

Abundance of Child Labour in Indian society after Covid-19 pandemic: A Contemporary and analytical study

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Abstract-India is growing with the rapid changes from very past. Socio Economic development from the grassroots level is upwards in movement. But the rapid growth puts many problems as a path breaker, one of which ways back from past times but recurrently diminishing but after 2019 rapidly increasing and that is Child Labour. According to research by the *International Labour Organization (ILO)* and *United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF)*, the epidemic would put an extra 9 million children at danger of being forced into child Labour worldwide by the end of 2022. The pandemic-related economic crises and school closures in India are likely factors contributing to child Labour and dangerous migration as well as the poverty of children.

Despite statutory prohibitions and practices prohibiting child Labour, India is coping with a worsening of the problem. Children's access to school, basic nutrition, and other key prerequisites for their growth and wellness have suffered a significant setback, and many new children have fallen into the trap of forced Labour, with circumstances for current child Labourer's deteriorating further.

This research states that the after-pandemic effects were worsen regarding to Labouring of child in Indian Society. The researcher has tried all possible efforts to tell after Covid-19 effects the downtrodden groups sent their wards to the Labouring. This research consists with before and after covid-19 effects, major issues and challenges, causes of grow in number of child Labour in India, New eradication techniques with some important recommendation for further challenges.

Keywords- India, ILO, UNICEF, Child Labour, Society, Covid-19, Pandemic

1.1 INTRODUCTION

In India, there are 22.87 million Labourers, bringing the overall amount for child and adolescent Labour (5-18 years) to 33 million. 56% of working teenagers are no longer enrolled in school (Census 2011). The next census in India is scheduled for 2021 and given the economic impact of the COVID-19 epidemic, these figures are anticipated to grow sharply unless serious measures are taken to improve not only the public health but also the economy.

However, it is anticipated that COVID-19 and the ensuing economic hardship will have raised the danger of child Labour (despite the few evidence or data that is currently available). With 247 million students enrolled in elementary and secondary schools, the 1.5 million school closures brought about by the epidemic and lockdowns in India increased the likelihood that they would turn to child Labour or dangerous migration.²

According to research by the International Labour Organization (ILO) and UNICEF, the epidemic would put an extra 9 million children at danger of being forced into child Labour worldwide by the end of 2022. The pandemic-related economic crises and school closures in India are likely factors contributing to child Labour and dangerous migration as well as the poverty of children. India is struggling with the deterioration of the child Labour problem despite its legal restrictions and measures against it. Many more children have fallen into the trap of forced Labour, and the conditions for the existing child Labourers have gotten worse. As a result, children's access to school, basic nourishment, and other necessities for their

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²UNICEF, *Child labour rises to 160 million – first increase in two decades* (2021),

<https://www.unicef.org/india/press-releases/child-labour-rises-160-million-first-increase-two-decades> (accessed on 09-June-2023)

growth and wellness have suffered a significant setback³

The International Labour Organization (ILO) claims that although child Labour has been steadily falling globally over the past 20 years, the COVID-19 epidemic poses a threat to reversing this trend. As many as 60 million people are anticipated to experience poverty this year alone, and as a result, families are compelled to put kids to work. According to joint research from the ILO and United Nations Children's Fund, child Labour increases by at least 0.7% for every 1% increase in poverty.⁴ The epidemic has shocked the whole world, and as a result, a plethora of issues that needed to be resolved have emerged. Many kids, like Surlina, were forced to look for work after their schools closed in an effort to support their families⁵. The epidemic has shocked the whole world, and as a result, a plethora of issues that need to be resolved have emerged. Convention 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labour and a history of child Labour in India are provided in Part I. The overview of India's existing anti-child Labour legislation in Part II will include both domestic and international laws and regulations and before covid and after covid effects. In Part III, it will be argued that India's present legislation falls short and that the COVID-19 epidemic would have an impact on child Labour there. The final section of Part IV will address issues and challenges after Covid-19 pandemic and eradication techniques of the COVID-19 response as a weapon against child Labour in the nation⁶.

1.2 RESEARCH PROBLEM

³ Mayank Soni,(2021) "COVID-19 has likely worsened the situation of child labourers in India: Educo and Campaign Against Child Labour lead efforts to bring together stakeholders to help end child labour" <https://reliefweb.int/report/india/covid-19-has-likely-worsened-situation-child-labourers-india-educo-and-campaign-against#:~:text=The%20pandemic%20has%20triggered%20a,the%20light%20of%20COVID19%20pandemic.%E2%80%9D> (accessed 06-June-2023)

⁴ Navpreet Kaur and Roger W. Byard (2021) Prevalence and potential consequences of child labour in India and the possible impact of COVID-19 – a contemporary overview

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought to light a concerning surge in child Labour rates within Indian society. This issue raises critical questions about the effectiveness of existing child Labour regulations, the impact of economic hardships on vulnerable households, and the role of education accessibility. Addressing the root causes of this phenomenon and identifying viable interventions are imperative for safeguarding the rights and well-being of children, ensuring their access to quality education, and fostering a sustainable recovery for post-pandemic India.

1.3 RESEARCH HYPOTHESIS

The significant increase in child Labour rates in Indian society following the Covid-19 pandemic can be attributed to a combination of factors including economic disruptions leading to household financial instability, limited access to online education among marginalized communities, inadequacies in enforcing child Labour laws, and the interplay of cultural norms. Addressing these multifaceted challenges through targeted policy interventions, community engagement, and educational initiatives can contribute to a reduction in child Labour prevalence and promote a more equitable and sustainable recovery in the post-pandemic era.

1.4 RESEARCH QUESTIONS

2. How has the shift to online classes and economic hardships affected the educational access and Labour participation of impoverished children?

<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/pdf/10.1177/0025802421993364> (accessed 06-June-2023)

⁵Jeffery Gettleman & Suhasini Raj, As COVID-19 Closes Schools, the World's Children Go to Work, N.Y. TIMES, <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/09/27/world/asia/covid-19-india-children-school-educationLabour.html?searchResultPosition=8> (accessed 07-06-2023)

⁶ Caroline Carlyle, "We Need Their Wages": Implications of COVID-19 on the Rising Levels of Child Labour in India, North California Journal of International Law (March 2022) Vol. 47 <https://scholarship.law.unc.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=2117&context=ncilj> (accessed on 07-06-2023)

3. Whether Family Pressure is one of the solid causes on the children to do Labour.

1.5 SCOPE AND OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The scope of this research is limited to Child Labour in society in India only and child Labour after covid-19 pandemic.

1. To study about the various legislation and judicial approaches regarding child Labour
2. To study about child Labour affecting covid-19 was due to limited resources available to marginalized children in India.
3. To suggest measures of controlling the child Labour which was incurred due to Covid-19 pandemic.
4. To study about mentality of employer that they accept the child to do Labour to work in their Industries and other form of work in India.
5. To comprehend the effects of lockdown on the prevalence of several types of child exploitation, such as child Labour, child bonded Labour, and child marriage

1.6 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The paper is entirely based on doctrinal research method and Primary and secondary data resources. The sources used in the paper are articles, journals and decisions of the various Tribunals in India, UN Charters, various High Courts, Supreme Court and the Constituent Assembly Debates etc.

1.7 CHILD LABOUR BEFORE COVID-19 PANDEMIC-

Children participating in the workforce is not a modern occurrence. As it has been correctly noted, it has existed in various forms in every civilization throughout the history of humanity. "To a greater or lesser extent, children in every type of human society

have always participated and currently participate in labour. In the report of the committee on child Labour (Govt. of India 1979): "Those economic activities which are necessary if the group to which they belong is to survive," Additionally, child Labour has always occurred in some capacity throughout history; it is not a modern phenomenon.⁷ The five states of Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, and Maharashtra employ the most children in India. Here, more than half of all children who work in India do so. Nearly 20% of India's child Labourers are employed in Uttar Pradesh, the country's largest child Labour hotspot. In India, there are 1,26,66,377 child Labourers, of whom UP has 19,27,997, according to a report by the Campaign Against Child Labour (CAC).⁸ Children in India are protected and encouraged to grow up, and Article 15(3) of the Indian Constitution allows for positive discrimination in their favor.

"Nothing in this article shall prevent the State from making any special provision for women and children."

Three specific articles of the constitution are crucial to comprehend when discussing child Labour. Between the ages of 6 and 14 years, Article 21A makes education free and required. Article 24 forbids the employment of minors in mines and industries, while Article 39 mandates. The State should direct its policy to prevent maltreatment of children while they are still young. Below are these Articles.

Article 21A: The State shall provide free and compulsory education to all children of the age of six to fourteen years in such manner as the State may, by law, determine.

Article 24: No child below the age of fourteen years shall be employed to work in any factory or mine or engaged in any other hazardous employment.

Article 39 (f): that children are given opportunities and facilities to develop in a healthy manner and in conditions of freedom and dignity and that childhood and youth are protected against exploitation and against moral and material abandonment. v interferes

⁷ Dr. Satendra Kumar Singh,(2018) Child Labour In India: A Historical Perspective, International Journal of Development Research Vol. 08, Issue, 01 P. 18456, <https://www.journalijdr.com/sites/default/files/issue-pdf/11890.pdf> (accessed on 14-June-2023)

⁸ Statistics of Child Labour in India State wise, Save the Children NGO, (2016),

https://www.savethechildren.in/blog/child-protection/statistics-of-child-labour-in-india-state-wise/?gclid=CjwKCAjwp6CkBhB_EiwAIQVyxazbovGDos4WqjE7hKxdGIwkc9b2uLdPC7T1iHcczCNYPJ4WI-ktxoCxOIQAvD_BwE9 accessed on (14-June-2023)

with their schooling by: According to ILO, 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. It refers to work that:

Article 39 (e): that the health and strength of workers, men and women, and the tender age of children are not abused and that citizens are not forced by economic necessity to enter avocations unsuited to their age or strength.⁹

1.7.1 Socio Economic Factors related to Child Labour

1.7.1.1 *Poverty*: Child Labour is impacted by a variety of factors, including poverty as the main reason. According to studies, poverty is the primary cause. Parents often decide whether their children will work or attend school. Parents believe that children should also contribute to the family income if it is below the poverty level. presented a theoretical model of child Labour to demonstrate that parents only send kids to work when they have limited incomes. As a result, low-income parents are unable to pay for their children's education. As a result, poor households are more likely to push their children to work rather than enroll them in school.

1.7.1.2 *Family size*: It is true that children are often more involved in big, impoverished homes than in smaller ones, proving that family size affects child Labour. Because they cannot handle the obligations of a big family, parents force their kids to work. Additionally, there are gender disparities in household size. Depending on the kid's age and gender, not every member of the family works as child Labour. For instance, males are more likely than girls to attend school.

1.7.1.3 *Family situation*: Many young children who have lost one or both of their parents, as well as those affected by HIV/AIDS in the family, are required to work in order to support themselves and their siblings. Particularly in sub-Saharan Africa, the number of orphaned children is rising. Many of these youngsters end up as street children and live in extremely challenging conditions.

⁹ Child Labour Handbook, Bachpan Bachao Andolan, P.02, <https://satyarthi.org.in/wp->

1.7.1.4 *Factors of tradition or culture*: Culture is another element that drives youngsters into the Labour field. Due to customs and cultural considerations, children in many nations are forced to begin working at an early age. They thought that young people needed to pick up skills that would help them in the future. Tauson reports that parents in rural Guatemala prefer their kids to work because they see it as advantageous for them to gain job skills.

1.7.1.5 *Corruption*: Corruption is a key factor in resource misuse, and it exists everywhere there is poverty United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) (2012) states that "corruption exacerbates poverty and inequality, undercuts human development and stability, sustains conflict, violates human rights, and weakens democratic functioning of countries." Children's rights can suffer greatly from corruption when essential services like infrastructure, healthcare, and education are not provided. The potential of children to rise above poverty might be hampered by corruption.

1.7.1.6 *Urban migration*: Due to urban pull and rural push influences, many rural families move to cities. As a result, they are frequently compelled to live and work on the streets due to a lack of access to necessities like food, housing, etc. These kids wind up working as street sellers.

1.7.1.7 Most street Labourers are at risk of violence and are more likely to engage in illicit activities such theft, drug trafficking, prostitution, and drug use (Yadav & Sengupta, 2009). These kids are living in urban poverty; many child Labourers live in filthy, unsafe slum neighborhoods and work in unsanitary settings doing things like doing housework or working in hotels and restaurants, among other things. As a result of immigration and other factors, cities' populations are growing. natural expansion. Urban poverty is a multifaceted issue. Living in urban poverty presents several difficulties for people in developing nations. Due to unemployment, housing shortages, crime, and unfavorable settings, a large number of impoverished individuals are forced to

<content/uploads/2021/06/child-labour-handbook.pdf> (accessed 14-June-2023)

endure terrible misery. Cities now have more poverty as a result of increased urbanization. Slums are a result of urban poverty. High unemployment, subpar housing, insufficient access to clean drinking water, and poor sanitation define these communities.

1.7.1.8 *Globalization*: Another factor contributing to child Labour is globalization. Globalization has both good and bad effects, but it also offers developing nations the chance to boost their foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows and enhance their gross domestic product (GDP) per capita through new trade opportunities. Additionally, globalization has had a negative influence on child Labour in underdeveloped nations. Many multinational corporations have relocated their production overseas in recent years.

1.7.1.9 These businesses frequently engage in the practice of employing children as cheap Labour since they can abide by orders and carry them out even when they are mistreated and exploited. According to, globalization has made it necessary for more youngsters in India to work in dangerous industries including brick kilns, auto garages, hotels, stores, transportation, manual loading tasks, etc.¹⁰

1.8 CHILD LABOUR AFTER COVID-19 PANDEMIC

'Without food, without work, and without education' is the title of a report by the NGOs ActionAid Association and Slum Mahila Sanghatane, which underscores the difficulties post-pandemic survivors experience in getting to school while trying to live. On April 19, the report was made public.

According to the report's observations, parents are quite upset about their inability to provide their kids with a quality education. Several of them sobbed during the hearing as they described the difficulties

¹⁰ Mrs. Niti Nagar and Mrs. Bindu Roy, A Critical Analysis of Child Labour in India, (2022) Pp. 10-11, https://www.researchgate.net/publication/362409632_A_Critical_Analysis_Of_Child_Labour_In_India (Accessed on 14-June-2023)

¹¹ Express news Services, Bengaluru, Indian Express Report: Pandemic forced students to drop out of school, turn to child labour, <https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/bangalore/rep>

and battles, they are currently having to obtain their children an education. Due to the epidemic, kids have been out of school for a whole two years. Students have been absent from school in the North Karnataka areas impacted by the floods for the past four years. For a number of reasons, including financial challenges that make paying fees impossible, child labour, and early weddings, many are unclear about when they will re-join. Children's mental health is suffering as a result of their extended periods spent at home without any sort of education or other engagements.¹¹

Child Labour in India has long been a pressing issue, and the COVID-19 pandemic has introduced new challenges while exacerbating existing ones. Here, we discuss the impact of the pandemic on child Labour in India, backed by relevant sources:

Economic Impact¹²: The pandemic-induced lockdowns and economic disruptions led to widespread job losses and income instability for many families. As a result, some families turned to child Labour as a means of supplementing their income. This is particularly prevalent in sectors such as agriculture, construction, and informal Labour.

School Closures¹³: Prolonged school closures due to the pandemic disrupted the education of millions of children. When children are out of school for extended periods, they become more susceptible to being engaged in child Labour. UNESCO reported that school closures affected nearly 247 million children in India.

Migration and Child Labour¹⁴: The pandemic triggered massive reverse migration as Labourers returned to their home villages from cities. Children who accompanied their parents may have been exposed to hazardous working conditions in rural

ort-pandemic-forced-students-to-drop-out-of-school-turn-to-child-labour-7880744/ (Visited on 12-August-2023)

¹² "Impact of COVID-19 on child labour," International Labour Organization (ILO), 2020

¹³ "COVID-19 and Education: A global snapshot of the pandemic's impact on education," UNESCO, 2020.

¹⁴ "COVID-19 and Child Labour: A Time of Crisis, A Time to Act," UNICEF and ILO, 2021.

areas. The lack of access to education in these regions further heightens the risk of child Labour.

Vulnerable Populations¹⁵: The pandemic disproportionately impacted marginalized and economically vulnerable communities. Such communities are more likely to resort to child Labour as they grapple with economic instability, making children from these backgrounds particularly at risk.

Enforcement Challenges¹⁶: The pandemic strained law enforcement and government resources, hindering their ability to effectively monitor and enforce child Labour laws. This made it easier for unscrupulous employers to exploit children.

Efforts to address child Labour in India post-pandemic should encompass several strategies:

Strengthening Education¹⁷: Investments in education infrastructure, promotion of online and distance learning during crises, and financial support for families to keep their children in school are essential to preventing child Labour.

Social Safety Nets¹⁸: Expanding social safety nets and providing financial assistance to vulnerable families can alleviate the economic pressure that often drives child Labour.

Legal Framework¹⁹: Strict enforcement of existing child Labour laws and potential amendments to enhance their effectiveness are critical in deterring child Labour practices.

Awareness and Advocacy²⁰: Raising awareness about the consequences of child Labour and mobilizing civil society and NGOs to advocate for children's rights can

create a more supportive environment for combating child Labour.

Data Collection and Monitoring²¹: Strengthening data collection and monitoring mechanisms to track instances of child Labour and assess the impact of policies and interventions is crucial for evidence-based decision-making.

Skill Development²²: Providing skill development and vocational training to parents and older siblings can improve their employability, reducing the need for child Labour within families.

In conclusion, addressing child Labour in India is a multifaceted challenge that requires a coordinated effort from the government, civil society, and the international community. The COVID-19 pandemic has underscored the urgency of tackling this issue to ensure the well-being and future prospects of India's children.

1.9 ISSUES AND CHALLENGES AFTER COVID-19

Around the world, society, businesses, and healthcare systems have been significantly and permanently impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, which first surfaced in late 2019. Numerous difficulties and problems keep coming to light as we move into the post-pandemic age, creating our shared destiny. This document examines some of the major problems and difficulties encountered in the wake of COVID-19.

Infrastructure and Preparedness in Public Health²³

The epidemic highlighted flaws in both the international and domestic healthcare systems. Governments and organisations must make

¹⁵ "Impact of COVID-19 on marginalized communities in India," Oxfam India, 2020

¹⁶ "COVID-19's impact on child labour and forced labour: Risks and responses," ILO, 2020.

¹⁷ "COVID-19: A potential threat to child protection in India," UNICEF India, 2020.

¹⁸ "COVID-19 and the World of Work: Impact and Policy Responses," ILO, 2020.

¹⁹ "Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2016," Ministry of Labour & Employment, Government of India

²⁰ The "Impact of COVID-19 on Marginalised Communities in India," 2020 Oxfam India

²¹ "Child Labour in India: An analysis of the latest Census and NSSO data," Child Rights and You (CRY), 2020.

²² "Child Labour in India: A Mixed Methods Study," V.V. Giri National Labour Institute, 2020.

²³ World Health Organization (WHO). (2021). Strengthening Health Systems for Resilience.

investments in bolstering the healthcare system's infrastructure, making sure there are enough resources, and improving readiness for any health emergencies.

*Distribution of Vaccines and Equity*²⁴

Even if vaccinations have shown to be successful at stopping the virus's transmission, distributing them fairly is still a difficult task. To achieve global herd immunity, discrepancies in vaccination access between nations and people must be addressed.

The brief claims that COVID-19 may lead to an increase in poverty and, consequently, a rise in child labour as families resort to any means necessary to survive. According to some research, child labour increases in some nations by at least 0.7% for every one percentage point increase in poverty. Child work, according to UNICEF Executive Director Henrietta Fore, "becomes a coping mechanism for many families during times of crisis." "More youngsters are being forced into the labour as poverty levels grow, schools shut, and social services are less readily available. We must make sure that kids and their families have the resources they require to withstand such storms in the future as we re-imagine the world post-COVID. quality social protection services and education the short describes home duties. In order to combat the threat of increased child labour, the brief suggests a number of measures, including more extensive social protection, easier access to credit for low-income households, the promotion of respectable employment for adults, steps to encourage kids to return to school, including the elimination of school fees, and more funding for labour inspections and law enforcement.

ILO and UNICEF are creating a simulation model to assess COVID-19's worldwide impact on child labour.

²⁴ The Lancet. (2021). Vaccine Equity and the Global COVID-19 Vaccination Campaign

²⁵ UNICEF, COVID-19 may push millions more children into child labour – ILO and UNICEF (<https://www.unicef.org/press-releases/covid-19-may-push-millions-more-children-child-labour-ilo-and-unicef#:~:text=According%20to%20the%20brief%20C%20COVID,child%20labour%20in%20certain%20countries.>) (Visited on 04-10-2023)

In 2021, there will be updated global estimates of child labour²⁵

1.10 ERADICATION TECHNIQUES

Even under the best of circumstances, it can be challenging to reach the most isolated and rural populations to help the battle against child labour. During a pandemic, this difficulty increases.

Unfortunately, several of the effects of the COVID-19 outbreak—such as a lack of access to healthcare, education, and employment opportunities—are also some of the main causes of child labour. Finding systemic solutions that address these causes and quicken the process of achieving Sustainable Development Goal 8.7 for the abolition of child employment is therefore more important than ever²⁶.

In India during the COVID-19 epidemic or at any other time, ending child labour necessitates a multifaceted strategy incorporating governmental measures, civil society projects, and international collaboration. Due to the pandemic's impact on schooling and the economy, children are now even more vulnerable to child labour.

Child work deprives children of their youth and is an abhorrent crime. Despite the efforts of the government and strict legislation, this social evil still predominates in our society. Child work impedes a child's development and progress as well as the social and economic advancement of a whole nation. In order to end child labour, we should band together and aim our efforts in the proper direction. Here are a few strategies for ending child labour.

- Be watchful.

Be cautious when eating at a neighboring restaurant or buying at a neighborhood market. Inform local authorities or dial CHILDLINE 1098 (INDIA) if you see any children working as child labourers.

²⁶ Five ways to fight child labour during a crisis like COVID-19, <https://www.eclt.org/en/news/five-ways-to-fight-child-labour-during-a-crisis-like-covid-19#:~:text=Empower%20community%2Dled%20initiatives&text=Supporting%20and%20promoting%20community%2Dled,fields%20in%20the%20long%20run.> (Visited on 05-10-2023)

- Know the laws.

The first step in preventing child labour is to understand the constitution's role in child protection. Knowing the laws gives you the knowledge you need to combat the threat and alert those who use child labour.

- Conscientious buyer

Find out which brands guarantee that no minors were used in the production of the goods before you go shopping. You may only purchase items from these brands when you shop at a market or small store.

- Information and understanding

Child labour may be avoided by educating others about its negative impacts, especially business leaders and employers. Discuss with them how child employment affects children's physical and emotional health, as well as how it can damage their future. Additionally, let them know what the laws and punishments are.

- Speaking with the parents of children who work as workers.

If you are aware of a parent in your area who is forcing his or her child to work as a youngster, speak with that parent and explain the dangers that child employment poses to the future of their offspring. Describe the effects of child work on a kid's overall development. When speaking with them, make sure to emphasise how education and skill building may protect their child's future.

- Collaborating with a group or movement

You can join up with an NGO or organisation that works in this area to stop child labour. You may participate in their outreach and awareness campaigns by volunteering with them. It's also a terrific idea to kindly support them by making a donation to their cause.

- Add additional students to the school system.

In your neighbourhood, you may establish a setting that encourages learning for street kids. You may assist disadvantaged children in learning and self-education by raising money to create libraries and community

learning facilities in your area. Additionally, you may help the parents enrol their kids in school.

- Responsible voter

Vote for candidates in legislative races whose platforms include the opposition to child labour. Talk about it on the open forums and discussion platforms if it is not on their agenda. Other voters can benefit from your awareness campaigns.

- Connect with local authorities.

Engage local officials and legislators and ask them to take action to stop child labour. To guarantee that rescued children are rehabilitated, you may write to them and urge them to implement sustainable and compassionate practices²⁷.

1.11 CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

Economic shock at the home level, pro-market labour legislation reforms, and the COVID-19-induced lockdown's macro consequences are all being intensified. Reverse migration from urban to rural regions makes it even worse.²⁸ Due to their multiple vulnerabilities and lack of voice, among the many vulnerable groups, children will be the first to experience the negative effects of these shocks, since many states are working to weaken the regulatory framework and reduce the protective rights granted to employees. Therefore, it is crucial to reconsider the proposed modifications to employment regulations from the perspective of children's rights. Additionally, it is important to review the definition of dangerous occupations and procedures to make the system more responsive and robust to the problem. recommendations and suggestions to address child labour include.

1. When creating interventions for children, consider their inherent right to survival, growth, protection, and participation as stated in the UNCRC.

2. The Schedule's Part A and Part B, which include hazardous occupations and procedures where minors are permitted to participate, both contain annual statistics on child and adolescent employment.

²⁷ ChildLine, How To Stop Child Labour In India With Case Study | CHILDLINE India 1098, <https://www.childlineindia.org/blog/How-To-Stop-Child-Labour-inia-with-Case-study-Childline-India-1098.html> (Visited on 05-10-2023)

²⁸ Shreya Ghosh, Priti Mahara, COVID-19 and Child Labour in India: Challenges and Way Forward, Child Rights and You, <https://www.cry.org/downloads/safety-and-protection/Policy-Brief-COVID-19-and-Child-Labour-in-India.pdf> (Visited on 05-10-2023)

3. collecting information on embedded labour processes to identify children's engagement at each stage and the risks to their physical, psychological, and cognitive development. This should involve gathering information on the type of labour done and the effects of having kids assist the family and work in family businesses. This information on children and adolescents working in all occupations and procedures across industries can help define dangers in the situation.

4. carrying out a census or head count of immigrant youngsters and their families. This will allow for the creation of a thorough rehabilitation plan employing the Child Protection Services (CPS) Scheme and additional tools made accessible by the NCLP and child labour laws.

5. Increasing awareness of child labour and ensuring Childline operates effectively, particularly in Districts of NCLP. expansion of the NCLP scheme to all districts, focusing particularly on those with a high burden district having a heavy reverse migration load and COVID-19 instances.

6. Ensuring alignment between the requirements of the Child Labour Prohibition and Regulation Act of 1986 and in accordance with the National Education Policy, 2020, all children between the ages of 3-18 years.

7. Priority distribution of educational resources to kids from disadvantaged groups, as well as free access to digital devices including phones, computers, and data packs to support uninterrupted study through distance learning during school closures.

8. creating plans for accelerated learning so that students can finish school when the schools reopen and regain any lost knowledge.

9. Make significant improvements to social support that will reduce child labour and mitigate the COVID-19 problem for children. Cash transfers to low-income homes have been shown in the past to minimise child labour, making them particularly beneficial for assisting households.

10. Increase spending on children to build more durable systems for education, health care, and defence.