



## A BARRIER TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE COUNTRY AND SOCIETY: CHILD LABOUR

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### ABSTRACT

Child labour is one of the oldest and still a continuing concern in our society. Child labour grew during that period as a part of the industrial revolution from working in agriculture to small-scale craft workshops to working in urban factories. The abandonment of children is a crime against humanity, excluding the good grounds of life for them. Children can't wait until tomorrow; they develop every day, and their sense of consciousness of the world increases. No response tomorrow; the necessity of the hour is their present treatment, safety and recovery. In addition, the Constitution, the Values of the Directive and the Convention on the Rights of the Child have already been guaranteed to them. Unless complemented by socio-economic and educational upliftment in the poorest segment of society, children's work cannot be completely eradicated by law alone. The age of 11 to 13 years was most prevalent (80%). With declining socio-economic status of parents, it increases. Just under half of child labourers (46.7%) had to work more than 6 hours a day. Work time each week is an average of 6.1 days. Girls must be covered, families should be reduced and parental education and economic empowerment encouraged, so as to decrease the burden on kids to play economic roles.

**Keywords:** child labor, child labor elimination, child rights, child human rights, remuneration, poverty and hunger.

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### Introduction

Child labour is a huge concept worldwide. It is necessary for every child to know its causes and prevention such as child labour. First, we have to understand what child labor really means. It is the act of employing or engaging children in various economic activities for income on a part-time or full-time basis.

In the history of civilization, child labour is an old issue. Under different periods of time, children were abused to varying degrees. In poor and developed countries, the problem was widespread. Children's work was part of economic life and industrial development in the 1800s. Children under 14 were required to engage in family incomes and were working in hazardous conditions at a change of 12 hours in agriculture, factories, mines and roads. Children belonging to poor families were expectations to be active in family revenues.

In the 1900s, over a quarter of poverty-strength families in England lost their children to disease and death, jeopardising their additional financial assistance. [1] In three shifts, boys worked in high-heating glass facilities because they kept fired up furnaces constantly, forcing girls to go into prostitution. In 1910, more than two million children were estimated to be employed in the United States.

There are 1 crore 25 lakh child labourers in India. Their number is increasing continuously. This means that in India, more than 400 million people still live below the poverty line. When there will be poverty, there

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will be hunger and the children of poor people will be forced to become child labor, this is the helplessness of the economic cycle. Due to poverty and helplessness, children of poor parents help in various hotel restaurants, various institutions and domestic works. Or work for livelihood. It is unconstitutional and illegal to hire children below 14 years of age. Child labor is a social reality. The age of children to get education. We have to study and write. Being forced, he has to struggle with life and become a servant in an unfortunate situation.

There are millions of population in India. There will be thousands of such children, who do not have time to read and write and do some small work, in other words it is called child labor or child labor. There are millions of children in India, whose parents are unable to pay special attention to their children. Parents do labor or labor in different places, and their small children move around. The problems of child labor pose challenges before us. It is the responsibility of sociologists and government to find a solution.

Children are the future of the country, development of the country depends on the direction of development of children. A child living on the pavement or looking for something from a pile of waste can be made up of children. Chhattisgarh the number of child laborers in the country is 3.64 lakh. Today, according to unofficial statistics, the number of child laborers in the country is more than 10 crore. Balashrama is a curse on Indian society. This situation becomes more serious when child labor works under those conditions. When child labor works in conditions that are extremely dangerous for their health and future. His childhood is passing through working in wages. There are child labor in every district of the state. The problems and challenges of child labor are complete, but its solution is impossible, there is no such thing.

The moral and ethical unacceptable essence of child labour. The First Foreign Organization to sign a Convention on children's rights in 1989 was the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). It is the first time that children are treated as human beings with their parents' rights rather than as economic assets. The work of children was described as work which harms and deprives children of their rights to education. This act would not exempt children working for their families.

In supporting child labour, cultural values play an important role. In developing countries, the work has an effect on building character and enhancing children's skills. In such families, there is a tradition in which children follow the footsteps of their parents and learn the job early. There are cultural attitudes that may lead to the myth that education for girls does not matter as much as education for boys and thus that girls are being coerced into child labour as home service providers. The socio-cultural dimensions of child labour include the cast system, sexism and cultural inclinations toward girls.

Despite this, there are claims in favour of child labour despite both foreign and national initiatives against child labour. There are others who argue that poor families are much worse without child care. Money shortages would deprive them of the basic food and shelter need that will reduce their survival. Moreover, a rise in poverty would make children much more likely to be abused.

The advocates of such ideas claim that in some cases it is helpful to establish a healthy workplace and to allow children to work. They also emphasised that child labour is not child labour because it interferes with education, and children have healthy working conditions with a small number of hours a day.

## **Sociological significance:**

Child labour is such an evil of society, from which we could not get rid even after 64 years of independence. Instead of reducing this problem, they are spreading their legs. From villages to settlements-cities, we see this child labor undertaking various types of ventures. From farm-barn, garden-garden to shoe-polishing on the streets, weaving garbage, we can see somewhere selling goods. The heat of the rain, the water in the rain or the cold chill never stops the work of "child laborers on the road", the legs shortened after midnight, in which the knees touch the stomach. A torn piece of sack and a sheet of consolation for wearing, the sheet is lying on the pavement as if it is waiting for dawn, in the morning Brahma Muhurat gets up, picks up his belongings or leaves with a sack, then for a time In the jugaad of food, he does not get time to get up in

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the morning to wash his face, nor does he feel the need for tea and drinking. He simply picks up his luggage and walks away and walks.

United Nation in a report dated 20 November 1959 made it clear that "the physical and mental development of the child requires that the child's development takes place in a family environment." The family should be clean, peace loving and laughter, but it is unfortunate that children are abandoned by family members at a young age. Extreme poverty, excessive population unemployment, decline of social values and illiteracy are the main reasons. All these situations force children to work on the road. Then these children live on the road and live.

Today the Indian government is very attentive in the matter of child labor. It has developed some laws which are against child labor where there is an age limit i.e. no one can employ a child below 18 years of age. If anyone does so, they will be punished according to the law, even the parents if they force their child to go for child labor. Government schools are set up to educate children who do not have the money to pay their school fees and do many things to prevent it.

There are more than 9 crore child laborers in the country out of which more than 2 crore are girls and out of which about 43 lakh child laborers are in a lot of life. Our country has become the country with the largest number of child laborers under 14 years of age in the world. Child labor is most prevalent in the states of Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh and Odisha. The reason for the increase in the number of child laborers is due to population growth and unemployment. Due to unemployment and low wages, many people of the country are living in poverty and their children are becoming laborers. An increase in child labor is a concern. Children are the property of the country. Children are the creators of the future. Children are the future of our country. Child labor is a crime which hinders the overall development of the country. Child laborers grow up in the future to become unskilled laborers and spend their entire lives in poverty and disease. The problem of child labor in the country has become a challenge. The number of child laborers is increasing rather than decreasing. About 54 percent of child laborers in the country are victims of exploitation. This is very sad and embarrassing for the country. Crores of children are still deprived of education. Even the masters of our country, who claim the best education, could not connect them with the mainstream of education. Making money is the helplessness of these children. Child labor is a bitter truth. The problem of child labor is a challenge for our country. The problem of child labor is becoming worldwide. Child labor is a stigma on society.

The government has declared child labor a crime. The government passed the Children Labor (Prohibition and Amendment) Act, 2016 which came into force from 1 September 2016. According to this amendment, it is completely prohibited to give employment to children below the age of 14 years. In our country, laws are made by the government, but they are not being followed by the legislature and the executive, so those who exploit child laborers are strong. The government completes its duty by making laws only. Article 24 of the Constitution of India calls child labor prohibited and illegal. Many laws have been made to curb child labor and despite the provision of stringent punishment against those who violate these laws, innocent children of the country are working in many dangerous industries. There is no business in the country in which child laborers are not engaged. These people are cheating the law. Children's dreams of progress are being fulfilled only on paper. Will the goal of New India be achieved by adopting an indifferent attitude towards these children?

Child labor is a hindrance in the growth and development of children from every point of view. Child labor affects the mental, physical, spiritual, intellectual and social interests of children. This illegal act is increasing day by day. Now the government will have to open its eyes and increase monitoring and control over the legislature and the executive. Is the government really sensitive to these children? Has the government ever considered why these innocent children are forced to work as laborers? Despite the government's so many laws, schemes, welfare programs, NGOs, voluntary organizations and administrative activities, the situation of child laborers in the country is getting worse and worse.

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The National Child Labor Project was started by the government in 1988 to abolish child labor, to exclude all children from child labor, rehabilitation and inclusion of them in the mainstream of education, but this scheme of the government Like other welfare schemes, due to the legislature and executive of the state government, the child laborers have not been able to do anything special. The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan of the Central and State Governments has become a mere fraud. The state governments do not want to give the exact number of child laborers. State governments have opened special schools for child laborers but the number of child laborers in these schools is very less. A monthly stipend of Rupees One hundred is given to every child for catering, medical treatment by the State Governments. This monthly stipend is also given only till the age of 14 years, while at least this stipend should be given till the age of 18 years. Anyway, the monthly stipend of one hundred rupees is also very less. To solve this problem, every citizen of the country needs to change his mindset. It is the responsibility of every citizen of the country to save children from child labor. Everyone's participation is necessary to solve this huge problem. Until the laborers do not get fair wages and the same facilities as the organized sector laborers, then this problem will remain the same.

Many times child laborers have been freed with the help of social institutions. Now the time has come for NGOs with government machinery and celebrities like Aamir Khan, Nana Patekar to come forward to stop child labor because the children who should be in school are working as industry workers and These child laborers are suffering from some disease like tuberculosis, asthma, skin disease, eye disease, nervous disease, disability. Only Kailash Satyarthi who is the founder of 'Bachpan Bachao Andolan', like few people with their whole body, mind and money, are taking these child laborers out of child labor and educating them and leading them on the path of progress and development. The enlightened people of the country will have to take a resolution that they will educate these child laborers by removing them from child labor, only then this act can be curbed and the future of the country will be saved from ruin.

Child abuse, child labor and child trade remain a major problem in India. Economic tightness and hunger act as livelihoods for child trade and child labor. This is the reason that child trafficking is highest in states like Bihar, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh. There is a frightening truth that Dalits, Mahadalits, Adivasis, backward, homeless, helpless and helpless people living in the slums of these states have to eat food at home. Not getting work, getting less money for work or not getting wages on time has a direct effect on their child and his future. Large number of metros like Delhi, Kolkata and Mumbai and commercial and industrial cities like Agra, Jaipur, Punjab, Lucknow, Kanpur, Moradabad, Faridabad, Bareilly and Surat due to non-availability of wages in remote areas of Bihar and Jharkhand and Naxal affected areas. There is a continuous migration of laborers. There are a large number of child laborers in them. They are employed as bonded laborers in factories or dhabas of bangles, utensils, clothes, leather, bakery and chemical.

According to the estimates of the International Labor Organization, there are 218 million child laborers in the world. According to the 2001 census of India, according to the official website of the Union Ministry of Labor, there are 1.26 crore children in the age group of 5-14 years working against the total population of 25.2 crore children in India. Out of these, about 12 lakh children are working in such dangerous occupations and industries which is prohibited under the Child Labor (Prohibition and Regulation) Act. In urban areas, the number of children who work in canteens or are involved in rag picking and hauling goods but there is no official record in this regard. The more unfortunate children are those who are employed in risky ventures. How many children work in harmful polluted factories, whose soot on the brick wall is soothed and the air is poisonous, they work near such kilns, which burn at 1200 degree Celsius heat. They use hazardous chemicals such as arsenic and potassium. These children are made to work in glass-blast units, where their lungs are stressed, causing diseases such as tuberculosis, but still have to work for 12 to 15 hours continuously at the behest of their owners. On the other hand, many hazardous and infectious diseases prematurely occur in children who collect various materials for recycling from the garbage heap.

The main causes of child labor in India are poverty, illiteracy, unemployment, low income, etc. where more than 40% of the people are struggling with poverty. In such a situation, children do their child labor and

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feed their parents. A large section of the population in India is illiterate, in whose view more money is required than receiving education, which promotes child labor. Emphasis has been laid on the government to enact and strictly implement laws keeping in mind many aspects related to child violence, sexual offenses, child trafficking and child labor.

Fundamental rights are described in Articles 3 to 12 and 32 to 35 in Part 3 of the Constitution. Which prohibits the right against exploitation, human trafficking, forced labor and forced labor. Whereas children below the age of 14 years are employed in dangerous jobs and wages are kept in the category of crime. In the year 1949, the minimum age for workers to work in various government departments as well as other sectors was set at 14 years. In 1979, the Government of India set up the Gurupadaswamy Committee to study child labor problems, on the suggestion of which the Child Labor Act 1986 was implemented. This is the first detailed law, which prohibits the employment of children below 14 years of age in the construction of systematic industries and other difficult industrial occupations such as bidis, carpets, matches, fireworks etc. Despite this, the number of child labor in our country is still in crores.

Under the Sustainable Development Goal 8 set by the United Nations, 8.7 has also resolved to completely eliminate child labor by 2025. To prevent child labor and to spread awareness, Childhood Prohibition Day is also observed every year on 12 June. But in spite of all this the truth is that child labor continues unabated. Kailash Satyarthi, the Nobel Prize winner who considers child labor to be violence against children, believes that child labor can be eliminated only by collective actions, political will, adequate resources and adequate sympathy for underprivileged children. The day we start treating a poor child like our children, child labor will end automatically.

## **Solution and Prevention**

India's development will be complete only in the development of the village. The childhood of the villages has to be taken in the right direction. They have to guide in the right direction, because children are the future and thinkers of tomorrow. They will become our soldiers and protect the country. They have to be educated and motivated to illuminate the country.

There is no shortage of manpower in India. Child labor should be liberated, because they have to educate us. They have to create tomorrow's future, this is possible only when we try to end child labor, but it is a difficult problem, it cannot be easily overcome. The number of child labor is increasing day by day rather than decreasing, it is a terrible situation. How will this problem be resolved? The house of this difficult problem, sociologists should ponder, contemplate. A lot of efforts have been made at the legal level to reduce the number of child laborers, but no solution has been found so far. This is a challenging thing for the constitution of our country.

## **Conclusion**

Children are the future of the nation and are strong bricks of development. If we consider childhood to be a precious gift of God and give him a chance to develop, then we will get the results in the same way as western countries. Children deprived of alphabets knowledge cannot reach imagination. Just as the future thing will grow in the womb of the present, tomorrow will be the same. If the country is to be taken in the path of progress and development, then we have to stop childhood from going to the dark well of work, because to overcome this problem, the deprived and expected mother is constantly looking for a question from the society. - "She asks the hut and asks how long people will continue to loot, people of my village." Child labour is a concern of public health with harmful effects that need specific attention. To tackle child labour issues, a multidisciplinary approach is needed. Poverty is a leading cause of child labour, according to ILO. Another big reason for pushing children to work is the lack of affordable schools and affordable schooling. Some cultural values streamline this activity and promote child labour as a building up of children's character and skills. Certain cultural customs promote child labour as a step towards the employment of their parents. The main causes of child labour include socio-economic inequalities, weak governance, and poor implementation. The development of the low-paid informal economy also promotes macroeconomic factors

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for children to work. The normal well-being of children, including the physical, intellectual and psychosocial growth, is prevented by child labour. Only by implementing child labour laws and regulations will this public health crisis be removed. Comprehensive policies should encompass a comprehensive approach to child and family education, investment in early childhood development programmes, the creation of task forces for public education in rural areas, policy-making to improve adult salaries, and prevented consumers from purchasing goods made by forced child labour. Ethical practise also includes the defence of all children's rights and of security policies and procedures that endorse ILO values.

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