

**NATIONAL SEMINAR ON GRAPH THEORY AND FUZZY
MATHEMATICS
August 28-30, 2003
Catholicate College and Kerala Math. Association
Pathanamathitta
Kerala, India**

USE OF FUZZY ASSOCIATIVE MEMORIES MODEL TO STUDY THE EMPLOYMENT OF CHILD LABOURERS IN TEASHOPS AND HOTELS

W.B.Vasantha Kandasamy, S. Elumalai and Mary John

One of the major human rights violations in the world, child labour is increasingly rampant in India. The approach to child labour is often status-quoist, and at other times casteist, and no political group is willing to divert its energies towards the solution of this problem. While India's communist parties blame child labour solely on poverty, the right-wing parties have at times expressed the view that child labour is essentially skilled labour that has to be utilized. NGOs and other volunteer organizations, of course, have their intervention and rescue programs; but unfortunately not all NGOs working towards the eradication of child labour are aboveboard, some of them pump up the figures, in order to obtain substantially greater amounts of funds. While this haunts the child labour problem, we decided to study the lives of child labourers, in order to comprehend the larger social problem, i.e. child labour. We chose to study child labourers who are employed in restaurants, hotels, teashops and other eatery joints. For the purpose of our study, we have selected a sample of 29 children from the age group of 11 to 14 years who are employed in small teashops and mini-hotels in Kasimedu in Tamil Nadu. We queried into their backgrounds, their ambivalence towards education etc. We found out among our sample that only five of the children weren't interested in reading; for the rest of them education was stopped due to poverty. The children labor, on an average, for ten hours a day. They also mentioned pathetically that their earning was crucial for the sustenance of their families. Among the 29 children interviewed, 27 belonged to the oppressed dalit community and 2 were from the Most Backward Castes (MBC). Their earnings were meager and ranged from Rs.20 to Rs. 50 per day. We have used Fuzzy Associative Memories to analyse this problem and derived interesting conclusions.

All Rights Reserved. This work is Copyright © W.B.Vasantha Kandasamy, S. Elumalai and Mary John, 2003. Mathematicians can use the above material for research purposes, but the work of the author(s) ***must*** be acknowledged. Violators of copyright, and those indulging in *plagiarism* and *intellectual theft* are liable for strict prosecution.

e-mail: vasantha@iitm.ac.in
web: <http://mat.iitm.ac.in/~wbv>