



SPATIAL DISTRIBUTION AND OCCUPATIONAL STRUCTURE OF CHILD LABOUR IN NCR DISTRICTS OF HARYANA: A GEOGRAPHICAL AND SOCIOECONOMIC ANALYSIS

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Abstract

Child labour remains a significant issue in many regions of India, particularly in Haryana, where its geographical distribution and occupational structure exhibit considerable variation across rural and urban areas. This study aims to explore the spatial distribution of child labour in Haryana's NCR districts, focusing on the prevalence of child labour, gender disparities, and its classification into main and marginal workers. The research identifies key factors that influence the rates of child labour, including urbanization, industrialization, and agricultural practices. The findings suggest that districts with strong agricultural foundations, such as Jind, Bhiwani, and Charkhi Dadri, have a higher prevalence of child labour, particularly in primary sector activities. In contrast, urbanized districts like Gurugram and Faridabad exhibit lower levels of child labour, with a higher concentration in tertiary activities. Additionally, the study highlights gender-based disparities, with female child labour primarily concentrated in rural areas, particularly in the primary sector, while male child labour is more evenly distributed across primary, secondary, and tertiary sectors. The analysis also distinguishes between main and marginal workers, revealing that a significant portion of child labour in Haryana consists of marginal workers engaged in informal and seasonal work. Despite existing legislation against child labour, the persistence of this issue underscores the need for stronger enforcement and greater economic opportunities for families. Education, urbanization, and industrialization are identified as crucial factors for reducing child labour in the region.

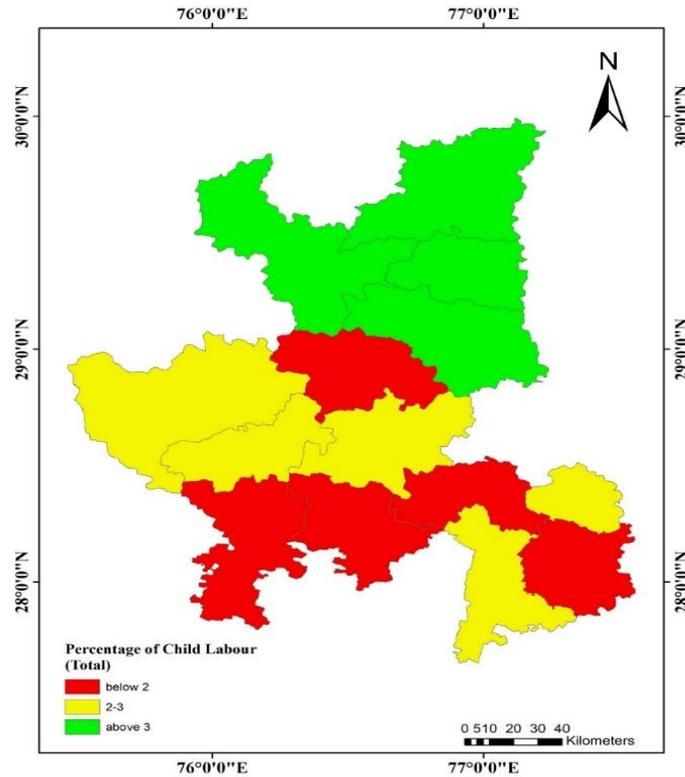
Keywords: Child labour, Haryana, Spatial distribution, Rural and urban areas, Main and marginal workers, Gender disparities, Occupational structure

1. Introduction

In order to comprehend and confront this prevalent worldwide problem, it is essential to have a comprehensive knowledge of the geographical distribution of child labour. According to the Census of India “child labour as participation of a child less than 17 years of age in any economically could be physically and mental or both” (Gupta, 2018). Child labour as work that is hazardous to a children health and development, demands too many hours or is performed by children who work are too young (ILO, 2020). The present chapter deals with spatial distribution of child labour and also explain the occupational structure of child labour in Haryana. It explores the prevalence of child labour in rural and urban area as well as gender comparison (International Labour Organization [ILO], 2010). It is also explaining the main and marginal child labour. According to the Census, the workers has been classified into two categories that is main and marginal workers. The term” main workers” are those who work six months or more per year and marginal workers are those who work at any time during the year but less than six months in a year (Census of India, 2001). Occupational structure of child labour is categorized into three categories that is primary, secondary and territory activities. This chapter attempts to highlight the child labour engaged in various forms of work, whether paid or unpaid (International Labour Organization [ILO], 2020). Despite having legislation against child labour particularly in hazardous industries, children are continued to be engaged in signification number in hazardous and non-hazardous sectors.

2. Spatial Distribution of Total Child Labour in NCR Districts of Haryana

Map 1 shows the total percentage of child labour in Haryana according to their NCR regions. At the state level the percentage of child labour has been classified into four categories these are high category, moderate category, low category and very low category. Table 1 display that the average percentage of total child labour in Haryana that is 2.38 percent (Sharma & Kumar, 2017). In case of total child labour, Karnal, Panipat, Sonipat and Jind districts are lies in high category. The reason behind these phenomena is urban growth, maintain strong agricultural roots.



Map 1: Spatial Distribution of Total Child Labour in Haryana Based on Percentage

Child labour here might be more evenly split between urban services rural agricultural activities, with specific localities highlighting the contrast in child labour engagement (Gupta, 2018). In the moderate category six districts are belongs to this category that is Bhiwani, Charkhi dadri, Jhajjar, Rewari, Nuh and Faridabad district. The main causes are rapid industrialization and urban expansion, hosting a mix of formal and informal sectors that attract child labour. these areas may see higher instances of child labour in industrial zones and urban peripheries where informal economics flourish (Sharma and Kumar, 2017). Rohtak, Mahendragraha and Palwal districts are lies in low category of child labour followed by only one district that is Gurugram lie in very low category. Reason behind is that, during last 20 years, the urbanization and industrialization of this district is very high same as education of this reason is also high so the concentration of child labour is low as compared to other districts (Census of India, 2001).

3. Spatial Distribution of Rural Child Labour in NCR Districts of Haryana

In rural area, where school drop-out rates can be high and work hazards severe, child labour interferes with accumulation of human capital as it substitutes to schooling and damages children minds and bodies. In the longer term, stunted lead to low productivity and income of rural populations (ILO, 2010). Table 1 shows that the highest concentration of rural child labour lies in Jind district with the percentage of 3.04 and the second highest percentage of rural child labour belongs to Jhajjar district, followed by the lowest percentage of rural child labour in Gurugram district with the percentage of 0.70 (Kumar, 2008). The female child labour has been classified into four categories that is high, moderate, low and very low category (Singh & Ghosh, 2015).

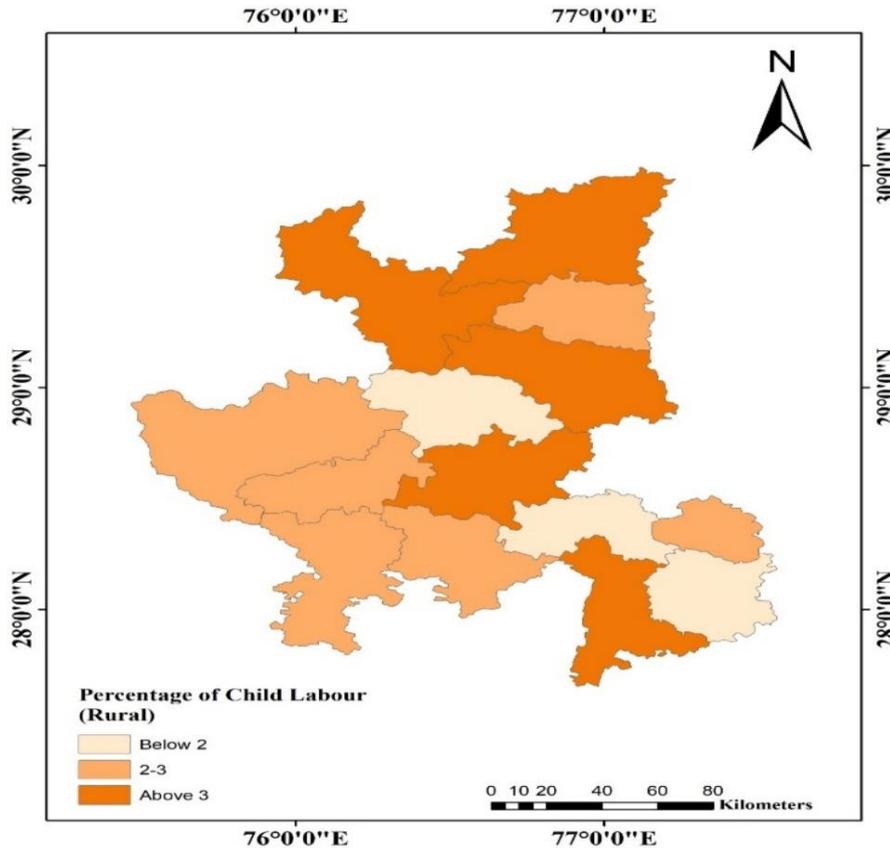
Table 1: Distribution of child labour in Haryana, 2022 (Data in percent)

Districts	Total	Male	Female	Rural	Urban
Karnal	2.76	3.13	2.3	2.51	3.42
Panipat	2.66	3.03	2.19	2.13	3.31
Sonapat	2.68	2.83	2.46	2.69	2.66
Jind	3.28	3.44	3.09	3.04	2.02
Bhiwani	2.21	2.30	2.10	2.28	1.90
Charkhi dadri	2.21	2.30	2.10	2.28	1.90
Rohtak	1.32	1.54	1.05	1.46	1.12

Jhajjar	2.31	2.59	2.06	2.53	1.66
Mahandragard	1.72	1.70	1.74	1.82	1.10
Rewari	1.80	1.79	1.81	2.00	1.22
Gurugram	0.91	0.69	1.75	0.70	1.00
Nuh	2.36	1.72	4.57	2.47	1.46
Faridabad	2.30	1.64	5.36	1.94	2.38
Palwal	1.61	0.77	3.10	1.60	1.61
Haryana	2.38	2.60	2.11	2.29	2.56

3.1 Spatial Distribution of the ratio of main and marginal child labour in NCR Districts of Haryana: -

Map 2 illustrates that the total main and marginal child labour in Haryana according to their NCR districts. The prevalence of total main and marginal child labour shows that the average percentage of Haryana main and marginal child labour is 43.41 percent and 56.59 percent respectively (United Nations Children’s Fund [UNICEF], 2019). The Table 2 shows that the highest concentration of total main child labour that is more than 60 percent belongs to 3 districts of the state namely, Karnal district from the northern part of the state, Rohtak district from the central part of the state and Gurugram district is located in southern part of the state (Sharma & Gupta, 2021). The lowest concentration of total main child labour lies in Mahandragrah district is located in southern part of the state and the percentage is 26.41 percent (Zolberg, 2013). Remaining districts are belonging to moderate concentration of total main child labour and the percentage less than 50 percent and more than 30 percent. In case of total marginal child labour, the highest concentration of total marginal child labour lies in southern, western part of the state and the districts are Palwal, Faridabad, Nuh, Mahandragrah, Jhajjar, Rewari, Bhiwani, Charkhi Dadri and Jind (Rao & Bhat, 2007). The percentage of total marginal child labour in these districts are more than 60 percent. the lowest concentration of total marginal child labour is found in northern part of the state (Kumar, 2020).



Map 2: Spatial Distribution of Rural Child Labour in Haryana Based on Percentage

3.2 Spatial Distribution of the ratio of male main and marginal child labour in NCR Districts of Haryana

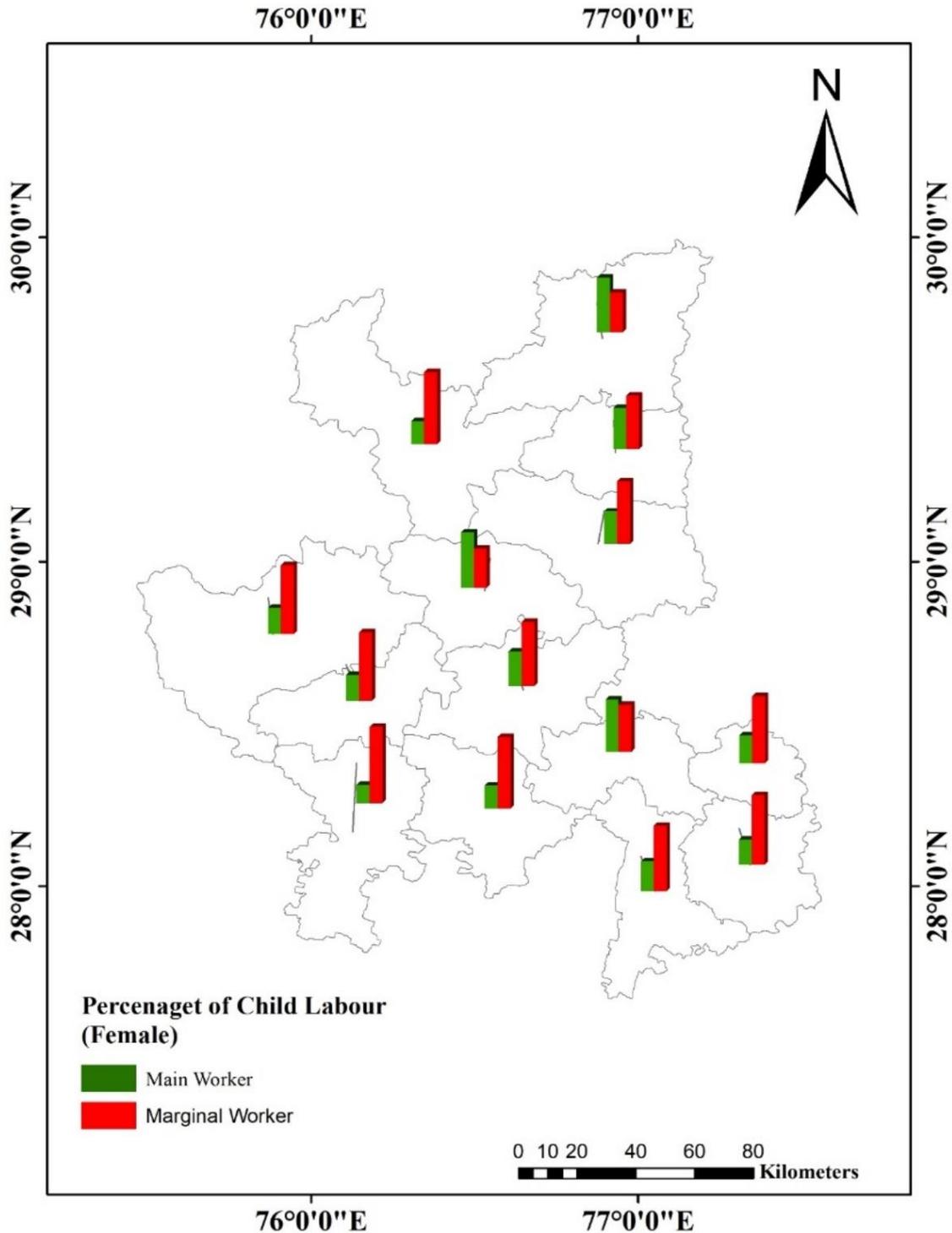
It shows that the male main and marginal child labour in Haryana and the average percentage of male child labour in 48.32 percent and the average percentage of male marginal child labour is 51.62 percent. In case of male main child labour, the highest proportion is lies in Karnal, Rohtak and Gurugram district of the state (Lee, 2017). The moderate proportion of male main child labour belonging to Panipat, Sonipat, Jhajjar, Nuh, and Palwal districts of the state. the lowest proportion of male main child labour lies in Jind, Bhiwani, Charkhi Dadri, Mahandragrah, Rewari and Faridabad districts of the state (Verma & Joshi, 2016). In geographical representation of male main child labour shows that the highest proportion is found in northern part of the state and lowest proportion of male main child labour is found in southern part of the state (Balakrishnan & Narayan, 2015). It also reveals the male marginal child labour, the highest proportion of male marginal child labour belongs central, western and southern part of the state. Except Gurugram and Rohtak districts of the state, Gurugram and Rohtak districts included in lowest proportion of male marginal child labour. Also, the lowest proportion of male marginal child labour lies in northern part of the state (United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific [ESCAP], 2020).

Table 2: Distribution of main and marginal child labour in Haryana according to NCR districts (Data in Percent)

Districts	Main child labour					Marginal child labour				
	Total	Male	Female	Rural	Urban	Total	Male	Female	Rural	Urban
Karnal	62.35	64.93	57.99	61.83	63.36	37.65	35.07	42.01	38.17	36.64
Panipat	50.54	54.67	43.53	45.07	54.91	49.46	45.33	56.47	54.93	45.09
Sonipat	40.76	45.25	34.16	41.25	39.6	59.24	54.75	65.84	58.75	60.4
Jind	30.41	35.03	24.19	29.53	36.17	69.59	64.97	75.81	70.47	63.89
Bhiwani	34.2	39.16	27.62	32.07	45.36	65.8	60.84	72.38	67.93	54.64
Charkhi dadri	34.2	39.16	27.62	32.07	45.36	65.8	60.84	72.38	67.93	54.64
Rohtak	63.14	65.63	58.64	59.37	70.54	36.86	34.37	41.36	40.63	29.46
Jhajjar	40.08	42.44	36.43	36.81	54.79	59.92	57.56	67.58	63.19	45.21
Mahandragard	26.41	32.13	19.43	23.82	52.65	73.59	67.87	80.57	76.18	47.35
Rewari	31.68	37.52	24.4	25.12	62.38	68.32	62.48	75.6	74.88	37.62
Gurugram	31	64.65	55.36	47.75	64.79	39	35.35	49.64	52.25	35.21
Nuh	38.82	44.71	31.19	38.17	47.82	61.81	55.29	68.81	61.83	52.82
Faridabad	35.28	39.41	29.38	47.01	33.12	64.72	60.59	70.62	52.99	66.88
Palwal	33.01	57.59	26.74	33.35	31.89	66.99	42.41	73.26	66.65	68.11
Haryana	43.41	48.32	36.03	40.62	48.65	56.59	51.62	63.97	59.38	51.35

3.3 Spatial Distribution of the ratio of rural main and marginal child labour in NCR Districts of Haryana

Map 3 shows the distribution of rural main and marginal child labour in Haryana according to their NCR districts. The average percentage rural main and marginal child labour in Haryana is 40.62 percent and 59.38 percent respectively. The average difference of rural main and marginal child labour has been round 19 percent. In case of rural main child labour, the highest proportion lies in Karnal, Panipat, Sonipat, Rohtak, Gurugram and Faridabad districts (Ghosh & Kapoor, 2014). Reasons behind this phenomenon is that they well connected to National Highway 1, so the transportation of this region is good, and the industrialization of this region is also good which offer may options of low and unskilled jobs to the children of poor families. The lowest proportion of rural main child labour is belonging to Jind, Bhiwani, Charkhi Dadri, Jhajjar, Mahandragrah, Rewari, Nuh and Palwal districts. The map also reveals that the rural marginal child labour higher in western and southern part of the state and lowest proportion is found in northern part of the state. If we concluded the map, the rural main child labour is higher in northern part of the state and the rural child labour is found in western part of the state (Bhatia, 2019).



Map 3: Spatial Distribution of Female Child Labour in Haryana: Main vs Marginal Workers

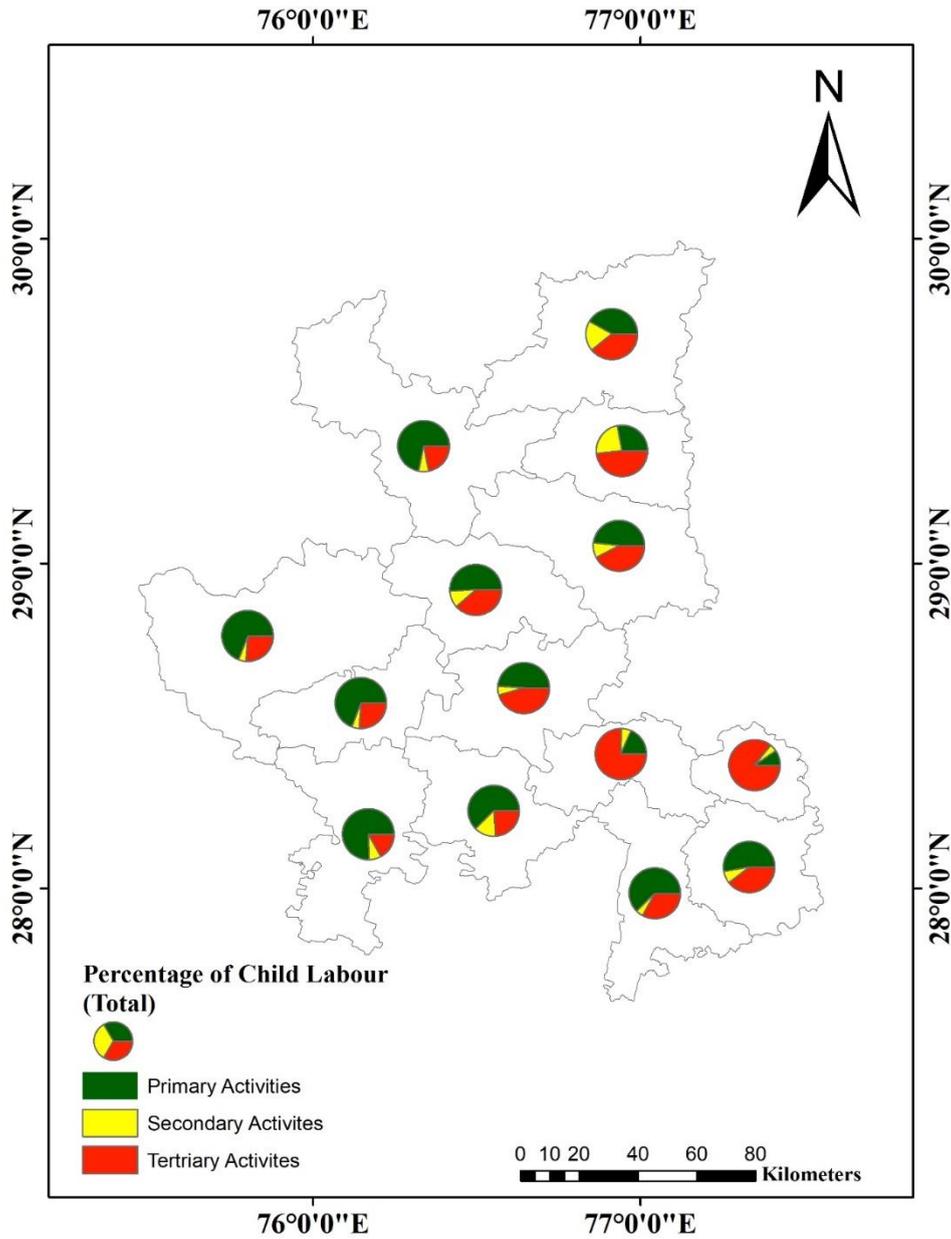
4. Occupation wise distribution of total child labour in Haryana according to NCR regions

Map 4. is displaying the spatial distribution of total child labour in Haryana. The child labour activities are classified into three categories that is primary, secondary and tertiary activities. In 2023, around 50 percent child labour has been engaged in primary activities, followed by around 5 percent in secondary activities and approximate 45 percent in tertiary activities. The regional variation in the distribution of these activities become more glaring when analyzed

at the NCR regions. In case of primary activities, the highest proportion child labour is found in Mahandragrah district from southern part of the state followed by Jind district, Bhiwani district and Charkhi dadri district from western part of the state and the percentage of primary activities is more than 68 percent in these area in Table 3. Reasons behind this phenomenon that these regions have low level of urbanization as well as industrialization and hence limited opportunities are available in non-agriculture sector. Intensive agriculture has provided more employment in primary sector in these regions (Kumar, 2008). The lowest proportion of primary activities is belonging to Faridabad and Gurugram district from southern part of the state. The urbanization and industrialization in these regions are higher as compared to other regions of the state, so the job opportunities are higher in secondary and tertiary activities as compared to primary activities. However, the secondary activities are higher in northern part of the state and the districts are Karnal and Panipat. The percentage of child labour in secondary activities is around 20 percent in these area. The lowest proportion of total child labour in secondary activities is belongs to southern part of the state and the percentage is less than 10 percent (Pant & Singh, 2016). Whereas, the western part of the state is showing the lowest proportion of child labour in secondary activities. The highest proportion of child labour in tertiary activities is found in Faridabad district followed by Gurugram, Panipat, Sonipat and Jhajjar districts of the state. The percentage of child labour in tertiary activities in these districts are more than 40 percent. The lowest proportion of tertiary activities is lies in Mahandragrah district followed by Jind, Bhiwani and Charkhi Dadri districts and the percentage is less than 25 percent (Rajan & Kumar, 2018).

Table 3: Occupation wise distribution of total child labour (Data in percent)

Districts	Total child labour		
	Primary	Secondary	Tertiary
Karnal	41.95	18.60	39.44
Panipat	27.93	23.60	48.45
Sonipat	48.38	9.25	42.35
Jind	71.94	6.08	21.96
Bhiwani	69.19	4.60	26.13
Charkhi dadri	69.19	4.60	26.13
Rohtak	50.80	10.55	38.64
Jhajjar	49.05	5.57	45.36
Mahandragard	75.55	7.39	17.05
Rewari	62.20	13.86	23.92
Gurugram	18.42	6.09	75.47
Nuh	68.56	5.09	36.34
Faridabad	9.67	4.63	85.96
Palwal	52.98	7.68	39.33
Haryana	49.35	5.39	45.26

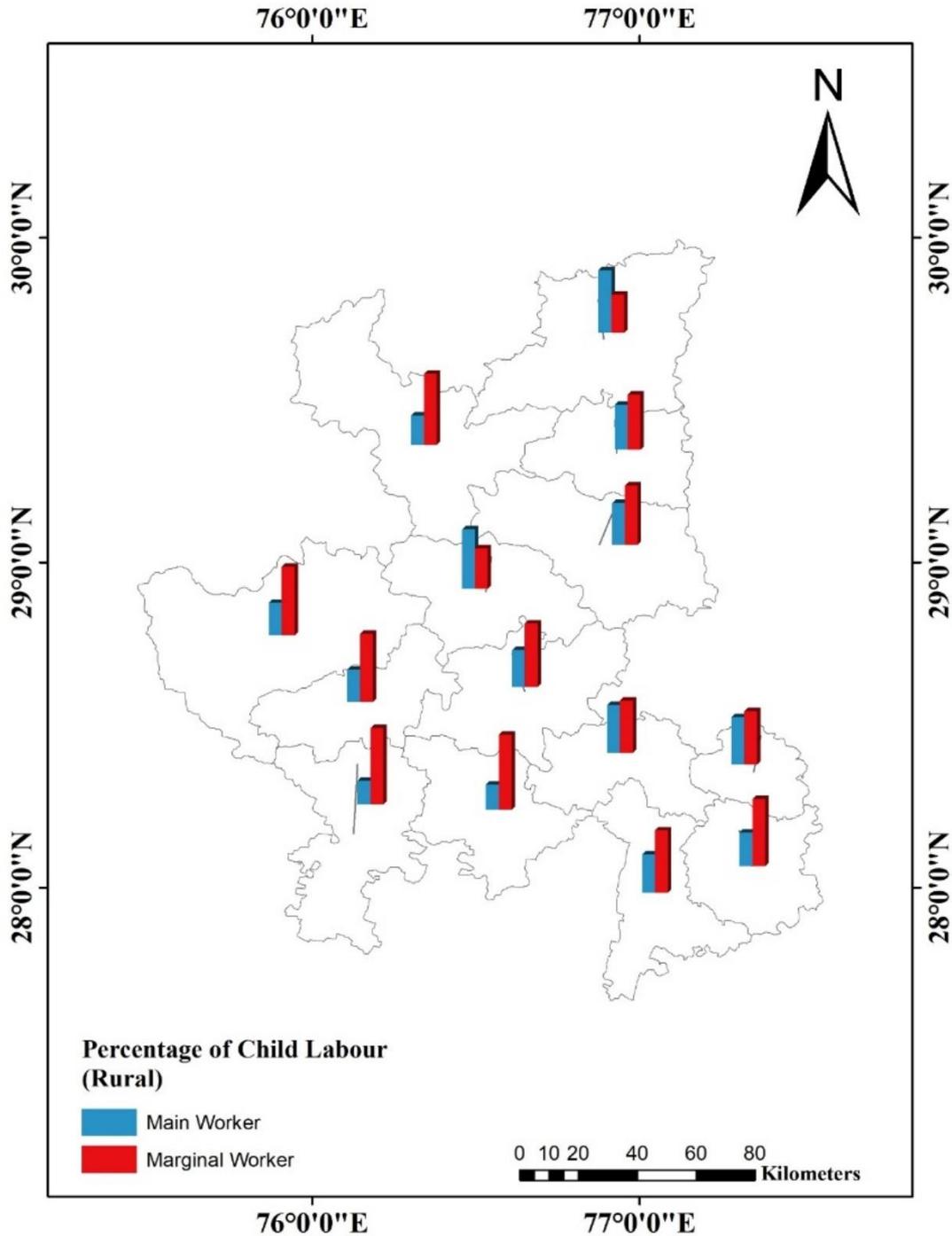


Map 4: Spatial Distribution of Total Child Labour in Haryana by Occupational Activities

Table 4: Occupation wise distribution of rural child labour (Data in percent)

Districts	Total Rural Child Labour		
	Primary	Secondary	Tertiary
Karnal	60.21	26.01	13.17
Panipat	56.59	23.19	20.20
Sonipat	64.78	11.01	24.19
Jind	83.13	6.38	10.48
Bhiwani	81.13	4.40	14.45
Charkhi dadri	81.13	4.40	14.45
Rohtak	72.50	11.70	15.79
Jhajjar	60.04	5.10	34.85
Mahandragard	80.40	6.62	12.96
Rewari	73.62	15.59	10.78

Gurugram	69.47	6.64	23.87
Nuh	72.39	4.30	23.29
Faridabad	34.07	9.52	56.40
Palwal	66.13	8.24	25.61
Haryana	70.92	10.64	18.44



Map 5: Spatial Distribution of Rural Child Labour in Haryana: Main vs Marginal Workers

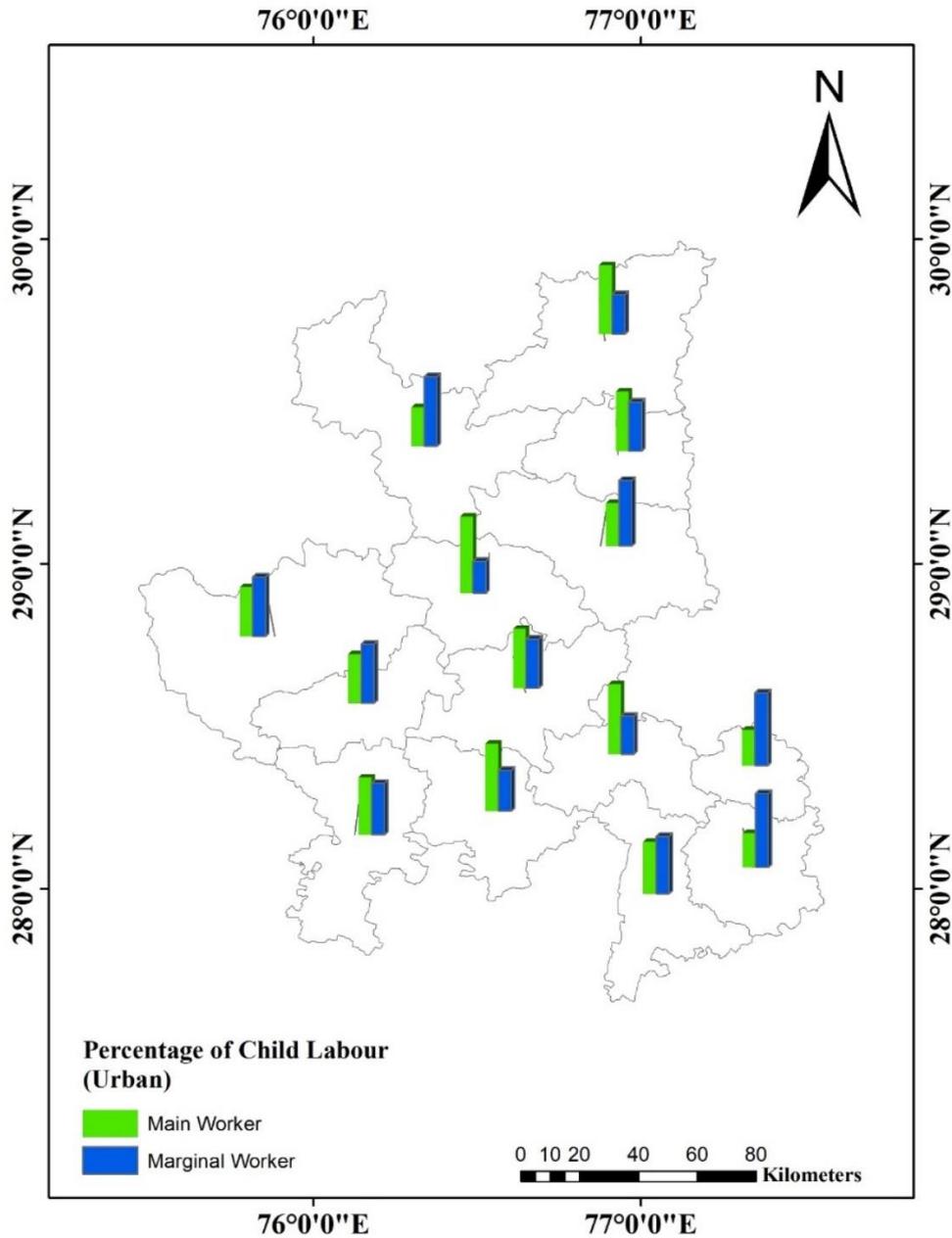


4.1 Occupation wise distribution of male child labour in Haryana according to NCR regions

Data below illustrating the spatial distribution of male child labour in Haryana according to their occupation. In case of male child labour, more than three quarters male child labour are engaged in primary activities followed by, less than 10 percent male child labour engaged secondary and tertiary activities alike (Bhat, 2014). The variation in the share of these activities is the result of regional differences in the social, economic and political set up of the state. In case of primary activities in male child labour, the highest proportion is found in western part of the state, the districts are Jind, Bhiwani and Charkhi Dadri. The second highest proportion of male child labour is belongs to central and southern part of the state. The lowest proportion of urban child labour is lies in northern part of the state. In secondary activities of urban child labour shows that the highest percentage is found in Karnal, Panipat and Sonipat districts from northern part of the state. This is because these areas have the high accessibility between urban and rural areas and fairly good industrialization, manufacturing, trade, commerce and service. The lowest percentage of male child labour in secondary activities is belongs to western part of the state. This region is comparatively less developed as norther and central part of the state. The economy of these districts are basically depends on primary activities. Moreover, the tertiary activities in male child labour that the highest proportion is found in Faridabad and Gurugram districts from southern part of the state, followed by second highest proportion of male child labour is lies in central and northern part of the state. The lowest proportion of male child labour in tertiary activity is found in western part of the state. The industrialization and urbanization hence share of child labour in tertiary activities is more in industrial division of the state along national highway 1,2 and 8 (Gupta & Sharma, 2022).

Table 5: Occupation wise distribution of total urban child labour (Data in percent)

Districts	Total urban Child Labour		
	Primary	Secondary	Tertiary
Karnal	7.22	4.49	88.28
Panipat	4.03	23.95	72.01
Sonipat	8.99	5.02	85.97
Jind	7.09	4.33	88.57
Bhiwani	10.04	5.94	84.01
Charkhi dadri	10.04	5.94	84.01
Rohtak	8.85	8.32	82.81
Jhajjar	6.41	7.42	86.16
Mahandragard	22.84	15.73	61.42
Rewari	5.92	5.35	88.71
Gurugram	3.80	5.93	90.25
Nuh	15.21	16.08	68.69
Faridabad	5.17	3.72	91.09
Palwal	6.03	5.66	88.29
Haryana	6.36	6.99	86.65



Map 6: Spatial Distribution of Urban Child Labour in Haryana: Main vs Marginal Workers

Table 6: Occupation wise distribution of male child labour (Data in percent)

Districts	Total Male Child Labour		
	Primary	Secondary	Tertiary
Karnal	42.34	19.10	38.54
Panipat	28.11	24.72	47.16
Sonipat	46.72	9.34	43.93
Jind	67.69	7.28	25.02
Bhiwani	70.03	4.21	25.75
Charkhi dadri	70.03	4.21	25.75
Rohtak	46.74	12.14	41.11
Jhajjar	49.62	7.02	43.35
Mahandragard	73.16	7.76	19.07

Rewari	56.39	14.64	28.95
Gurugram	16.73	7.77	75.49
Nuh	60.26	6.96	32.76
Faridabad	9.75	6.06	84.18
Palwal	46.49	9.09	44.41
Haryana	46.02	10.44	43.54

Table 7: Occupation wise distribution of female child labour (Data in percent)

Districts	Total Female Child Labour		
	Primary	Secondary	Tertiary
Karnal	41.28	17.74	40.69
Panipat	27.64	21.76	50.58
Sonipat	50.87	9.12	40.00
Jind	75.25	4.30	17.43
Bhiwani	68.20	5.20	26.59
Charkhi dadri	68.20	5.20	26.59
Rohtak	58.44	7.55	33.99
Jhajjar	48.28	3.60	48.11
Mahandragard	78.32	6.69	14.72
Rewari	69.98	12.82	17.19
Gurugram	21.04	3.50	75.44
Nuh	79.31	2.67	18.00
Faridabad	9.55	2.58	87.85
Palwal	61.81	5.76	32.41
Haryana	67.72	10.07	22.21

Western part of the state and the districts are Jind, Bhiwani and Charkhi Dadri. The percentage of female child labour in these districts are more than 65 percent. Whereas the second highest region of female child labour in primary activities is central and southern part of the state. In southern part expect Faridabad and Gurugram districts the percentage of female child labour is more than 60 percent. The lowest percentage of female child labour in primary activities is found in northern and eastern part of the state and the districts are Karnal, Panipat and Sonipat. The average percentage of female child labour in secondary activities is 10.09 percent. The map reveals that the highest concentration of female child labour in secondary activities is found northern part of the state and the districts are Karnal and Panipat and the percentage is more than 15 percent. The lowest concentration is lies in southern part of the state followed by western part of the state. In case of female child labour in tertiary activities, the average is 22.21 percent. The highest percentage is found in Faridabad and Gurugram form southern part of the state, followed by second highest percentage of female child labour is found in northern part of the state. The lowest percentage of female child labour is belongs western part of the state.

5. Conclusion

The research provides an in-depth analysis of the geographical distribution of child labour across Haryana's NCR districts, highlighting regional variations in the prevalence of child labour, occupational sectors, and gender disparities. The study shows that child labour in Haryana is notably higher in districts with stronger agricultural bases and slower urbanization, such as Jind, Bhiwani, and Charkhi Dadri, where children are predominantly engaged in primary sector activities. On the other hand, urbanized districts like Gurugram and Faridabad exhibit lower levels of child labour, with higher involvement in tertiary sectors, such as services. A significant gender disparity is observed, with female child labour being more concentrated in rural areas, particularly in primary activities, while male child labour is more evenly distributed across primary, secondary, and tertiary sectors. Furthermore, the distinction between main and marginal workers reveals a higher incidence of marginal child labour, often indicative of precarious and seasonal work. Despite existing legislation against child labour, the persistence of this issue underscores the importance of further strengthening enforcement of laws and creating economic opportunities for families. Education, urbanization, and industrialization emerge as key factors influencing the reduction of child labour, with urban areas exhibiting a relatively lower concentration of child labour due to better economic prospects and educational infrastructure.



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