

# A Critical Analysis on “Child Labor in the Shadows” - Comprehensive Examination of its Prevalence, Causes, and Impacts in India

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**Abstract:** *Child labour may be a major problem from several decades and a challenge for several developing countries. It existed over the centuries not solely within the impoverished areas of developing countries however conjointly in developed countries till the start of the twentieth century. Several countries have enacted varied laws and have taken serious initiative to eradicate child labour, nonetheless still the matter is extremely widespread throughout the globe. The matter of Child labour seems in severe kind and varied factors square measure attached to it. Child labour may be found in each urban and rural areas. The objective of the study is to determine the impact of child labour in society. And the analysis of the important factors affecting the child labour laws. The overwhelming majority of child labour happens in rural areas since impoverishment is a lot of rampant. Although several poor rural families struggle for a more robust life in urban areas, this pushes families to force their kids to figure so as to extend the family financial gain and guarantee survival. The paper focuses on the empirical research with the online survey of 195 respondents. This paper analysis the assorted accountable factors for child labour and tries to search out out those areas wherever there's discrimination in kid labour. Additionally the target of this paper is to create a appraisal of Child labour. The findings reveal that Child labour was a significant evil for the developing country -India.*

**Keywords:** Child labour, Rural families, Poverty, Discrimination, Critical analysis

## I. INTRODUCTION

For many years, child labour has been one among the most important obstacles to social development. It's a challenge and long-term goal in many countries as they have the essential amenities which a toddler should have. Recently the International Labour Organization (ILO, 2013) estimated there are around 215 million children between the ages five to 14 who work worldwide. They're often mistreated and work for prolonged hours, in very bad conditions. This will affect their health physically, mentally and emotionally. These children don't have the essential rights like access to high school or health care. According to ILO (2013) the most important numbers of kid labourers are working in hazardous work and therefore the total number of kid workers is increasing, even though it's forbidden by law. These children are susceptible to diseases and that they struggle with long-term physical and psychological pain. The most cause that induces children to figure is poverty. These children work for his or her survival and their families. Some studies argue not all the work that children do is harmful or brutal. Some work may provide successful learning opportunities, like babysitting or newspaper delivery jobs, but not if the work exposes them to psychological stress, like human trafficking, prostitution and pornographic activities. UNICEF defines child labour differently. A child, suggests UNICEF, is involved in child labour activities if between 5 to 11 years of age, he or she did at least one hour of economic activity or at least 28 hours of domestic work in a week, and in case of children between 12 to 14 years of age, he or she did at least 14 hours of economic activity or at least 42 hours of economic activity and domestic work per week. When compared to countries like Africa and North Korea the vitality of child labour prohibition acts in India are encouraged. National Child Labour Policy was announced in 1987. Considering the complexity of the matter, it envisaged a

multi-pronged approach, involving Project-based Plan of Action for elimination of kid labour in child labour endemic areas, adopting a sequential approach, that specialize in general development programmes to focus on families of kid workers Strict enforcement of the kid Labour Act. This “2030 Agenda” may be a comprehensive, far-reaching, and people-centred set of 17 interrelated goals and 169 associated targets to guide global development efforts over the approaching 13 years. The Sustainable Development Goals include a renewed global commitment to ending child labour. Specifically, target 8.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals calls on the worldwide community to take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst sorts of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour altogether its forms." The international organizations have made great efforts to eliminate child labour across the planet. Many countries have adopted legislation to ban child labour, nonetheless child labour is widespread throughout the planet. it's tough task for developing countries like India to realize banning child labour.

### 1.1 OBJECTIVES

To assess the problems of child labour in India. To examine outline policy interventions and other safeguards to protect child labour. To determine the impact of child labour in the society. To analyze the various responsible factors for child labour.

## II. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

(Cigno and Rosati 2005) has analyzed the frequency of child labour in developed as well as developing countries. Indeed child labour was almost completely reduced from the developed world. However currently child labour still continues because of rapid population growth, high rates of unemployment, inflation, poverty, malnutrition, bad leadership, corruption and low wages. (Chatterjee and Ray 2019) has described that child labour is taking place all over the world particularly in low income countries and these children are working in all sectors of economy, such as, agriculture, manufacturing, fishing, construction, domestic service, street vending etc. children are normally unregistered as employers and working in a very poor and dangerous condition without social protection. (Haspels 2000) have reported that child labour are involved in many different forms of works which include risks and hazards. These children are vulnerable to physical pain and injury particularly being exposed to health hazard. (Gifford 2009) have attempted to report that any work that children does outside home is classified as child labour. According to them, working outside home is usually exposed to environmental hazards which may affect their health and safety. (Nangia 1987) has started that child labour creates unskilled and uneducated labour which affects country's development and economy. (Nanjunda 2008) has described the definition of child labour. He has said that it is not simple because It includes three difficult concepts to define which are „child“ „labour“ and „work“. He has also claimed that the term of childhood could be defined by age but in some societies, people ceased to be a child at different ages. (Siddiqui 2004) tried to analyse the importance of education in the context of child labour .He tried to find out the impact of child labour on children's school attendance. He suggested some solutions to overcome child labour with the help of education. (Dewan 2009) has reported the first legislation came to ban child labour in 1833 and 1844 .It complied that children should not work , and the idea was to remove all children should not work, and the idea was to remove all children from labour which interfered with school. However many children as child labour which was prohibited by law continued to be involved. (Nishida et al. 2020) has analyzed that when parents have worked in their childhood, their children will work as well, passing it from generation to generation. Then once they are grown, they become uneducated and low skilled. That's why Parents Education plays a vital role in children education as it can increase the possibility for their children to have a good education. (Grayson et al. 2020) has reported that the incidence of child labourers throughout the world is difficult to verify because of the lack of reliable statistics of child labour and many child labourers are invisible. According to (Ansari, Hofkens, and Pianta 2020) in rural Guatemala; parents prefer their children to work because they considered it beneficial for them as they learn work skills. (Oetzel et al. 2020) used a theoretical model of child labour, where he showed the only reason parents send children to labour is because of their low income. Consequently poor parents cannot afford schooling for their children. Thus, mainly poor households are to send forced their children to labour instead of sending to school. Different circumstances affect the child labour. Studies have demonstrated that the most notable reason is poverty (Williams et al. 2020)(Mitku et al. 2020) “Corruption

exacerbates poverty and inequality, undermines human development and stability and sustains conflict, violates human rights, and erodes the democratic functioning of countries”. Corruption can have hugely negative effect on children’s right that deprives basic services such as health care, education and infrastructure. Corruption can diminish children’s ability to escape poverty. Trade unions, consumer groups and the International Labour Organization (ILO) often used “child labor” and “child laborer” instead of “working children,” implying that children should be kept away from the labor force at least until they reach a minimum working age on the basis of the fact that these organizations historically tended to protect and secure adult labor markets (Margalida et al. 2020) According to (Epstein et al. 2020) child labour is viewed as a form of child labour abuse, when children work in bad conditions and hazardous occupations. (Office and International Labour Office, n.d.) has showed evident trend from across-country sample, that low income households are more likely to send their children to labour market which is uncommon in richer household. (Parker 2016) has found that during the beginning up the Industrial Revolution children were forced to work around family farms in factories , tending crops or preparing food . They worked in Industries and their working conditions were very dangerous and often deadly. At that time the industry preferred children to work because children provided cheap labour and more malleable workers. According to (Shiozawa 1983), “child labour includes children prematurely leading adulteries, working long hours for low wages under conditions damaging to their health and to their physical and mental development, sometimes separated from there families, frequently deprived of meaningful education and training opportunities that would open for them a better future. The largest Numbers of child labourers are working in hazardous work and the total number of child workers is increasing, even though it is forbidden by law. These children are vulnerable to diseases and they struggle with long-term physical and psychological pain. The main cause that induces children to work is poverty. These children work for their survival and their families (Hakimi et al. 2020)

**III. METHODOLOGY**

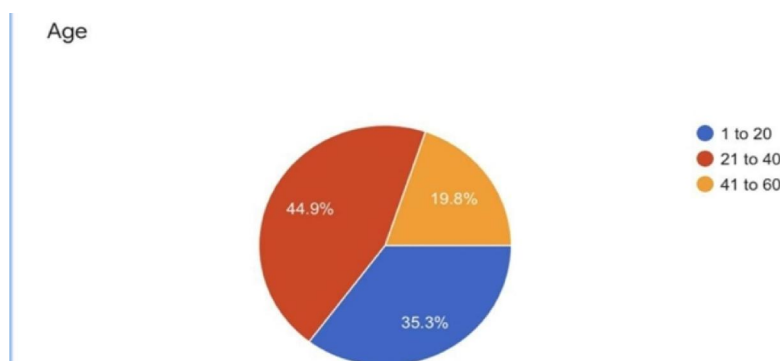
The researcher have used empirical study in this research. This empirical study includes a self tested questionnaire which contains yes or no questions and other choices accordingly by using the survey sampling method. This is a non-doctrinal study. This paper depends on both primary and secondary data. The primary data for the present study is collected using sampling techniques. Random sampling is used to collect the primary information from the respondents. A random of samples selected from the study area to analyse the status of e-taxation system. The primary data which has been analysed using Frequencies, Chi-Square test and Crosstab method. The secondary data is collected from books, journals, articles and e-sources. The researcher has also utilized commentaries, books, treatises, articles, notes, comments and other writings to incorporate the various views of the multitude of jurists, with the intention of presenting a holistic view. And the current paper uses SPSS analysis SPSS is short for Statistical Package for the Social Sciences, and it's used by various kinds of researchers for complex statistical data analysis. The SPSS software package was created for the management and statistical analysis of social science data and this research uses such kind of analysis for proper and appropriate results.

**3.1 Analysis:**

**Frequency Analysis;**

**INDEPENDENT VARIABLE :**

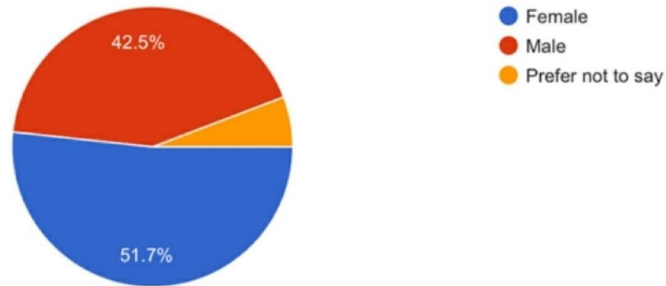
**Age :**



The frequency analysis of age indicates there is a total response of 35.3% in the age group of 1 to 20, 44.9% in the age group of 21 to 40 and 19.8% in the age group of 41 to 60. Totally there are 195 responses in the category of age.

**Gender**

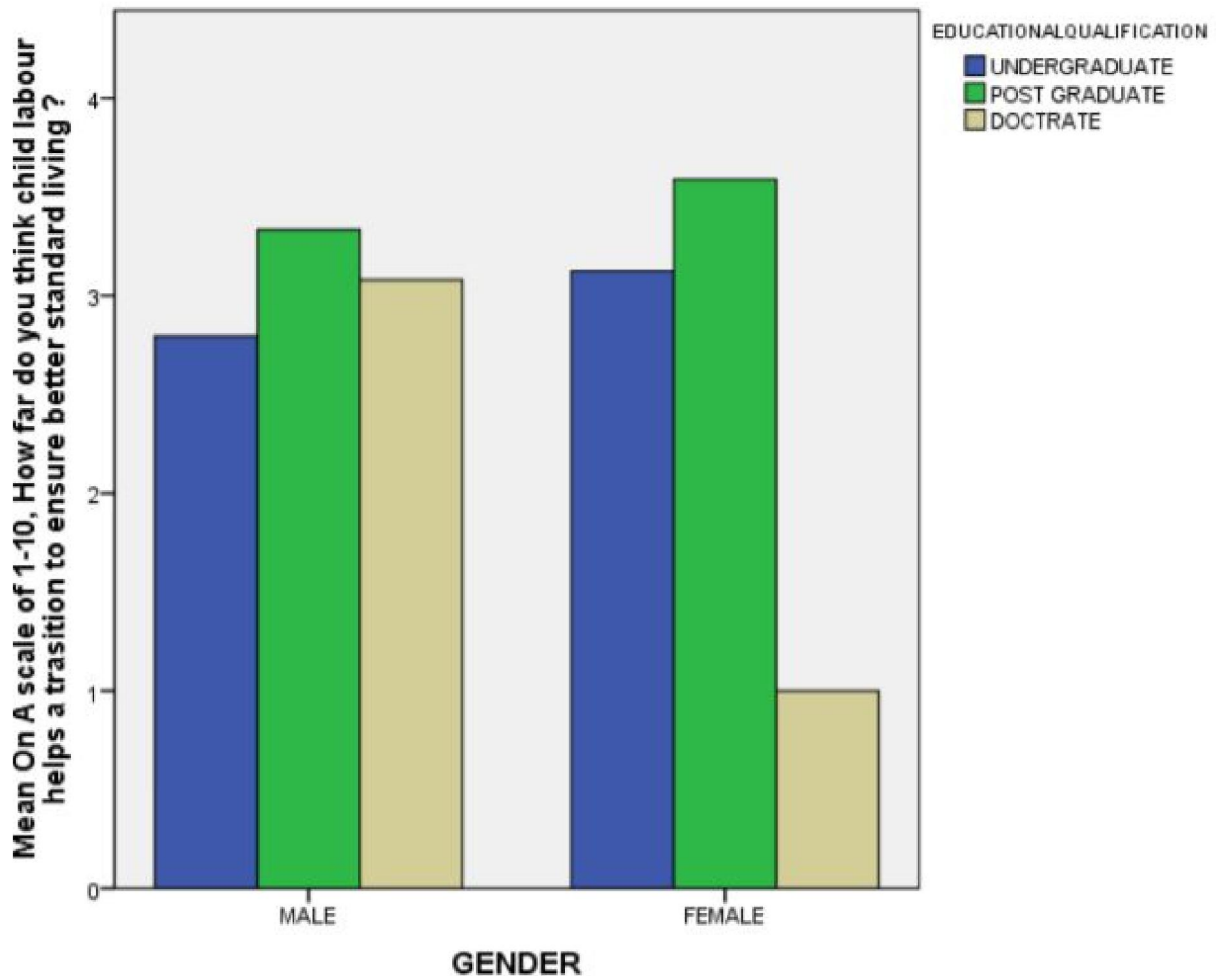
Gender



The frequency analysis of gender indicates there is a total response of 51.7% in the female category, 42.5% in the male category and 7% in the prefer not to say category. Totally there are 195 responses in the category of gender.

**IV. ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION**

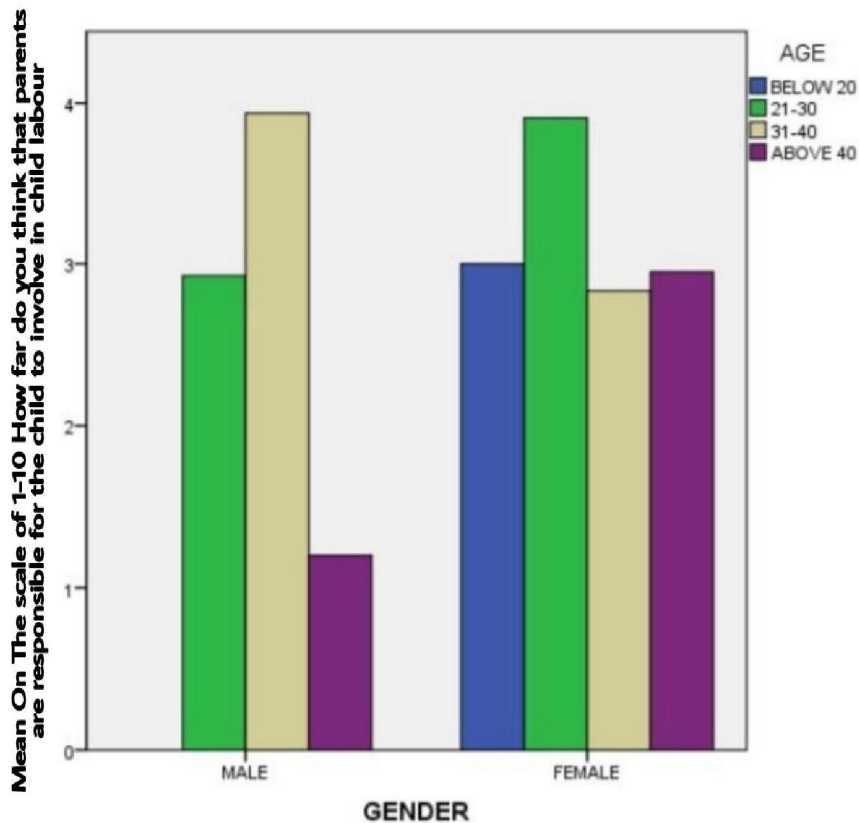
Figure 1



**Legend**

It shows that almost all the respondents respective of their education have participated in the sampling method survey made online. The Age Category was filled with the above mentioned respective variables. Here considering the Age of the respondents, Majority of the respondents have voted above average on the scale backing there is need enhanced Statutory provisions regarding safeguarding of children against child labour

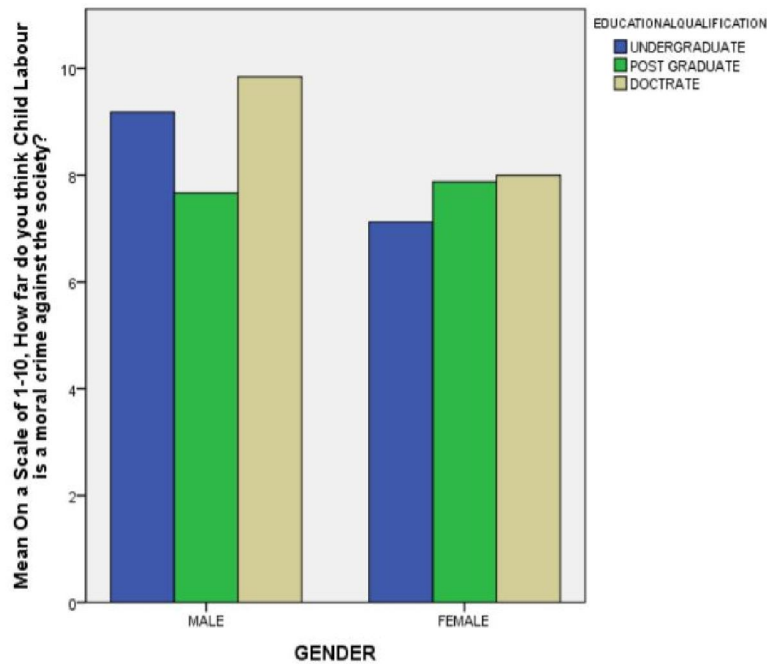
Figure 2-



**Legend**

It shows that almost all the respondents respective of their gender have participated in the sampling method survey made online. Here considering the gender of the respondents, Majority of the respondents have voted above average on the scale backing there is need enhanced Statutory provisions regarding safeguarding of children against child labour

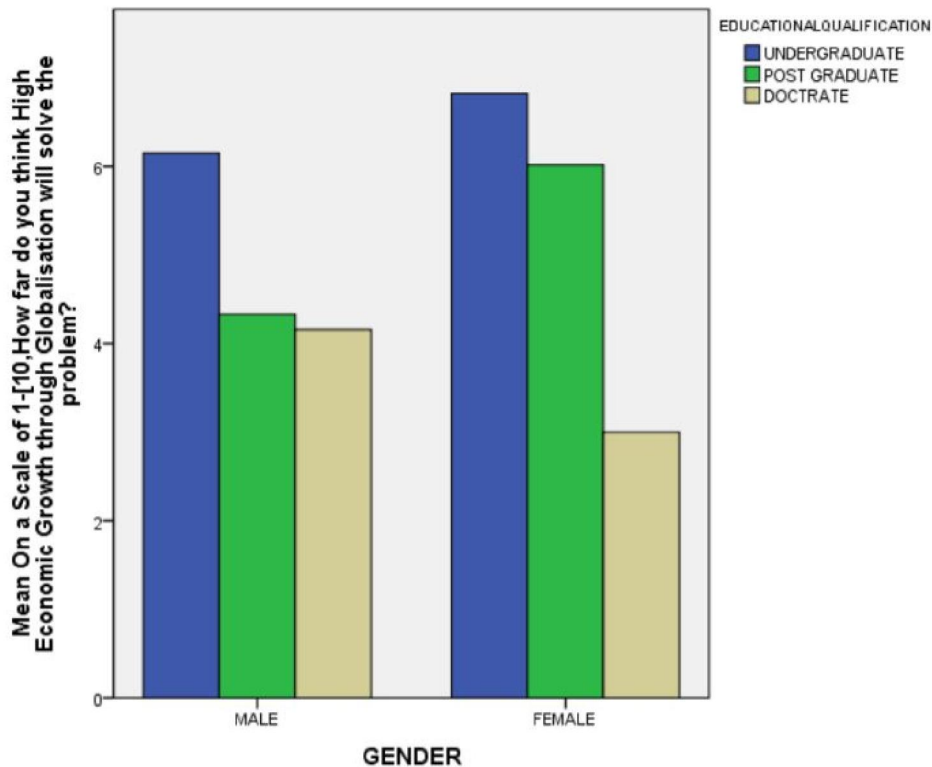
Figure 3-



**Legend**

It shows that almost all the respondents respective of their education have participated in the sampling method survey made online. The Educational Qualification Category was filled with the above mentioned respective variables. Here considering the Education Qualification of the respondents, Majority of the respondents have voted above average on the scale backing Child Labour is a moral crime against humanity.

Figure 4



### Legend

It shows that almost all the respondents respective of their education have participated in the sampling method survey made online. The gender Category was filled with the above mentioned respective variables. Here considering the Age of the respondents, Majority of the respondents have voted above average on the scale backing Child high economic growth through globalisation will solve the problem.

### V. RESULT

*Figure 1* shows that both the genders have actively participated in the survey made online. Almost everyone had the same opinion that there is need enhanced Statutory provisions regarding safeguarding of children against child labour. *Figure 2* shows that both the genders have actively participated in the survey made online. Almost everyone had the same opinion that parent are responsible for the children invloved in child labour. *Figure 3* shows that both the genders have actively participated in the survey made online. Almost everyone had the same opinion that Child Labour is a moral crime against the society. *Figure 4* shows that both the genders have actively participated in the survey made online. Almost everyone had the same opinion that high economic growth through globalisation will solve the problem.

### VI. DISCUSSION

*From Figure 1*, It is evident that both the genders have actively participated in the survey made online. Almost everyone had the same opinion that there is need for enhanced Statutory provisions regarding safeguarding of children against child labour. It shows that almost all the respondents respective of their education have participated in the sampling method survey made online. The Age Category was filled with the above mentioned respective variables. Here considering the Age of the respondents, Majority of the respondents have voted above average on the scale backing there is need enhanced Statutory provisions regarding safeguarding of children against child labour.

*From Figure 2*, It is evident that both the genders have actively participated in the survey made online. Almost everyone had the same opinion that there is need enhanced Statutory provisions regarding safeguarding of children against child labour. It shows that almost all the respondents respective of their education have participated in the sampling method survey made online. The Educational Qualification Category was filled with the above mentioned respective variables. Here considering the Education Qualification of the respondents, Majority of the respondents have voted above average on the scale backing there is need enhanced Statutory provisions regarding safeguarding of children against child labour.

*From Figure 3*, It is evident that both the genders have actively participated in the survey made online. Almost everyone had the same opinion that Child Labour is a moral crime against the society. It shows that almost all the respondents respective of their education have participated in the sampling method survey made online. The Educational Qualification Category was filled with the above mentioned respective variables. Here considering the Education Qualification of the respondents, Majority of the respondents have voted above average on the scale backing Child Labour is a moral crime against humanity.

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### VII. LIMITATIONS

The Major limitation of the study is the sample frame. The sample frame Collected through online platforms like sending mail, sending links via WhatsApp is the limitation of the study, the real field experience is missed out due to the pandemic. The restrictive area of sample size is yet another drawback of the research. Collection of data via online platforms is limiting the researcher to collect data from the field. Since the data is collected on an online platform wherein the respondent is not known, the original opinion of the respondent is not found, The researcher could only come to an approximate conclusion of what the respondent is feeling to convey.

### VIII. SUGGESTIONS

In order to effectively protect and nurture this asset of the country, the Government has enacted several laws and legislations, the most prominent one being the Child Labour (Prevention and Regulation) Act, 1986. These laws have been repeatedly amended so as to remove any lacunae that may develop with time. It is also essential to realise that merely debating and discussing and formulating laws will not curb the menace of Child Labour. The problem lies not in having suitable laws but in poor & ineffective implementation of the same. It is speedy, swift and effective implementation of the laws that will help us finally to attain the objective. The officials and police personnel need to take active steps when dealing with situations involving presence of Child labourers. Furthermore, the public also needs to be discouraged from employing children as domestic help. Coming to those children who are already employed, they can be substituted with the unemployed adult labourers who are available in plenty. This is an area where the media can play a very important role. Mediums such as Print & electronic media as well as motion pictures need to be galvanised and made more sensitive to the issue. They would help spread awareness which would in turn have a positive impact on the human psyche.

### IX. CONCLUSION

Country of India is home to the most important number of youngsters who are working illegally in various industrial industries. Agriculture in India is that the largest sector where many children work on early ages to assist support their family. Many of those children are forced to figure at young ages thanks to many family factors like unemployment, an outsized number of relations, poverty, and lack of parental education. This is often the main explanation for the high rate of kid labour in India. The major objective of the study is to determine the impact of child labour and its consequences in the society. A spread of Indian social scientists also because the Non-Governmental Organization (NGOs) have done extensive research on the numeric figures of kid labour found in India and determined that India contributes to one-third of Asia's child labour and one-fourth of the world's child labour. Thanks to an outsized number of youngsters being illegally employed, the Indian government began to require extensive actions to scale back the amount of youngsters working, and to specialise in the importance of facilitating the right growth and development of youngsters. Thanks to the rise of regulations and legal restrictions on child labour, there has been a 65 percent decline in child labour from 2001 to 2011. Although this is often an excellent decrease within the country of India, there's still high numbers of youngsters working within the rural areas of India. With 85 percent of the kid labour occurring in rural areas, and 15 percent occurring in urban areas, there are still substantial areas of concern within the country of India.

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