

## CHILD LABOUR PROBLEMS AND SOLUTION IN INDIA

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**Abstract:** *Child labor is a complex issue and therefore we feel the need of our integrated approach and the involvement of all sections of society to tackle this problem right from its roots. It's clear that this awful crime of child labour must be stopped, and as consumers, I say we bear part of the responsibility. Instead of accepting that the world we live in is just unfair and that's the way it is, it's up to us to keep it a place worth living for every single little person out there. It's time our country reached out a hand to those poor suffering children – citizens of the world as much as we are – and let them live their lives to their full potential, as children should. Children with special needs, or those who have a “disadvantage owing to social, cultural economical, geographical, linguistic, gender or such other factors.” Bringing 8 million out-of-school children into classes at the age-appropriate level with the support to stay in school and succeed poses a major challenge. Substantial efforts are essential to eliminate disparities and ensure quality with equity. Successful implementation of the Act would certainly go a long way in eradicating child labor in India.*

**Keywords:** - Child labors, India, problems, solution, protection,

### Introduction:-

Children are the greatest gift to humanity and Childhood is an important and impressionable stage of human development as it holds the potential to the future development of any society. Children who are brought up in an environment, which is conducive to their intellectual, physical and social health, grow up to be responsible and productive members of society. Every nation links its future with the present status of its children. By performing work when they are too young for the task, children unduly reduce their present welfare or their future income earning capabilities, either by shrinking their future external choice sets or by reducing their own future individual productive capabilities.

Under extreme economic distress, children are forced to forego educational opportunities and take up jobs which are mostly exploitative as they are usually underpaid and engaged in hazardous conditions. Parents decide to send their child for engaging in a job as a desperate measure due to poor economic conditions. It is therefore no wonder that the poor households predominantly send their children to work in early ages of their life. One of the disconcerting aspects of child labour is that children are sent to work at the expense of education. There is a strong effect of child labour on school attendance rates and the length of a child's work day is negatively associated with his or her capacity to attend school.

### Child Labour:-

Child labour restricts the right of children to access and benefit from education and denies the fundamental opportunity to attend school. Child labour, thus, prejudices children's education and adversely affects their health and safety. India has all along followed a proactive policy in addressing the problem of child labour and has always stood for constitutional, statutory and developmental measures that are required to eliminate child labour. The Constitution of India has relevant provisions to secure compulsory universal primary education. Labour Commissions and Committees have gone into the problems of child labour and made extensive recommendations. India's judiciary, right up to the 2 apex level, has demonstrated profoundly empathetic responses against the practice of child labour. Despite several proactive legislations, policies and judicial Pronouncements the problem of child labour persists as a challenge to the country.

### **Consequences of Child Labour:-**

His presence of a large number of child laborers is regarded as a serious issue in terms of economic welfare. Children who work fail to get necessary education. They do not get the opportunity to develop physically, intellectually, emotionally and psychologically. In terms of the physical condition of children, children are not ready for long monotonous work because they become exhausted more quickly than adults. This reduces their physical conditions and makes the children more vulnerable to disease. Children in hazardous working conditions are even in worse condition. Children who work, instead of going to school, will remain illiterate which limit their ability to contribute to their own well being as well as to community they live in. Child labour has long term adverse effects for India.

To keep an economy prospering, a vital criterion is to have an educated workforce equipped with relevant skills for the needs of the industries. The young laborers today will be part of India's human capital tomorrow. Child labour undoubtedly results in a trade-off with human capital accumulation.

Child labour in India are employed with the majority (70%) in agriculture some in low-skilled labour-intensive sectors such as sari weaving or as domestic helpers, which require neither formal education nor training, but some in heavy industry such as coal mining.

According to the International Labour Organization (ILO), there are tremendous economic benefits for developing nations by sending children to school instead of work. Without education, children do not gain the necessary skills such as English literacy and technical aptitude that will increase their productivity to enable them to secure higher-skilled jobs in future with higher wages that will lift them out of poverty.

### **Solution:-**

#### **Spread awareness:-**

Parental awareness of the evils of child labor can prevent disruption in schooling and pushing of children into labor. Lack of understanding on the part of parents creates situations where traffickers prey upon children and many trafficked children end up in child labor.

Aware communities can comprehend and respond to children's issues much more effectively. Awareness also ensures that communities tap growth, education, employment, and enterprise opportunities and create a socially and economically developed society in which children suffer much less.

### **More stringent laws and effective implementation:-**

Policymaking is essential to long lasting social change, and lobbying for better laws involves demonstrating how change can bring considerable benefit. NGOs research, and showcase findings regarding exploited children, and use case studies to establish how their work benefits children. Driving policy-level change requires relationships with several stakeholders – media, lawmakers, citizens, fellow civil society members, etc. Many cases have been filed under the recent Protection of Children Against Sexual Offences Act (2012) and Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, which have successfully translated in increased convictions, demonstrating how legislating can curb child trafficking.

### **Sending more children to school:-**

India has the world's largest educational system, yet faces the hurdles of low literacy, due to low enrolment. Organizations like Save the Children execute several initiatives to boost children's enrolment in schools. The organization maps out-of-school children and those who are at risk of dropping out and ensures that they enter into the fold of education.

Save the Children's child education achievements includes the following:

- i. Creating 'Inclusive Learner Friendly Environments' (ages 3-18 years) across settings as diverse as slums and villages
- ii. Create a dialogue with children and families to send children to school, provide admissions assistance
- iii. Create fun, meaningful experiences in school, with child-friendly and interactive teaching-learning methods

### **Discouraging people to employ children in homes, shops, factories, etc:-**

Child labor gets a resounding approval when Indian businesses openly use it, in industries like retail, hospitality, and menial work. NGOs today sensitize trade organizations to end this social evil, and educate locals about reporting instances of child labor at businesses and homes. Save the Children has to its credit getting India's biggest IT market declared child labor-free.

### **Conclusion:-**

Child labour is an evil that lurks in the society owing to various issues like poverty, lack of financial stability and education, social conditions, etc. Poverty is one of the important factors for this problem. it not only inhibits growth of child but, also destroys all prospective growth opportunities that would have ensured a promising future to him or her.

The Government has been laying a lot of emphasis on the rehabilitation of these children and on improving the economic conditions of their families. With permission to be employed in family institutions after school hours, when no proper definition of family institutions is provided, it becomes difficult to intercept the offenders. Many NGOs have been working to eradicate child labor in India. The child labor can be stopped when knowledge is translated into legislation and action, moving good intention and ideas into protecting the health of the children. There are many laws and regulatory departments for child labour, it is in controlling ongoing child labour. This is possible only when there is a cooperation of all the sections of the society and the law enforcement agencies and by removing the minimizing the causes of child labour. The endurance of young children is higher and they cannot protest against discrimination. Focusing on grassroots strategies to mobilize communities against child labor and reintegration of child workers into their homes and schools has proven crucial to breaking the cycle of child labor

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