

**PROBLEMS OF CHILD LABOR GOBINDPURA
INDUSTRIAL AREA BHOPAL M.P.INDIA**

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ABSTRACT

Present paper studies child labor problems in Gobindpura industrial area which is situated in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh India. The study released by the Head Centre for Child Rights puts the number of child laborers in the state at 1,065,259. Of the 1,700 cases registered under the Child Labor (Prohibition and Regulation) Act 1986, there have been only 35 convictions, according to the report. We pointed out 'a major problem is that officials do not consider employment of children below 14 years of age in a hotel or a restaurant as child labor. The Constitution of India in the Fundamental Rights and the Directive Principles of State Policy prohibits child labor below the age of 14 years in any factory or mine or castle or engaged in any other hazardous employment (Article 24). The constitution also envisioned that India shall, by 1960, provide infrastructure and resources for free and compulsory education to all children of the age six to 14 years. The major national legislative developments include the following.

Keywords: - problems of child labor, laws of child labour, UNICEF, UNDP

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INTRODUCTION

Every child is a gift of nature, but they have several problems. Today, give them time to play and make way for their future. Children are the future, they are the foundation on which tomorrow's world depends. For a better world this foundation must be strong. For a progressive society it is important that their children are free from physical and mental pressure because childhood is the best time to develop spiritual, intellectual, emotional support but they do not get the opportunity to develop physically, intellectually, emotionally and psychologically. This rule of nature has been crippled by the perilous child labor. Childhood is the most innocent phase in human life; it decides the future of the person, the society and the nation as a whole. Many children, instead of spending it in a carefree and fun-loving manner while learning and playing, are scarred and tormented. They are put to hazardous work by industries and individuals who put them to work under grueling circumstances. They are made to work for long hours in dangerous factory units and sometimes made to carry load even heavier than their own weight. The children who are considered as the future citizens of the country are not allowed to enjoy their valuable childhood and it is in the condition of a child that their lies the future of any society or nation. Children's are the pretty mirrors of the society. The quality of life is a child reflects how progressive a society is. Then there are individual households that hire children as domestic help and beat and physically torture them when they make a mistake. The children are at times made to starve and are given worn out clothes to wear. Such is the story of millions of children in India painful and yet true. India is the home to a large number of child laborers. The census found an increase in the number of child laborers from 11.28 million in 1991 to 12.59 million in 2001. There has been an alarming rise in the incidence of child labor in Madhya Pradesh, says a report by a child rights organization.

OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

1. To find out the child labor problems in Gobindpura area Bhopal.
2. To focus economic and social conditions of child labor in Gobindpura industrial area Bhopal M.P. India.
3. Explain various schemes of MP Government

DEFINITION OF CHILD LABOR

According to ILO, child labor 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 school or experience healthy childhood. The ILO wants to abolish three types of child labour:- Labours performed by children who are under the minimum age for that specific kind of work. The minimum ages are specified in national legislations, in accord with international conventions.

UNICEF defines child labor differently. A child, suggests UNICEF, is involved in child labor 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.^[23] 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. **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 whom, 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. **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.

CHILD LABOUR LAWS INDIA

After its independence from colonial rule, India has passed a number of constitutional protections and laws on child labor.

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India has a federal form of government, and child labor is a matter on which both the central government and country governments can legislate, and have. The major national legislative developments include the following:^[31]

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AREA OF STUDY

The case study is related to Gobindpura industrial area which is situated in Bhopal Madhya Pradesh India. It appears in the [BHEL](#) factory and offices. Though this area is not a backward area but still the problem of child labor is prevalent in this area too. These sectors of employment are mostly unregulated by laws and the children toil completely at the whims and finances of their employers, who extract work for 6 to 7 days a week without giving proper wages or other facilities. The working conditions are pitiable and many work in horrifying conditions. Most of the children employees belong to weaker sections of society never ever having an opportunity of child care. The above table seems Neelam and Sushma do not earn anything they help their mothers. Their mothers work as domestic helpers they just need an extra hand so that they can work in as many homes as possible and earn more. As can be seen from the table if Suresh, Vicky or Gajendra leave work and go to school they family will suffer a loss of income of 4800 which is quite a lot for a family with low income, because of lack of education they fail to understand the physical hazards related with their job they also fail to understand that education is an investment and will fetch them more in the years to come once they are skilled.

MAIN PROBLEMS OF CHILD LABOUR IN THIS AREA

Most of people living in this area mainly belong to the second or third generation of laborers of B.H.E.L factory. Their father's or grandfather's used to work in the factory as laborers not employees but most of these people do not presently work in B.H.E.L. They work in other sectors. Poverty came out to be the predominant factor in this area which led to people sending their children to work, Another factor was the size of the family, most of the families still have 3-6 children which makes it very difficult for the bread earner to meet the ever growing needs of the family. Most of the families have 3 to 5 children with mostly only the father as the earning

member of the family. Also those who have 2 children or only one child are newly married and plan to have more kids. Another factor is their habit of not saving and overspending on social functions like marriages and festivals. As the family is large the medical expenses also tend to be large mainly because of the unhygienic conditions in which they live. Expenditure on habits such as drinking smoking and drugs is also considerable which in turn leads to even more medical expenses. Even those children who do not go out to work specially girls are engaged the whole day in other household activities specially if the mother is working, she takes place of the mother to look after her younger siblings.

ROLE OF STATE GOVERNMENT TO STOP CHILD LABOR:-State government play key role to stop child labor through various schemes. Child labors have more difficulties like low income, hard & dangerous work, inefficiency etc. state government of Madhya Pradesh doing excellence work for stop to being child labor by several schemes.

FREE OF COST DISTRIBUTION SCHEME OF TEXT BOOKS:-This scheme is in force in which text books are distributed free of cost to the students of SC/ ST communities studying in class 1 to 5 and to the all girls of backward and general categories, who are below poverty line and studying in class 1 to 3. Under this scheme free of cost text books are supplied by M.P. text Book Corporation.

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BOOK-BANK SCHEME:-In this scheme the text books are supplied to the boys and girls of schedule cast and schedule tribe studying in class 6 to 12 through book bank .

FREE OF COST SCHOOL UNIFORM SCHEME:-Under this scheme free of cost school uniforms are supplied to poor class girls of schedule cast /schedule tribe /other backward class studying at the primary level. The scheme provides help to admit girls of in the schools and in continuation of their study. The scheme is in force like "study and earn scheme" in which school girls are paid remuneration on preparing uniform, along with their studies in the school. The state Govt. has declared M.P. state power loom cooperative association ltd., Burhanpur as a Nodal agency for this scheme.

STUDENT SAFETY INSURANCE SCHEME:-This scheme the State Government has given permission vide its letter No F-44-32/94/B-2/20 dated 6:10:1994 to implement the student safety Insurance scheme for the students of Govt. schools.

- The responsibility of enforcing the scheme is laid to "The New India Insurance Company Limited"
- In the beginning the scheme was meant for one year with a premium of sixty paise per month for assured sum of Rs. 10,000/= at death of student.
- Under the scheme a sum of Rs.10000/- is payable at the death of student, Rs. 10000/- for the full disability and Rs. 5000/- payable for partly disability.
- At present the premium payable by the student is increased from sixty paise to Rs. one per month.

TEACHER WELFARE PROGRAMME:-Under this program the teachers are selected for state level and Central level awards on the basis of their qualification and the excellent services rendered by them in the field of Education through Teacher Welfare Cell in the Directorate of Public Instructions.

- Every selected teacher is awarded Rs.5000/- cash, Shreephal and a shawl with a letter of appreciation by Honorable Governor of the state of Madhya Pradesh. .
- For the selection of teachers for National award there is a state level committee in which a representative of Govt. of India is also included .For M.P. a proposal to award 12 primary teachers and six Middle school teachers every year is sent. The selected teachers are awarded Rs.10001/- cash with a silver medal by Honorable president of India on every 5th September.

Conclusion

The paper these policies seem to gloriously tackle the problem but the ground reality remains the same. Even though the percentage of child labor has decreased but it still exists in vast majority. The major problem is that like all other government policies these policies also fail to reach the grass root level and most of these policies are on paper of which the common man is unaware. The most important factor here is that the parents should be ready to forego the income that a child labor brings home and let the child study for that they should be aware of the benefits of education which they are not. If the parents realize the worth of being educated they will definitely allow their children to study. According to some economists child labor should be

completely banned they predict that child labor bans might effectively “jolt” an economy into Pareto efficiency. They describe a simple mechanism by which a ban might change the nature of child participation in the workforce of an economy. According to the academics, a ban on child labor creates a shortage of labor because adult and child labor are substitutes. Adult wages increase in response to excess demand for labor. Increased wages reduce the demand for child labor; ultimately eliminating the need for the ban (Basu and Van 1998). Though it has its own disadvantages. A recent World Bank study claims that “increases in per capita incomes explain nearly all of the reductions in worldwide child labor since 1950” (Tabatabai 2006). The overwhelming income-child labor correlation suggests that policy that affects income and GDP will have the most significant effect on child labor. Society plays a very important role in curbing the malpractice. Awareness should be created about the ill effects of child labor in the society. Every person should stand against and report all child labor cases. Government should empower NGO’s so that they can help put a full stop to this malpractice. Strict action must be taken against those who force child labor. Also education both child and adult should be given utmost importance and programs and policies should be made accordingly with special emphasis on technical and vocational education so that education implies not just being literate but also being trained and skilled. Only trained and skilled labor can help in building up a sound economy. An all round development of the economy will decrease poverty which will in turn increase the household income resulting in lesser and lesser need for the children to work. We need to see every child as our own so that we can rebuild and explore a growing and evil free world in the mind and body of a child.

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