



International Journal of Research Publication and Reviews

Journal homepage: www.ijrpr.com ISSN 2582-7421

A STUDY ON CHILD LABOUR

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ABSTRACT :

Poverty is the main cause of child labor in India and child labor in India is found in both urban and rural areas. Although many poor families struggle for a better life and this forces the children of these families to do work in order to increase the family income and become a bread earner of his family. Child labor is a sensitive subject and numbers on its magnitude play an important role in global policy-making and advocacy efforts. The research was conducted in acute awareness of this responsibility and used well-proven statistical methodologies in an attempt to keep error margins to a minimum. All sources, underlying definitions and methodological steps are explained in detail. This paper, based on a quantitative empirical cross-country study, provides policy insights to the tackling of the root causes of child labor. The econometric model applied explains for a substantial proportion of the cross-country variations in child labor. The elasticities estimated would enable us to forecast the percentage change in the employment of child labor resulting from a given percentage change in any one of the explanatory variables consisting of the level of development (GNP per capita), poverty, income inequality, school enrolment, parental education, dominance of agriculture and age structure of the population. Children's work that is harmful, hazardous, or is in other ways exploitative can create, exacerbate, or perpetuate an intergenerational cycle of poverty, malnutrition, and social disadvantage. The neglect or violation of a range of human rights exacerbates the conditions that lead to child labor, and child labor in and of itself raises issues of neglect and violation of human rights. Harm to individuals also deteriorates public health in their communities. The development of national and global

responses to child labor should occur in the framework of a public health model set within the context of human rights, with particular attention to the rights of girls. This article briefly sketches an approach to a rights-based public health model for reducing and if possible, eliminating harmful, hazardous, and exploitative children's work.

Keywords: Child labor, child exploitation, children's rights, labor laws, poverty, education, global issue, socio-economic factors, human rights, vulnerable populations.

INTRODUCTION :

Child labor refers to the employment of children in any work that deprives them of their childhood, interferes with their ability to attend regular school, and that is mentally, physically, socially or morally dangerous and harmful. In villages, it is a common sight to see children of poor families working in fields or elsewhere to contribute to the family income. Such children are deprived of opportunities of education and are also prone to health risks. In a sense, child labor is open exploitation as it deprives children of education and pushes them into exploitative situations. The side-effects of working at a young age are: risks of contracting occupational diseases like skin diseases, diseases of the lungs, weak eyesight, TB etc.; vulnerability to sexual exploitation at the workplace; deprived of education. They grow up unable to avail development opportunities and end up as unskilled workers for the rest of their lives.

According to Article 23 of the Indian Constitution any type of forced labor is prohibited. Article 24 states that a child under 14 years cannot be employed to perform any hazardous work. Similarly, Article 39 states that "the health and strength of workers, men and women, and the tender age of children are not abused". In the same manner, Child Labor Act (Prohibition and Regulation) 1986 prohibits children under the age of 14 years to be working in hazardous industries and processes. Child Labor (Prohibition & Regulation) Amendment Act 2016 prohibits the employment of Children below 14 years in all employment and with the provisions for prohibition on employment of adolescents (14-18 Years) in the scheduled hazardous occupations and processes.

Child labor, a pervasive and deeply troubling issue, continues to haunt societies across the globe. It represents a blatant violation of children's rights and a stark reminder of the socio-economic disparities that persist in our world. In this introduction, we delve into the stark reality of child labor, highlighting its prevalence and the various factors that contribute to its persistence. Child labor, as defined by the International Labor Organization (ILO), refers to the employment of children below a certain age, often in conditions detrimental to their physical and mental development. While child labor exists in various forms, from hazardous work in factories to domestic service, its common denominator is the denial of a normal childhood. Instead of education, play, and personal growth, these children are subjected to grueling hours of labor. This research paper embarks on a journey to unravel the layers of this complex issue. We will investigate the root causes of child labor, such as poverty, lack of access to education, and cultural norms, that perpetuate this injustice. Additionally, we will examine the dire consequences of child labor on the physical and psychological well-being

of children, as well as its long-term impact on society. Furthermore, we will explore the existing legal frameworks and international conventions aimed at combatting child labor and protecting the rights of children. While progress has been made in recent decades, challenges persist, and enforcement remains a critical issue.

RESEARCH DESIGN :

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM-CHILD LABOUR

Child labor has been seen as a significant global concern affecting the well-being of many children in the world. It is commonly found in underdeveloped countries where basic requirements and civil rights are not protected by law. According to the UN, poverty is the most compelling reason for driving child labor.

OBJECTIVES :

- To influence public policy on child labor issues through an increased understanding of the impact of work on children's health, lives,
- To recognize how child labor exploitation promotes poverty, adult unemployment, poor living standards, low literacy rates.
- To check better enforcement of child labor laws and regulations,
- To urge the government to act quickly and enforce all the International & National Labor Organization and United Nations Conventions that affect child labor.

SCOPE OF THE STUDY :

The problem of child labor continues to put the nation to the test. The government is still taking a number of strict measures to address this problem. However, given the scope and severity of the problem and the fact that it mostly stems from socio-economic factors such as low living standards and illiteracy, it calls for deliberate consideration on all sides of the social order if progress is to be made.

According to Census of 200 data, there are 1.26 crore children working in the age range of 5 to 14 as opposed to the 25.2 crore total number of children.

Around 12 lakh children engage in dangerous occupations, which are protected by the Child Labor (Prohibition & Regulation) Act and encompass 18 types of employment and 65 methods used in a variety of industries.

However, research conducted in 2004–2005 under the direction of the National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) estimates that there are about 90.75 lakh children working in the workforce. It suggests that the government's discussions have responded favorably to the data that is now accessible. The recovery of these children and improving the financial circumstances of their families have received a lot of government attention because destitution is the primary cause of this problem and implementation alone cannot assist understand it.

LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY :

Child labor refers to the employment of children in work that can be harmful to their physical and mental development. While there is a vast amount of knowledge available on this topic, to ensure that it is authentic or not, and is qualitative or not we tried to collect data directly.

Here are some of the limitations of this study:

1. **Small Sample size:** Our research relied on data collected from around 65-75 people in a particular region of India and from the age group 15-30 hence, it may not fully represent the diversity present across country.
2. **Resource Constraints:** Limited access to relevant data, materials, or funding has restricted the scope or depth of the research.
3. **Time Constraints:** Time limitations has affected the thoroughness of data collection, analysis, and interpretation.
4. **Bias and Subjectivity:** Since child labor is a taboo to talk about people may not disclose their association with it and there can also be a researcher bias involved.
5. **Language and Communication Barriers:** Difficulty in accessing literature or communicating with participants from different linguistic or cultural backgrounds can impede the research process.
6. **Methodological Limitations & External factors:** Flaws or limitations in research design, measurement tools, or statistical analysis methods can impact the validity and reliability of results. External events or circumstances beyond the researcher's control may affect the research process or outcomes

REVIEW OF LITERATURE :

- Publication date: January 2013

A study of Child labor in India – Magnitude and challenges

Milind S Pande

Children have always received less attention or discussion in Indian society. The country's sociocultural history can be used to determine the causes of the same. Children are regarded as humanity's greatest gift around the globe. Childhood is a crucial period in human development since it can shape any society's destiny. Children who are raised in a setting that supports their intellectual, physical, and social growth will grow up to be responsible and useful members of society. As a result, every culture connects its present with its children's future.

1. Publication date August 2022

A Critical Analysis of Child Labor in India.

Bindu Roy

Youngster work is a difficult issue from numerous many years and a test for the overwhelming majority emerging nations. It has existed throughout the long term not just in the ruined areas of emerging nations yet additionally in created nations until the start of the twentieth hundred years. Numerous nations have established different regulations and have showed serious drive to annihilate kid work, yet still the issue is extremely far reaching all through the world. The issue of kid work shows up in serious structure and different variables are associated with it. The reasons for the rate of youngster work in India are perplexing and well established into the general public.

3. Richard Anker (2000)

In this article, At the beginning of the new millennium, the work done by these unfortunate children is an unacceptable aspect of life in all too many countries. This condemnation of child labor by society coexists with other seemingly contradictory attitudes. First is the fact that many children work willingly and with their parents' support. If child labor is so bad for children, why then do so many parents allow or encourage it and why do so many children willingly engage in it? In developing countries, the usual explanation for this apparently irrational behavior is poor families' need for additional income to help ensure their survival. This article develops a conceptual framework within which to situate the economics of child labor, the aim being to address seemingly contradictory aspects of the phenomenon, such as those noted above.

4. Child labor and the minimum wage: Evidence from India :

Author: Nidhiya Menon (2018)

This study analyzes what changes in the lowest pay permitted by law mean for kid work in India. The investigation utilizes rehashed cross segments of India's NSSO work information from 1983 to 2008 converged with information on state-level the lowest pay permitted by law rates. Hypothetically, the effect of the lowest pay permitted by law on youngster work could go one way or the other, so experimental proof from a country with high paces of kid work and a bunch of the lowest pay permitted by law regulations across states and enterprises assists with decreasing the uncertainty. Results show that paying little mind to orientation, in metropolitan regions, a higher the lowest pay permitted by law lessens kid work in family work. Girls experience a similar outcome in rural areas, while boys do experience an increase in household labor. In both urban and rural areas, the minimum wage has virtually no effect on child labor outside of the home.

5. Prevalence and potential consequences of child labor in India and the possible impact of COVID-19 – a contemporary overview :

Authors: Navpreet Kaur and Roger W Byard (2021)

Child labor is a global issue that primarily affects nations with lower socioeconomic status and financial resources. Children joining the labor is caused by a variety of factors, including poverty in society and families, parental death, disability, or disease, a lack of social security and protection, and lack of knowledge about the need of education or limited access to it. The growth of each individual child as well as their community and economy are hampered by child labor. According to estimates, 152 million children—64 million girls and 88 million boys—are employed globally, or around one in ten of all children. Currently, the COVID-19 health pandemic and its effects on the economy and labor market are significantly affecting people's lives and means of subsistence. Unfortunately, poor families and their kids are frequently the ones that suffer first, which could force a lot more vulnerable kids into child labor scenarios. With almost 10 million youngsters actively working or looking for job, India has a higher prevalence of child labor than many other nations. The subject of child labor, its causes, and its negative impacts are the main topics of this essay. It also examines Indian legislative issues and the global legal system as it relates to child labor. It is obvious that this problem needs to be dealt with and remedied successfully right away

6. Child labor and psychosocial wellbeing: Findings from India

Authors: Simon Feeny, Alberto Posso, Ahmed Skali, Amalendu Jyotishi, Shyam Nath, P. K. Viswanathan (2021)

In developing nations, mental health is a neglected area of medicine. We investigate the likelihood that working children, who are among the most

vulnerable in developing nations, would experience mental health disorders. 168 million youngsters worldwide still work as children despite a decline in recent decades. While the detrimental effects of child labor on physical health are well known, less attention has been paid to how child labor affects a child's psychosocial welfare. Using a fresh dataset of 947 children aged 12 to 18 from 750 households in 20 villages across five districts of Tamil Nadu, India, we look into this problem. By taking into consideration levels of happiness, hope, emotional wellbeing, and other factors, our specially designed survey enables a comprehensive investigation of children's wellbeing.

7. Child Labor and School enrolment in rural India: Whose education matters?

Authors: Takashi Kurosaki, Seiro Ito, Nobuhiko Fuwa, Kensuke Kubo, Yasuyuki Sawada (2006)

The factors that influence child labor and school attendance in rural Andhra Pradesh, India, are empirically examined in this paper. In order to investigate the individual and household characteristics that are associated with the incidence, an estimation of a village fixed-effect logit model is made for each child, with the incidence of child labor or school enrollment as the dependent variable. Among the determinants, this paper centers around whose training makes the biggest difference in choosing the situation with every youngster, an issue not recently explored in that frame of mind of the joint family framework. The relapse results show that the training of the kid's mom is more significant in diminishing youngster work and in expanding school enlistment than that of the kid's dad, the family head, or the life partner of the head. The impact of the kid's mom is comparable on young men and young ladies while that of the kid's dad is better on young men.

8. Publication date: September 2016

The economics of Child Labor in the era of Globalization

The growing awareness about and concern for child labor in recent years has led to an enormous literature on the issue.

Researchers and policymakers have been trying to identify the root causes and suggest appropriate remedial measures. In the conventional literature, it is commonly believed that the root cause behind the widespread existence of child

labor is poverty. However, another view is that poverty in itself is not a sufficient explanation for child labor. In the literature, apart from poverty, the supply of child labor has also been attributed to factors such as binding credit constraints, failure of the educational system, the objectives of households to maximize present income, a dualistic economy characteristic of the developing countries with the co-existence of formal and informal sectors, etc. In the next section, we review the existing literature on child labor to discuss the above factors in detail.

9. Child Labor and Human Rights:

Jayaprakash Jani

“Children of today are the potential citizens of tomorrow”.

Children are the blooming flowers in the garden of society. The children have rights like other human beings, to be respected with regard to their integrity, dignity, interests and opinions. Child labor is a serious evil for the developing countries like India. Millions of children are working in Hazardous and exploitative conditions harmful to their physical, mental and moral development. The issue of child labor is a worldwide phenomenon and it exists in almost all the countries of this planet. Meanwhile it is very saddening to write that our India is one among the nation in the world, which has the unique distinction of being a large employer of child labor. Since child labor is a more complex natured problem a balanced approach is needed to solve this issue with an interactive role from all concerned people and the agencies.

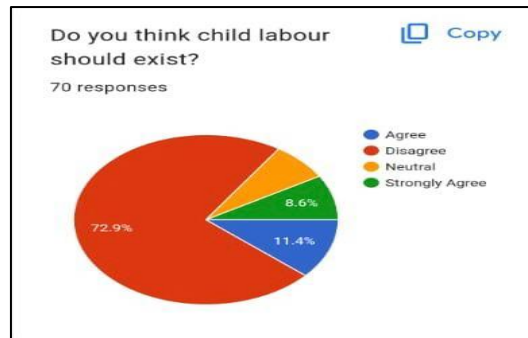
10. Child Labor: A Review

Christiaan Grootaert and Ravi Kanbur

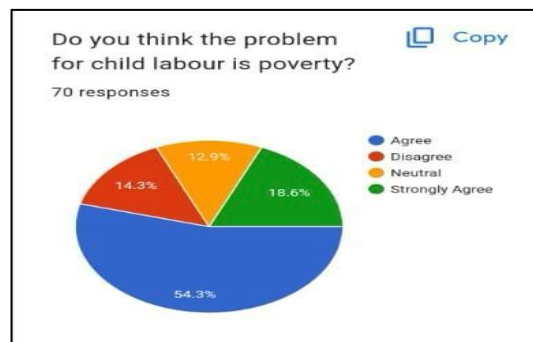
Child labor is upsetting. The popular images in the developed world are drawn from Dickens and the “dark, satanic mills” of the industrial revolution on the one hand, and the sweatshops and street children of the cities of the developing world on the other. A common, and natural enough, reaction in developing countries has been legislation to ban child labor, following the historical lead of the developed world as it emerged from its period of industrialization. In fact, trade sanctions are being recommended in some developed countries, against the exports of developing countries that use child labor. Many, including developing country governments, see this as a thinly disguised protectionist device. Many others, economists among them, have argued that child labor legislation, even if it could be enforced, is not the only way, or necessarily the best way, of tackling the issue.

Against this background, this paper presents an overview of the recent literature on child labor. Section 2 considers the problems of defining child labor - conceptual and empirical, and discusses some recent estimates of the magnitude of the problem. Section 3 moves to a discussion of the determinants of child labor, focusing first on supply and then on demand. Section 4 sets out the welfare economics framework within which policy interventions can be analyzed. In light of this, Section 5 assesses a range of policy interventions, including legislation.

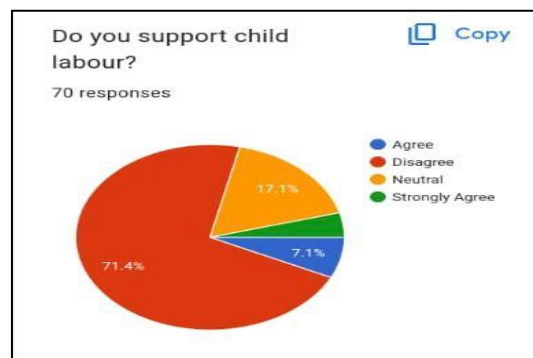
ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION :



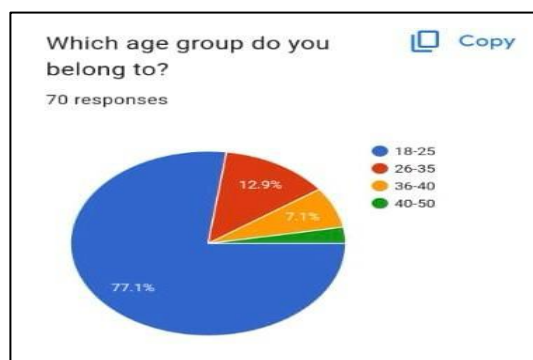
- In this chart we can see that out of 70 people who responded, 72.9% people think child labour should not exist, and 7.1% people are neutral about it whereas, 11.4% people think it should exist and 8.6% people think it should definitely exist.



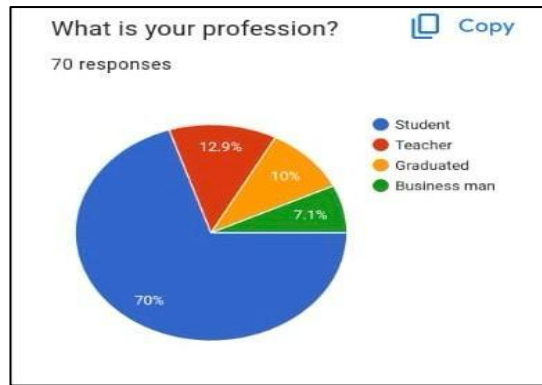
- In this chart we can see that out of 70 people who responded, 54.3% people agree that the reason for child labour is poverty, 18.6% people strongly agree about it, 12.9% people were neutral about poverty being the reason for child labour whereas, 14.3% people disagree to this.



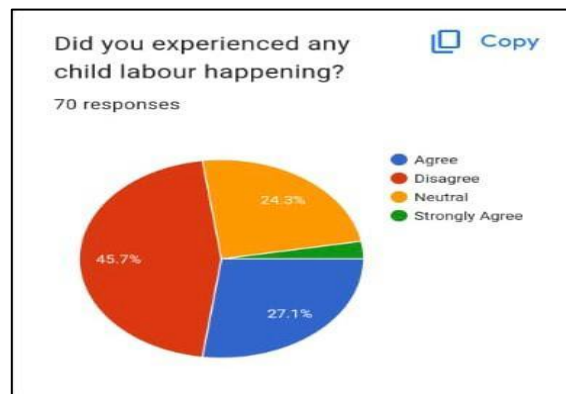
- In this chart we can see that out of 70 people who responded, 71.4% people do not support child labour, 17.1% people are neutral about it, 7.1% people agree on child labour and 4.4% people strongly agree to this.



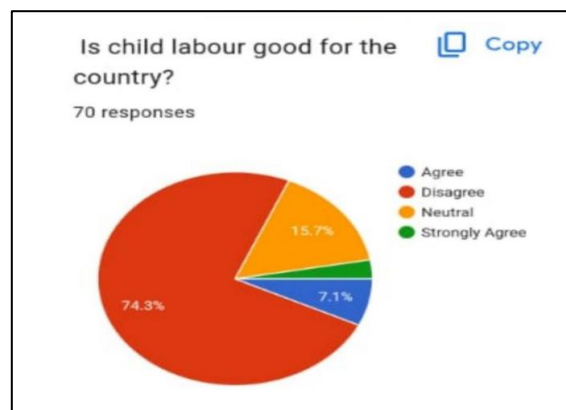
- In this chart we can see that out of 70 people who responded, 77.1% people belong to the age group 18-25, 12.9% people belong to the age group 26-35, 7.1% people belong to the age group 36-40 and the rest 2.9% belong to the age group 40-50.



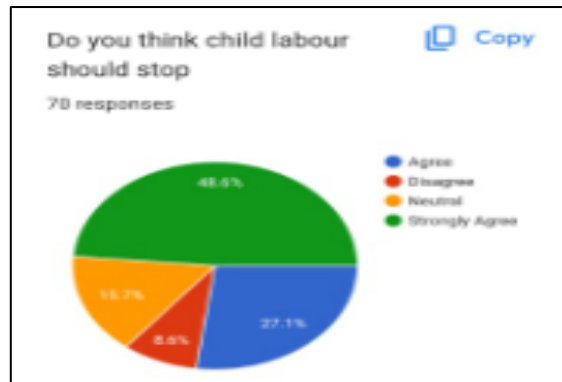
- In this chart we can see that out of 70 people who responded, 70% people were students, 12.9% people were Teacher, 10% people were graduated and 7.1% people were businessmen.



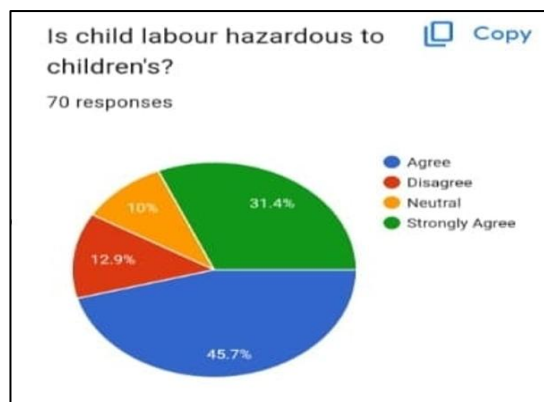
- In this chart we can see that out of 70 people who responded, 45.7% people have not experienced and child labor happening, 24.3% people are neutral about it whereas, 27.1% people agree on experiencing child labor and 2.9% people strongly agree to this.



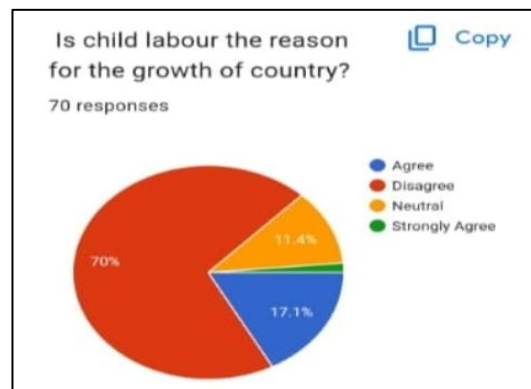
- In this figure the respondents have given their thoughts on whether child labor is good for the country or not. 74.3% have disagreed, 15.7% are neutral, 7.1% have agreed and 2.9% have strongly Agreed. The total number of respondents were 70.



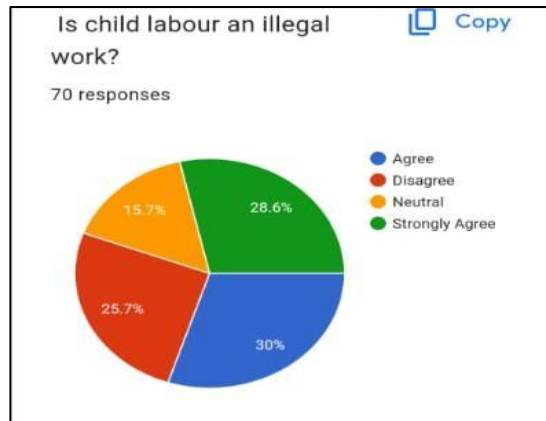
- In this chart we can see that out of 70 people who responded, 48.6% people strongly agree and 27.1% people agree that child labor should stop whereas 15.7% people were neutral and 8.6% people disagreed to this.



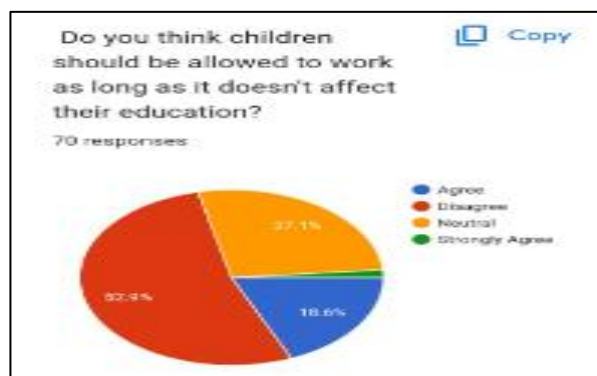
- In this chart we can see that out of 70 People who responded, 45.7% People Agree that child labor is hazardous to children's, 31.4% people Strongly Agree, 12.9% people Disagree and the rest 10% people are Neutral.



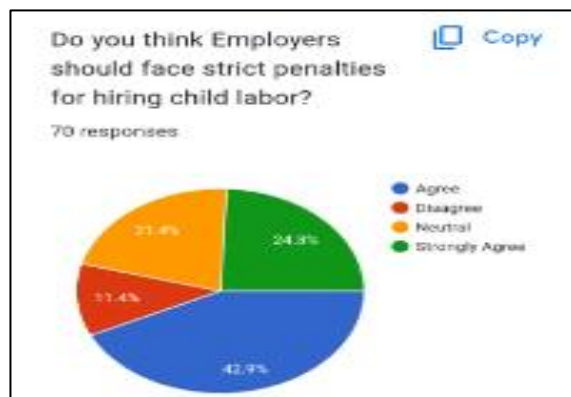
- In this chart we can see that out of 70 People who responded, 70% people Disagree on child labor being the reason for growth whereas, 17.1% people Agree, 1.5% people Strongly Agree and the rest 11.4% people were Neutral about it.



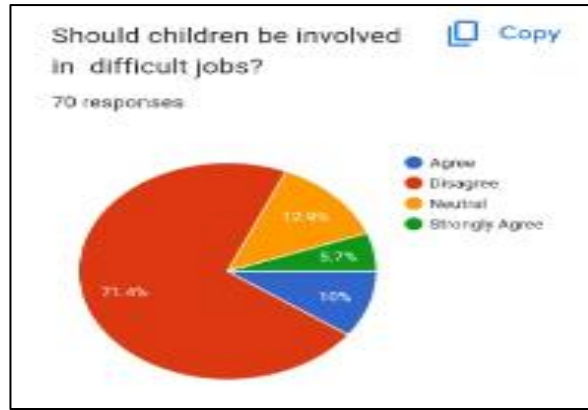
- In this chart we can see that out of 70 people, 28.6% strongly agreed to the fact that child labor is illegal and 30% people also agreed to this whereas, 15.7% people were neutral about it and 25.7% disagreed on this.



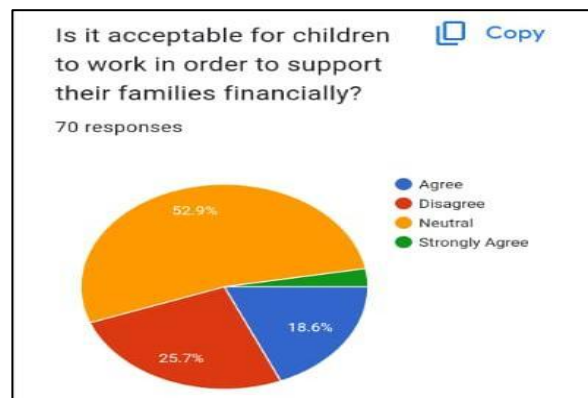
- In this chart we can see that out of 70 people who responded, 52.9% people disagree to children working at all, 27.1% people were neutral about it whereas, 18.6% people agree to them working if it doesn't affect their studies and 1.4% people strongly agree to this.



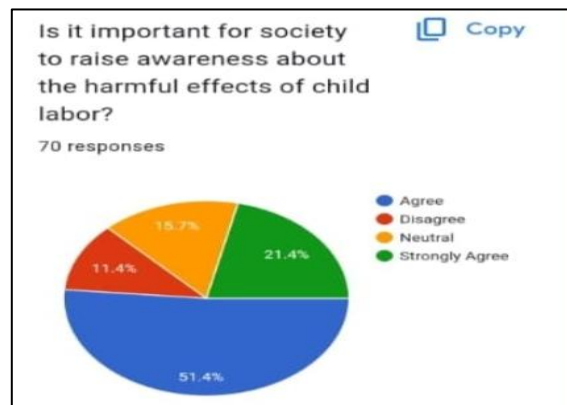
- In this chart we can see that out of 70 people, 42.9% agreed to employers facing strict penalties, 24.3% people strongly agreed to it, 21.4% people were neutral about it whereas 11.4% disagreed about it.



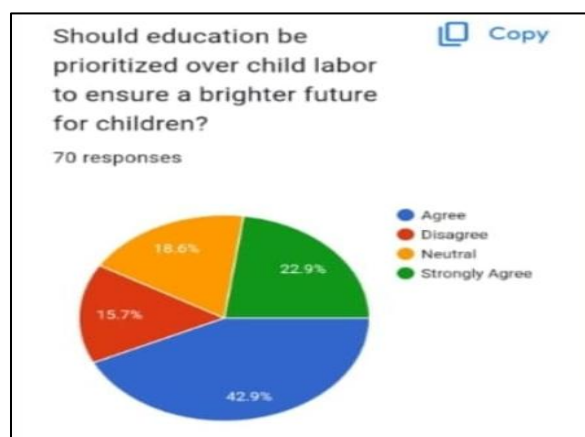
- In this chart we can see that out of 70 people, 71.4% people disagree on children being involved in difficult jobs, 12.9% people were neutral about it, 10% people agree on giving children tough tasks and 5.7% people strongly agreed to it.



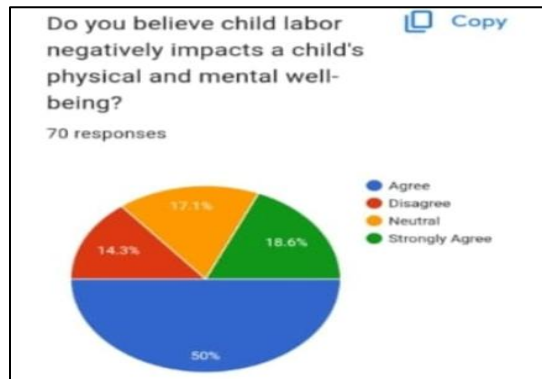
- In this chart we can see that out of 70 people, 52.9% people were in two minds and had a neutral approach to children working in order to support their families, 2.8% people strongly agreed to it and 18.6% people agreed to it whereas, 25.7% people disagreed to them working.



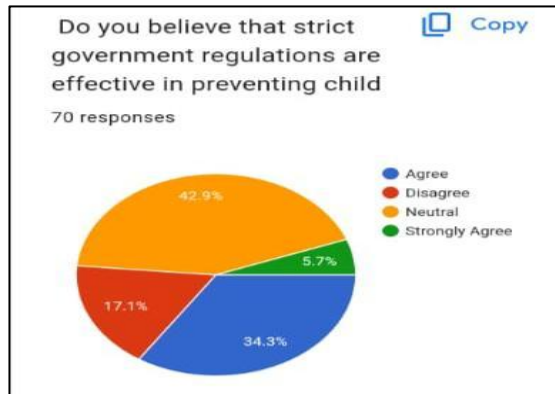
- In this chart we can see that out of 70 People who responded, 51.4% people Agree that raising awareness is needed, 21.4% People Strongly Agree to it, 15.7% people being Neutral whereas the rest 11.4% people Disagree.



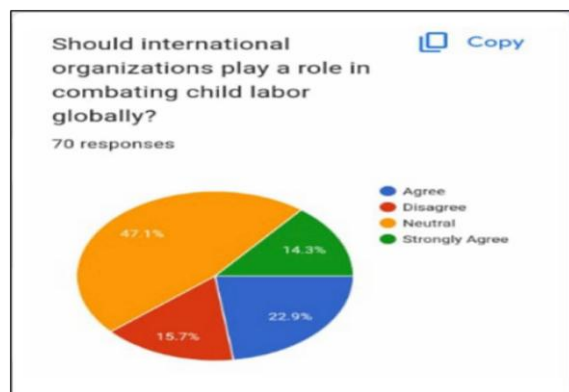
- In this chart we can see that out of 70 People who responded, 42.9% people Agree that education should be prioritized over child labor for a brighter future, 22.9% people who Strongly Agree, 18.6% people being Neutral and rest 15.7% people Disagree.



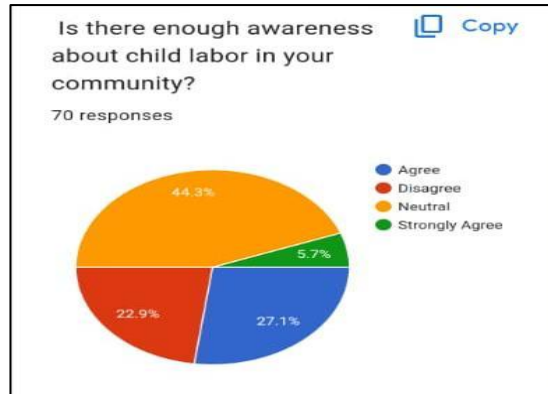
- In this chart we can see that out of 70 People who responded, 50% people Agree to the negative impact of child labor, 18.6% people Strongly Agree, 17.1% people were Neutral and rest 14.3% people Disagree to this.



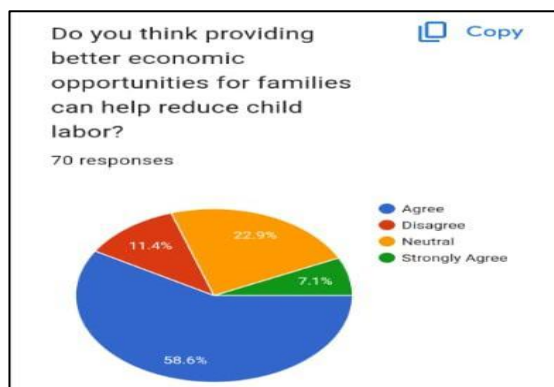
- In this chart out of the 70 people, 5.7% people strongly agreed and 34.3% people agreed to making strict regulations for preventing child labor whereas, 42.9% people were in two minds and 17.1% people disagreed to it.



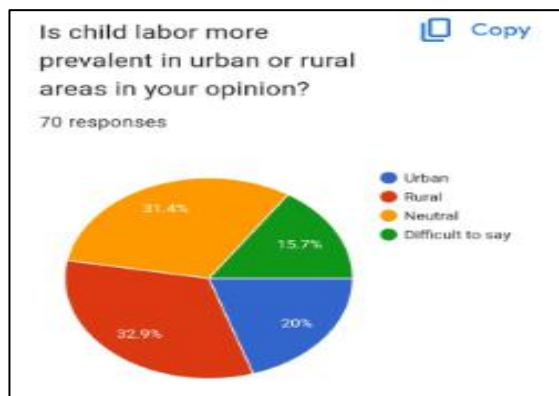
- This figure classifies respondents on what they think if International Organizations play a role in combating child labor globally, 22.9% of them agree, 14.3% strongly agree, 47.1% are neutral and 15.7% disagree on it. Where the total respondents are 70.



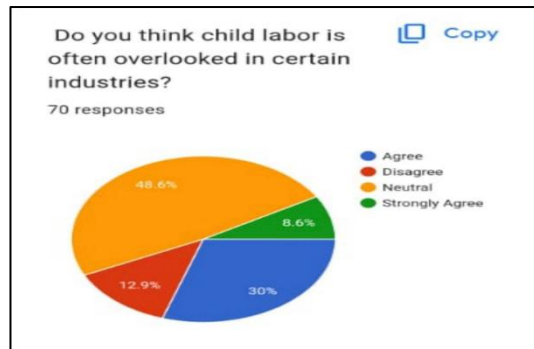
- In this chart we can see that out of 70 people, 44.3% people were neutral about it and 22.9% people disagreed to there being enough awareness whereas, 5.7% strongly agreed and 27.1% people agreed to there being enough awareness.



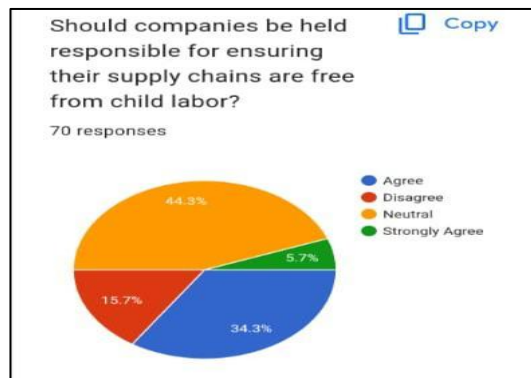
- In this chart we can see that out of 70 people, 22.9% people were neutral about it and 11.4% people disagreed whereas, 7.1% strongly agreed and 58.6% people agreed that if there are better economic opportunities for families it can help in reduction in child labor.



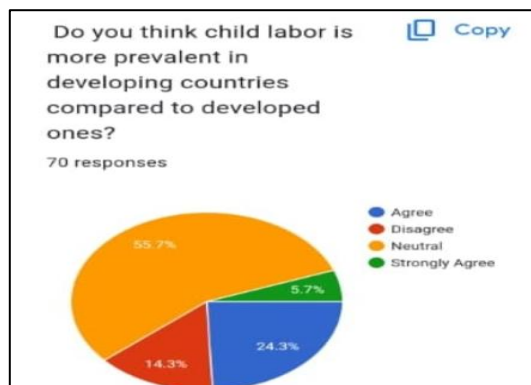
- In this chart we can see that out of 70 people, 31.4% people were neutral about it and 15.7% people told that it was difficult to say whereas, 20% people told that it is more prevalent in urban areas and 32.9% people told that it is more prevalent in rural areas.



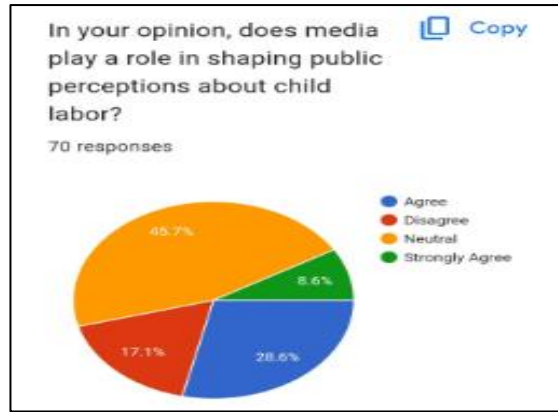
- This figure classifies respondents on whether Child Labor is overlooked in certain industries, 12.9% of them disagreed, 30% agreed, 48.6% were neutral and 8.6% of them strongly disagreed. Where the total respondents are 70.



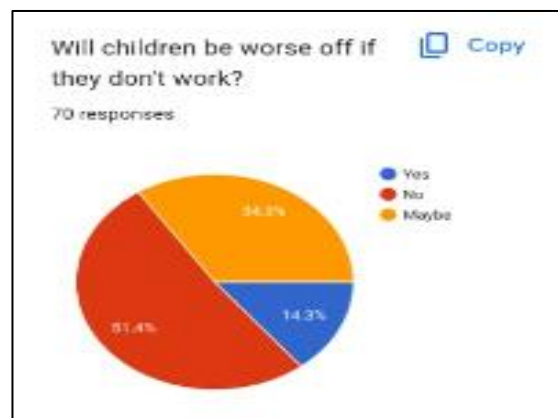
- In this chart we can see that out of 70 People responded, 44.3% people being neutral, 34.3% people Agree, 15.7% people Disagree and rest 5.7% people strongly Agree to the above question.



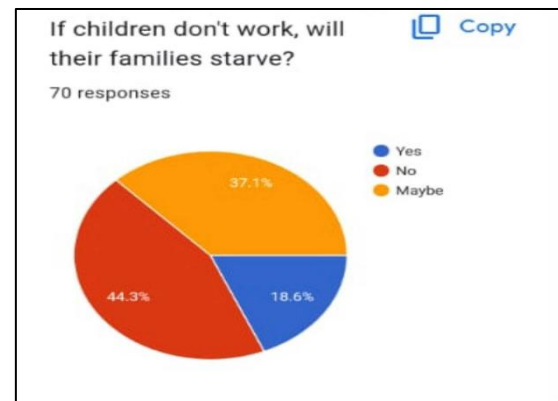
- In this chart we can see that out of 70 People responded, 55.7% people being neutral, 24.3% people Agree, 14.3% people Disagree and rest 5.7% people strongly Agree to the above question.



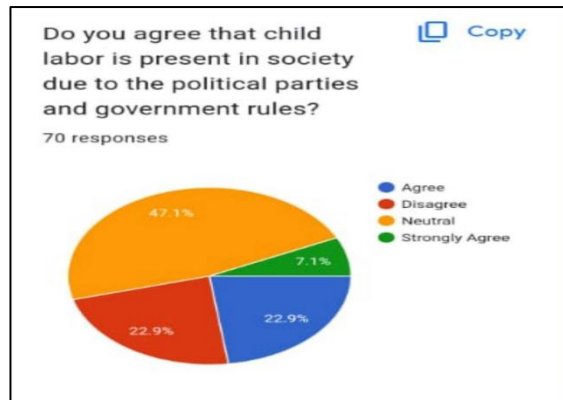
- In this chart we can see that out of 70 People responded, 45.7% people were neutral, 17.1% people Disagreed whereas, 28.6% people agreed, rest 8.6% people strongly Agreed to media playing a major role in this.



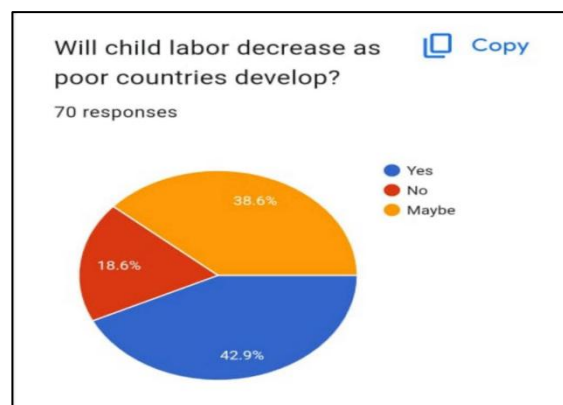
- In this chart we can see that out of 70 people who responded, 51.4% people think that children will be fine without working whereas, 34.3% people were not sure about it, 14.3% people agree on child being necessary to survive.



- In this figure the respondents have given their thoughts on whether the families will starve if their Children don't work, 44.3% of people disagreed, 37.1% of people were neutral and 18.6% disagreed. Total number of respondents are 70.



- This figure classifies respondents on whether Child Labor is present in society due to political parties and government rules ,22.9% of them disagreed, 22.9% agreed, 47.1% were neutral and 7.1% of them strongly agreed. Where the total respondents are 70.



- In this figure the respondents have given their thoughts in whether Child Labor decrease as poor countries develop, the majority of them have Strongly agreed that is About 42.9% and neutral are 38.6%, people disagreeing are 18.6% where total respondents were 70.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS :

Child labor remains a pervasive global issue with far-reaching consequences. Despite international efforts to eradicate it, millions of children continue to be exploited, forced into labor that deprives them of their childhood and hampers their overall development. The impact of child labor is profound, affecting not only the individual child but also society as a whole.

One major consequence is the infringement of children's basic rights. Engaging in labor at a young age denies them access to education, perpetuating a cycle of poverty and limiting their future prospects. These children often endure hazardous working conditions, compromising their health and safety. The toll on their physical and mental well-being is immense, impeding their ability to lead fulfilling lives.

From a global economic perspective, child labor can artificially depress wages and working conditions for adults. Children are often exploited due to their vulnerability, making them a cheap source of labor. This not only undercuts the rights of adult workers but also distorts fair labor practices, creating an environment where exploitation thrives.

Addressing child labor requires a multi-faceted approach, combining legislative measures, social initiatives, and international cooperation. Stricter enforcement of child labor laws, coupled with programs that provide educational opportunities and support for families in need, are crucial components of a comprehensive strategy.

CONCLUSION :

Government authorities and civil society organizations need to work in tandem to free children engaged in labor under abysmal conditions.

They need to be rescued from exploitative working conditions and supported with adequate education.

Child labor can result in extreme bodily and mental harm, slavery and exploitation.

Education and awareness. Educating people, especially businessmen and employers, about the ill effects can help prevent child labor. Talk to them about the impact of child labor on children's mental and physical health and how it can affect their future. Also, inform them about the laws and their penalties - Adopting these measures we can stop child labor. Child labor is the exploitation of children through any form of work that interferes with their ability to attend regular school, or is mentally, physically, socially and morally harmful.

Such exploitation is prohibited by legislation worldwide, although these laws do not consider all work by children as child labor; exceptions include

work by child artists, family duties, supervised training, and some forms of work undertaken by Amish children, as well as by Indigenous children in the Americas.

Adolescents between the age of 14 – 18 years cannot be employed in any hazardous occupation.

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