

## **Abstract**

Child labour is pervasive in almost all the societies developed and developing alike. Accompanying are the issues of children's education, their morbidity and work conditions. Economic and cultural factors prominently dominate the debate to explain the causes of child labour and its associated issues. The study attempts to investigate the effects of various socio-economic and demographic variables on the incidence of child labour, their schooling, and morbidity. The 'standard of living index' is prepared taking into account the economic variables to ascertain the relationship between the economic condition of the households and children's schooling and morbidity. The concept of 'awareness index' has been used to assess the parents' awareness towards children's education on the basis of socio-demographic variables. The study is based on the primary data collected from randomly drawn 327 households of the Ramna Etbar Nagar in the Domkal Block of Murshidabad district, West Bengal. The results of the study do not establish any relationship between socio-demographic variables and children's education of the households of the surveyed village. However, the 'standard of living index' is found to positively influence the children's education. It is further found that larger is the size of the family, higher is the risk of morbidity of the working children because of inevitable compromises made in their upbringing and healthy growth. The study also reveals the inadequacy of school infrastructure, quality schools, and high cost of education, besides ineffective legislative measures. The study recommends policy measures that include creation of economic opportunities for households, provision of incentives and credit facilities for households, improved school infrastructure, and quality of schools including affordable cost of education, and effective legislations with purpose and utmost sincerity to make schooling compulsory for all. Another very crucial and striking policy measure with regard to parents' attitude is to prepare awareness modules with emphasis on education and make them commit to children's schooling.

**Keywords:** Child labour, Awareness index, Standard of living index, Children's education, and Morbidity