

Child Labour Is A Denial Of Human Development: An Analysis

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Abstract

Child labour is a serious problem not just in India but in other developing nations since it harms a child's physical and mental development. Numerous laws have been passed to forbid child labour, but they haven't been successful in putting a stop to the issue. Poverty and Child Labour are linked together, which robs children of their childhood and dignity while also harming their health, education, and, most significantly, their development potential. It is plainly at odds with the notion of human development, which focuses directly on the advancement of human lives and well-being, and is assessed using three criteria: economic well-being, education, and health. Childhood is an important and sensitive stage in human development because it has the possibility for future advancement in every civilization. Every developing or encircling country connects its future to the position of its children. Several interrelated elements impact the risk of Child Labour.

Keywords: Child labour, Barrier, Poverty, Development.

INTRODUCTION

The fact that children work with their peers more often than they play with them in social contexts has an effect on how they develop socially. Additionally harmed are school-age youngsters. Children who work have a higher likelihood of engaging in harmful social behaviours, including substance misuse and aggression (Bala, 2017). Child labour is prevalent throughout a wide range of industries, including manufacturing, domestic work, mining, and agriculture. Due to a number of causes, including migration, emergencies, a lack of available decent jobs, and poverty which is recognized to have the greatest impact children are driven into child labour. The psychological impacts of child labour can cause lifelong traumas and are frequently just as serious as the physical ones. Children who are affected may develop mental illnesses, including despair, guilt, anxiety, loss of confidence, and hopelessness as they age. Poverty, parental illiteracy, and the social and

economic circumstances of the family are the key contributors to Child Labour. Lack of awareness of Child Labour's harmful effects, access to basic and high-quality education, family culture, and the surroundings of the society in which one lives all contribute to the prevalence of Child labour. High rates of both underemployment and unemployment have a significant impact on child labour (David Osher, 2020).

Children who stop attending school because of family debt or who are expelled from school are more likely to work as children. Girls from socially excluded groups are more likely to be subjected to child labour laws. India is a low-income country with one of the world's fastest-growing economies. Despite economic progress, the country maintains the highest infant and child mortality, with large disparities in child death within and within states (David Osher, 2020). The Indian government has established a number of legislations in recent decades to combat Child labour. These laws

include “the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Amendment Act of 2016” and “the Bonded Labour (Abolishment System) Act of 1976.” The Supreme Court of India, as the country's highest court, has been entrusted with a crucial duty as a Constitutional protector. Since the late 1980s, the Ministry of Labour and Employment has also carried out various initiatives to rehabilitate child labourers (Maughan, 2020).

Child labour is a stumbling block to a Child's Development: Children who work are more likely to grow up feeling lonely and unhappy, which hinders them from developing healthy emotions and can cause a number of physical issues. They are more likely to develop developmental disorders as a result of the significant health hazards associated with hazardous employment conditions and engaging in physically demanding activities beyond their capabilities (Kumar, 2021). When children do not spend enough time with peers of the same age or even family members, Child Labour has an effect on the development of their social skills as a whole. When children do not spend enough time with peers of the same age or even family members, Child Labour has an effect on the development of their general social life (K., 2021).

For children to thrive and feel protected, they need close, quality interactions with adults. Children who work long hours, even part-time, are unable to develop these relationships as they should, which results in anxious adults who are more prone to emotional issues. The groundwork for lifetime learning, behaviour, and health is laid early in childhood. Life experiences have an impact on a child's brain development as well as their capacity for learning, interacting with others, and overcoming challenges on a daily basis. It has long been a concern, especially in developing and underdeveloped countries with minimal resources (Partha De, 2019).

Society and household poverty, parental loss or incapacity, a lack of social security and

protection, and a lack of understanding of the importance of, or restricted access to, education are all variables that contribute to children's labour involvement. Child labour is a hindrance, not just to individual children's development, but also to society and economic progress (Monika, 2021). According to global estimates, one in ten children on the earth, or 152 million youngsters, work as Child Labourers (64 million girls and 88 million boys). Compared to other countries, India has a higher rate of Child Labour, with about 10 million youngsters either actively working to seek jobs (Ronak Paul, 2020).

Child labour is a complicated issue that affects children's psychophysical development and infringes on their fundamental rights. It compromises a child's physical and mental development by robbing them of their youth, potential, and dignity (Kumar, 2021). Additionally, it forces children to leave school early and denies them the opportunity to go to class, resulting in dropout, or forces them to study and work to support their family, resulting in weariness and poor health, particularly among female children. Another study revealed the seriousness of health problems for children pushed into child labour, whose developmental well-being remained a major concern (Banupriya, 2019). Children who use tobacco and other similar products run the danger of developing serious health problems, such as nicotine toxicity. Children under the age of 14 dying in fire incidents have recently prompted unrest and protests that have led to the regulation of pyrotechnics manufacturing. Small-scale industries like fireworks and matches employ a disproportionately high number of children (Kiran Mor, 2021).

Children working in hazardous places, such as garbage dumps, are susceptible to ailments including disorders, respiratory allergies, gastroenteritis, typhoid, vomiting, diarrhoea, and skin cholera. Children die young due to a lack of financial resources to pay for

costly therapy. Every year, around 22,000 children die as a result of hazardous working circumstances, however, the majority of children are inexperienced labourers (Partha De, 2019). The most common reason for a youngster to work is to contribute to the family's financial stability. This is particularly true in immigrant neighbourhoods where parents may not be employed or only qualified for a lowest-paying jobs. The majority of children in developing nations work in order to support their families, according to the theory that Child Labour benefits the family (Maughan, 2020).

Children believe themselves to be members of the family, the vast majority of them agree to help with household chores, especially when the family's existence is in jeopardy. Another theory is that children are pushed to work due to family dynamics, with parental education and employment also contributing to child labour (David Osher, 2020). The better educated their children are, the less likely their parents, particularly women, are to allow them to work. The most common cause is a child fleeing domestic abuse and seeking work away from home (Kiran Mor, 2021).

The price of raising Children in a developing nation: Due to low time and financial costs, raising children in poor nations is far less expensive than in advanced industrial nations. Both housing and the necessities of raising children are cheap. In more economically remote areas where market processes are less developed and transportation costs are higher, child-rearing inputs like food, clothing, and shelter are locally produced and very affordable (Simone Ghislandi, 2018). The time cost to parents includes the cost of raising children as well as the worth of a mother's time. The opportunity cost of having a child grows, owing to the mother's lost wage and free time, as well as the loss of the potential to further her education (Sunil Bhopal, 2019).

A lack of human capital and, as a result, a lack of adult income, especially for girls, characterises a low level of development. A positive link between income and fertility may define an economy in its early stages of growth. The low opportunity cost of having a child and the low financial cost of child-rearing inputs, particularly when children are actively participating in the economy, maintain a high reproduction rate. The favourable association between income and fertility can characterise an economy in its early stages of growth. Children, as was previously mentioned, perform domestic responsibilities, can work in the market or at home, and act as a barrier against future impairments (Sibnath Deb, 2022).

The total fertility rate may be higher when children's time is economically valued since their net cost is lower than when their earning potential is constrained. Children have low net cost, and when combined with high kid productivity, cheap child care expenditures may lead to large family sizes. At this stage of development, raising children has a significant financial cost. While children are consumer goods, we think they have got worth that their parents may benefit from (Bharat Hazari, 2021). We predict the net cost of children to be negative at a low level of development. Children are both consumer and producer durables, which means they earn money or provide labour for their families, and the cost of rearing children might be minimal. Poverty and increased child employment effectiveness maintain a steady supply of children in the labour market, which raises the cost of children's education (Sourav Chakraborty N. J., 2021).

Child Labour Incidents Data for India: There are 218 million children aged 5 to 17 years old in the world. 152 million of them are victims of child labour, with over half of them (73 million) working in dangerous conditions. Africa accounts for about half of all Child labour (72.1 million), with 62.1 million in Asia and the Pacific, 10.7 million in the Americas,

1.2 million in Arab countries, and 5.5 million in Europe and Central Asia (Kiran Mor, 2021).

Only 25% of cases where a breach of the Child Labour Act was registered between 2015 and 2018 were successful in obtaining a conviction. In February 2019, the research found that in the previous four years, 10,826 incidents of Child Labour violations had been registered across the country. Only 56 % of the cases (6,032) reached the point of prosecution. Odisha had the highest number of breaches (4,517), accounting for roughly 42% of the national total. This was followed by Uttar Pradesh (1,416), Telangana (747), Punjab (898), and Gujarat (422) (Ch. Rajaramreddy, 2021).

According to the 2011 census, over 80% of children under the age of 14 who are involved in Child Labour live in rural regions. According to the 2011 Census, “53.69 lakh”

children aged “5 to 14” worked as agricultural labourers and farmers in India. The total number of Child Labour was projected to be approximate “1.3 crores” (marginal and major employees combined). In a report on Child Labour in India, ILO said that roughly 4% of India's child population “5-14 years” is engaged in Child Labour (either main worker or marginal worker) (Bharat Hazari, 2021).

METHOD

The methodology adopted in this research paper is based on the Quantitative Approach. Empirical work is conducted through the ‘Survey Method.’ A total sample of 100 respondents is selected.

RESULTS

The collected data from these respondents are analyzed below tables:

Table 1: Linked between Poverty and Child Labour

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Pressure of Parents	18	18.0	18.0	18.0
	Poor Families Conditions	20	20.0	20.0	38.0
	Illiteracy of Parents	14	14.0	14.0	52.0
	All the above	48	48.0	48.0	100.0
	Total	100	100.0	100.0	

Source: Data is collected through Survey

It explains the link between Child Labour and poverty. 15.71 % of parents and 18.57 % of children agreed that parents pressure their child to work as slaves; 10 % agreed that parental illiteracy is also a factor; and 55.71 % agreed that all available opinions contribute to Child

Labour in low-income families. Low-income families are also forced to work to meet their basic needs. Major facts concerning children living in poverty and encouraging labour were analyzed through data.

Table 2: Academic performance of Child Labour between the aged 6-14

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Read-only	19	19.0	19.0	19.0
	Write only	22	22.0	22.0	41.0
	Read and write both	15	15.0	15.0	56.0
	Cannot read and write	44	44.0	44.0	100.0
	Total	100	100.0	100.0	

Source: Data is collected through Survey

It is based on the academic performance of children. To analyze our nation's level of education, general tests were conducted on students aged 6 to 14. Questions based on students' basic reading and writing skills. Only 35% of students out of 75 have the proper skill

of reading and writing, and 19% do not know how to read and write. Children's parents do not concentrate on their children's overall well-being. They are not willing to refuse to send their children to school.

Table 3: Child Labour exist mostly in

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Formal sectors (Factories, Mines, Brick Kilns etc.)	26	26.0	26.0	26.0
	Informal Sectors (Shops, Tea Stall, Dhabas etc.)	37	37.0	37.0	63.0
	Both of them	37	37.0	37.0	100.0
	Total	100	100.0	100.0	

Source: Data is collected through Survey

It is based on areas where Child Labour exist mostly. 26 % of respondents agreed on Formal Sectors (Factories, Mines, Brick industry etc.), 37% of respondents agreed on Informal sectors, and 37 % of respondents agreed on both

statements. Children works openly in both in formal and informal sectors without any kind of restrictions. There is not fix time for their work. They work for unlimited time under vulnerable conditions.

Table 4: Consequences of Child Labour

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Social Development	18	18.0	18.0	18.0
	Psychological Harm	20	20.0	20.0	38.0
	Physical Growth	9	9.0	9.0	47.0
	Study Loss	9	9.0	9.0	56.0
	All of the above-mentioned	44	44.0	44.0	100.0
	Total	100	100.0	100.0	

Source: Data is collected through Survey

It analyses the consequences of Child Labour. 18 % of respondents agreed on Social Development, 20 % of respondents agreed on Psychological Harm, 9 % the respondents, Physical Growth, 9 % of respondents agreed on

Study Loss, and 44 % the respondents agreed with all statements. Children doing their works constantly without a break because there are no regulations for their work in India which consequences, they become a victim of

dangerous diseases which is a barrier in their growth and development.

Table 5: Children protect from Child Labour

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Poverty Reduction	14	14.0	14.0	14.0
	Improve Education System	12	12.0	12.0	26.0
	Social Protection	18	18.0	18.0	44.0
	Strict Implementation of Child Welfare Laws	10	10.0	10.0	54.0
	All of the above-mentioned	46	46.0	46.0	100.0
	Total	100	100.0	100.0	

Source: Data is collected through Survey

It contained the ways in which Children protect from Child Labour. 14 % of the respondents agreed on Poverty Reduction, 12 % of respondents agreed on improving the Education system, 18 % of the respondents agreed on the Strict implementation of child welfare laws, and 46 % of the respondents agreed on all the statements. All the solution in the hand of government to curb this issue. There is need of proper strategy for rehabilitation of children for their study and food. Need to provide jobs to their parents so that children not compel to indulge in labour.

DISCUSSION

The issue is universal, but it is particularly critical in our instance. Poverty and Child Labour have a symbiotic relationship. There is a cause-and-effect link between them. They live in poverty for the remainder of their lives, and they become child labourers because they are impoverished. For many years, the main cause of Child Labour was poverty. Since most rural families struggle to make ends meet due to their extreme poverty, when their youngsters reach a certain age, they are sent to factories or other places where they can work and support the family. The majority of families lack the resources to send their children to schools

where they can get a good education. This destroys their youth and prevents them from receiving an education.

We may live our lives in accordance with our principles and express ourselves freely thanks to education, which provides us with a clear path to follow. It enables us to think clearly and logically by releasing us from our preconceptions. For child mental and cognitive development, it is necessary. The level of literacy in a country affects its economy and financial health. Poor children have a negative perception of their academic abilities, are less likely to think that their grades count in the real world, and are more likely to exhibit hyperactivity, behavioural disorders, and peer issues. According to the teachers, parents do not trust that education can give their children a brighter future. This is how a lack of excellent education has negatively influenced parents' mindsets.

Children who mix labour and education are more likely to work within their own families, whereas those who work but are not in school are more likely to work for pay. The families of the children are illiterate, and as a result, they do not recognize or understand the value of education. They think that education

won't help them and that the only thing that would make a difference in their lives is hard work. This constrained frame of thinking encourages Child Labour and denies young children their rights. It's possible that people in rural areas do not view education as a necessary quality. Additionally, there aren't many educational facilities nearby, which makes it more challenging for these children to complete their education.

The reduction of Child Labour can also be aided by raising public awareness of its illegality. To combat Child Labour, we need to ensure that laws are properly implemented, with strong penalties for vendors, shopkeepers, and mill owners who hire minors for low salaries. The government has taken aggressive efforts to address the problem, enforcing statutory rules while also implementing rehabilitative initiatives. The competent implementing authorities, the state governments, have been undertaking frequent inspections and raids to discover incidents of breaches. Despite efforts to expand social protection, universality and the sufficiency of benefits remain in short supply in all areas. In many circumstances, social protection affects whether or not a family uses child labour.

Child labour is also a result of administrative ineptitude. The poorest families are the most negatively impacted, as receiving an education for their children is a pipe dream for them. Children can develop long-term health problems if they work in places like mines or factories with insufficient ventilation. Bullying, sexual exploitation, and long working hours all have the potential to harm these children's mental well-being. They don't have the chance to grow physically, intellectually, emotionally, or mentally. It causes health problems leading to inadequate labour conditions and starvation. Children's bodies are not built for extended periods of strenuous work since they become fatigued faster than adults do. This damages their physical health and increases their susceptibility to disease.

The government should also establish a commission to look into labour conditions at various mines and businesses where young people may be exploited by employers. Government must penalize people who support Child labour harshly. Additional factory owners and people who use child labour will be compelled to follow the law once the government starts taking punitive actions. The police in every state must be vigilant and regularly check for crimes against minors, especially those that take place in industries and other dangerous environments. The most important thing is that educated adults are aware of how Child Labour negatively affects society.

Working children do not receive the education they require. Child labour in India will have long-term ramifications for the country. A well-educated workforce with the necessary skills to meet the demands of various industries is a crucial component of a flourishing economy. In India, today's young labourers will be tomorrow's human capital. Without a doubt, child labour has a detrimental influence on human capital development. Administrative ineptness is also a cause of child labour. The poorest families are the most negatively impacted, as receiving an education for their children is a pipe dream for them. Working children do not have time to attend school. Due to their lack of education and illiteracy, they have limited employment opportunities.

Children who are impacted are still more prone to create a variety of chronic illnesses as adults and have a minimum lifespan. There are definite connections between poverty and the type of family a child grows up in that are partly but not totally dependent on income. It has been demonstrated that a variety of family-oriented initiatives, such as boosting parent involvement in the lives of their children and giving low-income access to relationship counselling, can help reduce poverty.

Major causes for the widespread use of child labour are extreme poverty, a lack of opportunities for productive employment, economic insecurity, and low living conditions. To reduce Child Labour, children must be made aware of their rights, which include the freedom from working in hazardous occupations and the right to free education. It will be easier to save the children from being exploited and to stop more kids from working at such a young age if more people are aware of the issue. The government should set up a commission to inform and help these parents understand the value of education in life and the harmful impacts of Child Labour on children.

Gender inequality has been a major societal issue in India for decades, and it is still a problem in the twenty-first century. Patriarchal norms obstruct many females' aspirations to obtain a respectable education, medical attention, and a broad grasp of their health. Discrimination is deeply established in India and has been practised for generations, demanding long-term support, which we have been providing to underserved communities. The teachers' disappearance was scarcely noted. Due to patriarchal norms, many girls are unable to pursue their goals of acquiring a respected education, medical attention, and a fundamental understanding of their health.

CONCLUSION

Karl Menninger said, "What's done to children, they will do to society." Every nation's future is intrinsically related to its children's current situation. These are only a handful of numerous child development options available. In truth, understanding how new-borns change and grow during infancy necessitates taking into consideration a wide range of psychological elements. Even though it is becoming less common, children continue to work in large numbers and for longer periods than is appropriate in this age of globalisation and luxury. Some families have resorted to utilising their children as child labour to boost their income to survive the economic crisis. This

issue has thwarted efforts to create human capital, resulting in an increase in juvenile delinquency and the perpetuation of the poverty cycle. Children who grow up in an environment that nurtures their mental, physical, and social well-being become good and -responsible residents.

Child Labour exploitation is still a burning topic in India. The sickness is expanding day by day, and we need to develop an appropriate and effective strategy to combat it. The Indian government should establish a separate framework for the effective execution of education policy in the country. The current government's education program is unsatisfactory and insufficient to meet their economic needs. Parents' irresponsible behaviour encourages children to labour, which is one of the threats to their socioeconomic status. Various groups working in the areas of Child Labour, child rights violations, and child abuse are working to safeguard and eradicate these issues, and parents of children are becoming more conscious that transient gain is not beneficial to their family. The government, with the support of NGOs, will make efforts in the areas of small family standards, compulsory schooling, and so on.

SUGGESTIONS

1. Child Labour legislation that is strictly enforced, as well as practical and healthful alternatives to replace this atrocity, can go a long way toward solving the problem.
2. During their free time, child workers should be given training and education.
3. To keep children out of the workforce, literacy and awareness programs are being organized. Controlling population growth is essential for eradicating poverty, which is the root source of Child Labour difficulties.
4. Equal compensation for equal work is required of all industrialists, regardless of age, status, religion, or other factors. Affordably priced health treatments for all children in society.

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