

A Menace of Child Labour in Indian Society: A Socio-Legal of Delhi NCR Region

Dr. Yudhvir Singh

Associate Professor

N.A.S. College, Meerut

Lovely Singh

Research Scholar

N.A.S. College, Meerut

Email: singhlovely1869@gmail.com

Abstract

Child labor is a rising crime that forces small children to do work in tea stalls, grocery shops, small industries, households etc. It is a national issue that is growing rapidly. The various causes are poverty, large families, negligence and lack of obedience, wrecked families, human trafficking, bad exposure at a young age, being part of gangs and drug peddlers etc. The government of India has amended the Child Labour Prohibition and Regulation Act in 2016, which restricted the hazardous Labour for children below the age of 18 years. The children are gradually initiated into the world of the adults. Earlier the children were involved in the urban especially in NCR areas of Delhi. The Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights (DCPCR) coordinates regular rescue operations. Legal action and punishment be reserved on employers for any fault in legal course. The parents shall be made to realize the importance of sending children to school for a better future. Feel the dignity of a child because the children are the most valuable natural resources. Child labor is really a menace social issue and needs to be resolved soon.

Keywords

Child Labour, NCR areas, Menace, Social-issue, Dignity.

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**Dr. Yudhvir Singh,
Lovely Singh**

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Introduction

Around the globe, millions of children are working under conditions that are detrimental to their education, health and moral development. International and Indian Law both prohibit the use of children as a labor. Child labor is a rising crime that forces small children to do work in tea stalls, grocery shops, small industries, households etc. Anyone doing Labour below the age of 14 years is considered to be a child Labour according to the Child Labour Regulation and Prohibition Act 1986. The Child Labour affects the growth and development of children in every aspect that is physically, socially and mentally. It is a national issue that is growing rapidly. So child labor is presume to be a temperament of social issue.

Childhood is right of every since birth which to be lived under the love and care of his parents, but this illegal act of child labor forces a child to live life like a grown-up. Children are the gifts of God. They are to be protected, nurtured, and older into a personality they would want to be and best for them. They are as delicate as a petal of a rose. If guided well they can lead the future. Children are the future of their parents and nation. They need to fall and learn to get up, they need to play, they need to fall and learn to determine up, and they need to enjoy being a kid. But with child labor, this all is just a dream of being a kid. But with child labor, this all is just a dream. The children are flames in the family and so their flame is equally important in the community, society and nation. So the children have to be taken into confidence and given their roof under the sky with lots of air and energy. Child labor is really a menace social – issue and needs to be resolved soon. The enactment of laws this can be done only if all the people from the parents to business organizations and government come all together. And the parents shall be made to realize the importance of sending children to school for a better future.

The worst form of child labor includes all forms of slavery (sale & trafficking, debt-bondage, serfdom, child soldiers), Child prostitution, and illicit activities in particular trafficking of drugs. Children work in closed conditions with poor ventilation. Prevalence of tuberculosis and nutritional deficiency is found in such children in higher range. The children in plastics, molding, crackers and gas-making concerns are vulnerable to risks. Child laborers die due to the violence of owners and pressure in small suffocating places as many lose lives or are left spoiled. This is why the children must be saved, and measures taken to curb the bad and foul intentions of small owners. The Supreme Court of India in December 1997 in the decision of *M.C. Mehta Vs the State of Tamil Nadu & other states*, said that the problem of child labor to persist here is not dearth of resources, but a lack of real

zeal. Let us all put our heads and efforts together and assist the child for the good and greater good of the country 1.

Causes of Child Labour

Child Labour is a concern for all mankind as this causes severe problems in the ecosystem and biodiversity. There are various factors and contours that cause this lapse in human evolution. The country is filled with human love and care through service and welfare to such an extent that still some gaps and lapses occur in a large country like India due to which this dilemma exists.

The community-level Judicial System has served the cause through some contributory measures such as urbanization, modernization, industrialization and resources. The various causes are poverty, large families, negligence and lack of obedience, wrecked families, Criminal background, Impact of movies and advertisements, Human trafficking, Bad exposure at a young age, Part of gangs and drug-peddlers and failures in school life.

Thus the child labor is a significant problem in India at the very beginning of the constitution. The Constitution of India clearly states that child labor is wrong and that measures should be taken to end it. The Government of India implemented the Child Labour Prohibition and Regulation Act, 1986 which outlaws child labor in retained areas and sets the minimum age of employment at fourteen. And further the Child Labour Prohibition and Regulation Act, of 2016, has restricted the hazardous Labour for child labor below the age of 18 years. The child is being socialized in a manner that prepares it for future tasks and lifestyles in a specific society. The light works, which do not pre-empt the other essential activities of children, can constitute a gradual initiation into adulthood and a positive element in the child's development. Many have argued that the work done by children on the farm, in the artisans shop orientation pretty trading has served as a form of apprenticeship, preparing them, better than any formal or informal school system could, for the income-generating profession in adulthood. And so the children were gradually initiated into the world of the adults.

The rights are enlightenment which has goals and obligations. It was in the 20th century that the concept of children's rights emerged. The Constitution of India ensures the rights and protection of children through its various provisions, such as Articles 14, 15 and under 21(A) free and compulsory education up to 14 years will help the child to develop himself or herself as a good citizen who will play an important role in the development of the nation. Child labor is a social evil as said under Article 39(e) and even under Article 24 it is mentioned that the employment

of children in factories to be prohibited. If the child is denied for their rights by their parents the State has to take strict measures for the well-being of the child as they are the future of the nation .

Social-Legal aspect of Delhi NCR

Now coming to the situation of the social-legal aspect of Delhi NCR , we have to go through the Gurupadaswamy committee formed in 1979, to study the problem of child labor as the changes occurred radically with the advent of industrialization and urbanization. Earlier the children were involved in agriculture work mostly in rural areas, but with the urbanization and industrialization the child labor increased in the urban especially in NCR areas of Delhi. The UNICEF has said , that the pandemic can potentially reverse the positive trends which were recorded in curbing child labor. Children who were previously not involved in home-based work may also be involved in the coming time . In Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights (DCPCR) is coordinating regular rescue operations, a number of measures have already been initiated by DCPCR such as tracking of rescued children, monitoring meetings of DTF (Delhi Task Force) for Rescue and rehabilitation of child laborers. The work done on these fronts is quite appreciable, however, the leniency and desultory attempts have shown the results are not fair enough .In view of the number of child labour such kind of attempts are not enough . The Commission also wants to ensure efficient utilization of the Child Labour Fund for the rehabilitation of the rescued children and helping in awareness generation on the menace of Child labor. Government data shows that 10% of Delhi's Children Are Out of School.

Delhi Action-Plan

On June 12, this year in 2024 on World Day Against Child Labour was celebrated under the theme, “Let’s Act on Our Commitments End Child Labour,” that gives focuses on collective action to eradicate child labor by governments employers, civil society’s and individuals. As Kailash Satyarthi says, “Children should have pens in their hands not tools”. Thus the Delhi Action Plan for Total Abolition of Child Labour works on two strategies The First strategy is an area-based approach to the elimination of child labor that will cover whether they are in school or out-of-school. The second strategy is to be adopted mainly in the context of migrant child laborers who were away from their families and had no linkage with the community. The various types of hazardous work for children under 18 years of age are all inclusively treated as forbidden .Legal action and punishment be reserved for employers for any fault in legal course . The unsafe and unhygienic

conditions are unsafe for children under all circumstances. The law must be enforced through the regulation reinforcement act. The criminal action must be initiated against the person violating the state of law. Though the Government has policy and rules regarding its control at the ground level but its enforcement is not seen.

Conclusion

The Nelson Mandela says, “There is no keener revelation of a society’s soul how it treats its children.” Thus the involvement of children in labour is a curse to society as it is a crime against humanity. Their potential is dug deep into the ground. Where they could be learning to dream, they are forced to labor. As Delhi NCR is a region that is developed and in which the rate of reduction is highly general and people are aware of the rights of a child. Then too child labour is seen in various areas of Delhi NCR. The various NGOs are working against child labor in Delhi. For this, the government has to take the initiative by increasing the employment for adults. Children are hopes. Feel the dignity of a child because the children are the most valuable natural resources.

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