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A CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF CHILD LABOUR IN INDIA

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ABSTRACT

Child labor, a longstanding issue plaguing many developing nations, presents a formidable challenge that transcends geographical and socio-economic boundaries. While its roots extend back through centuries, persisting not only in impoverished regions of developing countries but also in developed nations until the early 20th century, the problem remains alarmingly prevalent in today's global landscape. Despite the enactment of various laws and concerted efforts by governments to eradicate child labor, it continues to persist worldwide.

In the context of India, the problem of child labor takes on a complex and deeply ingrained form, with poverty emerging as a primary catalyst. This issue is not confined to specific geographical areas, as child labor can be found both in urban and rural settings. However, the majority of cases are concentrated in rural areas, where poverty is more rampant. The struggle of many impoverished rural families for a better life in urban areas often leads to a distressing cycle, compelling them to force their children into labor to augment family income and ensure survival.

This paper undertakes a critical analysis of the multifaceted factors responsible for child labor in India, aiming to pinpoint areas where discrimination in child labor is particularly pronounced. Poverty emerges as a central factor, intertwining with other social, economic, and cultural elements to create a complex web that entraps children into labor. The census reports from 2011 indicate a glimmer of progress. The total number of working children in India has witnessed a significant decline, dropping from 1.26 crore in the 2001 census to 43.53 lakh in 2011—a remarkable 65 percent reduction. While this indicates a positive shift, the persistence of child labor necessitates sustained efforts to address the root causes comprehensively, ensuring a brighter future for the vulnerable children of India.

KEYWORDS : Child labour, exploitation, glass industry, poverty, ILO.

INTRODUCTION

Child labor stands as a formidable impediment to social development, a pervasive challenge that countries aspire to eliminate entirely as a long-term goal. The issue is particularly acute in developing nations, where it is recognized as a serious hindrance to progress. Child labor robs children of their rightful childhood, depriving them of basic amenities and subjecting them to conditions that are detrimental to their physical, mental, and emotional well-being. Recent estimates from the International Labour Organization (ILO) reveal a staggering figure of approximately 215 million children, aged five to fourteen, and engaged in labor globally. These children often endure mistreatment and grueling hours of work in adverse conditions, with significant repercussions on their health. The denial of fundamental rights, such as access to education and healthcare, compounds the challenges faced by these vulnerable children.

ILO's findings indicate a disturbing trend: a significant number of child laborers are involved in hazardous work, and despite legal prohibitions, the total number of child workers continues to rise. This puts them at heightened risk of diseases, exposing them to enduring physical and psychological pain. Poverty emerges as a potent force driving children into the workforce, as they strive for survival and to support their families.

While some argue that not all work undertaken by children is inherently harmful, emphasizing potential learning opportunities in activities like babysitting or newspaper delivery, it is crucial to distinguish these from situations causing psychological stress, such as human trafficking, prostitution, and pornographic activities.

Despite the commendable efforts of international organizations to eradicate child labor, its prevalence persists worldwide. Many countries, including developing nations like India, have enacted legislation to outlaw child labor. However, the complex web of socio-economic factors, particularly poverty, makes the complete elimination of child labor a formidable challenge. The path toward banning child labor requires sustained efforts, comprehensive strategies, and a collective commitment to ensure a future where every child can enjoy the innocence and opportunities of a proper childhood.

Child labor is not just a statistical concern but a deeply entrenched social issue that demands comprehensive understanding and persistent efforts. Beyond the stark numbers, the human impact is profound—millions of children robbed of their rightful childhood, subjected to conditions that compromise their physical, mental, and emotional well-being. The global

estimate of 215 million child laborers, as reported by the International Labour Organization (ILO), is a stark reminder that, despite strides in awareness and advocacy, this challenge remains a pressing reality.

The conditions these children endure are distressing. Mistreatment, prolonged working hours, and hazardous environments create a bleak backdrop for their formative years. Denied basic rights such as access to education and healthcare, these children face a compromised future. The numbers working in hazardous conditions, as highlighted by the ILO, underscore the urgency of addressing this issue. The rise in total child laborers, despite legal prohibitions, reflects the complex and deeply rooted nature of the problem.

The nexus between child labor and poverty is a critical aspect that cannot be overlooked. For many children, work becomes a means of survival, a contribution to their families' meagre incomes. This harsh reality underscores the interconnectedness of socio-economic factors and the persistence of child labor. Addressing this issue necessitates a holistic approach that goes beyond legal frameworks, delving into poverty alleviation, education accessibility, and healthcare provisions.

International organizations have indeed taken commendable strides in combating child labor, and many countries have implemented legislation to prohibit it. However, the persistence of this issue, particularly in developing countries like India, underscores the complexity of the challenge. Achieving a total ban on child labor requires sustained efforts, social reform, and a commitment to addressing the root causes, with poverty at the forefront. It is a collective responsibility to ensure that every child is afforded the opportunity to grow in an environment that nurtures their potential, rather than one that robs them of their innocence and potential.

MEANING OF CHILD LABOUR

Child labour refers to the employment of children in any work that deprives children of their childhood, interferes with their ability to attend regular school, and that is mentally, physically, socially or morally dangerous and harmful¹.

¹ . Das, Saswati, "Incidence of child labor and child schooling in India: Pattern and Determinants," ISRN Economics. Vol.2, 2012

Defining child labour is not as simple and straight forward as it may appear because it encompasses three difficult-to-define concepts “child”, “work” and “labour”. In the context of child labour, a working definition of a “child” may be a person below the general limit of Fifteen years or in special circumstances fourteen years, set by the Minimum Age Convention, 1973. According to ILO (1983), “child labour includes children prematurely leading adulteries, working long hours for low wages under conditions damaging to their health and to their physical and mental development, sometimes separated from their families, frequently deprived of meaningful education and training opportunities that would open for them a better future.”

CONTEMPORARY DEFINITION OF CHILD LABOUR

Child Labour is both a cause and a consequence of poverty – the international Centre on Child Labour and education. The term child labour has many definitions by different scholars. According to Suda, the term child labour refers to when children is working in any type of work that is dangerous and harmful to children’s health or the work hinders their education. For Moyi child labour refers to low wages, long hours, physical and sexual abuse. According to Edmonds and Pavcnik child labour is viewed as a form of child labour abuse, when children work in bad conditions and hazardous occupations. The term child labour is generally interpreted as “all cases in which children are exposed to harm at work whether or not children are less than 14 years old or less” (UNICEF, 2005), the meanings and implications of child labour have been highly dependent on its social, cultural, and economic contexts as well as missions, strategies, and objectives of each working organization.

Trade unions, consumer groups and the International Labour Organization (ILO) often used “child labor” and “child labourer” instead of “working children,” implying that children should be kept away from the labor force at least until they reach a minimum working age on the basis of the fact that these organizations historically tended to protect and secure adult labor markets. In other words, the ILO’s primary concern was to protect adult employment and wages, the idea that children’s economic freedom should be abridged to protect the economic welfare of adults” has been reiterated implicitly in various forms of child labor legislation. Conversely, UNICEF and UNICEF-affiliated NGOs referred to “child labor” according to article 32 of the Conventions on the Rights of the child, in which child labor includes any economic activities impeding or hindering the child’s full development or education. This UNICEF tradition continues, as these organizations often describe child labour as “working children”. The term ‘child labour’, suggests ILO, is best 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

is mentally, physically, socially or morally dangerous and harmful to children, or work whose schedule interferes with their ability to attend regular school, or work that affects in any manner their ability to focus during war and clubs and bouts, school or experience a healthy childhood.

TYPES OF CHILD LABOUR

Child labour is a term that needs to be unpacked: it cannot be used in a sweeping manner but covers a range and variety of circumstances in which children work². Child labourers are involved in the following forms of works:-

- **Child labour:** -Those children who are doing paid or unpaid work in factories, workshops, establishment, mines and in the service sector such as domestic labour. The ministry of Labour, Government of India has employed the term „child labour' only in the context of children doing „hazardous“ work. By implication, children who are not doing hazardous“ work are not considered to be child labourers and are said to be doing child work.
- **Street children:** - Children living on and off the streets, such as shoeshine boys, rag pickers, newspaper vendors, beggars etc. are called street children. Most children have some sort of home to go back to in the evening or nights, while street children are completely alone and are at the mercy of their employers. They live on the pavements, in the bus stations and railway stations.
- **Bonded children:** - Children who have either been pledged by their parents for paltry sums of money or those working to pay off the inherited debts of their fathers. Bonded children are in many ways the most difficult to assist because they are inaccessible. If

² Bhatt, Bilal Ahmad, “Gender, education and child labour- A sociological perspective” Centre of Central Asian Studies, University of Kashmir, J&K, and vol. 5(6): 2010 pages-323-328.

the carpet owner has bought them, they cannot escape. If the middle-class housewife has paid for them, they cannot run away. If the landlord in the village owns them, they will spend their life in servitude till they get married and can, in turn, sell their children.

- **Working children:** - Children who are working as part of family labour in agriculture and in home-based work. If children are working 12-14 hours a day along with their parents at the cost of their education, their situation is similar to that of children working for other employers. In fact children, particularly girls, are expected to take on work burdens by parents in complete disproportion to their strengths and abilities. This is the largest category of children who are out-of-school and are working full time. And it is here that we find the largest percentage of girls working at the cost of education.
- **Children used for sexual exploitation:** - Many thousands of young girls and boys serve the sexual appetites of men from all social and economic backgrounds. Direct links between the commercial sexual exploitation of children and other forms of exploitative child labor are numerous. Factories, workshops, street corners, railway stations, bus stops and homes where children work are common sites of sexual exploitation. Children are especially powerless to resist abuse by employers, either as perpetrators or intermediaries. The physical and psychosocial damage inflicted by commercial sexual exploitation makes it one of the most hazardous forms of child labor.
- **Migrant children:** - India faces a huge challenge with “distress seasonal migration “. Millions of families are being forced to leave their homes and villages for several months every year in search of livelihoods. These migrations mean that families are forced to drop out of schools, something that closes up the only available opportunity to break the vicious cycle generation after generation. At worksites migrant children are inevitably put to work. Many industrial and agro- industrial sectors like brick- making, salt manufacture, sugar cane harvesting, stone quarrying, construction, fisheries, plantations, rice mills and so on run largely on migrant labour.
- **Children engaged in household activities:** - Apart from children who are employed for wages (either bonded or otherwise) as domestic help, there are a large number of children (especially girls) who are working in their own houses, engaged in what is not normally seen as “economic activity”. These children are engaged in taking care of younger siblings, cooking, cleaning and other such household activities. As seen in the literature on women’s work, such activities need to be recognized as „work“. Further, if such children are not sent to school, they will eventually join the labour force as one of the above categories of child labour.

OBJECTIVES

- To analyse existing strategies for addressing the issues through policy, education and advocacy.
- To evaluate the effectiveness of existing policies and regulations aimed at eliminating child labour in India.
- To identify the legal framework at international and national level to protect the rights of the children's.
- To examine the role of judiciary in protecting the child right.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

In conducting research paper on child labour, researcher employed a doctrinal research methodology to navigate the intricate legal dimensions of this pervasive issue. This methodology involved a comprehensive examination and analysis of existing legal frameworks, statutes, and judicial decisions pertaining to child labor at both national and international levels. By delving into legal doctrines, principles, and precedents, aimed to discern the evolution of laws addressing child labor and critically assess their effectiveness. The doctrinal approach allowed the researcher to construct a nuanced understanding of the legal landscape surrounding child labor, identifying gaps, ambiguities, and potential areas for reform. Drawing on authoritative legal sources, systematically interpreted and synthesized legal provisions, providing a solid foundation for the formulation of recommendations and conclusions in my research paper. This doctrinal methodology facilitated a rigorous exploration of the legal intricacies surrounding child labor, contributing to a more informed and insightful analysis of the subject matter.

SOCIO-AND ECONOMIC FACTORS RELATED TO CHILD LABOUR

1) Poverty as root cause: Different circumstances affect the child labour. Studies have demonstrated that the most notable reason is poverty (Bhat & Rather, 2009). Decisions about child labour and schooling are generally made by parents. If the family's income below the poverty line, parents think that children should also contribute in their family income. Basu (1998) used a theoretical model of child labour, where he showed the only reason parents send children to labour is because of their low income. Consequently poor parents cannot afford schooling for their children. Thus, mainly poor households are to send forced their children to

labour instead of sending to school.

2) Family size: In fact, the involvement of children in large poor household's usually more rather than smaller households which demonstrates family size have an effect on child labour. Parents oblige their children to work because they are not able to manage the demands of a large size family. There are also gender differences among household size. Not everyone and of all age in the family are working as child labour, which depends on the child's age and gender, for example boys are more likely to attended to school than girls.

3) Family condition: There are many growing children who have either lost one or both the parents and those impacted by HIV/AIDS in the family, are forced to work in order to support themselves and their siblings. The numbers of orphaned children are increasing particularly in sub Saharan Africa, many whom become street children, and live in very difficult circumstances.

4) Traditional or cultural factors: Culture is another factor which forces children into labour market. Different cultures of many societies make children start work at very young age which are related to traditions and cultural factors. They assumed that children need to learn skills that can be good for their future. According to Tauson (2009) in rural Guatemala; parents prefer their children to work because they considered it beneficial for them as they learn work skills.

5) Corruption: Corruption is the one of major cause for abusing resources, wherever there is poverty; there is also corruption (Murphy, 2005). According to United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) (2012) "Corruption exacerbates poverty and inequality, undermines human development and stability and sustains conflict, violates human rights, and erodes the democratic functioning of countries". Corruption can have hugely negative effect on children's right that deprives basic services such as health care, education and infrastructure. Corruption can diminish children's ability to escape poverty.

6) Civil war: The civil war is another factor contributing to child labour. The war destroys the economy of the country, people become much poor and all resources go to the war. Wars burn all good things that any country could have. It brings diseases, poverty, damages, and many other horrible things. Again, no help will be of use as long as the war is continues.

7) Urban migration: Many rural families migrate to urban areas because of rural push and urban pull factors. As a consequence of that, they are often forced to live and work in the street as they lack access to basic requirements such as food; shelter etc. and these children become street workers as vendors. Mostly street workers are vulnerable to violence and become more susceptible to illegal works, such as stealing, trafficking, drugs and prostitution (Yadav & Sengupta, 2009). These children live in urban poverty; many child labourers live in unhealthy poor conditions slum areas and work in poor environment such as domestic work, or work in

hotels and restaurants etc. This means that the population is increasing in cities due to immigration and natural growth. Urban poverty is a multidimensional phenomenon. Urban poverty in developing countries faces many challenges in their daily lives. Many poor people are living under great hardship, due to unemployment, housing shortages, violence and unhealthy environments. Increased urbanization has resulted in poverty in the cities. Urban poverty raises slums. These areas are characterized by high unemployment, poor sanitation, inadequate access to clean drinking water and inadequate housing.

8) Globalization: Globalization is another cause of child labour. Globalization has positive and negative impacts, nevertheless; globalization might give developing countries the opportunity to increase their gross domestic production (GDP) per capita via new trade possibilities and ascend their foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows. Globalization also has brought adverse impacts on child labour in developing countries. In recent years, many international companies moved their production abroad. These companies often indulge in hiring children as cheap labours as they are enduring, and carry out commands given by their employers even if they're abused and exploited. Mishra claims that in India, globalization has obliged more children to work in hazardous occupations like brick kiln, motor garage, hotels, shops, transportation, manual loading work etc.

9) Relationship between child labour, Family income and Education: Lack of education or poor quality education is another factor that contributes to high incidence of child labour. Education is considered one of the main alternatives to abolish child labour. Practically family income affects children's education and poor parents cannot afford to pay for children however, children are compelled to work and are less enrolled.

10) The opportunity costs of education: The cost of education is another problem amongst poor households. This has contributed to the exploitation of children. Schools need to be affordable and accessible. Kondylis and Marco (2006) assume, that schools available in developing countries may help to increase school enrolment but may not reduce the incidence of child labour³. Bhat argues that the quality education can help to keep children away from work, consequently it is important for a school to have educated teacher's ratio in the classrooms. However for many poor parents it can be costly to send their children to school, as they families live on children's income and cannot afford school fees, uniforms or other additional costs. (Bhat-2010). This is a problem in developing countries to provide quality free education because it will cost money for governments.

³. Dash, Vishnu Mohan, "Factors contributing the incidence of child labor in Small Scale Commercial

Establishment: A study in Delhi”, OIDA International Journal of Sustainable development, Vol.05, No.12, 2013,pp.41-58.



EFFICACY OF LAWS PROTECTING A CHILD

The efficacy of laws protecting children from child labor in India is a complex and multifaceted issue that warrants a comprehensive examination. India has enacted several legislative measures to address child labor, including the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986, which prohibits the employment of children in certain hazardous occupations and regulates working conditions in others. Additionally, the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009, mandates free education for children aged 6 to 14, aiming to deter child labor by promoting education. While these legal frameworks represent significant strides, their effectiveness is hindered by various challenges.

Implementation remains a major obstacle. Despite stringent laws, enforcement is often lax, allowing some unscrupulous employers to exploit loopholes or flout regulations altogether. The vast informal sector in India poses a particular challenge, as child labor is prevalent in small-scale enterprises where monitoring is challenging⁴.

Socioeconomic factors, primarily poverty, continue to drive child labor. In many cases, families, grappling with financial hardships, resort to sending their children to work to supplement household incomes. This necessitates a holistic approach that addresses the root causes of child labor, combining legal measures with poverty alleviation programs. The prevalence of child labor in hidden or unregulated sectors, such as domestic work and agriculture, poses challenges to effective enforcement. The informal nature of these sectors makes it difficult to monitor and regulate, contributing to the persistence of child labor.

In recent years, there have been positive developments, including increased awareness and efforts by NGOs and government agencies to combat child labor. Amendments to existing laws, such as the proposed changes in the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2016, indicate a recognition of the need for stronger legal measures. India has made strides in establishing laws to protect children from labor exploitation, the

⁴Basu, k, "Child labor: consequences, and cure, with Remarks on International labour Standards" journal of Economic Literature, vol. XXXVII.U, 1999.

effectiveness of these measures is hampered by challenges in implementation, socioeconomic factors, and the hidden nature of certain sectors. Addressing child labor requires a concerted effort involving robust enforcement, targeted interventions to alleviate poverty, and a comprehensive approach that addresses the root causes of this pervasive issue.

INTERPRETATION ON HOW LAWS COULD BE MODIFIED TO ERADICATE CHILD LABOUR

Eradicating child labor demands a nuanced interpretation and modification of existing laws to create a more robust legal framework that addresses the intricate challenges surrounding this pervasive issue. First and foremost, there should be a comprehensive reevaluation of the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986, to strengthen its provisions and extend its reach. Amendments should broaden the definition of hazardous work to encompass a wider range of activities that pose risks to the physical, mental, and moral well-being of children. Additionally, the age limit for employment should be revisited, ensuring that no child is engaged in labor before the completion of mandatory education, as mandated by the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009.

The legal modifications should focus on enhancing enforcement mechanisms. Stricter penalties and a streamlined process for reporting and addressing violations would act as deterrents. Collaborative efforts between law enforcement agencies, non-governmental organizations, and community stakeholders should be facilitated to ensure a collective approach in combating child labor. The legal framework should also acknowledge the evolving nature of the workforce and technological advancements. This entails incorporating provisions that address new forms of exploitation, such as online child labor or child trafficking facilitated through digital platforms. An adaptive legal structure can effectively keep pace with emerging challenges. There should be a concerted effort to integrate child labor laws with broader socio-economic policies. Poverty alleviation programs, accessible and quality education, and social welfare initiatives are integral components in preventing families from resorting to child labor due to financial desperation. Legislation should also prioritize the protection of vulnerable groups, such as migrant and informal sector workers, who are often overlooked by existing laws. Robust monitoring systems should be established to cover these hidden sectors where child labor tends to thrive.

The modification of laws to eradicate child labor requires a thoughtful and multifaceted approach. By strengthening existing legislation, improving enforcement mechanisms, adapting to technological advancements, and aligning with broader socio-economic policies, we can create a legal framework that is not only responsive to the current challenges but also paves the way for a future where every child is afforded the right to a childhood free from exploitation and labor.

STATISTICS OF CHILD LABOUR IN INDIA

As per census reports, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and Maharashtra are top five states where no. of child labour is more than other states. The highest jump in terms of percentage is of Uttar Pradesh where child labour increased by 12% to 21%. More than 300000 children are estimated to be trapped in India's carpet industry. Most of India's carpets are woven in Uttar Pradesh where the majority of workers are low-caste Hindu boys. As per the previous records, the child laborers were mostly working in agriculture, paan (betel), bidi, construction, domestic work, spinning, and weaving sector etc. The priority of the government is to eliminate child labor especially in hazardous occupations. Indian law specifically defines 64 industries as hazardous and it is a criminal offence to employ children in such hazardous industries. In 2001, an estimated 1% of all child workers, or about 120,000 children in India were in a hazardous job⁵. Notably, Constitution of India prohibits child labour in hazardous industries (but not in non-hazardous industries) as a Fundamental Right under Article 24. Additionally, various laws and the Indian Penal Code, such as the Juvenile Justice (care and protection) of Children Act-2000, and the Child Labour (Prohibition and Abolition) Act-1986 provide a basis in law to identify, prosecute and stop child labour in India. India formulated a National Policy on Child Labour in 1987. This Policy seeks to adopt a gradual & sequential approach with a focus on rehabilitation of children working in hazardous occupations. It envisioned strict enforcement of Indian laws on child labour combined with development programs to address the root causes of child labour such as poverty. In 1988, this led to the National Child Labour Project (NCLP) initiative. This legal and development initiative continues, with a current central government funding of Rs.6 billion, targeted solely to eliminate child labour in India. The Ministry of Labour and Employment had implemented

⁵ International Labour Organization, (2013). World Report on Child Labor Economic Vulnerability, some protection and the fight against child labour, Geneva.

around 100 industry-specific National Child Labour Projects to rehabilitate the child workers since 1988. Under this scheme, children in the age group of 9-14 years are rescued from hazardous occupations and enrolled in NCLP special training centre which has provisions for bridge education, vocational, training, mid-day meal, stipend, health care and others before being mainstreamed into formal education system. A 2009–10 nationwide survey found child labour prevalence had reduced to 4.98 million children (or less than 2% of children in 5–14 age groups). The 2011 national census of India found the total number of child labour, aged 5–14, to be at 4.35 million and the total child population to be 259.64 million in that age group. The decrease in number of children working is an encouraging sign, and suggests the effectiveness of the schemes (direct or indirect like focus on primary school enrolment under “The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act” of 2009) implemented by the Government though other reasons including social awareness and economic growth are also playing a role. Many NGOs like Bachpan Bachao Andolan, Child Fund, CARE India, Talaash Association, Child Rights and You, Global march against child labour, RIDE India, Child line etc. have been working to eradicate child labour in India

CONCLUSION

In the year 2015, India found itself grappling with the disconcerting reality of hosting the largest population of children engaged in illegal labor across various industrial sectors. The agricultural landscape, being the predominant sector, witnessed a significant number of children toiling at tender ages to contribute to their family's sustenance. The root causes of this deeply entrenched issue lay in a confluence of family-related factors, including high unemployment rates, large family sizes, pervasive poverty, and a lack of parental education. These factors collectively propelled children into the workforce at an early age, rendering child labor a widespread phenomenon in the country.

This alarming situation prompted the scrutiny of Indian social scientists and Non- Governmental Organizations (NGOs), who conducted extensive research to quantify the extent of child labor in India. Their findings revealed a stark reality—India accounted for one-third of Asia's child labor and a staggering one-fourth of the global child labor population. In response to this crisis, the Indian government initiated comprehensive measures to curtail the prevalence of child labor and emphasize the paramount importance of fostering the proper growth and development of children.

The concerted efforts included the implementation of regulations and legal restrictions aimed at

curbing child labor. The impact of these measures became evident with a notable 65 percent decline in child labor between 2001 and 2011, reflecting a positive trajectory in addressing the issue. However, despite this substantial decrease, concerns persist, particularly in rural areas where 85 percent of child labor continues to be concentrated, with the remaining 15 percent occurring in urban areas.

While the reduction in overall numbers is commendable, the focus must now shift to addressing the specific challenges prevalent in rural India. Targeted interventions, education programs, and socio-economic support are crucial to ensuring that every child has the opportunity to escape the clutches of labor and access a future marked by education, growth, and well-being. The journey towards eradicating child labor in India demands continued vigilance, sustained efforts, and a commitment to creating a society where the innocence and potential of every child are safeguarded.

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