

## CHILD LABOUR: NEED TO CONTROL

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### ABSTRACT

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*There are many social problems in the world on children but among these problems child labour is the most prominent one. The employment of small children below the age of 14 in business or any industry is called as child labour. In India, child labour has been a big social problem for years. It is an illegal act and related to exploitation of child by giving them difficult tasks and low wages.*

*Industrialist chose child labour as they are available in very cheap cost and efficient work in minimum time. Children do labour because of their poverty and lack of education. People force their kids to do some job even at low cost instead of giving them education as they are very poor and even cannot manage two times food. They can't manage any of the three basic things-foods, clothes and shelter so as to overcome these problems and fulfil the basic need people send their kids to job. Child labour mainly works on dhabas, construction sites, firework industries etc. Many children die due to fire in industries, current shock in construction sites and this happen as these kids do not have knowledge about these things and thus creates problems which end up with their lives.*

**KEYWORDS:** social problems, food, Child labour, cheap cost, loan, wages

### INTRODUCTION

There are many social problems in the world on children but among these problems child labour is the most prominent one. The employment of small children below the age of 14 in business or any industry is called as child labour. In India, child labour has been a big social problem for years. It is an illegal act and related to exploitation of child by giving them difficult tasks and low wages.

Industrialist chose child labour as they are available in very cheap cost and efficient work in minimum time. Children do labour because of their poverty and lack of education. People force their kids to do some job even at low cost instead of giving them education as they are very poor and even cannot manage two times food. They can't manage any of the three basic things-foods, clothes and shelter so as to overcome these problems and fulfil the basic need people send their kids to job. Child labour mainly works on dhabas, construction sites, firework industries etc. Many children die due to fire in industries, current shock in construction sites and this happen as these kids do not have knowledge about these things and thus creates problems which end up with their lives.

According to the survey of, it was found that approximately 90% of children were involved in various

productive activities. Thus all those activities affecting a child (in health, education etc) are needed to be eliminated.

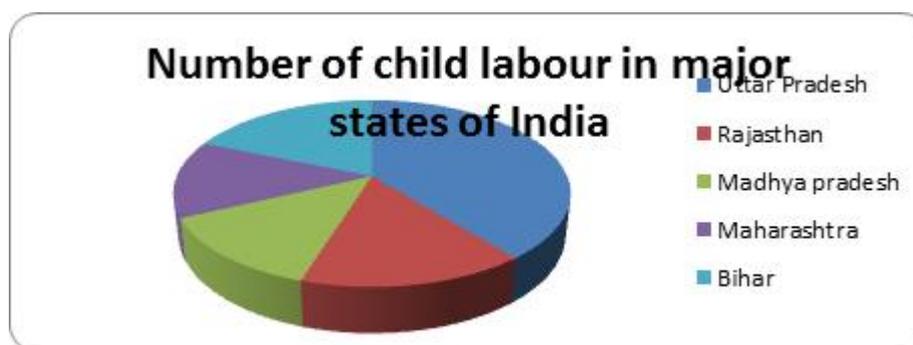
### SCENARIO OF CHILD LABOUR IN INDIA

India has many social issues and crisis affecting it at this time. But among it the most important is child labour which is a very sad issue. There were nearly 100 million child labours in India according to human right watch 1996. But now due to various preventive measures taken by the government and alertness of people child labours have been decreased to nearly 30-35 million. Among which 'Uttar Pradesh' has the highest number of child labours which are 2.1 million followed by Bihar, Rajasthan, and Madhya Pradesh respectively.

According to census report from 2001 to 2011 child labour is at high rate. In bonded child labour an industrialist or businessman gives a small amount of money to parents in exchange of child labour. They force them to do hard work and work time for them is high leading to health problems of the child. They also give loan to parents and ask them to send their child for work until the loan is paid off. This almost never happens as this businessman cheats on people as they keep interest rates greater than wages of child.

Thus, child labour in India is a big social issue which is decreasing but very slowly due to government policies. Thus

this child labour should be eradicated from its root in India for betterment of nation's future.



### CAUSES OF CHILD LABOUR

The factors that leads to child labour are:

1. Illiteracy of children that includes poverty and economic backwardness.
2. Lack of awareness about the ill effects of child labour.
3. Lack of access to primary and secondary quality education.
4. Lack of morality and basic facilities which includes food, unemployment and cultural values.
5. Lack of proper guidance and unawareness about the various government schemes.
6. The situation of drought and the other natural disasters, family indebtedness and various conflicts.
7. Urban migration and rural poverty that forces child to the hell of child labour.
8. Often children are employed because they are ready to work at lower wages and possess less demand.
9. Girls, especially, those from socially backward groups are being forced to work.

### CONSEQUENCES OF CHILD LABOUR

1. Loss of quality and valuable childhood  
Childhood is the most lovable and is the stage of fun, joy and happiness. It is the time where child spends a quality time with his parents and friends. It is the time where he/she goes to school and learn many things but being a child labour destroys all these luxuries and moments and is forced to work under dangerous and unaccepted circumstances.
2. Health related issues  
Child labour leads to various health complications and issues which primarily includes malnourishment and mental trauma. It is unlikely that the shopkeepers or owners that employ these children ensure better and suitable working condition and take care of their health. Because of this children get visually impaired and physically damaged.
3. Illiteracy  
At the time of going to school and receiving primary and secondary education children are being employed in various factories, shops and dhabs where they are deprived of education and moral learning.
4. Prostitution problems  
The girls below the age of 14 are being forced in prostitution. Parents also do not argue because they are bounded by debt and poverty that leads to physical and psychological harassment of girls. And at the end, girls end by giving their lives.

5. Drug addition

The children are also being forced to take up drugs which results in serious health issues like loss of control and faintness and ultimately leads to death.

### PREVENTIVE MEASURES OF CHILD LABOUR WHICH NEEDS TO BE EMPLOYED TO ERADICATE CHILD LABOUR

Child labour has been a burden to our society and is problematic issue which needs to be taken care of

- 1) Strict laws needs to be implemented which keeps an eye on this issue. Government should be serious and should take all measures so that this practice is not entertained.
- 2) Special schools should be opened for such children who are not able to afford the expenses of the urban education.
- 3) Various industries and dhabs should be checked and inspected so as to ensure that no child should be working in those firms.
- 4) New jobs opportunities should be created for poor people so that they do not indulge their children to work and in spite they send them to schools.
- 5) The various government program and schemes such as 'Indira Awas Yojana' should be implemented and regulated in a fair way so that the poor can enjoy the basic amenities of life.
- 6) The government officials should keep an eye on contractors so that the funds do not go in wrong hands.
- 7) The various programmes should be organised by the government to create awareness about the various government schemes that are existing presently.

### GOVERNMENT SCHEMES RELATED TO CHILD LABOUR

#### I. National child labour project

This scheme was approved by the central government on 14<sup>th</sup> August 1987 during the seventh five year plan period. This policy was regulated with the basic objective of suitable rehabilitation of the children who are withdrawn from employment which ultimately reduces the incident of child labour in the areas where the child labours in more prominent.

The various important pillars of this scheme are:

- a. The legislative action plan: strict and effective implementation of the laws related to child labour.
- b. Convergence of government development programs: this point focus on converging various

developmental initiatives to eradicate poverty, provides access to basic amenities such as health, education, social security, economic and social empowerment of the child worker and their families.

- c. Project based line of action: implementation of NCLPS (National Child Labour Project Schemes) in the areas where child labour is most found. Thus, the government provides various schemes that might help to alleviate this social issue but it needs to be implemented fairly.

## CONCLUSION

Thus child labour is the most prominent and sad social issue of the world especially in India as India has the highest number of child labours in world. Child labour is the employment of children below the age of fourteen in any business or industry causing various kinds of physical and mental effects on the child leading to health related issues.

Child labour is the biggest cause of death of a child after child foeticides. In the conclusion, child labour is one of the major problems in the world. Childhood and enjoyment of many poor children have been lost due to child labour. Many children got hurt due to this criminal activity. Many children become drug addicts. They become criminals at very early age as their thinking power is not developed and they come in trap of various persons who use these children for their betterment only.

Thus, the nurturing and soliciting of assets of our nation which are our children is our responsibility. Children should grow up to become a good citizen, physically and mentally fit. And for this various children programmes should find a prominent and important part in our national plans for the development of children and for the future of our nation.

It is the duty of government to take the preventive measures about the child labour. Child is the national asset, nation's future and thus for its overall development government should provide them various facilities. There should be punishment in laws against people who do are responsible for child labour.

But from the start of society, children are always exploited without any care. They are available at cheap cost; they work for long hours and with high discipline so they are made to work. Some children work at very early stage of 8 to 10 years.

Some people think child labour should not be banned as children from poor families would die due to starvation if they do not earn for their families. They have to earn for their livelihood so child labour is one of the way of getting some amount of money for feeding himself and his large families. But various protests were done against child labour and it was banned in India. Various rules and regulations were applied. Various laws were introduced and various preventive measures were taken for the development and betterment of children.

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