**THE IMPACT OF EDUCATION ON PREVENTING**

**CHILD LABOUR IN INDIA**

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**1.INTRODUCTION**

It would appear that COVID-19 has thwarted all of the efforts made by the Indian government to provide children with improved opportunities in terms of both their education and their lives. There has been a global rise in the number of students who drop out of school due to a variety of factors, including the unavailability of online education and the precarious financial circumstances of their parents. At that age, children are supposed to be learning, playing, studying, and dreaming about what they want to be in the future. However, child labour robs them of the opportunity to learn, play, study, and dream about what they want to be in the future, and it forces them to work hard both physically and mentally for a meagre wage.

Child labour has been one of the most significant impediments to the advancement of society for a great many years. In many different nations, the complete elimination of child labour is both an immediate difficulty and a long-term objective. These days, it is recognised as a significant problem, particularly in nations that are still in the process of developing. The term "child labour" refers to the situation in which a child is deprived of their childhood and the fundamental necessities that they should be allowed to enjoy. The International Labour Organization (ILO, 2013) has recently estimated that there are around 215 million children between the ages of five and fourteen who are employed in some capacity across the globe. They are frequently subjected to harsh treatment and required to work in conditions that are deplorable for extended periods of time. This may have a detrimental effect on their physical, mental, and emotional wellbeing. These children do not have access to fundamental rights like education or medical treatment, among other things. ILO (2013) said that the largest in spite of the fact that it is against the law, a growing number of children are participating in labour that could be considered hazardous, and the overall number of children who are employed is also growing. These children are at risk for a variety of disorders, and they endure both physical and mental suffering for an extended period of time. Poverty is the primary factor that forces youngsters into the labour force. These children must work in order to provide for themselves and their family (Mapaure, 2009). Some research, such as that conducted by Dessay and Pallage (2003), contends that not all of the labour that youngsters perform is dangerous or unpleasant. It's possible that certain types of work, like babysitting or delivering newspapers, can result in fruitful educational opportunities. However, this is not the case if the work involves activities that are known to cause psychological strain, such as human trafficking, prostitution, or pornographic activities. The international organisations have exerted a significant amount of work toward their goal of eradicating child labour everywhere in the world. Despite the fact that many nations have passed legislation to restrict the use of children in hazardous labour, child labour remains pervasive across the globe. Developing countries like India face a difficult challenge in trying to eliminate child labour from their economies.

1.1 RESEARCH PROBLEM

Research shows that child labour is associated with adverse mental and physical health outcomes and how prevalent the Child Labour is India. Hence it is necessary to protect people from being laboured, and is essential to remove the stigma from the society surrounding this topic and helping the survivor’s from not being separated from the society.

* 1. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The main objective of this project is to spread awareness about a prevalent issue in today’s society and the legal protection provided to the people and also how education plays an important role in reducing Child labour.

1.3 RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. What is Child Labour?
2. What are the reasons for Child labour?
3. What is the law’s which are implemented for child Labour?

1.4 HYPOTHESIS

Child Labour has seen a step increase in recent years, it was in booming rate in the Covid times in India on 2020. Keeping in mind, introducing strict laws and preventive measures will help to reduce the cases. We must ensure that our future generations are not subject to trauma.

1.5 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Newspapers, articles and books provide us with knowledge for the project. Data collected from various sources on the internet and research papers helped us be more thorough with our work. It is doctrinal research as most of the research is made of using the resources like newspaper and internet sources.

**2. WHAT IS CHILD LABOUR?**

The term "child labour" refers to any form of job that deprives a kid of their childhood, aspirations, and/or potential for growth. It also has a detrimental effect on the development of both the body and the mind. The participation of children younger than 18 years old in a variety of socioeconomic jobs, whether paid or unpaid, may involve either mental or physical labour.

**2.1 Meaning of Child Labour**:

Putting children to work in conditions that are detrimental to their mental, physical, social, or moral development, or that prevent them from having a normal childhood or attending school on a consistent basis, is referred to as the practise of "child labour." The term "child labour" is not as simple to describe as it might appear to be at first glance. Because of this, it is difficult to describe because it has three words that are difficult to explain: "child," "job," and "labour." In the context of child labour, a person is deemed to be a "child" if they are younger than the age restriction of fifteen years, which is the general age limit, or the age limit of fourteen years, which is the age limit that applies when the situation calls for it. The Minimum Age Convention, which took place in 1973, is responsible for establishing these age limits (No.138). In 1983, the International Labour Organization established the definition of "child labour" as "children engaging in early adultery, working long hours for low wages in conditions that are bad for their health and their physical and mental development, sometimes being separated from their families, and often being denied meaningful education and training opportunities that would give them a better future." This definition includes "children engaging in early adultery, working long hours for low wages in conditions that are bad for their health and their physical and mental development, sometimes being separated from their families, and sometimes being denied

**2.2 Contemporary definitions Of Child Labour**

Different academics have used different words to explain what "child labour" means. Suda (2011) says that child labour happens when children are forced or coerced to do tasks that could be dangerous or that they don't want to do, or that keep them from going to school. Moyi (2011) says that kid labour includes things like low pay, long hours, and physical or sexual abuse of the children who work. Child labour is a form of child abuse, according to Edmonds and Pavcnik (2005). Child labour abuse happens when kids are forced to do dangerous or otherwise unsuitable jobs or work in less-than-ideal conditions. The International Labour Organization says that "child labour" includes "all situations in which children are at risk of getting hurt at work, whether or not they are younger than 14." (UNICEF, 2005). But the social, cultural, and economic conditions where child labour happens, as well as the missions, strategies, and goals of each working organisation, have had a big impact on what it means and how it affects people.

Trade unions, consumer groups, and the International Labour Organization (ILO) have always used the terms "child labour" and "child labourer" instead of "working children" because they want to protect and secure adult labour markets. These phrases made it sound like kids shouldn't be allowed to work before they reach a certain age. This is because these groups have traditionally worked to protect the jobs that adults can get (ILO, 1997; Post, 2001a; Myers, 1999). Simply put, the ILO's main goal was to protect the jobs and pay of adults of working age. A lot of laws about child labour are based on the idea that "children's" economic freedom should be limited so that adults can do better economically. On the other hand, article 32 of the Conventions on the Rights of the Child says that "child labour" is a thing. This is what UNICEF and NGOs that work with UNICEF call it. In this article, the term "child labour" is used to refer to any kind of work that puts a child's health or safety at risk or keeps them from getting a good education. UNICEF still uses the term "working children" to refer to kids who are forced to work. This is something they have done for a long time.

The International Labour Organization (ILO) says that any kind of work that hurts a child's physical or mental development or their ability to enjoy their childhood should be called "child labour." Child labour is any kind of work that hurts children in any way (emotionally, physically, socially, or morally) or keeps them from going to school. This includes any work that affects children in any way (emotionally, physically, socially, or morally), such as their ability to focus during war, clubs and boutros, school, or having a happy, healthy childhood.

**3. REASONS FOR CHILD LABOUR:**

**3.1 POVERTY:**

A person is considered to be living in poverty when they are unable to maintain a minimum quality of life or meet their essential needs because they do not have sufficient financial resources. When a family is going through this phase, the parents typically want their children to work and bring in some money so that they can continue to provide for the rest of the family and feed them. Because there are not enough jobs available, parents have little choice but to put their children to work, despite the fact that the pay is quite meagre.

**3.2 OVERPOPULATION:**

According to an elaboration of the WORLOMETER, the population of India is approximately 138 crores, and out of that population, 42.75 million people in India are without jobs. Out of 214 countries, India has the 86th highest unemployment rate at 8.5%, placing it in number 86 overall. Because the number of people living in the country is significantly more than the number of available jobs, a sizeable portion of the population is forced to go without gainful employment. When adults are unable to find work, they fall into poverty and a cycle of debt. Additionally, they are unable to provide an education for their children, which leads to the employment of youngsters.

**3.3 DEBT TRAP:**

When a family is unable to escape the debt trap that they have created for themselves, it might lead to child labour. As children start working at a very delicate age to make their family financially sound and functions as a helping hand to bring them out of the debt trap, the phrase "as children start working at a very tender age to make their family financially sound."

**3.4 UNPRINCIPLED LABOUR:**

As a result of having some of the most competitively priced labour on the market, India is among the most significant markets for outsourcing. India is a destination for workers from other countries who want their work done at an extremely low cost. It is quite similar to the situation of the working class. The wage for working class people in India is very low, and as a result, parents are compelled to let their children to find employment and help maintain the family.

**4.Types of Child Labour:**

The concept of "child labour" requires clarification. Although it cannot be utilised universally, it does account for a wide variety of child development styles. Work performed by children as part of child labour includes: -

• Child labour entails minors being paid or unpaid to work in industries including manufacturing, retail, service, and even domestic duties like cleaning. The Ministry of Labour of the Indian government has only ever used the phrase "child labour" to refer to youngsters engaged in "hazardous" activity. A youngster who does not engage in "dangerous" job is not deemed to be a child labourer, and vice versa.

The term "street children" refers to those who are forced to make a living on or near the street, such as "shoe shine boys," "rag pickers," "newspaper vendors," "beggars," and others. When school is out for the day, most kids have somewhere safe to go, but kids living on the streets have nowhere to go and are completely at the mercy of their employers. They make their homes on the streets and in public transportation hubs like train and bus stations.

Children in bonded servitude are those whose mothers or fathers owe them money or who have promised them a modest sum in exchange for service. Bonded children are notoriously difficult to reach and hence provide assistance for. They are trapped if the carpet's owner paid for them. Those won't be able to escape the middle-class housewife's clutches. They will be at the mercy of the local landlord for as long as they are alive, from the time they are children until they get married and have children to sell.

**4.1 ROLE OF NGOs IN PROHIBITING CHILD LABOUR:**

• Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in India are striving to convince businesses in that country not to fill staff vacancies with minors by employing other children in an effort to stop the practise of child labour.

• They are making a significant amount of effort in order to solve this widespread societal issue once and for all.

• They have also been encouraging communities to ensure that any cases of underage workers being employed at businesses are reported to the appropriate authorities. They have been engaging in this behaviour for some time now.

• Despite the fact that they have access to reservation facilities, children who are members of communities such as scheduled tribes, scheduled castes, Muslims, and Other Backward Classes are at a greater risk of engaging in child labour. This risk is compounded by the fact that children who are members of these communities are more likely to be Muslim.

They have been educating people on what exactly is meant when we talk about child labour and promoting awareness among the general public. In addition to this, they have been directly communicating with vulnerable groups, alerting those communities of the significance of preventing children from engaging in any form of labour. Specifically, they have been focusing on the issue of child labour in agriculture.

**THE CHILD LABOUR PROHIBITION AND REGULATION ACT OF 1986:**

Our government's lawmakers compiled this list to discourage young people from entering potentially dangerous fields of labour. The government produced a list of all potentially dangerous occupations and made it unlawful for children under the age of 14 to work in such fields. Formerly known as THE CHILD LABOR (PROHIBITION AND REGULATION) Statute OF 1986, the name of this law was amended in 2016 to reflect its expanded scope to include both children and adolescents. In 2016, legislators made several changes to the law that resulted in this policy shift.

• No business or industry should ever hire children under the age of 16.

If the child is employed as an artist in the advertising, film, or television industries, or in such other entertainment or sports activities (excluding the circus) as may be prescribed, then he or she is exempt from the requirements of this section of the act.

**4.2 IMPORTANCE OF EDUCATION AGAINST CHILD LABOUR:**

Access to education is a key factor in the fight to end child labour. In order to keep children out of the workforce, Education International argues that early school enrolment is essential.

• It gives kids a chance to have a decent life now while simultaneaously equipping them with the tools they'll need to succeed in the future.

Economic growth, social peace, and legitimate government all rely on a well-educated and trained populace.

• It is estimated that a substantially higher percentage of the population would obtain a formal education if all educational fees were abolished. Adopting a plan whose major purpose is to raise children out of poverty through improved education can minimise the number of youngsters engaged in labour today.

No one has the right to prevent another person from bettering themselves and their community through formal education**.**

**4.3 LAWS RELATING TO CHILD LABOUR:**

According to the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986, a "child" is defined as someone who has not yet reached the age of 14. This definition was updated in 2016. (The "CLPR ACT") The CLPR Act places severe restrictions on the employment of minors in the domestic service industry. It is against the law to employ a minor in any capacity that requires manual labour.

The Factor Act of 1948 states that it is illegal for any industrial plant to employ anyone younger than the age of 14. In addition, the rule restricted the age range of minors who might work in factories (from 15 to 18 years old), as well as the number of hours they could put in each day.

According to the Mines Act of 1952, it is illegal to hire anyone younger than 18 years old to work in a mine. Concerning the employment of children, the constitution of India includes the following safeguards and measures:

• The state is granted the authority to implement special provisions relating to minors so long as they do not infringe on the right to equality.

• Child labour is prohibited in India. • Child labour is illegal in India.

It is against the law to employ children younger than 14 years old to work in a factory, mine, or any other potentially dangerous setting.

It is of the utmost importance that the laws of the state protect the health and safety of children during the formative years of their lives, as well as ensure that people in the state are not pressured into performing jobs that are hazardous to their health or age due to economic need.

The Factories Act was passed in 1948, the Plantations Labour Act was passed in 1951, the Mines Act was passed in 1952, and the Motor Transport Workers Act was passed in 1961. In addition, there is the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act of 2006, the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act of 2000, and the Employment of Children Act. All of these laws prohibit or regulate the employment of children.

The Convention on the Rights of the Child was finally approved and signed. The National Child Labour Project (NCLP) was formed by the federal government of the United States in 1988 with the intention of rehabilitating the employment of children as labourers in areas of the country with a high rate of crime.

**5. CONCLUSION:**

Child labour is not yet completely eradicated in India. Education is a weapon against it. It is our duty as citizens of India to assist our Members of Parliament in finding a solution to the problem. Since child labour is a consequence of both poverty and illiteracy, combining our efforts can assist children in escaping it and leading more fulfilling lives.

In 2015, India has the highest number of young people working illegally in various industrial sectors. In order to help support their families, a lot of young people in India work in agriculture. Many of these children had to start working at a young age because their parents are unable to find jobs, their families are poor, they have large families, and they did not have an education. This is a major factor in India's high rate of child labour. It has been established by social scientists and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in India that India is responsible for one-third of Asia's and one-fourth of the world's child labour. The government of India has taken significant steps to encourage child development and reduce the number of children and teenagers who are forced to labour against their will. The use of child labour fell by 65 percent from 2001 to 2011 as a direct result of restrictions and prohibitions imposed by law. In spite of this drop, there are still a significant number of youngsters who labour in rural India. There are still significant problems with child labour in India, with 85 percent of cases occurring in rural areas and 15 percent occurring in urban areas.

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