



DESCRIPTIVE STUDY ON CHILD LABOUR (IN INDIA IN PERSPECTIVE OF SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND LEGAL GROUNDS)

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Abstract

Child labour remains a significant issue in India, with millions of children involved in hazardous occupations that pose severe risks to their physical and mental health, education, and future prospects. This paper provides an overview of the prevalence, causes, and consequences of child labour in India, highlighting the role of poverty, limited access to education, discrimination, cultural beliefs, and globalization. The paper also discusses the challenges and limitations in addressing child labour in India, such as inadequate enforcement of laws and regulations, lack of awareness, and the need for greater collaboration between government, NGOs, and civil society. Drawing on existing literature, the paper argues for a more comprehensive approach that tackles the root causes of child labour in India. Such an approach would require a coordinated effort from various stakeholders to address poverty, improve access to education, promote social and cultural change, and ensure effective enforcement of laws and regulations. The paper concludes by highlighting the urgency of the issue and the need for sustained action to eradicate child labour in India.

Keywords: enforcement of laws, collaboration, Illiteracy, compliance, comprehensive approach

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INTRODUCTION

Child labour is a pressing issue in India that continues to pose a significant threat to the well-being of millions of children across the country. Despite efforts by the government and various organizations to address this issue, child labour remains prevalent, especially in rural areas where poverty and social protections are weaker. The detrimental impact of child labour on children's education, health, and future prospects is a cause for concern, and the need for a comprehensive approach to tackle this issue has never been more pressing.

This paper explores the complex causes and consequences of child labour in India, providing an in-depth analysis of the social, economic, and cultural factors that contribute to this problem. Drawing on existing literature, the paper highlights the historical context of child labour in India, shedding light on how this issue has been deeply ingrained in the country's social and economic fabric for centuries. It also examines the existing legal framework, including the laws and regulations put in place by the Indian government to protect children from exploitation.

The paper argues that while these laws and regulations are essential, they are not enough to address the root causes of child labour in India. Poverty, limited access to education, discrimination, and cultural beliefs that view child labour as acceptable all contribute to this issue. The paper provides insights into how these factors can be addressed through a comprehensive approach that involves collaboration between government, NGOs, and civil society. It explores strategies that can be implemented to improve access to education, promote social and cultural change, and ensure effective enforcement of laws and regulations.

In conclusion, this paper highlights the urgent need for a coordinated effort to address child labour in India. By providing an in-depth analysis of the causes and consequences of this issue, the paper aims to contribute to ongoing efforts to eradicate child labour in India and create a more just and equitable society for all.

CAUSES OF CHILD LABOUR

POVERTY: The issue of child labour in India can be traced back to the pervasive poverty that exists in many parts of the country. With a lack of adequate income to support their families, parents are often forced to rely on their children to contribute to household finances. This can lead to

children being sent to work in a variety of hazardous and difficult jobs, including those in agriculture, construction, and domestic work. Unfortunately, these jobs often come with little or no protections, leaving children vulnerable to exploitation and abuse. Despite efforts to address the issue, poverty remains a major driving force behind child labour in India.

LACK OF ACCESS TO EDUCATION:

Child labour continues to be a pervasive issue in India, with a significant driver being the lack of access to quality education, especially in rural areas. The absence of adequate education deprives children of opportunities to learn and grow, leaving them with limited options for future employment. Consequently, families living in poverty rely on children to supplement their income, leading to an increase in child labour.

Moreover, children who are forced to work instead of attending school miss out on critical life skills and development opportunities. They are often compelled to engage in hazardous and dangerous jobs, such as working in factories or mines, and are exposed to physical and emotional abuse. Without proper education and training, they remain stuck in these menial jobs, unable to break free from the poverty trap.

It is essential to recognize that addressing the issue of child labour requires a multi-pronged approach that includes education and economic empowerment. By providing access to quality education, we can ensure that children have a brighter future and can break the cycle of poverty that perpetuates the exploitation of child labour. Furthermore, economic empowerment of families can help create alternative livelihood options, reducing the dependence on child labour as a means of survival.

SOCIAL AND CULTURAL FACTORS:

Social and cultural factors play a significant role in perpetuating the problem of child labor in India. In some traditional societies, children are seen as an economic asset, and their contribution to the family's income is highly valued. This view often results in children being sent to work instead of attending school, where they are exposed to hazardous and exploitative working conditions.

Furthermore, the prevalence of child labor in certain regions of India is also influenced by societal attitudes towards gender. Girls are often expected to take on household chores and care for younger siblings, leaving them with little time to

pursue education or other opportunities. This gender bias further reinforces the cycle of poverty and lack of access to education, making it difficult for children, especially girls, to break free from the cycle of exploitation and poverty.

MIGRATION AND DISPLACEMENT:

Child labor in India is not only a result of poverty, lack of education, and cultural norms but also a consequence of internal migration and displacement. When families are forced to migrate to new locations due to conflicts, natural disasters, or economic reasons, children are at a higher risk of being pushed into labor to assist their families. The transition to a new place can be challenging, and families may struggle to make ends meet, leading to children being sent to work to supplement the household income. The lack of social safety nets in such situations also exacerbates the problem, as families may have limited access to resources or government support, leaving children vulnerable to exploitation and abuse. Therefore, addressing the issue of child labor in India requires a multi-pronged approach that takes into account various factors, including internal migration and displacement.

LACK OF ENFORCEMENT OF LABOUR LAWS:

Despite having strict laws against child labor, India continues to grapple with the menace due to inadequate implementation and enforcement of the regulations. The lack of monitoring and supervision of workplaces, especially in the informal sector, provides opportunities for unscrupulous employers to hire children and exploit them for low-wage work. This also results in hazardous working conditions for children, who may be subjected to physical, emotional, and sexual abuse, and are denied basic rights such as access to education, healthcare, and a safe working environment. The government needs to prioritize the strict implementation of labor laws and regulations, and ensure that violators are penalized accordingly, to eliminate the scourge of child labor in India.

DEMAND FOR CHEAP LABOUR:

The relentless pursuit of profit by industries in India has further perpetuated the problem of child labor in the country. Children are often employed in industries such as agriculture, textiles, and manufacturing, where they are subjected to harsh working conditions and paid meager wages. With limited bargaining power and a lack of legal protection, children become easy targets for exploitation by employers who seek to maximize their profits by utilizing cheap labor. This situation

is compounded by the lack of effective government intervention, which allows such exploitative practices to continue unchecked. As a result, the vicious cycle of poverty and child labor persists, with children being denied the opportunity to live a childhood free of exploitation and abuse.

HIGH COST OF EDUCATION:

One of the contributing factors to child labor in India is the lack of access to affordable and quality education. Many families living in poverty cannot afford the expenses associated with schooling, such as tuition fees, uniforms, textbooks, and transportation costs. This leaves children with little choice but to work to help support their families.

Moreover, the quality of education in many parts of the country is poor, with limited access to trained teachers, proper infrastructure, and learning resources. This means that even if children do attend school, they may not receive the necessary skills and knowledge to secure better-paying jobs in the future, leaving them trapped in the cycle of poverty and child labor.

Additionally, there is a cultural bias towards educating boys over girls, which further perpetuates the problem of child labor, particularly for girls. Girls are often seen as a burden on families due to the dowry system, and many families choose to prioritize the education and employment of their sons over their daughters.

All these factors contribute to the prevalence of child labor in India, highlighting the urgent need for the government and stakeholders to address the issue and ensure that every child has access to quality education and opportunities for a better future.

ILLITERACY:

In societies where education is not given its due importance, children's access to education is limited, and they may not receive the support they need to pursue their goals. Often, the parents of such children have had little education themselves and do not see the value of educating their children, particularly if they have limited resources. In such societies, household chores, child-rearing, and family responsibilities may be viewed as more important than education. As a result, children may be expected to help with household tasks or work to support their family instead of attending school, depriving them of the opportunity to acquire essential skills and knowledge that are critical for future success.

FAMILY TRADITION:

In some communities in India, child labour is not only justified but also celebrated as a rite of passage. It is believed that working from a young age will teach children the value of hard work and discipline. Parents may even use their own childhood experiences of labour to justify their children's work. However, what many fail to realize is that such practices deny children the opportunity to develop their full potential and lead productive lives. In addition, child labour can cause physical, emotional and psychological harm to the child, negatively impacting their growth and development. It is crucial that the traditional values and beliefs that normalize child labour be challenged and replaced with a commitment to children's rights and their education.

POOR COMPLIANCE OF LAWS:

Despite the progress that India has made in recent years, child labor remains a persistent issue. This problem can only be solved by implementing strict enforcement measures to ensure that laws and regulations prohibiting child labor are followed. Without effective enforcement, employers will continue to take advantage of vulnerable children, and families will continue to rely on their children's labor to make ends meet.

To address this issue, government officials and policymakers need to work together to develop strategies to combat child labor effectively. This may involve providing incentives to employers who hire adults instead of children or imposing strict penalties on those who violate child labor laws. In addition, awareness-raising campaigns can help to educate families and communities about the negative consequences of child labor and the benefits of education.

Ultimately, it will take a collective effort to end child labor in India. It is the responsibility of everyone, from policymakers and government officials to individual citizens, to take action and work towards creating a society where children can grow and thrive without being forced to work in hazardous and exploitative conditions.

IMPACTS OF CHILD LABOUR:

Child labour is a grave issue that affects the lives of millions of children in India. The widespread prevalence of child labour in India has a significant impact on the country's economy, as it perpetuates a cycle of poverty, illiteracy, and exploitation. Child labourers in India are often deprived of education, healthcare, and a safe environment to grow up in, which can have lifelong consequences.

In addition, the practice of child labour in India has a profound social impact, as it perpetuates gender inequalities and reinforces social hierarchies.

The economic impact of child labour in India is significant, as it perpetuates poverty and hinders economic growth. Children who work instead of attending school miss out on the opportunity to gain skills and education that can help them secure higher-paying jobs in the future. This lack of education and skills can perpetuate the cycle of poverty and leave children vulnerable to exploitation by employers. Moreover, the employment of children as cheap labour can lead to reduced wages for adult workers and limit opportunities for economic growth.

The social impact of child labour in India is also significant, as it perpetuates gender inequalities and reinforces social hierarchies. Girls are disproportionately affected by child labour, as they are often subjected to domestic work and other forms of gender-based discrimination. The employment of children also reinforces caste-based discrimination and social hierarchies, as children from lower castes are often employed in hazardous and low-paying jobs.

In conclusion, the impact of child labour in India is multifaceted and profound. It perpetuates poverty, reinforces gender and caste-based discrimination, and hinders economic growth. Addressing the issue of child labour requires a multi-pronged approach, including stricter enforcement of laws, increased access to education and healthcare, and addressing the root causes of poverty and social inequality.

ECONOMIC IMPACT

Child labour has a profound impact on Indian society, including its economic development. Although some argue that child labour is necessary for poor families to make ends meet, its long-term impact on the economy is detrimental. When children are working, they are unable to attend school and receive an education that can help them secure better-paying jobs in the future. The use of child labour thus perpetuates a cycle of poverty that affects future generations as well. In addition to economic consequences, the use of child labour also affects the quality of goods and services produced. Children lack the training and experience required to perform tasks at the same level as adults, which can result in substandard products. The use of child labour, therefore, has a negative impact on the reputation of Indian goods in international markets, resulting in reduced demand and revenue. Moreover, the use of child labour

violates international labour laws and human rights standards. It is unacceptable to exploit the vulnerable population for economic gain, and it is the responsibility of the Indian government and society to protect the rights of children and provide them with access to education and safe working conditions. In the long run, this will benefit not only the children but also the country's economy and development.

SOCIAL IMPACT

The impact of child labour on the Indian society is not just limited to economic consequences but also poses a severe threat to the social fabric. The practice of child labour undermines the country's efforts to promote human rights, equality, and social justice. It denies children the right to a safe and healthy childhood, deprives them of the opportunity to learn and grow, and robs them of their potential to contribute positively to society. The exploitation of children as a source of cheap labour not only violates their human rights but also perpetuates social inequalities. It is primarily the children from marginalized communities who are subjected to child labour due to their vulnerability and lack of access to education and other basic needs. This not only widens the gap between the rich and poor but also undermines the principles of social inclusion and equal opportunities. Moreover, the prevalence of child labour leads to a decline in social norms and values. The practice of child labour has become normalized in certain parts of the country, and families often justify it as a cultural or traditional practice. Such justifications reinforce the idea that exploiting children for work is acceptable, perpetuating a culture of impunity for those who exploit children for economic gain.

POLITICAL IMPACT

The political impact of child labour in India extends beyond the country's borders. India is a major exporter of goods, and the use of child labour in its production processes has raised concerns among international trade partners. The exploitation of children in India's manufacturing industries has led to calls for boycotts and sanctions, which can have significant economic consequences for the country. Moreover, the failure to address the issue of child labour has damaged India's reputation on the international stage. The country's reluctance to enforce child labour laws and address the problem effectively has drawn criticism from human rights organizations and governments worldwide. This has resulted in a loss of credibility for India as a responsible member of the international community, which can have implications for diplomatic relations and foreign aid. In conclusion,

the political impact of child labour in India is far-reaching and multifaceted. The failure to enforce child labour laws has not only perpetuated poverty and illiteracy but also contributed to a rise in child trafficking and damaged the country's reputation on the international stage. Addressing the issue of child labour requires strong political will and a commitment to upholding children's rights.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

The environmental impact of child labour in India is a topic that is often overlooked. Child labourers who work in hazardous industries are not only subjected to health risks, but their work can also have a significant impact on the environment. For example, children who work in the mining industry are often exposed to toxic chemicals such as mercury and lead, which can contaminate water sources and soil. This not only affects the health of the child labourers but also has far-reaching environmental consequences. Similarly, children who work in agriculture are often exposed to pesticides and herbicides, which can harm the environment. The overuse of these chemicals can lead to soil degradation, reduce biodiversity and have long-term effects on the health of local ecosystems. This is a serious concern, as India is a major agricultural producer and is home to some of the world's most biodiverse regions. Furthermore, the use of child labour perpetuates environmentally unsustainable practices. Children who work in industries such as agriculture and mining are often paid very low wages, which encourages the use of cheap and environmentally damaging practices. This can lead to a vicious cycle of poverty, environmental degradation, and exploitation.

HEALTH ISSUES

The impact of child labour on the physical and mental health of children cannot be overstated. The long hours of work, lack of rest and nutrition, and exposure to hazardous conditions make child labourers vulnerable to a range of health issues. Children engaged in agriculture and other labor-intensive jobs may be forced to work in extreme weather conditions, which can lead to heatstroke, hypothermia, and other weather-related illnesses. In addition to physical health problems, child labour also takes a toll on children's mental health. Children who work long hours often suffer from stress, anxiety, and depression, which can have a lasting impact on their psychological well-being. They may also feel isolated from their peers, which can lead to social withdrawal and a lack of interest in activities outside of work. Furthermore, children who work in hazardous industries are often exposed to dangerous chemicals and toxins, which can lead

to respiratory illnesses, skin diseases, and other long-term health problems. Such exposure can also have a detrimental effect on the environment, causing soil and water pollution, which can have far-reaching consequences for human health and ecosystem integrity. In conclusion, child labour not only affects the physical and mental health of children but also has a negative impact on the environment. Therefore, it is crucial to address this issue with urgency and to implement strict regulations to prevent the exploitation of children in the workforce.

LOSS OF QUALITY CHILDHOOD

Childhood is a crucial period in a child's life, where they learn and develop essential skills that form the basis of their future. Play is a fundamental aspect of childhood, and it provides children with opportunities for social interaction, imagination, and exploration. Child labour deprives children of these opportunities, robbing them of their childhood and limiting their ability to develop essential skills that will serve them well in the future. Children who are engaged in child labour are often subjected to grueling working hours, leaving them with little or no time to engage in play or other recreational activities. The lack of play and social interaction can have severe consequences on a child's emotional, social, and cognitive development. Children who are deprived of play may find it challenging to express themselves and engage with others, which can lead to social isolation and loneliness. Moreover, play has been

found to have a significant impact on a child's physical development. Play helps children develop gross and fine motor skills, which are essential for their overall physical well-being. A child who is engaged in child labour may not have the opportunity to engage in physical play or exercise, which can lead to physical weakness, poor health, and vulnerability to diseases. In conclusion, child labour deprives children of their right to enjoy childhood and engage in play, which is essential for their overall development. It is imperative that governments and stakeholders work towards eliminating child labour and creating an environment that supports children's growth and development.

ILLITERACY OF CHILDHOOD

Child labour robs children of their right to an education, which is essential for their personal and intellectual growth. Education enables children to acquire essential knowledge and skills that prepare them for a variety of challenges in life. It equips them with the ability to think critically and make informed decisions. Without education, children are at a disadvantage, and they may struggle to cope with the demands of a rapidly changing world. Illiteracy also perpetuates poverty and social inequality, as it limits the opportunities available to individuals and communities. Education is a powerful tool for social and economic development, and it is crucial to address the issue of child labour to ensure that children have access to quality education.

Data on Child Labour of major states of India

S.no	Major States of India	NO. OF MALE & FEMALE CHILD LOBOUR			
		male	female	male	female
1	Andhra Pradesh	88156	110191	20767	15548
2	Assam	144655	31909	11833	757
3	Bihar	224292	38665	11017	2548
4	Chhattisgarh	3669	7321	636	0
5	Delhi	0	0	0	0
6	Gujrat	150487	207973	15945	16282
7	Haryana	22664	17471	28073	3988
8	Himachal Pradesh	2300	2942	21560	0
9	Jammu and Kashmir	11274	16872	1139	0
10	Jharkhand	63684	14661	4123	0
11	Karnataka	89796	113429	20763	2479
12	Kerala	1182	0	0	1583
13	Madhya Pradesh	91454	32812	57688	9063
14	Maharashtra	66370	127996	54230	12077
15	Orissa	54390	38288	36522	5363
16	Punjab	16802	6433	15664	9937
17	Rajasthan	93055	261871	43184	7826
18	Tamil Nadu	0	13880	3471	0
19	Uttarakhand	14810	7239	3219	2103
20	Uttar Pradesh	1012294	546320	147820	68899
21	West Bengal	357265	134657	31946	27716
22	all India	2511101	1727271	546897	198602

The prevalence of child labour is particularly alarming in five Indian states: Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, and Maharashtra. Together, these states account for more than half of all child labourers in India. Uttar Pradesh, the country's most populous state, has the highest number of child labourers, with nearly 20% of India's child labour force. According to a report by the Campaign Against Child Labour (CAC), there are over 19 million child labourers in Uttar Pradesh alone. These statistics are a clear indication of the magnitude of the problem in India and the need for urgent action to address it.

GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES

The Indian Constitution has enshrined the fundamental rights of children as a fundamental component of its legal system. The Constitution's framers recognized the importance of protecting children's rights, and as such, incorporated special provisions for their protection. These provisions serve as a clear indication of the State's commitment to the well-being and safety of children. With these provisions in place, children's rights are not only recognized but also protected by the law, ensuring that they are treated with dignity and respect. The Constitution's recognition of children's rights is an important step towards addressing the issue of child labour in India and promoting a better future for its youngest citizens.

Article	Title	Description
21 A	Right to Education	All children aged 6 to 14 must get free and required education from the state in accordance with any applicable laws.
24	Prohibition of employment of children in factories	It is prohibited to employ any child below the age of 14 years in factories, mines, or any other dangerous occupation.
39	The state shall in particular direct its policy towards securing	To ensure that workers, both male and female, and children are not subjected to abuse of their health and physical abilities, and to prevent citizens from being compelled to undertake work that is inappropriate for their age or physical capacity due to economic circumstances.

LEGISLATION FOR CHILD LABOUR IN INDIA: In India, there have been various laws and regulations put in place to protect the rights of children in the workforce. The first law enacted was the Indian Factory Act, which prohibited employing children below the age of seven and restricted the work hours of children to nine hours per day. In addition to this act, several other legislative acts have been established to provide legal protection to children in different occupations. The International Labour Organization (ILO) has also played a significant role in shaping India's labour laws, particularly in the area of child protection. Below are the key points outlining the laws and regulations in place to safeguard the rights of children in the Indian workforce:

- The Indian Factory Act prohibited employing children below seven years of age and limited their work hours to nine hours per day.
- The ILO has been influential in shaping India's labour laws, particularly in the area of child protection.
- Several legislative acts have been established to provide legal protection to children in different occupations, including:
 - The Children (Pledging of Labour) Act, 1933
 - The Employment of Children Act, 1938
 - The Minimum Wages of Children's Act, 1948 and rules made thereunder by the government
 - The Merchant Shipping Act, 1958

- The Motor Transport Workers Act, 1961
- The Apprentices Act, 1961
- The Beedi and Cigar Workers (Conditions of Employment) Act, 1966
- The Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986.

JUDICIAL EFFORTS TOWARDS THE PROBLEM OF CHILD LABOUR: The issue of child labour has long been a concern in India, and the Supreme Court of India has been actively involved in addressing it. One of the most significant directives in this regard was the Writ Petition (Civil) No. 465/1986, *MC Mehta v. State of Tamil Nadu*, issued on December 10, 1996. Here are some of the judicial efforts made towards the issue of child labour based on this directive:

- A survey was conducted to identify working children, and those working in hazardous industries were withdrawn and provided with education in appropriate institutions.
- Regulations were put in place to limit the work hours of children in non-hazardous occupations to six hours per day, with at least two hours of education ensured. The employer is responsible for bearing the entire expenditure on education.
- Financial aid was provided to the families of the withdrawn children as long as the child was sent to school, and the aid was paid out of the interest earned on the corpus of Rs. 20,000/25,000 put in the welfare fund.

- Employment for one adult family member of the kid who has been so withdrawn from employment, or, if that is not practicable, a donation of Rs. 5,000 by the State Government to the Welfare Fund.

NATIONAL CHILD LABOUR POLICY:

The issue of child labour has been a major concern in India, prompting the government to formulate the National Child Labour Policy in 1987. This policy has been a crucial step towards combating child labour, as it adopts a comprehensive approach that covers various aspects of the problem. The policy aims to safeguard the rights of children and prevent them from engaging in hazardous and exploitative work. To achieve this, the policy outlines a multifaceted action plan that includes:

1. **A legislative action plan:** The policy emphasizes the need for legislative measures to protect children from exploitative labour practices. Various laws have been enacted to provide legal protection to children against child labour and ensure their education, health, and overall well-being.

2. **Emphasis on general development programs for the families of children:** The policy recognizes that poverty is one of the leading causes of child labour. To address this, it focuses on the general development of families of working children, such as providing employment opportunities, health care, and education.

3. **A project-based action plan focused on areas with high concentrations of child labour:** The policy recognizes that certain areas in India have a high concentration of child labour. To address this, the policy outlines a project-based action plan that focuses on providing education and skill-based training to children in these areas.

Overall, the National Child Labour Policy is a significant step towards eradicating child labour in India. Its multifaceted approach recognizes the complexity of the problem and emphasizes the need for a comprehensive solution.

RECOMMENDATION

1. The existing laws in India prohibiting child labour need to be strengthened and enforced better. This can be done by introducing new laws that address the root causes of child labour such as poverty, lack of education, and social inequality. By doing so, the government can create a legal framework that will discourage employers from hiring child labourers.
2. Access to education is one of the most critical factors in reducing child labour. The

government can provide free education and improve the quality of schools in areas where child labour is prevalent. This can be achieved by allocating funds for infrastructure, textbooks, and teacher training to ensure that every child has access to quality education.

3. To reduce child labour, parents must be provided with financial assistance and alternative livelihood options. The government can promote alternative livelihoods that do not require children to work and provide financial support to families in need. This will encourage parents to send their children to school instead of to work.
4. Encouraging public-private partnerships can be an effective way of reducing child labour. The government can partner with private companies to create programs that provide vocational training and employment opportunities for adults. This will help reduce the demand for child labour in industries such as agriculture, textiles, and mining.
5. Increasing awareness about child labour and the importance of education is critical. The government can launch public awareness campaigns using various media channels, including television, radio, and social media, to educate people about the dangers of child labour and promote the importance of education.
6. As informed consumers, we have a responsibility to ensure that the products we purchase are not produced using child labour. By asking questions about the manufacturing process whenever we purchase anything, we can foster a rational climate in society and refuse to use anything created using child labour.
7. When we come across child labour in our communities, it is essential to inform the children's parents about the negative effects of child labour. By empathizing with their circumstances and informing them of their child's grim future, we can help parents understand the importance of education and encourage them to send their children to school instead of work.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the issue of child labor in India is a complex and multifaceted problem that requires a comprehensive solution. It cannot be addressed by relying solely on legislative measures or government action. Instead, a collective effort from all sectors of society is needed to eradicate this evil from our society. It is essential to recognize that each child deserves access to a safe, nurturing, and healthy environment in which they can develop and thrive. While it may be challenging to eliminate

child labor entirely, it is imperative that we make a concerted effort to reduce its prevalence and impact on children's lives.

As citizens of India, we all have a moral obligation to work towards the elimination of child labor. We can start by advocating for the rights of children, spreading awareness about the issue, and supporting organizations that work towards eradicating child labor. We must also encourage policymakers and government officials to prioritize child protection laws and enforce them effectively. It is crucial to remember that child labor is not just a legal or economic issue; it is a human rights violation that undermines the dignity of every child. We must all work towards building a society where every child is treated with respect and given the opportunity to reach their full potential. Only then can we truly call ourselves a progressive and civilized society that values the well-being of all its citizens, especially its most vulnerable ones.

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