



Impact of Child Labour in Indian Society

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ABSTRACT:

Child labour is considered as one of the serious problems in modern world. Child labour is seen around the world, it is not the fact that only India is facing the problem of child labour but other developed nations also have same kind of issues. This paper is mainly concern with the child labour problems in India. Child labour problem is very much complex in Indian society. This paper also tried to explain the consequences of child labour problem in Indian society. Child labour can be found in urban areas as well as rural areas. But vast majority of child labour is seen in rural India. Objectives of this paper is to find out the possible reasons behind this practice. As per the latest information, total number of working labour in the country declined from 1.26 crore in 2001 to 43.53 lakhs in 2011 which shows 65 percent reduction. Poverty is the main reason behind child labour. Parents of the working children send their child for work so that they can increase their family income.

Keywords: child labour, discrimination, poverty, education, Government.

INTRODUCTION:

Child labour is the major obstacles for the establishment of social justice. No country can prosper without the proper development of children. As we are aware that today's child is the future of our nation. Child labour refers to the group of children who miss their childhood. Instead of going to school those children were forced to work for survival of their family. Government of India enacted laws to curb this practice but many parts of our country experiences the practice of child labour. Many NGOs, International organization working on the issues. These children are not given the opportunity of attending school and also they do not get basic health facility. Problem of working children is much more complicated in rural India as we know that the economy of rural India is totally depended on agricultural work. Parents often involves their children in agricultural activities. Most of the children in rural India do not attend school regularly as they are forced to help their parents in agricultural work.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:

The research design of this paper is based on descriptive studies. The study is based on primary data and secondary data. Observation method is used to meet the second objective of the study. To fulfil the third objectives, the researchers have used analytical term. The analytical study is based on the data of last five decades from 1971 to 2011.

TYPES OF CHILD LABOUR:

Child labour generally means children who are engaged in working in 8 to 12 hours in shop or any factories but if we deeply study about them then we can get many aspects of child labour. For example street children, they do not work for a particular period

of time. Street children can be seen selling newspaper or selling food products in train. After working entire days they return home with some earning. This paper will focus on those aspects of child labour which generally do not considered as economic activity in our society. It is known that in rural India especially girl children help their mother in household activity but their work is not considered as economic activity.

Socio-economic factors that causes child labour:

There are many factors which causes child labour practice in India. Poverty can be considered as the main cause of child labour. As we know that population of India is increasing day by day which led to poverty in rural India. Concept of family planning is not followed in rural India. In most cases parents of working children are not educated so that they do not realize the important of education in our life. Family size is also important factors in this case, as parents are unable to fulfil the demands of basic needs of the family and that is why they send their children in work, instead of sending school. Family conditions also very important factors in our society, as we know that many children lost one of the parents, as there is no other helping hand for their family so they work for the survival of their family. Culture and traditions of the society is a factors which forces children to work. India is diverse country, there are many society which forces their children to work at early age because they think that their child will learn work skill at early age which

will help them to survive in future. Urban migration is another reason of child labour practice. Many family from rural India migrate to city to get better opportunity. Instead of getting better opportunity they live in slums area and they work in unorganised sectors of urban areas. They often send their girl child for household work of other house. Urban India faces high unemployment,

poor sanitation, inadequate access to clean drinking water and inadequate housing. Globalization is another cause of child labour. As we know that due to globalization many international companies started their business in developing countries to get cheap labour. children belong to urban migrant workers are most effected due to globalization.

10 hard-hitting statistics on the issue of child labour in India:

- 1) One in every 11 children in India is working.
- 2) Child labour has been decreasing at an abysmal rate of 2.2% per year from 2001 to 2011, as per an analysis of census data by non-governmental organization CRY (Child Rights and You).
- 3) 80% of working children are based in rural areas and three out of four of these children work in agriculture, as cultivators or in household industries, most of which are home-based employments.
- 4) More than half of the 5.5 million working children in India are concentrated in five states—Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra.
- 5) Adolescents doing hazardous work form 20.7% of those employed in this age group, while almost 25% of adults work in hazardous conditions.
- 6) Adolescents between 15 and 17 years of age doing hazardous work form 62.8% of the overall child labour population.
- 7) Nearly 10% of adolescents working in hazardous conditions are working in family enterprises.
- 8) 56% of the working adolescents are no longer studying. And 70% of those in hazardous conditions are not studying.
- 9) More boys (38.7 million) than girls (8.8 million) are involved in hazardous work.
- 10) While the incidence of hazardous work among adolescents is highest in Nicaragua, the number of adolescents in hazardous work is greatest in India (2.4 million).

Source: International Labour Organization's World Report on Child Labour 2015 and CRY recent analysis of the Census 2011

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Statewise details of working children in the age group of 5-14 years as per Census 2001 and Census 2011 areas under:

Sl. No.	Name of State/UT	No. of working children in the age group of 5-14 years	
		Census 2001	Census 2011
1.	Andaman & Nicobar Island	1960	999
2.	Andhra Pradesh	1363339	404851
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	18482	5766
4.	Assam	351416	99512
5.	Bihar	1117500	451590
6.	Chandigarh U.T.	3779	3135
7.	Chhattisgarh	364572	63884
8.	Dadra & Nagar H.	4274	1054
9.	Daman & Diu U.T.	729	774
10.	Delhi U.T.	41899	26473
11.	Goa	4138	6920
12.	Gujarat	485530	250318
13.	Haryana	253491	53492
14.	Himachal Pradesh	107774	15001
15.	Jammu & Kashmir	175630	25528
16.	Jharkhand	407200	90996
17.	Karnataka	822615	249432

18.	Kerala	26156	21757
19.	Lakshadweep UT	27	28
20.	Madhya Pradesh	1065259	286310
21.	Maharashtra	764075	496916
22.	Manipur	28836	11805
23.	Meghalaya	53940	18839
24.	Mizoram	26265	2793
25.	Nagaland	45874	11062
26.	Odisha	377594	92087
27.	Pondicherry U.T.	1904	1421
28.	Punjab	177268	90353
29.	Rajasthan	1262570	252338
30.	Sikkim	16457	2704
31.	Tamil Nadu	418801	151437
32.	Tripura	21756	4998
33.	Uttar Pradesh	1927997	896301
34.	Uttarakhand	70183	28098
35.	West Bengal	857087	234275
	Total	12666377	4353247

Important laws related to child labour

“When in the 20th Century, child labour became so prominent that news of factory hazards and mis happenings taking innocent children’s life, flashed all around in the newspapers, then was the time, a need for legislation and statutes were felt to prohibit the mal practice of child labour. Today, there are sufficient statutes condemning and prohibiting child labour such as:

The Factories Act of 1948: The Act prohibits the employment of children below the age of 14 years in any factory. The law also placed rules on who, when and how long can pre-adults aged 15–18 years be employed in any factory.

The Mines Act of 1952: The Act prohibits the employment of children below 18 years of age in a mine. Mining being one of the most dangerous occupations, which in the past has led to many major accidents taking life of children is completely banned for them.

The Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act of 1986: The Act prohibits the employment of children below the age of 14 years in hazardous occupations identified in a list by the law. The list was expanded in 2006, and again in 2008.

The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection) of Children Act of 2000: This law made it a crime, punishable with a prison term, for anyone to procure or employ a child in any hazardous employment or in bondage. This act provides punishment to those who act in contravention to the previous acts by employing children to work.

The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act of 2009: The law mandates free and compulsory education to all children aged 6 to 14 years. This legislation also mandated that 25 percent of seats in every private school must be allocated for children from disadvantaged groups and physically challenged children.”

Source: virinda Nigam, IP university, sujitha S (child labour laws in India 16 August 2022)

Conclusion:

As we can understand that child labour is the curse of our society. Government alone can not fight against this practice. Entire community will have to work on that. Every Indian should be more concern about family planing. Parents must think about the education aspects of their child. Government of India enacted many laws to stop child labour practice. Many international NGOs also working on that. Mid-day-Meal project has been started aiming that students drop out rate would reduce and students belong to poor family will attend school regularly.

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