



Child Labour In India: Causes And Consequences

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Abstract

The focus of this article is on numerous notions of child labour, their socioeconomic concerns, and the global and Indian child labour scenarios. It examines key variables that contribute to child labour in India and around the world. Child labourers faced a variety of mental and physical risks. Poverty, a lack of educational resources, social and economic backwardness, and a lack of supervision are all factors that contribute to child labour. Addiction, illness or handicap, the allure of low-wage work, and family obligations are all factors to consider, family tradition, discrimination between boys and girls as well as young ladies are facing such as rape, prostitution, early and undesired pregnancy, abortion, sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), narcotics, and alcoholism. That all are examples of sexual abuse. Corporal punishment, as well as emotional abuse such as blaming, insulting, verbal attacks, and derogatory statements, are examples of physical abuse. Loneliness and hopelessness of compassion and love throughout the family. Food, clothing, housing, and medical treatment are all in short supply. We propose a human-centred education agenda for the future of work as a new approach to the centre of economic and social policy and corporate practise.

Keywords: Poverty, illiteracy, health risks, and sexual assault are all issues that need to be addressed.

Introduction

Their health, education, and moral development are all things that they should be concerned about. Children who practise and engage in economic activities on a part-time or full-time basis are included in this category, UNICEF (2013). Further, such practise deprive children of their youth and has detrimental physical and mental repercussions in later part of their life. World Day Against Child Labour is celebrated on 12 June. It was started from 2020 itself. Article-21(A), Article-24 both are in constitution for children. According to Article-21(A) free and compulsory education should be given to 6-14 years old and as per Article-24 prohibits the employment of children below the age of 14 years. One landmark judgement that is **MC Mehta vs state of Tamil Nadu** (Against child labour in India)

Review of Literature

One of the fundamental impediments in eradication of child labour is its acceptance. Acceptance of child labour is one of the most severe problems that we have today, more specifically in emerging countries like India. There are millions of children working in unsafe areas in various industries, such as coal mines, agriculture with chemicals and pesticides industry, or other dangerous machinery, according to Lal (2016). Child labour is an issue that affects people all around the world. People are suffering in both emerging and developed countries, yet the causes and magnitudes differ. Acceptance is higher in underdeveloped nations than in wealthy countries because the working children's families require child labour income to survive, although youngsters in developed countries routinely work for free for pennies on the dollar (Lal (2006)). Child abuse is serious concern of our society. Child abuse is related to physical as well as mental. Ignoring child basics needs, putting them in dangerous situation or making child feel worthless. In child abuse emotional harm is serious issue. People in both emerging and wealthy countries are suffering, albeit the causes and magnitudes of their suffering differ. Acceptance to the fact that their children can work at a young age is higher in underdeveloped nations than in wealthy countries because the working children's families are in desperate need of child labour income for their survival, however the case in developed countries are different, mainly because of economic freedom., B. Suresh Lal, (2019a). There are numerous causes of child labour, the most important of which being unemployment, poverty, and household indebtedness. Many parents obtain advances from landlords or employers and repay the loans using their children as collateral. To acquire the essential livelihood, Children are forced to temporarily relocate to nearby cities or neighbouring states' urban districts, Lal (2006). Equal access to shared resources is denied to women and female children. due to family poverty. The poverty of the



household primarily affects female children. The main cause of foeticide is an impoverished family's innate dislike of female children. As a result, poor families marry their female children early. It's also possible that destitute families are selling girls and children, Lal (2015). The number of child labourers in the hamlet is growing as a result of parents' discriminatory attitudes toward the education of their daughters. When compared to male children, people choose not to educate their female offspring. As a result, female children are more likely to be detected or engage in child labour, Naseer (2015). They also allow adults to migrate to places with strong job rates. Lal (2016). Child labour is found in both the formal and informal sectors of the economy in urban areas, albeit it is more prevalent in the latter. Children frequently labour with their senior relatives and friends in small industrial firms that are dispersed over multiple sites and can flout regulatory constraints. They may not be compensated directly, but indirectly via a supplement, Lal (2006). In most poor nations, parents rely on their children to help them with vital tasks at home or in the community. Parents' reliance on children develops in the absence of social security systems, and working children are typically the primary or sole breadwinner or sole source of support for many parents. Children from disadvantaged families are thus economically valuable to their parents as a source of labour, Lal (2006). Because of a shortage of facilities to cope with period hygiene, many adolescent girls miss one out of every four weeks of school. Many adolescent girls and women struggle with menstruation hygiene because they lack of privacy to wash and dry menstruation cloths correctly. Rural women, on average, account for about two-fifths of the population, Lal (2013). Tribal people that migrate to cities typically find unskilled wage work in the construction industry, which is insecure.

Objectives and Methods

The objectives are:

- 1) To learn more about the socioeconomic context of child labour in India.
- 2) To identify the elements that contribute to child labour in India and around the world, as it is a worldwide issue.
- 3) To investigate the many types of child labour as well as the risks to children's health.
- 4) To study the consequences of child labour in present and future too.

Forms of Child Labour

Slavery is a concept which needs to be redefined in modern era and has acquired entirely different forms from the one it used to be in feudal era. Child trafficking, debt bondage, serfdom, and minors in armed conflict are all examples of modern day slavery. The definition of slavery is one human being was owned by another. A slave was considered by law is property or chattel, and was deprived of most of the rights ordinarily held by free person. Main industries employing such labour force (mostly grey economy which has not seen day of regulations) are presented here: -

- 1) In small colony/ neighbourhood shops and most small-scale vendors not regulated by labour laws.
- 2) Domestic help/ baby sitter.
- 3) In farms
- 4) In both open case and rabbit hole mines (various level of impacts can be witnessed based on vulnerability).
- 5) Furnaces, welding and other hazardous materials based employments.
- 6) Smuggling, prostitution, child pornography and other illegal activities mostly target under privileged children as they can easily be managed.
- 7) In countries children are engaged in terrorist activities.

Causes of Child Labour

1. Poverty

Poverty, the mother of all societal evils, is also the main reason for child labour. Fact that child labour is most prevalent in developing / underdeveloped countries, which is a testimony the statement. Due to poverty, parents cannot afford to send their children to school and force them to earn for living at very small age. These children are sent to work in various hazardous sectors to work because of their families economic compulsion. They are forced to work in order to help their underprivileged families make ends meet. These choices are made just to satisfy the stomachs of the family. However, such actions devastate



children's physical and mental health because they lose their childhood at a young age and are forced to work outside the family for a living.

2.Lack of educational resources

Children are deprived of their fundamental right to education, which is guaranteed by our constitution, after our country's independence. In our country, where there are not enough educational facilities. There isn't even a school nearby. To cross the river, children must go to school. As a result, parents were hesitant to take their children to school. The families worst hit are the poorest as educating their children in an economically punishing education system is challenging. Our country mostly has pricey schools for education, which poor children cannot afford, leaving them ignorant and defenceless. Children are compelled to live without the opportunity to learn. In India, they are pushed into the child labour trap.

3.Inequality in terms of social and economic development.

Increased child labour in India is primarily due to India's social and economic backwardness. Parents that are socially backward do not send their children to school because they do not see the value in studying and believe that it is better to work outside the home. As a result, this is the most important factor that keeps children locked in child labour. Because of their illiteracy, many parents are unaware of the many information and plans for child education that the government has made available to them, and hence are unable to take use of them.

5.Addiction, disease or disability

There is no working because of alcoholism, disease, or disability, and the wages of children are the only source of income for families. Increased unemployment is a result of population increase, which has had an impact on the prevention of child labour. As a result, rather than sending their children to school, parents are willing to send them to work in order to supplement the family's income.

6.Tradition in the family

It is a stunning but tragic truth that it is quite easy to commit suicide in our culture. It is relatively easy for many families to justify under the cover of tradition or custom, legitimise child labour values of culture and tradition in the family contribute to the problem of child labour in India, which is mostly voluntary. Many In India, there is a problem with child labour, which is primarily voluntary. Most of the families do not believe that there is a way out of poverty trap and focus on maintaining their family labour expertise. Small businesspeople also waste their children's lives in an attempt to perpetuate their traditional family business. In the future, their children will be more responsible and worldly. Discrimination against girls and boys: We've spent a lot of time together. Socialised to believe that girls are weaker than boys and that there is no comparison between the two. Even now, many cases of girls being denied access to education may be found in our society. Girls are denied access to school and education because they are considered weaker than boys. Girls are often found working with their parents in labourer homes.

Government's Initiatives

There are so many operations held in India such as operation Muskaan, operation smile. In 1979, the Gurupadswamy committee was enacted. As per this committee encourage the study Investigate and address the issue of child labour.

Regulations and Acts

The Child Labor (Prohibition and Regulation) Act of 1986 prohibits and regulates child labour.

As per this act no child under 14-year work in hazardous occupation. This act also concerns about child abuse and social concern.

Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2016

The act in the Constitution that was amended in the year 2016 can be stated as: This act prohibits that engagement of children in all occupation and hazardous occupation. The main component of this act is children should be in 14-to-18-year age. According to this amendment in the Act, the Government of India will provide **tough punishment** for employers who violate the Act.



- In this act offence should be consider as cognizable offence. The Act also allows the government to bar the employment of adolescents that are working in any hazardous conditions.

Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Amendment Rules, 2017

This act was also enacted against the child labour. This act specially specifies the duties and responsibilities of state government and District authority.

Child Labour constitutes the following

- Slavery in any form, including the sale or trafficking of children, debt bondage, and forced or involuntary labour, to name a few.
- It also refers to the compulsion or coercion of children to participate in armed warfare.
- The use of a child for prostitution, pornography production, or pornographic performances is prohibited.
- The employment of a kid for illegal activity, such as drug manufacture and trafficking, as specified by relevant international treaties.
- It also includes employment that is likely to endanger children's health, safety, or morality due to its nature or the circumstances in which it is performed.

International Laws on Child Labour

- The 1989 United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child: It contains the notion that children are not just objects who belong to their parents and for whom decisions are made, nor are they people in training. Rather, they are human beings with their own set of rights.
 - The Convention considers that childhood is separate from adulthood, and lasts until 18; it is a special, protected time, in which children must be allowed to grow, learn, play, develop and flourish with dignity.
 - The Convention became the most widely ratified human rights treaty in history and has helped transform children's lives.
- International Labour Organizations Conventions on the minimum age for admission to the employment of the year 1973 (ILO convention 138) and on the worst forms of child labour of the year 1999 (ILO convention 182).

UNICEF's work against Child Labour in India

- UNICEF has also been working for a long against child labour in India.
- Most of its programs in India focus on children in specific types of work, for example, cotton production in the states of Gujarat, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh, metalwork and carpets in Uttar Pradesh and tea gardens in Assam.
- These programs reach tens of thousands of children and their families in areas with high levels of child labour.

Conclusion and Suggestion

Existence of child labour severely undermines nation's social and economic growth by compromising a chunk of their human resources. The segment of population who are subjected to child labour could not get educated in long run and they could not add to the country GDP in substantial way. Further, the physical and psychological abuses which these children are subjected to leave most of them mentally and physically diseased and are not physically capable of working for longer periods of time under harsh conditions.

Children working in the glass and firecracker industries labour not only longer hours but also in dangerous settings, putting their health at risk. They are constantly exposed to harmful chemicals and compounds, resulting in a variety of skin and respiratory problems.



A human-centred agenda for the future of work is a proposal for a new approach to economic and social policy and corporate practise that places people and the work they do at the centre. Three action pillars are the emphasis of this agenda. To begin, it requires investing in people's abilities, allowing them to gain new skills, reskill, and upskill, and hand holding them during various transitions to be encountered during their life. Second, investing in work institutions to ensure a free, dignified, successful, and egalitarian future of work. Third, investing in high-quality, long-term jobs, as well as enacting legislation and incentives that align economic and social policies and business practises with this goal. Such initiatives shall be the major driving force for generation of equity and sustainability for generations to come by leveraging revolutionary technologies, demographic opportunities, and the green economy.

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