

WEAKER SECTIONS CHALLENGES AND REMEDIES



Editors
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CHILD LABOUR A SOCIAL EVIL: BRUNT AND MAGNITUDE IN INDIA

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Abstract

Children are considered as the greatest gift to humanity. 'CHILD' is a word that is used for very young; an age to study, play, enjoy and have very big dreams in small eyes. Children are the promises of the future. Children of today will be adults of tomorrow turn out to be lawyers, doctors, engineers, teachers, leaders and activists who strengthen the country towards nation-building. Childhood is an important stage of human development as it holds the potential to the future development of any society. Children who are brought up in an environment, which is helpful to their intellectual, physical and social development, will become responsible and prolific component of the society.

Unfortunately, Today, Child labour is the worldwide problem and it is the biggest Social evil in our country too. Instead of children enjoying their childhood, they are being forced go for work as labour on either part time or full time basis at very low wages, because of either the parental selfishness or because of the lack of their basic needs for survival.

India is the 2nd highest populated country in the world with around 40% children under age 14 in which half of the total number are engaged in the crime of child labour.

Generally, it is found that due to economic problems, children are forced to forego educational and other development opportunities and take up jobs which mostly exploit them as they are usually underpaid and engaged in hazardous work conditions. A huge number of parents send their children for job as a desperate measure due to poor economic conditions without being aware of the drawbacks of child labour that affects their children in terms of their education, health, physical, mental and social growth. It is therefore no wonder that the poor households represent the largest segment contributor of child labour. Child labour restricts the right of children to access and benefit from education and denies the fundamental opportunity to attend school. Thus, Child labour prejudices children's education and also adversely affects their health and safety.

This paper attempts to give a brief overview of magnitude of child labour by probing in to its nature and causes, working conditions and **workspaces for Child Labour from an Indian Perspective.**

An attempt has also been made to register the measures taken by the government and national policy of amelioration to combat child labour. In spite of it, there is an urgent need for social movement for this issue to deliberately get addressed and get resolved in the course of time.

Weaker section means people who are not strong enough to stand for their own rights (Or) even if they dare to,

they could easily be subjugated. That is to say the section of society which is historically oppressed and dominated by other sections can be called as weaker sections.

In India, while we discuss on weaker sections we usually reflect on women, Children, senior citizens, religious and linguistic minorities and sexual minorities. But the Children in Indian society have always been a topic less spoken and least conferred.

Children are the greatest gift to humanity who always strives to inculcate happiness, joy, innocence and hope among the mankind. Generally, we love to see Children playing



and enjoying their childhood. Childhood is an important stage of human development as it holds the potential to the future development of any society. Children who are brought up in an environment which is helpful to their intellectual, physical and social development go on to be responsible and productive part of society.

But on contrary life becomes harder when the children are deprived of their childhood, forced to forego educational opportunities, take up jobs which mostly

