



CHILD LABOUR

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Abstract-- The problem of child labour has been more serious in developing countries. Due poverty, hunger, illiteracy, ignorance, traditional thinking and lack of proper implementation of child labour laws in our country, the problem of child labour is still persist in our society. The children of age below 14 years have working in various fields and in very hazardous conditions. The number of child labour has been increasing in our country and the number of child labour is more in our country as compared to any other country in the world. Many provisions are provided in our constitution and in laws to control child labour but socio-economic conditions prevalent in the country do not force children to get compulsory education and to enjoy right to education. The attempt has been made in this paper to provide brief account of child labour laws in our country, reasons for child labour and suggestions to control child labour.

INTRODUCTION

The term “child labour” is often 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;
- interferes with a child’s ability to attend and participate in school fully by obliging them to leave school prematurely; or requiring them to attempt to combine school attendance with excessively long and heavy work.

CAUSE FOR CHILD LABOUR

There are many inter-linked factors contributing to the prevalence of child labour. Child labour is both a cause and consequence of poverty. Household poverty forces children into the labour market to earn money. Some perform child labour to supplement family income while many also are in it for survival. They miss out on an opportunity to gain an education, further perpetuating household poverty across generations, slowing the economic growth and social development. Child labour impedes children from gaining the skills and education they need to have opportunities of decent work as an adult. Inequality, lack of educational opportunities, slow demographic transition, traditions and cultural expectations all contribute to the persistence of child labour in India. Age, sex, ethnicity, caste and deprivation affect the type and intensity of work that children perform. Agriculture and informal sector employment continue to be sectors where children end up working.

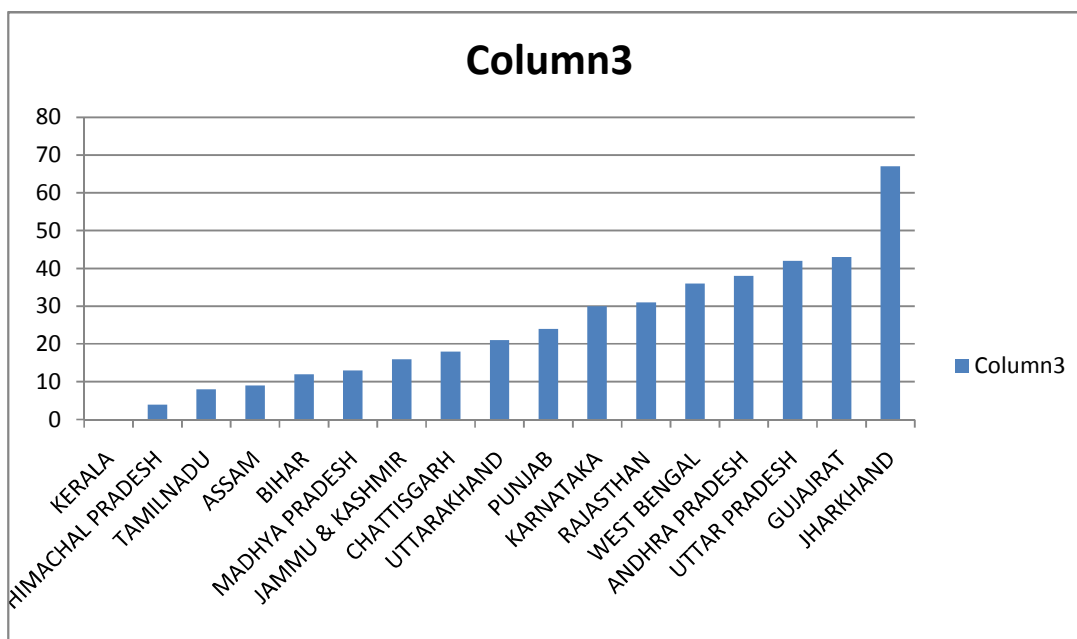
CHILD LABOUR LAWS IN INDIA

Various laws have been made in our country since 1933 to control child labour:

1. Children (Pledging of labour) Act 1933.
2. Employment of child Act 1938.
3. The Bombay shop and establishment Act 1948.
4. The Indian factories Act 1948. *Asia Pacific Journal of Marketing & Management*
5. Plantation labour Act 1951.
6. The mines Act 1952.
7. Merchant shipping Act 1958
8. The apprentice Act 1961
9. The motor transport workers Act 1961
10. The atomic energy Act 1962
11. Bidi and cigar workers (condition of employment) Act 1966.
12. State shops and establishment Act
13. The child labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act 1986.
14. The juvenile justice (care and protection) of children Act, 2000.

15. Article 24 of our constitution and section 67 of the factories Act, explicitly direct that children below the age of 14 years are not allowed to work in factories.
16. Article 21A (added by the 86th amendment Act 2002) provides that state shall provide free and compulsory education to children of age group 6-14 years.
17. Article 45 provides for free and compulsory education for all children up to the age of 14 years.

CHILD LABOUR STATICS IN INDIA



CONVENTION AND RECOMMENDATION OF ILO

Whilst kid labour takes many various forms, a priority is to eliminate directly the worst types of kid labour as outlined by Article three of UN agency Convention No. 182:

- a. All types of slavery or practices kind of like slavery, like the sale and trafficking of youngsters, debt bondage and thrall and compelled or obligatory labour, as well as forced or obligatory enlisting of youngsters to be used in armed conflict;
- b. The employment, procuring or giving of a toddler for vice crime, for the assembly of creation or for sexy performances;
- c. The employment, procuring or giving of a toddler for illicit activities, specially for the assembly and trafficking of medicine as outlined within the relevant international treaties;
- d. Work that, by its nature or the circumstances during which it's allotted, is probably going to damage the health, safety or morals of youngsters.

SUGGESTIONS

1. Proper implementation of welfare schemes for children by the concerned authorities.
2. NGOs can play a very effective role in rehabilitation of child labourers.
3. Media is also an important tool to create awareness about child labour laws.
4. Major role can be played by local governments in controlling child labour.
5. In schools with free education, monetary help in the form of scholarship should be provided to the students of economically weaker families.



CONCLUSION

Child labour can be checked only when we people have little concern about the physical, mental and educational development of children around us. It is the duty of civil society not to physical help from them but provide them their childhood.