



Raising Social Awareness of Child Labour

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Abstract:

India account for the second highest number where child in the world is concerned. India is sadly the home to the largest number of child labourers in the world. Poverty and lack of social security are the main causes of child labour. Therefore is the poverty hunger, lack of good school, unemployment, growth of informal economy are considered to be the key causes of the child labour. So to reduce the child labour, education is a necessary condition because well education causes a social awareness and social awareness removes child labour in society. It is not just the responsibility of the parents to eliminate child labour but also the govt. and the society.

Keywords: Social awareness, Child labour

1. Introduction

Child labour refers to the employment of children in any work that deprives children of their childhood, interferes with their ability to attend regular school, and that is mentally, physically, socially or morally dangerous and harmful. This practice is considered exploitative by many international organizations. There are some laws which do not consider in all work by children as child labour.

Child labour is violation of human rights and is compromised to be need for any country and any society in the world. Child labour damages children's own needs, emotional, moral and social development and their mental health. But today children are engaged in various ways, like hotels, work shop, service station, shops, construction and agriculture etc.

2. Define the child labour

Child labour is when a person/ below 15 years of age is doing work, that is depriving them of their childhood, their potential and their dignity-when the work is harming, their physical and mental development. Child labour is not only limited to India, it happens to be a global phenomenon.

ILO (International Labour Organization) defined child labour as, damage to children's health, hamper their education and to further exploitation and abuse.

UNICEF has categorized child work in to three categories;

1. within the family-children are engaged in domestic household tasks without pay
2. Within the family but outside the home, example- agricultural labourers, domestic minds, migrant labourers etc.
3. Outside the family, example-commercial shops in restaurants and jobs, prostitution etc.

3. Causes of Child Labour

ILO suggests that poverty is the greatest single cause behind child labour. Others causes of child labour are-

- The curse of poverty- The main reason of child labour is poverty. Most of the country's population suffers from poverty. Due to poverty parents cannot afford the studies of their children and make them earn their wages from a tender age.

- Lack of educational resources- Even after so many years of our country’s independence, there are instances where children are deprived of their fundamental right to education.
- There are thousands of villages in our country where there are no proper facilities of education.
- Over population- limited resources and more mouth to feed, children are employed in various forms of work.
- Urbanization- Industries in the developing world employ child workers.
- Cheap labour- The industries and factices owners hire children to employ cheaply.
- Illiteracy- Illiterate parents do not realize the need for a proper physical, emotional and cognitive development of a child.

4. Status of child labour in the world

- One in every sin-children age 5 to 17 worldwide is exploited by child labour.
- Among 152 million children in child labour; 88 million are boys and 64 million are girls.
- There are approximately 9 million children involved in the unconditional worst forms of child labour.
- In south Asia, another 44 million are engaged in child labour.
- According to certain experts approximately 10 million bounded children labourers are working as dome in South Asia.

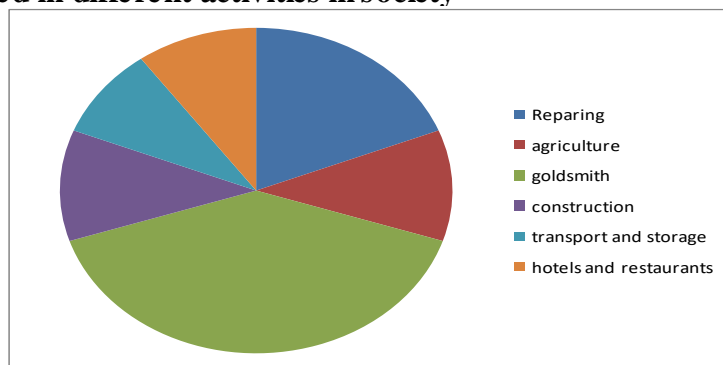
5. States of child labour in the India

- The 1998 national census of India estimated the total number of child labour, aged 4-13/14 is 19.60 million out of total population of 260 million.
- In 2008-2009 a national wide survey found that the prevalence of child labour had reduced to .98 million children (may be it is less than 3%)
- The 2012 national census of India found that the total number of child labourers aged 5-14 ages is 8.60% and the total child population to be 259.64 million in that age group.
- The child labour problems are not unique to India.

6. Percentage of Child labour in different works

WORK	PERCENT
Repairing/Manufacturing (Electronic gages)	19%
Agriculture	11%
Goldsmith	40%
Construction	11%
Transport and Storage	9%
Hotels and Restaurants	10%

7. Child labour engaged in different activities in society



8. The child labour rules and acts

In addition to the constitutional prohibition of various laws on India such as the juvenile justice, there are many child labour laws in India-

- The mines act of 1952: The act prohibits the employment of children below 18 years of age in a mine.
- The child labour prohibition in the employment of children below the age of 14 years in (hazardous) occupations.
- According to ILO minimum age convention (C138) of 1973, child labour refers to any work performed by children under the age of 12, non-light work done by children aged 12–14, and hazardous work done by children aged 15–17. Light work was defined, under this Convention, as any work that does not harm a child's health and development, and that does not interfere with his or her attendance at school. This convention has been ratified by 135 countries.
- The juvenile justice of children act 2000:-
- This law made it a crime, punishable with a prison term, for any one to procure or employ a child in any hazardous employment.
- The right of children to free and compulsory education act-2009
- The law mandates free and compulsory education to all children aged 6 to 14 years. This legislation also mandates that 25 percent of seats in very private school allocates for children from disadvantaged groups and physically challenged children.

9. Consequences/effects of child labouring society

Child labour has several negative impacts-

1. Health issues: Child labour can lead to health complications due to undernourishment and poor working conditions. A child assigned to physically demanding duties may suffer from physical trauma that may scar him or her for life.
2. Mental trauma- Child labour causes various mental problems which resist mental growth and development.
3. Loss of quality childhood- Child labour loses a certain prime time of childishness, which interfere children futuristic vision.
4. Illiteracy- Illiteracy is increased day by day for child labour.

10. How to include child labourers in main stream society/solutions

Every child born has the right to have dreams and pursue those dreams. Even though the realization of some of these aspirations may be limited by several challenges, it is still possible to overcome them and achieve the highest levels of success.

1. Parental awareness about prevention of the child labour.
2. Parental awareness about its pros and cons.
3. Inclusion of child labourers in mainstream education.
4. Inclusion of child labourers in the mainstream playground.
5. Social inclusion in child labourers.
6. Skill training among child labourers.
7. Providing financial support for their education.
8. Marriage of child labourers with mainstream girls.

So also,

- Empowerment of poor people
- Creation of demand for skilled and trained workers
- Free education
- Moral Polishing

11. Conclusion

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. Child labour is not just a denial to the rights of a child but also a symbol of a society that has lost its way. However, considering the magnitude and

extent of problem and that it is essentially a socio-economic problem inextricably linked to poverty and illiteracy, it requires concerted efforts from all the aspects of society to make a dent in the problem.

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. In spite of these till now in our society, in India there are some percentage (approx. 4%) of child labour.

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