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CHILD LABOUR AND CONTEMPORARY INDIA

In the contemporary India, which has booming industrialization and modernization. The country is home to many diversities from business sectors to cultures. It is also a country with hefty number of Child Labours. According to a Campaign Against Child Labour study, India has around 12,666,377 child laborers. The 2011 Census reported that around 259.6 million children in India are employed as laborers. UNICEF has reported that there has been a 54% increase in child labor in urbanized areas for children between the ages of 5 and 14.

Historical Background: The employment of children in India, in the form of slavery, was mentioned even in Kautilya's Artha Shastra of 3rd Century B.C. in medieval period, children were normally placed as trainees under artisans and craftsmen certain crafts depends totally on the employment of children. Childrens have been working in the agricultural sector, since the schools were only accessible for privileged, and women were deprived from schools. Even in the rural areas the kids contribute to the family finances by working in factories and on roadsides.

The Child Labour, the term if looked closely, tells two things Child and Labour, the question is what cause these children to be labors. The practice of Child Labour is a product of poverty. There are many other things responsible for Child Labour, but the major and deeply rooted cause is Poverty. It is due to the fact that the families' expenses are more than the income of adults in the family, this forces the children to voluntarily or influentially get employment.

In the Modern-day India, there is variety of jobs such as skilled and unskilled. Due to incomplete primary education, these children are forced to choose unskilled work that is physically and mentally demanding. According Child Labour Prohibition And Regulation Amendment 2017,

Children are not restricted from working in Family enterprises. This leads to exploitation as the family includes more than parents of the child, the children could be forced to or manipulated to work by their relatives.

Apart from the Poverty, there are other factors that we can focus on. One of them being Foster Care.

Foster Care In India: Under the guidelines brought by the Union Ministry of Women and Child Development, children in the age group of 6-18 years, whose parents are unable to take care of them due to reasons such as mental illness, poverty or imprisonment and those staying in child care institutions will be placed in foster care. Nevertheless, the Foster Care is conspicuously provided by Hostels and Orphanages. The number families volunteering for Foster Care are less due to no incentives and incomes of families being consumed optimally at existing number of family members. Promoting Foster Care could help reduce the number of children working as Labors for being an additional expense for their families.

Family Planning : One of the causes of the children to get involved in labor is the No adults or less number of adults earning in the family, which forces the children to get involved in the labor. If the number people in the family are balanced to the income of the families, this will create a balance in the consumption of income in the family. This is why it is very important to educate the people about Family Planning and Advantaged of the smaller family. Education has the inverse relation with birth rate.

Subsidies for the Single Parents : With the increasing number of the migrants, there is a decrease in joint families which has multiple people earning in the family. In such cases, being a single earner or unskilled worker will create financial imbalances. The Government of India has introduced many policies to support these sort of families. Unfortunately, the people are not aware about such policies and subsidies.

Trafficking : Human Trafficking is from where the large number of Child Labor is produced. The children are forced to work in different countries and in hazardous jobs. The local police are not always stop such crimes. A separate body to fight against such crimes could make a change.

For example, The Ministry of Home Affairs has established an Anti Trafficking Cell to deal with matters relating to law enforcement response on Trafficking in human beings, excluding legislative, welfare and promotional aspects, which are subject matters of Department of Women & Child Development. The Cell provides suitable guidelines to the States/UTs from time to time for strengthening law enforcement response in tackling human trafficking. It also acts as an interface with other Ministries like Ministry of Women & Child Development, Ministry of External Affairs, Ministry of Labour & Employment, Ministry of Railways etc. to address the issues of human trafficking. The Anti Trafficking Cell also provides guidance and assistance to the State and UTs for holding State level conferences and Judicial Colloquiums with a view to sensitizing the concerned officers, including Police officers, Judicial officers and other stakeholders in the States and UTs about Human Trafficking. The Anti Trafficking cell is also responsible for signing bilateral /multilateral MoUs with various countries to address the issue of Human Trafficking and participation in national /international meetings/conferences.

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