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Child Labour in India

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1. INTRODUCTION:

A Child labours problem has world- wide problems. In early time children works on different sector it has been a cause of cheap labour on account of acute poverty of their parents. Another side employment of children in factories is considering the employment of children under economic compulsion. Child labour means children work on the age ranged from 5 to 14 years. In India inadequate earnings of the adult members to send their children to work and it was gives support their income. According to International Labour Organization (ILO), child labour means work that deprives children of their childhood their potential and their dignity and that is harmful to physical and mental development. It refers to work that is mentally, physically, socially dangerous and harmful to children; and interferes with their schooling by despoil them of opportunity to attend school; obliging them to leave school prematurely. It requires endeavouring to combine school attendance with very long and heavy work.

2. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

- i) To study the child labour in India.
- ii) To study the causes of child labour in India.
- iii) To draw some findings and suggestions of the study.

3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:

The present study studied by child labour in India. The data have been collected from secondary data. The secondary data have been collected from various sources such as published and unpublished books, journals, NSSO report, world report on Child Labour and website.

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**Table No.2 Percentage share of Child Labour in Major States in India
(Percentage)**

| Sr. No. | States | % share of Child Labour | |
|---------|------------------|-------------------------|-----------|
| | | 2004-2005 | 2009-2010 |
| 1. | A.P. | 13.2 | 4.71 |
| 2. | Assam | 1.5 | 3.80 |
| 3. | Bihar | 4.0 | 5.55 |
| 4. | Chhattisgarh | 2.9 | 0.23 |
| 5. | Delhi | 0.1 | 0.37 |
| 6. | Gujarat | 3.3 | 7.84 |
| 7. | Haryana | 1.1 | 1.45 |
| 8. | Himachal Pradesh | 0.4 | 0.15 |
| 9. | Jharkhand | 2.3 | 1.65 |
| 10. | Karnataka | 6.3 | 4.54 |
| 11. | Kerala | 0.1 | 0.06 |
| 12. | Madhya Pradesh | 5.4 | 3.83 |
| 13. | Maharashtra | 8.6 | 5.23 |
| 14. | Orissa | 4.8 | 2.70 |
| 15. | Punjab | 1.1 | 0.98 |
| 16. | Rajasthan | 9.0 | 8.14 |
| 17. | Tamil Nadu | 1.9 | 0.35 |
| 18. | U.P. | 22.9 | 0.55 |
| 19. | Uttaranchal | 0.7 | 35.62 |
| 20. | West Bengal | 7.6 | 11.07 |

(Source: NSSO report on Child Labour in India 2004-05 and 2009-2010)

Table no.2 shows that percentage of child labour in major states in India. As per the 2004-2005 NSSO report it may be found that 22.9 % child labour engaged in Uttarpradesh that is the highest child labour in India, and another side in that year in Kerala and Delhi 0.1% child labour population which is the lowest state in India. It changed in 2009-2010 where Kerala lowest state in India i.e. 0.6% and highest number of child labour in Uttaranchal i.e. 35.62.

4.3. Percentage of Total Aged 15 To17 Years in Hazardous Work by Country 2007-2013

Table No.3 Percentage of Total Children Hazardous Work by Country (Percentage)

| Sr.No. | Country | % of Total Child Labour |
|--------|------------|-------------------------|
| 1. | Veit Nam | 29.8 |
| 2. | Bangladesh | 16.7 |
| 3. | Indonesia | 8.3 |
| 4. | Sri Lanka | 17.7 |
| 5. | Pakistan | 13.5 |
| 6. | Nepal | 19.4 |
| 7. | India | 3.8 |
| 8. | Bhutan | 1.5 |
| 9. | Brazil | 14.4 |
| 10. | Mexico | 11.7 |
| 11. | Nigeria | 9.3 |
| 12. | Zambia | 5.1 |
| 13. | Moldova | 2.6 |

(Source: World Report on Child Labour 2015)

Table no. 3 revealed that percentage of total children hazardous work by country in year 2007-2013. An analysis of the world report on child labour 2015 data said that there was lowest child labour in Bhutan, Moldovo and India i.e. 1.5%, 2.6%, 3.8%. As compared to Veit Nam and Nepal country are highest population of child labour in the world i.e. 29.8%, 19.4%.

4.4. Percentage of Child Employed Aged 15 To17 Years in Hazardous Work by Country 2007-1013.

Table No.4 Percentage of Child Employed in Hazardous Work by Country (Percentage)

| Sr.No. | Country | Hazardous Work | Other employment |
|--------|------------|----------------|------------------|
| 1. | Veit Nam | 84.4 | 15.6 |
| 2. | Bangladesh | 68.7 | 31.3 |
| 3. | Indonesia | 38.7 | 61.3 |

| | | | |
|-----|-----------|------|------|
| 4. | Sri Lanka | 72.1 | 27.9 |
| 5. | Pakistan | 40.6 | 59.4 |
| 6. | Nepal | 28.6 | 71.4 |
| 7. | India | 20.7 | 79.3 |
| 8. | Bhutan | 14.0 | 86 |
| 9. | Brazil | 59.7 | 40.3 |
| 10. | Mexico | 45.2 | 54.8 |
| 11. | Nigeria | 32.1 | 67.9 |
| 12. | Zambia | 9.7 | 90.3 |
| 13. | Moldova | 89.8 | 10.2 |

(Source: World Report on Child Labour 2015).

Table no.4 shows that percentage of child employed in hazardous work by country in year 2007-2013. In above table lowest percentage of child employed in hazardous work countries are Zambia (9.7%), Bhutan (14.0%), and India (20.7%). As against highest percentage of child employed in hazardous work countries are Moldova (89.8%), Veit Nam (84.4%), Bangladesh (68.7%), Indonesia (38.7%), Sri Lanka (72.1%), Pakistan (40.6%), Brazil (59.7%), Mexico (45.2%), Nigeria (32.1%).

4.5. Child Labour Distribution by Economic Activity:

Table No. 5. Distribution of Child Labour in Economic Activity

| (Percentage) | | |
|--------------|-------------|-------------------|
| Sr. No. | Sector | % of child Labour |
| 1. | Industry | 32.30 |
| 2. | Agriculture | 58.6 |
| 3. | Service | 7.20 |
| 4. | Not Defined | 1.90 |
| | Total | 100.00 |

(Source: ILO, 2013)

Table No. 5, It may be shown that, as per the ILO report on Child labour in Year 2013, highest percentage of child labour engaged in agriculture (58.6%). Followed by industry (32.30%), service (7.20%) and not defined (1.90%).

5. Causes of Child Labour in India:

Various causes of child labour in India are given below,

1) Poverty:

In India aged 15 to 17 years' children has contributed to family welfare in a variety of ways. Poverty is big cause of child labour in India. In year 2012, the Indian government report said that 21.9% peoples are living below poverty line. UNICEF report said that poverty is one of the big causes of child labour in India. A BBC report revealed that poverty and lack of public education infrastructure are other causes of child labour in India.

2) Over Population:

India is the second most populous country in the world. At present 1.28 billion peoples living in India. In total population total male is 665 million and total female is 623 million. Therefore over population creates child labour in India

3) Parental Illiteracy and Want More Income:

Parental illiteracy and they want more income for their child. So, child became working on small age. Survey on the International Labour Organization (ILO) and Spreading Smiles through Education Organization (OSSE) are said that some families; income from their children's is in between 25 to 40% of the household income.

4) High Education and Living Cost:

Children not take a high education because of our country 21.6% of the people are living under the below poverty limit. Therefore, they were not afforded high education. Index report 2015 cost of living our country is 26.27%.

5) Lack of School for Study, Lack of Education and Exposure:

A 2008 study by ILO-revealed that lack of availability and quality of schooling is cause of child labour. According to a 2012 Wall Street Journal article report said that 81,000 schools do not have a blackboard and 42,000 government schools have no building.

6) Weak Laws to Protect:

The Indian government has taken enacting a law to domestic work and other labour by children under age 14. Human Right Watch said that the Indian law will need to improve upon their weak laws of existing child labour protections.

7) Adult Unemployment and Urbanization:

In 2013 the Ministry of labour and employment India, stated 4.90% people are unemployed. In India, majority of the people are migrated rural to urban area for the searching of job.

8) Wrong Intention of Factories:

Since children are easy to dominate and subjugate, they are preferred, in order to save on wages and avoid the legal measures like leave, wage and other benefits.

6. FINDINGS:

- 1) Right to Education Act, 2009, was diminish child labour from 12.6 million (2001) to 4.3 million (2014).
- 2) In year 2001 and 2011 where 12666377 and 21389196 children were working population in various low level jobs and highest child labour in Uttarpradesh.
- 3) In India in year 2009-2010, it may be found that 35.62% child labour was engaged in Uttaranchal which was the highest child labour in India, and other wise in that year in Kerala was 0.6% child labour population which is lowest state in India.
- 4) This paper revealed that percentage of total children hazardous work by country in India in year 2007-2013
- 5) was lowest i.e. 3.8% as compared to other country like veit Nam, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Nepal etc.
- 6) World Labour development Report 2015, India was counted by lowest percentage of child employed in hazardous work by country in year 2007-2013(20.7%)
- 7) In this paper researcher found that majority of the highest child labour was engaged in agriculture sector (58.6) and secondly industry sector (36.30%).

7. SUGGESTIONS:

The best solution of these problems is to achieve special measures to curb child labour India.

- 1) Compulsory primary education for all children. Government of India to survey on the child labour in every year and to assess the number working children and placing them in special school.
- 2) Under the National Child Labour Project, it gives vocational skill to all children before they attain the age of 14.
- 3) Adequate of existing laws relating to child labour and their implementation.
- 4) The institute's worry in the regard to parents' poverty compelling them to send their children to work is well borne out from its suggestion that the Minimum wage act be strictly enforced.
- 5) Government should planned and implemented land redistribution programs in India.

8) CONCLUSION:

Finally, researcher concludes that poverty and unemployment are big cause of child labour in India. The government has taken a step forward by enacting a law by children under age 14. However it provides no protection for children aged 14 to 18. Who also force exploit their employers.

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