



Causes of Child Labour: Social Awareness Raising Activities in India


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Abstract

They are disregarding the fact that children are the country's hope and future. These children do not get the opportunity to live a healthy life since they are not delighted physically, intellectually and culturally in their childhood. It is generally accepted that low incomes, poverty, unemployment, social life, illiteracy, and ignorance are the main causes of child labor. It is not the child labor. Millions of children's futures are shut down by the child labor issue, which also restricts their chances for development. Since child labor is a symptom of the disease that is spread at various levels, it cannot be considered in isolation. The majority of children who work are from low-income, landless, or semi-landless families whose income is insufficient to sustain the family. Primary education should be required for all children under the age of 14. The curriculum for primary education should include instruction in the development of skills relevant to the demands of the economy. Therefore, the problem of child labor needs to be addressed immediately and seriously at both the federal and state levels. Poverty is one of the main causes of this problem.

Key Words: Child, Labour, Poverty, Society, Economic

Introduction

The ILO World Report on Child Labor 2015 states that 75 million young people between the ages of 15 and 24 are unemployed, 168 million children are still ensnared in child labor, and many more are employed in jobs that do not provide a fair wage, job security, social protection, or other fundamental and respectable work attributes (Afridi, Farzana, Abhiroop Mukhopadhyay, Soham Sahoo 2013). Children are deprived of childhood, proper literacy, mental, physical, and social wellbeing when they are used for financial labor. Although this practice is outright prohibited in some nations, it has become a global issue in the majority of states due to the significant harm it causes to children's futures. In the majority of developing countries, child labor is a serious issue. High-class individuals engage young children under the age of 14 in economic labor. They are disregarding the fact that children are the country's hope and future. It is a grave warning that millions of children in our nation are deprived of their childhood and lack primary education. According to India's 2001 national census, there were 12.6 million child laborers between the ages of 5 and 14 (Basu K, Tzannatos Z 2003). An estimated 12.6 million children work in dangerous jobs, according to small-scale and community-based studies. Many kids work as "hidden workers" in homes or in the black market (Angnihotram R V 2005). These children



do not get the opportunity to live a healthy life since they are not delighted physically, intellectually and culturally in their childhood.

The definition of "age," which has a historical and socio-cultural context, determines the definition of "child." According to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, "any person who has not reached the age of eighteen unless a different age of maturity is specified in any country's law, applicable to the child" is considered a "child." Several ILO Conventions address the topic of "minimum age for admission to employment." Article 2 of ILO Convention No. 182 states that anyone under the age of eighteen is considered a "child." No child under the age of 14 may work in a factory, mine, or hazardous job, according to Article 24 of the Indian Constitution. The Constitution defines a child as 14 years old for the purposes of free and compulsory education. The Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Amendment Bill, which was approved by Parliament on July 22, 2016, forbids the employment of minors under the age of 14 and adolescents between the ages of 14 and 18 in jobs or processes that pose a risk

(Ellina Samantroy Helen R. Sekar Sanjib Pradhan 2015).

Socioeconomic circumstances are a major factor in the emergence of child labor. Child labor does not lessen poverty; rather, it feeds the cycle of poverty from generation to generation. It is generally accepted that low incomes, poverty, unemployment, social life, illiteracy, and ignorance are the main causes of child labor. It is not the child child child child child child labor. Census data is used to provide statistics on children who work exclusively in the organized sector. It doesn't give a true picture of how many kids work in the unorganized market in the nation. According to the 2001 census, the proportion of child laborers in India's total population dropped from 6.73 in 1991 to 5.35 in 2001. The crucial point is that child labor is becoming more common in Karnataka and India, regardless of the precise number. The state has a high rate of child labor in both rural and urban areas. The great majority of child laborers are found in rural areas. Child labor is recognized as a harsh reality that defies all laws, rules, facts, and indicators. It is widely acknowledged that there is little evidence linking child labor, poverty, and illiteracy. Child labor is a reflection of a social curse. In many parts of the world, child labor is still a major problem. Approximately 60% of the 215 million boys and girls in the world were thought to be child laborers in 2008. Agriculture was the sector with the highest level of engagement, followed by fisheries, aquaculture, livestock, and forestry. Many of these kids work in dangerous jobs or engage in harmful activities in addition to jobs that interfere with their education and hinder their personal growth (ILO 2011). Today's youth will be tomorrow's leaders, upholding the nation's honor and flag. Following India's industrialization and urbanization, children were employed in a variety of dangerous jobs. In India, children are employed in both organized and unorganized industries, including matchboxing, construction, mechanical work, road construction, hotels, planting, agriculture, brick kilning, transportation centers, bidi, cigarettes, canteen, dhabas, carpet weaving, and other small-scale industries.

Millions of children's futures are shut down by the child labor issue, which also restricts their chances for development. Since child labor is a symptom of the disease that is spread at various levels, it cannot be considered in isolation. It must be admitted that the issue cannot be resolved by legislation alone. It demands a multifaceted strategy, with the primary dimensions being economic, educational, and legal.



Economic factors responsible for child labour in India

1. Among the main causes of child labor, poverty comes in second. Most children who work come from low-income, landless, or semi-landless families whose income is not enough to support the family.

2. Child labor is even more common in Scheduled Caste communities and in agriculture and related fields.

3. The socioeconomic pressures placed on parents and guardians also have a responsibility to make the system of child labor viable. The following actions should be taken in India to end child labor: (a). Eliminating the suffering of the masses is crucial to lessening the evil of child labor. (b) Parents and guardians must adopt a more positive mindset. They must think that child labor is ultimately detrimental to the family.

Education for all is the ultimate goal of social progress. Our children continued to become child laborers as a result of the ongoing population growth, inadequate and inadequate educational facilities, and people's struggles. In order to prevent child labor, better and adequate educational facilities must be made available. Fertility control must be ensured by the introduction of family planning and appropriate medical facilities. Seven years of education reduces child mortality and delays marriage by three to five years, according to studies. The following actions should be taken in the area of education.

(A) All children under the age of 14 should have their primary education made mandatory. (B) Training in the development of skills pertinent to the demands of the economy should be part of the primary education curriculum. (C) Cooperation and raising awareness among the exploited children themselves are crucial. (D) School axing and night classes in accordance with the agricultural cycle. (E) In order to improve the retention of girls in school, the continuous emphasis on school enrollment, particularly for girls, should be implemented at the district level. Local resources can also be mobilized to plan midday meals. (F) The curriculum and school environment must be appealing and engaging. Initiatives like uniform medical facilities and the provision of books in all schools attended by underprivileged children should be implemented.

Causes of Child Labour in India

The ten main causes of child labor will be covered in detail in this article, along with our efforts at CRY India to address the problem.

1. Economic Pressures on Families

Child labor may be used by families under financial strain from unemployment, underemployment, or growing debt as a way to augment their meager income. This is frequently a tragic decision made out of extreme desperation.

By linking parents with MNREGA employment opportunities and other social welfare programs, CRY India aims to end this cycle. By empowering parents to increase their financial security, we hope to lessen their reliance on child labor.

2. Poverty

The primary cause of child labor in India is poverty. Poverty-stricken families frequently have no choice but to rely on their children's labor to make ends meet. Child labor is viewed by parents who are unable to provide basic needs like clothing, food, and shelter as a way to make ends meet. At CRY India, we recognize that reducing poverty is essential to addressing the root causes of child labor in India. Our initiatives aim to raise parents' awareness of the value of education and how it can improve their children's future employment prospects.

3. Lack of Child Labor Awareness

The issue is sustained by a lack of knowledge about the negative consequences of child labor. The emotional, psychological, and physical toll that child labor has on children may not be fully understood by some families. The awareness campaigns run by CRY India are vital in informing communities about



the negative effects of child labor. We educate families, communities, and legislators about the significance of ending child labor through workshops, seminars, and awareness campaigns.

4. Lack of Quality Education

One major obstacle to ending the cycle of child labor is the lack of high-quality education. In India, a large number of children lack access to adequate education, or if they do, it may be of poor quality. Children are more likely to join the workforce early if they cannot access high-quality education. At CRY India, we think that the secret to changing people's lives is education. We put forth endless effort to guarantee that every child has access to high-quality education, inspiring them to dream big by assisting them in obtaining government benefits like educational materials and scholarships.

5. Conflicts and Mass Migration

Whether brought on by internal conflict, natural disasters, or economic instability, conflict situations and mass migrations upend families and expose kids to the harsh realities of labor. Children frequently find themselves without an adequate support system in such circumstances. With the goal of helping children rebuild their lives, CRY India actively supports children in conflict-affected areas and during mass migrations by giving them access to education, counseling, and necessary services.

6. Natural Disasters and Climate Change

Marginalized communities are disproportionately affected by natural disasters, such as droughts, floods, and other climate-related occurrences. Children are forced into labor to support their families when environmental factors cause families to lose their means of subsistence.

7. Demand for Cheap Labour

Child labor is sustained by the need for inexpensive labor in a number of industries, including manufacturing, domestic work, and agriculture. Children who are frequently ignorant of their rights or incapable of defending themselves may be exploited by employers looking to reduce expenses.

8. Lure of Cheap Labour

Adolescent children are sometimes attracted to the workforce because they believe it provides them with a chance to make money, and they may be tempted by the idea of becoming independent. Through children's collectives, CRY India hopes to empower kids to make wise decisions about their future. We make sure they are not drawn into exploitative labor by giving them the education and skills they need to find fulfilling, long-term employment in the future.

9. Gender Disparities

Due to the fact that girls in particular frequently experience discrimination and are more likely to perform unpaid domestic work, gender disparities play a major role in child labor. They are deprived of the chance to enjoy childhood and obtain an education as a result. By promoting equal opportunities for boys and girls, empowering girls through education, and building a more equitable society for all, CRY India is dedicated to addressing gender disparities.

10. Lack of Stringent Legislation

Child labor is made possible by lax or ineffectively enforced laws. India has made strides in passing legislation to stop child labor, but there are still gaps and sometimes lax enforcement. In order to guarantee that the legal framework is strong and all-encompassing, leaving no opportunity for exploitation, CRY India actively promotes stronger legislation and actively participates in policy discussions.

Social Mobilisation and Awareness Raising Activities

1. Those who are directly affected by the issue—children, parents, law enforcement, employers, and societies at large—need to change their perspectives. The stage would have been set to end child labor once society acknowledged that it was a problem. Raising awareness of child labor is a crucial issue that this component would address.



2. The national Social Mobilization and Communication Strategy would be developed by the Central Government.
3. The district project society has access to funds under the "Awareness Generation" head. For the project, communication materials must be created. The project's social mobilization component would be operationalized at the district level by the project director and the team. The District Project office should draft an implementation plan for the district, and the District Project Society should approve it. Planning events, assigning duties for each activity, and establishing a monitoring strategy should all receive special attention. The villages and wards with a high rate of child labor should be the focus of the plan's preparation.
4. The District Project Society Chairperson may assign the District Information and Public Relations Officer (DI&PRO) the task of carrying out a mass media campaign. Public awareness and group motivation.
5. DM and NGOs that manage VT programs and Special Training centers ought to be involved in outreach initiatives. This entails setting up meetings with special groups, including corporators, lawyers, police, trade union leaders, panchayat members, and individuals with community influence. The meetings are intended to raise awareness of the problem and foster community ownership and involvement among district leaders. The meeting's decisions regarding follow-up activities should be carried out according to schedule.

Conclusion:

As a result, thousands of impoverished children are compelled to work in hazardous and subpar conditions in order to make ends meet, while we are busy on the one hand with ensuring the best human rights, living conditions, social justice, and development on the other, kneeling with object poverty, illiteracy, poor health, and misery of life. Their rights to life, health, food, education, and a loving upbringing are still unfulfilled. Therefore, both at the federal and state levels, the issue of child labor require immediate and serious attention. One of the key causes of this issue is poverty. Therefore, it cannot be resolved by enforcement alone. The rehabilitation of these kids and the improvement of their families' financial circumstances have received a lot of attention from the government.

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