Child Labour Problem in India

Dr.G.N.Nimbarte
Assistant Professor
Dept.of Humanities and Social Sciences
VNIT,Nagpur

Abstract-

Child labour in India is a main social problem in India. The continuously efforts are implementing to curse this problem. This problem directly affects on young generation with severe consequences. Child labour destroys their life and future in working somewhere. There are many social and economical causes are responsible for this problem. It has a complexity with many social problems. This problem has a global exposure and phenomenon.

The economic exploitation of children has always been a area of concern in the world over. The notion of child labour is rooted in Indian society. For complete eradication of this problem, there is need to establish serious plan from all levels. Involvement of NGOs, government efforts, social workers and thinker’s strategy etc can useful to sort out the child labour.

In this paper, overall discussion has been done regarding child labour in India.

(Key Words-Problems, strategy, suggestions, statistics etc.)

Introduction

In this era of computer technology and all this technical advancement, the number of child labour is still increasing. The tender hands of little children are working in some industry or some shop rather than holding pens and pencil. At the age when they should be playing at the ground, they go and work so that they can earn some meager amount of money. Those eyes which have dreams and a changing ambition, these children work in dim lights damaging their eye sight. Many dangerous places child labours are working. For overall study of child labor ,its essential to understand the child labours area, scope and problems.

Sadly, the problem of child labour has been a blot on India’s development. UNICEF estimates that India has the highest number of labourers in the world less than 14 years of age. National census of India estimated in 2001 that there are 12.6 million child labour aged between 5 to 14 years. A nationwide survey found child labour has reduced to 4.98 million. According to a survey conducted by 7th All India Education Survey, presently there are 7 million children labour in India. Due to overpopulation poverty raised in India which mainly cause to child labour. Joint family system. Agriculture main occupation in India, poverty of culture etc are the main factors related to the child labour.

Definition
The term child labour suggests International Labour Organization (ILO), is best defined as work that deprives children of their childhood, their potential and their dignity, and that is harmful to physical and mental development. It refers to work that is mentally, physically, socially or morally dangerous and harmful to children, or work whose schedule interferes with their ability to attend regular school, or work that affects in any manner their ability to focus during school or experience a healthy childhood.

As per the Hakes definition, child labour term use for ‘non maturity to do the assigned work but they have to do it’.

**Causes of child labour**-

1. **Low standard of living**-
   Poverty is the main reason behind child labour. About 27 percent of people are below poverty line. These poor people cannot satisfy their basic needs. To income some more money the children of their family are forced to work.

2. **Joint family**
   When a family has more number of members then it need more money or more members who can income. Mostly poor people have a big family with many children. The mentality behind a big family may be more people to earn. Thus this becomes another reason for child labour.

3. **Unemployment**
   Unemployment is another problem in our country. When the adults of a family are unemployed, the children have to work to earn money for their family.

4. **Less wages and salary**-
   The industries prefer children as labour. Child labours are cheap. They can be hired for less money. Moreover they are more obedient can be bullied easily.

5. **Bonded tendency**
   Bondage is a problem prevailing in backward areas, an product of the problem of poverty. Bonded labour means the employment of a person against a loan or debt or social obligation by the family of the child or the family as a whole.
6. Migration from rural to urban society-
When a family migrate to urban areas in search of job, they are more likely to have to live in bad conditions giving rise to poverty which leads to child labour.

7. Unsuitable role of government and administration-
Ineffective implementation of child labor laws is another significant reason. Government has made so many laws to eradicate child labour but none of them could be implemented properly.

8. Unorganized and anon about rights-
Many people are unaware of their basic rights. They do not know that it is illegal for a child to work.

9. Educational Negligence
At many places, schools are not available. Even when schools are sometimes available, they are too far away, difficult to reach, unaffordable or the quality of education is so poor that parents wonder if going to school is really worthwhile

10. Culture reasons
Cultural ethoses are also reason behind child labour. For example, in some community educating girl child is not thought to be important and they are sent to work.

Consequences and side effects of child labour

1. Poverty
Child labour does not take out the poor out from poverty. The meager income they get is not enough to drag them out of poverty.

2. Deprives a child of childhood
Childhood is the golden stage of our life. It is that lovely part of live when we are not victimized by stress.

3. Physical and mental torture
A child who is a labour is physically and mentally tortured. These children become physically and mentally mature too fast which is a dangerous sign.

4. Adult unemployment
Child labour being cheap is preferred by the employers. Due to this the adults are unemployed thus increasing unemployment.

5. Increased illiteracy
Children who were supposed to go to school and study are seen working in the small industry. So the number of people who are illiterate increase and the possibility of future child labour also increase.

6. Unskilled work

These children do quite an unskilled work because they are at very tender age. Some works are out of their capability but still they do somehow thus the work lags skill.

7. Perpetuation of economic inequality

Increasing child labour increases economic inequality. Poor remain poor and thus is economic inequality.

8. Increased abuse of children

These children are abused very badly the employers. The employers treat them very badly. These children are bullied.

9. Wasted human resources

The children who go to work at a very tender age could have become scientist, engineers or artist. But these children do not get proper guidance.

10. Uncertain country’s future

Children are the future of our country. But our country’s future will be bright when these children will go to school and become literate, when they will know their basic rights.

Solutions on child labour problem-

1. Enforcement from Legal protection.

But only making laws would not solve the problem. It is thus needed to make sure that these laws are properly implemented and followed.

2. Non-governmental organizations

There are many NGOs working on the issue of child labour.

3. Free and compulsory education.

Education should be made free and compulsory so that illiteracy rate can be decreased and people become aware of their rights.

4. Increase wages of adults

Wages of the adults of a family should be increased so that the children of the family do not have to work.

5. Punishment to child employer

A child employer should be punished highly and very strictly.
6. **Media**  
   Media can play a very important role of spreading awareness among people about the problem of child labour.

7. **Eradicate poverty**  
   Poverty is a big reason behind child labour. Therefore steps should be taken to eradicate poverty.

8. **Eradicate bondage**  
   Bonded labour means the employment of a person against a loan or debt or social obligation by the family of the child or the family as a whole. Thus it is important to remove bondage.

9. **Medical facilities**  
   Medical facilities should be kept at minimal cost

10. **Rehabilitation program should be launched effectively.**

**Conclusion**

Children are the most precious gift from god. They are those beautiful flower bud which when get proper fertilizer of love, care and education, grow up to make a beautiful place to live in. children are said to be the future of our country but for that it is important to mould these tender minds properly and channelize their immense energy in proper direction.

Child labour can be eradicated if all of us fight against it together, holding hand. All of us need to raise our voice. Individually we should try to eradicate child labour. There are many help lines available where cases of child labour can be complained.

For the development of nation, there is a need of time to eradicate this problem and save young generation in India.

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