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The Study on Impact of Armed Conflict on Children's Rights and Well Being in India

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ABSTRACT

Armed conflict in India has a significant impact on children's rights and well-being. The research method followed here is empirical research. A total of 202 samples have been collected out of which all samples have been collected through convenient sampling methods. The impact of armed conflict on children's rights and well-being has evolved over time, with growing recognition of the devastating consequences it can have on children. In the past, children were often seen as passive victims of war, but now they are increasingly recognized as active participants and casualties of conflict. The effects of armed conflict on children can include physical harm, such as injury and death, as well as psychological harm, such as trauma and loss of childhood. The independent variables are gender, age, educational qualification, occupation, place of living. The dependent variables are opinions about the impact of armed conflict on children's rights and well being in India and found that Children in conflict-affected areas face heightened risks of violence, displacement, and disruptions to their education and health. They are often recruited by armed groups and subjected to physical and psychological abuse. The lack of access to essential services, such as food, water, and medical care, can further exacerbate the situation. The long-term effects of conflict can also leave deep scars on children's development, causing problems such as depression, anxiety, and trauma. In conclusion, armed conflict severely undermines children's rights and well-being, and it is crucial for the Indian government and international community to prioritise their protection and support.

Keywords: Violence, Displacement, Psychological abuse, Exacerbate, Trauma, Depression.

1. Introduction

The impact of armed conflict on children's rights and well-being has evolved over time, with growing recognition of the devastating consequences it can have on children. In the past, children were often seen as passive victims of war, but now they are increasingly recognized as active participants and casualties of conflict. The effects of armed conflict on children can include physical harm, such as injury and death, as well as psychological harm, such as trauma and loss of childhood. In response, a number of international laws and treaties have been developed to protect the rights of children in conflict, including the 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict and on the sale of children, child prostitution, and child pornography. Despite these efforts, the impact of armed conflict on children remains a significant issue, with millions of children affected by conflict around the world. Government initiative related to the impact of armed conflict on children's rights and well-being is the Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS). Launched by the Ministry of Women and Child Development in 2009, the ICPS aims to provide a comprehensive and integrated approach to protecting children from abuse, exploitation, and neglect, including those affected by armed conflict. The initiative focuses on the rehabilitation and reintegration of children affected by conflict, as well as the prevention of child abuse and exploitation. The ICPS provides support for the rehabilitation of child soldiers and other children affected by conflict, and works with civil society organisations to provide education, health care, and other essential services to these children. The ICPS also provides training and capacity-building for government officials, law enforcement personnel, and other stakeholders to improve the protection of children's rights in conflict situations. Through its comprehensive approach, the ICPS is working to address the impact of armed conflict on children's rights and well-being in India. The lack of access to essential services, such as food, water, and medical care, can further exacerbate the situation. The long-term effects of conflict can also leave deep scars on children's development, causing problems such as depression, anxiety, and trauma.

OBJECTIVES:

- To study on whether armed conflict affects the access of children to basic necessities such as food, shelter, and healthcare
- To examine the awareness about the psychological well-being of children in conflict-affected regions, and how it is affected by exposure to violence and trauma

- To analyse the long-term consequences of armed conflict on children's mental health
- To examine whether children are separated from their families or forced into child

labour or military service are the result of armed conflict

- To study on the challenges faced by childrens and in the conflict affected areas

1.1 Review of Literature

(Merlo & Ribeiro, 2020) The acute and chronic effects of armed conflict on child health and well-being are among the greatest children's rights violations of the 21st century. For the purpose of this policy statement and the associated technical report, 1 armed conflict is defined as any organised dispute that involves the use of weapons, violence, or force, whether within national borders or beyond and whether involving state actors or nongovernmental entities. (Benk & Gillman, 2019) The effects are both direct and indirect and are associated with immediate and long-term harm. The direct effects of conflict include death, physical and psychological trauma, and displacement. (Behera et al., 2022) The Psychology in the Public Forum section on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) developed by Murphy-Berman and Weisz (December 1996) identified significant challenges and issues in implementing the CRC in diverse contexts, and it also analyzed the contributions that psychologists can make in enabling the CRC to actually improve the lives of children. (Foken, 2021) The United Nations Security Council's Children and Armed Conflict agenda is animated by a protection ethic. While the protection of children from violence in armed conflict is entirely appropriate, this article demonstrates that the Council's singular focus upon protection goes beyond merely appropriate, and borders upon overbearing. (Parameswar et al., 2018) This article presents an overview of the research and theory on the psychosocial impact of armed conflict on children. Particular attention is paid to methodologic issues in the investigation of the psychosocial impact of war on children and the applicability of research to field-based intervention in developing countries. (Lulia et al., 2018) Over the past several decades, a new pattern of armed conflict has evolved, taking increasingly heavy tolls on communities and civilian populations. Most armed conflicts are intrastate affairs fought with relatively low technology in and around communities, where they kill mostly civilians, inflict extensive psychological damage, destroy communities, and displace masses of people. (Trappel et al., 2015) In most analyses of armed conflict, children are invisible and are typically regarded as passive, incidental victims or inconsequential actors. In current intrastate, ethno-political conflicts, however, children play an increasing role both as soldiers and, along with other non-combatants, as targets and victims in fighting at the community level. (Barik et al., 2000) Examines the impact of armed conflict on children. Characteristics of contemporary conflicts are explored and the problems caused to the general population are highlighted. These problems include death and injuries, displacement, internment in camps, and separation of parents from children. Next, the specific impact on children is addressed, with a focus on the physical, mental, and emotional effects. (Henckaerts et al., 2005) Armed conflicts affect more than one in 10 children globally. While there is a large literature on mental health, the effects of armed conflict on children's physical health and development are not well understood. This systematic review summarises the current and past knowledge on the effects of armed conflict on child health and development. (Donnelly & Goldfarb, 1961) This paper investigates the short and long-term pernicious impact of armed conflicts on education and educational agents (students, teachers and students' parents), using a multivocal review by means of the integration and qualitative analysis of 60 research reports (voices) found in two databases: Web of Science and PROQUEST in the period between 1995-date of the first founding paper-until 2014. ("Geoffrey Mark Bishop v R," 2013) Multiple armed conflicts throughout the world are profoundly impacting the physical and mental health of children. The conflict in Gaza, Syria's civil war, the targeting of children in Iraq, the kidnapping and murder of schoolchildren in Nigeria. (D'Ascoli, 2007) Imagine a stone dropping onto the surface of a still pond. As the stone hits the water, spray is thrown in all directions and ripples move swiftly outwards from the point of impact. In many ways, this image portrays how armed conflict affects the lives and well-being of children. (Schauer, 2009) There has been a similar change in military strategy. Modern tactics seek to obscure the differences between those who fight and those who do not by camouflaging combatants within the overall population. In addition, there are increasing risks to children because many internal armed conflicts are perpetrated on a tribal or zonal basis with the result that any person outside that particular group is regarded as the enemy. (Tsuboi et al., 1988) At a time of escalating global conflict and instability, this book examines international efforts to protect children from the effects of war and armed conflict through the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), especially article 38, and the Convention's Optional Protocol on the involvement of Children in Armed Conflict (OPAC). (Chesterman, 1986) The twentieth century, children have increasingly become the direct and indirect victims of armed conflict. The twentieth century has also seen the rise of the concept of children's rights, most recently encoded in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. Neither humanitarian law (including the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and the Additional Protocols to the Geneva Conventions of 1977) nor human rights law has managed, as yet, to reduce the suffering and involvement of children in armed conflict. (Lescroart, 2005) To support war-affected children, it is necessary to understand how children have been affected by war and to use appropriate conceptual analyses to inform the design of effective interventions. This paper introduces 2 thematic Special Issues of this journal that are devoted to children and armed conflict.

(Hu et al., 2020) This article discusses the gender-specific effects of armed conflict on girls and women that are addressed by the Machel Study. Among the most traumatic of these effects is sexual exploitation and gender-based violence, each having profound psychosocial consequences. (Martel, 2016) This article discusses the results of a study on the psychosocial impact of armed conflict on children and families in the Philippines employing a multi-method inquiry on the subject. Results showed that fear affected the children and their families' and was central in most of their choices and decisions. (Byrne, 2007) The article discusses human rights norms pertaining to children in the context of armed conflict, as well as insights into the diversity and complexity of local realities of war and violent political struggles derived from childhood anthropology. (Brown, 2013) The Northern Uganda Psychosocial Needs Assessment (NUPSA) found that the core problem is conflict and insecurity, leading to abductions of young adults and

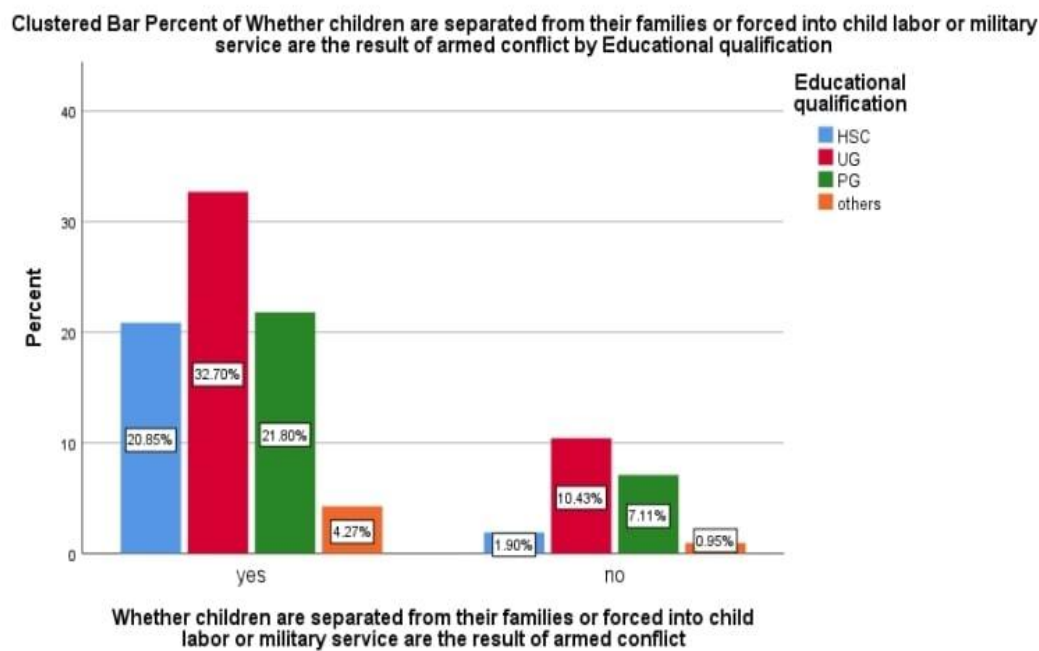
children, displacement of populations both internally and across borders, social breakdown, lack of basic services such as health and education, and failure to meet basic needs.

Methodology

The study is Empirical in nature. Descriptive research is used to study the perspective of the research. Questionnaires were used and sent to people via google forms and the sample size is 202. Convenience sampling method is being adopted in the study to collect the data. Samples were collected from General public specifically from the Chennai region. The independent variables are gender, age , educational qualification, occupation, place of living .The dependent variables are opinions about the impact of armed conflict on children's rights and well being in India .

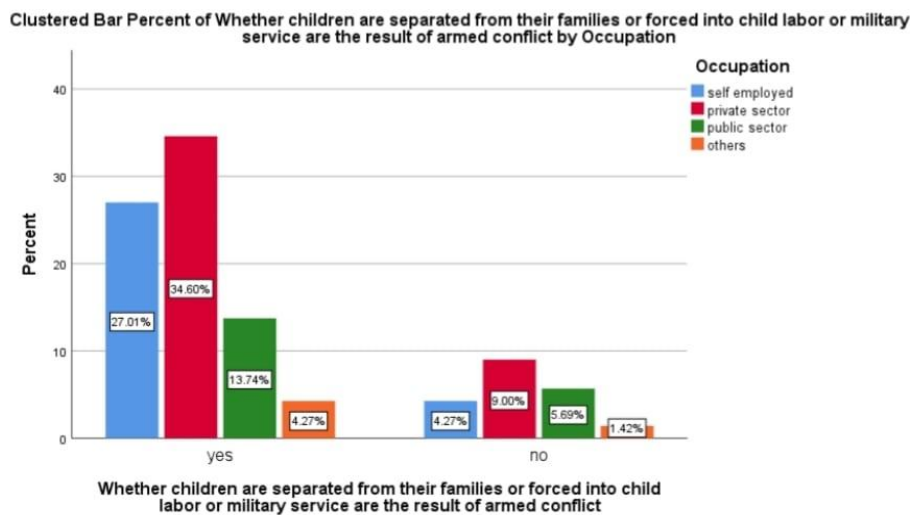
Analysis

Figure 1 :



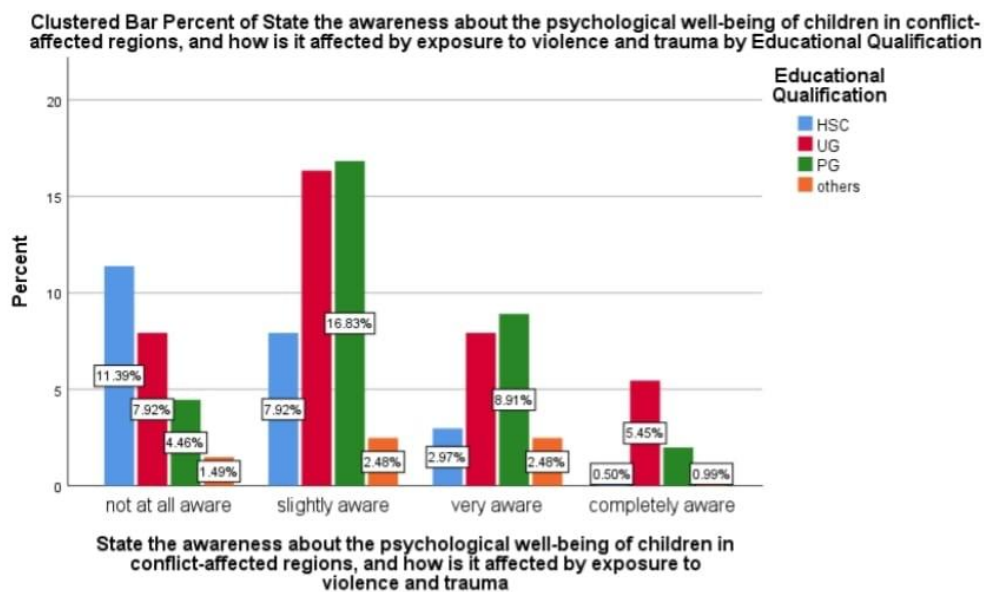
Legend - Figure 1 shows whether children are separated from their families or forced into child labour or military service are the result of armed conflict based on educational qualification .

Figure 2 :



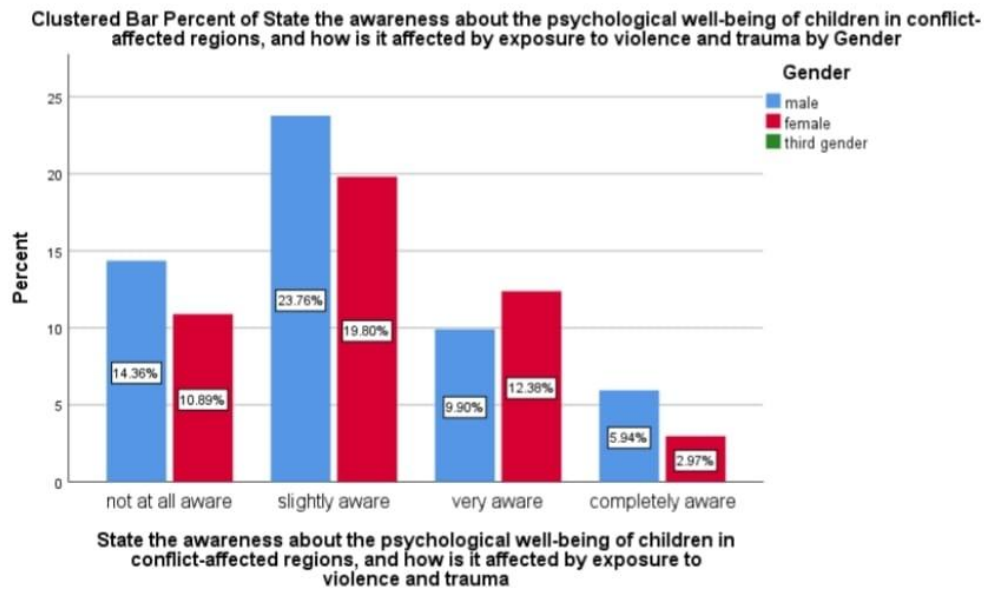
Legend - Figure 2 shows whether children are separated from their families or forced into child labour or military service are the result of armed conflict based on occupation category.

Figure 3 :



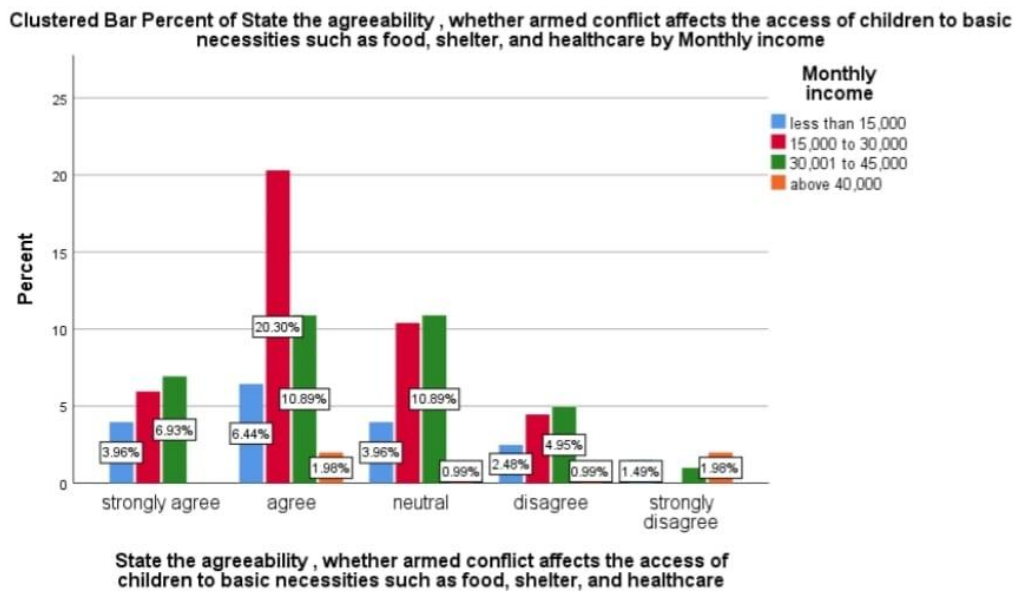
Legend - Figure 3 states the agreeability of whether armed conflict affects the access of children to basic necessities such as food, shelter and healthcare based on age category .

Figure 4 :



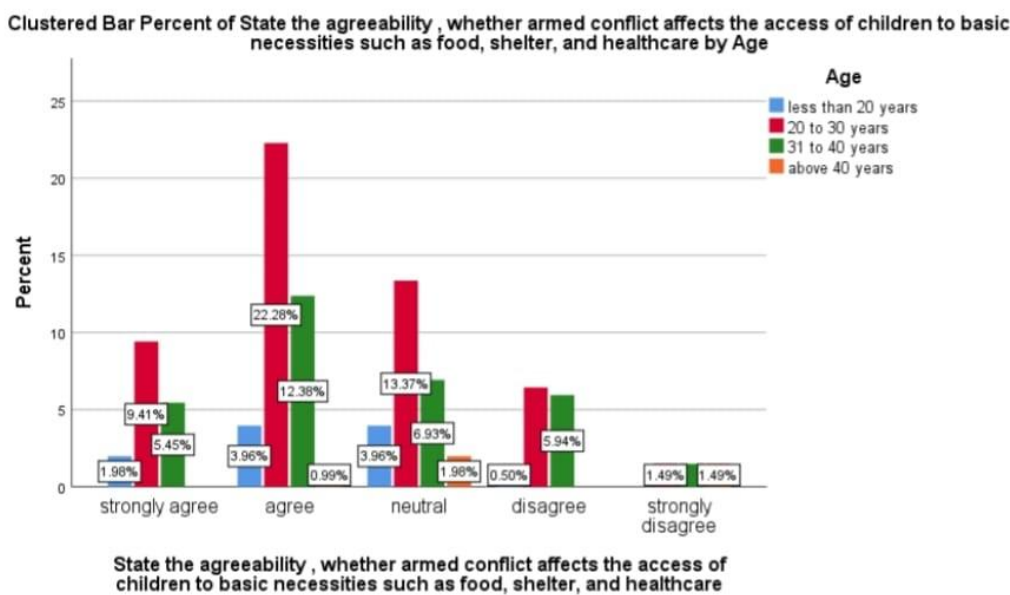
Legend - Figure 4 states the agreeability of whether armed conflict affects the access of children to basic necessities such as food, shelter and healthcare based on monthly income.

Figure 5 :



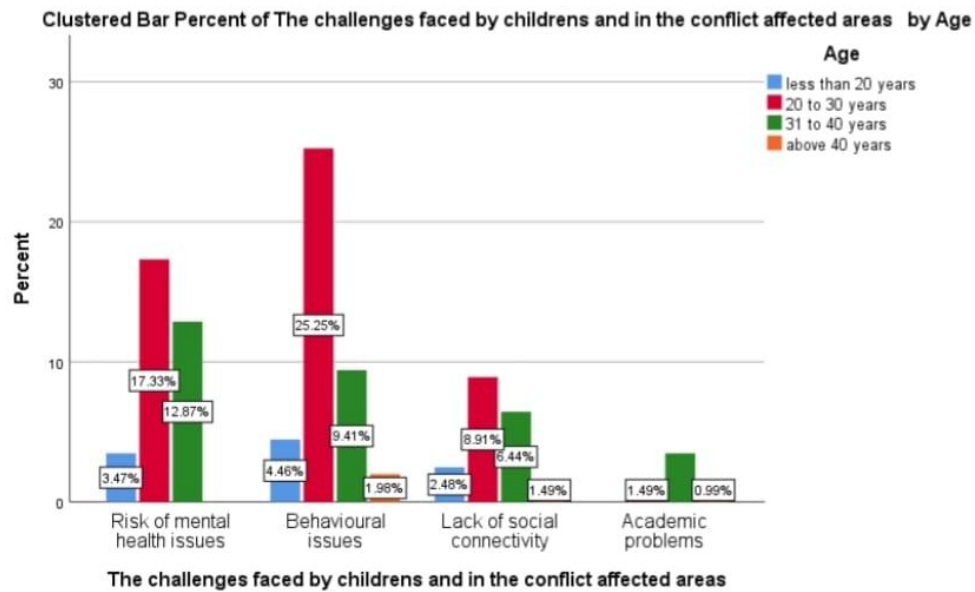
Legend - Figure 5 states the psychological well being of children in conflict affected regions, and how it is affected by exposure to violence and trauma based on gender category .

Figure 6 :



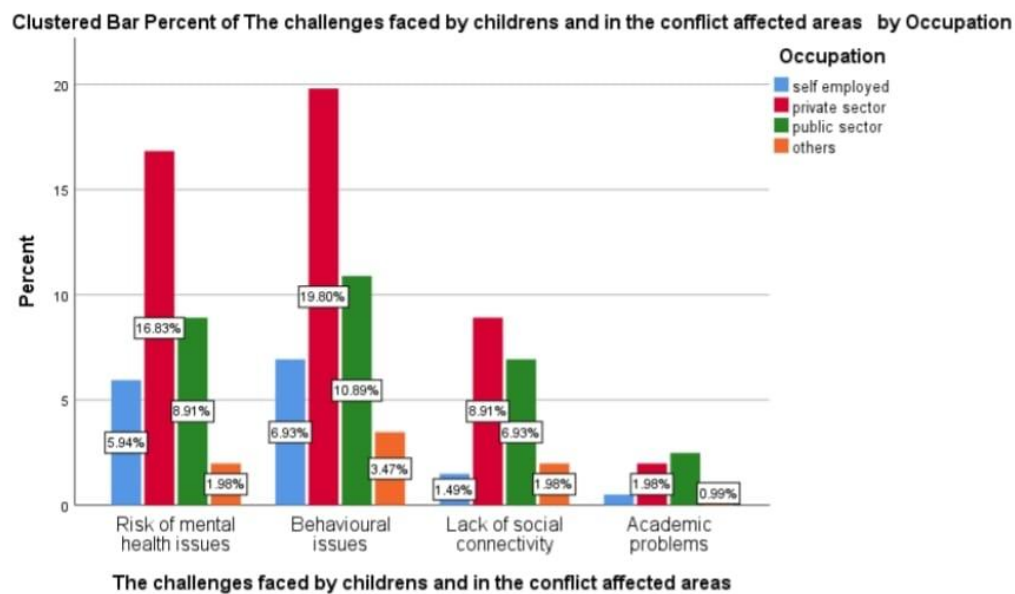
Legend: Figure 6 states the psychological well being of children in conflict affected regions, and how it is affected by exposure to violence and trauma based on educational qualification .

Figure 7 :



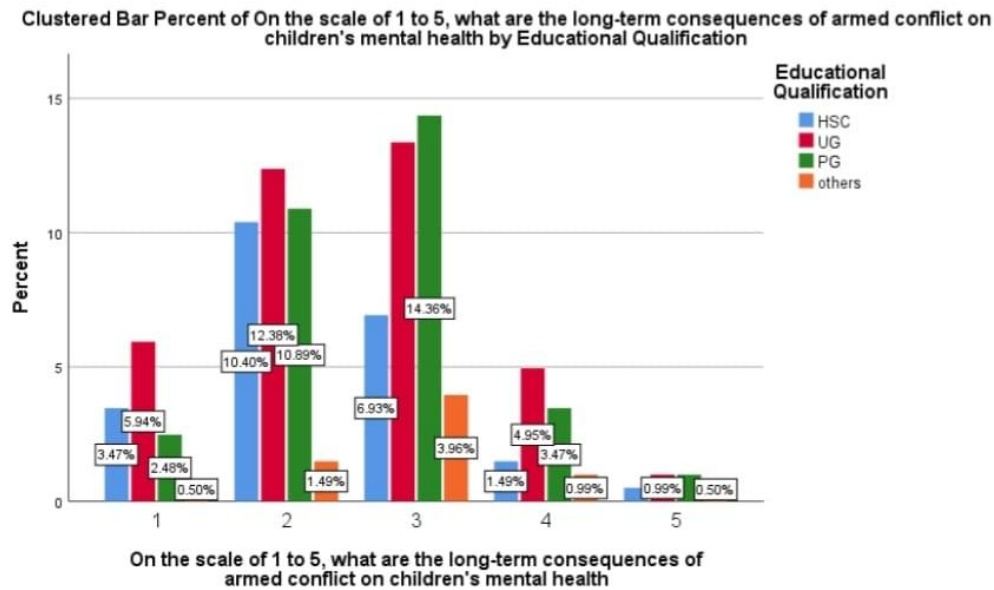
Legend - Figure 7 states the challenges faced by childrens and in the conflict affected areas based on age category.

Figure 8 :



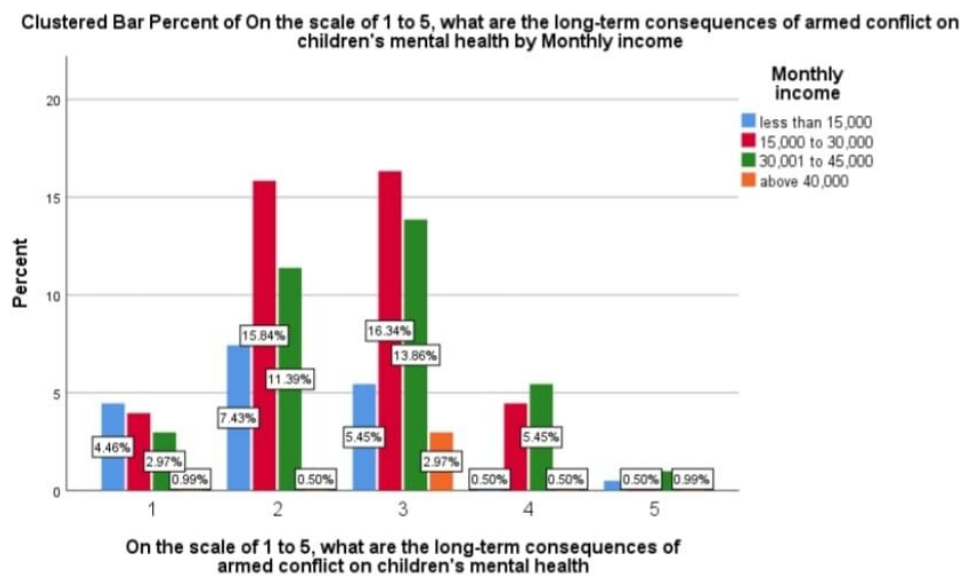
Legend - Figure 8 states the challenges faced by childrens and in the conflict affected areas based on occupation category .

Figure 9 :



Legend - Figure 9 states what are the long-term consequences of armed conflict on children's mental health based on educational qualification .

Figure 10 :



Legend - Figure 10 states what are the long-term consequences of armed conflict on children's mental health based on monthly income .

Results

Figure 1 shows whether children are separated from their families or forced into child labour or military service are the result of armed conflict based on educational qualification where the respondents preferred the option of yes and UG members had responded more .Figure 2 shows whether children are separated from their families or forced into child labour or military service are the result of armed conflict based on occupation category where the respondents preferred the option of yes and private sector employees had responded more .Figure 3 states the agreeability of whether armed conflict affects the access of children to basic necessities such as food, shelter and healthcare based on age category where the respondents preferred the option of agreement and 20 to 30 years aged people responded more .Figure 4 states the agreeability of whether armed conflict affects the access of children to basic necessities such as food, shelter and healthcare based on monthly income where the respondents preferred the option of agreement and 15,000 to 30,000 salaried people had responded more .Figure 5 states the psychological well being of children in conflict affected regions, and how it is affected

by exposure to violence and trauma based on gender category where the respondents preferred the option of slightly aware and male respondents had responded more. Figure 6 states the psychological well being of children in conflict affected regions, and how it is affected by exposure to violence and trauma based on educational qualification where the respondents preferred the option of slightly aware and UG members had responded more. Figure 7 states the challenges faced by childrens and in the conflict affected areas based on age category where the respondents preferred the option of behavioural issues and 20 to 30 years aged people had responded more. Figure 8 states the challenges faced by childrens and in the conflict affected areas based on occupation category where the respondents preferred the option of behavioural issues and private sector employees had responded more. Figure 9 states what are the long-term consequences of armed conflict on children's mental health based on educational qualification where the respondents preferred option 3 and UG members had responded more. Figure 10 states what are the long-term consequences of armed conflict on children's mental health based on monthly income where the respondents preferred the option 3 and 15,000 to 30,000 salaried people had responded more.

Discussion

Figure 1 shows whether children are separated from their families or forced into child labour or military service are the result of armed conflict based on educational qualification where the respondents preferred the option of yes and UG members had responded more might be UG members had more came across the children working in child labour. Figure 2 shows whether children are separated from their families or forced into child labour or military service are the result of armed conflict based on occupation category where the respondents preferred the option of yes and private sector employees had responded more might be private sector have engage children into labour works. Figure 3 states the agreeability of whether armed conflict affects the access of children to basic necessities such as food, shelter and healthcare based on age category where the respondents preferred the option of agreement and 20 to 30 years aged people responded more might be armed conflicts destroys the basic necessities of common person. Figure 4 states the agreeability of whether armed conflict affects the access of children to basic necessities such as food, shelter and healthcare based on monthly income where the respondents preferred the option of agreement and 15,000 to 30,000 salaried people had responded more might be middle salaried people had faced the struggles more. Figure 5 states the psychological well being of children in conflict affected regions, and how it is affected by exposure to violence and trauma based on gender category where the respondents preferred the option of slightly aware and male respondents had responded more might be still people are aware about the psychological well being of children. Figure 6 states the psychological well being of children in conflict affected regions, and how it is affected by exposure to violence and trauma based on educational qualification where the respondents preferred the option of slightly aware and UG members had responded more might be UG members are more aware about the psychological well being. Figure 7 states the challenges faced by childrens and in the conflict affected areas based on age category where the respondents preferred the option of behavioural issues and 20 to 30 years aged people had responded more might be their behaviour issues are the main factor which is different from common people. Figure 8 states the challenges faced by childrens and in the conflict affected areas based on occupation category where the respondents preferred the option of behavioural issues and private sector employees had responded more might be private sector employees are more aware about the behaviour issues of the children. Figure 9 states what are the long-term consequences of armed conflict on children's mental health based on educational qualification where the respondents preferred option 3 and UG members had responded more might be UG members are held with the long term consequences of children. Figure 10 states what are the long-term consequences of armed conflict on children's mental health based on monthly income where the respondents preferred the option 3 and 15,000 to 30,000 salaried people had responded more might be middle salaried people had faced commonly with these issues and adopted the option as average.

Conclusion

Armed conflict has a severe impact on the rights and well-being of children in India. Children are often the most vulnerable victims of armed conflict, with their rights to life, health, education, and protection from violence and exploitation severely affected. The long-lasting effects of conflict can disrupt their normal development, traumatize them, and deprive them of essential services and opportunities. The government of India and other stakeholders must take urgent action to protect the rights and well-being of children affected by armed conflict. This Includes providing essential services such as health care, education, and protection from violence and exploitation, and creating safe spaces for children to recover and heal from the trauma of conflict. Additionally, it is crucial to hold perpetrators accountable for violations of children's rights and to ensure that children have access to justice and redress.

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