



# CHILD LABOUR IN INDIA – CAUSES, CONSEQUENCES AND COMBATING MEASURES

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## -----ABSTRACT-----

*A child is an asset of any country and wealth of future. In the Globalised era, rapid industrialization is taking place there by creating more employment in India. Child labour being cheap and accessible in nature becomes the ultimate influenced platform in this concomitant scenario. In this present situation, a critical analysis of root causes of child labour is the need of the hour. In India the school dropouts are very high and it is deduction for the prevalence of the child labor in the community. There exist many social and economical discriminations in the community overlaying the way for the extensive of poverty, illiteracy, backwardness, social prejudice and unemployment these variables acts as the key causes for the prevalence of the child labor in India. This research paper examines the concept of child labour on many latitudes subjecting it to both qualitative and quantitative analysis. In this study intend to provide the scenario in which child labor gets raised and various challenges that have emerged due to this particular issue is also elaborated. The essential attempts to overcome these child labour issues are proposed. Finally this paper conclude that the proposed solutions might be found worthy in overcoming the challenges that have emerged due to the child labour.*

**KEYWORDS:** *Child, Child Labour, Poverty, Education, Children's Rights*-----

## INTRODUCTION

“Bestow blessing on those little innocent lives bloomed on earth who have who have brought the message of joy from heavenly garden” -Rabindra Nath Tagore

India's Census 2011 office denotes Child labor as involvement of a child less than 17 years of age in any economically creative activity with or without remuneration, wages or profits. Such involvement could be physical or mental or both. This work involves part-time assistance or unpaid work on the farm, family activity or in any other economic doings.

Child labor is considered as a social wickedness that has grappled and negatively affected the lives of a lot of children all over the world. UN reports reveal that one in 10 of all children world is engaged in child labor. India is one amongst those nations where the child labor stats are high, and to control and stop this peril of exploitation of children, work has to be done on the grassroots stage.

In 2019 figures reveals that there are over 12 million child labourers in India, but many NGOs reckon the actual figure is more than 60 million. The number of girls included is not much lower than the boys. The child labor issue is not only to India it is also a big challenge for worldwide.

The concern of child labor is a key concern in India, as early entry into labor market at influential step of life does mean absconding from right schooling leading to loss of future scope of better livelihood. It is usually related to poverty. Extreme poverty, lack of job opportunities and intermittency of revenue and backwardness of living are the



major causes for the broad prevalence of child labor. While it is possible to recognize child labor in the organized sector, which shape a miniature of the entire child labour, the issue associates largely to the unorganized sector where greatest consideration requires to be paid. The child labour issue is universal but in Indian case it is more critical

Child labor is to be found in nearly all sectors of the informal economy in India. Children are to be found working in textile units, construction site, beedi rolling and restaurant as well as household servants. It is usually supposed that as family income raises children will be gradually quiet from working supporting schooling. Being out of school and deprived of education, the world of outlooks, probabilities and opportunities is locked for them. Any work that denies them their right to education must therefore be regarded as hazardous.

Opening schools in backward and rural areas, providing mid-day meals and conducting awareness programmes amongst the BPL parents are not solutions to child labor issue. Stern measures are required to be taken to guarantee a better livelihood for the poor people of India. Once they begin earning money needed to look after their family in general they will start sending their children to schools and factories because all parents dream of a dazzling future for their children.

### OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- To find out various reasons for the emergence of child labourers in India
- To reveal consequences of child labour in India
- To find the effective measures to eradicate child labour from its root

### METHODOLOGY

The data has been collected mainly from secondary sources and Literature Survey. Secondary data includes, Census Surveys, Reports, journals, magazines and relevant websites.

### LITERATURE REVIEW

Parvathamma (2015) emphasizes the reason and causes for child labour, analyses the problem of Child Labor in India, bonded child labour, consequences and misuse of child labour. The study also spotlighted on policy initiatives of government to protect child labour. There are more than 11 million children who are spending their childhood learning textile and garment manufacturing, workshops, domestic labour, farming, firework and restaurants and numerous other occupations rather than going to school and receiving quality education.

Dulera (2020) described the major reasons of child labor was such as the annoyance of poverty, lack of education, Societal and financial backwardness, addiction, lure of inexpensive labor, Family tradition.

A research paper of Mohapatra and Dash (2011) tried to examine the socio-economic problem of child labour. The key factors employed in poverty, lack of education, joblessness, low salary, unawareness, regressive tradition, superstition, low status of women have combined to provide origin to the awful practice of child labor of woman have united to give birth to the terrible practice of child labor. Methodology applied in expansion rate sample data via interviews. Findings reveal that the migrant family forms many district of Odisha their socio-economic situation is very bad which make them to go for labor.

The Sarkar (2015) highlights the situation of child labor using the Census data of Indian Government (1971-2011). This study has also utilized the NSSO 68th round data about engagement of child labor in India. For the particular purpose of this article, bivariate and multivariate analysis has been conducted. The chi-square test has been applied to analyze the connection among child labor and many social and economical aspects. This study has explored the progression rate of child labor and its distribution with socio-economic aspects and work involvement rate of child labor in India. Besides that, the study suggested various proposals for the elimination and control of child labor in India.



Kim et al (2020) identified that child labors in India comprises the large number of children in any single nation in the globe. In 2011, approximately 12 million children among the ages of 6 and 17 were main workers as per Census Report. In this study, we use the ILO’s methodology to define hazardousness and combine it with the most recent UNICEF’s time thresholds for economic work and household chores.

Nanda et al (2019) explain the magnitudes, causes & consequence of child labor and measures taken by the government to abolish child labor in Odisha state. From the time of independence, India has committed itself to be against child labor. The article is an attempt has been made to analyze the status of child labors as well as other labors in Odisha. Recognition of the area of focus of child labor and assessments of dimensions of the issue has been made.

Limaye and Pande (2013) attempt to sum up the various meaning to the word child and also provide brief overviews of the magnitudes of the problem from a national perspective. In their paper recognizes that many policy plans have been worked but there is a critical requirement for a societal movement for this subject to really get identified and solved.

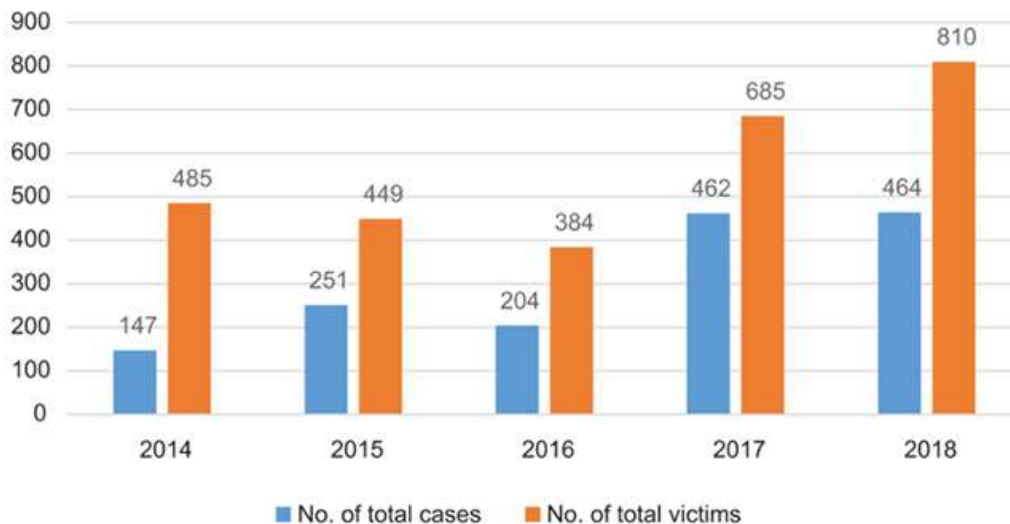
Dash et al (2018) has highlighted the growth rate of child labour and its distribution with socio- economic characteristics and work participation rate of child labour in India. Using the logistic regression, the study has projected the estimates of child labour in India. Besides that, the article recommended various suggestions for the abolition and regulation of the incidences of child labour in India.

A study of Satyanarayana and Rao (2017) investigates the key reasons of child labor in Krishna dist of Andhra Pradesh. 300 samples were taken on convenience random sampling method for this research. The research identifies that there exists an association among the major reasons of child labor and the Social and economical situations. Finally the study portrays the policy recommendations to finish the child labor issue.

### DATA ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS

India, one of the emerging nations in Asia has a whop more than 33 million children engaged in various kinds of child labor. The world’s largest democracy is yet to ratify the Minimum Age Convention, 1973 of the ILO that lay down ground regulations for employment of minors across the globe. World Day against Child Labor is an ILO sanctioned holiday first launched in 2002 with the purpose to boost awareness and activism to stop the issue under the above convention.

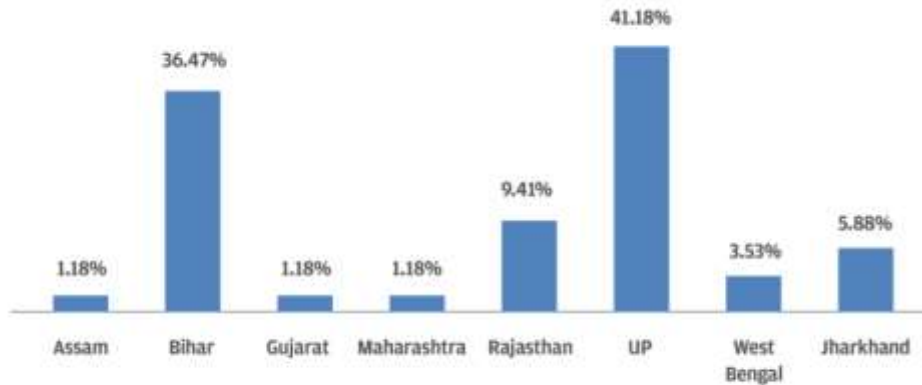
#### Child Labour Cases in India



Source: NCRB, Various Years.

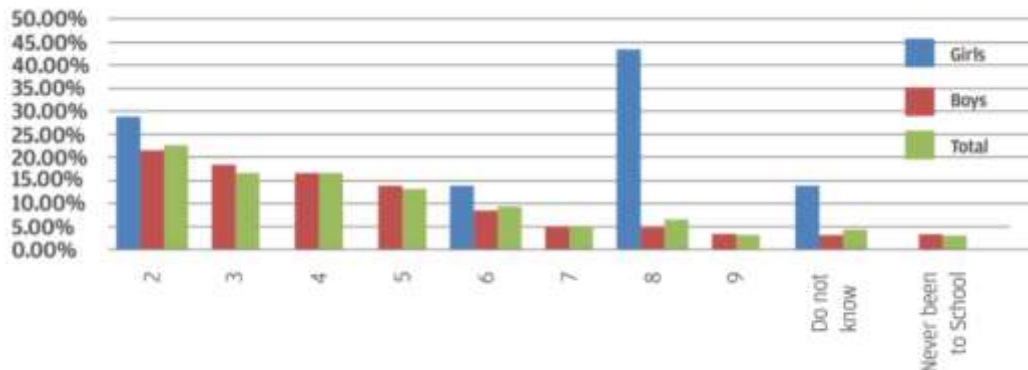


Approximately 150 million children are engaged in child labor globally according to UNICEF data. The latest study of CRY of census data in the nation reveals that the overall diminish in child labor is only 2.2% year on year, over the last 10 years. It has exposed that child labor has increased by above 50% in urban cities.



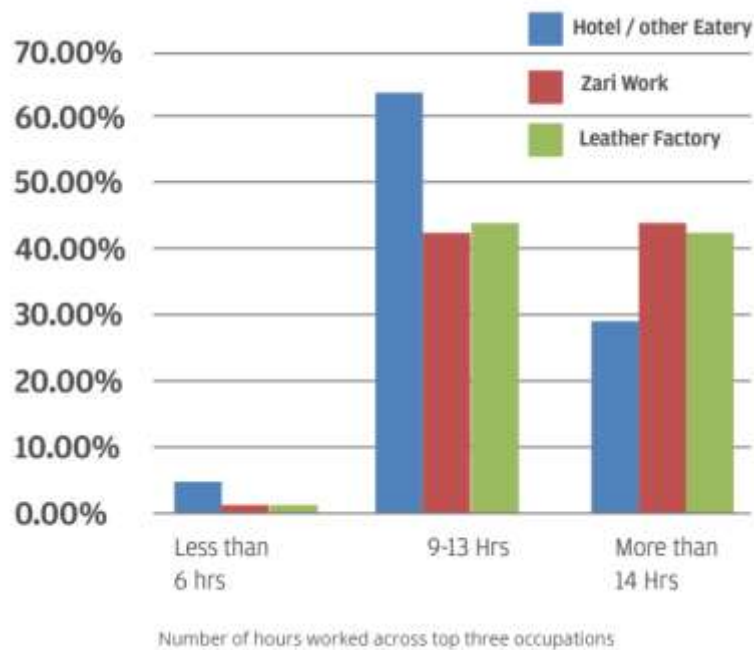
Distribution of Child Labour across Gender and State of Origin

There are more than 33 million child laborers among the age group of 5-18 years in India according to Census 2011 figures, and 10.13 million among the age group of 5-14 years.



Educational status of the respondent children

Considering that there are 444 million children in India under the age of 18, they form 37 per cent of the total population in the country. Therefore child labour in the country in real figures boils down to 10,130,000 kids involved various occupations across hazardous sectors.

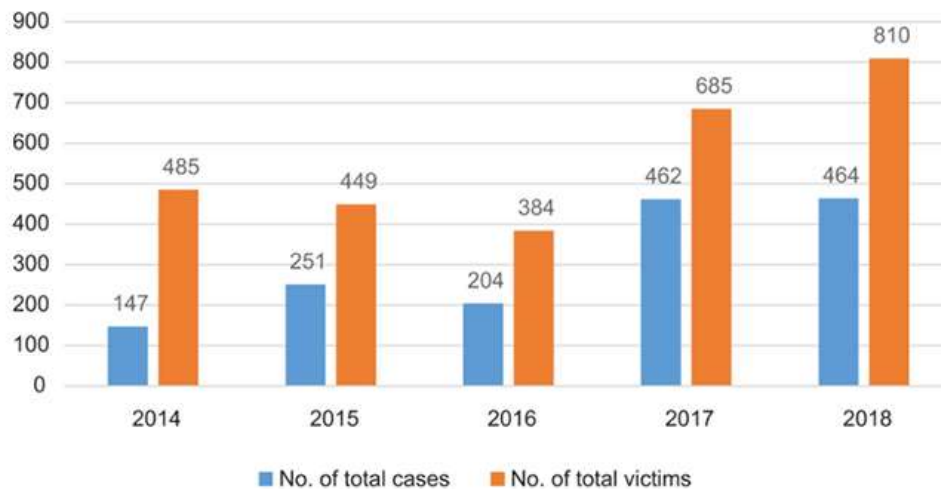


The child labor issue is high amongst Backward Classes like OBCs, Muslims, SCs and STs.

### NATIONAL CHILD LABOUR PROJECT

The NCLP is the schemes aimed at rehabilitating child laborers. The programme is being executed since 1988. This scheme hopes to rehabilitate children withdrawn from doing in hazardous occupations/processes into the formal educational system. The Government sanctioned Rs 137 crore as grant for NCLP for the year 2011. The states of UP, West Bengal, Bihar, Orissa and Andhra Pradesh have been the main beneficiary of these funds.

More than 0.4 million children have been mainstreamed as per NCLP schemes since 2009. Of this, the maximum number of children (0.1 million) resettled are from UP. However the performance of these schemes in Bengal is not as effectual. West Bengal utilizes almost twice the amount of funds (Rs. 93.7 crore) under the scheme than states like Madhya Pradesh (Rs. 50.4 crore) and Andhra Pradesh (Rs. 55 crore). To compare the number of children mainstreamed in this scheme, West Bengal has resettled only 25,975 children while Orissa (48,507) and Madhya Pradesh (45,670) and AP (36,590) are doing a better utilization of funds.



Source: NCRB, Various Years.

## CONCLUSION

Child labour is a serious problem and a challenge for many developing countries. To conclude, a preliminary investigation of child labor in India identifies the perverse nature in which child labor in the different sectors are subsidizing India's inefficiencies—from perpetuating the insidious inequities that run across the nation, hindering human capital expansion, and underscoring its legal inadequacy.

The basic reason of child labor is poverty and backwardness. Although children are paid less than adults are, whatever revenue they earn is of advantage to poor parents. Additionally to poverty, the lack of sufficient and available sources of credit forces poor family to use their children as bonded child laborers. Some parents also believe that education is not useful, and that children learn work skill via work. Another reason is poor accessibility of education. In some areas, education is not affordable, or is found to be insufficient. With no other options, children unavoidably use their time working.

The growth of India is being obstructed by child laborers. Children are developing uneducated because they have been working and not going to school. A cycle of poverty is formed and the need for child labor is reborn after every generation. India needs to address the situation by tackling the underlying causes of child labor through governmental policies and the enforcement of these policies. Only then will India succeed in the fight against child labor.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- ✓ There must be compulsory and systematic education to all children because education assists them learn skills that will assist them earn a livelihood.
- ✓ The age group of children must be revised from 14 years to 16 years.
- ✓ Children must be given with non-formal job-oriented education, such that it boosts their skill, which would capable them to shift to more remunerative satisfaction and less unsafe substitute job.
- ✓ There should be a practical time bound standardization or uniformity programs to eliminate child labour.
- ✓ The laws must define 'child labor' and thereby eliminate the confusion concerning the scope of child labor.
- ✓ Not only government but also every citizen takes to responsibility to give financial support to every economically poor family
- ✓ The constitution of India must cast accountability on the parents to send their children to schools.



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