

## **Child Labour in India Challenges and Policy: An Analysis**

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### **Abstract:**

In this research paper, we have explained Analysis of Child Labor Problems and Policy in India. Child labor is the use of children for any kind of work that takes away their childhood, keeps them from going to school, and hurts them mentally, physically, socially, and morally. International law makes exceptions for the work of child actors, family responsibilities, supervised training, and some kinds of work done by indigenous children. Child labor has persisted, to a greater or lesser extent, throughout time and space. Many kids as young as five or six from low-income households found labor in the 19th and early 20th century in Western countries and their colonies. Others put through 12-hour stints at night. The majority of these kids worked as farmers, factory workers, miners, or delivery boys. Rising household income, more access to education, and the establishment of child labor laws all contributed to a decline in the use of child labor.

**Keywords:** International, Exceptions, Responsibilities, Majority, Establishment

### **Introduction**

Child work, according to the International Labor Organization (ILO), is any job that has a detrimental effect on a child's physical and mental development while also depriving them of their childhood and dignity. This practice undercuts their education since it makes it difficult for them to go to school, pressures them to drop out, or requires them to attempt to balance long hours of labor and attending class. A fresh method of defining child work is provided by UNICEF. UNICEF says that a child is doing child labor if they work at least one hour of economic activity or at least 28 hours of domestic work per week between the ages of 5 and 11; if they work at least 14 hours of economic activity or at least 42 hours of economic activity and domestic work per week between the ages of 12 and 14; and if they work at least 28 hours of economic activity and domestic work per week between the ages of 12 and 14. UNICEF released yet another report "On one end of the child labor spectrum are professions that are harmful or exploitative, and on the other are ones that support children's development and education without interfering with their time spent with friends, at school, or sleeping. There are many occupations that fall in the spectrum between these two extremes and wouldn't be harmful to a child's development."

According to the 2001 India Census, child labor is the employment of individuals under the age of 17 in any economically productive activity in order to get payment or other financial advantage. This exchange of information could just be words, or it could also involve touch. This type of economic activity includes any kind of work that is done for little or no money, like farming and making milk for sale or personal use. Indian law divides child workers into two groups: those who work at least six months a year and those who work less than six.

Some advocates for children's rights believe that all children who are not enrolled in school should be counted as child laborers. UNICEF points out that 90% of India's child labor issue is concentrated in rural regions, where there is a severe lack of schools, classrooms, and instructors. Only around 20% of elementary schools have one teacher for all grades. In India, a large number of young people are working for money. Based on the 2011 National Census, 10.12 million of India's 259.64 million children ages 5 to 14 worked. More than 217 million young people around the world now have jobs, and most of them work full-time. To hire a minor is against the law. The Mining, Inflammable, and Explosive Work and Factories Act of 1948 says that teenagers are children between the ages of 14 and 18. They are legally allowed to work, except for the dangerous jobs and procedures on the list. In 2001, it was thought that about 120,000 children in India, or 1% of the children who worked there, did dangerous jobs. Article 24 of the Indian Constitution says that children can't do any dangerous work. UNICEF's research shows that the countries in Sub-Saharan Africa have the highest rates of child labor because there are a lot of poor people there and a lot of young people who work. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations says that 70% of all child laborers work in agriculture and related fields. The International Labor Organization says that 60% of all child laborers work in agriculture. The only part of India's informal economy where child labor is not common is agriculture.

People have said that the company's products are bad because they are made by people who are too young to work. Even though the companies say they have strict rules against selling products made by minors for profit, it is hard to check each link in the chain because there are so many of them. After Primark fought for three years, the BBC admitted in 2011 that an award-winning investigative journalism story about Primark using child labor in India was false. The BBC said it was sorry to Primark, its Indian suppliers, and everyone who watches its shows. Nike is another company that has been criticized a lot. Nike was put under a lot of pressure to look into claims that their shoes were made in sweatshops where emotionally troubled children were used as slave labor. Since then, Nike has made a separate website that shows where they get their materials and how they make their products.

## Objective of the research

- To throw light on the causes and effects of child labor in India.
- Identifying the most effective strategies to eliminate child labor at its source.
- To know about child labor policies in India.
- To know about child abuse in India through paper.
- Know about the challenges and policies of child labor.

## Research Methodology

The research relies heavily on a scan of the existing literature and secondary data gleaned from a variety of sources (censuses, reports, newspapers, magazines, articles, websites, etc.). Here the data and information on child work come from many online and print sources.

## Child Labour Challenge -

### Cultural perspectives and child labour

Culture significantly influences the promotion of child labor. People in underdeveloped countries believe that work has a favorable impact on children's skill and character development. Children are expected to follow in their parents' footsteps and start studying the trade at an early age in these houses. Females may be compelled into child labor as domestic helpers because of cultural beliefs that suggest a girl's education is less important than a boy's education. If a child is not given a job in India, his or her family will not be able to make enough money to live. Sociocultural elements including the caste system, discrimination, and cultural biases against women have an impact on child labour.

### The law and work for kids

Even though it is against the law, children continue to labor since it is not prohibited. The fact that various occupations have varied minimum ages reflects this. According to the International Labor Organization, children work the greatest hours and earn the least of any group of employees. According to India's Child Labor (Prohibition and Regulation) Act and Rules, no child may be engaged or work in any of the occupations specified in Part A of the Schedule or in any workplace where any of the procedures stated in Part Plan B is complete. In this context, a "child" means someone under the age of 14. The Act states that adolescents are not permitted to perform some harmful activities, procedures, or labor in certain hazardous locations. The ideas of the Act's Technical Advisory Committee on Child Labor have resulted in an expansion of the list of risky behaviors.

**Christianity and the work of children**

Everyone agrees that parents have a basic right to raise and educate their children. Parents almost always try to do what they think is best for their children, based on what they know and what they believe. They make sense to act this way because of their intellectual growth, their social growth, and maybe even their spiritual salvation. Parents often look to religion for advice on how to raise their children and help them grow. One of the most important religious lessons to teach young children is the value of hard work.

**Forms of child labor**

Children labor for both official and unauthorized organizations. Children construct things, clean their houses, and work in little businesses. Agriculture is not only the oldest profession, but it is also the most frequent among youngsters. Child labor is used in the production of bangles, beedis, power looms, and the operation of industrial processes. Hazardous metals and chemicals such as lead, mercury, manganese, chromium, cadmium, benzene, pesticides, and asbestos are used by these businesses. Child work is very harmful and should be prohibited as soon as feasible.

**Policies pertaining to child labour**

Child labor is mostly caused by things like poverty, financial instability, social inequality, a lack of public services, and a lack of political will. Children who work miss out on chances to grow both physically and mentally. In 2001, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were set up as a way to keep the promises made in the Millennium Declaration. These goals were to reduce poverty, improve education, and give women more power. To stay poor, most people need to keep working. But child labor also makes people poor because it keeps kids from getting an education and a healthy physical and mental development. This lowers their chances of having a rich life as an adult. The first Millennium Development Goal in the fight against poverty is to stop children from having to work.

In 1992, the International Labor Organization (ILO) launched the International Program for the Elimination of Child Labor (IPEC) with the aim of gradually ending child labour. Most attention is given to the worst forms of child labour, such as slavery, prostitution, drug trafficking and military recruitment. IPEC works with many organizations, including international and governmental institutions, community organizations, religious groups, private diversified companies, children and their families to strengthen and help fight child labor in many countries.

Through country-based efforts, the advocacy of policy change was made easier. The capacity-building activities of institutions have been expanded in order to enhance their awareness of

problems and their ability to provide long-term solutions. These initiatives aimed to eliminate child labor and restore children to school. In each of these processes, worldwide statistical data was collected, methodology was constructed, and suggestions were developed.

### **The implications of child labor**

The negative impacts of child labor on their physiological and psychological states include particular worries about their mental health. Notable is the fact that one-third of children in developing nations do not complete even four years of education. In the examination into the reasons of children's engagement in dangerous behavior, socioeconomic factors were found as one of the most relevant variables. Poverty is one of the factors thought to contribute to child labor. Less study is undertaken on child labor and mental health. The frequency of respiratory, digestive, and skin problems, as well as mental health symptoms such as headaches, sleeplessness, irritability, enuresis, and asthenia, was high in a retrospective cohort study of 200 Moroccan children engaged in the handicrafts industry.

### **Policy**

- **National Policy for Children 1974:** It is the first policy statement that focuses on the rights and demands of children. It recognized that children are a nation's greatest wealth. The ultimate goal of the plan is to put into practice the constitutional protection of children and the UN Declaration of Human Rights. Before, during and after the birth of a child, it lays down the obligations of the government to ensure the healthy physical, mental and social growth of the child.
- **National Education Policy, 1986:** According to the report, "special attention be concentrated on the eradication of gaps and the equalisation of educational chances," particularly for Indian women, Scheduled Tribes (ST), and Scheduled Caste (SC) populations. The policy aimed to accomplish this through the provision of housing and services; the expansion of scholarship opportunities; the promotion of adult education; the hiring of more teachers from the SCs; and the provision of incentives for low-income families to regularly enroll their children in school. To reform elementary schools throughout the country, the NPE promoted a "child-centered approach" with the "Operation Blackboard" campaign.
- **National Policy on Child Labour, 1987:** In this document, we outline our strategy to end child labor. It foresaw a project-based action plan for the execution of programmes for the welfare of working children in areas with a high concentration of child employment, and a legislative action plan emphasizing and consolidating general development initiatives for the benefit of children wherever practicable.

Government Policy Regarding the Employment of Children The strategy of attack for the issue of child labor may be found in the National Policy on Child Labour, which was proclaimed in August, 1987. As a result, it plans to:

An agenda for legislative action: The Government has passed the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 to ban the employment of children in some occupations and to regulate the working conditions of children in other occupations.

Prioritizing and integrating child-centered general development programs, To guarantee that the families of child laborers get enough support, the Ministry of Labour and Employment has formed a Core Group on convergence of different welfare programmes of the Government. Action plan for developing programs to improve the lives of children who work in places where child labor is prevalent.

- **National Policy on Child Labour ,1993** was created to deal with the problem of hunger Direct (short-term) and indirect (long-term) actions are planned to solve this problem in the areas of food production and distribution, health and family care, education, rural and urban areas. development and, among other things, the development of women and children.
- **The National Charter for Children (NCC) of 2003** Describes how the Constitution protects children and how communities and families are responsible for meeting their fundamental needs. The NCC prioritizes the protection of females, children from low-income families, children living on the streets, and children enrolled in after-school or formal education programs. It ensures that every kid has the right to be a child and to have a healthy and happy childhood in order to protect children from all forms of maltreatment while also improving the family, community, and nation. It also targets the core causes of children's poor growth and development and raises community awareness of the wider social environment. Every kid is entitled to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. The state and society must do all in their power to safeguard and preserve these rights. According to the Constitution, the State and society must provide teens with the education and training they need to be successful adults in both the economy and society.
- **The Government of India approved the National Plan of Action for Children (NPA), 2005** in an attempt to enhance children's wellbeing. The key areas of attention for NPA are quite diverse, but those that connect to child safety include ensuring the survival, growth, and protection of girl children as well as outright banning female infanticide, female foeticide, and child marriage. addressing and defending children's rights in difficult circumstances, and offering all children legal and social protection against all types of child abuse, exploitation, and neglect.

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**Conclusion:**

One of the main reasons is India's poverty. So enforcement cannot solve the problem alone. Many NGOs, such as Care India, Child Rights and You, and the Global March Against Child Labour, are working to end child labor in India. The government also considers it a priority to help these children get a job and help their families' finances. Child labor can be stopped when information is turned into policies and actions that support good goals and values for children's health. Children are tolerant and cannot do anything to people who are not. In order to stop the cycle of child labour, it was important for people on the ground to organize against child exploitation and get the young workers back to their families and schools. To deal with this risk, you need to use knowledge from different fields such as medicine, psychology and sociology.

In this perspective, it is important to look at the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act 2009, which was a landmark for young people in India. With the help of families and communities, the state of India will give children the right to a good basic education for the first time in its history. In 2005, girls were 8.8 percentage points less likely than boys to attend upper primary school (grades 6–8). The difference was 12.6 percentage points for Scheduled Tribes and 16.8 percentage points for Scheduled Castes. As requested by RTE, the creation of special provisions for disadvantaged groups such as child workers, migrant children, children with special needs and those who are "disadvantaged by reason of social, cultural, economic, geographical, linguistic or similar disadvantage" creates a way to reach disadvantaged. Getting the 8 million out-of-school children back into school and giving them the help they need to thrive will take a lot of work. reduce fraud and ensure everyone gets a fair deal while maintaining quality Much work needs to be done. If the law is properly implemented, the number of child laborers in India will come down significantly.

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