



STANDING UP FOR THE VOICELESS: BACHPAN BACHAO ANDOLAN'S MISSION TO PROTECT THE CHILDREN'S HUMAN RIGHTS IN INDIA

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Abstract

This paper seeks to investigate the function of the Bachpan Bachao Andolan in defending children's human rights in India. Secondary data, principally official reports from the Bachpan Bachao Andolan (BBA), the National Commission for the Protection of the Rights of the Child, and the National Human Rights Commission, are used in this study. BBA was established in 1980 by Kailash SatyaRathi as a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO). Its principal purpose was to create a child-friendly society in which all children are safe from exploitation and get a free, high-quality education. Its principal purpose is to eradicate bonded labour, child labour, and human trafficking while also demanding that all children have the right to an education. The South Asia alliance against child slavery was originally publicised by BBA, the first organisation in India to raise awareness of the problem (SACCS). This study also examines India's constitutional guarantee for children as well as other child welfare programmes. According to the National Commission for Enterprises in the Unorganized Sector (2007), the country's potential child labour pool stands at 45.2 million youngsters. According to the non-governmental organisation, the overall number of child labourers in India is 60 million, or 6% of the entire population. However, according to the NFHS-3 Report (2005-06), 15% of youngsters in India are still working.

Keywords: Human rights, bachpan bachao andolan, and child labour

Introduction

Even though the fact that child are considered God's apostles who come to this earth with God's teachings. They were still constrained by the conditions to have a normal life. Mrs E Jebb of England may have been the first to launch an international campaign to offer legal status to children. It would not be difficult to find a big gap between promise and performance. In 1982, the director of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) recognised that the world's children were suffering, with 40000 children being killed

quietly every day and hundreds of millions of children going to bed hungry. India's condition is no better. International Year of the Child has been designated for 1979. (IYC). Denmark's Erik Terichav created a logo that displays hugging humans embellished by UN larvae leaves and emphasises the link between parents and children. Jawaharlal Nehru's birthday, November 14, has been proclaimed as Universal Children's Day. The Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), developed by the United Nations Commission on Human Rights and ratified by the United Nations General Assembly on November 20, 1989, is a

collection of International Standards and Measures for the protection and promotion of children's well-being in society.

Human Rights:

Human rights are not a new notion, and their roots may be traced back to the intellectual underpinnings of Europe's liberal democratic history, notably in the United Kingdom, France, and the United States. Human Rights were philosophically addressed in the writings of Henry David Thoreau in his thesis *Civil Disobedience*, J S Mill in his article *On Liberty*, and Thomas Paine in his essay *The Right of Man*. The Puritans Revolt and the people's revolution of the 17th century, however, saw intellectuals add to the discussion of human rights in Hobbes' book *Leviathan* before the Reformation and the Age of Reason (Renaissance). Lock in his *Two Treatises on Government*, and Rousseau in his *Contract Sociale*. The Magna Carta incorporated ideas such as trial by jury of peers, an end to feudal forced labour, no expropriation of property without compensation, equality before the law for everyone, and the right to free migration. Almost a century later, in 1776, the majority of British colonies in North America declared their independence from the British Empire in the document "The American Declaration of Independence," which said that "we consider these rights to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." The establishment of the United Nations was a watershed point in the institutionalisation of human rights. The United Nations Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights are the most explicit representations of human rights and dignity. The basic rights that every individual has a right to are established in important international treaties. These are the essential rights that every individual must have to order to be recognised as a member of the human family. This concept is based on the premise that everyone has inherent rights and dignity. All humans receive these moral precepts just by being human. "Rights are those social circumstances without which no one may be his best self," wrote H. J. Laski.

According to the UN Human Rights Center Rights, human rights are "those rights which are inherited in our nature and without which we cannot survive as human beings."

Bachpan Bachao Andolan

Kailash SatyaRathi established it all in 1980. Its fundamental purpose was to develop a culture that cherishes children, in which all the youth are safe from exploitation and have access to free, high-quality education. Its key goals include the prohibition of forced labour, child labour, and human trafficking, as well as the demand that all children have the right to an education. BBA was the first organisation in India to raise awareness of the problem and begin South Asia re-habitation, as well as educate 85000 children who had been kept in slavery, including bonded labourers.

Child Labor

Worldwide, hundreds of millions of children work in jobs that violate human rights by depriving them of adequate education, decent health, leisure time, and fundamental independence. More than half of these children are subjected to the most heinous forms of child labour, such as working in hazardous circumstances, being enslaved or subjected to other forms of forced labour, engaging in criminal activities such as prostitution and drug trafficking, or participating in armed warfare. The legal age for becoming an adult is 18 years old. A person under the age of 18 who works in hazardous conditions, in slavery or other types of forced labour, in illicit activities including prostitution and human trafficking, or armed combat is referred to as a child labourer. To highlight the plight of these children, the International Labour Organization (ILO) established the first World Day Against Child Labor in 2002. The day, which is commemorated on June 12th, is designed to stimulate the increasing worldwide anti-child labour movement, as indicated by the vast number of ratifications of ILO Convention No. 182 on the worst kinds of child labour and ILO Convention No. 138 on the minimum age for work. According to the International Labour Organization's "Acceleration Action Against Child Labor" Report (2010), 215 million children work as

child labourers globally, with 115 million engaging in dangerous jobs. According to the 2001 Census of India, India has the most child workers (12.7 million). The Advisory Committee of Organizations in the Informal Sectors estimated that there are 45.2 million children in the nation that can be able to work (2007). There are 60 million child labourers in India, or 6% of the whole population, according to the humanitarian organisation. The NFHS-3 Report (2005–2006) does indicate that 15% of Indian youngsters are still employed now. A kid is defined as "any human being who is less than the age of eighteen unless the age of majority is earlier under the legislation applicable to the child." According to the Indian Constitution, everyone less than 14 is considered a kid. A child is a person under the age of 12 according to the Plantation Labour Act 7. A child is defined as a person under the age of 14 in the factories Act No. 8. Children are defined as those under the age of 14 by the Child Labor Act of 2012.

Statement of the problem:

Despite constitutional and legal provisions for protecting children's rights in India, a large number of children continue to be subjected to various forms of exploitation, abuse, and trafficking. The problem is compounded by the lack of awareness, social apathy, and inadequate implementation of existing laws and policies. Bachpan Bachao Andolan (BBA), a non-governmental organization (NGO) in India, has been working towards protecting the human rights of children since its inception in 1980. However, there is a need to evaluate the effectiveness of BBA's strategies and interventions in achieving its mission, especially in the context of the current socio-political and economic realities in India. This research paper aims to investigate BBA's role in protecting the children's human rights and to provide insights into the challenges and opportunities faced by the organization in achieving its goals

Objectives of the study

1. To study the BachpanBachaoAndolan (BBA).
2. To study India's constitutional protections for children.

Research Methodology

This article focused mostly on description and analysis. This article attempts to explain BBA policies and programmes. This study drew on data from both published and unpublished sources. Following data analysis and discussion, some recommendations were made to help enhance the condition of women in India.

Bachpan Bachao Andolan's Role

One of India's biggest problems is child labour. To protect children from child labour, Kailash Satyarthi and a small group of like-minded people founded the BachpanBachaoAndolan in 1980. The BachpanBachaoAndolan was successful in establishing important anti-child labour and anti-trafficking legislation, changing the fate of 82000 children freed from exploitation. BBA founded the Bal Ashram in Rajasthan. Its main goal was to provide a long-term solution to earlier child labour.

Bachpan Bachao Andolan Programs:

1. Bal Mitra Gram: BBA launched this programme in 2001. It is also referred to as a child-friendly village. This programme called for the establishment of an elected children's assembly in the village, as well as links between it and the village council. It also aimed to increase school enrollment and community action for children. A Bal Mitra Gram is a village in India.

- a. No children are being mistreated.
- b. All kids are enrolled in school.
- c. The formation of children's elected village assembly and the empowerment of children regarding their rights.
- d. The village's official council acknowledges the elected youth council as an integral part of village decision-making.

2. SikshaYatra: BBA organised and oversaw a 15000 km long march that took place as part of a six-month-long campaign across India. The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act was enacted by the Indian government in 2001 in response to its requests.

3. Anti-factories campaign: The BBA launched this campaign in 1991 to draw attention to the condition of young children employed in the firecracker industry.

4. The South Asian Coalition on Child Servitude (SACCS): SACCS is a network of more than 750 civil society organisations that aims to eradicate child labour in South Asia. Founded in 1989 by BachpanBachaoAndolan. According to the BBA, they have rescued 86325 children from forced labour and slavery since 1980.

The Indian Constitution's Child Human Rights Provision:

1. The right to an education 21(A): The Right to Free and Compulsory Education Act, often known as the Right to Education Act, was approved by parliament in 2002, making education a basic right. This Article declares that "the state should offer free and compulsory education to all children aged six to fourteen years in such way as the state may by law designate."

2. Article 45: Childhood development care and education of young children under the age of six. This article states that "the state must endeavour to provide early childhood care and education for all children until the whole age of six years."

3. Article 51: By the 86th amendment to the Indian constitution in 2002, this article was added as a fundamental duty. Who is a parent or guardian, according to the article, "to give chances for education to his kid or, as the case may be, ward between the ages of six and fourteen years?"

4. Article 24: According to Article 24, no kid under the age of fourteen may work in a mine, factory, or any other dangerous activity.

5. Article 39: Based on this article, kids are provided with the chances and resources they need to grow up in a healthy, free, and dignified way. It also specifies that childhood and youth are safeguarded against exploitation and moral and material abandonment.

National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPDR)

The Commission for the Protection of Child Rights Statute, a parliamentary act passed in December 2005, created it as a governmental entity. The Ministry of Women and Child Development of the Indian Government is in charge of the commission. The commission began going in 2007. "To guarantee that all laws, policies, programmes, and administrative processes are by the child rights viewpoint as

embodied in the Indian constitution and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child," is the commission's stated mandate. Anyone under the age of 18 is considered a kid in the eyes of the commission.

The Indian government's policies and programmes Some of India's children's programmes are listed below.

- The Rajiv Gandhi Scheme to Empower Adolescent Girls
- The Kishori Shakti Yojna
- The Nutrition Program for Teenage Girls
- Dhanalakshmi
- Poorna Shakti Kendra
- The Integrated Child Protection Scheme
- Bal VivahAbhiyan
- The National Bravery Award
- The SukanyaSamridhhi Account Yojna
- The MukhyaMantriKanyaVivahYojna
- The RashtriyaKishorSwasthyaKaryakram
- Constrained Cash Transfer

Conclusion and recommendation

Children are a nation's future, and while healthy, prosperous, and growing youngsters promise a bright future, exploited, and physically weak kids not only suffer but also fail to contribute to the country's prosperity. According to research, while child labour is mostly the product of poverty and unequal development, no nation in the world today is free of the threat of child labour. Every country, rich or poor, industrialised or developing, technologically advanced or not, works to abolish or decrease child labour since no one can afford to bear the weight of disregarding working children's predicament. Since the introduction of the Indian Constitution in 1950, the government of India has taken attempts to address the issue of child labour in the country. The Government of India, state governments, humanitarian bodies such as UNICEF, ILO, and World Bank, as well as non-governmental organisations (NGOs), are involved in the country through the enforcement of child labour laws, minimum wage laws, and the implementation of various poverty alleviation and employment generation programmes for parents, as well as the establishment of specific schools under the National Child Labour Programme (NCLP), among other things.

Some solutions to the problem of child labour are offered below.

- a. First and foremost, the government must execute a population control programme since several states, such as Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, have populations so dense that parents cannot feed eight or ten children.
- b. Aside from the rising population, the biggest reason is narcotics like alcohol, which the government must outlaw.
- c. Education in India should be made free and compulsory.
- d. The government must act to eliminate poverty, as it is a key source of child labour.

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