



ISSUES AND PROBLEMS OF CHILD LABOUR: PRESENT SCENARIO IN INDIA.

Amitkumar I. Parmar

Associate professor

M.S.Bhagat & C.S.Sonawala

Law College – Nadiad-387001

Dist – Kheda (Gujarat)

Dr. Anilkumar B. Pandya.

Principal

M.S.Bhagat & C.S.Sonawala

Law College – Nadiad-387001

Dist – Kheda (Gujarat)

Children are the mirror of the nation. The fate at humanity is in the children's hand, the child is a father of nation and hence his environment should be given top priority in the development process. We all know that child is the father of nation and today's child is tomorrow's citizen. Well – nourished, educated and socialized child may well prove to be a strong foundation for a nation's development. So it is our duty to look after them; protect them and provide them better care for their physical and mental growth. In a welfare state it also becomes the duty of the government to promote children welfare through different schemes and policies, so that they will not be exposed to any sort of hazards, which may damages their growth, which ultimately damages the political, social as economics growth of the society.

The problem of child labour is a burning problem of the world and has constantly agitated the minds of jurists, legislators, social thinkers, politicians and economics. The problems very acute, particularly in under developed and developing countries. As a developing country, India is faced with a multitude of social problems. One such problem, child labour, has disgraced the entire subcontinent giving it the distinction of having the largest number of the child labourers in the world. While many are willing to admit that a child labour problem exists, very few people are willing to accept responsibility for the problem.

Every child has right to receive the best that the country and community have to offer. Every child should grow in an environment that helps him or her to live a life of freedom and dignity, in an atmosphere that provides education and opportunities to help the child grow into a worthy citizen. Unfortunately a large chunk of our child population is forced to work often in the most hazardous conditions. Child labour is a national and global phenomenon.

The number of working children is increasing from year to year. Some reasons are economic situation of their family, lack of employment opportunities for the adult member, and the preference of the employers to hire children to save on production costs. The child loses all the pleasures of life and potentials of growth and development. There is worldwide awareness and laws have been enacted to prohibit children from being employed. Illegal recruitment of children will continue. There is also a great scope for exploitation and abuse of child.

CHILD LABOUR IN INDIA

In developing countries like India, children work in modern sector as well as the poor sector to which they belong. The proportion of child labour and occupation in which they are engaged vary from situation to situation and place to place. India is a home to more than 12.6 million children who are forced to work in order to survive. Most of the children are engaged in unorganized agriculture sector followed by street business and manufacturing units, which also sometimes depend on the availability of child labour in the labour market on the type of undertaking. On the hardship of the work etc, the rapid urbanization in our country has opened new avenues for employment of children below 14 years like rickshaw pulling, shoe shining, car cleaning, cycle repairing, garage work hotel boys, domestic servant etc. and also in many black trends like smuggling, drug trafficking, begging as



well as traditional occupation like beedi work, carpentry, laundry, match, fire work, agarbattis, etc. Therefore there is absolute truth in the statement that there is no sector where a child is not employed.

Child labour is economically unsound, psychologically disastrous and physically as well as morally dangerous and harmful. It involves the use of labour as its point of labour productivity and is, therefore, an inefficient utilization of labour power. Child labour precludes the full enfoldment of child's potentialities. It deprives him of education, training and skills which are the necessary prerequisites of earning power and economic development. Children are most vulnerable group in any population and in the need of the greatest social scare. On account of their vulnerable and dependence, they can be exploited, ill-treated and directed into undesirable channels by unscrupulous elements in the community. The state has the duty of affording proper care and protection to children at all times, as it is on their physical and mental well-being that the future of the nation depends.

CAUSES OF CHILD LABOUR

Child labour is a socio-economic problem. It is generally considered that Poverty, illiteracy, ignorance, and low wages are root causes of child labour. If we ask the question "why children accept work" we must look at the social background. From time back this system prevails, i.e. child labour in their traditional family occupations to those working in modern industries and other unorganised sectors.

A number of reasons with different types of combinations have been held responsible for work by children. Kulshrestha has mentioned. "poverty, absence of scheme of family allowance, large family, cheaper rates of child labour, absence of compulsory education, illiteracy and ignorance, slow process of protective labour legislations and inadequate inspecting machinery as the cause of child labour".

ABSENCE OF PROVISION FOR COMPULSORY EDUCATION

The provision of compulsory education up to a prescribe age could compel the Children to attend the school so that there may arise no question of entering of children in employment. Also formal education has a little relevance to them. step by step these children progress and advance towards more specialized labour.

OTHER REASON

Crafts like brocade work in which highest degree of sophistication and excellence cannot be achieved unless learning is initiated in childhood itself. Migrant conditions also encourage child employment. In addition to the above Cause of child labour, there are also certain other significant reasons for child Labour. Firstly the process of protective labour legislation is slow which is not covering the agriculture and small-scale industries. Secondly, inspecting machining the law.

SUGGETIONS

Child labour has been a topic at hat discussion in India and abroad. The evil of child labour exits in this country mainly because of widespread poverty and illiteracy; and untill these twin problems continue to exist, it will not be possible to effectively tackle the problem of child labour. The following points may be use full for reappraising the strategy for preventing the child labour .

- Eradication of poverty.
- Spread of education.
- Rehabilitation programme.
- Strengthening rural development policy.
- Improving Health Policy.
- Improving Working Condition.
- Improve Wage Policy.
- Most important is Morel Protection.