



CHILD LABOUR IN INDIA: A CRITICAL STUDY OF CAUSATIVE FACTORS AND PREVENTION MEASURES

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Abstract: The Children engaged in economic activity on part-time or full time basis who are deprived of childhood, potentiality and dignity are called child labour. The factors of child labour are many like Poverty, unemployment, underemployment, illiteracy, child rearing methods, family size, birth order of children, lack of good schooling which are dealt in this paper, considering India, for the purpose of finding solutions to these factors and thereby eliminating the child labour issue from the country and Globe. Several statutes such as IPC, Juvenile justice and the Child Labour (Prohibition and Abolition) Acts are dealing with care and protection, prohibition and abolition of child labour can be further amended to suit to the technological advancements taking at an accelerated pace so as to keep them updated to combat the issue. The nature of change of labour work is also much changing day to day and from decade to decade and now it is taking place on an yearly basis with the introduction of robotics in the industries, workshops, computerization and machine learning, AI tools etc. In this paper, the researcher has discussed the causative factors leading to child labour, to offer appropriate preventive measures to combat the same.

Index Terms – Child labour, factors, Illiteracy, Acts, Preventive measures.

I. INTRODUCTION

Child labour in India has been described as a human problem of enormous magnitude. The Children engaged in economic activity on part-time or full time basis who are deprived of childhood, potentiality and dignity are called child labour. The activity engaged is usually harmful to the physical, physiological and psychological development of the children, since they are in the development stage upto fourteen years. India is making several legislative enactments for physically, mentally, morally or by blocking children access to education and passed several laws for implementing about the children education. The uneven development of children, throughout India, its diversity of culture and social background is causing hindrance to make uniform laws, applicable throughout the country and is always a challenge to the Policy makers.

Different organizations have their own definitions of child labour and have set out their own parameters. United Nations has created a special agency called ILO in 1946, which became a specialized agency. Its tripartite structure is unique and gives an equal and same voice to employers, workers and governments. The ILO helps in collecting data and provides information on the child labour visible to decision makers. A question before the United Nations was how to combat child labour, because it affects the future of children all over the world. How to secure the future of children was the question mounted as a main problem for all the nations, whose resolution was the accountability of the League of Nations and all the nations, for which numerous efforts have been made at the universal level.

Using data from the 1998 and 1999 Nepali Labour Force Survey, Edmonds (2005) documented that older female children work more than their younger siblings in Nepal. The older girl child in Nepal works on an average 2.6 hours per week more than any other siblings in the household, while the oldest boy only works an additional 0.04 hours per week. An increase in birth order (being relatively young) is associated with 2.8 hours' less work on average for Nepali girls and 2.2 hours' less work for Nepali boys. Edmonds (2003b) reports that in Vietnam, an increase in the birth order is connected with 2.6 fewer hours' work for boys and 2.9 hours for girls. Emerson and Souza (2002)¹ explore the effect of birth order on child labour supply and schooling in Brazil²². They argue that "earlier-born children are able to earn higher wages than their younger siblings".

In Indian Constitution, Articles 14,15,19,21,24,39,41,44,45,47 and 51 are provided for the prohibition of child labour. Several statutes such as IPC, Juvenile justice and the Child Labour (Prohibition and Abolition) Act, 1986 are dealing with care and protection, prohibition and abolition of child labour. Almost all countries including India have child labour laws as a paramount issue, but unable to combat the issue despite of constitutional provisions and stringent laws. The causes of child labour are many like Poverty, unemployment, underemployment, illiteracy, lack of good education which are dealt in this paper, considering India, for the purpose of finding solutions to these factors and thereby eliminating the child labour issue from the country and Globe.

In this paper, the researcher has discussed the various factors that are leading to child labour. Following are the factors leading to child labour in India and worldwide, which are listed and discussed in detail hereunder different sub groups – Social factors, Economic factors, Psychological factors, Political factors, Cultural factors and Historical factors.

The status of the child labour in India as per ILO, 2015 is:

"One in every 11 children in India is working. Child labour has been decreasing at an abysmal rate of 2.2% per year from 2001 to 2011, as per an analysis of census data by non-governmental organization CRY (Child Rights and You). About 80% of working children are based in rural areas and three out of four of these children work in agriculture, as cultivators or in household industries, most of which are home-based employments".²

II. FACTORS CAUSING CHILD LABOUR

Das & Mukherjee (2006) have used household level data from National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) of India, the 55th round (1999–2000), to show that for urban male children there exists significant wage incentive for schooling, though school dropout rate and child labour incidence are not so small. Fors, H. C. (2010) had illustrated the fact that there is not even a single underlying factor responsible for the phenomenon of child labour⁴. Rather, subsistence poverty, market imperfections and parental preferences may all contribute to the decision sending a child to work.

All the factors identified hereunder can be related to these six primary groups and can be thought of how best the factors can be converted for a positive impact for the development of the particular country. Figure 1 show the different factors contributing to the Child labour in India.

¹ Emerson, P M and A P Souza, "Is There a Child Labour Trap? Intergenerational Persistence of Child Labour in Brazil". *Economic Development and Cultural Changes*, LI (2): 375-98. (2003).

² International Labour Organization's World Report on Child Labour and CRY recent analysis of the Census, 2011, (2015)

³ Das, S., & Mukherjee, D. "Role of women in schooling and child labour decision: the case of urban boys in India". *Social Indicators Research*, 82(3), 463–486. doi:10.1007/s11205-006-9042-x, (2006)

⁴ Fors, H. C. "Child labour: a review of recent theory and evidence with policy implications". *Journal of Economic Surveys*, 26(4), 570–593. doi:10.1111/j.1467-6419.2010.00663.x, (2010)

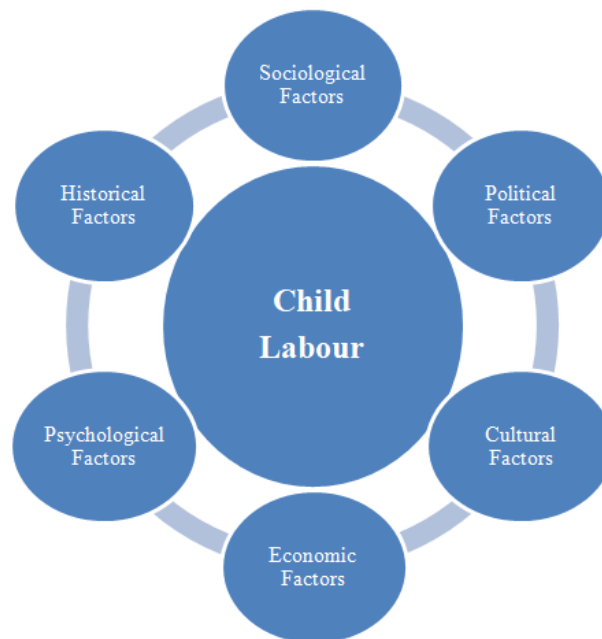


Figure 1: Factors contributing to the Child labour in India

The meager wages, adaptability towards work and easy availability of the child makes them perfect for employment. The following major and significant factors prevailing in our country are discussed in detail in subsequent sections.

1. Poverty
2. Child labour is Cheaper
3. Illiteracy
4. Child trafficking
5. Poor access to decent work
6. Family Size
7. Parenting methods
8. Unemployment
9. Natural disasters and Pandemics like Covid-19
10. Lack of good schooling and health care
11. Educational Level of Child Labour in India
12. Consumer oriented culture
13. Birth Order

Children under the age of fourteen are found assisting their families in miscellaneous jobs without attending to schools. The children lend themselves mostly to employment in the small-scale sectors and in low status industries. The Factories Act, 1948 bans the employment of children. Even the “Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act of 1986”⁵ excludes family labour which removes a large number of small-scale units that operate as household/family units from its purview. Employers prefer to engage children in their establishments due to different reasons viz., lower wages, docile nature, dexterity and agility in work, amenability for discipline and control, assignment of non-status jobs, non-payment of terminal jobs and less industrial relations problems with child labour. Employers engage child labour largely in the form of wage employment in industries, commercial, food, domestic and in the agricultural sector too. In the subsequent sections, above listed factors are discussed in detail, which are contributing to the continuation of vicious cycle of child labour in our country.

III. POVERTY

India is a developing country as such in several states poverty is still found, which makes the parents to depend on the meager earning of their children, which is inevitable in larger families having members more than 4. School dropout rate is also high due to the poverty. Selection of better school will be at stake, because of poverty and more family size.

⁵ Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act of 1986

As per the report published by the United Nations in February 2015, around 30 million people in India are in extreme poverty, which comes to one third of the world's total poverty. The cause and effect relationship between child labour and poverty is very pertinent. About 252-300 million people are in extreme poverty and are suffering from hunger. It has significant relationship with the agriculture land ownership and the other productive assets of the family members involved in child labour. The major portion of the agriculture land is in the hands of few families, thus denying the opportunity of ownership to majority of the people. Due to this, extreme poverty prevails.

India continues to be the poorest countries in the world, though several decades have passed after independence, which is calculated in terms of per capita income⁶. As per a study 37.6 % of the population lie below the poverty line. The concentration of money is raising and, there is a corresponding pauperism and unemployment. Hence child labour is end result of such continuous situation. Stagnation and backwardness are apparent from the statistical world distribution data of child labour which show as an important key factor for the intensity of child labour. Therefore it shows that 90% of child labour is concentrated in most of the world's under developed countries.

Now-a-days, child labour is considered as a socio-economic phenomenon. It is normally thought that ignorance, low wages, unemployment, illiteracy, lack of living standards, dreadful backwardness and deep social prejudice on the part of the country etc., are all many and together, the root cause of child labour. Officially stating that, "child labour is no longer a means of economic exploitation, but the economic need of parents and in many cases the need of the child." Prof. Gangrade⁷ believes that "child labour is a product of such a factor, traditional attitude, lack of school or unwillingness of parents to send their children to school, industrialization, migration, urbanization and so on". Stakeholders like as Teachers, Parents of the children in the target group, law professionals and psychologists have felt this poverty as the main factor contributing to the Child labour in India.



Source: <https://www.shutterstock.com/search/child-labor-farm-in-india>

Figure 2: Poverty contributing to the Child labour in India

Thus poverty hit parents are unable to invest not only in the growth and development of their children but are also much reluctant to support them either and instead want them children to become a source of income for the total family as quickly as possible, irrespective of their age and energy. Poverty is the root cause for several diseases and other disabilities, and thereby causes imbalances in their family tree and forces parents to drive their children to meager works for earning some financial support. Thus the child labour perpetuates into the poor parent and thus vicious cycle continues for generations together.

Several middle-class families fall within the low-income family groups, both boys and girls aged from eight to fourteen prefer to work in their homes as domestic servants and for earning their pocket money. These employers have the least concern for these poverty driven children.

⁶ Jaspal Kaur, "Child labour in india: causes, impacts and preventive measures" International Journal of 3600 Management Review Volume-7, Special Issue, ISSN No: 2320-7132 (Online) PP: 163-167, (2019)

⁷ Gangrade.K.D.: Child Labour in India. Department of Social work. (unpublished)

IV. CHILD LABOUR IS CHEAPER

Industrialization has introduced a new trend among the employers to engage more labour in less time and to get quick production for more benefits. This is a factor for huge number of enrolment of children much below fourteen years in age, into factories in all countries including India. Employers find children more proper for control and discipline. They can be persuaded, pulled up, warned and even punished for default without endangering the relationship. This phenomenon accompanied by very low wages, created over workload and even made the labourers to work under horrible conditions. Child labour is considered cheaper as they are craving for some earning due to various reasons. As per ILO also poor children are being employed in the labour bazaar more effortlessly and at a cheaper rate (ILO, 1994).

V. ILLITERACY

Illiterate parents of the country are another important reason. They focus on present needs, never think beyond certain future and education is always a future investment if looked from financial aspect, whereas employment is present need to earn bread and butter, which is again inevitable after schooling. Article 45 (“Directive Principles of State Policy”), states that “The state shall endeavour to provide within a period of 10 years, from commencement of this constitution for free and compulsory education for all children until they complete the age of fourteen years”. Compulsory education and schooling for children as a part of child labour eradication measure is however, found illusory. As such, the fact of child labour is the result of such indifference and not giving importance to education in India.⁸ Many people in the country do not even know their own rights assured by the Constitution, thus the children of those even won’t know their rights certainly leads to the child labour.

VI. CHILD TRAFFICKING

Child trafficking Child trafficking is about taking children out of their protective environment by anti social elements and preying on their vulnerability for the purpose of exploitation with a profit motive.

The trafficking in children - internally in countries, across borders of the countries and even across continents - is interlinked with the demand for cheap malleable, innocent and docile labour in various hazardous sectors and among employers where the working conditions and the treatment totally violates the human rights of the children. These sectors are characterized by environments that are unacceptable as well as dangerous to the health and the development of the children. These forms range from bonded labour, camel jockeying, child domestic labour, commercial sexual exploitation and prostitution, drug couriering, and child soldiering to exploitative or slavery-like practices in the informal industrial sector.

“Special Action Programme to combat Forced Labour (SAP-FL), represent ILO in the Steering Committee of the United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking (UN.GIFT)⁹”. Under Anti Human Trafficking Unit (AHTU), the Railway staff, Departments of Labour of various states and JD, CBI are all working together hand in hand to monitor and control of trafficking of children.

Poor access to decent work

Poor access to decent work, unemployment or underemployment of parents insufficient income of the parents, their financial inability to spend on the higher education of their children are the causes for child labour. Due to these reasons sometimes children need to work to get both the ends tied up¹⁰. Indian government and various state governments are providing mid day meals, and even healthy breakfast in schools, which attracts some school joining, the ever increasing population and poverty is unable to be met with such schemes.

VII. FAMILY SIZE

A family, which is big in size with low income, cannot lead a happy life. As a result, family members cannot get better education, entertainment, health care and opportunities to grow into a healthy family environment. On the other hand, a family, which is limited in size and well-planned, assures all possible development opportunities for its member and helping them to protect themselves from the insecurities of life. This indicates that the nuclear family, which holds a low number of hand help, is producing a higher number of children. Large families with relatively low incomes may not have happy perceptions in their minds. As a result, they cannot protect and encourage their children's childhood. Furthermore, it may be noted that while birth order influences child labour, the falling family size may also impact child labour. It can be assumed that the lower

⁸Web site : indiancc.mygov.in, (1978-79)

⁹ <https://www.unodc.org/lpo-brazil/en/trafico-de-pessoas/ungift.html>

¹⁰ Edmonds E.V, “Does Child Labour Decline with Improving Economic Status”, Journal of Human Resources, at pp. 40., (2005),

the family size, the lower will be the possibility of child labour as families can certainly afford to send their one child or two children to school.

If a family is limited and well planned, there will be less scope for sending children to the work force market and the children can be sent for education. Illiterate, naive and innocent parents think the opposite. Thus, if the parent's family size is small, they can provide all the facilities that are necessary for psychological, physical, economical and social development to their children. But, unfortunately, poor and illiterate parents think otherwise. They think that when God has given the body, he will feed him. They also consider three or four children better than having just one or two. For these parents, more offsprings mean more family income earning persons. They argue that while every human body has just only one mouth to eat, whereas it has two hands to feed it. But, they forget.

VIII. PARENTING METHODS

When the children saw their parents working in the fields, they will take their parents as role models and start helping them with them and this is the beginning cause of the history of child labour in agriculture sector, which is the largest in India. Small disinterest in the school study, timings, distance, peers and in the curriculum, lack of motivating teachers etc., divert the student to take up this work on full time basis.

Lack of social security to the children will be there in the society due to neglected parenting. If the children are not cared and nurtured properly, they would turn into antisocial as well as child labour depending on whether they belong to upper and lower middle class respectively. Children who do not have a living mother or father or both, then these children are more likely to be turned as child labour, for their self sustain or to support to the single parent. Abuse of the children including child marriage which forms a vicious cycle of increasing population, illiteracy and poverty and hence child labour.

IX. UNEMPLOYMENT

Reduced opportunities for women, indirectly demotivates the parents to send girl child to school, compared to male child. Exploiting nature and uncaring attitude of employers towards labour creates unemployment in the country. Unemployment is another economic factor causing child labour to occur in the country. Proper employment opportunities in general in the country to the citizens and educated that too in time, may not cause a social havoc and family building, child rearing will go smooth hand in hand and is a good onus to the society.

Women Employment is considered as double edged factor. In lower middle class, if mothers are to work, they have to send their tender aged children to school or to work, depending on their financial needs. However employment opportunities are guaranteed and abundant and based on schooling and training thus, the chance of sending the child to the school will increase, as evident in case of the apprenticeship, ITI, vocational education etc.

X. NATURAL DISASTERS AND PANDEMICS LIKE COVID-19

Natural disasters and climate change, which disturbs the families, villages altogether and causes for migration due to national calamities. This compels the decision of parents, from giving up schooling to the earning. Natural disasters such as cross border displacement Internal displacement, break down of law, enforcement, breakdown of services, Humanitarian access, break down in economic production, working conditions and family separation can cause increase child labour. Natural disasters can be linked with the risk of child labour, as the households and families affected are forced to turn to their children into labour as a negative coping mechanism. Throughout history large scale disease outbreaks have driven humanitarian need. The latest example, the on-going COVID-19 pandemic, has brought an unprecedented crisis around the entire world, resulting in serious health, social and economic disruption, and will more than likely not be the last pandemic of our time. The impact of COVID-19 on children has been profound, long-term, and unequal. In less than two years, an additional 100 million children have fallen into poverty, of which 40 million are from least developed countries. An additional 9 million children were estimated to be at risk of being converted into the labour by the end of year 2022 because of the increase in poverty triggered by this pandemic. The next section deals with the status of child labour during Covid-19 pandemic.

XI. LACK OF GOOD SCHOOLING AND HEALTH CARE

Lack of good schooling and health care both of which cause the parent to decide in early settlement of the child in a profession rather than sending into a school. Older children are forced to work so as to help their parents and financially support the entire family. High cost of education is also an indirect reason not to send all the children to the school, which is a double benefit to the family, saving on school expenditure and earning

his own wages on working. Quality education is always expensive in India and school fee is proportional to the quality and standards, as per belief of the common persons.

XII. EDUCATIONAL LEVEL OF CHILD LABOUR IN INDIA

The introduction of active strategies on education in India has had an important effect on refining literacy rates and contribution in varied service opportunities for youth. The perseverance of child labour, though, examines the connection between tendencies in education for children and their contribution in the workforce, with analyses of literacy heights among child labour at the national and state levels in order to measure the issues that affect children's education. Of the total 4.4 million main child labourers in the nation in 2011 million (65.3 %) between the ages of five and fifteen were literate. In 2001, there was an increase from 47.6 % of literate child workers, of which 4 % of child labourers had completed matriculation or above. This huge upsurge over a decade meant that more and more kids were attending at least few classes in institutes. Implementation of "the Right to Education Act and Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA)" may have meaningful results for increased level of literacy, but the question that gets up here is: How much have these leading programmes of the Indian Government paid to keeping children in school for a lengthier period of time? It is pertinent to mention here that in spite of high rates of literacy and school being present, numerous children are still involuntary to work. Many micro-studies reveal its causes, such as:

- Having education institutes at long distances;
- Having a dilapidated school structure;
- Lack of safe drinking water;
- Lack of toilet facilities in the school;
- Lack of separate toilet for girls in the school premises;
- Inadequate number of teachers in the school; and
- Irregular attendance of teachers in the school.

Mentioned above are some of the main factors that compel education to distance itself from children. Formal school times are harsh and often in struggle with other events, particularly in rural zones. Even when kids go to school, they have no inducement to complete the many stages of school as the post-school employment landscape remains bleak and there is no extra return to schooling. All the above-mentioned factors drive children to drop out of school, and all these decisions are generally taken by their parents. To sum up, efforts to recover the level of schooling and literacy rates may have been fruitful, but policy initiatives also need to focus on production up for the wage loss caused by retreating children from paid employment to families.

XIII. CONSUMER ORIENTED CULTURE

Consumer-oriented culture means the consumer is at the forefront of everything. Whether it's hiring, setting goals, planning or new products, the customer need has to be considered throughout the decision-making process and such consumer oriented culture has driven the society for the fast dependent on products, which necessitated quick labour, cheap labour and flexible in skilling. These qualities were naturally available in child labour and hence the growth in the 1990s due to technological improvements.

XIV. BIRTH ORDER

The evidence shows that the birth order of a child has significant effects on child development and achievement. In developing countries where a large family is very common, birth order matters significantly, particularly if households have resource constraints. Because of resource constraints, intra-household allocation of resources can be different for different children, according to their birth order. Therefore, differences in distribution of resources among children have significant effects on a child's outcomes. A number of studies have examined differences in nutrition, educational attainment and earnings among siblings¹¹ (see for instance, Behman and Taubman 1986).

Previous studies from developed countries showed that older siblings are at an advantage as against those born later. Hence, older children could be higher achievers, as parents devote more resources, time, and energy to them. However, there are counter arguments. Some argue that older birth order (being relatively younger) may be conducive for child outcomes. Parents may be better able to take care of their later-born children; this is because parents may have simply matured over time and their child-raising skills may have been honed over

¹¹ Behrman and P Taubman, "Birth Order, Schooling, and Earnings". Journal of Labour Economics, IV (3): S121-45, (1986).

time. Besides this, if parents are credit-constrained and their earnings schedules are upward sloping with age, parents would be financially better able to raise later-born children¹².

As parents have to make a choice from among their children for schooling, the birth order of the child could be a potential factor affecting parents' decisions regarding school and labour force participation. This rationalism is particularly driven by the resource constraints and poverty of the household. The fact is that parents are not discriminating among children intentionally; rather they are forced to do so because of their socio-economic and cultural background. Therefore, whatever the reason, there is a difference in children's activities according to their birth order. However, the effects of birth order could be different in the context of child labour, particularly in low-income countries. Earlier-born children could be more productive, to command higher wages or be more able to do household work or farming activities because of their higher innate abilities¹³ (Emerson and Souza 2004). This could induce parents to choose their older children for work.

There is also a societal belief that earlier-born children should take on more family responsibilities. Therefore, they are more likely to be chosen for work by their parents. When the household gets some income support from their earlier-born children then they are able to send their younger children to school. The evidence shows that older children are more likely to work and the older the children are the higher will be their wages.

Using data from Bangladesh, Khanam and Rahman (2007) examine how the birth order of a child influences parental decisions to place children in one of four activities: 'study only', 'study and work', 'neither work nor study' and 'work only'. Their results, derived from multinomial logit model, reveal that being a firstborn child increases the probability of work as the prime activity, or at least a combination of school and work, rather than schooling only. That is, later-born children are definitely likely to be in school, as has been observed as general phenomenon in more number of low income families, than their earlier-born siblings. Using a longitudinal data set from the Philippines, Ejrnæs and Pörtner¹⁴ (2002) analysed the effect of the birth order of a child on its human capital. They also found strong evidence of birth order in both completed school and time spent on school activities. Their estimation results, however, revealed that later-born children receive more schooling than earlier-born siblings²¹. Examining the effects of birth order on an individual's earning possibilities, Kessler¹⁵ (1991) found no significant effects of birth order on an individual's achievements. A model developed by Edmonds¹⁶ (2005) also documents that older children have comparative advantages in household production over their younger siblings; hence parents may choose to send older children to work while they send younger children to school. Also, older girls may be better at housework than their younger siblings, so they are more likely to work more than their later-born counterparts.

Also, due to capital market imperfection, a poor household might not be able to send its earlier-born children to school, but could send its "later-born children, due to the income earned by their older siblings". The results from their empirical investigation suggest that first-born children are less likely to attend school than their later-born siblings and that lastborn children are less likely to work as child labourers than their earlier-born siblings. However, the opposite scenario is also observed. For example, Behrman and Taubman (1986) examined the effect of the birth order on schooling and earnings¹⁷.

Ilahi¹⁸ (2001) find opposite results in Peru regarding birth order. Using panel data from Peru, he reveals that the younger child, particularly a boy, of a household is more likely to work. He documents that after age,

¹² Kessler, Daniel, "Birth Order, Family Size, and Achievement: Family Structure and Wage Determination," *Journal of Labor Economics*, University of Chicago Press, vol. 9(4), pp. 413-426, (1991).

¹³ Emerson, P M and A P Souza, "Is There a Child Labour Trap? Intergenerational Persistence of Child Labour in Brazil". *Economic Development and Cultural Changes*, LI (2): 375-98. (2003).

¹⁴ Ejrnæs, Mette and Pörtner, Claus, , Birth Order and the Intra household Allocation of Time and Education, *The Review of Economics and Statistics*, 86, issue 4, p. 1008-1019, <https://EconPapers.repec.org/RePEc:tpr:restat:v:86:y:2004:i:4:p:1008-1019>, (2004)

¹⁵ Kessler, Daniel, "Birth Order, Family Size, and Achievement: Family Structure and Wage Determination," *Journal of Labor Economics*, University of Chicago Press, vol. 9(4), pp. 413-426, (1991).

¹⁶ Edmonds E.V, Does Child Labour Decline with Improving Economic Status, *Journal of Human Resources*, at pp. 40, (2005)

¹⁷ Behrman and P Taubman, "Birth Order, Schooling, and Earnings". *Journal of Labour Economics*, IV (3): S121-45, (1986)

¹⁸ Ilahi, N The Intra-household Allocation of Time and Tasks: What Have We Learnt from the Empirical Literature? Policy Report on Gender and Development, Working Paper Series No. 13. Washington, D.C.: World Bank, (2000).

birth order influences the decision to work of boys but not girls; also, as the sibling rank (that is, being relatively younger) of a boy increases, he is more likely to work.

Though teaching and learning of economic reliance is taught, it is never expected the child to become labour. Education should create useful, responsible and dynamic citizens. By education all the hidden powers of child should develop according to the community of which he is an integral part. Education should also develop human values in the child. All education should be imparted through some productive craft or industry and a useful correlation should be established with that industry.

The industry should be such that the child is able to achieve gainful work experience through practical work. Education should be made self-supporting through some productive work. Education should lead to economic independence and self-reliance for livelihood. This has to be understood with caution, in no way the children be encouraged to take up job or labour, at this time. As per Mahatma Gandhi's educational thoughts, the development of the personality of child is more important than mere literacy or knowledge of different subjects. In other words, he believed in life-centered as well as child-centered education. Besides learning of three R's Reading, Writing and Arithmetic in school, he insisted on development of these H's Hand, Heart and Head. Thus, the aim of Education should be of developing the integrated personality of the child.

XV. PREVENTIVE MEASURES

In the present research work, the researcher has studied the topic in depth, interviewed with the help of structured and non-structured questionnaires and hereby offers following suggestions, so that child labour can be eradicated. The preventive measures proposed to eradicate child labour in general and in specific to our country India.

1. Sending children to school and spread awareness about the problems of child labour.
2. Strict action must be taken for employing children for labour in homes, shops, factories, hotels, mechanic sheds etc.
3. Multi pronged policy to be formulated to provide for schooling, day care and proper wages with child care leave and providing nutritious food
4. Providing incentives to parents and permitting to avail governmental schemes only if their wards are admitted into schools
5. Educating parents and making them literate through possible compulsory school system
6. Appointing counselling psychologists in each and every school.
7. Day care centres cum feeding centres nearby work places, so that girl child will be freed and sent to the school by avoiding her taking the role of mother
8. Separate girl toilets with napkin vending machine and destroying machines should be there in all the schools, to take care of their menstrual cycle
9. School timings, holidays should be in accordance with the geographical, social and cultural conditions
10. NEP 2020 should be strictly followed and adopted in all states, in letter and spirit, which incorporated many measures against school dropouts.
11. The teacher must be at the centre of the fundamental reforms in the education system. The new education policy must help re-establish teachers, at all levels, as the most respected and essential members of our society, because they truly shape our next generation of citizens¹⁹.
12. Illiteracy is one of the first and foremost significant causes of child labour in India. Therefore the government should provide schooling to all its citizens, because uneducated individuals do not understand and comprehend the impact of child labour on their family and civilization, as a result of which child labour increases. The government should underline on adult schooling and it should be applied with extra enthusiasm so that every educated person becomes aware about his rights and duties.
13. Impoverishment is another main factor affecting child labour issue, so the government should take effective steps to eliminate impoverishment from the society. The state should try to raise the standard of living of its citizens by increasing their income. The state should make special provisions for the severely poverty stricken and low-employment generating sector. The families with child labour should be endowed monthly financial assistance by the government, so that they can meet their basic needs and prevent their child from going on child labour.
14. Section 3 (2-A) of the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2016, permits offspring to work in their home. Although, working in their home is not a terrible thing, it encourages child labour especially in deprived families, as the children of these families insist that the working

¹⁹ National Education Policy, 2020

home or other family, shop or place etc., there is no difference in where they get the money from. Therefore, the work outside the home should be restricted to children by restricting the work of the child to his own family.

15. Section 3(2) of the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2016 describes 'family' and take in the siblings of the father and the mother thereby enlarging the size of the family and at times appearing to be it happens that in poor families these family members especially (father and mother siblings) motivate them to work outside the home. Therefore, the size of the family as defined by this Act should be restricted to mother, father, brother and sister only. Government should take measures to educate the illiterate parents about the bad effects of a big family size.
16. The 'right to education' in Article 21-A which is given in the Indian Constitution, should be reviewed. For which a committee should be constituted, whose work is only to see how numerous children are getting education in non-government schools under this right. If private schools are not subsequent this Article of the Constitution, then necessary action should be taken straightway.
17. The government should construct completely residential schools for the poor, deprived and orphan children where they can get nutritional diet, accommodation, garments and other basic necessities so that they do not become a load upon their poor parents. If they get all these basic needs from the government then they will not go to work to fulfill their needs and give full attention to their studies, thus child labour can be largely controlled. This is one of the best measures to abolish child labour completely.
18. The government should encourage an attitude among the people of taking service only from those workplaces and shops where no child is besmeared in hard work. If people start adopting such a viewpoint, employers will also refrain from hiring children for services, thus preventing child labour.
19. The government should instantly refer the culprits of child labour to jail, because it will set an instance for the rest of the civilization that undertaking children's work is an amerceable crime and if anyone employing children will not be spared under any situations and he will be punished severely.
20. The government should make it mandatory for every shopkeeper, establishment owner and others to set up a board which obviously references that no child labour is involved in any movement while providing the service.
21. The government should freeze providing any aid or benefits from the government side and facilities to those who rent a child to labour and also to the parents who refer their child to labour at an early age. There are a large number of parents in India who send their children to work for very low wages, so when the parents of such families are deprived of government facilities, they refuse to send their offspring to work.
22. The government should reach out to the children who do not go to education institute, and the government should issue strict instructions to the government teacher to persuade the parents of such children to send them to education institute. The government should create creative curricula and innovative pedagogy, including physical activities that engage children, so that children can realize their full budding. The education scheme should be made employable by the government, so that the illusion should not be created in the society that even after studies, everyone will not get a job.
23. The government should take strict steps to combat child labour, if any child is found employed in workshops, factories, shops or any other dangerous place, then the government should instantly start the process of confiscation of that place.

The growing population is also a major feature in child labour, so the government should spread the acquaintance about domestic planning and implement it strictly. Poor and deprived families do not consider the number of offspring they produce extra offspring and when those children stand to meet their basic needs they try to work outside the home, as a result it increases the number of child labour increases.

XVI. SCOPE FOR FUTURE RESEARCH

The present attempted to include all the factors causing child labour and offered suggestions to combat the same. However the limitations of the study can be overcome in future research duly interviewing various significant stakeholders, who directly and indirectly contribute to the factors of child labour, with a structured questionnaire. Thus standardised questionnaires should have been used to elicit more detailed opinions in the wake of information overload situation and analysed with SPSS software and hypotheses be tested. Many recent case laws on this child labour, children rights in the wake of increased family disputes and human rights in general may be further incorporated to offer much more suggestions to increase the conviction rate of the default employers, who employ child labour and to offer some more policy formulations.

XVII. CONCLUSIONS

There exists a demand for children where they are supposed to perform better than adults at more tedious, less mechanical jobs which necessitate manual dexterity and nimbleness, rather than investing in training and skills of youth. The adaptive abilities of children are much superior to those of adults. “Children have less developed ego and status consciousness”²⁰. They are also less afflicted by feelings of guilt and shame. The industrialization and technological advancements have accelerated the phase and tendency among the employers to employ the children for fulfilling the greed of earning more profits. The lack of implementation of the laws in the true spirit is a clear indication manifesting in the presence of child labour or sometimes increase in the child labour. Various factors causing the child labour and its continuance in India, have been discussed in length. Some of the opinions elicited by the stakeholders such as Teachers, Parents of the children in the target group, law professionals and psychologists are also included and have been presented in this study.

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