



The impact of education on preventing child labour in India

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Education is a necessary element and one of the most important means of societal progress. Based on their literacy rate, a country's development could either be appreciated or depreciated. Civil unrest and other social evils result in a lack of education. Child labour is one of the outcomes that calls into question our social behaviour about the country's future. The global epidemic has had a disastrous effect on every element of society, including this one. Working from home and taking online classes may appeal to a certain group of people. It's been a tragedy for the remainder of the underprivileged. The situation worsened for those children who were exposed to the virus, and the fight was aggravated for the comfort of the privileged. India, as a varied country with numerous cultures, adheres to legal parameters that are also respectful of other traditions. We can distinguish between right and wrong norms with the help of education. Educational cultures should be considered the foundation of progress among various cultures. The study goes through all of the other issues of child labour, as well as the role of education in eradicating it. It is difficult to combat social taboos without educating the people of a country, but it is even more difficult to combat social taboos with educated people who are not socially aware.

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Introduction:

Education's impact on preventing child labour is a very subjective topic, especially while education is still a privilege, if not a luxury, for many people. There is no denying that education is essential for a country's comprehensive development. To conclude the impact of education on child labour, we must first understand the country's history of child labour and how to address this unethical practice. India's average literacy rate is 77.70 per cent, according to data from the National Statistical Office (NSO). To fully realise why child labour come into existence in the first place, we must first comprehend the integration of modern societal developments and why it is still a major concern. Child labour is one of the numerous social issues that might arise as a result of a lack of education. We've gone over all of the primary reasons for developing an educational-based development and how it affects society. The rate of child labourers also varies by gender, according to the research. Male kid labourers have a greater rate than female child labourers. Such methods as child labour are seen as a worthwhile investment by the market that operates them. Child labour and sex trafficking are both associated with the same societal stigma: the lack of education and social awareness. This makes the Indian subcontinent one of the poorest countries in the world; women and children, the weakest members of Indian society, suffer most.[1] The root cause of child

labour is extreme poverty, and the main reason for poverty are unemployment, a lack of resources for the upliftment of the social order, which includes hierarchy, caste system, and untouchability, marginal differences between deserving and non-deserving classes, and government policies that fail to address these issues. In economics, humans are viewed as a resource, but child labour is detrimental to the economy. The factors that nourish the population as a resource are critical to adding up for a situation to be considered a success. Individual development (personal), career development (professional), and organizational development are the three main components of human resource development (HRD). And none of these is possible without a good education. The possibility of these essential human resource advancements is jeopardized by child labour. As a result, the nation must seek to provide education to all people, regardless of their social backgrounds, to address issues like child labour. This paper aims to provide an analytical perspective on the causes of child labour and how education is a necessary component of the process of attaining the objective. The researcher has discussed the Right to Education Act of 2009, as well as other government-enacted legislation aimed at ensuring that everyone has access to education, as well as the procedures for dealing with this atrocious crime. The method for ending an unethical activity differs from country to country, as it

is also dependent on the stage of development for a large group of people. In this work, the researcher has focused her research on India and its approach to eradicating child labour, in a modular way.

CHILD LABOUR

- The term 'child labour', suggests ILO is best defined as work that deprives children of their childhood, their potential and their dignity, and that is harmful to physical and mental development. Interferes with their schooling by depriving them of the opportunity to attend school; obliging them to leave school prematurely; or requiring them to attempt to combine school attendance with excessively long and heavy work.
- What Is Child Labour Childlabour refers to children who practise and engage in economic activities on a part-time or full-time basis. Child labor can be best described as work that snatches away childhood, dreams, and capability. Involvement of children under the age of 18 in some economic activities, whether paid or unpaid. Children under the age of 14 who are engaged in work that is unsuitable for their health, education, or moral development develop less, are immature, and cannot understand the consequences of any work. Children are deprived of their childhood and their physical and mental development is harmed as a result of this practice. Child labourers are working children who are either too young to work or are involved in dangerous activities. It refers to work that is socially or morally, mentally or physically dangerous or harmful to children, and interferes with their education by denying them access to school, forcing them to leave early, or requiring them to combine school attendance with excessively long and heavy work. In India, children under the age of fourteen account for 3.6% of the total labour force. Almost 85% are employed in the traditional agricultural sector, less than 9% in manufacturing, services, and repairs, and 0.8% in factories. According to a new report from the International Labour Organization (ILO) and UNICEF, the number of children engaged in child labour has risen to 160 million worldwide, up 8.4 million in the last four years, with millions more at risk due to COVID19's effects. Every child has the right to have a good time during his or her childhood. Children have always participated in economic activities in every society.
- India's Census 2001 office, defines child labour as participation of a child less than 17 years of age in any economically productive activity with or

without compensation, wages or profit. Such participation could be physical or mental or both. This work includes part-time help or unpaid work on the farm, family enterprise or in any other economic activity such as cultivation and milk production for sale or domestic consumption. Indian government classifies child labourers into two groups: Main workers are those who work 6 months or more per year. And marginal child workers are those who work at any time during the year but less than 6 months in a year.

Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009

The law mandates free and compulsory education to all children aged 6 to 14 years. This legislation also mandated that 25 per cent of seats in every private school must be allocated for children from economically disadvantaged groups (implementation gaps remain).

India formulated a National Policy on Child Labour in 1987. This Policy seeks to adopt a gradual & sequential approach with a focus on rehabilitation of children working in hazardous occupations. It envisioned strict enforcement of Indian laws on child labour combined with development programs to address the root causes of child labour such as poverty. In 1988, this led to the National Child Labour Project (NCLP) initiative. This legal and development initiative continues, with a current central government funding of Rs. 6 billion, targeted solely to eliminate child labour in India. Despite these efforts, child labour remains a major challenge for India. No, child below age of 14 years shall be employed to work in any factory or mine or engaged in any hazardous employment

Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection) of Children Act, 2015

This law made it a crime, punishable with a prison term, for anyone to keep a child in bondage for the purpose of employment.

Education

Education is that factor, which leads to human resource development which includes a better and sustainable and valuable natural upbringing for all. The primary objective of the education system is to provide knowledge skills and to transmit certain values equally important. The resulting education package will vary economically in all countries and cultures. Child labour, in another dimension, has observed that the limited number of schools, their absence, the clash of school time and agricultural operations, and the cost of schooling as well as its limited nature of providing jobs opportunity to enter

the labour market Facilitates the route of children belonging to the state class. Children are ready to receive education, but only with the consent of the owners and parents. They have a very strong concern about fees and other expenses on education so they want it as free and near their home. Out of 140 million rural children in the age group of 5-14 years, more than 86 million rural children have not been enrolled in the school register. About 62% of children in rural areas are not present in primary schools. Whereas Article 45 (Directive Principles of State Policy), states that “The state shall endeavor to provide” within a period of 10 years, from commencement of this constitution for free and compulsory education for all children until they complete the age of 14 years.” Compulsory schooling for children as a part of assimilative measure is however, found deceptive. As such, the phenomenon of child labour is the product of such indifference to education. So this phenomenon of child labour is the product of this indifference to education.

Importance of Education Against Child Labor

- Education plays a very significant role in eliminating child labor. Education International celebrates every year world day against child labor on 12th June. According to Education International, early education is very important to get children out of the labor market.
- It doesn't only help children to learn necessary skills, but also allows them to lead a decent life forward.
- Education and training are mandatory drivers of social and economic growth and democracy.
- The removal of all costs linked with education will result in a large section of society being educated.
- An approach with the mindset to educate children and drag them out of poverty will reduce the number of child labor cases we face now.
- Education is a fundamental right, over which no one has the authority to deny.
- It helps in changing people's opinions towards life and makes them better human beings.
 - **Reasons for Child Labour**
 - **Poverty**
 - It refers to such a situation where a human is unable to meet the minimum standard of living, necessities due to the absence of enough financial resources. When a family goes through this phase they expect their kids to work and earn some money to support the family and feed them. Due to scarcity parents are left with no other option than to send their children for work even at a very low wage rate.

- **Overpopulation**
- According to **WORLDMETER** elaboration, India's population is approx. 138 crore, out of which 42.75 million people in India are unemployed. India ranks at 86th position with an unemployment rate of 8.5% out of 214 countries. The population in the country is much more than the job opportunities available, which leads to a large section of the society remaining unemployed. When the adults are unemployed, this leads them to poverty, debt trap, and they also cannot educate their children which ultimately results in child labour.
- **Debt Trap**
- When a family gets stuck in the vicious cycle of debt trap it contributes to child labour. As children start working at a very tender age to make their family financially sound and act as a helping hand to bring them out of the debt trap.
- **Unprincipled Labour**
- India has one of the cheapest labours available therefore it is one of the biggest markets for outsourcing. Other countries approach India to get their work done at a very minimum rate. It is similar to that of the labour class, the labour salary in India is minimal and to increase the family income, parents are forced to let their children work and support them.

CONCLUSION:

Eradicating child labor is still a distant dream for India. But education can be proved as a weapon to deal with it. Our lawmakers are trying to tackle the problem but it's high time that we as a citizen of India help the government to solve the problem. Problems like poverty, Illiteracy leads to child labor, with a collective effort by all of us, will for sure help children to drag them out of the labor world and lead a better life ahead. The government has taken a variety of measures to actively address the issue of child labour. However, due to socioeconomic issues such as poverty and illiteracy, which are the primary causes of child labour, it cannot be solved unless and until all members of society work together to solve it. Education would be extremely beneficial in the abolition of child labour. An emerging idea in educational infrastructure is that we have, to some extent, overcome the stage where there was an acute shortage of physical infrastructure, such as a lack of school buildings. It is believed that the bottleneck now exists primarily in terms of the human component,

specifically the availability of teachers. The main task is thus to ensure that schools are adequately staffed and that teachers have enough time to care for individual students. It is critical to raise awareness about child labour and help people understand how important it is for a child to grow and enjoy his or her childhood because they are the future of our country. A collaborative effort by all of us will undoubtedly help children to drag them out of the labour world and lead a better life ahead.

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