

CHILD LABOUR A COURSE TO INDIAN SOCIETY: CASES RELATED TO DELHI NCR  
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### **Abstract**

*Every Nation developed or developing links its future with the status of child labor is a serious problem in developing countries. Child labor is a rising crime that forces small children to do paid work we often see young boys and girls working in tea stalls roadside restaurants grocery shops small industry households etc. Anyone doing labor below the age of 14 years is considered to be child labor. The wages given to the children are much less compared to the wages of adult laborers. These children are made to work for longer hours. Employing little boys and girls enables the employer not only to save money e but also to avoid labor unrest and other work-related demands. Laws in most countries forbid the practice of employing child laborers. But, as the number of poor people in our country is very large, the exploitation of children through the practice of child labor continues. They are made to work at a tender age when it is time for them to go to school and enjoy their childhood. The abolition of child labor will only be possible if the economic conditions of the poor families improve and the employment of adults from these families is ensured.*

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## **Introduction**

The practice of child labor in India is very old. It has been in existence since time immemorial in one form or the other. Child labor affects the growth and development of children in every aspect that is physically socially and mentally. Child labor is a national issue, which is growing rapidly in underdeveloped and developing nations. Childhood is the birthright of everyone, which he should live 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. Child labor takes away the basic rights of education, health, independence of children, etc. The main reason behind child labor is poverty lack of education facilities family problems violating laws of child labor improper social rules insufficient law of government etc. Children are the gifts of God. They are to be protected, nurtured, and molded into a personality they would want to be. They are delicate as a petal of a rose. If guided well they can lead the future. Children are the future. They need to play, they need to fall and learned to get up, they need to enjoy being a kid. But with child labor, this all is just a dream.

To eliminate child labor, we need to raise our voices against injustice. Any person who employs a child should be severely punished. There should be programs and volunteering for adults and children to know about child labor and its harmful effects. Proper education is required about the importance of childhood education and health. We often talk to their parents and make them understand the value of childhood and proper education health etc. This is a really major social issue and needs to be resolved soon. And this can be done only if all the people from the parents to business organization and government came all together. We need to realize the importance of sending children to school for the better future of our nation.

## **Causes of Child Labor**

Childhood is the best part of life. It is full of emotions and joy. It is the part of life when we are free from all the responsibilities. In some scenarios, this is not the case some children are burden by the responsibilities of their family so they do some work. Child labor is the act of employing children at an early age.

The main reason for the existence of child labor is poverty. Parents below the poverty line are not able to fulfill the basic needs of their families. So children are forced to work on low wages in unhygienic conditions.

However, some parents do not want to bear the burden of having too many children and they allow the child to do work for earning. Another leading cause of child labor in India is social inequality. The low-paying economy blooms with low cost, easy to hire the wages paid. Related to inequality

the constitution says that equal pay for equal work but there is a lot of difference in reality.

Another factor of child labor is the size of the informal economy, the inability of most Indian industries to scale up, the lack of modern technologies, and the structure and inflexibility of the Indian market.

Children are employed due to social obligations or loans and debts made by the families. Child laborers on the bond are usually subjected to Physical emotional mental and sexual abuse.

### **Provisions Related to the Rights of Children in India**

Children's rights are the human rights of children which draws special attention to the special protection and care afforded to them. The children are neither considered the property of their parents nor of society. They have their free identity. Children are the recipient of welfare measures. It was in the 20th century that the concept of children's rights emerged. Rights are enlightenment which has goals and obligations. The constitution-makers were aware of the fact that the future of India was in the hands of children. The constitution ensures the rights and protection of children through its various provisions. The legal provisions are:-

**Article 14 Right to Equality :-** This right protects the right of children so that their dignity and integrity as a child is not exploited.

**Article 15:-** Prohibits discrimination and allows special provisions for the well-being and development of the children in India.

**Article 21(A):-** It provides free and compulsory education to all in the age group 6 to 14 years as a fundamental right. So that every child shall be provided with elementary education.

**Article 24:-** Prohibition of employment of children in factories. This article provides the Regulation and prohibition of child labor in India. According to Article 39(e), child labor is one of the social evils that is the force by economic necessity it is the responsibility of the state to ensure that no child is subjected to any physical or mental abuse. The child is denied 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.

### **Child Labor in NCR:-**

The national capital region is a planning region centered upon the national capital territory of Delhi in India. It encompasses Delhi and several districts surrounding it from the state of Haryana Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan.

On the busy streets of Noida Sector 18 Atta market stand Kamlesh, a 13-year-old boy who had recently moved to Delhi just to help his father vend socks in

the Marketplace. However, the young boy deprived of education is now left with no aim but just a motive to get his family regular meal. On being asked, if he wants to join a school again the boy said “obviously yes, but seeing my family starve will not be bearable so I would prefer working in the market rather than schooling. “ One on roaming on the streets of Noida can find many children who are either pushing carts or wheeling away with their time becoming a menace to the society. The data taken by a cry on child labor in India in 2016 Uttar Pradesh being highest in child involve in labor. If the children are better equipped with a broader human output the society will be happy with them. Neglecting children means a loss to society as a whole. The National Commission for protection of child rights has taken cognizance of reports of the involvement of child labor at landfills where e-waste is irresponsibly dumped. NGOs and experts have pointed that the children work as rag-pickers in landfills in Delhi NCR. Though the rag-picking is itself is a crime and a cognizable offense.

The ASSOCHAM report also has highlighted the problem of exploitation of children in e- waste. The children engaged in such jobs are mostly aged between 12 and 16 years. The children who engage in any waste are exposed to toxic gases and elements get ill because they do not have proper tools infrastructure and skills for extraction. Though the government has policy and rules regarding its control at the ground level its enforcement is not seen.

#### **Child Labor is a Curse:-**

The involvement of children in labor is a curse to society as it is a crime against humanity. It is very sad that they not only have to work but have to work in hazardous conditions which are against their Physical health. According to the Gurupada Swamy Committee on child labor has changed 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 increases in the urban especially in NCR areas.

A study by Bachpan Bachao Andolan has revealed that 94% of children involved in child labor in Delhi work in illegal factory units the 60 million child labor are forced to work for 8 hours a day. In NCR for more income parents force their children into child labor for enough food and to survive. Labour is a curse for every child. Their potential is dug deep into the ground. Where they could be learning to dream they are forced to labor. The poverty of India is so strong that children are a very big way of earning money for some human groups. The children are overpowered into doing that tough work as child labor to be useful for fulfilling the basic requirements of their families. The children working are mostly below 14 years of age.

Many NGOs are working against child labor in NCR to stop child labor which is a curse to the society and especially in NCR. NCR is a region that is a developed part of a country in which the rate of education is high generally and peoples are aware of the rights of a child. Then two child labor is in various areas of NCR are seen. The NGOs are continually talking with business companies not to take children as workers. Thousands of children are being used for 10 to 12 hours a day just to fulfill the company's work. NGO in Delhi taking initiative to stop this curse from society by rescuing many children from such labor and sending them back to their homes. These NGOs are trying their best to lessen the number of child labor. The Pram Joyti Foundation and other NGOs in Delhi working against child labor. The main aim of the Pram Joyti Foundation is to reduce child labor across Delhi NCR and adjacent areas. NGOs are trying to take children doing labor into a place that they deserve. At once complete vanish of child labor is not possible as children are the source of livelihood for their families. For this, the government too has to take the initiative by increasing the employment for adults. Child labor is low-cost and easily available.

#### **Child Labor in NCR During Lockdown:-**

The coronavirus pandemic is forcing India's children out of school and in two forms and factories to work working at child labor problem that was already one of the direst in the world. For example, a 14-year-old Rani and her 13-year-old sister stopped attending lessons when virtually the entire economy was brought to halt during the world's biggest lockdown. The younger girl who was living with her grandmother in a nearby village was forced to become farmhands along with their mother to survive. Due to migrant labor, shortage children were forced by their families to work in cities.

According to the International, Labour Organisation children not in school 10.1 million are working either as a "main worker" or as a "marginal worker". Global child labor was gradually decreasing in number in the past two decades but the covid-19 pandemic increases the child labor. A joint report by the ILO and United Nation children fund estimates that a 1% rise in poverty leads to at least a 0.7% increase in child labor.

A total of 591 children were rescued from forced work and bonded labor from different parts of India during the lockdown by Bachpan Bachao Andolan a civil society group on Children's rights founded by Nobel Laureate Kailash Satyarthi. When the lockdown came into force in March many women who were working in the home the doors were closed for them. The people were forced to remain at home due to which the use of local transport was minimal affecting the local transport

carrier and their family which somehow force their children to leave studies and step out to support their family's livelihood like selling vegetable fruits and to work in the farm. In one of the cases the 8-year-old child drop out of the government school and started doing shoe polishing. Though the boy was later rescued by childline officials from Greater Noida's Kasna area and his parents were also counseled. His parents had said that since they ran out of money after losing their job the boy was asked to earn.

#### **Conclusion:-**

Children are the greatest gift to humanity. Childhood forces the potential and also sets the limit to the Future development of society. The children signify eternal optimists in the human being and always provide the potential for human development. By neglecting children we cause loss to the society as a whole the founding fathers of the constitution have given importance to the rights of the child under article 24 for the best development of the child. The system of child labor is a curse to the children in India it is ab initio and still, it is continued. Articles 45 and 21-A provide free and compulsory education to the children between 6 to 14 years of age with the meal so that they may come to school without causing any burden on parents. Thus with the help of NGOs and government policies, one must try to Free NCR from child labor. As children are hopes. Feel the dignity of a child because the children are the most valuable natural resources.

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