

Child labour in India

Child labour in India is both rural and urban in nature. Approximately 90% of rural children work in agriculture and allied activities while the situation is no different in urban areas. This does not imply that the law encourages child labour. IN fact, our Constitution has made provisions to safeguard rights of children by way of making their education compulsory, prohibiting their employment in factories and forced labour prohibition.

The problem of child labour is getting more and more extensive every year. The reasons are many. Economic situation of the family, unemployment, urbanization, globalization, cultural pressures are some of these reasons.

What is Child Labour?

Apparently, child labour includes the employment of children but it entails several other dimensions which make it critical. Economic pressures coupled with the increasing trend to hire children in order to save production cost, unemployment in families are few of the various factors responsible for increasing child labour in India.

Earlier, participation of children in economic activities was just a matter of play; they were no given tough and firing tasks. However, industrialization has made them a commodity... Poor families give away their children towel off families which in turn use them as domestic labour. Sometimes these helpless children work as a mortgaged commodity until the debt taken by their fathers is received.

Responsible Factors for Child Labour

The Problems of child labour is directly linked with education and poverty. Unfortunately, the poverty alleviation programmes in most countries like India do not see the tracheotomy between these three, the vision of narrow. They do not analyze and link them with the broader context of economic or environment in families, poverty-related policies, and processes of liberalization, privatization and globalization. The exorbitant cost of education keeps many out of the school, thus increasing child labour. There is legal ambiguity in constitution of provisions of Article 24 and 25, which can be deliberately or inadvertently misuse, which tell about hazardous work. This gives a mute approval towards non-hazardous work.

Legal Provision and Child Labour

The International Labour Organization (ILO) has been playing a major role in

The Process of gradual elimination of child labour and to protect them from industrial exploitation. India, too has accepted the convention on the Rights of the Child included in the General Assembly on November 20, 1989. The Indian Constitution also provides for the development on the children n, *i.e.*, Article 45 mandates the state shall endeavor to provide free and compulsory education for all children until they complete 14 years of age. But the real contradiction lies in the provision of Article 24 and 45. Article 24 prohibits child labour, thus making it a qualified and not total prohibition.

Ways to Tackle the Problem

Every problem has some solution, so doe's child labour. Thus, the only need is to sit down, realize and analyze the various aspects thereby converging all these into some sort of viable strategy or strategies. Here can be some practical ways:

Raising Awareness: -Raising awareness among children and parents can go miles in tackling child labour. A well-thought strategy should be implemented to let parents know the initial needs of childhood development, government schemes of free education, health, etc. Women should be especially treated and educated because they can better realize their children's need.

Vocational Training

Vocational training is frequently popular among families which are susceptible to resort to child labour. While non-formal education programmes can teach children skills that will offer immediate economic options as well as psycho-social support, the most formal vocational programmes require close adult supervision.

Need for Rehabilitation Programmes

Child laborers undergo various types of ill-treatment-hidden or apparent. All this may be very traumatizing for them. Girls bear a special burden of poverty. Giving quality education to them is the first step. The needs and lifestyles of such children must be studied properly and then awareness campaign should be started.

Practically, child labour is indeed a difficult problem to address. This is so because ewe differs in approach and our thinking. While it suits us to discuss it with ease, in our drawing room, we find it fine to employ a child, as our domestic help or something else. This is what we will have to change, *i.e.* our mindset. Children labor should be denounced in all forms and

manifestations. This will demand more efforts from all sections of the society together with legislature, judiciary and execution. Modern day social activities will, especially, have to work towards bringing a change in the socio-economic set-up to help children in getting educated.