



"TREND ANALYSIS OF CHILD LABOUR IN INDIA"

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ABSTRACT

Child labor has always been a serious issue globally. In the world's poorest countries around one in every four children are engaged in child labor, and we see that agriculture is the leading employer of child labor. According to International labor Organization (ILO), poverty is the greatest single cause behind child labor. It is found in both the rural as well as urban areas, but we see that the measure population of child labor is in the rural areas, due to the extensive poverty in such areas. Even in India, we find that agriculture is the largest sectors of child labor where usage number of children worth at a very early age to support their family. Also, many among them are forced to do so at a young age due to factors such as unemployment literacy etc. This paper examines the various possible causes of poverty, the policies taken by the government and also the states which has the maximum number of children labor.

Keyword – Child Labor, ILO, Causes, India, Policy, Employment

INTRODUCTION

International Labor Organization is a global based in Geneva, which are responsible for protecting and improving the working condition and also the standard of living. International Labor Organization was set up with the vision to develop the conditions of labor all around the world in the year, 1919. The main and primary motive of the International Labor Organization is the creation of International Labor Standards in the form of Resolutions and Recommendations.

According to Census 2011, number of child laborers in India between 5-14 years is 4.35 million (main workers) and 3.87 million (marginal workers), which comes to a total of 8.22 million. Furthermore, the total number of child laborers in India (5-19 years) is 35. 38 million. Although the number of working children has declined over the years, India is still

grappling with the issue of child labor as their numbers are increasing in sectors such as agriculture, mining, domestic labor, garment, carpet weaving, etc., depriving millions of children of their right to education, health and development.

According to the International Labor Organization, child labor is involvement of any work that deprives the children from their childhood and also which hampers them physically 99

The Child Labor Act, 1986 defines child labor as anyone who as ' a person has not completed his fourteenth year of age'.

International Labor Organization instruments provides guidelines as well as useful framework for the initiative of legislative as well as administrative measures for the protection and advancement of the interest of the working class.

There are 47 International Labor Organization conventions and 1 protocol ratified by India. Out of 47 conventions and 1 protocol of which 39 are in force, 5 conventions and 0 protocol have been denounced, 4 instruments abrogated.

• **Statement of the Problem**

This research works focuses mainly on the states with high content of child labor, the main causes, policies adopted by the government, etc.

Research Questions

- To know the current situation of child labor in India.
- To know the factors which are highly responsible for the issue of child labor.
- To understand what are the policies adopted by the Government.

1.3 Research Objectives

1. Role of ILO towards India's child labor
2. To examine the rise and fall of child labor in the states
3. Funds allotted and various initiatives taken by the Government

LITERATURE REVIEW

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

"In India, the law for Child Labor is that no child under the age of fourteen can be employed in any domestic or hospitality industries; there is still an estimated 199,791,382 children employed in such fields. Many Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) are working towards removing all children from illegal working conditions and getting them into schools. This Literature Review will look into the Child Labor Laws in India and hoe the Child Laborers affect it." - **Emily Taggart**

"Article 2314 of Indian Constitution prohibits the trafficking in human beings and forced labor. And Article 2415 prohibits the employment of children in factories. It says that 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." - **Indian Constitution and Child Labor**

METHODOLOGY

The data and materials take as well as used in this research are all secondary data, mainly taken from The Ministry of Child and Labor Department, Census of India, International Labor Department (ILO), The Ministry of Women and Child Development, etc.

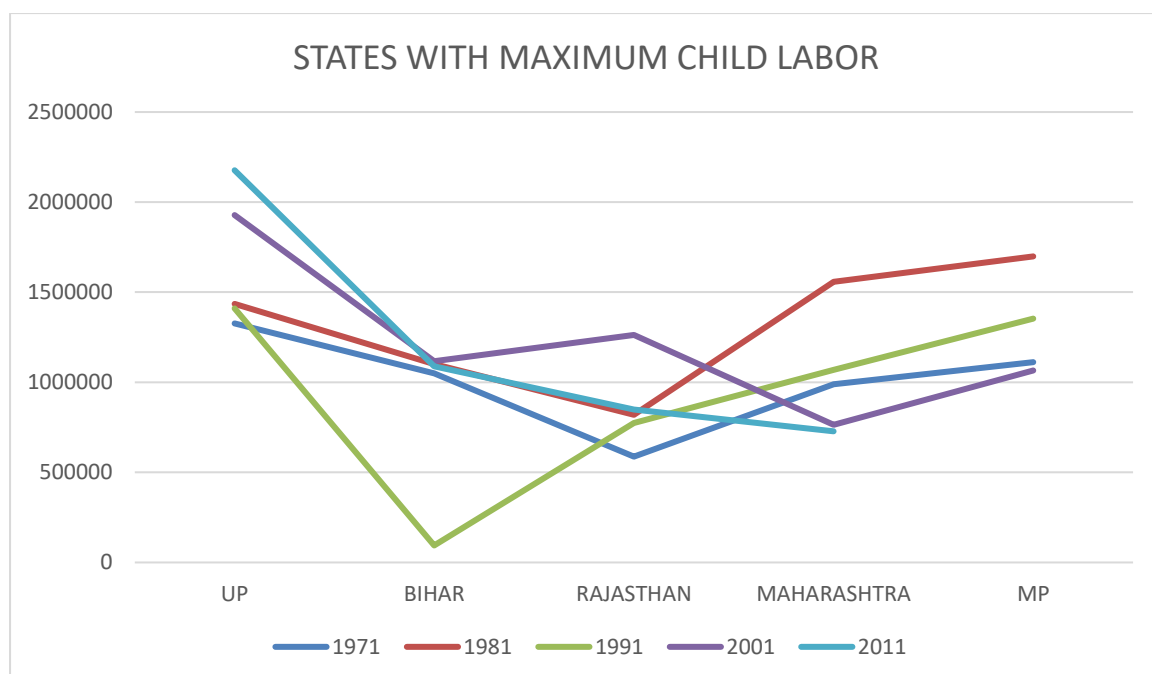
Also, there is usage of some tools such as trend line for comparing between budget allocation and expenditure. Here, we see how related are these factors and also whether they are at increasing, decreasing or constant ratios. The trend line helps technical analyst to determine the current direction.

FINDINGS AND ANALYSIS

INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANISATION (ILO)

The ILO has had a strong bond with the Indian Government to address the issues and scenarios of child labor. Various contributions to the increase in child labor in India are inequality, lack of educational opportunities, lack of awareness, etc. According to ILO, various initiatives such as decent work, stable economic growth, social protection, etc together can help tackle the root cause of child labor.

As per 2011 Census, total population in India in the age of 5-14 years is 259.6 million. Out of this figure, 10.1 million are working either as a main or marginal worker. Also, more than 42.7 million children in India are out of school.



Source- Census 2011

The above data is taken from the Census 2011. Uttar Pradesh has the maximum percentage of child labor followed by Bihar, Rajasthan, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh. Campaign Against Child Labor (CAC) study conducted in India, said that its India has 1,26,66,377 child laborers of which UP has 19,27,997 child laborers.

But we see that there has been a reduction in child labor and a drastic fall in child labor in the last two decades. There was a marked 45 percent reduction in child labor between 2004-2005 and 2009-2010, due to schemes such as Right to Education, Mid-Day Meal, MNREGA, etc. which gave children various motives and incentives to study and be free from the bondage of child labor. There has been fall in the number of child laborers by 65 percent from 1.26 crores to 82.2 lakh between Census 2001 to 2011. Children between 14-17 years are engaged in hazardous work which accounts for 62.8 percent of the India's child labor workforce, and 10 percent of whom are hired in family enterprises. According to ILO's World Report on child labor, 'more boys are forced into doing hazardous work'.

UTTAR PRADESH

If we see every census from 1971 to 2011, we find that there is an increase in every census in UP, with an all-time high crossing 21 lakhs of child labor, 41 percent are girls and 59 percent are boys. In rural areas, half of the boy's work as cultivators and the other half work as agricultural labor. In urban areas, boys and girls work mainly in other works followed by household industries and then the agriculture sector.

BIHAR

"The state government has proposed to strengthen the Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) and also ration cards will be issued to the needy and poor families with children. Also, there will also be an awareness campaign against the practice of child labor. The state Government is sensitive to the Rights of the Children and for that it has set up Child Labor Commission to address various issues related to them and eradicate the Child Labor".

RAJASTHAN

Rajasthan accounts for nearly 10 percent of the total child labor in the country with Jaipur alone having more than 50,00 child laborers in the age group of 5-14 years. Child labor is mainly due to high industrial activities, concentration of tribal population, domestic in hotels and dhabas and in private houses. Also, they are highly engaged in farm and farm-based activities. Trafficking of children to Rajasthan for labor- Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Orissa. According to census 2011, Rajasthan reported 848,368 child workers which was a huge decrease from 1,262,570 child workers in 2001. Initiatives includes a separate child policy formulated in 2008, Rajasthan State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (RSCPCR), established separate Department for Child Rights as on 17 May 2013.

MAHARASHTRA

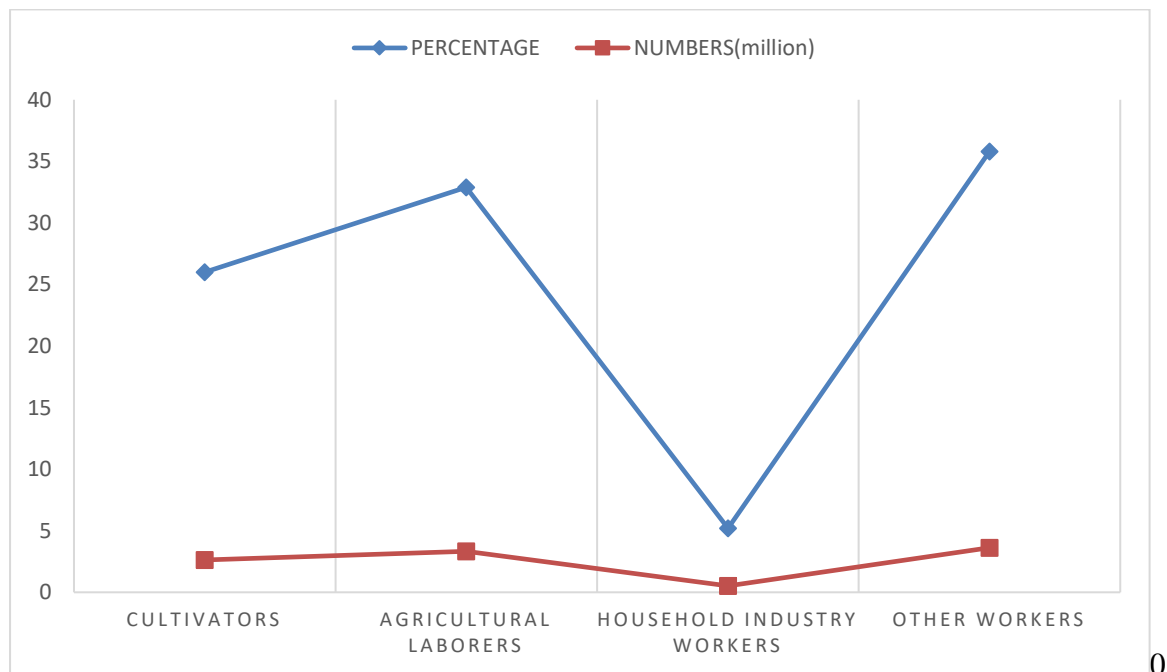
According to the NGO “with most fields drying up and non- availability of water, children are forced to migrate with their parents in search of work to nearby villages or cities. Many children eventually dropout of the schools and begin working with their parents at the place of migration.”

“The ILO recent global estimates cite that there are approximately 152 million children in child labor and seven out of every ten working children are engaged in agriculture.”

MADHYA PRADESH

According to the latest figure from Census 2011, MP recorded total 700,239 child laborers in the country, currently more than 7 lakhs working children in the state. MP accounts for maximum number of child laborers engaged in beedi industry, according to National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) report, 18.3 percent of beedi workers are in MP.

DISTRIBUTION OF WORKING CHILDREN BY TYPE OF WORKS IN 2011



Source- Census 2011

Further the graph above shows Distribution of working children by type of work in 2011. It shows the area of work which includes cultivators, agricultural laborers, household industry workers and other workers, which is collected from Census 2011.

Here, we see that the percentage of working children in agricultural laborers is relatively higher than the cultivators and household industry workers.

Globally, according to ILO, agriculture remains by far the most visible sector, where we find child laborers (98 million).

According to ILO, worldwide 60 percent of all child laborers in the age group of 5-17 years works in agriculture including fishing, farming, forestry, etc. it is one of the dangerous sectors in terms of work-related fatalities, non – fatal accidents and occupational diseases. Also, about 59 percent of all children are engaged in hazardous work aged 5-17.”

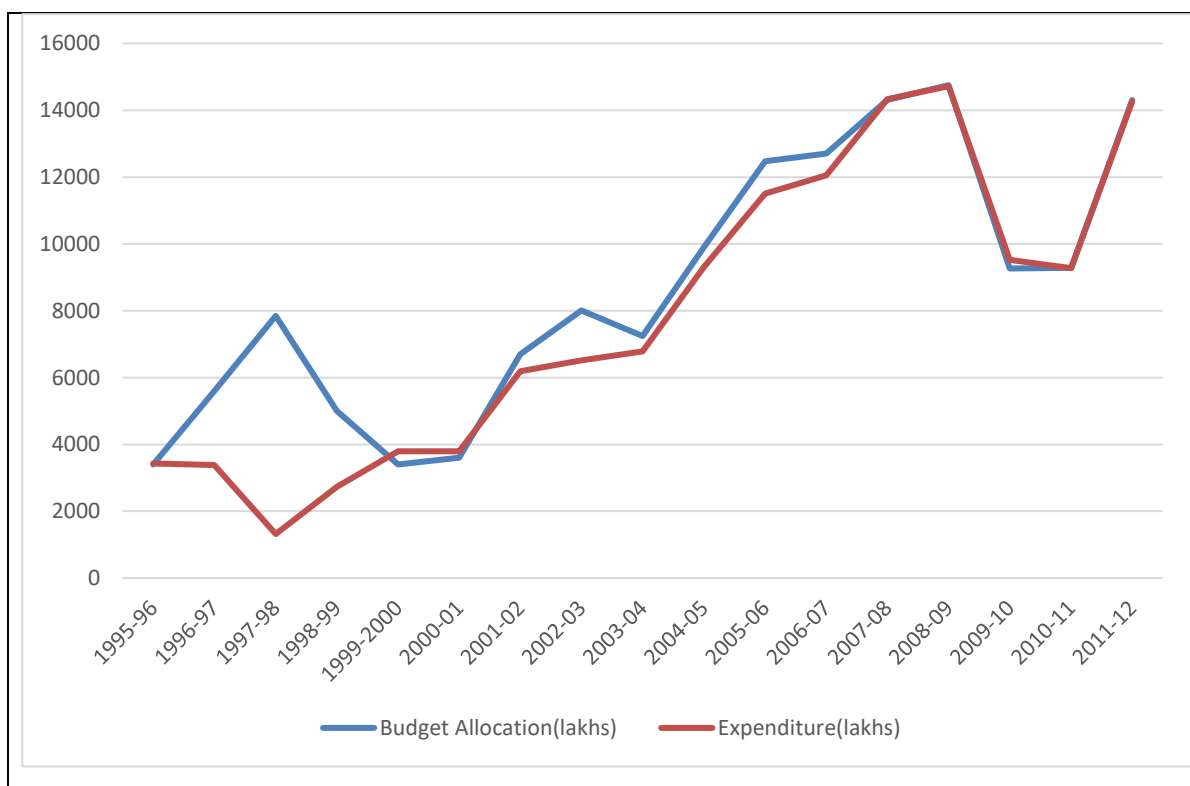
The main cause of child labor here in agriculture is inadequate and inefficiency of technology, hazardous and risk, quality education, etc.

The International Partnership for Cooperation on Child Labor in Agriculture (IPCCLA), is an initiative taken globally together by ILO, FAO, IUE, IFAD, CGIAR since 2007, to foster the participation of agricultural organizations in global efforts to eliminate child labor in agriculture.

This partnership works at National, Regional and Global levels to:

- Improve rural livelihoods and income generating activities
- Integrate child labor concerns in the programming of activities of agricultural and labor organizations.

BUDGET AND EXPENDITURE FOR ALL THE CHILD LABOUR SCHEMES



Source- Government of India, Ministry of Labor and Employment.

The above data which is related to the budget allocation and its expenditure for the child labor in India, is taken from the Government of India, Ministry of Labor and Employment.

Budget allocation has a very vital and crucial role to play in the economy. Although, they represent the level of resources that a particular organization is committing to a particular department. If there will be no limits in allocation, then there will be high chances of the expenditure to exceed than the revenue and which will result in financial shortfalls.

We see that there is a stagnancy in the trend rate as the level of budget allocation is almost similar to the expenditure side. It can be due to various factors such inefficient utilization of available funds, improper utilization of science and technology, no proper management of skill training programs, no efficient way of providing schooling and other medical facilities, etc. For the positive growth trend, we would see that the expenditure side would have been lesser in ratio then the budget allocation section, which implies that no matter what how much amount of fund is provided, every ounce of it is being utilized judiciously and effectively to lower the expenditure level. There would have been proper distribution of all the available resources, proper education and bridge schools, medical facilities, skill training institutes, employment generation, etc. Here, the employment generation of family members is equally important to lower the child labor participation. This is so because, if the parents are employed and their basic needs are fulfilled then there will be no urge to send their child to perform hazardous task and eventually there will be decrease in child labor ratio and also there will be stability in the growth trend.

NATIONAL CHILD LABOR PROJECT SCHEME (NCLP) –

The policy of the Government on the issue of Child Labor

In August 1987, to tackle the problem of child labor, the National Policy on Child Labor declared an action plan, which comprises of three sections.

Section A focuses on the- Legislative Policy adopted by Government for eradication of Child Labor.

It includes Child Labor (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 which prohibits employment of children below the age of 14 years in 18 occupations and 65 processes. State Government maintains the enforcement of the provisions of the Act. The Union of India monitors it from time to time. During inspection and also raids conducted, child labor is identified, rescued and rehabilitative measures are set and bridge education is provided with an ultimate objective of bringing them into the formal system of education. Also, pre-vocational training is also provided.

Section B comprise of - The Convergence strategy of Ministry of Labor for eradication of child labor.

Here, core group on the welfare schemes of the Government has been formed in the Ministry of Labor and Employment to ensure the up liftment of the families of the child labor. As we know that the main cause of child labor is poverty and illiteracy, so educational rehabilitation of the children has to be provided along with the economic rehabilitation of their families, so that there will not be a single factor which will compel them to practice child labor.

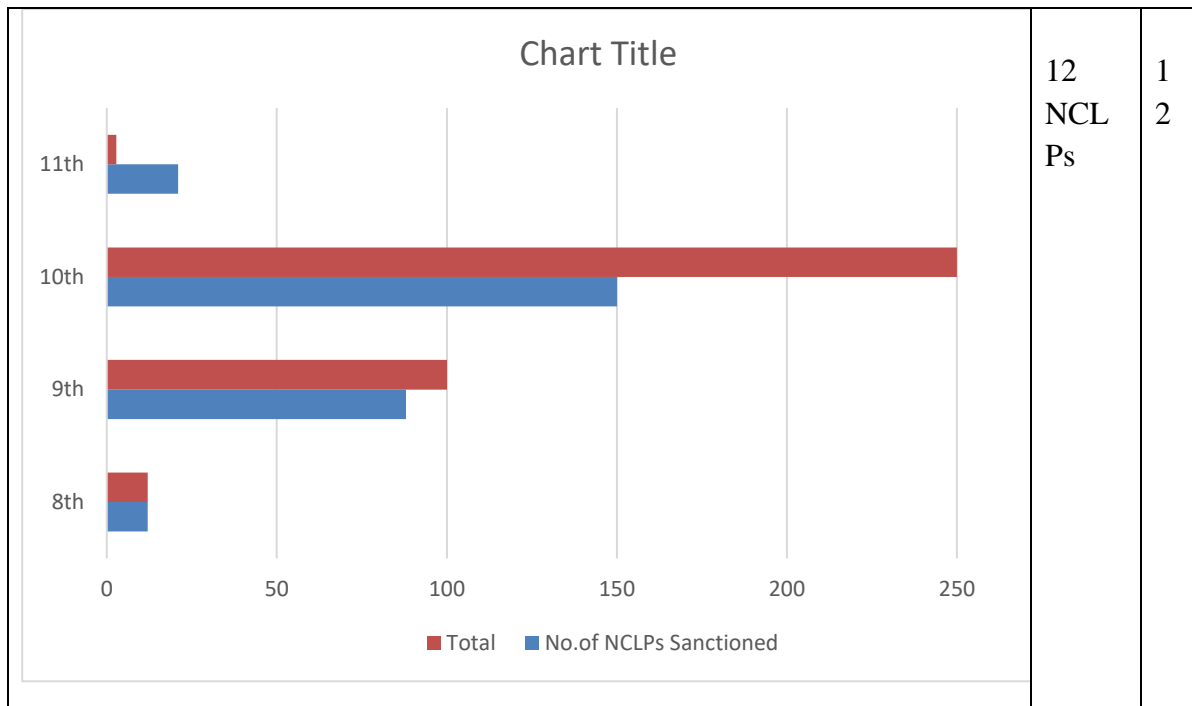
Various pro-active schemes and measures towards them are-

- The Ministry of Women and Child Development ensures for the supply of providing food and shelter to the children.
- Ministry of Human Resource Development for providing Mid day meal to the NCLP school children, teachers training and supply of books under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan and in further mainstream of NCLP children into formal education.
- Various income and employment generation scheme for their economic upliftment done through the Ministries of Rural Development, Urban Housing and Poverty Alleviation and also through the Panchayati Raj.
- Also, in each state, an officer from the state Department of Labor has been nominated as Anti-Human Trafficking Unit (AHTU) to act as a link officer for coordinating with Ministry of HRD in that particular states for the prevention of trafficking of children.

Section C consists of – The Project based action for the welfare of working

With regard to the educational upliftment, the Government is implementing National Child Labor Project Scheme (NCLP) in 266 child labor endemic districts in 20 states. According to the present data, about 7311 special schools are in operation along with the enrolment of 3.2 lakh children. Under this scheme, about 8.95 lakh children have been channeled into formal education system. This NCLP scheme which started in 1988 to rehabilitate child labor in pursuance of National Child Labor Policy, seeks to adopt a sequential approach with the focus to rehabilitate the children working in the hazardous occupations and processes. Under this scheme, after the child has been withdrawn, they are put into special schools in order to enable them to be mainstreamed into formal schooling system. Here, the project societies at the district level are fully funded for opening up of special schools/ rehabilitation centers for the child labor rehabilitation. The entire project funding is taken up by the central Government (Ministry of Labor and Employment). At present about 6000 special schools are in operation under NCLP scheme and about 8.52 lakhs children have been mainstreamed into the formal education system.

EXPANSION OF NCLPs



SOURCE- Ministry of Child and Labor Department

CONCLUSION AND LIMITATIONS

Current Portfolio in India of ILO focuses around child labor, prevent family indebtedness by employment generation, skills, various integrated approaches for socioeconomic development and also livelihoods promotion, dealing with the effects of globalization, productivity, etc.

It's main priorities by 2022 are-

- More children, young people and adults, mainly from vulnerable groups, to have access to quality learning for all levels of education.
- Deliver universal access to basic services, employment and sustainable livelihoods in poor and excluded rural and urban areas.
- Greater access to a nutritionally adequate food basket.
- Women, children and young people to have improved access to equal opportunities and an enabling environment to advance their social, economic and political rights.

As compared to past records of child labor, the scenario of current child labor in India is better and also encouraging. Uttar Pradesh has the maximum percentage of child labor followed by Bihar, Rajasthan, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh.

India's ministry of labor, ratifies the six out of eight conventions and reaffirmed the country "commitment to a child labor free society"

As a researcher, we could use time series data, also check stationarity and unit root test but due to non-availability of statistical packages like Eviews, I am unable to analyse further.

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