

# A Study on Problems of Child Labour in India

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**Abstract:** *The problem of child labour has been more serious in developing countries. Due poverty, hunger, illiteracy, ignorance, traditional thinking and lack of proper implementation of child labour laws in our country, the problem of child labour is still persisted in our society. The children of age below 14 years have working in various fields and in very hazardous conditions. The number of child labour has been increasing in our country and the number of child labour is more in our country as compared to any other country in the world. Many provisions are provided in our constitution and in laws to control child labour but socio-economic conditions prevalent in the country do not force children to get compulsory education and to enjoy right to education. The attempt has been made in this paper to provide brief account of child labour laws in our country, reasons for child labour and suggestions to control child labour.*

*Child labour is a pressing global issue with profound social, economic, and ethical implications. It involves children, typically under the age of 18, engaged in work that is harmful to their physical and mental development. The problem of child labour is multifaceted, with a range of interconnected issues. This introduction will highlight some of the key problems associated with child labour, including the violation of children's rights, the perpetuation of poverty, and the impediment of education.*

**Keywords:** Poverty, Globalization, welfare, unemployment, illiterate

## I. INTRODUCTION

Child labour is the practice of having children engages in economic activity, on part or full-time basis. The practice deprives children of their childhood, and is harmful to their physical and mental development. Poverty, lack of good schools and growth of informal economy are considered as the important causes of child labour in India. The problem of child labour continues to pose a challenge before the nation. Government has been taking various pro-active measures to tackle this problem. However, considering the magnitude and extent of the problem and that it is essentially a socioeconomic problem inextricably linked to poverty and illiteracy, it requires concerted efforts from all sections of the society to make a dent in the problem.

According to the Census 2001 figures there are 1.26 crore working children in the age group of 5-14 as compared to the total child population of 25.2 crore. There are approximately 12 lacs children working in the hazardous occupations/processes which are covered under the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act i.e. 18 occupations and 65 processes. However, as per survey conducted by National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) in 2004-05, the number of working children is estimated at 90.75 lakh. It shows that the efforts of the Government have borne the desired fruits. Some of the facts according to the Ministry of labour & employment India:

73 million working children are less than 10 years old. While buffaloes may cost up to

15,000 rupees, children are sold at prices between 500 and 2,000 rupees.

47 out of 100 children in India enrolled in class I reach class VIII, putting the dropout rate at 52.79%. Approximately 16.64% of villages in the country do not have facilities for primary schooling. (UNICEF) .42 million children in the age-group 6-14 years do not attend school in India.

According to the Indian census of 1991, there are 11.28 million working children under the age of fourteen years in India. Over 85% of this child labour is in the country's rural areas, working in agricultural activities such as fanning, livestock rearing, forestry and fisheries. The world's highest number of working children is in India. ILO estimates that 218 million children were involved in child labour in 2004, of which 126 million were engaged in hazardous work.

Some region of India, including Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh, account for 1.27 crore working children in the country, engaged in both hazardous and non-hazardous occupations and processes. • Over 19 lakh child labours in the 5-14 age group are in Uttar Pradesh.

## II. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Causes of Child Labour is **over population**: limited resources and more mouths to feed, Children are employed in various forms of work. **Illiterate** parents do not realize the need for a proper physical, emotional and cognitive development of a child. **Poverty** forces parents to send their children to hazardous jobs. **Urbanization**: MNC's and export industries in the developing world employ child workers, particularly in the garment industry.

Orphans: Children born out of wedlock, children with no parents and relatives, often do not find anyone to support them. Thus, they are forced to work for their own living.

Willingness to exploit children: This is at the root of the problem Even if a family is very poor; the incidence of child labour will be very low unless there are people willing to exploit these children.

Unemployment of elders: Elders often find it difficult to get jobs. The industrialists and factory owners find it profitable to employ children. This is so because they can pay less and extract more work. They will also not create union problem.

### 2.1 Objectives of the Research

- To study the concept of child labour .
- To understand the Legislative Action Plan for strict enforcement of the Child & Adolescent Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986.
- In consonance with the above approach, a National Policy on Child Labour, formulated in 1987, seeks to adopt a gradual & sequential approach with a focus on rehabilitation of children and Adolescent. The Action Plan outlined in the Policy for tackling this problem is as follows:
- Legislative Action Plan for strict enforcement of The Child & Adolescent Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986.
- Project based action plan in areas of high concentration of Child & Adolescent Labour - National Child Labour Project (NCLP) Schemes.
- Focuses on general developmental programmes for the benefit of the families of children

## III. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study is based on secondary data. Secondary data collected from various books, journals, internet, etc.

## IV. FINDINGS

The ideal scenario on Child Welfare would be when every child enjoys the fullness of childhood through education, recreation and adequate health facilities. It is impossible to attain these facilities by the child labour. All the children were able to enjoy the completeness of childhood only:

When the true conscience of the nation is awakened.

When all the policy makers and the bureaucrats take the issue of child labour seriously and commit themselves to the cause of the holistic development of every child in India.

When the employees would not even contemplate the idea of employing a child for any work which might deny the child of a normal childhood.

When all Policies laid down by the Government under various Plans and Laws were implemented properly.

## V. CONCLUSION

The problem of child labour continues to pose a challenge before the nation. Government has been taking various proactive measures to tackle this problem. However, considering the magnitude and extent of the problem and that it is essentially a socio-economic problem inextricably linked to poverty and illiteracy, it requires concerted efforts from all

society to make a dent in the problem. The social evil of child labour can be brought under control, if each individual takes responsibility of prevailing child labour. Each and every citizen should be aware of their responsibilities and should take corrective measures to stop child labour, so that we can have a better and developed India. Child labour can be controlled if the government functions effectively with the support of the public.

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