



Child Labour and violation of Human rights: A Philosophical Exploration

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Abstract

Child labour is a global crisis and every individual nation has been fighting against this universal social demon for long time. But still now the situation is alarming and there is very light possibility to eradicate this social cancer soon. At the beginning of 2020, there were 160 million child labour worldwide that includes 63 millions girls and 97 millions boys. This figure shows that there were 1 child labour in out of 10 children internationally. The most sad part is many of those children are even only five years old.

The issue of child labour is not this much flat and simple as the term seems to be. There are many complications in this matter, like - many children even don't get paid for the work that they do all day and more worse part is there are several jobs in which children are appointed intentionally and those sectors have deep negative mental and physical effects on those innocent children.

Many measures have been taken by different international organizations and individual countries too, but more initiatives should be taken and these steps must be taken fast.

Keywords: Child labour, Worldwide crisis, Human rights, Exploitation, United nations, International labour organization.

Introduction:

Child or childhood, these words bring a sense of innocence and simplicity. But every child on this planet is not lucky enough to witness own normal childhood, even they can't experience their normal livelihood from very early age of life. They are deprived from living their lives as a child. They don't get opportunity to play, to go to school, no adequate diet. These children, aged minimum 5 and above, are sent to work in hazardous conditions that affect them completely. This act of our society is actually producing criminals, terrorists, perverted people etc. for future as these children go through deem physical and psychological torture and trauma every moment which kill innocence - simplicity of those children within. These work include slavery,

forced labour, drug trafficking, prostitution etc. It is obvious that if a person goes through this kind of experiences at childhood, he/ she can't have a balanced and healthy physical and mental state further in life. So, the reality is, this society is creating its own demons and regret at the result in future too.

Reasons of child labour: It is easily understandable that in multi layered society, there are so many reasons for having a cruel practice like child labour. But the prime reason is obviously, poverty. Apart from this, there are other lacking in society's system -

1. Parents are having underemployment that means a family is working hard all day but that effort is good enough to run a balanced family life. That is they ask their children to join them also to increase man power hoping for more productivity. It is mainly seen in agriculture.
2. In major part of this world, education system is very theoretical and bookish, there is no skill developing or vocational training since childhood. That is why in many cases parents prefer to have their child in their respective business instead of traditional education.
3. Illiteracy of parents is also a major factor. Parents are not capable enough to take right and needful decision for their children because of absence of knowledge.
4. Large family structure forces children to start working at very early age to support family too. This is another effect of absence of education and awareness that could have stopped parents from having more than two children.
5. Another sad part is, in many situations child himself/ herself goes to work when they sense that they are living in a unsecured and dysfunctional family. By nature, every human being look for social security but when a child doesn't get it from parents or seniors, goes to work in search of that desired and required social security automatically.
6. Many industries demand child labour and that has become normal. They need nimble fingers of children to run their production. This category of business include - bidi factories, carpet industry, garment industry, fireworks, brick kilns, unorganized sector etc. It can be termed as organized crime.
7. Many times, orphans are bound to experience this pathetic side in life.
8. Corruption in administrative systems is another reason of child labour. Grants, scholarship etc don't reach to the needy families and that is why they are forced to take their children out of schools and their education gets stopped. They join their parents or somewhere else to earn money.

In nearly every case, child labour results in extreme bodily and mental harm, and even death. It cuts children off from schooling and health care, restricting their fundamental rights and threatening their futures. The most alarming side is these children and their families are marginalized in the society in major countries and they even don't have basic idea of their rights therefore they have been going through the same situation generation after generation. They are trapped in a social loop. Child labour is a serious violation of children's rights. It threatens the health, safety and education of millions of children around the world, condemns them to exploitative work and exploitation, denies them their full potential as human beings and leaves them vulnerable to physical and mental harm.

The situation is already like this and another storm was COVID19. It escalated child labour rate suddenly. The pandemic sent 9 million more children to uncertain future. A large amount of them will be absorbed as child labour in course of time. During pandemic, people's standard of living has fallen down drastically, employment opportunities have seen a big fall too, migration possibilities have declined, temporary school closure increased school dropouts dramatically. Pandemic's long term effect will be realised later in near future. A large number of children got deprived of normal life due to COVID19.

The practice of child labour shows that these children even don't get basic respect and recognition of a normal human being. The nature has given equal importance to every creature on this planet but a particular segment of people have created a big difference in the society and they patronize many ill practices, child labour is one of those evil practices.

Child labour harms children - physically, mentally and socially. It denies them an education and leaves them unprepared for adulthood. And when this harm is multiplied by thousands of children engaged in child labour every year, it is difficult to estimate the full extent of its impact on our world. Child labour steals self-respect and self-esteem of a child too. This mental condition stems him/ her from achieving something bigger in life later on. They hypnotized themselves as the poorer and weaker section of this society.

Child labour is a massive problem. It takes many forms, from hazardous work in mines and factories to dangerous agricultural work. Around 60% of children work in agricultural arena worldwide. Child labour infringes the rights of young people, often by preventing them from going to school. Child workers still have to go to school. The simple act of going to school is often more important than doing any other activity, like working on an assembly line or digging coal in a mine.

Child labour is an enormous problem, and one that many fail to recognize. It's essential that we speak out against it, even if nobody else is listening." Child labour is a practice in which children are forced to work for their families. Child labour is a violation of human rights, but not all child labourer are poor. Some of them come from wealthy families and send their children to work so that they can continue living comfortably.

The world can no longer turn a blind eye to child labour, which is the product of poverty and a lack of education. It is time for governments and businesses to take proactive steps to eliminate it from our global economy.

There is no excuse for any child to do any job. It is wrong and against the law to use children to work in any manner, without parental consent or guardianship of parents' permission, which we believe should be a right and not a privilege.

Child labour harms children and keeps children from learning, working, earning money and developing normal life skills. It strips them of their human rights and makes them vulnerable to exploitation – within their families, communities and even countries.

Child labour is a problem of our time, causing enormous harm to children. Children are pushed into early labour, which can lead to long-term health problems and diminished earning potential as adults. Child slavery exists through child labour laws in many parts of the world, but is also subtly built into transactions like everyday purchases or investments with children as commodities.

Child labour is one of the most important social problems today. Child labour seriously restricts children's basic rights, causes severe harm to their physical and mental health, deprives them of opportunities to learn important life skills and leads to low employment rates that leave youth vulnerable to poverty.

The ethics of child labour are a set of principles meant to address the exploitation and exploitation of children. Its causes include poverty, human trafficking, and poor economic systems. Child labour is defined in many ways, but a common definition describes it as "work that is performed by children under the age of sixteen."

We must protect children by ending the worst forms of child labour in the world. A child's working hours, age and situation must always be taken into consideration when considering their likelihood of abuse and exploitation. We must ensure that no child who is more likely to work is placed at risk of doing so. And we must make sure that every child currently being exploited gets the opportunity to grow up free from harm.

Child labor and socialism:

From a socialist perspective, child labor is viewed as a symptom of an unjust economic system that prioritizes profit over people's well-being, especially the most vulnerable members of society. Socialists believe that all children have the right to education, play, and a safe and healthy childhood.

In a socialist society, the government or the community would ensure that children are not forced to work in dangerous or exploitative conditions. Instead, children would be provided with education, health care, and other necessary resources to develop into healthy and productive adults.

Socialists also believe that child labor is a result of poverty, inequality, and exploitation, which are inherent features of capitalism. Under capitalism, employers seek to maximize profits by paying workers as little as possible, and children are often used as a cheap source of labor. Socialists argue that only by fundamentally changing the economic system can child labor be eliminated.

Therefore, socialists advocate for policies and practices that support the well-being and development of children, including strong labor laws that prohibit child labor, investment in education and healthcare, and measures to reduce poverty and inequality.

Child labor and liberalism:

From a liberal perspective, child labor is considered unethical and a violation of individual rights. Liberals believe in the value of individual freedom and autonomy, and view child labor as an infringement on children's rights to education, play, and a safe and healthy childhood.

Liberalism emphasizes the importance of individual rights and freedoms, including the right to education, personal development, and protection from harm. Child labor deprives children of these fundamental rights and places them in dangerous and exploitative conditions, often without access to basic necessities such as food, education, and healthcare

Furthermore, liberals argue that child labor is a symptom of poverty and inequality, and that it perpetuates a cycle of exploitation and disadvantage. By denying children the opportunity to attend school and develop their skills and talents, child labor can limit their future opportunities and limit their potential to contribute to society. Therefore, liberals advocate for policies and practices that prioritize the well-being and development of children, including strong labor laws that prohibit child labor, investment in education and healthcare, and

measures to reduce poverty and inequality. By ensuring that children have access to the resources and opportunities they need to thrive, we can create a society that upholds the values of individual freedom and autonomy, and respects the fundamental rights of all individuals, including children.

Child labor and ancient Greek & Roman philosophies:

Ancient Greek and Roman philosophy emphasized the importance of education and personal development, and believed that child labor was harmful to children's physical, emotional, and cognitive development.

In Ancient Greece, philosophers such as Plato and Aristotle believed that education was essential to personal development and the cultivation of virtue. Aristotle argued that the purpose of education was to develop human potential and cultivate moral virtues. He believed that children should be educated in a way that fosters their personal growth and well-being, rather than being forced to work at an early age.

Similarly, in Ancient Rome, philosophers such as Cicero believed that education was essential to the cultivation of moral virtue and the development of the ideal citizen. He argued that children should be educated in a way that fosters their intellectual and moral development, rather than being forced to work at an early age.

Moreover, both Ancient Greek and Roman societies had laws and norms that restricted child labor. For example, in Ancient Greece, laws prohibited children from working in mines or as sailors, and in Ancient Rome, laws prohibited children from working in certain professions and restricted the hours and conditions of work for children.

Ancient Greek and Roman philosophy viewed child labor as harmful to children's personal development and well-being, and emphasized the importance of education and the cultivation of virtue. These views were reflected in the laws and norms of these societies, which restricted child labor and protected children's rights and well-being.

Child labor and morality:

Moral views on child labor depend on cultural and religious beliefs, as well as personal values and principles. However, most moral views tend to agree that child labor is morally wrong and a violation of children's rights and dignity.

Many moral views emphasize the importance of protecting vulnerable individuals, such as children, from harm and exploitation. Children are seen as particularly vulnerable and in need of protection because they lack the physical, emotional, and cognitive development necessary to make informed decisions about their well-being.

Moreover, many moral views emphasize the importance of human dignity and the intrinsic value of every human life. From this perspective, children have the same inherent worth and dignity as adults and are entitled to the same basic human rights, including the right to a safe and healthy childhood, access to education, and opportunities for personal growth and development.

In addition, many moral views also emphasize the importance of justice and fairness. Child labor is often perpetuated by systemic inequalities and poverty, which can prevent children from accessing education and other opportunities for personal development. Addressing these root causes and ensuring that children have access to basic rights and opportunities is seen as essential to creating a just and equitable society.

In summary, most moral views tend to agree that child labor is morally wrong and a violation of children's rights and dignity. Many moral views emphasize the importance of protecting vulnerable individuals, including children, from harm and exploitation, the intrinsic value of every human life, and the importance of justice and fairness in creating a just and equitable society.

Conclusion:

Child labour is the worst form of child exploitation. It is a violation of children's rights and it harms them physically and psychologically. Children who work are denied an education, health care and positive social development. They do not have time to learn enhancing skills such as social skills, language development, sports activities, literacy and numeracy that prepare them for the future.

Child labour harms children so severely that it's now recognized as a violation of their rights. It blocks them from attending school and limits their opportunities to learn a trade, earn an income, or gain skills that could open new doors of prosperity in the future. And this harm can have a lasting effect on the world economy.

Child labour is a huge problem throughout the world. The use of children by parents, families, employers and worker associations for paying a wage or performing any type of work has long been considered as one of the most serious violations of human rights. The worst consequences involve the physical and mental health of children, who have been exposed to exposure to dangerous chemical substances or harmful environments like extreme cold; working long hours; employer-imposed restrictions on their movements and time which prevents them from attending school adequately.

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