

## Tools in Child Rights Research - Indian Perspective

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### Abstract

Child rights Research in Indian Perspective is gaining more attention in the recent times. The Concept of Child Rights Research is applied more as an approach of methodology to ensure the basic human rights of children. In this paper an attempt is made to summarize the tools in Child rights Research with an objective of understanding the research gaps. In this paper, the approaches to child rights research in Indian perspective is critically reconsidered thereby insisting the need for Interdisciplinary approach to Child rights Research in India. Firstly, this paper reviews the gaps and tools applied in Child Rights Research and secondly, it outlines the importance of interdisciplinary approach in building knowledge on child rights to the stakeholders. Highly cited articles based on child rights research in India, Case studies and Case Reports published in the newspapers are reviewed to draw the conclusions. The present study is carried out with the following objectives.

- To outline the research methods and tools in child rights research in Indian perspective.
- To provide suggestive approaches for child rights research in India.

**Keywords:** Human Rights, Child Rights Research, Research Methods, Reviews, Comparative Research

### INTRODUCTION

Child rights research in India is significantly carried by the funded research streams through the NGO's and other academic research organizations. It is observed that the child rights researchers focus more on the Mixed methods of research in the Human Rights Research Perspective. Through the Mixed methods of research it is understood that the child rights researchers aim to prove their statistical inferences through qualitative analyses. Inter disciplinary human rights research holds its significance in connecting the field experts and the academic researchers.

Comparative Research it is a cognitive exercise for further application and research. Landman (2002: 891), Since social science research aims at contextualizing the socio-political cultural and legal frameworks of rights perspective the comparative research gains importance in child rights research. Grounded theoretical research studies are commonly employed by the field based and ethnographic researchers of Non-Governmental Organizations and Academic Institutions.

Generally, human rights studies compare experiences or solutions in different contexts to

better understand the complexity of the legal, political, economic and cultural systems involved. In Indian perspective it is observed that the comparative research on the child rights area needs more focus addressing the complexities involved in the same. Because comparative research in the child rights area will help us to understand how the preconceived notions of concepts like school, disciplining the children, corporal punishments deemed to be valid traditionally has changed and it can explain how the child rights perspective has changed with the different contexts and time.

As a result of digitalization and the effects of globalization, there is a paradigm shift of knowledge in child rights research in specific, human rights research in general on the existing to the expected on the structure and functions of child rights research. In India the child rights research has taken up in major dimensions, Analysis of awareness, training and action based researches mainly carried by the field based research organizations. There is a progressive move towards the complex phenomena of child rights on the assumption that there is a need to change from within than a change from outside. The shift in the reality is changing, multidimensional, and indeterminate. There arises a need to restructure the problems of ensuring the children with their rights towards the theoretical approach to the study. Most of the expert journals on child rights focus on the relative significance of comparative research in the policy perspective. A viable legal comparison aims at a contextualization of the systems in the macro- micro level.

This article is structured as follows: first, it reviews the methods of child rights research through the titles and methodology in their abstracts; secondly, it outlines the two most established techniques in child rights research.

## **REVIEWS OF CHILD RIGHTS RESEARCH, MAIN ELEMENTS AND THE GROUNDS OF RESEARCH**

A careful review of the recent research in the field of child rights suggests that comparative research mostly conducted by the law professionals in the field of social sciences. In recent decades interpretation of complex realities are made on the basis of, comparative analyses in the social sciences. It is evident that the comparative researches in the field of child rights research aims at identifying child rights violations towards protective policy making. There is a possibility of enabling solutions to the research problems through the Comparative studies in child rights research. While law professionals prefer comparative research studies, social scientists adopt methods like data triangulation using both approaches to research. Thus it is observed that the legal studies research is exclusively comparative. Comparative studies are closely related to the social -legal researches as a form of normative studies.

### **Major methods of research applied in child rights research in India**

#### **Comparative Analyses**

Mostly comparative research studies in the area of child rights research in India focus on the problems of the children in their socio-economic backgrounds and the influence of the economic systems in ensuring the rights of children. The elements of comparison in child rights research determine few socio-demographic characteristics in common. These factors of comparison include, their domicile, birth order in the family, economic profile, caste etc., Among these factors most of the studies have highlighted the influence of caste, economic background and culture as major factors of comparative analyses. Comparisons of socio-demographic factors and child rights are explained generally through simple comparative operations to complex ones. Although case studies predominate in human rights research, the availability of data in online platforms on global and regional contexts underlines the importance of comparative research. Comparative analysis aims at diagnosis of social problems and accordingly the design of public policies .

#### **Main elements of comparative analyses in child rights research**

The application of comparative methodology in the field of human rights is to develop a theoretical structure or at least a hypothesis and to make inferences about various elements which can be applied to select the exact methodology. Some of the determining elements will now be discussed.

### **Contextualizing Socio-demographic profile of children**

It is not possible to compare systems, institutions or norms without knowing their cultural, economic, social and legal perspectives. Basic knowledge is required to understand their socio-economic profile and how the factors of the same effect the rights of children in the research context. At the next level, integrating the contextualisation in the background of socio-economic profile in to a study at the micro to macro level approach may be contemplated.

### **Dimensions of comparisons in research perspective**

Most important choice refers to the appropriate cases or respondents. For example, Lijphart (1971) recommends increasing the number of cases to as many as possible; a recommendation which in comparative legal research involves an almost superhuman effort. The underlying reason is to more likely to control the hypotheses formulated.

### **Legal comparison method**

Legal comparison method is a methodology of analysis legal comparison as a methodology of comparative analysis in the strict sense has not been used much since legislative positivism (Alchourron and Bulygin, 1971), which has traditionally set the roadmap for human rights research. In India the micro perspective of comparison method addressing the specific issues and institutions of children is more prevalent. Mostly such methods are commonly applied in legal research methods predominantly than the social sciences.

### **Literature Reviews**

It is observed that there is an enormous range of researches specific to industry related child labour / child rights in the form of case studies, articles in journals, books related to child rights and child labour which are being regularly updated and the statistics being carefully monitored by the ministries of labour welfare and women and child development. Relevant information for child rights research are generally collected through secondary and tertiary sources like access of data, research publications etc., Hence there exists a strong need for validated tool to assess the peer review report in child rights research aiming at professional peer review process.

### **Case studies**

Case studies in child rights research intensify the understanding of the child over several perspectives. It is a systematic investigation of a single child or a group of children in which the researcher examines the dimensions studied. It is observed that case studies are extensively used for the anthropologists, social workers and other social scientists. Case studies enable analyses of the children in decision making process towards inferring child rights policies in a holistic perspective.

It is observed that case studies are more prevalent in child rights research to generate an in-depth multi-faceted understanding of children. While in studies concerned with the psychological aspects of children, case studies are often confined to a study of a particular individual. Instead of collecting data from many children, the researcher makes an in-depth and intensive study of a single subject to draw conclusions. Though the case studies are limited in scope, they are used by child rights researchers as they can provide in-depth information and detailed inferences. It is a research strategy that investigates the children within their real life context. Case study research applies to single and multiple case studies which can include supportive quantitative evidences from previously developed theoretical propositions.

**Focused Group Discussions** are applied in the child rights research as a tool of data collection especially in the areas of Training need analysis and monitoring and evaluation programmes. Since child rights research deals with understanding and promoting the rights of the children mostly structural or functional methods of research are used.

### **Conclusive Statements**

Thus it is derived that major methods of child rights research Comparative Analyses, Case studies, Focused Group Discussions and Literature reviews are applied commonly in India. In advanced funded rights based research studies on children, specific frameworks are applied to understand the rights of children in the holistic perspective.

There is a need for more framework developments for rights based research with children in their own deep-rooted cultural perspective which can overrule the possibility of subjugating rights of the children in the name of culture. In India still there are specific population groups denying the rights of children due to various factors like gender, class, cost involved in education, not a familial practice to educate children etc., Such specific frameworks.

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