

A STUDY ON CHILD LABOUR IN INDIA

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ABSTRACT

Child labour is a serious problem from numerous decades and a challenge for numerous developing countries. It has been over the centuries not only in the impoverished areas of developing countries but also in developed countries until the morning of the 20th century. Numerous countries have legislated colorful laws and have taken serious action to annihilate child labour, yet still the problem is veritably wide throughout the world. The problem of child labour appears in severe form and colorful factors are involved with it. The causes for the prevalence of child labour in India are complex and deeply embedded into the society. Poverty seems to be the main cause. Child labour can be set up in both civic and pastoral areas. Still the vast majority of child labour occurs in pastoral areas since poverty is more rampant. Although numerous poor pastoral families struggle for a better life in civic areas, this pushes families to force their children to work in order to increase the family income and insure survival. This paper analyses the colorful responsible factors for child labour and attempts to find out those areas where there's demarcation in child labour. In addition the ideal of this paper is to make a critical analysis of child labour in India. The findings reveal that child labour was a serious wrong for the developing country- India. But now as per the report 2011, The total number of working children in the country has declined from 1.26 crore as per the year 2001 to 43.53 lakh as per year 2011 which shows 65 percent reduction.

Keywords: child labour, forms, factors, discrimination,

Introduction

For multitudinous times, child work has been one of the greatest impediments to social improvement. It's a challenge and long-term thing in multitudinous nations to nullify all shapes of child work. Particularly in creating nations, it's considered as a genuine issue these days. Child work alludes to children who miss their nonage and are not reasonable to have the initial comforts which a child ought to have. As of late the Worldwide Work Organization (ILO, 2013) evaluated there are around 215 million children between the ages five to fourteen who work around the world. They are continually mistreated and work for delayed hours, in really awful conditions. This can influence their wellbeing physically, rationally and candidly.

These children do not have the initial rights like get to to academe or wellbeing care. Concurring to ILO (2013) the biggest numbers of child workers are working in unsafe work and the add up to number of child laborers is including, without a doubt in spite of the fact that it's interdisciplinary by law. These children are powerless to conditions and they battle with long-term physical and cerebral torment. The fundamental cause that actuates children to work is destitution. These children work for their survival and their families (Mapaure, 2009). A few consider like Dessay and Pillage (2003) contend not all the work that children do is perilous or brutal. A few work may deliver effective information openings, practically equivalent to as looking after children or survey conveyance employments, but not if the work

uncovered them to cerebral push, like mortal trafficking, whoredom and explicit effort. The universal affiliations have made awesome sweats to number child work over the world. multitudinous nations have upheld enactment to urge child work, in any case child work is wide all through the world. It's n't simple assignment for creating nations like India to accomplish prohibiting child work.

Meaning

child labour refers to the employment of children in any work that deprives children of their nonage, interferes with their capability to attend regular academy, and that's mentally, physically, socially or innocently dangerous and dangerous

Defining child labour is n't as simple and straight forward as it may appear because it encompasses three delicate- to- define generalities " child ", " work " and " labour ". In the environment of child labour, a working description of a " child " may be a person below the general limit of fifteen times or in special circumstances fourteen times, set by the Minimum Age Convention, 1973(No. 138). According to ILO (1983), " child labour includes children precociously leading misconducts, working long hours for low stipend under conditions damaging to their health and to their physical and internal development, occasionally separated from there families, constantly deprived of meaningful education and training openings that would open for them a better future. "

Contemporary definition of child labour:

The term "subsidiary " has many definitions of various scientists. According to SUDA (2001), the term child labour indicates when children work in a dangerous and harmful and harmful work or work that interferes with training. In Moyi (2011), child labour represents low wages, long periods of time, physical and sexual violence. According to EDMONDS and PAVCNİK (2005), Children's is considered a cruel treatment with children when children when children work in poor or dangerous jobs. The

term "child labour" I. Principle include all cases where in the child is damaged in the workplace, regardless of whether or not a child under 14 years of age is 2 years old (unisef, 2005,) The Importance and importance of child labour, society, cultural and economic condition, and the mission of the labour organization, strategy and operation (POST &SAKURAI, 2001). Labour unions, consumer groups and international labour organization (ILO'S) Often used children and children instead of working children. In other words, children tend to historically protect themselves, protect themselves and the defend themselves in1997. In the contrary, UNICEF and NRO related to UNICEF refer to the "work of the children, including all economic behavior that child labour threatens or expands or expands children's complete development or education. These groups often depict child labour as busy children, so UNJCEF 's tradition. The term " child labour "is the best defined, surpassing lot, and defined as work, and children are children and deprive children. This applies to spirit, physical, social, moral dangerous and harmful work for children, and affects the ability to infringe on the ability to attend regular school, to focus on school during war, club or but to experience healthy childhood.

Types of child labour:

Child labour requires nuanced analysis, a term that should not be applied indiscriminately but rather analysed through its multifaceted operational contexts. The phenomenon encompasses diverse scenarios where minors engage in economic activities, broadly categorized as follows.

Formalized hazardous engagement:

Youth participating in paid or unpaid roles within manufacturing units, commercial enterprises, mining operations, and service industries (including domestic service). Notably, India's Ministry of Labour maintains strict regulatory parameters, defining "child labour" exclusively through hazardous work benchmarks. This delineation creates a critical separation. Activities falling outside designated

risk thresholds are classified as “child work, thereby excluding them from statutory prohibitions. A regulatory distinction with operational implications. Organization must recognize this bifurcation when developing compliance frameworks.

Bonded minors :

Youth formally contracted through parental agreement for nominal compensation or those laboring to settle ancestral financial obligations. These cases represent particularly complex systemic challenges due to operational inaccessibility. Acquisition by carpet manufacturers creates inescapable confinement. Domestic service arrangements with middle-class households prevent viable exit strategies. Agrarian debt bondage under landlord control perpetuates intergenerational servitude cycles.

Street children:

Youth navigating urban survival are categorized as street children, encompassing those intermittently residing in public spaces including shoeshine boys, ragpickers, newspaper-vendors, and beggars, among others, while most minors maintain partial familial connections, street-dwelling populations remain fully exposed to occupational hazards without protective networks. A population uniquely vulnerable to exploitation. Their existence unfolds across pavement colonies, transit hubs, and railway platforms.

Working children:

Minors engaged in family-based labour through agriculture activities or domestic enterprises face systemic challenge. When juvenile workers endure 12-14 hours daily shifts alongside caregivers, sacrificing educational opportunities, their circumstances parallel those of formally employed youth. Particularly among female populations, disproportionate burdens are routinely imposed relative to development capacities. This demographic represents the predominant cohort excluded

from schooling while maintaining full-time workloads. An inequity demanding systemic solutions, as evidenced by disproportionate female participation rates in education-labour conflicts.

Children used for sexual exploitation:

Thousands of young girls and boys provide male sexual appetite in all social and economic origin. There are many direct relationship between children’s commercial achievements and other forms of children’s labour. The house where fabrics, master classes, street angles, train station, bus stops and children work are general grades exploitation. Children, especially as criminals or brokers, are incapable of employer’s abuse. Physical and psychological social damage caused by commercial sexual exploitation is one of the most dangerous forms of child labour. Migrant children:

India has a big problem with “strange season migration.” Millions of families have to leave their homes and villages for several months in search of existence. This means that the family should cut off the school, which means that it ends the only inexpensive opportunity to break the malicious generation after generation. Children immigrants inevitably go to work at work. Many industrial and agriculture industries, such as brick production, salt production, sugar cane, stone career, construction, fishing, farms and rice factories.

Children engaged in household activities:

There are many children (especially girls) who work in homes that are generally not considered economic activities as children (or related or other) working in wages (or related or other), or home assumptions. These children are interested in their younger brothers and sisters, cooking, cleaning and other home events. As can be seen in the literature of cooperation with women, such action should be recognized as work. Also, if such children do not go to school, they will ultimately join the labour

force as one of the above children's labour category.

Review Of Literature

Kreveger (1996) has demonstrated a clear trend from a cross-country sample, indicating that low-income households are more inclined to send their children into the labour market, which is rare in wealthier households. Basu et al. (1999) discovered that at the onset of the industrial revolution, children were compelled to work on family farms in factories, managing crops or preparing food. They were employed in industries where their working conditions were extremely hazardous and often fatal. During that era, industries favored employing children because they provided inexpensive labour and more adaptable worker. Bass (2004) has nearly been eradicated in the developed world. Nevertheless, child labour persists today due to rapid population growth, elevated levels of unemployment, inflation, poverty, malnutrition, poor leadership, corruption, and low wages.]

Serwadda Luwaga (2005) has indicated that child labour occurs across the globe, especially in low-income nations, where these children are engaged in various sectors of the economy, such as agriculture, manufacturing, fishing, construction, domestic service, street vending, and more. Children are typically not registered as employees and are involved in very hazardous and poor working conditions without any social protection. Lavison and Murray (2005) have noted that child labour encompasses many different types of work that involve risks and dangers. These children are susceptible to physical pain and injuries, particularly due to exposure to health hazards. Omokhodion and Odusote (2006) have sought to convey that any work performed by children outside the home falls under the category of child labour. They argue that working away from home generally subjects children to environmental risks that could negatively impact their health and safety. Fasih (2007) has asserted that child labour fosters unskilled and

uneducated workers, which adversely affects the development and economy of a country.

Bhat (2010) articulated the definition of child labour. He noted that it is complex due to three challenging concepts to define: "child," "labour," and "work." He also asserted that the concept of childhood can be defined by age, but in various societies, individuals are considered adults at different ages. Bilal Ahmad Bhat (2010) aimed to analyse the significance of education concerning child labour. He sought to examine the effect of child labour on children's school attendance. He proposed several solutions to address child labour through education. Bhat (2011) indicated that the initial legislation prohibiting child labour was enacted in 1833 and 1844. It stated that children should not be employed, and the intention was to ensure that all children should not work and the aim was to eliminate all children from labour that disrupts their schooling. However, numerous children classified as child labourers, which is illegal, still remain engaged in such activities. Aqil (2012) has examined that when parents have been involved in work during their own childhood, their children are likely to follow suit, creating a cycle that spans generations. Consequently, once they reach adulthood, they tend to be uneducated and possess low skills. This is why parental education plays a crucial role in the education of children, as it can enhance the likelihood of their children receiving a quality education. Das (2012) has stated that the prevalence of child labourers globally is challenging to confirm due to the absence of dependable statistics on child labour, and a significant number of child labourers remain unnoticed.

Objectives:

The goals of this paper are:

- 1) To examine the different responsible factors for child labour.
- 2) To identify the areas where is gender discrimination in child labour.

3) To conduct a critical analysis of child labour in India.

Research Methodology:

The research design of this paper relies on descriptive studies. The study relies on both primary data and secondary data. The observation method is utilized to address the second objective of the study. To achieve the third objective, the researchers have employed analytical on data from the last five decades, spanning from 1971 to 2011.

Socio-economic factors related child labour:

1) Poverty as a root cause: Various situations contribute to child labour. Research has shown that the primary factor is poverty (Bhat and Rather, 2009). Parents usually make decisions regarding child labour and education. When a family's income falls below the poverty line, parents believe that children should also help support the family financially. Basu (1998) presented a theoretical framework of child labour, illustrating that the sole reason parents engage their children in labour is due to their low income. As a result, impoverished parents cannot afford to send their children to school. Therefore, predominantly poor families are compelled to send their children to work instead of enrolling them in school.

2) Family size: In fact, children's participation in child labour is typically higher in larger poor households compared to smaller ones, indicating that family size influences child labour. Parents compel their children to work because they struggle to meet the needs of a large family. There are also distinctions based on gender within household size. Not every family member, regardless of age, is involved in child labour, as this is influenced by the child's age and gender; for instance, boys are generally more likely to attend school than girls.

3) Family condition: Many children who are growing up have lost one or both parents, with some affected by HIV/AIDS in the family, and are thus compelled to work to support themselves and their siblings. The number of

orphaned children is rising, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa, where many become street children and endure very harsh conditions (Vandenberg, 2007).

4) Traditional or cultural factors: Culture serves as another reason that pushes children into the labour market. The diverse cultures of numerous societies lead children to begin working at a very young age, linked to traditional and cultural influences. They believe that children need to acquire skills that will benefit their future. Tauson (2009) noted that in rural Guatemala, parents prefer their children to work because they perceive it as advantageous for skill development.

5) Corruption: Corruption is a significant factor in the misappropriation of resources, and wherever poverty exists, corruption is also present (Murphy, 2005). According to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) (2012), "Corruption exacerbates poverty and inequality, undermines human development and stability, sustains conflict, violates human rights, and erodes the democratic functioning of countries." Corruption can have a profoundly negative impact on children's rights, depriving them of essential services such as healthcare, education, and infrastructure. Corruption can hinder children's chances of breaking free from poverty.

6) Civil war: The civil war is yet another factor that leads to child labour. The conflict devastates the nation's economy, causing people to become significantly poorer while resources are diverted to support the war. Wars destroy all the positive aspects any country might possess. They result in diseases, destitution, destruction, and numerous other dreadful outcomes. Once again, no assistance will be effective as long as the conflict persists.

7) Urban migration: Numerous rural families relocate to urban regions due to rural push and urban pull factors. As a result, they frequently find themselves compelled to live and work on the streets, lacking access to basic necessities like food and shelter; consequently, these

children become street vendors. Typically, street workers are at risk of violence and become more vulnerable to illegal activities, such as theft, trafficking, drug use, and prostitution (Yadav and Sengupta, 2009). These children endure urban poverty; many child labourers reside in unhealthy slum conditions and are employed in poor environments, such as domestic work, or in hotels and restaurants, etc. (Serwadda-Luwaga, 2005). This indicates that the city population is rising due to immigration and natural growth. Urban poverty is a complex issue. Urban poverty in developing nations encounters numerous obstacles in everyday life. Many impoverished individuals live under severe conditions due to unemployment, housing shortages, violence, and unhealthy environments. The increase in urbanization has led to poverty in urban centers. Urban poverty results in slums, areas marked by high unemployment, poor sanitation, limited access to clean drinking water, and inadequate housing.

8) Globalization: Globalization represents another cause of child labour. While globalization has both positive and negative consequences, it may offer developing countries the chance to enhance their gross domestic production (GDP) per capita through new trade opportunities, as well as increase their foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows. However, globalization has also resulted in negative outcomes for child labour in developing nations. In recent times, numerous international corporations have relocated their production overseas. These companies frequently engage in hiring children as low-cost labor since they are compliant and follow orders from their employers, even if subjected to abuse and exploitation (Mapaure, 2009). Mishra (2012) asserts that in India, globalization has forced more children into hazardous jobs such as those in brick kilns, motor garages, hotels, shops, transportation, and manual loading work, etc.

9) Relationship between child labour, Family income, and Education: Insufficient education or

low-quality education is another factor that contributes to the high occurrence of child labour. Education is regarded as one of the primary solutions to eliminate child labour. In practice, family income influences children's education, and impoverished parents are unable to finance their children's education; thus, children are compelled to work and have lower enrollment rates.

10) The opportunity costs of education : The expense associated with education poses another challenge for impoverished households. This has led to the exploitation of minors. It is essential for schools to be both affordable and accessible. Kondylis and Marco (2006) suggest that schools within developing nations may assist in boosting school enrollment but might not diminish the occurrence of child labor. Bhat (2010) contends that high-quality education can help prevent children from engaging in work; hence, it is crucial for a school to have a sufficient ratio of educated teachers in classrooms. However, for many low-income parents, sending their children to school can be financially burdensome, as their families rely on their children's income and struggle to cover school fees, uniforms, or other added expenses. (Bhat-2010). This is a significant issue in developing countries to offer quality free education because it entails costs for governments (Budhwani et al. 2004)

Areas Of Gender Discrimination In Child Labour – : Discrimination exists among child laborers as well. Older children may show bias against younger children, children from foreign backgrounds or minority groups, or those from different castes. The adult division of labor by sex is mirrored in the occupations that children undertake.

Meaning of gender difference: When examining the issue of gender difference, it is crucial to remember that the word "gender" differs from the word "sex." "Sex" refers to the biological distinctions between males and females that remain constant. The treatment of boys and

girls as well as their anticipated behaviors are influenced by gender differences. The tasks that boys and girls are expected to perform are known as their gender roles. For instance, an individual does not inherently possess the ability to engage in beautiful needlework and the art of cooking; instead, he/she can acquire these skills, yet in many cultures, it is observed that girls are instructed in these activities more than boys. "Gender" refers to the acquired, social distinctions and interactions between girls and boys. The process of socialization through which children learn appropriate behavior is not gender-neutral but influences the distinct roles and responsibilities assigned to boys and girls based on their sex. As children mature, they emulate the behavior of those around them, including parents, relatives, neighbors, and teachers, thereby perpetuating the established social disparities between men and women. For instance, a boy frequently behaves in a manner that aligns with the conduct he has observed from other boys and men in his vicinity.

Factors influencing gender disparity: Gender is influenced by elements such as age, class/caste, race, ethnicity, location (rural or urban), culture, religion, and socio-economic factors that determine the opportunities available to young individuals and their working conditions. Causes of gender disparities in child labor: The presence of gender disparities can be observed in child labor. Therefore, it is essential to examine the various related factors. Gender discrepancies typically rely on differing cultural influences, family circumstances, and the traditional division of labor assigned to males and females. There is a division of labor between boys and girls. Boys are often directed towards sectors like automotive, fishing, mining, and construction, as these types of jobs are deemed as heavy labor, while girls are encouraged to perform domestic tasks and lighter jobs, such as in the Textile Industry, where women are typically employed. This discrimination arises from biological factors that lack justification

The involvement of boys and girls in different

Areas	Involvement of boys and girls as child labourer
1. Domestic work	Girls are more involved rather than boys
2. Dhabas / restaurants / hotels /	Boys are more involved rather than girls
3. Agarbati, dhoop and detergent making	Approximate equal involvement of boys and girls
4. Paan, bidi and cigarettes	Boys are more involved rather than girls
5. Spinning / weaving	Girls are more involved rather than boys
6. Construction	Boys are more involved rather than girls
7. Brick – Kline, tiles	Boys are more involved rather than girls
8. Jewellery	Boys are more involved rather than girls
9. Carpet making	Boys are more involved rather than girls
10. Automobile, vehicle, repairs	Boys are more involved rather than girls

areas(as per general observation)

Work participation of children as per Nss

Work participation of children

NSS	Age (in years)	Distribution of (per 1000) of persons by principal usual activity category					
		Rural		Urban		Total	
		Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
2004-05	5-9	2	1	2	1	2	1
	10-14	54	49	44	24	52	43
2009-10	5-9	2	1	0	0	1	1
	10-14	27	21	24	8	26	18

Activities	Children of Age Group (5-14 years)					
	Number of Children (%)			Number of Children (in 100's)		
	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
Children engaged in "economic activities"	4.18	3.86	4.02	52967	45618	98392
Attended domestic duties only	0.30	3.15	1.67	3770	37208	40798
Attended domestic duties plus free collection of goods, tailoring, weaving for HH only	0.25	1.92	1.06	3178	22893	25897
Children at Work	4.73	8.93	6.75	59915	105519	165077
Attending schools	72.98	61.45	67.44	925350	725964	1651186
Children neither at work nor at school	17.26	20.42	18.80	218889	241255	460205

we analyze the data from 2004-2005 and 2009-2010, it is noted that child labor has reduced in both the 5-9 and 10-14 age groups. Likewise, children's participation in work has lowered, in both rural and urban settings. However, the engagement of males surpasses that of females in both rural and urban areas. According to the statistics, child labor seems to be more prevalent in villages than in cities. Nine out of ten children in villages are engaged in agriculture or household industries and craftwork. Due to urbanization More children are entering the service. and trading industries instead of marketing. When differentiating by gender, it is believed that a greater number of boys are engaged in laborious tasks compared to girls. This belief is based on the observation that it is challenging to accurately count the girls who are working in household roles.

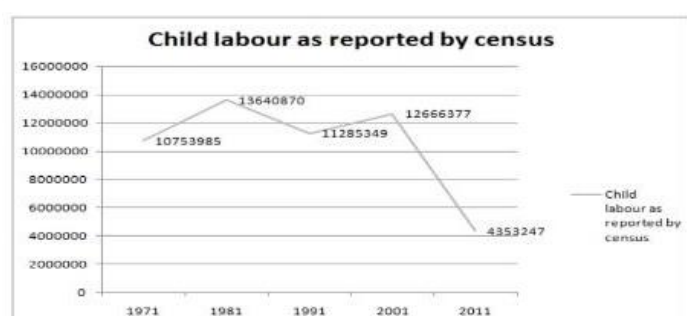
Critical Analysis Of Child Labour In India: According to the census 2011, the overall number of child laborers in the nation has decreased by 65 percent. The government also stated that the eradication of child labor was its "priority." The total figure of working children in the country has dropped from 1.26 crore according to the census 2001 to 43.53 lakh according to census 2011, indicating a 65 percent reduction.

Suggestion:

1. Strengthen Law Enforcement

- Enforce existing laws like the **Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986** more strictly.
- Increase inspections in industries and informal sectors known for employing children (e.g.,

Year	Child labor as reported by census 1971 to 2011
1971	10753985
1981	13640870
1991	11285349
2001	12666377
2011	4353247



agriculture, textiles, domestic work).

2. Improve Access to Education

- Ensure free and quality education under the **Right to Education Act** is fully implemented.
- Provide scholarships, free uniforms, and midday meals to encourage attendance.

3. Increase Awareness

- Launch awareness campaigns in rural and urban areas about the harms of child labour and the importance of education.

- Use media, community programs, and local leaders to change societal attitudes.

4. Strengthen Support for Families

- Address poverty, which is a root cause of child labour, by increasing support for low-income families through welfare schemes.
- Offer vocational training and job opportunities for adults to reduce dependence on children's income.

5. Encourage Community Participation

- Involve local communities and NGOs in identifying and reporting child labour cases.
- Form local child protection committees to monitor and support vulnerable children.

Conclusion:

In 2015, the nation of India has the highest number of children engaged in illegal work across various industries. Agriculture in India represents the largest sector where countless children start working at young ages to assist their families. Many of these children are compelled to work at early ages due to several family-related factors such as unemployment, a large number of family members, poverty, and insufficient parental education. This situation is often the primary reason behind the elevated rate of child labour in India. Numerous Indian social scientists and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) have conducted thorough research on the statistics related to child labour in India and have found that India accounts for one-third of Asia's child labour and one-fourth of the child labour globally. In response to the significant number of children being illegally employed, the Indian government has initiated extensive measures to decrease the number of working children and to emphasize the importance of supporting the proper growth and development of children. Thanks to the increase in regulations and legal frameworks addressing child labour, there was a 65 percent reduction in child labour from 2001 to 2011. Although this represents a considerable decrease in India, there are still large numbers

of children working in rural regions of the country. With 85 percent of child labour taking place in rural areas and 15 percent in urban locations, there remain significant areas of concern within the nation of India.

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