
ISSUES RELATING TO CHILD LABOUR

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ABSTRACT

A Child is Meant to Learn Not to Earn

- Jyoti Basu, Former Chief Minister, West Bengal

Discouraging child labour will be a step forward to give them the equality they deserve!

All of us have witnessed cases of child labour and abuse in our everyday lives. Whether it's a small boy working at a tea cube or a girl working as a wench, India is home to the largest number of child labourers in the world. Child labour is not only about the physical and internal exploitation of the child but it also hinders the introductory rights of the child to get educated and live a festive nonwage.

You'll come across colourful cases of child labour in every niche and corner of India. For case, the fireworks and matchbox units in Sivakasi in Tamil Nadu workers children. In the slate assiduity of Markapur in Andhra Pradesh, about child workers work under extremely poor working conditions for a stingy sum of pay check. Around to children below the age of 14 times' work in the cinch making assiduity of Aligarh in Uttar Pradesh. These are only a many exemplifications of how children are exploited in our country in the name of child labour. If you look around you'll find in numerous number of similar analogous cases.

There's a notorious quotation that says “ There's no reason, there's no reason, child labour is child abuse.” To suppress their guilt passions the employers give certain apologies for employing children like they say that work keeps the children down from starvation and helps them support their family and learn a trade.

Child labour is caused by several factors. Some of them are poverty, huge demand for unskilled labourers, the high cost of education and ignorance. It also has certain long- term impacts on the society like it causes certain health issues among the children, results in loss of a quality nonage and internal trauma among the children who are forced to work in an unhealthy work terrain.

The stylish thing about literacy is nothing can take it down from you. The goods of poverty on children are vast and leads to lifelong struggles especially when children don't admit the introductory education. The multitudinous advantages of spreading knowledge among children are as follows;

- **It helps in dealing with poverty-** Poverty and ignorance are like two sides of the same coin. One of biggest advantages of educating the lower privileged section of the society is that it helps them lead a quality life. Educating the millions also plays a huge part in eradicating poverty.
- **Generates Employment-** Education and severance again goes hand in hand. However, it helps in generating employment, If the fruits of education can be spread unevenly among the population of our country.
- **Adds to the overall progress of the nation-** Children are the future of our country. Educating children caters to the whole progress and development of a country. In other words, spreading knowledge results to a progressive metamorphosis of the society that we live in. Educating the children also contributes to profitable development and increases the GDP of the country.

POVERTY IS WHAT DRIVES A PARENT INTO FORCING THEIR CHILDREN TO WORK

Child labour refers to the employment of children in any work that deprives children of their nonage, interferes with their capability to attend regular academy, and that's mentally, physically, socially or innocently dangerous and dangerous. This practice is considered exploitative by numerous transnational. Legislations across the world enjoin child labour. These laws don't consider all work by children as child labour; exceptions include work by child artists, supervised training, certain orders of work similar as those by Amish children, some forms of child work common among indigenous American children, and others.

Child labour in India is addressed by the Child Labour Act 1986 and National Child Labour design. Moment in India, there are further than after 10.12 million children who are spending their nonage learning carpet-weaving, beedi-rolling, domestic labour, husbandry, firework and vesture manufacture and in numerous other occupations rather of going to academy and entering quality education. Child labour is work that harms children or keeps them from attending academy. Around the world and in the U.S., growing gaps between rich and poor in recent decades have forced millions of youthful children out of academy and into work. The Transnational labour Organization estimates that 215 million children between the periods of 5 and 17 presently work under conditions that are considered illegal, dangerous, or extremely exploitative. Underage children work at all feathers of jobs around the world, generally because they and their families are extremely poor. Large figures of children work in marketable husbandry, fishing, manufacturing, mining, and domestic service. Some children work in lawless conditioning like the medicine trade and harlotry or other traumatic conditioning similar as serving as dogfaces.

Child labour can be plant in nearly every assiduity. An estimated 60 of child labour occurs in husbandry, fishing, stalking, and forestry. Children have been plant harvesting bananas in Ecuador, cotton in Egypt and Benin, cut flowers in Colombia, oranges in Brazil, cocoa in the Ivory Coast, tea in Argentina and Bangladesh, Fruits and vegetables in the U.S. Children in marketable husbandry can face long hours in extreme temperatures, health pitfalls from fungicides, little or no pay, and shy food, water, and sanitation.

Manufacturing; About 14 million children are estimated to be directly involved in manufacturing goods, including Carpets from India, Pakistan, Egypt, Clothing darned in

Bangladesh; footwear made in India and the Philippines, Soccer balls darned in Pakistan, Glass and bricks made in India, Fireworks made in China, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, India, and Peru, Surgical instruments made in Pakistan. Mining and Quarrying; Child sloggers suffer extremely high illness and injury rates in underground mines, opencast mines, and chases.

Research Aim:

1. To find out the main cause and effects of child labour and prepare a solution plan to reduce child labour.
2. To educate the city about the effects of child labour and spread awareness to help reduce child labour.

Research Hypothesis:

1. There will be no significant relationship between parental socio-economic status and child labour practices.
2. There will be no significant difference between attitude of low income parents and high income parents toward child labour practices.

Introduction

Child labour refers to the employment of children in any work that deprives them of their nonage, interferes with their capability to attend regular academy, and that's mentally, physically, socially or innocently dangerous and dangerous. In townlets, it's a common sight to see children of poor families working in fields or away to contribute to the family income. Similar children are deprived of openings of education and are also prone to health pitfalls. In a sense, child labour is open exploitation as it deprives children of education and pushes them into exploitative situations.

The side- goods of working at a youthful age are pitfalls of constricting occupational conditions like skin conditions, conditions of the lungs, weak sight, TB etc.; vulnerability to sexual

exploitation at the plant; deprived of education. They grow up unfit to mileage development openings and end up as unskilled workers for the rest of their lives.

It has been observed that in townlets especially, representatives of colourful diligence bait children with pledges of jobs and wealth and bring them to the megacity where they're employed as clicked labour in manufactories. Numerous children are also employed as ménage help where they're paid minimal stipend and are made to do outside physical work.

Problem of Child labour in India

Child labour has come a big problem in India. It's no doubt, a socio-profitable problem. A public check had shown that further than 16 million children between eight to fourteen are largely appointed in hospices and boarding houses, in tea- shops, cafes, in marketable enterprises, in manufactories and fisheries. They're engaged into all feathers of work for the sake of earning commodity for the family.

As a result, they're also deprived of primary education, without which chance of success in life is remote. Children are employed in agrarian labour; they drive wagons and take care of cattle. Girl children have to act as maid retainers and baby babysitters. They cook and clean, they wash clothes and collect energy. It's true that a number of laws have been assessed to help child labour. But they're more scorned than adhered. The ban has been assessed to save the children from dangerous workshop and to restore their care-free nonage. But some opines that if the ban is assessed without the arrangements of proper recuperation of the child workers, it would be of no effect.

There's no state which is free from the wrong of the curse of child labour isn't continued to India alone. It has extensively spread to similar developing countries as Nepal, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Burma and Sri Lanka. Poverty isn't the only factor responsible for children being engaged as labour.

They came cheaper and their parents do not have employment openings. Applicable social security measures should be espoused for icing the enactment of the law. Indian Government must come forward to remove this curse with acceptable fiscal help to the poor family. The

Government must arrange for free education and treatment for the children. Child Labour Act must be duly maintained and followed to cover child labour.

What the law says about child labour?

According to Article 23 of the Indian Constitution any type of forced labour is banned. Article 24 countries that a child under 14 years cannot be employed to perform any dangerous work. Also, Article 39 countries that “ the health and strength of workers, men and women, and the tender age of children aren't abused”. In the same manner, Child Labour Act (Prohibition and Regulation) 1986 prohibits children under the age of 14 times to be working in dangerous diligence and processes.

Role of panchayat members in mitigating child labour

- Generate awareness about the ill-effects of child labour,
 - Encourage parents to send their children to school
 - Create an environment where children stop working and get enrolled in schools instead
 - Ensure that children have sufficient facilities available in schools
 - Inform industry owners about the laws prohibiting child labour and the penalties for violating these laws
 - Activate Balwadis and Aanganwadis in the village so that working mothers do not leave the responsibility of younger children on their older siblings
 - Motivate Village Education Committees (VECs) to improve the conditions of schools.
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- **Facts about the economic exploitation of children worldwide**

While child labour around the world has declined by more than a third in the last 15 years, it remains a serious challenge and barrier to the well-being of children. The number of child labourers around the world fell from 246 million in 2000 to around 152 million in 2016. However, millions of children continue to be exploited for cheap labour, especially in countries such as India.

- **How many child labourers are there in India?**

According to the ILO, there are around 12.9 million dollar child engaged in work between the ages of 7 to 17 years old. When children are employed or doing unpaid work, they are less

likely to attend school or attend only intermittingly, trapping them in the cycle of poverty. Millions of Indian girls and boys are going to work every day in quarries and factories, or selling cigarettes on the street. The majority of these children are between 12 and 17 years old and work up to 16 hours a day to help their families make ends meet. But child labour in India can start even earlier with an estimated [10.1 million](#) children between the ages of 5 and 14 years-old engaged in work.

As children get older, their involvement in employment also increases. In India, [20 percent of all children aged 15 to 17 years old are involved in hazardous industries and jobs](#). Measuring the exact scale of child labour in India is difficult as it is often hidden and under-reported. There are almost [18 million children](#) between the ages of 7 to 17 years old who are considered “inactive” in India, neither in employment nor in school. These missing girls and boys in India are potentially subject to some of the worst forms of child labour.

- **What forms of child labour are there (Where do child labourers in India work?)**

According to a study by the ILO, the majority of the world's child labour (around 71 percent) is done in the agriculture sector, including cotton plantations and rice fields. Around 17 percent are employed as service staff, mainly as domestic workers or in restaurants, and another 12 percent of child labour is spread across jobs in the industry sector, including dangerous activities in mines.

Many child labourers in India are working for starvation wages in textile factories, helping with the processing of carpets, or doing back breaking work in brick making factories and quarries. Other child labourers work selling cigarettes, called "Bidis", on the street for the tobacco industry. Children are also used for cheap labour in industries such as steel extraction, gem polishing and carpet manufacturing. A staggering number of girls are victims of child trafficking in India, whether through traditional bondage or through organized crime. The commercial sexual exploitation of children is among the worst forms of child labour and in India there are around 1.2 million children involved in prostitution.

- **What are the causes of child labour in India?**

Despite the recent economic boom in India, more than a third of all Indians still live below the poverty line. The technical innovations and developments in the IT sector have not created jobs in poverty-stricken areas. People from rural areas with little education often see no alternative

but to take their children out of school and put them to work to help feed their family. Due to the dire situation of many families, children are sold by their fathers and mothers to child traffickers or parents abandon their children in the countryside while they look for work in a big city. These children are especially vulnerable and are often exploited by traffickers who force the boys and girls to work for very low wages or nothing at all.

- **Are there not Indian laws against child labour?**

The Indian Government enacted a law against child labour in 1993 prohibiting dangerous work or activities that could harm the mental, spiritual, moral or social development of girls and boys under the age of 18. However, child labour continues for a number of reasons, for example people exploit loopholes in the law which allows the employment of children if the work is part of a family business. Thus, having children sell cigarettes on the street could be considered legal if it is part of a family business. In addition, numerous business leaders, such as mine owners, hold political office and have considerable influence. Companies may not be interested in banishing the cheap labour from within their business operations.

In 2006 and again in 2016, the laws against child labour were tightened to ensure that children under the age of 14 were prohibited from working as domestic help or service staff in restaurants and hotels. However, child labour in family businesses remains acceptable. In addition, the law does not apply to 15 to 17 year-olds who are only prohibited from doing "dangerous" work. These laws also do not exclude activities such as field work where children are exposed to pesticides or physically exhausting work like carpet weaving.

To ensure the enforcement of these laws, the Indian government is currently developing another law which would increase the punishment for employers who use child labourers under the age of 14, changing the penalty from a fine to a prison sentence which would last several years.

- **What needs to be done to stop child labour in India?**

Much more has to be done in the political landscape to stop exploitative child labour in India: the laws against child labour must be further tightened and more strictly enforced. In addition, it is important to combat extreme poverty, a root cause of child labour. Addressing poverty and inequality is crucial to end child labour in India.

Access to education is also vital to break the vicious cycle of poverty and child labour. As children complete higher levels of education, they are more likely to find decent work in adulthood and can use their income to care for themselves and their families without relying on child labour. Although education is compulsory and free in India for children up to the age of 14, widespread poverty forces families to prioritize putting food on the table over sending their children to school. As a result, many children attend school irregularly or not at all because they have to work instead.

- **How does SOS Children's Villages in India help?**

In order to stop exploitative child labour, SOS Children's Villages in India are focusing on education and providing support for families.

For example, parents are provided with vocational training courses which help them build their skills and capacity so they can generate additional family income. With the ability to supplement their current income, the family is no longer reliant on having their children work just so that they can make ends meet.

With a stable family income, the economic barrier to sending their children to school is removed. The SOS Family Strengthening Programs also helps in covering the costs for school supplies and uniforms to make education more accessible to those in need.

The SOS Family Strengthening Program and Social Centres are active in 31 locations across India where the need is greatest: in poor rural areas and in the slums in larger cities. Altogether, 33,000 family members are currently receiving support so vulnerable children in India can receive the care and education they need to break the cycle of child labour.

If children can no longer stay with their parents or extended family, SOS Children's Villages India will invite them to live in one of its SOS Villages where they are provided with a loving SOS mother, quality education, healthcare, nutritious food and all the things necessary for a bright future.

Judicial Efforts towards the Problem of Child Labour

On 10th December 1996 in Writ Petition (Civil) No.465/1986 on MC Mehta verses State of Tamil Nadu, the Supreme Court of India, gave certain directions on the issue of elimination of

child labour.

The main features of judgment are as under:

1. Survey for identification of working children.
2. Withdrawal of children working in hazardous industry and ensuring their education in appropriate institutions.
3. Contribution @ Rs.20,000/- per child to be paid by the offending employers of children to a welfare fund to be established for this purpose.
4. Employment to one adult member of the family of the child so withdrawn from work and if that is not possible a contribution of Rs.5,000/- to the welfare fund to be made by the State Government.
5. Financial assistance to the families of the children so withdrawn to be paid-out of the interest earnings on the corpus of Rs.20,000/25,000 deposited in the welfare fund as long as the child is actually sent to the schools.
6. Regulating hours of work for children working in non-hazardous occupations so that their working hours do not exceed six hours per day and education for at least two hours is ensured. The entire expenditure on education is to be borne by the concerned employer.
7. The implementation of the direction of the Hon'ble Supreme Court is being monitored by the Ministry of Labour and compliance of the directions have been reported in the form of Affidavits on 05.12.97, 21.12.1999, 04.12.2000, 04.07.2001 and 04-12-2003 to the Hon'ble Court on the basis of the information received from the State/UT Governments.

National Child Labour Policy:

Constitutional and legislative provisions providing protection to children against employment has been elaborated in the National Child Labour Policy announced in 1987. The policy addresses the complex issue of child labour in a comprehensive, holistic and integrated manner. The action plan under this policy is multi-pronged and mainly consists of:

1. A legislative action plan.
2. Focuses on general development programmes for the benefit of the families of children.
3. Project-based action plan in areas of high concentration of child labour.

National Child Labour Project Scheme :

For rehabilitation of child labour, Government had initiated the National Child Labour Project (NCLP) Scheme in 1988 to rehabilitate working children in 12 child labour endemic districts of the country. Its coverage has increased progressively to cover 271 districts in the country presently. As on date the Scheme is in operation in 266 districts. Under the NCLP Scheme, children are withdrawn from work and put into special schools, where they are provided with bridging education, vocational training, mid-day meal, stipend, health-care facilities etc. and finally mainstreamed to the formal education system.

At present, there are around 7,000 NCLP schools being run in the country with an enrolment of three lakh children. Till date more than 9 lakh working children have already been mainstreamed to regular education under the NCLP Scheme. The NCLP scheme is a Central Sector scheme. Under the scheme, project societies are set up at the district level under the Chairpersonship of the Collector/ District Magistrate for overseeing the implementation of the project. Instructions to involve civil society and NGOs have also been issued.

Conclusion

The Government has accordingly been taking proactive steps to tackle this problem through strict enforcement of legislative provisions along with simultaneous rehabilitative measures. State Governments, which are the appropriate implementing authorities, have been conducting regular inspections and raids to detect cases of violations. Since poverty is the root cause of this problem, and enforcement alone cannot help solve it, Government has been laying a lot of emphasis on the rehabilitation of these children and on improving the economic conditions of their families.