

## **CHILD LABOUR IN INDIA**

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### **ABSTRACT**

The future of our nation and the important segment of our society is a Child. Great gift of god. A child learns from her home, school and most important from the society and thus every individual influence her life that a kid interacts. Education is where a child gets formed from. We all know that children are most photographed and least listened member of our society. In India child labour is quite very abnormal and high. The reason behind child labour is poverty, lack of facility, illiteracy, terrorism and natural disasters. The roots of child labour are from ancient India in the form of the child slaves. Children used to employ in various places like hotels, shops and houses. Child labour harms the present and future of both the nation and the child herself. No doubt child labour generates a source of income to the family but deprives the child from an opportunity for education, recreations having fun, stunts her physical growth. A child work has both potentials- benefit and harm. We should try to eliminate the harm and to protect the benefit. The attempt of this paper is to find out some issues like child labour, children's right and various acts relating to this.

**KEYWORDS:** Child, Child Labour, Photographed, Right.

### **INTRODUCTION**

The whole society should consider the child as the greatest gift of the god. The maximum development of a child is key factor for the development of a society as well as for the whole country. Child development is a continuous process. If we are able to provide a rich environment for development of children, it will enhance their physical, intellectual and social ability. This will result into well developed society. But the earlier engagement of children in work affects their capabilities. The problem of child labour with special context to India is very serious. Child labour refers to that work which is physically, mentally, socially and

morally harmful and dangerous for a child. All these types of work keep them away from their right of education, playing and basic amenities of life. Moreover, child labour harms children's safety and health. Commonly, it has been observed that due to weak economic conditions children are forced to go for labour. In the weaker section of society child is driven to work not only to sustain her own life but also for the family. This is the basic reason why the poor segment contributes the largest to the percentage of child labour. In India various acts has been implemented by the Govt. to prohibit the child labour.

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The Factories act 1948, Child Labour Prohibition and Regulation act 1986 and the plantations labour act prohibits the child labour before certain age that is 14. Even at the International level child labour is a greatest problem. Almost half of the child labour is found in Africa (Source: global estimates of child labour results and trends 2012-2016, Geneva Sept. 2017). Child labour results into slow economic growth

and development of a society. International Labour Organization proposes various policies to end child labour by 2025. (Press release by Govt. of India on 13<sup>th</sup> Nov. 2017). A three day conference IV global conference on the sustained education of child labour (14 to 16 Nov., 2017) in Argentina lays the various pillars to eliminate the child labour.

**REGIONAL PREVALENCE OF CHILD LABOUR**

Africa	19.6%
America	5.3%
Arab States	2.9%
Asia and the pacific	7.4%
Europe and central Asia	4.4%

Source: IV global conference on the sustained education of child labour (14 to 16 Nov., 2017) in Argentina.

**INITIATIVES BY THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT**

The Juvenile Justice (care and protection) of children Act of 2015 introduces Foster Care in India. Various kinds of measures and strategies have been initiated by the Govt. of India on ground to move firmly to achieve the target of child labour free society. The amendments in child labour (prohibition and prevention) Act, 2016 is a landmark for this way. It came into force w.e.f 01.09.2016. The Act also provides for constitution of a technical advisory committee to advise the central Govt. on this issue. India handed the instrument of ratification of two very important conventions of ILO no. 138 regarding minimum age and no. 182 regarding worst forms of child labour at the slide line event held in Geneva at International Labour Conference 2017 on 13<sup>th</sup> June 2017.

To cope with these important amendments National Child Labour Project (NCLP) scheme was introduced by the govt. of India. The major objectives of NCLP scheme seeks to provide basic education, mid day meal, stipend, vocational training and vocational training to children. The annual expenditure under NCLP for FY 2016-2017 was approx. of RS. 105 crore and budget allocation for current FY 2017-18 is RS. 150 crore. Govt. of India also laying a great emphasis on enforcement of child and adolescent labour (prohibition and regulation) Act. In practice, child labour is much unbridled in all types of industries and societies. The Constitution of India has a lot of relevant policies and provisions to secure primary education at universe level. Due to these efforts child labour shows a declining trend in the survey conducted by the NSSO.

Year	2004-2005	2009-12	2012-16
No. of children working	90.75 lakh	49.84 lakh	43.53 lakh

Source: survey conducted by the NSSO

Under the NCLP scheme, at present there are approx. 3000 centers with 1.20lakj enrolled children. In Nov. 2016, about 12.00 lakh working children have already been

mainstreamed for basic education. The budget allocation and the expenditure under NCLP are as under:

Year	Budget allocation( final) in crores	Expenditure
2011-12	143.00	142.66
2012-13	130.18	128.11
2013-14	111.00	110.73
2014-15	110.87	102.34
2015-16	99.50	93.20

Source: Annual report by Ministry of Labour and Employment

Under the revised guidelines of NCLP more stress is on Serva Siksha Abhiyan (SSA), School Uniform and Text books to child in schools of NCLP (STCs) and on Mid Day Meal (MDM). NCLP also has a provision to provide financial assistance under the govt. in aid scheme to voluntary organizations up to the extent of 75% of total cost of project.

Hon'ble Supreme Court of India has given various guidelines to the state govt. regarding the regular monitoring and implementation of NCLP scheme in their respective districts. The Apex Court under order in WP 465/1986 describes that the monitoring and survey of child labour is the responsibility of the state government. Child labour is a great national waste and social ill. Children are not able to raise their voices against any wrong thing.

## **CONCLUSION**

Various commissions and committees have been formed against the practice of child labour. But despite the several proactive policies, legislations and judicial orders, the problem of child labour, child trafficking and child labour is tenacious in India. Only strict implementation of the law will not solve the problem. It is evident that due to the initiatives taken by the govt. of India child labour is declining in India. But, still it is a great problem. The exploitation of the child labour is a giant problem for our developing India. Not only the govt. but every single member of the society should work towards the elimination of child

labour. This is also needed as this issue has ethical and moral prospective too. As we are having various new emerging service sectors in India, child labour problem requires a great attention. It is the duty of all the organizations, institutions, trade unions, society, government and NGOs to achieve their objective. Public awareness against every social problem is the final solution for that serious issue.

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