

STATUS OF CHILD LABOUR IN INDIA

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ABSTRACT

Child labour has been a serious issue for many decades and a major challenge for many developing countries. It existed for centuries, not only in impoverished areas of developing countries, but also in developed countries until the early twentieth century. Many countries have enacted various laws and taken serious steps to eradicate child labour, but the problem remains widespread around the world. The problem of child labour has become severe, and several factors are involved. The causes of child labour in India are complex and deeply ingrained in the society. Poverty appears to be the primary cause. Child labour exists in both urban and rural areas. However, because poverty is more prevalent in rural areas, the vast majority of child labour occurs there. Despite the fact that many poor rural families strive for a better life in cities, this forces families to force their children to work in order to increase family income and ensure survival. This paper examines the various factors that contribute to child labour and attempts to identify areas where there is child labour discrimination. Furthermore, the goal of this paper is to conduct a critical analysis of child labour in India. The findings show that child labour is a serious problem in India, a developing country. However, according to the 2011 census report, the total number of working children in the country has decreased from 1.26 million to 1.26 million. Mostly child labour is employed in India in agriculture, livestock, forestry, mining, fisheries, and manual base industries such as carpet and silk production. Uttar Pradesh topped the list, followed by Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, and Madhya Pradesh. Kerala has the lowest rate of child labour of any state.

Keywords: *child labour, forms, factors, discrimination, Major states, India, critical analysis*

INTRODUCTION

For many years, child labour has been one of the most significant barriers to social development. Abolition of all forms of child labour is a challenge and long-term goal in many countries. It is now regarded as a serious issue, particularly in developing countries. Child labour refers to children who are deprived of their childhood and do not have access to the basic necessities that all children should have. According to the International Labour Organization (ILO), there are approximately 215 million children aged five to fourteen who work worldwide. They are frequently mistreated and forced

to work long hours in deplorable conditions. This can have a negative impact on their physical, mental, and emotional health. These children lack basic rights such as access to education or health care.

According to ILO (2013), the majority of child labourers are engaged in hazardous work, and the total number of child labourers is increasing, despite the fact that it is illegal. These children are susceptible to disease and suffer from long-term physical and psychological pain. Poverty is the primary motivator for children to work. These children work to support themselves and their

families (Mapaure, 2009). Some studies, such as Dessay and Pallage (2003), argue that not all of the work done by children is harmful or brutal. Some jobs, such as babysitting or newspaper delivery, may provide successful learning opportunities, but not if the work exposes them to psychological stress, such as human trafficking, prostitution, or pornographic activities.

International organisations have made significant efforts to eradicate child labour around the world. Despite the fact that many countries have passed legislation prohibiting child labour, it is still prevalent around the world. It is not an easy task for developing countries like India to achieve child labour prohibition.

The Definition Of Child Labor: Child labour is defined as the employment of children in any work that takes away their childhood, interferes with their ability to attend regular school, and is mentally, physically, socially, or morally dangerous and harmful. Child labour is more difficult to define than it appears because it encompasses three difficult-to-define concepts: "child," "work," and "labour."

In the context of child labour, a "child" may be defined as anyone under the age of fifteen, or fourteen in special circumstances, as set by the Minimum Age Convention of 1973. (No.138).

The International Labour Organization (ILO) defines child labour as "children prematurely leading adulteries, working long hours for low wages under conditions harmful to their health and physical and mental development, sometimes separated from their families, frequently deprived of meaningful education and training opportunities that would open up a better future for them."

MODERN DEFINITIONS OF CHILD LABOR

Child labour is both a cause and a result of poverty, according to the International Center for Child Labor and Education. Child labour is defined differently by different scholars. According to Suda (2011), child

labour occurs when children work in any type of work that is hazardous to their health or interferes with their education. Child labour, according to Moyi (2011), is defined as low wages, long hours, and physical and sexual abuse. According to Edmonds and Pavcnik(2005), child labour is considered a form of child labour abuse when children work in hazardous conditions.

The term "child labour" is generally defined 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, p.10). However, the meanings and implications of child labour have varied greatly depending on its social, cultural, and economic contexts, as well as the missions, strategies, and objectives of each working organisation (Post & Sakurai, 2001; post, 2001a).

Because trade unions, consumer groups, and the International Labour Organization (ILO) historically tended to protect and secure adult labour markets, they frequently used the terms "child labour" and "child labourer" instead of "working children," implying that children should be kept out of the labour force at least until they reach a minimum working age (ILO, 1997; Post, 2001a; Myers, 1999). To put it another way, the ILO's primary concern was to protect adult employment and wages, and the idea that "children's economic freedom should be abridged to protect the economic welfare of adults" has been implicitly repeated in various forms of child labour legislation.

In contrast, UNICEF and UNICEF-affiliated NGOs referred to "child labour" in accordance with article 32 of the Conventions on the Rights of the Child, which defines child labour as any economic activity that threatens or impedes the child's full development or education. This UNICEF tradition continues, with these organisations frequently referring to child labour as "working children."

According to the ILO, "child labour" is best defined as work that deprives children of their childhood, potential, and dignity, and is harmful to their physical and mental development. It refers to work that is mentally, physically, socially, or morally

dangerous and harmful to children, or work that interferes with their ability to attend regular school, or work that affects their ability to focus in any way during the school day.

CHILD LABOR TYPES

Child labour is a term that needs to be unpacked: it cannot be used in a broad sense because it refers to a wide range of situations in which children work. Child laborers are employed in the following occupations: -

Child labour: Those children who work for pay or without pay in factories, workshops, establishments, mines, and the service sector, such as domestic labour. The Government of India's Ministry of Labour has only used the term "child labour" in the context of children doing "hazardous work." Children who are not doing "hazardous" work are not considered child laborers and are said to be doing child labour.

Street children: children are children who live on and off the streets, such as shoe shine boys, rag pickers, newspaper vendors, beggars, and so on. Most children have a place to return to in the evenings or at night, whereas street children are completely alone and at the mercy of their employers. They live on the streets, in bus stops, and in train stations.

Bonded children: Children who have been pledged by their parents for pitiful sums of money or who are working to pay off their fathers' inherited debts. Bonded children are the most difficult to assist because they are inaccessible in many ways. They cannot flee if the carpet owner has purchased them. They cannot flee if the middle-class housewife has paid for them. If the landlord in the village owns them, they will live in servitude until they marry and can sell their children.

Working children: These are children who work as part of a family in agriculture or at home. Children who work 12-14 hours a day

with their parents to pay for their education are in the same situation as children who work for other employers. In fact, parents expect children, particularly girls, to shoulder work loads that are completely out of proportion to their strengths and abilities. This is the largest group of children who are not in school and working full-time. And it is here that we find the highest proportion of girls working at the expense of their education.

Using children for sexual exploitation: - Thousands of young girls and boys serve men of all social and economic backgrounds' sexual appetites. There are numerous direct links between commercial sexual exploitation of children and other forms of exploitative child labour. Sexual exploitation is common in factories, workshops, street corners, railway stations, bus stops, and homes where children work. Children are especially helpless to resist employer abuse, whether as perpetrators or intermediaries. Commercial sexual exploitation is one of the most dangerous forms of child labour due to the physical and psychosocial harm it causes.

Children from migrant families: With "distress seasonal migration," India faces a major challenge. Every year, millions of families are forced to leave their homes and villages for several months in search of work. Because of these migrations, families are forced to drop out of school, closing down the only available opportunity to break the vicious cycle generation after generation. Migrant children are invariably forced to work on construction sites. Many industrial and agro-industrial sectors rely heavily on migrant labour, including brick-making, salt production, sugar cane harvesting, stone quarrying, construction, fisheries, plantations, rice mills, and so on.

Children involved in household activities include: - Aside from children who are employed for wages (bonded or otherwise) as domestic help, there are a large number of children (particularly girls) who work in their

own homes, engaging in what is not normally regarded as "economic activity." These kids are caring for younger siblings, cooking, cleaning, and doing other household chores. According to the literature on women's work, such activities must be recognised as "work." Furthermore, if such children are not educated, they will eventually enter the labour force as one of the aforementioned categories of child labour.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Krveger (1996) demonstrated a clear trend from a cross-country sample that low-income households are more likely to send their children to work, which is uncommon in higher-income households. Basu et al. (1999) discovered that during the early Industrial Revolution, children were forced to work in factories around family farms, tending crops or preparing food. They worked in industries, where the working conditions were hazardous and often fatal. At the time, the industry preferred to employ children because they provided cheaper labour and more malleable workers. Bass (2004) examined the prevalence of child labour in both developed and developing countries. Indeed, child labour has been nearly eliminated in the developed world. However, child labour persists due to rapid population growth, high unemployment, inflation, poverty, malnutrition, poor leadership, corruption, and low wages.

According to Serwadda Luwaga (2005), child labour occurs all over the world, particularly in low-income countries, and these children work in all sectors of the economy, including agriculture, manufacturing, fishing, construction, domestic service, street vending, and so on. Children are frequently unregistered as employers and work in hazardous conditions with no social protection. According to Lavisson and Murray (2005), child labourers are involved in a wide range of jobs that involve risks and hazards. These children are especially vulnerable to physical pain and injury because they are exposed to health risks. Omokhodion and Odusote (2006) attempted to

report that any work done by children outside the home is considered child labour. Working outside the home, they claim, exposes them to environmental hazards that may jeopardise their health and safety. According to Fasih (2007), child labour produces unskilled and uneducated labour, which has an impact on the country's development and economy.

Bhat (2010) provides a definition of child labour. He claims that it is not simple because it includes three difficult concepts to define: "child," "labour," and "work." He also claimed that the term "childhood" could be defined by age, but in some societies, people stopped being children at various ages. Bilal Ahmad Bhat (2010) attempted to assess the value of education in the context of child labour. He attempted to ascertain the impact of child labour on children's school attendance. He proposed some solutions to combat child labour through education. According to Bhat (2011), the first legislation prohibiting child labour was passed in 1833 and 1844. It agreed that children should not work, and the goal was to keep all children out of labour that interfered with their education. Despite this, many children were involved in child labour, which was illegal under the law. According to Aqil (2012), when parents worked as children, their children will work as well, passing it down from generation to generation. When they reach adulthood, they become uneducated and unskilled. That is why parental education is so important in children's education because it increases the chances of their children receiving a good education.

According to Das (2012), the prevalence of child labourers worldwide is difficult to verify due to a lack of reliable child labour statistics, and many child labourers are invisible.

OBJECTIVES

The goals of this paper are as follows:

1. To examine the various factors that contribute to child labour.

2. To examine child labour in major Indian states.
3. Conduct a critical examination of child labour in India.

METHODOLOGY OF RESEARCH

This paper's research design is based on descriptive studies. The study relies on both primary and secondary data. The observation method is used to achieve the study's second goal. The researchers used analytical terms to achieve the third goal. The research is based on data from the last five decades, from 1971 to 2011.

CHILD LABOR AND SOCIOECONOMIC FACTORS

There are several socioeconomic factors that contribute to child labour:

- 1- Poverty as the root cause: Child labour is influenced by a variety of factors. According to studies, the most significant reason is poverty (Bhat & Rather, 2009). Parents make the majority of decisions regarding child labour and education. If the family income is below the poverty line, parents believe that their children should contribute to the family income as well. Basu (1998) used a theoretical model of child labour to demonstrate that the only reason parents send their children to work is because they have a low income. As a result, poor parents cannot afford to send their children to school. As a result, poor families are more likely to send their children to work rather than to school.
- 2- Family size: Children are more likely to be involved in large poor households than in smaller households, demonstrating that family size has an effect on child labour. Because they are unable to manage the demands of a large family, parents force their children to work. Gender differences in household size exist as well. Not

everyone and of all ages in the family works as child labour; it depends on the child's age and gender; for example, boys are more likely than girls to attend school.

- 3- Family situation: Many growing children who have lost one or both parents, as well as those affected by HIV/AIDS in the family, are forced to work to support themselves and their siblings. The number of orphaned children is increasing, particularly in Sub-Saharan Africa, with many becoming street children and living in deplorable conditions. Vandenberg (2007)
- 4- Traditional or cultural factors: Another factor that forces children into the labour force is culture. Many cultures in many societies force children to begin working at a young age due to traditions and cultural factors. They assumed that children should learn skills that will benefit them in the future. According to Tauson (2009), parents in rural Guatemala prefer their children to work because they believe it will benefit them.
- 5- Traditional or cultural factors: Culture is another factor that forces children into the labour force. Many societies' cultures force children to begin working at a young age due to traditions and cultural factors. They assumed that children needed to learn skills that would benefit them in the future. According to Tauson (2009), in rural Guatemala, parents prefer their children to work because they believe it will benefit them as they learn work skills.
- 6- Corruption: Corruption is a major cause of resource exploitation wherever there is poverty; there is also corruption (Murphy, 2005). According to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), "corruption exacerbates poverty and inequality, undermines human development and stability, and sustains conflict, violates human rights, and undermines countries' democratic functioning." Corruption can have a

- significant negative impact on children's rights by depriving them of basic services such as health care, education, and infrastructure. Corruption can make it more difficult for children to escape poverty.
- 7- Civil war: Another factor that contributes to child labour is civil war. The war destroys the country's economy, the people become impoverished, and all resources are diverted to the war. Wars destroy everything good that a country could have. It brings diseases, poverty, damage, and a slew of other heinous things. Again, no assistance will be useful as long as the war continues.
 - 8- Urban migration: Because of rural push and urban pull factors, many rural families migrate to cities. As a result, they are frequently forced to live and work on the street because they lack access to basic necessities such as food, shelter, and so on, and these children become street vendors. Most street workers are vulnerable to violence and are drawn to illegal activities such as stealing, trafficking, drugs, and prostitution (Yadav & Sengupta, 2009). These children live in urban poverty; many child labourers live in unhealthy slum areas and work in hazardous environments such as domestic work, hotels and restaurants, and so on (Serwadda- Luwaga, 2005).
 - 9- This means that cities' populations are growing as a result of immigration and natural growth. Urban poverty is a multifaceted phenomenon. In their daily lives, people living in urban poverty in developing countries face numerous challenges. Many poor people face extreme hardship as a result of unemployment, housing shortages, violence, and unhealthy living conditions. Increased urbanisation has resulted in urban poverty. Slums are created by urban poverty. These areas are marked by high unemployment, poor sanitation, insufficient access to safe drinking water, and insufficient housing.
 - 10- Globalization: Another cause of child labour is globalisation. Globalization has both positive and negative consequences; however, globalisation may provide developing countries with the opportunity to increase their GDP per capita through new trade opportunities and increase their foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows. Globalization has also had a negative impact on child labour in developing countries. Many multinational corporations have relocated their manufacturing to other countries in recent years. These businesses frequently hire children as cheap labourers because they are tenacious and will carry out their employers' commands even if they are abused and exploited (Mapaure, 2009). According to Mishra (2012), globalisation has forced more children in India to work in hazardous occupations such as brick kilns, motor garages, hotels, shops, transportation, manual loading work, and so on.
 - 11- Gender differences are influenced by factors such as age, class/caste, race, ethnicity, location (rural or urban), culture, religion, and socioeconomic factors, which influence what opportunities are available to young people and the working conditions. Relationship between child labour, family income, and education: Another factor contributing to the high incidence of child labour is a lack of education or poor quality education. Education is regarded as one of the most important alternatives to abolition of child labour. In practise, family income influences children's education; poor parents cannot afford to pay for their children's education; however, children are forced to work and are less enrolled.
 - 12- The opportunity costs of education: Another issue that poor households face is the cost of education. This has contributed to child exploitation. Schools must be affordable and easily accessible. According

to Kondylis and Marco (2006), schools in developing countries may help to increase school enrollment but may not reduce the incidence of child labour. According to Bhat (2010), quality education can help keep children away from work, so it is critical for a school to have an educated teacher ratio in the classrooms. However, many poor parents find it difficult to send their children to school because their families rely on their children's earnings and cannot afford school fees, uniforms, or other extra costs.

- 13- Gender Discrimination in Child Labor -: Discrimination exists among child labourers as well. Younger children, foreign or minority children, or children of a different caste may face discrimination from older children. The gender division of labour in adults is mirrored in children's occupation.
- 14- Meaning of gender difference: When studying the issue of gender difference, keep in mind that the term "gender" differs from the term "sex." "Sex" refers to the biological differences that exist between male and female. Gender differences influence how boys and girls are treated and expected to behave. Gender roles refer to the activities that boys and girls are expected to do. For example, a person is not born knowing how to do beautiful needlework or the art of cooking, but he or she can learn how to do it. However, in most cultures, girls are taught these activities rather than boys. The process of socialisation by which children learn how to behave is not gender-neutral, but shapes the various roles and responsibilities

assigned to boys and girls based on their sex. Children mimic the behaviour of those around them, such as parents, relatives, neighbours, and teachers, and thus reproduce the existing social differences between men and women. For example, a boy will frequently behave in a manner consistent with how he has observed other boys and men

- 15- Reasons for gender differences in child labour: Gender differences can be observed in child labour. As a result, it is necessary to investigate the various factors associated with this. Gender differences are typically determined by different cultural determinants, family background, and the work culture assigned to boys and girls. Work discrimination exists between boys and girls. Boys are frequently employed in sectors such as automobile, fishing, mining, and construction, among others, because such jobs are considered heavy work, whereas girls are motivated to do domestic work and lighter work, such as in the textile industry, where women are typically employed. This discrimination is based on irrational biological factors.

A Critical Analysis According to the 2011 census, the total number of children working in the country has decreased by 65 percent. The government also stated that the abolition of child labour was a "priority." The total number of working children in the country has decreased from 1.26 crore in 2001 to 43.53 lakh in 2011, representing a 65 percent decrease. Table 1 show that child labors are reducing in India continuously during 1971 to 2011, but it is not fully reduced.

Table-1:

Year	Child labor as reported by census 1971 to 2011
1971	10753985
1981	13640870
1991	11285349
2001	12666377
2011	4353247

Census, Gol, 1971 to 2011

Changes in Work Participation (Marginal) Rate of Children in different age groups				
All India		5 to 9	10 to 14	5 to 14
1991	Boys	0.9	10.9	5.7
	Girls	0.9	9.9	5.1
	All Children	0.9	10.4	5.4
2001	Boys	1.05	8.8	5.1
	Girls	1.4	8.5	4.9
	All Children	1.4	8.7	5
2011	Boys	2.3	7.2	4.8
	Girls	2.2	6.1	4.2
	All Children	2.3	6.7	4.5

Table-2: Work Participation of Children 2009-10 as per Census 1991-2011

Source: Census ,1991 to 2011, Gol

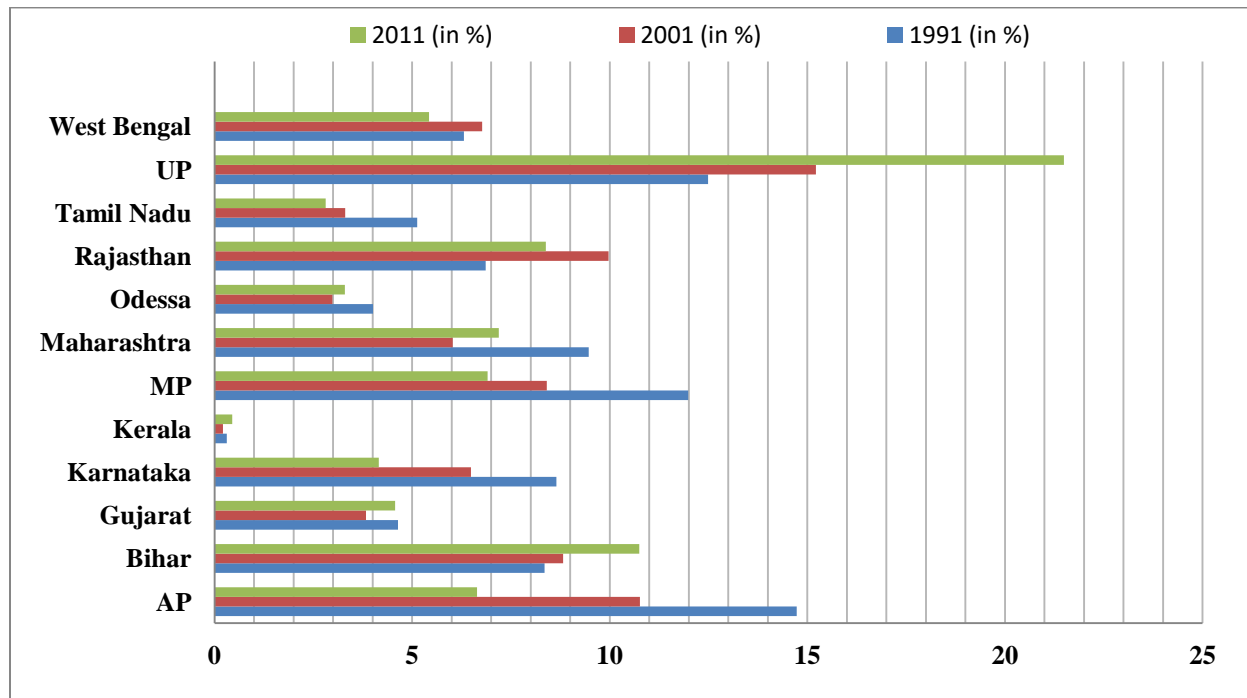
Table 2 shows that child labour is roughly equal between boys and girls in age groups 5 to 9, but boy child labour is higher than girl child labour in age groups 10 to 14. In the age range of 5 to 10 years, boy child labour is more prevalent than girl child labor. All over, boys' child labour is higher in comparison to girls' in all age groups.

Table 3 shows the prevalence of child labour in Indian states. The top 12 states are listed in the table. The state of Uttar Pradesh has the highest number of children working as laborers. This has been true for all censuses conducted in India since 1991. Figure F-1 depicts child labour in major Indian states from 1991 to 2011.

Table-3: Child labour in major states of India during 1991-2011 (in lakhs)

State	1991 (in lakh)	in %	2001(in lakh)	in %	2011 (in lakh)	in %
AP	1661940	14.73	1363339	10.76	673003	6.64
Bihar	942245	8.35	1117500	8.82	1088509	10.75
Gujarat	523585	4.64	485530	3.83	463077	4.57
Karnataka	976247	8.65	822615	6.49	421345	4.16
Kerala	34800	0.31	26156	0.21	45436	0.45
MP	1352563	11.99	1065259	8.41	700239	6.91
Maharashtra	1068427	9.47	764075	6.03	727932	7.19
Odisha	452394	4.01	377594	2.98	334416	3.30
Rajasthan	774,119	6.86	1262570	9.97	848386	8.38
Tamil Nadu	578889	5.13	418801	3.31	284232	2.81
UP	14,10,086	12.49	19,27,997	15.22	21,76,706	21.49
West Bengal	711691	6.31	857087	6.77	550092	5.43
India	1,12,85,349	100.00	1,26,66,377	100.00	1,01,28,663	100.00

Source: 1991, 2001 and 2011 GOI

Figure-F1: Status of Child labour in Major states of India

Source: 1991, 2001 and 2011 GOI;

Approximately 85% of all child labour in India is employed in agriculture, livestock, forestry, mining, fisheries, and manual base industries such as carpet and silk production. Child labour is detrimental to our country. UP and Bihar have the worst situations of any state. Looking at historical data, this was not the case. For example, in 1991, Andhra Pradesh had the highest rate of child labour, followed by Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, and Maharashtra. However, the situation changed over the next ten years. According to Census of India 2001 data, Uttar Pradesh topped the list, followed by Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, and Madhya Pradesh. This indicates that child labour is becoming more prevalent in Uttar Pradesh. Between 1991 and 2011, the incidence of child labour decreased in the major states of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, and Madhya Pradesh. However, the prevalence of child labour in UP has increased in each census year (1991, 2001, and 2011). Between 1991 and 2001, the incidence of child labour in Kerala state decreased, but has since increased. Kerala has the lowest rate of child labour of any state. Between 1991 and 2001, the incidence of child labour in Bihar increased. In

Rajasthan, too, the prevalence of child labour has increased over time, but it has decreased since the 2011 census. As a result, it is safe to say that the incidence of child labour has been increasing in the majority of the major states, with some states experiencing a decrease after an initial increase.

Child labour statistics in India: According to census reports, the top five states with the highest number of child laborers are Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, and Maharashtra. The highest percentage increase was in Uttar Pradesh, where child labour increased by 12% to 21%. It is estimated that over 300,000 children are trapped in India's carpet industry. The majority of carpets in India are woven in Uttar Pradesh, where the majority of workers are low-caste Hindu boys. According to previous records, child labourers were mostly employed in agriculture, paan (betel), bidi, construction, domestic work, spinning and weaving, and so on. The government's top priority is to eliminate child labour, particularly in dangerous occupations. Indian law specifically defines 64 industries as hazardous, and employing children in

such hazardous industries is a criminal offence. In 2001, an estimated 1% of all child workers, or approximately 120,000 children in India, were working in hazardous conditions. Notably, Article 24 of the Indian Constitution prohibits child labour in hazardous industries (but not in non-hazardous industries) as a Fundamental Right. Furthermore, 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 legal foundation for identifying, prosecuting, and ending child labour in India. In 1987, India established a National Policy on Child Labor.

This Policy seeks to take a progressive and sequential approach to rehabilitation of children working in hazardous occupations. It envisioned strict enforcement of Indian child labour laws in tandem with development programmes aimed at addressing the root causes of child labour, such as poverty. This resulted in the National Child Labor Project (NCLP) initiative in 1988. This legal and development initiative is still ongoing, with current central government funding of Rs. 6 billion earmarked solely for the abolition of child labour in India. Since 1988, the Ministry of Labour and Employment has implemented approximately 100 industry-specific National Child Labour Projects to rehabilitate child workers.

Children aged 9 to 14 are rescued from hazardous occupations and enrolled in NCLP special training centres, which provide bridge education, vocational training, mid-day meal, stipend, health care, and other services before being mainstreamed into the formal education system. According to a 2009-10 nationwide survey, the prevalence of child labour had decreased to 4.98 million children (or less than 2% of children aged 5 to 14). According to India's 2011 national census, the total number of child labourers aged 5-14 was 4.35 million, with a total child population of 259.64 million in that age group. The decrease in the number of children working is an encouraging sign, indicating the effectiveness of the government's schemes (direct or indirect, such as the focus on primary school

enrollment under the "Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act" of 2009), though other factors such as social awareness and economic growth are also at work. Many non-governmental organisations (NGOs) such as Bachpan Bachao Andolan, Child Fund, CARE India, Talaash Association, Child Rights and You, Global March Against Child Labor, RIDE India, Child Line, and others have been working to end child labour in India.

CONCLUSION

In 2015, India was home to the greatest number of children working illegally in various industrial industries. Agriculture is India's largest industry, and many children start working at a young age to help support their families. Many of these children are forced to work at a young age due to a variety of family factors such as unemployment, a large family size, poverty, and a lack of parental education. This is frequently the primary cause of India's high rate of child labour. In terms of gender-based child labor, boys outnumber girls across the board in all age groups.

85% of all child labour in India is employed in agriculture, livestock, forestry, mining, fisheries, and manual base industries such as carpet and silk production. During 1991–2011, Uttar Pradesh topped the list, followed by Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, and Madhya Pradesh. Kerala has the lowest rate of child labour of any state.

A number of Indian social scientists and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have conducted extensive research on the numerical figures of child labour found in India, concluding that India contributes one-third of Asia's child labour and one-fourth of the world's child labour. Because of the large number of children working illegally, the Indian government began to take extensive measures to reduce the number of children working and to emphasize the importance of facilitating children's proper growth and development. Between 2001 and 2011, there was a 65 percent decrease in child labour due to increased regulations and legal

restrictions on child labour. Despite this significant decrease in India, there are still a large number of children working in rural areas. With 85 percent of child labour occurring in rural areas and 15 percent occurring in urban areas, India still has significant areas of concern.

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