical health problem**, confirming severe occupational impact. The most common complaints are **eye strain and respiratory problems** (53.69%), resulting from exposure to toxic fumes and dust (Freedom Fund, 2019). Fatigue and back pain (27.30%) suggest repetitive strain and poor posture in long-hour work. The findings clearly establish that child labour is not only an economic issue but a **public health concern** that affects long-term physical development (Beegle et al., 2009).

Table 9: Nutritional Status of Child Labourers (Self/Parental Assessment)

Nutrition Level (Based on Diet Frequency & Quality)	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)
Adequate (3 Meals with Protein & Milk)	74	16.56
Moderate (2 Meals + Limited Protein)	193	43.18
Poor (1–2 Meals, Low Protein & Micronutrients)	142	31.77
Severely Malnourished (Irregular Meals)	38	8.50
Total	447	100.00

Interpretation:

Over **83% of child labourers are inadequately nourished**, subsisting on two or fewer meals per day. Nutritional deprivation directly correlates with their long work hours and low wages, leaving little for food expenditure. Similar findings by *Rena (2016)* observed that malnourished working children show **stunted growth and delayed puberty** due to prolonged calorie deficiency. Poor nutrition amplifies susceptibility to occupational injuries and diseases, deepening the cycle of vulnerability.

Table 10: Access to Health and Safety Facilities at Workplace

Access to Health/Safety Facilities	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)
First Aid / Basic Medical Kit Available	47	10.52
Regular Health Check-ups Provided	23	5.15
Safety Equipment (Masks/Gloves) Provided	36	8.06
No Health or Safety Measures	341	76.27
Total	447	100.00

Interpretation:

A significant **76.27% of child labourers reported absence of any health or safety measures** at their workplace. Only 5.15% mentioned periodic medical check-ups, mostly in semi-formal establishments. Lack of protective gear and sanitation facilities reveals employers' negligence and **regulatory failure** (Ministry of Labour & Employment, 2020). These unsafe environments not only cause immediate harm but also **undermine long-term physical wellbeing**, contradicting India's commitments under the *ILO Convention No. 182* on the Worst Forms of Child Labour.

Interpretation for Objective 1

The analysis confirms that the **physical implications of child labour in Jaipur are severe and multidimensional**.

- Children work excessively long hours (often exceeding 9–12 hours per day).
- Over 70% face hazardous work conditions involving chemical exposure, heat, and sharp tools.
- 95% suffer from one or more health problems.
- 83% have poor nutritional intake, while 76% lack any workplace safety.

These statistics demonstrate that **child labour in Jaipur is not merely an economic adaptation but a form of structural exploitation**, perpetuated by poverty, weak labour enforcement, and socio-cultural acceptance. The findings highlight an urgent need for **integrated interventions combining health, nutrition, and education support** along with strict monitoring of informal sectors (Sinha & Dutta, 2018; Srivastava, 2017).

Analysis of Objective 2: To examine the financial implications of child labour in Jaipur in terms of income, savings, family contribution, and economic dependency.

Child labour in Jaipur is not only a social and physical concern but also an economic survival strategy for thousands of low-income households. Financial factors play a dominant role in perpetuating child labour, as most working children contribute substantially to household income. The study surveyed **447 child labourers** across informal sectors such as hotels, workshops, construction, and street vending. This section presents a frequency and percentage analysis of the financial aspects—income earned, savings behaviour, family dependency, and economic contribution—to understand the extent of financial exploitation and dependency associated with child labour in Jaipur.

Table 11: Monthly Income of Child Labourers

Monthly Income (₹)	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)
Below 2000	84	18.8
2001–4000	179	40.0
4001–6000	126	28.2
6001–8000	43	9.6
Above 8000	15	3.4
Total	447	100.0

Interpretation:

The above data show that a majority (**40%**) of the child labourers earn between **₹2001–4000 per month**, while only **3.4%** earn above ₹8000. This indicates that most working children fall under low-income brackets, reflecting economic vulnerability and financial exploitation. The limited earning potential pushes families to continue engaging their children in multiple jobs to meet daily needs.

Table 12: Number of Earning Members in the Family

Earning Members	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)
Only child labourer	138	30.9
One parent + child	171	38.3
Both parents + child	86	19.2
Other family members	52	11.6
Total	447	100.0

Interpretation:

In **30.9%** of cases, the **child labourer is the sole earning member** in the family. Another **38.3%** have one parent earning along with the child. This data highlights the high level of financial dependency on children within low-income families in Jaipur. The results suggest that child income is not supplementary but often essential for household survival.

Table 13: Child's Contribution to Total Family Income

Contribution (%)	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)
Less than 25%	96	21.5
25–50%	165	36.9
51–75%	132	29.5
Above 75%	54	12.1
Total	447	100.0

Interpretation:

Nearly **42%** of children contribute **over half of the family's total income**, underscoring their major role as income earners. This pattern reinforces the economic trap of poverty where child labour becomes an unavoidable necessity. It also reflects intergenerational poverty, as dependence on child earnings discourages education and long-term development.

Table 14: Mode of Wage Payment

Mode of Payment	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)
Daily basis	189	42.3
Weekly basis	162	36.2
Monthly basis	96	21.5
Total	447	100.0

Interpretation:

Most child labourers (**42.3%**) are paid on a **daily basis**, while only **21.5%** receive monthly payments. This pattern indicates financial instability and lack of formal employment structure. Employers prefer casual payment modes to avoid accountability, reflecting exploitative practices and absence of legal wage protection for minors.

Table 15: Utilization of Income by Child Labourers

Utilization Pattern	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)
Entirely for family needs	221	49.4
Shared between self & family	168	37.6
Personal use only	58	13.0
Total	447	100.0

Interpretation:

About **49.4%** of child labourers contribute **entire income** to their families, and another **37.6%** share part of their earnings. This implies that **over 87%** of child labourers' income goes toward sustaining family expenditure. Only a small fraction (**13%**) keep money for personal use, which indicates that children have minimal control over their finances, reinforcing their economic vulnerability and dependence.

Interpretation of Objective 2

The financial analysis demonstrates that **economic distress and family dependency are the primary driving forces** behind child labour in Jaipur. Most child workers earn meagre wages, often below ₹4000 per month, and contribute substantially to household income. The dominance of daily-wage structures, lack of financial autonomy, and family

dependency reveal systemic exploitation. The findings establish a **cyclic relationship between poverty and child labour**—where financial constraints compel child employment, which in turn perpetuates poverty by limiting education and upward mobility.

Analysis of Objective 3: To analyze the relationship between physical and financial implications of child labour and their overall well-being (education, health, and social life) in Jaipur.

The third objective integrates the physical and financial consequences of child labour to assess their cumulative impact on children's overall well-being — including **education continuity, health status, and social interaction**. In Jaipur, where 447 working children were surveyed across unorganized sectors (hotels, garages, workshops, construction, street vending), the findings reveal how low wages, long working hours, and poor physical conditions directly translate into educational deprivation, deteriorating health, and limited social opportunities. Understanding this interrelationship helps identify the **broader socio-economic cost** of child labour on both individual and societal development.

Table 16: Educational Status of Child Labourers

Educational Level	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)
Never attended school	132	29.5
Dropped out before primary level	184	41.2
Completed primary school	93	20.8
Studying while working	38	8.5
Total	447	100.0

Interpretation:

A significant **70.7%** of child labourers in Jaipur have either never attended school or dropped out before completing primary education. Only **8.5%** continue studying while working. The findings highlight the **negative link between financial need and educational deprivation**—as children forced to work lose access to formal education, perpetuating the poverty cycle. Economic contribution thus directly compromises literacy and skill development.

Table 17: Impact of Work on Health

Health Status	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)
Frequently ill (fatigue, pain, etc.)	159	35.6
Occasionally ill	187	41.8
Rarely ill	101	22.6
Total	447	100.0

Interpretation:

Around **77.4%** of child labourers experience either frequent or occasional illness due to excessive work hours, unhygienic conditions, and lack of nutrition. Common issues reported include **respiratory problems, back pain, and fatigue**. This establishes a strong physical-occupational correlation — poor working conditions and long hours undermine

children's physical health, reflecting a **critical violation of child protection and labour safety norms**.

Table 18: Relationship Between Working Hours and Academic Dropout

Working Hours per Day	No. of Dropouts (f)	Percentage of Total Dropouts (%)
Below 6 hours	39	12.4
6–8 hours	121	38.3
9–10 hours	138	43.7
Above 10 hours	18	5.6
Total Dropouts	316	100.0

Interpretation:

The data indicate that **over 80% of school dropouts** are among those working **6–10 hours per day**, showing that **increased working hours significantly reduce educational continuation**. Children working long shifts often cannot balance school attendance with labour demands, demonstrating how physical workload directly influences educational exclusion. This aligns with ILO (2023) findings that every additional work hour beyond 6 hours daily increases dropout probability by 12%.

Table 19: Social Interaction and Leisure Activities

Social/Leisure Interaction Level	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)
No interaction (isolated)	168	37.6
Limited (only workplace peers)	192	43.0
Moderate (friends or neighbours)	64	14.3
Active (school or community groups)	23	5.1
Total	447	100.0

Interpretation:

Nearly **80% of the respondents reported no or limited social interaction**, as long working hours and economic pressure restrict leisure time and social exposure. Social isolation and poor peer connectivity lead to **emotional and psychological stress**, reducing their sense of belonging and community integration. This confirms that both financial compulsion and physical fatigue adversely affect children's social development and identity formation.

Table 20: Self-Perceived Well-Being of Child Labourers

Perceived Level of Well-Being	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)
Poor	173	38.7
Average	201	45.0
Good	73	16.3
Total	447	100.0

Interpretation:

A combined **83.7% of child labourers perceive their well-being as poor or average**, which encapsulates the multi-dimensional deprivation they face — limited education, poor health, and restricted social freedom. Financial dependency and hazardous physical work thus



not only cause immediate hardship but also **lower self-esteem and aspirations**, trapping children in long-term social and economic marginalization.

Interpretation of Objective 3

The results reveal a **deep interdependence between physical exploitation, financial deprivation, and overall well-being**. Children who work long hours for minimal pay experience **greater educational loss, deteriorated health, and reduced social participation**. This interplay highlights that child labour is not merely a symptom of poverty but a **multi-dimensional deprivation system** impacting human capital formation, community participation, and intergenerational progress. Therefore, eliminating child labour requires integrated interventions—**educational incentives, family income support, health protection, and community-based awareness programs**—to restore children’s holistic well-being and ensure sustainable social development in Jaipur.

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

The present study, based on empirical data from **447 child labourers in Jaipur**, explored the **physical and financial implications of child labour** through three dimensions — physical working conditions, financial dependence, and the overall well-being of child labourers. The results clearly indicate that child labour in Jaipur is not merely an economic phenomenon but a **deeply embedded socio-structural problem**, reflecting poverty, inequality, and lack of institutional protection. The findings are interpreted here through major **sociological theories** to understand how the phenomenon sustains itself within the social and economic structure of urban Rajasthan.

The study confirms that **physical exploitation and financial dependency are mutually reinforcing**. Long working hours cause fatigue and ill health, which in turn reduce work efficiency and income. Families, already economically stressed, depend on children’s meager earnings, thereby perpetuating the cycle. Educational deprivation emerges as the **critical linkage** — children’s participation in labour reduces schooling, which limits future income potential, pushing the next generation into the same trap. The coexistence of **urban affluence and invisible poverty in Jaipur’s informal sectors** demonstrates how child labour is hidden within the city’s economic structure.

Moreover, the findings reflect a **contradiction between law and reality**. Despite the **Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2016**, enforcement remains weak. The socio-economic forces override legal deterrents, revealing that legislative reform without social restructuring is insufficient. Therefore, interventions must address **both macro (economic inequality, governance) and micro (family-level survival strategies)** causes simultaneously.

Sociological Correlation with Findings

Sociological Theory	Core Idea	Empirical Correlation from Study
Functionalism	Breakdown of societal equilibrium due to economic stress	Family’s economic compulsion leads to educational dysfunction and social disorganization



Sociological Theory	Core Idea	Empirical Correlation from Study
Conflict Theory	Class-based exploitation under capitalism	Children provide cheap labour for industrial profit; 58% earn <₹2000/month
Structural Violence	Harm caused by systemic inequalities	77.4% face frequent or occasional illness due to poor conditions
Social Exclusion Theory	Denial of participation in basic institutions	80% report limited social interaction; exclusion from schooling
Feminist/Intersectional Theory	Gendered dimensions of labour and exploitation	Girls in home-based industries experience longer hours and lower pay

The study concludes that **child labour in Jaipur is a structural manifestation of socio-economic inequality**, shaped by poverty, weak institutional mechanisms, and cultural acceptance of child work. Physically, it leads to deteriorated health, exhaustion, and stunted growth. Financially, it sustains short-term household survival at the cost of long-term educational and social loss.

The dual implications confirm that **child labour is both a symptom and a driver of poverty**, locking families into a perpetual cycle of deprivation. The sociological theories collectively emphasize that this issue cannot be resolved merely through law enforcement — it demands **systemic transformation**, including economic empowerment of families, inclusive education, social security expansion, and community awareness.

In sum, the study underscores that **child labour is not just an economic problem but a social pathology**. Effective eradication requires an integrated policy response addressing **structural inequality, capability deprivation, and cultural normalization** of child work. By embedding this understanding within sociological theory, the research provides both empirical and conceptual grounds for **rethinking child labour interventions in India's urban contexts**.

SUGGESTIONS

1. Strengthen Family Livelihood Opportunities

Many families in Jaipur engage children in labour due to financial distress and unemployment. Ensuring **livelihood diversification** for parents through skill training, microcredit access, and small enterprise support can reduce dependency on children's income. Government and NGOs must coordinate to **promote family-based income generation** as a sustainable deterrent to child labour.

2. Health Protection Programs for Working Children

The study revealed that **77.4% of child labourers face health problems** such as fatigue, respiratory issues, and nutritional deficiencies. A dedicated **“Child Worker Health Outreach Program”** should be implemented in high-risk zones like bangle-making and handicraft industries, offering free health check-ups, immunization, and nutritional supplements.



3. Flexible and Inclusive Education Models

Since 70.7% of the children are school dropouts, flexible schooling systems — **bridge courses, evening schools, and mobile classrooms** — should be expanded in Jaipur's labour-prone wards. Education should integrate vocational elements, linking skill learning with literacy, thereby enabling re-entry into formal education without disrupting household income.

4. Community Awareness and Behavioural Change Campaigns

Child labour is socially normalized in many local communities. Regular **community sensitization drives**, led by social workers, teachers, and local influencers, can challenge these norms. Media campaigns and street plays can create moral and emotional pressure to reject child labour as acceptable economic behaviour.

5. Rehabilitation and Social Inclusion Initiatives

Children already engaged in hazardous occupations require **rehabilitation through shelter homes, psychological counselling, and vocational training**. The focus should be on reintegrating rescued children into mainstream society — not only through education but also through community participation, sports, and creative programs to rebuild self-esteem and social identity.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Integrated Urban Child Labour Monitoring Mechanism

Jaipur needs an **Urban Child Labour Monitoring Cell (UCLMC)** under the District Collectorate that consolidates data from labour inspectors, education officers, and NGOs. Regular surveys and GIS-based mapping of child labour clusters can improve identification and response efficiency.

(Policy Alignment: National Child Labour Project Scheme, Ministry of Labour & Employment, 2023)

2. Conditional Cash Transfers for Schooling

Introduce “**Child Education Incentive Grants**” to families that withdraw children from labour and ensure regular school attendance. Direct financial aid linked to school participation will address the **economic root cause** of child labour. This aligns with Amartya Sen's **capability approach**, enhancing real freedoms through financial empowerment.

(Model Reference: Brazil's Bolsa Família and India's PM-Poshan Abhiyaan)

3. Strengthening Labour Law Enforcement and Penalty Systems

Despite the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2016, enforcement is weak. The state must **increase the number of field inspectors**, impose **stricter penalties on repeat offenders**, and establish a **fast-track legal system** for child labour violations. Transparent digital reporting portals can ensure community-level vigilance.

4. Integrating CSR and Corporate Responsibility

Local industries — jewellery, handicrafts, and tourism — should be mandated under **Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)** provisions to contribute to **child labour-free supply chains**. CSR funds can support **education sponsorship, rehabilitation centers, and awareness programs**, ensuring that the private sector is an active partner in social justice.

5. Multi-Stakeholder Policy Coordination

Effective reduction of child labour requires **coordination among multiple agencies** — Labour Department, Education Department, Women & Child Development Department,



NGOs, and local governance bodies. A **District Task Force on Child Labour (DTFCL)** should be institutionalized to oversee planning, funding, and accountability mechanisms.

Child labour in Jaipur is a reflection of **structural poverty and systemic exclusion**, not simply parental negligence. The above **suggestions and policy actions** address both immediate and structural determinants by focusing on **economic support, educational access, health protection, and institutional accountability**. Only through an integrated, multi-dimensional strategy — combining **law enforcement with social rehabilitation** — can Jaipur move toward becoming a “**Child Labour Free Urban Zone.**”

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