

## Child Labour as an Obstacles in the Development of India

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### *Abstract:*

*Child Labour is defined as the paid or unpaid employment of children below the age 14 years, in various types of working areas such as factories (Cracker manufacturing, diamond polishing, carpet weaving) and other businesses. In the world, a large number of children are engaged in this activities which are classified as work. Now these days, child labour has become a complex and controversial issue. According to the annual report, India has a risk of child laboring. There are many factors such as poverty, migration etc. due to which children are forced to work. A large group of children are engaged in hazardous work. The employers put the children on work for many hours with less income. In order to reduce this problem, Government and other social rehabilitation centers play a vital role by starting many programs. This paper represents the types and causes of the child labour. And also discussed the condition of India regarding the child labour.*

**Keywords:** Migration, Causes, Hazardous work, Child Labour

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## Introduction

In under developed and developing countries, a social problem, child labour has a great magnitude compare to other problems with the development of human beings. The children of today will be the citizen of tomorrow on who's the development and growth of country depends completely. From the support of society, family and state, the children can grow with adequate skills and knowledge that are necessary for the growth and development of child as well as the nation. In developed and developing countries, government have shown the concern for the needs and vulnerabilities of children and young people (Gupta, 2015)

Depending upon the social, economic, environmental or physical postulates, the definition and concept of child labour varies in which the paid or unpaid children employs are engaged in an industries and business. According to International Labour Organization, "child labour is often defined as work that deprives children of their childhood, their potential and their dignity, and that is harmful to physical and mental development".

## Types of Child Labour

The child labour is categorized according to the sector in which child works. These are as follows:

1. **Child Labour:** In many sectors such as factories, workshops, establishment mines and domestic, the children work as a paid or unpaid employ. According to the ministry of labour, Government of India, Child Labour is defined as the hazardous work is done by the children. Those children who are not doing hazardous work are not come under child labour category, only said 'child work'.
2. **Street Labour:** The street child are those who live on and off the street and work as shoeshine boys, rag-pickers, newspaper vendors, baggars etc. In child labour, most of the children have some sort of house, they go to home in evening or at night. While street children do not have any home to live. They survive on the pavements, in the bus station and railway stations.
3. **Bonded Labour:** Some children are pledged by their parents for the money or inherited debts of their fathers. These children cannot escape, if they are brought by carpet owner.
4. **Working children:** Those children who works as a family labour in agriculture or home based work. These children are similar

to those children who work for other employers if they work 12-14 hours per day with their parents at the cost of their education. This categories is very large in which children work full time. The percentage of girl is very high who works at the cost of education.

5. **Sexual exploitation of children:** From the social and economic background, the sexual appetites of men are completed by girls and boys. There are numerous link between the commercial sexual exploitation of children and other forms of exploitative child labor. Abusive activities by the employers either as perpetrators or intermediaries cannot be stopped by the children as they are powerless.
6. **Migrant Children:** Many families are being forced to leave their homes due to which drop out of school take places. Migrated children are certainly used as a worker. These migrated labour are generally work in the industrial and agro- industrial sectors like brick-making, salt manufacture, sugar cane harvesting, stone quarrying, construction, fisheries, plantations, and rice mills.
7. **Household activities:** Other than those children who are engaged in bonded or street labour, there are many children who work in their own house in taking care of younger sibling, cleaning and other household activities because of the economic problems. They are seen as a labour force as one of category of child labour if they are not sent to school (Nagar and Roy, 2015)

## Reason behind the Child Labour

There are three main cause which force for the child labour. These are as follows:

1. **Primary Causes:** According to International Labour Organization, Poverty is major cause of child labour as the income from the child's work is sufficient for his/her survival. Other alternatives such as affordable schools and quality education also the major factors that force the children to harmful labour. In many areas where approximate 60 to 70% child labour is dominant because of the no adequate school facilities. If school are available, they are very far away.
2. **Cultural Causes:** The child labour was very common in European history as the child laboring is encouraged by the certain

cultures. According to these culture, children follow their parents and learn the trade in very early age. In the same way, many cultures have an issue about the education of girls. They think, there is no need of formal schooling to girls and only domestic services are enough for them. 70% of the world's child labour are engaged in agriculture field.

3. **Macroeconomic Cause:** It is a factor that encourage for the child labour. In five countries; India, Pakistan, Indonesia, Thailand and Philippines, child labour is a serious problem. Both demand and supply side are the cause of child laboring. The supply side is defined in the term of poverty and unavailability of good schools while the demand side cause is the growth of low paying informal economy compare to the high paying formal economy.

There are some other cause for child laboring:

4. Increment in the income of poor family
5. Production organization has reduced the labor cost.

(Parvathamma, 2015)

### Child Labour in India

The child labour is still a major problem in which one child out five children below the age of 14 years is engaged in the some kind of labour work. That means 20% children of the country are labourer. There are the places such as textile factories, dhabas (roadside restaurants) and hotels, or as domestic workers where large number of children work. According to law, below 14 year of age, there should not be child laboring but there is no work on the rule. Many children are forced to work and earned money for their families. According to the global report by International Labour Organization in 2015 was as the child labour in the age group 5 to 14 years is 5.1 percent in America, is very low in the world. While in Asia, 18.8 % the activity rate of children in India (Mandlik and Kalkar, 2015).

### Child Labour Act

In consideration of child labour, the government made a law in 1986 called child labour act. It was the result of efforts and ideas that was generated from the various committees child labour. The main objective of this act, 1986 is to ban the children employment below the age of 14 years in factories, mines and hazardous employments. It also regulates the working

condition of children in other employment (Barman and Barman, 2014)

### Review of Literature

**Barman and Barman (2014)** stated on the basis of their study that there are many causes of increasing the child labour and they gave suggestions to reduce the child laboring as: compulsory education to children, to prevent the poverty from our society, identification of families below poverty level (BPL) and help them, government programs and also need to identify the all hazardous sectors and prevent the child labour in that working places.

**Limaye and Pande (2014)** stated that the child labour can be eradicated from India by National plan for children 2005. The goal of this plan are as follows: Firstly, elimination of children from hazardous occupation and another is to protect the children from the economic exploitation.

**According to Gupta (2015)**, the labour force have been removed at very extent by the efforts of Government. They consider that no employers should permit the child as an employ. Parents should not allowed to keep their children out of school as poverty does not matter. Still, there is a requirement of enforcing various existing laws on child labour in India.

**Shrimali and Farmer (2015)** studied the condition of child labour in state 'Gujarat'. In Dhokla and Ahmedabad city, the adult workers are very expensive due to which the employers target to young children. They make profit by paying very less amount to those children. By the government rules and laws, signs of progress are clear but in the global response, there is also a disconcerting gap. There is a need of stronger involvement of social partners in the development of National Action Plans and corporate social responsibilities.

**Mandlik and kalkar (2015)** discussed the problem related to child labour. There are various factors and forms which are involved in the child labour in India. Against these, Indian Government started a various protective policies and number of child labour projects that helps the children to eject out from the hazardous occupation and provide education. The awareness among the every citizen can stop the child labour by which better development of country can be done. By the implementation of Government function effectively with the support of public can control the child laboring.

**Nagar and Roy (2015)** concluded on the basis of their analysis that the child labour is one third of Asia and one fourth of the world found in India. Now, Indian

Government has taken action to reduce the number of child workers and providing the education to them. Due to law governed by Government, there is a decline in the percentage of child labour. According to them 85% child labour are in rural areas while only 15% in urban areas.

**Parvathamma (2015)** proposed that the proactive steps has been taken by the Government to tackle the child labour problems. A regular inspection is conducted with the raid for the detection of violent cases by the state governments. According to them, poverty is a root cause for the laboring of child. For improving the economy of families and the children's condition, a lot of efforts has been given by the Government.

### Conclusion

Child Labour is also called the child working population with the age of 14 years children. In the world, India is a most risky country that have a high child working population. This paper concludes from the review of other that the child labour is a major obstacle in the growth and development of country because of poverty. To tackle this child labour problem, government has been made a law 'child Labour act'. According to this act, below the age of 14 years, there should not be any child labour. If any put the child as a labour, they will be punished for breaking the laws. Government are trying to eject the engaged children from hazardous work and proving the education. In spite of the law, there are many places where child labour is seen. So, there is a need of awareness by the public to stop the child laboring in their areas.



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