

Causes and Law of Girl Child Labour in India

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ABSTRACT

Girl child labour has been one of the biggest obstacles to social development. It is a challenge and long-term goal in many countries to abolish all forms of child labour. Especially in developing countries, it is considered as a serious issue these days. Girl Child labour refers to children who miss their childhood and are not able to have the basic amenities which a child should have. Recently the International. They are often mistreated and work for prolonged hours, in very bad conditions. This can affect their health physically, mentally and emotionally. Girl children do not have the basic rights like access to school or health care.

KEYWORDS: Causes, Poverty, education, Family Tradition, Lack of awareness and laws

INTRODUCTION

Girl Child labour refers to work that children are too young to perform or that – by its nature or circumstances – can be hazardous. Unlike activities that help children develop (such as contributing to light housework or taking on a job during school holidays), child labour causes harm to a child's health, safety or moral development. In its most insidious forms, child labour can amount to slavery or practices similar to slavery, including the sale and trafficking of children. In some places, children may be forcibly recruited into armed conflict, used in the production and trafficking of drugs, or offered into prostitution. Poverty, discrimination and marginalisation are the main drivers of child labour. Children in poor circumstances work because work is seen as the best use of their time in contributing to the needs of the family and preparing them for the life they are expected to lead. Poverty leads millions of children into paying jobs or – especially for young girls – domestic work that may even be unpaid but removes the burden of feeding and housing the child. In emergency situations – during or after conflicts or natural disasters – families who have had to flee from their homes often have to use their children to earn money just to pay for food. Taking birth as a Girls in the Indian society can be said as curse for the women. Girls in India face lots of social issues and problems all through the life which are big struggle for them right from their beginning of life. Female infanticide is the most common practice of killing girl child in mother's womb in the Indian society. Another common problem for women is sex discrimination which they face from their birth and continues till their death. Illiteracy, lack of proper education, responsible for household works, rape, sexual harassment at workplace, etc. Poverty is at the foundation of child labour. The country, on the other hand, pays the consequences of this social ill. Many Girl parents are forced to use Girl child labour since it is necessary for their own financial well-being. Social and economic factors have made it a major concern for the well-being of the nation's youngsters. One of the primary causes of Girl child labour is the high rate of unemployment and underemployment among the poorest adult segments of society, which is exacerbated by the country's rapid population increase. However, throughout the years,

worldwide awareness of the seriousness of the issues has grown. The Indian government has also made a number of additional measures to alleviate the issue of Girl child labour. Over the last decade, it has been noted that poverty encourages impoverished families to send their children to work, which has resulted in a major global issue. A kid working does not always indicate that their family is financially dependent on them; in fact, many of these youngsters work as bonded labour or as slaves and do not get compensation for their efforts. For the most part, Girl children strive to support their families financially.

OBJECTIVES OF THE PAPER

1. To know the Causes of Girl Child Labour
2. to study the Child labour laws in India
3. To study the International Laws on Child Labour

METHODOLOGY

The present study is mainly based on secondary data; the secondary data are drawn classified from the Govt. Publications of books, monthly journals on causes and law of girl child labour in India and also made in different issues of bulletins, internet websites and apart from this, different edition of daily newspapers, were also used for the purpose of collection the information.

CAUSES OF GIRL CHILD LABOUR

Girl child labourer is particularly alarming due to the gender discrimination in large parts of Indian societies. Throughout Indian history there has been a strong sex typing of roles concerning work done by Girl children. This applies to work in the field of agriculture, household, unorganized sector etc.

1. **Poverty:** Poverty, the mother of all societal evils, is also the main reason for child labour. Fact that child labour is most prevalent in developing / underdeveloped countries, which is a testimony the statement. Due to poverty, parents cannot afford to send their children to school and force them to earn for living at very small age. These children are sent to work in various hazardous sectors to work because of their family's economic compulsion. They are forced to work in order to help their underprivileged families make ends meet. These choices are made just to satisfy the stomachs of the family
2. **Lack of educational resources:** Children are deprived of their fundamental right to education, which is guaranteed by our constitution, after our country's independence. In our country, where there are no enough educational facilities. There isn't even a school nearby. To cross the river, children must go to school. As a result, parents were hesitant to take their children to school. The families worst hit is the poorest as educating their children in an economically punishing education system is challenging. Our country mostly has pricey schools for education, which poor children cannot afford, leaving them ignorant and defenceless. Children are compelled to live without the opportunity to learn.
3. **Family Tradition:** The cultural tradition in many countries is that children follow their parent's footsteps with regard to their profession. Subsequently, it ends in child labour as they tend to learn and practise that skill from a very young age, especially where informal economy and small household businesses exist. Similarly, the education of girls is often undervalued, leading to pressure on these girls to engage in child labour, such as domestic duties.

4. **Lack of awareness:** Lots of parents are not aware regarding the harmful consequences of child labour. It affects a child in physically and psychologically also.
5. **Social and economic backwardness:** Child labour also occurs due to social and economic backwardness. Parents who are not educated or are socially backward do not send their children to receive education. As a result, their children also become illiterate. Although government take various types of initiatives for children but parents are not aware about it due to illiteracy. They encourage their children to go to work instead of school. Uneducated parents also do not know the risk of child labour. They do not know that their children can suffer from physically as well as mentally. Due to poverty and unemployment parents send their children to work, because they are unable to obtain basic needs.

CHILD LABOUR LAWS IN INDIA

When in the 20th Century, child labour became so prominent that news of factory hazards and mis happenings taking innocent children's life, flashed all around in the newspapers, then was the time, a need for legislation and statutes were felt to prohibit the mal practice of child labour. Today, there are sufficient statutes condemning and prohibiting child labour such as:

The Factories Act of 1948: The Act prohibits the employment of children below the age of 14 years in any factory. The law also placed rules on who, when and how long can pre-adults aged 15–18 years be employed in any factory.

The Mines Act of 1952: The Act prohibits the employment of children below 18 years of age in a mine. Mining being one of the most dangerous occupations, which in the past has led to many major accidents taking life of children is completely banned for them.

The Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act of 1986: The Act prohibits the employment of children below the age of 14 years in hazardous occupations identified in a list by the law. The list was expanded in 2006, and again in 2008.

The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection) of Children Act of 2000: This law made it a crime, punishable with a prison term, for anyone to procure or employ a child in any hazardous employment or in bondage. This act provides punishment to those who act in contravention to the previous acts by employing children to work.

The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act of 2009: The law mandates free and compulsory education to all children aged 6 to 14 years. This legislation also mandated that 25 percent of seats in every private school must be allocated for children from disadvantaged groups and physically challenged children.

INTERNATIONAL LAWS ON CHILD LABOUR

The 1989 United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child: It contains the notion that children are not just objects who belong to their parents and for whom decisions are made, nor are they people in training. Rather, they are human beings with their own set of rights. o The Convention considers that childhood is separate from adulthood, and lasts until 18; it is a special, protected time, in which children must be allowed to grow, learn, play, develop and flourish with dignity. o The Convention became the most widely ratified human rights treaty in history and has helped transform children's lives.

International Labour Organizations Conventions on the minimum age for admission to the employment of the year 1973 (ILO convention 138) and on the worst forms of child labour of the year 1999 (ILO con-

vention 182).

UNICEF STOP CHILD LABOUR

UNICEF works to prevent and respond to child labour, especially by strengthening the social service workforce. Social service workers play a key role in recognizing, preventing and managing risks that can lead to child labour. Our efforts develop and support the workforce to respond to potential situations of child labour through case management and social protection services, including early identification, registration and interim rehabilitation and referral services. We also focus on strengthening parenting and community education initiatives to address harmful social norms that perpetuate child labour, while partnering with national and local governments to prevent violence, exploitation and abuse.

With the International Labour Organization (ILO), we help to collect data that make child labour visible to decision-makers. These efforts complement our work to strengthen birth registration systems, ensuring that all children possess birth certificates that prove they are under the legal age to work.

Children removed from labour must also be safely returned to school or training. UNICEF supports increased access to quality education and provides comprehensive social services to keep children protected and with their families.

CONCLUSION

Girl Child labour has badly affected the physical and mental development of children as they are the real wealth of our nation, they have to be protected from every evil. In this direction Government and private agencies should join hands together to eradicate child labour from grass root level. People's participation in this battle of eradication of child labour is essential. Developing critical awareness of one's reality, or the process of sensitization, leads to increased willingness and openness to take action to change the reality. Awareness, therefore, is often the first step towards preparing individuals and communities to initiate action. While awareness is critical, resultant action depends upon having the necessary tools to take actions based on this awareness. Accurate information, availability of resources, and established accountability mechanisms can facilitate necessary action, and lead to a positive change.

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