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Child Labour In India Initiatives And Challenges

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● **Abstract**

Children Deserve Holding Books, Not Bricks, Stop Child Labour.

The issue of child labor is a major concern in India, as early entry into the labor market at the formative stage of life means an escape from proper schooling, leading to loss of future scope for a better livelihood. Child labor is a complex problem that is fundamentally rooted in poverty. And at the same time, the nation bears the fatal consequences of this curse on society. Children under the age of fourteen constitute 3.6 percent of the total labor force in India. Almost 85 percent work in the traditional agricultural sector, just under nine percent in manufacturing, services and repairs, and about 0.8 percent are in factories. The use of children as domestic workers in urban areas is a growing phenomenon. The conditions under which children work are completely unregulated and they are often forced to work without food and for very low wages, reminiscent of slavery. There are cases of physical, sexual and emotional abuse of children in the home. The argument for domestic work is often that families placed their children in these homes for care and employment. The elimination of child labor is a priority and is done at the lowest level in India. A large number of non-governmental and voluntary organizations along with national and international organizations are involved in this process. In this post, we intend to present a scenario where child labor is increasing and various challenges that have arisen as a result of this particular issue are also elaborated. Necessary efforts are suggested to overcome these problems. Finally, we conclude that the proposed solution can be useful in overcoming the problems that have arisen due to child labor.

Introduction

Children are always considered close to God. They are considered to bring happiness, joy and hope, no matter where they go. The future of a nation depends on children because they are undoubtedly the stepping stone in shaping the future of any nation. If a nation treats its children properly and provides them with basic facilities, it will reflect on the future performance of the nation. It is the moral duty of the nation to ensure the protection of every child's childhood.

Child labor is a global phenomenon, not limited to just one country. "Child labour" is defined as the employment of children in any manual labour. According to the Child Labor Prohibition and Regulation Act 1986, a "child" is a person who has not yet reached the age of 14 years. At this tender age when a child is expected to grow up, enjoy childhood to the fullest, seek education, acquire a solid value system, is forced to work and earn a living for himself and his family. . It affects not only his physical and mental development, but also places a very heavy burden of responsibility on the child to support his family. It is often observed that children are forced to work due to some hardships like lack of strong financial support, lack of proper food, clothing, shelter, livelihood etc.

Did you know that according to the 2011 National Census, more than 33 million children in the age group of 6 to 18 years are involved in child labor in India? An estimated 80% of child laborers are concentrated in rural areas. A Census study paints a grim picture of the situation, stating that 1 in 11 working individuals in India is a child in the age group of 5-18 years.¹[The Reality Of The Practice Of Child Labour In India \(cry.org\)](http://www.cry.org/blog/reality-of-the-practice-of-child-labor-in-india/)

• Definition

International Labour Organisation (ILO) defines the term child labour 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 school or experience a healthy childhood.”

¹ <https://www.cry.org/blog/reality-of-the-practice-of-child-labor-in-india/>.

UNICEF defines child labour differently. A child, suggests UNICEF, is involved in child labour activities if between 5 to 11 years of age, he or she did at least one hour of economic activity or at least 28 hours of domestic work in a week, and in case of children between 12 to 14 years of age, he or she did at least 14 hours of economic activity or at least 42 hours of economic activity and domestic work per week. UNICEF in another report suggests, “Children’s work needs to be seen as happening along a continuum, with destructive or exploitative work at one end and beneficial work – promoting or enhancing children’s development without interfering with their schooling, recreation and rest – at the other. And between these two poles are vast areas of work that need not negatively affect a child’s development.”

In India, the definition of child labour in terms of age; differed from year to year under different legislations. The Factories Act, 1948 prohibits children below the age of 14 years from working in any factory. The minimum age in the Mines Act, 1952 is 15 years. It is 12 years in the Plantations Labour Act, 1951² [CHILD LABOUR IN INDIA.pdf](#)

• **Meaning Of Child Labour**

International labour Organization (ILO) defines child labour 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; and interferes with their schooling. According to the Indian legislation, ‘child’ is anyone who has not completed 14 years of age and ‘adolescent’ is anyone who has completed their 14th year of age but is below 18 years. This law divides work into hazardous and non-hazardous categories as identified by the Technical Advisory Committee constituted under the Act. The Schedule to the Act enlists 38 occupations and processes as ‘hazardous’ and 69 others which are non-hazardous.

• **Objectives**

1. To reveal the reasons and consequences of child labour in India.
2. To find the effective measures to eradicate child labour from its roots.
3. To identify working areas in which children are highly involved in the study Area.

² File:///c:/users/milind/documents/child labour in india.pdf.

4. To assess the perception of communities about child labour.
5. To identify the main challenges for eliminating child labour and abusive Practice.
6. To assess the role of different stakeholders primarily local government to tackle child labouring the study area.

• **Research Methodology**

The study has been conducted mainly on the basis of literature survey and secondary information this is collected from the Census Surveys, Reports, newspapers, journals, articles, websites, etc.

• **Is child labour illegal in India?**

In 1992, when India ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), a reservation was made in Article 32, wherein the Government of India articulated that it would progressively ban all forms of child labour. After nearly three decades since the child labour law came into force, India has the opportunity to amend the law in favour of its children. Since India's legal system gives basis to the assumption that children can work and still get an education, the new Child Labour Act allows children under the age of 14 to work in family occupations after school hours. However, when only 49% of working children between the ages of 5-14 and 17% between 15-18 years parallelly attend school – the numbers completely contradict the above assumption and leave a glaring gap in the prohibition of child labour. [The Reality Of The Practice Of Child Labour In India \(cry.org\)](#)

• **Causes Of Child Labour**

Major causes of child employment that can be understood keeping in mind the Indian scenario, are:

1. Poverty:

In developing countries, it is impossible to control child labour as children have been considered as helping hand to feed their families, to support their families and to feed themselves. Due to poverty, illiteracy and unemployment parents are unable to bear the burden of feeding their children and to run their families. So, poor parents send their children for work in inhuman conditions at lower wages.

2.Previous Debts:

The poor economic conditions of people in India force them to borrow money. The Illiterate populations go to money lenders and sometimes mortgage their belongings in turn of the debt taken by them. But, due to insufficiency of income, debtors find it very difficult to pay back the debt and the interest. This vicious circle of poverty drags them towards working day and night for the creditor and then the debtors drag their children too in assisting them so that the debts could be paid off.

3.Professional Needs

There are some industries such as the 'bangle making' industry, where delicate hands and little fingers are needed to do very minute work with extreme excellence and precision. An adult's hands are usually not so delicate and small, so they require children to work for them and do such a dangerous work with glass. This often resulted in major eye accidents of the children.

- TYPES OF CHILDS LABOUR IN INDIA

There is an increasing involvement of children in home-based work and in the informal sector. Children are involved in the domestic, manual, agricultural sector, in hazardous factories, rag-picking, beedi-rolling, matchbox, brick kilns etc.

According to ILO, the worst types of child labour are:

1.Slavery: Slavery is when one person works for another person. Slaves don't have the power to demand anything. They have to work according to the commands of their master.

2.Child Trafficking: Buying and selling of children either for labour or for sexual exploitation.

3.Debt Bondage: When people cannot pay off their loans with their money and belongings they are often forced to work as a labour.

4.Serfdom: When a person works on land that belongs to another person, it is known as serfdom. The labour will either be provided with some pay or no pay will be given.

5.Forced Labour: When a child works against his/her will then it is termed as forced labour.

6. Beggary: When poor parents don't have any other way to earn a living they often beg on roads. They also cut their child's body part in order to gain sympathy and to get more money. Small children are seen on red lights asking for money for their treatments.

- **Challenges In Controlling Child Labour**

1. Unclear Laws-

Child labour is not uniform. It takes place in many forms and types, depending on the kind of work a child has to do. The laws are vague, which does not help in combating the crime of child labour. There are no strict guidelines that would protect the children from such horror. It is due to such complexity and no clear instructions that it becomes difficult to save a child from the grip of this crime.

2. Rehabilitation Problem-

The issue faced by the government and NGOs is that they lack the rehabilitation facility which the child might need. With no proper facilities available, they can fall on the grips of labour again. For them to have a fresh start, those children need to feel the control of their new lives. These children need proper guidance and counselling to get better and achieve things in life.

3. Lack of Awareness-

Education will be the key to combat child labour. It is because of the lack of proper education and awareness; the families fall in this trap. There is a need for a proper awareness campaign to educate parents about the pitfalls of child labour. The importance should be given on giving quality and relevant education. The mindset has to be changed in training young children to stop child labour.

- **Associated Issues With The Child Labour**

1. Cause & Effect Relationship: Child labour and exploitation are the result of many factors, including poverty, social norms condoning them, lack of decent work opportunities for adults and adolescents, migration and emergencies. These factors are not only the cause but also a consequence of social inequities reinforced by discrimination.

2. Threat to National Economy: The continuing persistence of child labour and exploitation poses a threat to national economies and has severe negative short and long-term consequences for children such as denial of education and undermining physical and mental health.

3. Child Labour in Informal Sector: Though child labour is banned the law, across India child labourers can be found in a variety of informal industries like in brick kilns, carpet weaving, garment making, agriculture, fisheries, etc.

4. Disguised Child Labour: Despite rates of child labour declining over the last few years, children are still being used in disguised form of child labour like domestic help. Work performed may not appear to be immediately dangerous, but it may produce long-term and devastating consequences for their education, their skills acquisition.³ [Child Labour In India \(drishtias.com\)](http://www.drishtias.com) Hence their future possibilities to overcome the vicious circle of poverty, incomplete education and poor-quality jobs.

5. Linkage with Child Trafficking: Child trafficking is also linked to child labour and it always results in child abuse. Trafficked children are subjected to prostitution, forced into marriage or illegally adopted; they provide cheap or unpaid labour, are forced to work as house servants or beggars and may be recruited into armed groups.

• Way Forward

- **Role of Panchayat:** As nearly 80% of child labour in India emanates from rural areas, the Panchayat can play a dominant role in mitigating child labour. In this context, panchayat should:
 - ✓ Generate awareness about the ill-effects of child labour,
 - ✓ Encourage parents to send their children to school,
 - ✓ Create an environment where children stop working and get enrolled in schools instead,
 - ✓ Ensure that children have sufficient facilities available in schools,
 - ✓ Inform industry owners about the laws prohibiting child labour and the penalties for violating these laws,
 - ✓ Activate Balwadis and Aanganwadis in the village so that working mothers do not leave the responsibility of younger children on their older siblings.

³ <https://www.drishtias.com/daily-updates/daily-news-editorials/child-labour-in-india>.

- ✓ Motivate Village Education Committees (VECs) to improve the conditions of schools.
 - **Integrated Approach:** Child labour and other forms of exploitation are preventable through integrated approaches that strengthen child protection systems as well as simultaneously addressing poverty and inequity, improve access to and quality of education and mobilize public support for respecting children's rights.
 - **Treating Children as Active Stakeholder:** Children have the power to play a significant role in preventing and responding to child labour.

They are key actors in child protection and can give valuable insights into how they perceive their involvement and what they expect from the government and other stakeholders.⁴ [Child Labour In India \(drishtias.com\)](http://www.drishtias.com)

• Legislation

When in the 20th Century, child labour became so prominent that news of factory hazards and mishappenings taking innocent children's life, flashed all around in the newspapers, then was the time, a need for legislations and statutes were felt to prohibit the mal practice of child labour. Today, there are sufficient statutes condemning and prohibiting child labour such as:

The Factories Act of 1948: The Act prohibits the employment of children below the age of 14 years in any factory. The law also placed rules on who, when and how long can pre-adults aged 15–18 years be employed in any factory.

The Mines Act of 1952: The Act prohibits the employment of children below 18 years of age in a mine. Mining being one of the most dangerous occupations, which in the past has led to many major accidents taking life of children is completely banned for them.

The Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act of 1986: The Act prohibits the employment of children below the age of 14 years in hazardous occupations identified in a list by the law. The list was expanded in 2006, and again in 2008.

The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection) of Children Act of 2000: This law made it a crime, punishable with a prison term, for anyone to procure or employ a child in any hazardous employment or in bondage. This act provides punishment to those who act in contravention to the previous acts by employing children to work.

⁴ <https://www.drishtias.com/daily-updates/daily-news-editorials/child-labour-in-india>.

The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act of 2009: The law mandates free and compulsory education to all children aged 6 to 14 years. This legislation also mandated that 25 percent of seats in every private school must be allocated for children from disadvantaged groups and physically challenged children.

• **Hazardous Occupations**

Part III of 'The Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act of 1986 provides for the 'Prohibition of employment of children in certain occupations and processes. The Schedule gives a list of hazardous occupations in two parts, via; A and B

Part A provides that, no child shall be employed or permitted to work in any of the following occupations:

1. Transport of passengers, goods; or mails by railway
2. Cinder picking, clearing of an ash pit or building operation in the railway premise.
3. Work in a catering establishment at a railway station, involving the movement of vendor or any other employee of the establishment from one platform to another or into or out of a moving train.
4. Work relating to the construction of railway station or with any other work where such work is done in close proximity to or between the railway lines.
5. The port authority within the limits of any port.
6. Work relating to selling of crackers and fireworks in shops with temporary licenses
7. Abattoirs/slaughter Houses
8. Automobile workshops and garages.
9. Foundries
10. Handling of taxies or inflammable substance or explosives
11. Handloom and power loom industry
12. Mines (Underground and under water) and collieries
13. Plastic units and Fiber glass workshop

Part B provides that, no child shall be employed or permitted to work in any of the following workshop wherein any of the following processes is carried on.

- 1 Beedi making
- 2 Carpet Weaving

- 3 Cement manufacture including bagging of cement.
- 4 Cloth printing, dyeing and weaving.
- 5 Manufacture of matches, explosive and fireworks.
- 6 Mica cutting and splitting.
- 7 Shellac manufacture
- 8 Soap manufacture
- 9 Tanning.
- 10 Wool cleaning
- 11 Building and construction industry
- 12 Manufacture of slate pencils (including packing)
- 13 Manufacture of products of agate
- 14 Manufacturing processes using toxic metals and substances such as lead, mercury, manganese, chromium, cadmium, benzene, pesticides and asbestos
- 15 All Hazardous processes as defined in section 2(cb) and dangerous operations as notified in rule made under section 87 of the factories Act 1948
- 16 Printing (as defined in section 2(k) of the factories Act 1948
- 17 Cashew and cashew nut descaling and processing
- 18 Soldering process in electronic industries
- 19 Incense Stick (Agarbathi) manufacturing
- 20 Automobile repairs and maintenance (namely welding lather work, dent beating and printing)
- 21 Brick kilns and Roof tiles units
- 22 Cotton ginning and processing and production of hosiery goods
- 23 Detergent manufacturing
- 24 Fabrication workshop (ferrous and non-ferrous)
- 25 Gem cutting and polishing
- 26 Handling of chromites and manganese ores
- 27 Jute textile manufacture and of coir making
- 28 Lime kilns and manufacture of lime
- 29 Lock making
- 30 Manufacturing process having exposure to lead such as primary and secondary smelting, welding etc. (See item 30 of part B process)
- 31 Manufacture of glass, glass ware including bangles fluorescent tubes bulbs and other similar glass products

- 32 Manufacturing of cement pipes, cement products, and other related work.
- 33 Manufacture of dyes and dye stuff
- 34 Manufacturing or handling of pesticides and insecticides
- 35 Manufacturing or processing and handling of corrosive and toxic substances, metal cleaning and photo enlarging and soldering processes in electronic industry
- 36 Manufacturing of burning coal and coal briquette
- 37 Manufacturing of sports goods involving to synthetic materials, chemicals and leather
- 38 Moulding and processing of fiberglass and plastics
- 39 Oil expelling and refinery
- 40 Paper making
- 41 Potteries and ceramic industry
- 42 Polishing, moulding, cutting welding and manufacture of brass goods in all forms.
- 43 Process in agriculture where tractors, threshing and harvesting machines are used and chabt cutting
- 44 Saw mill all process
- 45 Sericulture processing
- 46 Skinning dyeing and process for manufacturing of leather and leather products
- 47 Stone breaking and stone crushing
- 48 Tobacco processing including manufacturing of tobacco, tobacco paste and handling of tobacco in any form
- 49 Tyre making repairing, re-trading and graphite beneficiation
- 50 Utensils making polishing and metal buffing
- 51 Zari Making (all process)

• **Hours Of Period And Work**

No child shall be required or permitted to work in any establishment in excess of number of hours prescribed (Section-7)

The period of work on each day shall not exceed three hours and no child shall work for more than three hours before he has had an interval for rest for at least one hour. No child shall be permitted or required to work between 7 p.m. and 8 a.m.

No child shall be required or permitted to work overtime. (Section-7).

- **Penalties**

Violations under Section-3 shall be punishable with imprisonment which shall not be less than three months which may extend to one year or with fine which shall not be less than ten thousand rupees but which may extend to twenty thousand rupees or with both. Continuing offence under section (3) shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than six months but which may extend to two years.

Any other violations under the Act shall be punishable with simple imprisonment, which may extend to one month or with fine, which may extend to ten thousand rupees or with both.

- **Efforts By Government Of India To Control Child Labour**

The child labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act 1986 prohibits the employment of children below the age of 14 years in 16 occupation and 65 processes that are hazardous to the children's lives and health. Many states including Haryana have constituted the child labour rehabilitation – cum-welfare funds at district level and separate labour cells are being formed to address the issue. National child labour projects have been implemented by the central government in states from 1988 to provide non-formal education and pre-vocational skills. From 2001, Sarve shisha Abhiyan has been launched to educate poor and employed children in all states. Ministry of women and child development has been providing non-formal education and vocational training. Establishment of Anganwadies is also a big step by the government for the welfare of children and their physical, mental and educational development.

- **Child Labour Policies In India**

Following are the child labour policies in India:

National Policy on Child Labour

Policy

The National Policy of Child Labours⁵ that was incorporated in August 1987 provides the action plan that tackles the problem of child labour. It contains:

⁵ <https://labours.gov.in/childlabour/child-labour-policies>

The legislative action plans.

General development programmes for the benefit of every child. Project-based action plans that launch the projects in the areas where there is a huge amount of child labour, for the welfare of children.

To rehabilitate the children who are involved in child labour the *National Child Labour Policy* [NCLP] was started. At first, it aims at rehabilitating the children that are employed in hazardous occupations and processes. For this, the sequential approach was adopted. After the survey on the children that are employed in hazardous occupations and processes, an order was given to withdraw children from those occupations and to provide them with schooling in special schools.

✓ **Legislative Action Plan**

This plan was formulated for the strict implementation of the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 and other labour laws. It was made to withdraw the children that are employed in hazardous occupations and processes and make sure that the children are not employed in such activities again and also to regulate the working conditions of those children who are involved in non-hazardous employment. This plan can also identify other occupations and processes as hazardous if they are detrimental to the health and the safety of the children.

Government has been actively taking steps to tackle the problem of child labour by enforcing strict legislative provisions and by providing rehabilitation centres. State Governments have developed various authorities and they have been conducting regular inspections as well as raids to areas where there are cases of violation. Poverty is the root cause of this problem so the State Government is providing the rehabilitation centres in order to improve the economic conditions of poor families.

✓ **Right to Education Bill**

In 2009, the right to Education bill ⁶(the [Right to Education Bill](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/right_of_children_to_free_and_compulsory_education_act_2009)) was introduced by the Government of India in order to make education reach everywhere. Implementing this Act at the grassroots level will help to eradicate child labour.

✓ **Rehabilitation of Children Working in Hazardous Occupations**

By setting up special schools, the Government of India has formulated a programme in order to remove child labour from hazardous occupations and rehabilitate them.

⁶ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/right_of_children_to_free_and_compulsory_education_act_2009.

Till now, around 2 million children are withdrawn from the hazardous occupations and processes and are enrolled in special schools which provide them basic education, vocational training, monthly stipends, nutrition and health checkups.

- **Role of society in child labour**

In society, child labour is affected by various factors like poverty, lack of education, population and industrialization. If there is overpopulation then there will be more number of family members that will lead to more food, so in order to provide a living to their family children have to work, so, in this way, children become the victims of factory owner's greed. If there is overpopulation then there will be not enough food which will lead to malnutrition, poor education, high birth rates, unemployment/underemployment, unequal wealth distribution, low income, low savings and investments, lack of technology and at last low of productivity.

When there is industrialization, the huge factories are set up which not only need more labour but also prefer child as a labour. Due to lack of education parents don't understand the importance of education and send their children to work due to family circumstances.

Society plays a big role in increasing the child labour because after knowing all about what kind of evil child labour is and how badly it affects the life of a child, they still prefer small kids as their workers in large numbers not only because they are unaware about the minimum wages but also due to unawareness about their rights and duties and it serves as an advantage to all the employers. The employers make them work for longer hours and pay less. So, in order to protect children from this evil, the attitude of society that one should be benefited in each and every circumstance must change. Every time one should not only think about his/her benefits but sometimes it is good to think about how to save a child's life rather than making it worse by one's own conduct.

- **Initiatives against child labour in India**

Many initiatives were taken by the government as well as non-government organisations in order to curb the problem of child labour in India.

- **Government initiatives against child labour in India**

In 1979, the Gurupadswamy Committee was formed to know and find all about the child labour and ways to tackle it. Based on the recommendations of this committee, the Child Labour Prohibition and Regulation Act was enacted in 1986.

To rehabilitate children that are working in hazardous occupations National Policy on Child Labour was formulated. In 1988, 100 industry-specific National Child Labour Projects were implemented by the Ministry of Labour and Employment. To combat the growing problem of child labour the Indian Government has provided various numbers of Acts, laws, organizations and institutions. These include the Child Labour Prohibition and Regulation Act, 1986, this Act provides the definition of a child. It states that a person who has not completed the age of 14 years is considered as a child. This Act not only regulates the hours of work but also the working conditions of child labourers and prohibit the employment of child labour in hazardous industries and to rehabilitate the children involved in child labour, the National Child Labour Policy [NCLP] was started in 1988. At first, it aims at rehabilitating the children that are employed in hazardous occupations and processes. For this, the sequential approach was adopted.

According to the report of Osment, many NGOs like:

1. Care India,
2. Child Rights and You,
3. Global March against child labour,

are implemented to combat child labour by providing education and various resources. However, these efforts proved to be unsuccessful.

- **Non-Governmental Organisations**

NGOs are working to protect the children from the evil of child labour. These NGOs include Bachpan Bachao Andolan, Child Rights and You (CRY), Global March against child labour, Talaash Association, Child Fund, Care India, RIDE India, Childline etc. Many public interest litigations have also been filed on the problem of child labour like “PIL ON CHILD LABOUR.” which is also known as “Hemant Goswami vs. Union of India”⁷(“[Hemant Goswami vs. Union of India](#)”) [6].

In this case, a PIL was filed by a social activist Hemant Goswami. A writ was filed that provided there were violation and non-compliance of provisions of the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 by the Union and the States. Adv. APS Shergill who appeared for the petitioner also cited examples where children were made to work in Punjab University. They also claimed that when these children are recognized they are more victimised rather than rehabilitated.

⁷ <https://www.jdsupra.com/legalnews/final-order-of-high-court-in-child-labou-70204/>.

Goswami and the petitioner Vishavjyoti undertook a survey in order to find the number of child labour in the region. The Court held that the person below the age of 18 years is to be treated as a child. There is now a constitutional obligation to follow the provisions of the Child Labour Prohibition and Regulation Act, 1986 and to provide free and compulsory education for them. Facilities have to be made which provide free education.⁸ <https://blog.ipleaders.in/child-labour-laws-in-india/?amp=1>

• **Child Labour: Suggestions For Improvement**

First of all, the major responsibility is for we the people to live in the society. It starts in your home. Never make any servant do work underage. Give some financial help to the street boys. Unite people who want to help them. Make welfare groups. Give children education and give them shelter and food. If we all work from our own place as far as we can, then it is possible to have a result. Never put any child to hard and heavy work in an industry. Boycott the people who are doing this and raise your voice against them. Make them know the law of crime like child labour. Raise awareness to the people. Come forward and take your own responsibility and make your own judgments. Secondly, governments can play a huge role. First of all, they can make the proper law against child labour and enforce them strictly against people who are putting the children to heavy work. Governments also should assure shelter, food, education and all basic needs for children. A child should be as free as he is in heaven. Remember, children are also a tool for criminal to their crime. Governments of a country should be aware and take necessary steps for that. Lastly, we are living in an era of globalization. The various international organizations can take steps to raise awareness to the people to stop child labour. They can help children financially by giving them free education at education for all programme and putting pressure on the government to enforce the law to provide necessary elements for the welfare of children. The combination of the above bodies will make it easy to eradicate children's ill health. Children are the sign of innocence and purity. Your heart should melt in tears when you see them sleeping in the street with a hungry belly if you are a real human. We the youth raise our voice. Make this world a better place for the upcoming generation

⁸ https://blog.ipleaders.in/child-labour-laws-in-india/?amp=\#child_labour_still_a_big_challenges

• Conclusion

It is evident that incidence of Child Labour is decreasing in India over the recent past. However, still 40 million children are out of school of which 6 million are working outside home. Major problem is the presence of a large mass of Nowhere Children, who are neither working nor going to school. If we look at the plausible determining factors, poverty emerges to be a necessary but not a sufficient condition for thriving of child labour. While poverty is instrumental in keeping the children out of school, it does not necessarily drive them into the labour market. It is only the presence of other complementary factors like lack of educational infrastructure that appears to play a much more crucial role in pushing children to work. The physical component of educational infrastructure is no doubt important in this respect but the humane factor is emerging to be more important. Educational infrastructure is also observed to play a very important role in this regard and therefore spatial expansion of educational infrastructure with more emphasis on elementary education would be very useful in eradicating child labour.

An emerging idea regarding educational infrastructure is that at the aggregate level we have to some extent overcome the stage where there was acute shortage of physical infrastructure viz. lack of school buildings etc. It is believed that now the bottleneck arises mainly in terms of the human component, namely availability of teachers. The main task therefore is to ensure that the schools are adequately staffed and teachers have ample time to take care of individual students. This will also make learning enjoyable and attract & retain young children in schools. The nature of working of the schools also needs to be revamped as informal institutions started under different schemes of Sarva Shiksha Mission (SSM) are often found to be highly effective in bringing out of school children under the umbrella of education. It is quite interesting that proportion of children attending educational institutes in subsidiary status is increasing over time and can be attributed to SSM. Perhaps the non-conventional schooling hours and informal system of teaching have suited them whereby they can attend classes even after finishing their assigned duties. Such an approach will fulfil the promise of right to education of children without compromising on their broader right to (earn and) live