

CHILD IS MEANT TO LEARN NOT TO EARN

Asst. Prof. Dr. Nita Rameshwar Kalaskar
 Women's Studies Centre, School of Social Sciences,
 Swami Ramanand Teerth Marathwada University, Nanded.



Abstract:- Child labour is a social crime every child has a right to enjoy his life like free bird. Millions of children around the world are trapped in child labour, depriving them of their childhood, their education and health, and condemning them to a life of poverty. Children work in the workplace is a shame and disgrace for nation. Let children earn knowledge, not money. Work is for adults, play and education is for children. Children deserve to be happy, healthy and safe. Children are pillars of our nation so send them to get an education. The "child labour" is defined as work that deprives children of their childhood, their dignity, their potential, and that is harmful to mental and physical development and it refers to work that is mentally, socially, physically or morally dangerous and harmful to children. There are millions of innocent children forced to do labour in the shake of only some money. To raise awareness and to prevent child labour, "World Day against Child Labour" is celebrated on 12 June every year. At current rates, more than 100 million children will still be trapped in child labour by 2020.

Introduction :- Child labour means 'those children who are doing paid or unpaid work in workshops, establishments, factories, mines and in the service sector such as domestic labour.' Children are living on and off the streets, such as shoeshine boys, newspaper-vendors, rag pickers, beggars, etc. Children who are working as part of family labour in agriculture and in home-based work. The Children have either been pledge by their parents for paltry sums of money or those working to pay off the inherited debts of their fathers. Many thousands of young girls and boys serve the sexual appetites of men from all social and economic backgrounds. Direct links between the commercial sexual exploitation of children and other forms of exploitative child labour are numerous. Apart from children who are employed for wages (either bonded / otherwise) as domestic help, there are a large number of children (especially girls) who are working in their own houses, engaged in what is not normally seen as "economic activity". These children are engaged in taking care of younger siblings, cooking, cleaning and other such household activities. Further, if such children

are not sent to school, they will eventually join the labour force as one of the above categories of child labour. The causes of child labour such as illiteracy, overpopulation, poverty, adult unemployment, cheap labour can also be seen as an impact of Child Labour. The Indian law is required to be more sensitive in cases related to child labour in India.

Methodology :- "Child is meant to Learn Not to Earn" this study focused on a social issue child labour in India. This study has been conducted using descriptive and diagnostic research method and 'Secondary data collection method' is used to carry out the research. The study covers the reference period from Past independence to 2020. The researcher selected and collected data by secondary sources. The purpose of the study is to analyse issues and problems of child labour in India.

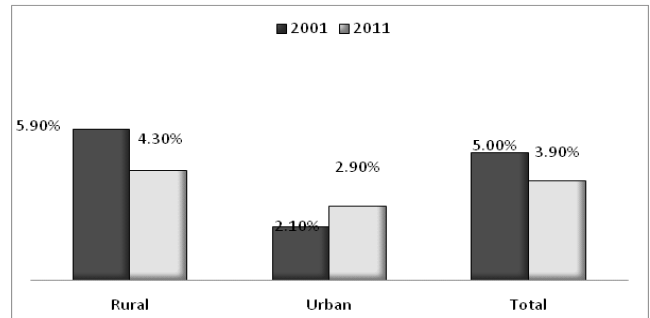
Objectives of the study:- This study is undertaken with the following objectives in view:

1. To study the social issue child labour in India.
2. To explain the concept of child labour.
3. To examine the ill-effect of child labour.
4. To find out conclusion for social problem child labour.
5. To make recommendations for the social issue Child labour in India.

Hypothesis of the Study:- The following hypotheses have been formulated using the objectives of the study and they are tested with research techniques.

1. Child is meant to learn not to earn.
2. The poverty is main cause of a social issue child labour in India.
3. Child labour is a social crime every child has a right to shine and enjoy their life.
4. There is necessity Indian law is required to be more aware in cases related to child labour in India.

Child is Meant to Learn Not to Earn :- The constitution of India, in its fundamental rights and Directive principles of state policy prohibits child labour below the age of 14 years. Child labour is a curse to our society and a crime against humanity. Children work when they are supposed to play or go to school. By making them work in this tender age we are not only destroying their future, but also playing with the destiny of the country. "The child is the father of man." This famous line written by William Wordsworth specifies the importance of the child for the development of building a healthy society and nation. Childhood is the most innocent stage in human life. A child normally has to enjoy its childhood days with its parents, friends, teachers etc. It is that stage of life where fine and long lasting impressions gather in child's mind. However, this simple rule of nature has been crippled by the ever-growing menace of child labour.



(Source :- Census 2001 and 2011)

According to the table and graph As per Census data 2011 the child worker Magnitude is defined as absolute number of child workers and child worker incidence as child worker as a percentage of total children in the corresponding age group. Places that satisfy the following criteria are termed as Census Towns (CTs)

- (1) A minimum population of 5000,
- (2) At least 75 percent of the male main working population engaged in non-agricultural pursuits and
- (3) Density of population of at least 400 per sq. km.

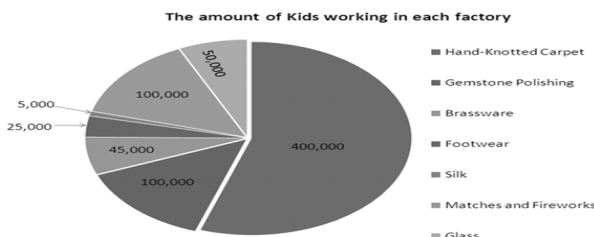
The major national legislative developments include the following for Child Labour:

1. The Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986,
2. The Factories Act, 1948
3. The Mines Act-1952,
4. The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection) of Children Act-2000,
5. The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act-2009,
6. National Child Labour Programme-1988,
7. Article 24 of the Indian Constitution.

But the issue is about the effective implementation of these acts and ordinances which has not taken place as yet. If there were strict enforcement, children would not be employed so easily in various work forces.

Non-Governmental Organizations work for Child Labour :

1. Bachpan Bachao Andolan,
2. CRY,
3. Pratham, etc.



(Source data :- childlabor-India.weebly.com)

As per the above graph 4,00,000 Child labours in Hand-Knotted Carpet, 1,00,000 in Gemstone Polishing, 45,000 Brassware, 25,000 in Footwear, 5,000 in Silk, 1,00,000 in Matches and Fireworks, 50,000 in Glass work. When child labour is employed life of little ones are destroyed. Lend your support to abolish child labour. The average age for a child to be appropriate to work is considered fifteen years and more. Children falling below this age limit won't be allowed to indulge in any type of work forcefully. A number of legislative initiatives have been undertaken by the Union Government and state government level. There are certain policies which have put restrictions and limitations on children working.

Child Labours in India 2001-2011

Child Labours in India 2001-2011(Million)

| Child Labour | 2001 | 2011 |
|--------------|------------|------------|
| Rural | 5.9%(11.3) | 4.3%(8.1) |
| Urban | 2.1%(1.3) | 2.9%(2.0) |
| Total | 5.0%(12.7) | 3.9%(10.1) |

The major national legislative development laws and non-governmental organizations work for child labour are helpful for eradicate child labour. There is need Indian law is required to be more sensitive in cases related to child labour in India.

Conclusion:- The Parents, the Employers and Government all three need to act to eradicate the issue child labour. The parents need to be alert enough to be able to understand the implications of child labour. It is mostly the children of rural areas who are the soft targets, hence awareness is needed, the task of which can be undertaken by the government, private NGOs and even people. The employers need to respect human rights and sensitize themselves towards the reason. They need to act as an example to others. The government can act as a watchdog for the employers and the serial offenders in case of parents. Along with the above, social issues such as poverty, unemployment and illiteracy need to be eradicated from the society. But the issue is about the effective implementation of legislative acts and ordinances which has not taken place as yet. If there were strict enforcement, children would not be employed so easily in various work forces because small hands can handle a pen better. Children are god's most precious gifts to human being. It's not good to ruin their lives by employing them at inappropriate ages. We should allow them to enjoy their childhood to the fullest. A well groomed child will become a responsible citizen of the country and will respect others and same will be carried forward to the coming generations. People should come forward and join hands in removing child labour from India completely. It's not a single day job but if we all work together towards the cause, then nothing is impossible and nurture the children's for future stop child labour.

Recommendations:- Today, looking at the facts, graphs and figures we can still claim that the situation hasn't improved much in spite of strict enforcement of law and the judicial grounds. Some of the possible steps that help in creating improved awareness about child labour and its prevention is discussed in following recommendations for eradicate a social evil child labour.

1. Every problem has a possible solution. A big menace child labour can be stopped and prevented in a large country like India; it all depends on changing mindsets and evaluating situations from time to time.
2. By educating the public about the ill effects of child labour. Child labour is illegal. This statement

should be fixed in the minds of people who propose to employ children at their workplaces.

3. People should not only be told that child labour is illegal, but they should be enlightened about the fine and imprisonment that they attract if they happen to enforce child labour in their companies.

4. If we really want to stand up against child labour, then we must join hands with an NGO or a social service center that fights for the rights of children.

5. We must make effective use of child lifelines and if we spot children anywhere being employed for work, we must immediately call up the help center and give support to rescuing such children.

6. Strict enforcement's of laws jointly with rapid action committees to bring about execution of laws will be torch bearers for a better tomorrow and can throw light in the aspect of changing many innocent lives.

7. There is an urgent need for making education mandatory, not only for children but equally for parents to bring in a bigger perspective regarding the upbringing of their children. They should be well aware of the consequences of child labour and how it can affect their child's life.

8. If a good awareness is created among citizens for eliminating child labour then it can be stopped to a large extent.

9. Parents should be aware of the benefits of education and should send their children to school for their formal educational process. In this way, they can become self dependent and on par with others in the society, landing them in good jobs for their sustenance and livelihood.

10. To bring about awareness, social campaigns should be created and inform citizens about the problems of child labour and related health issues.

11. Children from poor families are most likely to get involved in child labour cases. They are exploited by rich and influential people for managing their household work. It goes against laws and if we also take up initiatives to empower the poor people, then they cannot be exploited by such persons.

12. Indian Government on their part has done a fascinating work in carrying on their mission of eliminating child labour from India. They have made strict rules such as “**Factory act and mines act**” which prohibit any children to work in such hazardous environments. Plus they have also made rules for free education and mid-day meals in various states of India which has currently garnered a great response from all sections of society.

13. If anyone sees any person misbehaving with children or forcefully employs them, they should be immediately taken under the action of law and such persons should be immediately reported to the authorities by social awareness of people.

The future of India is our children and if they are not safe, healthy and educated, our future remains to be dark without a hope! Let’s hold our hands together and take pride in making our nation child-labour free and take our nation a step forward from developing to a developed stage.

References:-

1. Karhade B. A. *Scientific Research Method Pimpalapura Publication, Nagpur.*
2. Ghatole R. N. – 1983 *Sociological Research Principles and Methods, Mangesh Publication, Nagpur.*
3. Kothari C. R., *Research Methodology, New Age International (P) Limited Publishers, New Delhi.*
4. Mukherjee, Dipa. (2011). “Reducing Out of School Children in India: Lessons from a Micro Study”. NUEPA: New Delhi.
5. Nadgonde Gurunath, *Research Methodology in Social Sciences, Fadke Prakashan, Kolhapur.*
6. [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Child_labour_in_India.](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Child_labour_in_India)
7. NSSO(National Sample Survey Org.) *data & 12 plan working group report on child labour.*
8. www.Censusindia.gov.in
9. *The Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986.*
10. *National Plan of Action for Children 2005.*