



CHILD LABOUR AS A SOCIAL EVIL WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO MAHESH DATTANI'S SELECTED PLAYS

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ABSTRACT

This paper deals with the pitfalls of child labour in contemporary society. As you all know that child labour is a common problem in our society. This paper throws light on a serious problem caused by child labour. The drama emerged as a remedy and awareness of this harsh treatment of family and society. There are many great plays composed by Mahesh Dattani from the family's point of view. Child labour inflicts on the whole family. The playwright shows how the family and society are affected by this child labour and it has brought down the life and wealth of a family. Child labour should be completely stopped and awareness programs should be organized to tackle this problem.

Key words: Child Labour, Disadvantages, Problem

What is child Labour?

Children who are below the age prescribed by law if work is taken from them, then it will be considered as child labour. If we speak of child labour in the common language that the wages which are made to the children. The work that is done by the children comes under it. The age of children has been fixed by Article 24 of our constitution. In which it has been said that if any work is taken from children below the age of 14 years in a hotel or in a tea shop or in any factory, then it is a punishable offense and whoever does this work. That is, if he employs children below the age of 14, he will be punished. In whatever child labour happens, they either pay the labour. Meaning either children are kept by paying money or children are hired even without money. It comes under this and it can be said in a way that children are exploited mentally and physically. Child labour is seen not only in India but also in many countries. Hence this event is considered

as according to the Indian Constitution, children in the age group of 5 to 14 years who do mental or physical labour in a company are called child labour.

Child labour affects the health of children. This in itself is a curse. This is also the golden moment of a man's life, his childhood. His school is the school day, if our childhood is not spent in school, it is not spent in the playground or we do not give it in the arms of our parents, then what is the use of that childhood. The child has a dream that he should go to school, do sports, do a lot of evils, but if instead of all this, he is left to work in a factory, a factory, a shop in a dhaba. So what would happen to that child? Child labour remains a stigma for our country even today. Even after so many years of independence, today the children of India are not able to live well. Working in childhood is a very frightening situation for any child. Because sometimes such incidents happen with children due to which his whole life is ruined.

What is the reason for child labour?

1. Lack of Education:-

Due to lack of education, children are taken to work or if children agree to work, then the first reason is lack of education. If the children will read or write or else they will always feel that now I am growing up and I am sitting free, then if I do some business in it, then in this way they will start working in order to pass their time or earn money. Huh . So it has been seen here that the children who do not read and write are sitting at home who are not concerned with studies. He has been seen more in all these things.

2. Poverty

Poverty is also a very important reason for promoting child labour because when people are poor, they feel that somehow I have to feed my family that if two times roti comes in your house. There, the parents also force the children that you get to work and the children also start to understand somewhere, if I earn money, then there can be arrangements for food and drink in the house. So it's okay if dad is working or if my dad is working, mom is working, then we should also work. So, Poverty is also the reason for promoting child labour in a way. In today's era, the parents who are there, if they want to feed their children, if they want, they can feed the children bread for two times, they can send them to school. But still put in some work. You think it is okay to do the work, child, but this work is imposed whose parents do it. So this is also one of the reasons which encourages child labour.

3. Orphaned Children:-

Orphan children who do not have parents. It has happened like many incidents where parents are died. It becomes their compulsion that they can go somewhere and do business and follow their stomach. So now the children being orphaned or there is no responsible person in the house, the absence of parents also pushes the children towards child labour.

4. Population Growth

If we look at the population growth, then this is really a big reason for promoting child labour because there are many members in the house. If we do not get food and drink properly, then we feel that how will the family of so many people run, there is no earner in the house, the family is poor. So the number of children in it, everyone comes to mind that let's do something or parents also say at that time that there are so many people in the house and I am the only one who earns, then we all earn together. The children leave for their work. Here too child labour is encouraged because the population is expanding a lot and a person has to do something or the other to fill his stomach to earn his bread. So children leave at a young age that we have to do some job and earn money.

5. Unemployment

Unemployment is also the biggest reason for promoting child labour because nowadays children are seeing big educated people in their homes or somewhere else in that neighborhood, children get to see that these people are sitting and studying so much. Even then, he is giving paper for his job, he is running so much, still is not getting a job. So it seems that if we have got a job now, then we should do it now and see that when there is so much unemployment. It is lying in the world and all our elders and more educated people are sitting than us, so then they feel that they should grab the work they get, otherwise we will not have to sit like this later.

6. Family Compulsions –

There are other reasons beyond this, there are some compulsions, some children of the family have compulsions because they have to go out to work. So in this way also child labour gets encouraged.

7. Absence of proper rules and regulations –

One of the biggest reasons we would say is that the laws that have been made are not used properly to prevent child labour, those laws cannot be implemented well, till today due to this also child labour gets a lot because the government has made many laws in our constitution, under which it was said that children who are 5 to 14 years old, they will not work anywhere, if no one will hire them, then it has come upon them. Punishment will be given, the law is there but it does not happen. Working at a young age puncture shop,

how do they look under the age of 14, yet they are unable to do anything that the laws which have been made are not being used.

8. Greedy people-

Some greedy people kidnap small children, then hide from them and force them to work on their work. Like these an Ayah gives opium to a little baby for having rest. In this way, Shankar is dead now. Parents lost their son.

“JAIRAJ. You wouldn’t know. An old trick banded down from one generation of ayahs to the next. I know. I was raised by one.

RATNA (grimly).Opium.

JAIRAJ. Effective, isn’t? He hasn’t cried at all. Don’t worry, they always give just the right amount.

RATNA.She too has given... Shankar...?

JAIRAJ (gets up). What do you mean?...?

What did you say? She too has given Shankar? (Grabs Ratna.)

What did you say? She too has give Shankar? (Lets go of her.) You?

RATNA.(screaming). No!” ((DATTANI, 2000, pp. 445-446)

Disadvantages or side effects of child Labour.

The consequences of child labour such as wasting of childhood, malnutrition, physical abuse, mental abuse, increasing poverty, lack of social development, the continuous presence of child labour and exploitation threatens the economy of the country. If they do, they will leave their studies. Then later we need young people who are educated. So we are not able to get educated and income is less, due to which our economy becomes a little bit.

After this child trafficking is also related to child labour like small children go somewhere to work and then there are greedy people who are there for money or there are people with little tendency, they take the children and sell them and after that again If we earn money, then these things are also there, then we can say that it has its side effects. It is also that the trafficking of children increases a lot. If children go to work at a young age in factories with chemicals, in companies where big machines are installed. So, they lose and badly affected their body parts, their skin, their eyes, their lungs, all these etc. It is not yet strong enough that it can adapt itself to every situation, and if children go anywhere at such a young age, they work with such

dangerous chemicals. Where big machines work, then go there. After all there is a chance of this accident happening to them. Apart from this, children go to work at a young age. That means at the work place where they are working. There are big people there. There are people older than them and then a small child there. So they also take advantage of it. People who are some of the filthy people of the society, they take advantage of this and also exploit the child sexually.

Children are often sexually exploited for money and other things in the play “Thirty Days in September” composed by Mahesh Dattani.

“MAN. That is right. I also help Madam with small things. There is no man in the house, that is why. If there is a man in the house, what is my problem whether her gas is leaking or her terrace is leaking...” (DATTANI, COLLECTED PLAYS VOLUME TWO, 2005, p. 11)

SHANTA. Not just the pain. I remember, much as I was trying to forget, what I saw. Not when you were seven but when you were thirteen.(Gently.) Please don’t misunderstand me, Mala. I remember, seeing you with my brother during the summer holidays. You were pushing yourself on him in the bedroom. (DATTANI, COLLECTED PLAYS VOLUME TWO, 2005, p. 27)

Being deprived of education- This also a child does not pay attention to education and they leave their studies and start earning money at a very young age, then there are many things that when these children do not study then they will move on. They will not get the job of the kind. They will not take advantage of the opportunities and then later on they start working from an early age, then they always earn their living by becoming a labourer.

Measures to stop child labour:-

There are measures to stop child labour such as awareness, proper education system, proper law and order, etc. Some measures can be taken for the prevention of child labour, such as awareness should increase awareness among people. Regarding child labour or not, children should work at a young age. To make arrangements for their education and nowadays the government has run many schemes. Apart from giving scholarships to the children for their studies, some scheme has been run for the children in the homes in some way or the other. Many schemes have been given in the government to bring tax money to the children. So people will be aware by using them. Only then can this work be done. Apart from this, how much work has been done by the government for the education system, and then its benefit too picked up.

Apart from this, corruption is spread everywhere that they take money for every work. I work with money. Right now I have asked you to do earlier jobs at a young age and sell them alive or else they take more money by supplying them. So there are many such wrong attitude people lying in the society those who play with the lives of children in the pursuit of making their money by doing all the work.

That is, our Central Government and the State Government together have the right to make laws on child labour under Article 45. Article 51A said that A fundamental duty has been prescribed on the parents to provide opportunities for the education of the children. That is to say, order the parents to give the opportunity of education to the children. So there are many articles in this manner where we have See how many laws have been made regarding this case and for children and these rules what are the things that have been said for the children in the articles of the constitution in the passages. In view of these if we take this thing seriously and the government takes it seriously. Children can be given full opportunity to read. In this way we can stop child labour and build a new India by giving good education to our children.

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