

Child Labour in India Essay

Child labour in India is the biggest obstacle to the development of the country. The purpose of writing an **article on child labour in India** is to show how our future is being deprived of education. Due to lack of information about **the importance of education**, parents encourage their children to work in extreme conditions. In this topic, we will learn **about child labour in India** and steps should be taken to **stop child labour** in India and all other countries.

In this short **note on child labour in India**, we will learn about what is child labour, history of child labor in India, **child labour facts** and laws against child labour in India.

Child labour introduction

The child labour is a serious challenge for the perfect future of the children. Across world, child labour can be seen in a variety of industries such as carpet making, food services, clothing making, mines, agriculture, selling cigarettes on the streets and many other places. Children are also at risk of child trafficking which forces them to do bad things like sexual exploitation and child pornography etc.

Child labour definition

The Child Labour meaning is defined as “**employment of the child in any industry or occupation.**” It is not the matter of money that the child is working for wages or not. It is a bad habit that deprives the child of his childhood. Once the child starts working in industries or any other occupation, he is deprived of education. This is the biggest reason behind poverty and illiteracy in India.

Child labour in the world

According to the **worldwide child labour report 2017** by **International Labour organization**, there were **246 million children working as child labour in 2000** and, in 2016, approximately **152 million children**. The data is decreasing over the time due to the efforts taken by the government however, there are millions of children who are continue being exploited for cheap labour, especially in the India.

Child labour in India

India has the largest number of child laborers in the world. Children born in poor families are being used as domestic labor in cities. The environment in which these children are working is the worst. They are often given work without any wages or sometimes even without food. There are many cases of child labor where children are being physically and sexually abused.

According to reports, around 20 per cent of children between the ages of 15 and 17 are working in hazardous environments. India is a most populated country, it is touch to measure the exact numbers of child labour as it is hidden or not reported. According to the International Labor Organization report, there are **18 million children (between 7-17 years of age)** in India who are

neither employed nor in schools. These children are subject to child labour who are working in the worst environment of child labor.

History of child labour in India

The history of child labor in India can be traced back to ancient times where the parents of the children used to do their ancestral work for the king. Their children were forced to do the same things that their parents used to do for their king.

In ancient times, the people were compelled to do the same work which their ancestors used to do for the king. As a result, children have to do the same things without their free consent.

The poverty and essence of good schools forced parents to engage their children in business.

Child labour statistics in India

According to the **report on child labour in India** as per 2011 census data, **10.1 million children are working as child labour**, of which **4.5 million are girls and 5.6 million are boys**. For simple understanding, **one in ten children is doing child labour**.

Children belong to the school, they are not for work.

Minimum age of labour in India

Article 24 of the constitution of India sets the law for the child labour that:

“No child below the age of 14 years shall be employed on work in any company, mine of any other hazardous employment”

The child under the age of 14 cannot be use as labour in any business. According to the article 21(A) of the constitution of India, **the state has the due to provide free education to the child of age 6 to 14 years**.

The children between the age and 15-17 are prohibited to do work in the **dangerous conditions**.

Causes of child labour in India

There are many **reasons for child labour in India**. Children are often involved in child labour because of their parents who consider child labor to be "normal". They are not aware of the importance of education in our life. Sometimes, the child used to work because of the conditions in his home and family. Let us discuss some **child labour facts** which are the main causes of child labor in India.

Poverty

Poverty is the main reason which is pushing children into child labour. There are many families in India who are unable to meet the basic needs to run their household. They are also unable to fulfill their dreams of good food and shelter and cannot send their children to school. Due to poverty they have no other option so they send their children many workplaces so that they can help them in running the household.

Poverty is the main reason behind other problems which are increasing due to poverty. As such, families are not able to eat healthy food which is weakening the immune system. Poverty is the cause of illiteracy in India.

The low-income people are completely dependent on the forest. They used to sell animals and their parts so that they could earn some money. But by doing this they are inviting other problems and now, the situation is that we are making efforts to conserve wildlife for saving the animals which are decreasing day by day.

Lack of Education

Education is very important in our life. All children should be educated because they are the future of our country. The school environment should be welcoming to the children. It should be affordable for every family. The government is running many programs like free education in schools and free food under schools. But to remove illiteracy, many other steps have to be taken. Government should tell every family about the importance of education.

Poor qualities of laws

The government has enacted many laws to stop child labour. But there is a need to tighten these laws and make strict rules for those who break these laws. If we make the laws stricter, it will help children not to work forcibly.

No access to good work

The people have no access to do decent work. They are not aware about the basic education, due to this, they are unable to develop new skill for the work so they are working in the Hazardous atmosphere.

No understanding of Child Labour

People are not aware of **consequences of child labour in India**, they see it as a process of character building of children. Parents are not aware that child labor can cause health problems and can ruin their future by getting trapped in child labor. They are constantly sending children to work.

Natural disaster or climate change

Many rural households in India are dependent on seasonal crops. Sometimes, crops destroyed due to natural calamities and climate change. Now, they have no other option for food, so they send their children to work to help them make up for the loss.

Migration and emergencies

People search for work from one city to another due to lack of work which hinders the education of their children. Sometimes, the survival of new cities becomes costly for them. It forces children to work with their parents.

The reason for migration can be an emergency. An emergency can ruin the life of a poor family and parents are left with no option but to send their children to work in dangerous situations.

Child trafficking

Child trafficking is also one of the biggest causes of child labour which force children to work in extremely dangerous conditions. There are many cases where parents sell their children because of poverty. The person who buys these children exploits these children and forces them to work for them.

Laws against child labour in India

The Government of India made the first law for child labour in 1993. The law prohibited boys and girls from working in hazardous conditions and from engaging in any activity that could harm the mental, moral and social development of underage children of 18 years. This law was made for the benefit of children. However, this law was not of much helpful and child labour continued. There were many loopholes in the law and people were using these loopholes to take advantage of child labour which is cheaper as compared to others.

This law was allowing children to work in their family business and it was legal. Thus, it was not helping the children who were selling cigarettes on the roadside, as it was part of their family business.

The government again enacted laws in 2006 and 2016 which made some strict rules in the field of child labour. It was prohibiting a child below the age of 14 from having any domestic or service staff in hotels.

But there were some points which were not enough to stop child labour which are as follows:

- The law was not applicable to children under the age of 15-17 because they were only prohibited from doing dangerous work.
- Family businesses were still acceptable
- The law did not exclude sectoral activities like carpet weaving etc.

The government is still making new rules and regulations to enforce and tighten the laws against child labour. The Indian government is developing new laws that will increase punishment for employers who use child labour under the age of 14. As of now, there is a fine for the offence of child labour but the government may combine imprisonment with a fine in the latest law.

Case Study on Child Labour

10 years old child rescued from a tea stall in front of school

A person informed the child helpline Ambala that a boy is doing child labour in a stall in front of school. The person said that the child is minor. The ChildLine Ambala sent the letter to the Child welfare Committee to investigate the case. They made a committee and rescued the boy (Aman). The Child Welfare Committee gave him shelter until his parents found. Later, the Aman's family were found. The Child Welfare Committee checked their IDs and handover their minor son to them. The Child Welfare Committee gave them advice to put the Aman in the school and let him make his own future.

What needs to be done to stop child labour in India?

There are many steps which should be taken by the government stop child labour in India. We can stop child labour by:

- Combat extreme poverty
- Making strict laws for child labour in India
- Telling about the importance of education
- Providing quality education to the children
- Making laws to stop child trafficking
- Supporting NGOs for Child labour protection
- Providing skill building programs, so that the person can learn new skills
- Discouraging parents to employ children in houses, shops and other places.
- Providing work opportunities for people so that they can send their child to school

Conclusion

The conclusion of this essay on child labor in India is that the country should make strict laws and take necessary steps to stop child labor in India. It is reducing the literacy rate of the country. A child who is not going to school for education cannot do much to make the country proud. We should help poor children by informing NGOs and child care centers so that they can save these minor children.

The people should aware of the importance of education in our life. With these some small and major steps for the abolition of child labour, we can save our future from starving and other dangerous diseases.