

# The Problem of Child Labour in India: A Sociological Review

**Smirti Priya Das**

Dibrugarh University

Email: [smritipriyadas69@gmail.com](mailto:smritipriyadas69@gmail.com)

## **Abstract:**

The Child is the most precious human resources, childhood represents the most tender, most formative and most impressionable stage of human development. Childhood is considered as a golden age and child labour bolts this golden age with the stains of exploitation, violence and physical and emotional abuse. Child Labour is most generally used in assessing the nature and extent of social evil, it is necessary to take into account the character of the jobs on which children are engaged. The problem of Child Labour is continues to pose a challenge before the nation. The problem of Child Labour is not a new concept in the Indian context. This paper focuses on the various problems of child labour in India.

**Keywords:** Child Labour, India, Problem, Social.

## **Introduction:**

“ There can be no keener revelation of a Society’s soul than the way in which it treats its children.” - Nelson Mandela

Child is the flower, which spread its perfume in the economic development of the country. The term “ Child Labour ” is often defined as work that deprives children of their childhood, their potential and their dignity and that is harmful to physical and mental development. However, child labour is infectious diseases which spoil the diversified quality or perfumes hidden in the children. In India there are over 40% of the population is living in conditions of extreme poverty. Since independence though as society we have come a long way, the issue of child labour has remained one of the most vexed issue of all time. Child Labour is a symptom and not a problem of somethings bigger amiss in the society or the economy. Despite the countless policies and programmes launched against the issue, the resultant dent caused in the members is very meagre.

Childhood is the most important period for a person’s all round development as it creates the foundation for future individuals. Children are like raw pieces of soil and whatever shape is given to them by their surroundings or the society at large, they take it during their childhood itself. Socio economic problem inextricably linked to poverty and illiteracy it requires concerted efforts from of all sections of the society to make a dent in the problem.

Generally, it is believed that poverty coupled with unemployment, which are often tied in a twins relationship, are the basic causes of all the socio-economic problems in a society. Most of the socio economic factor generate the child labour. They deprives from formal education, the most precious possession of human being and hinders their mental physical and intellectual growth. The problem of Child Labour is caused by a multiple of factors and thus requires multi pronged strategies. Child Labour hijacks their creativity by putting them into a hazardous works which makes them into a mechanized life.

Besides raising awareness about the problematic nature of the issue of child labour; other strategies could be spread of education, raising the social status of women, providing gainful employment opportunities, development of country’s industrial base which can generate adequate employment opportunities.

**Objective of the Study:**

To investigate about the various problems of child labour in India.

To know about the Article related to protection of child labour in India Constitution.

**Methodology of the Study:**

In this study both the historical and analytical methods has been used. Both the Primary and Secondary data has been used. Primary data has been collected from government documents, census report etc. Secondary data has been obtained from various books, journals, articles etc.

The Article related with Indian Constitution to prohibit Child Labour:

Article 21(A) : Provision of free and compulsory education of Children of the age of 6 to 14 years ( 86<sup>th</sup> Constitutional Amendment Act-2002).

Article 23 : Prohibition on traffic in human being and forced labour.

Article 24 : Prohibition of employment of children below the age of 14 years in factories, mines or any other hazardous employment.

Article 39 (f) : Directive Principal of State Policy require the state to direct its policy that children are given opportunities and facilities to develop in healthy manner.

Article 45 : Provision of early childhood care and education for children until the age of 14 years ( 86<sup>th</sup> Constitutional Amendment Act ).

Article 51(A) (k) : Fundamental duty of parent of guardian to provide opportunities for education of children between the age of 6-14 years.

**State with High Incidences of Child Labour:**

States	Percentage	Numbers ( In Million)
Uttar Pradesh	21.5	2.18
Bihar	10.7	1.09
Rajasthan	8.4	0.85
Maharashtra	7.2	0.73
Madhya Pradesh	6.9	0.70

\*Source: Census 2011

Together, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh constitute nearly 55% of total working children in India.

**Causes of child labour in India:**

Children are most often involved in child labour because their parents or guardians consider it 'normal' for children to work, and sometimes for children's own survival and that of their families. Below are some of the root causes which make children particularly vulnerable to child labour:

- Poverty: Poverty is certainly the greatest single force driving children into the workplace , it is also the mother of all societal evils.
- Lack of access to quality education :
- The availability and quality of schooling is among the most important factors getting children into school and out of harmful work is one thing but keeping them there a means creating quality education accessible for all.
- Poor access to decent work:

Children who were involved in child labour often lack the basic educational grounding which would enable them to acquire skills and to improve their prospects for a decent adult working life.

- Limited understanding of child labour:

The view that work is good for the character building and skill development of children.

- Addiction, disease or disability:

There are no working because of alcoholism, disease or disability and the wages of children are the only source of income for families. Increased unemployment is a result of population increase, which has had an impact on the prevention of child labour.

- Natural disaster & Climate change:

In rural areas, farmers who see their crops destroyed on account of climate changes have no other choice but to send their children out to work.

Recent trends in Child Labour counts: Across the Globe and India in Particular –

The recent statistics as available with the International Labour Organization (ILO) on child labour presents a hopeful picture. The child labour numbers is found to be decreasing in many parts of the world. Asia and the Pacific regions, despite the decrease in child labour numbers is still the highest in the world.

### **Conclusion:**

Child labour deprives children of their rights to go to school and reinforces intergenerational cycles of poverty. Child labour is an evil that lurks in the society owing to various issues like poverty, lack of financial stability and education, social conditions etc. It not only inhibits growth of child but also destroy all prospective growth opportunities that would have ensured a promising future to him or her. The child labour can be stopped when knowledge is translated into legislation and action, moving good intention and ideas into protecting the health of the children. The government has been laying a lot of emphasis on the rehabilitation of these children of their families. Many NGO's like CARE India, Child Rights and You, Global March Against Child Labour etc., have been working to eradicate child labour in India.

### **References:**

- Burra, N: Born to Work: Child Labour in India, New Delhi, Oxford University Press (1999).
- “Child Labour – ILO”. ILO, United Nations.2011.
- G.K. Lieten. The causes of child labour in India: Poverty Analysis.
- Hazarika, Profulla. ‘Child Labour in India ’ 2004, New Delhi, Akansha Publication House.
- International Labour Organization, Child Labour and Response – overview Note: India (ILO).
- International Labour Organization, Report on Child Labour: Economic vulnerability, social protection and the fight against child labour (PRODOC of the ILO,2013).
- Sen, R.K and Dasgupta, A. (2003) , “ Problems of the Child Labour in India”, Deep&Deep Publication, New Delhi.
- [www.ilo.org](http://www.ilo.org).