



# Child Labour- A Burning Issue of the Contemporary World

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## Abstract:

*We are always discussing crimes done with children, but all of them the most terrible offence is , that of child labour. Child labour is a matter of great concern to many developing countries like India. It has become a socio-economic problem which deprives children of their childhood, positional, and dignity. India has the world's second largest population with largest number of child labourers. In this paper author has discussed about some main causes of child labour including poverty, unemployment, and excess population. Etc. Author has also mentioned various form of child labour existing in our society in this paper. After research author has find out impact on child threw child labour. We all know that discussion of any social problem, it is necessary to explain remedies of the problems. Here author has suggested some basic remedies to resolve these problems. The article concludes with suggestion that there is need to bring awareness among the people of the society and also Indian government must strictly enforce legislative provisions to eradicate the root cause of the problem. It is only then these children, Who are the greatest gift to humanity, can lead the future development of the country.*

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**Keywords:** Child labour, Child trafficking, Child labour laws

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## 1. Introduction

A large number of children in India are strangers to the joys and innocence of the formative years of their lives. Not all children in India are lucky to enjoy their childhood child labour refers the work done by under age children in order to live an ordinary life with essential needs. Instead of enjoying their moments of childhood, they are being forced to do work in an unsafe environment. No parent want that their children work as a labour in their small age instead of playing enjoying or getting good education for just getting a few amount.

Child trafficking has been the main concern for Indian country since 1980s.but the percentage of labour child is declining day by day. There are so many work places where this non-acceptable crime occurs like agriculture, house hold activities dhabas, hotels, industries, etc.

## 2. Worst Form of Child Labour

There are countries which are facing word from of child labour i.e. child slavery Here they use children for illicit activities such a drug trafficking and exposure to any hazardous work which is likely to harm the health safety and morals children.

It has been noticed that many industries such as coal mines and other industries preparing chemicals like silicon, aluminum etc. Employ children this proves even more worse as the children end up in having a non-curable disease or infection which can prove fatal also.

## 3. Causes of Child Labour

India is the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest populated country in the world and also ranks on 2<sup>nd</sup> number where child labour happens. The main question comes in to our mind after hearing about child labour is that “Who is Responsible? After deep research, We find that main causes for existences of this major crime is extreme poverty, over population, Illiteracy, lack of primary education high cost of education, growth of informal economy Early marriage, ignorance of rules and laws that has been made to prevent “CHILD LABOUR ” and increasing demand of labour at low payment.

Also the low paying informal economy thrives upon the low cost easy to hire, easy to dismiss labour in the form of child labour. After the unorganized agriculture sector which employs in unorganized trade unorganized assembly and unorganized retail work. Other contributory factors to child labour include inflexibility and structure of India's labour market size of informal economy, inability of industries to scale up and lack of modern manufacturing technologies.

#### **4. Consequences of Child Labour**

Child labour inflicts damage to a child's physical and mental health. A child labour has no basic rights to education development and freedom children employed as labourers work in unsafe environments where there is a constant danger of fatal accidents. The engagement of child labour is a heinous social offence only a diseased society keeps up this evil practice children are born to live and bloom freely. Everyone should see to the full expression of their potentials for 'WHAT IS DONE TO CHILDREN, THEY WILL DO TO SOCIETY.' Child labour is a threat to our society the evil effects of child labour are given below:

- Child labour is a major hurdle in the economic development of a nation.
- A child when engaged in economic activities is deprived of proper education.
- Child labour negatively affects the health of the child. Engagement of children in factories and mines after leads to severe diseases this malpractice needs urgent attention
- These children are not able to enjoy their childhood.

#### **5. Percentage of Child Labour and Areas Where Child Labours Exists**

According to the national survey more than 13 million children are captivated in this major crime in which girls are two times more than boys who are obsessed in this crime. The International labour organization (ILO) reports that 168 million children worldwide are considered child labours. This means that almost 11 percent of the world's children are working which interferes with their ability to get an education and jeopardizes their safety and their ability to experience childhood. The largest number of labours in the 5 to 17 year old age group is still found in the Asia pacific region. Though Percentage Ratio of the child labour has been decreased in comparison to the last few years but still this crime is swallowing our new generation's future silently.

There is a very huge working area in our country where child labour is thriving like domestic services, agriculture, hotel and restaurants, entertainment industries, coal mines, matchbox or firebox manufacturers, etc. This major crime named as "CHILD LABOUR" is depriving under age children from getting basic education or financially secure social life because children are involved in this crime at very low age of 5 to 7 years.

#### **6. Various Laws but no Results**

Apart from the enactment of the child labour (prohibition and regulation) Act, 1986, the Indian constitution has incorporated various provisions against child labour such as the following:

- According to article 24, no child below the age of 14 years shall be employed to work in any factory or in any hazardous employment (but not in non- hazardous industries).
- As per article 39(f), childhood and youth are to be protected against exploitation and against moral and material abandonment.
- Article 45, stipulates that the state shall Endeavour to provide within a period of 10 years from the commencement of the constitution free and compulsory education for all children until they complete the age of 14 years.

Indian Government has introduced so many rules and regulation for handling this crime like "Factories Act" in 1948 , "Mines Act" in 1952 , "The child labour (prohibition and regulation) Act" in 1986 , "The Juvenile Act" in 2000 , "The Right of children to free and compulsory education Act" in 2009 and "Child and Adolescent labour Law" in 2010 , finally on april 2015, Union cabinet has given

permission to work done by children below age 14 in non hazardous work place which does not affect their education and under 17 in hazardous work too. So the percentage of child labour is decreased in country but still we have not ended this problem completely because there are so many firms where children are hired for labour work for no one less pay. Many NGOs are also working for preventing this problem like "BACHPAN BACHAVO ANDOLAN", "CHILD INDIA", "CARE INDIA", "TALASH ASSOCIATION" and many more. Government has declared punishment for this crime is 50000rs penalty for first attempt and one to three years of imprisonment for continuous second attempt.

## 7. Remedies of This Problem

Several Governmental and nongovernmental organizations are working for saving every child's future as a citizen of the country. We should also take necessary steps on personal, professional and social level to stop this problem "CHILD LABOUR" by not allowing children under 14 in our house hold activities and by complaining if we find under age children working in nearby areas. This nongovernmental organizations help needy people in manner to provide them free education through various facilities such as mid day meal, shelter, food, work options for their parents with healthy environment, etc.

Country's economic development can completely eliminate this major issue of child labour as in financially developed country. Government has declared many schemes for making its citizens aware about child trafficking and its impact on child's and nation's future like "Integrated child development services", "Mahatma Gandhi national rural employment history guarantee act", "Kishore Vaigyanik Protsahan Yojna", etc. Verifying the above discussed the point we conclude us under.

1. Creating more unions may help in preventing the child labour as it will encourage more people to help against child labour.
2. All the children should be given first priority by their parents to take proper and regular education from their early childhood. This step needs much cooperation by the parents as well as schools to free children for education and take admission of children from all walks of a respectively.
3. Child labour needs high level social awareness with the proper statistics of huge loss in the future for any developing country.
4. Every family must earn their minimum income in order to survive and prevent child labour. It will reduce the level of poverty and thus child labour.
5. Family control will also help in controlling the child labour by reducing the families burden of child care and education.
6. There is need of more effective and strict government laws against child labour in order to prevent children from working in their little age.
7. Child trafficking should be completely abolished by the governments of all countries.
8. Child workers should be replaced by the adult workers as almost 800 million adults are unemployed in this world. In this way adult will get job and children will be free from child labour.
9. Employment opportunities should be increased for adults in order to overcome problem of poverty and child labour.
10. Business owners of factories, industries, mines, etc should take the pledge of not involving children in any type of labour.

## 8. Conclusion

Childhood is the biggest important phase of a child's life and considered as an initial learning period for them which directly affects their future. Collective efforts are needed on the part of society and the government to put an end to the practice of child labour. In fact, every citizen should take a pledge to never employ children. We should create awareness amongst people employing child labourers and the parents sending their children to work. Children require love, care, education, health, morals and financially secure future from their parents, and if a parents is not capable to give them such life; it

gives rise to the “CHILD LABOUR”. Only by taking comprehensive steps, the government can hope to eliminate all forms of child labour by 2020.

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