

**TOURISM INDUSTRY BRISTLING WITH CHILD
LABOUR OPENING VISTAS AND EMERGING
CHALLENGES**

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Abstract:

Tourism is one of the fastest growing sectors in India and has received much importance from the government as a major contributor to the economy. But it has a story too. Recent researches reveal that it has various social, economical, cultural, and environmental impacts on society. According to the International Labour Organization's (ILO) Global Report 2006, Tourism affects the lives of 218 million children. It is said that approx. 60-100 million children of India are engaged as child labour. Most of them are involved in Tourism Industry. Throughout India there have been numerous studies which have shown the existence of child exploitation due to tourism. In the year 2006 the tourism and hospitality sector was added to the list of hazardous occupation under the Child Labour Act 1986. As the benefits from tourism industry is increasing day by day and attracting millions of foreign investment, the risk of child labour is increasing exponentially and along with greater demand for human trafficking. The main objective of this paper is to find out the reason why children work in tourism industry, to know the risk involved if they work with tourism sector, and to know the role of government and tourism industry in eradication of this serious problem. This paper also helps in measuring the effectiveness of actions taken by the International Labour Organization, World Tourism

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Organization to mitigate this problem..To evaluate the actual situation of child labour in tourism industry ,in this paper information has been gathered through secondary sources like books, magazines (yojna) ,WTO report, report of Tourism Ministry, News paper etc. For this purpose two research questions were prepared (a) increasing economic benefit of tourism industry is attracting as well as exploiting the future of india. (b) efforts made to eradicate the problem of child labour has reduced the number of child labourers in papers only not in actual.After analyzing the facts and figures it can be conclude that the problem of child labour and commercial sexual exploitation of children can't be solved easily unless collective efforts have been made by Government officials, NGO's, Civil Society workers and Tourism Industry employers to eradicate it. Policies and legislations should not only formulate but implemented in right spirit. Government and all other institutions must join their hands together to stop all forms of exploitation of children otherwise we will fail to secure the rights of our children who are the future of our India.

Key Words:- Tourism, Child-Labour, Hospitality, Sexual –Abuse, Exploitation, Human Trafficking

Definition of key words:

Tourism- According to *Hunziker & Krapf (1942)*- ‘tourism is the totality of the relationship and phenomena arising from the travel and stay of strangers, provided that the stay does not imply the establishment of a permanent residence and is not connected with a remunerated activity.’

Child-Labour- According to *ILO (2002)* “all children under 15 years of age who are economically active excluding (i) those who are under 5 years old and (ii) those between 12-14 years old who spend less than 14 hours a week on their jobs, unless their activities or occupations are hazardous by nature or circumstances.”

Hospitality- According to *Oxford Dictionary* “the friendly and generous reception and entertainment of guests or strangers”.

Sexual Assault/ Abuse- “ is an assault of a sexual nature on another person, or any sexual act committed without consent. Although sexual assaults most frequently are by a man on a woman, it may involve any combination of two or more men, women and children.

Exploitation- According to Oxford Dictionary “utilize or take advantage of a person for one’s own ends.

Human Trafficking - ” is the illegal trade of human beings for the purposes of reproductive slavery, commercial sexual exploitation, forced labour, or a worst form of slavery.

Introduction :

Child labour is a fundamental abuse of child rights and a violation of national and international laws. South Asia is known as the home of the largest number of child labourers in the world. This is vindicated by the facts that 30 million of children are working in five large countries of this region.

According to a Unicef report on World’s Children 2006, India has the largest number of working children and 17 percent of them are under the age of 15 years. About 1.27 crore children , engaged in both hazardous and non- hazardous occupations are working in the BIMARU States (Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, & Uttar Pradesh) of India. Over 19 lakh child labour in the 5-14 age group are from the Uttar Pradesh itself. Rajasthan accounts for over 12.6 lakh workers followed by Bihar (over 11 lakh) and Madhya Pradesh (10.6 lakh). Andhra Pradesh with 13.6 lakh child labour stands second in the national list after Uttar Pradesh. Tourism industry is no exception to it.

Tourism industry is one of the world’s fastest growing economic sector and largest employer of manpower helps in earning multi-billion dollar annually by attracting a billion of people from one destination to another. This is evident from the fact that international tourist arrivals has doubled from the year 1995 (565.4 million) to the year 2010 (1006.4 million). It is expected to reach to 1.56 billion by 2020, with the largest rate of increase in developing countries including India. It is expected to provide more than 251.6 million jobs by 2020. According to UN World Tourism Organisation, 6-7% of the world’s total jobs directly and millions more indirectly comes through the multiplier effect of this sector.

Table No : 01

Region	Base year	Forecasts		Average Annual Growth%	Market Share	
		1995	2010		2020	1995
World	565.4	1006.4	1561.1	4.1	100	100
Africa	20.2	47.0	77.3	5.5	3.6	5.0
Americas	108.9	190.4	282.3	3.9	19.3	18.1
East Asia and the Pacific	81.4	195.2	397.2	6.5	14.4	25.4
Europe	338.4	527.3	717.0	3.0	59.8	45.9
Middle East	12.4	35.9	68.5	7.1	2.2	4.4
South Asia	4.2	10.6	18.8	6.2	0.7	1.2

International Tourist Arrivals (millions)

In India, tourism has made significant contribution to the Indian economy by providing an increase in foreign exchange earning, creating more employment opportunities and infrastructure development. It is clear from the tourism statistics that international tourist arrival has increased from 5.11 million in 2009 to 5.58 million with a growth rate of 8.1% in 2010 and foreign exchange earning has increased from US \$11394 million in 2009 to 648.89 billion in 2010. Approximately 705 million domestic tourists have visited different states /UTs of India in 2010. Share of India in world tourist arrival and world tourism receipts is 0.58% and 1.24% respectively. It is also expected that tourism demand will grow at an annual growth rate of 8.8% over the next ten years.

Thus Tourism has various social, economical, cultural, psychological and environmental impacts on larger social fabric of society. The facet of these impacts may be positive or negative. On the one hand tourism industry is helping in socio-economic development of India; on the other hand it is degrading the culture, environment and belief system of the society, by giving birth to various social problems like child labour, child trafficking, child pornography, and sexual

exploitation of children. Child labour in tourism industry is common in both developing and in developed countries. Children of 14 years or less (and sometimes of 12 years) can be seen as employed in tourism sector working in extremely bad working conditions without even having protection for their long strained working hours under unhealthy and dangerous conditions.

According to ILO (2002) “all children under 15 years of age who are economically active excluding (i) those who are under 5 years old and (ii) those between 12-14 years old who spend less than 14 hours a week on their jobs, unless their activities or occupations are hazardous by nature or circumstances. Added to this are 15-17 year old children in the worst forms of child labour.” Table- 2 outlines this complex definition dividing into age groups and forms of work that are acceptable and positive, in contrast to unacceptable and negative requiring urgent elimination.

Table :02

Age Groups	Forms of Work			
	Non-hazardous work <43hrs/week		Worst forms of child labour	
	Light Work <14hrs/week	Regular Work >14hrs/week and <43hrs/week	Hazardous Work and industries >43 hrs/week	Unconditional Worst forms
	Does not : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › harm child’s health and development › prejudice child’s attendance at school 		Leads to adverse effects on child’s safety, health and moral development. Includes: excessive workload, physical conditions of work ,and/or work intensity in terms	Trafficked children, bonded labour, armed conflict, prostitution, pornography and illicit activities

	and participation in vocational training nor the capacity to benefit from the instruction received		of the duration or hours of work even where the activity or occupation is known to be non-hazardous or 'safe' Examples: mining and construction	
5-11				
12-14				
15-17				

NOTE:shaded areas considered as child labour in need of elimination as per ILO Convention No.138 and 182.

Tourism sector by its nature and necessity attracts children to work as labourer. Most of them seen working in hotels, restaurants, dhabbas as helper, bellboy, cleaners. Waiters, laundry cleaners, beach boys and girls, rag pickers, tourist guides, kitchen helpers, porters, and coolies. Many children are found selling newspapers, flowers, and other goodies at most historic monuments frequently visited by visitors all over India. India has the distinction of the largest number of working children in the world today. According to Indian official statistics about 13 million children are engaged in tourism industry but unofficial estimates vary between 60-100 million. There are three major issues which affects the future of children directly or indirectly. These are poverty, illiteracy and unemployment or underemployment of their parents.

Child labour in tourism industry is also direct/indirect result of poor socio-economic conditions of families. In economically weaker sections of society children are considered as a productive resource, who can work on lower cost without complaining. Most of the children working as child labour in India hails from the poorest area like Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Bihar and Rajasthan, Chatishgarh and M.P. Besides poverty, sometimes natural calamities like tsunami, droughts, flood, volcanic eruption, forced migration, armed conflict, displacement, and other crises like political instability, migration, criminal exploitation, discrimination, lack of schools

and inadequate social protection etc. leads to the situation of an increase in child labour. Every organization wants to employ children because of their innocence and less troublesome nature and for also they can work on low wages without raising voice against their exploitation.

Impacts on children

Physical	Moral	Psychological
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • fatigue from long working hours • physical harm (violence, chemicals, abrasions—hazards associated with the work) • HIV-AIDS, other sexually transmitted diseases • impaired growth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • exposed to drugs, sex, violence • exposed to adult behaviours • lack of schooling • too much independence? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • low self esteem • marginalized from society • stigmatized • lonely • loss of a safe upbringing / childhood • stress • lack of chance to develop cognitive skills

Though tourism is not the direct cause of sexual exploitation, but it provides easy access to it. Child sex tourism is one of the most abhorrent types of child labour. It involves the commercial sexual exploitation of children by men or women who travel from one place to another and of those who are in contact with strangers. Generally Nepali and Indian girls from rural areas are trafficked for commercial sexual exploitation in major urban centers such as Mumbai, Calcutta, and New Delhi. Children of north-eastern states are more vulnerable to trafficking. According to world vision approximately 2 million children are the victims of global commercial sex trade. Many of these children are either sold into prostitution to pay off family debts or some of them are forcibly recruited on the street for begging or to work in other commercial centers. Children involved in tourism related services run the risk of being sexually exploited and are highly vulnerable to contract HIV/AIDS as they come in contact with both locals as well as tourist. Sometimes poor working conditions like long working

hours, unstable employment, and low pay etc affects the health of small children and sometimes results in ending their life.

Review of the Literature:

According to EQUATIONS Paper for the ILO Karnataka Child Labour Project. State Level Workshop: Role of Employers Associations in Child Labour Elimination on 11th September 2007, at Bangalore- In the tourism sector, millions of children around the country are trapped in a world of work. Many of them are at risk from hazardous and exploitative labour and denied their basic and fundamental right to education, health and childhood. This paper looks at the reasons why children work, the risks to a child working in the tourism sector, the role the tourism industry employers and associations can play to mitigate this problem and the initiatives undertaken by the International Labour Organization, World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) and Government of India to address the problem. Further this paper states that CSR can play an important role in combating child labour by bringing together number of different stakeholders e.g. unions, CSO's, industries and companies around commonly agreed norms through multi-stakeholder approach and to make companies accountable for their impact on society on the basis of agreed international standards like ILO convention.

Professor Nina Rao in her Research Article named Child Labour in the Services in India: The Case of Tourism, presented at the seminar Enslaved Innocence, Child Labour in India, Centre for Jawahar Lal Nehru Studies, Jamia Milia Islamia, 14th march, 2008 states that Child labor is a complex issue. To start work at between 6-8 years, to learn to deal with hunger, humiliation, physical and sexual abuse, and to go unsung to an early grave is a fate we do not want our children to face .A culture that tolerates poverty, unemployment and illiteracy will also not be vigilant in enforcing any legislation that bans such bitter experiences for lakhs of children who have a right to a better life and a better future. Several NGOs have taken up the task like the MV Foundation in Andhra, Lokadrushti in Orissa, Ganatar in the Rann of Kutch, and Seeds in Karnataka, have all taken the cue from the Census and are seeing the prohibition of child labor as a part of the movement to get the child back to school and propose that the legislation should now be called Child Labor Prohibition and Education Act, 2001.

Ramesh Kanbargi (1991) in his book 'Child Labour in the Indian Sub-Continent' analyses the demographic trends of child labour and its relation with fertility, literacy and education.

Rao's edited work 'Exploited Children' (2000) analyses the dimensions of child labour in India and the broad trends and multidimensional approaches to the problem of child labour. The nature, magnitude, working conditions, causes and consequences are discussed at length. It presents the position of child labour engaged in different industries in different parts of the country. It also reveals and analyses the socio-economic characteristics of child labour, their levels of earning, levels of living and impact on household income. Further, various aspects of migrant child workers are discussed and suggest strategies to eliminate the problem of child labour.

Sanon (1998) in his work 'Working Children: A Sociological Analysis' treats the problem more comprehensively. It provides a holistic picture of the problem by narrating qualitative and quantitative aspects of the issue.

Kannan (2001) in his edited work, 'The Economics of Child Labour' discusses the determinants and correlates of child labour in the context of liberalisation and globalisation.

On the initiative of the Ministry of Welfare, Government of India and the UNICEF the Child Labour Cell of National Labour Institute, Noida conducted situational analysis of street children of big metropolitan cities like Madras (Joe, 1992), Uttar Pradesh (Jain et al. 1992), Mumbai (Gosalia et al. 1992), Calcutta (Ghosh, 1992), Kanpur (Pande, 1992), Delhi (Panicker, 1993), Indore (Philip, 1992), Hyderabad (Rao and Malik, 1992). All these studies are based on empirical evidence. Out of these studies reviewed above only a few deals with migrant child labour. No comprehensive empirical study on hoteliering industry has been conducted.

Rajendran (1998) conducted a pilot study on the migrant children working in the hotels and restaurants of Dindigul district of Tamil Nadu reveals the nature of the work and the types of work they are doing. These studies establish the relationship between the eradication of child labour and universalisation of primary education. The studies on child labour reviewed above

indicate that the plight of the working children has close relation with certain aspects of individual capitalism. These studies point at the need to understand the prevailing socio-economic situation and advocate a closer look into the deep roots in order to reveal the nature of children's economic contribution. Some studies have identified social relations of production and mode of exploitation that conditions the activities of children.

Manavi, an NGO in 1995, show that the lack of awareness in parents and the prevailing illiteracy among the children are the most important factors that compel the poor families to send their children to work. It is generally believed that the economic compulsion forces children to seek employment and earn for the family. This has been proved by different studies such as those of Musafar Singh (1980), Ghosh (1984), Sinha (1991), Singh (1992), Kanbargi (1991), and Rao (1999). These studies give multiple reasons for children being in labour market.

Weiner (1991), in his study named 'Child and State in India', presents an academic discussion on the various aspects of child labour and a critical perspective towards the educational policies of the Government of India and that of the states. He stressed the need for putting compulsory education on the political agenda. His work brings out the historical linkages of child labour with the age-old value system based on caste system. Weiner holds the view that rather than the low per capita income and the less developed nature of the economy, the belief system of the Indian society and the elite is largely responsible for the perpetuation of child labour in the country. He also critically analyses the education policy pursued by the state and central governments and points out its elitist character.

Hinvay (1991), in his study, 'Eradicating Child Labour from the World: Some Basic Issues' clearly elaborates the true nature and magnitude of the problem of child labour in India with extensive demographic and statistical data.

Burra's (1995), in his investigation study named 'Born to Work', which is based on first hand field investigations carried out in the brassware, gem polishing, pottery industry, lock making and glass factories, have described the different working conditions of child labourers. It

emerges that a large number of children as young as five or six years work throughout the night under great health and safety hazards. Burra argued that the state policies aimed at protecting children are poorly conceived and badly enforced. This study provides hard evidence of widespread abuse and exploitation.

'Human Rights and Child Labour in Indian Industries' by Saksena (1999), analyses the factors responsible for the prevalence of child labour and the consequences and repercussions of sending children to work. This study also analyses the steps taken by the Government of India since independence, and points out the loopholes of legislation, policies and programmes.

On the initiative of the Ministry of Welfare, Government of India and the UNICEF the Child Labour Cell of National Labour Institute, Noida conducted situational analysis of street children of big metropolitan cities like Madras (Joe, 1992), Uttar Pradesh (Jain et al. 1992), Mumbai (Gosalia et al. 1992), Calcutta (Ghosh, 1992), Kanpur (Pande, 1992), Delhi (Panicker, 1993), Indore (Philip, 1992), Hyderabad (Rao and Malik, 1992). All these studies are based on empirical evidence. . These studies establish the relationship between the eradication of child labour and universalisation of primary education. The studies on child labour reviewed above indicate that the plight of the working children has close relation with certain aspects of individual capitalism. As the million of children are working in the tourism industry and facing lots of social problems like losing their social identity, human trafficking, child prostitution and various kinds of human disease, a need arise to investigate the reasons, adverse effects and seriousness of this social problem. This paper helps in highlighting the reasons why children work, the risk to a child working in the tourism sector, the role the tourism industry employers and associations can play to mitigate this problem and the initiatives undertaken by the International Labour Organization, World Tourism Organization and Government of India to address the problem.

Objectives :

- a) To know the reasons why are children attracted towards tourism industry to work.
- b) To find out the adverse effect of working for long hours in different sectors of tourism industry.

- c) To evaluate the effectiveness of various actions taken by Government, The Ministry of Women and Child Development, and United Nations World Tourism Organization.

Research Questions:

(a) increasing economic benefit of tourism industry is attracting as well as exploiting the future of India.

(b) efforts made to eradicate the problem of child labour has reduced the number of child labourers in papers only but not in actual.

Methodology:

Research methodology is partly descriptive, partly exploratory and partly casual. For this study data and information has been collected with the help of Books, Magazines, Newspapers, UNWTO Report, Report of Ministry of Tourism, and Report of Ministry of Women and Child Development etc.

Findings of the Research:

- ❖ This is vindicated by the facts that 30 million of children are working in five large countries of South Asia.
- ❖ According to a Unicef report on World's Children 2006, India has the largest number of working children and 17 percent of them are under the age of 15 years.
- ❖ About 1.27 crore children, engaged in both hazardous and non-hazardous occupations are working in the BIMARU States (Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, & Uttar Pradesh) of India.
- ❖ Over 19 lakh child labour in the 5-14 age group are from the Uttar Pradesh itself. Rajasthan accounts for over 12.6 lakh workers followed by Bihar (over 11 lakh) and

Madhya Pradesh (10.6 lakh). Andhra Pradesh with 13.6 lakh child labour stands second in the national list after Uttar Pradesh.

- ❖ Children of 14 years or less (and sometimes of 12 years) can be seen as employed in tourism sector working in extremely bad working conditions without even having protection for their long strained working hours under unhealthy and dangerous conditions.
- ❖ There are three major issues which affects the future of children directly or indirectly. These are poverty, illiteracy and unemployment or underemployment of their parents.
- ❖ Child labour in tourism industry is also direct/indirect result of poor socio-economic conditions of families. It is also known through the fact that children at work contribute 20% of household income.
- ❖ India has the distinction of the largest number of working children in the world today. According to Indian official statistics about 13 million children are engaged in tourism industry but unofficial estimates vary between 60-100 million.
- ❖ According to UNICEF, South Asia alone accounts for nearly 50% of the estimated 130 million children with no access to basic education in the developing countries. Girls make up around two of every three of these children.
- ❖ Besides poverty, sometimes natural calamities like tsunami, droughts, flood, volcanic eruption, forced migration, armed conflict, displacement, and other crises like political instability, migration, criminal exploitation, discrimination, lack of schools and inadequate social protection etc. leads to the situation of an increase in child labour.
- ❖ It is observed that a large number of boys are engaged as child labourer in tourism industry rather than the girls.
- ❖ It is therefore the nuclear family in an urban environment that has kept child labor alive. So we can see that the market economy is the main instrument to keep a supplementary labor force going through economic contradictions that develop with self-employment reducing in some sectors and increasing in other services.

- ❖ children employed in roadside eateries and highway dhabas are highly vulnerable to sexual abuse and drug abuse and to contracting HIV/AIDS as they come in contact with both locals as well as tourists.
- ❖ Generally Nepali and Indian girls from rural areas are trafficked for commercial sexual exploitation in major urban centers such as Mumbai, Calcutta, and New Delhi. Children of north-eastern states are more vulnerable to trafficking.
- ❖ Long working hours, unstable employment, low pay, cheap labour and extremely poor working and living conditions lead to poor physical and psychological health to child.
- ❖ According to world vision approximately 2 million children are the victims of global commercial sex trade. Many of these children are either sold into prostitution to pay off family debts or some of them are forcibly recruited on the street for begging or to work in other commercial centers.
- ❖ On October 10th, 2006 The Center banned the employment of children under 14 in Dhabas/hotels, as domestic help in homes, and in any form in the hospitality industry. By December 2006, 1,672 violations have been reported but no major action has been recorded against these violations.
- ❖ Under the National Child Labour Project (NCLP) ,in the year 2007-2008 approximately 117,616,7711 crore rupees has been expended to protect the child of india.
- ❖ Though measures have been underway by to eliminate the poverty which is the major cause of child labour but actual rehabilitation can't take place unless or until the poverty and thereby the means of livelihood for the family are not thought about and taken care of.
- ❖ Indian Government has not ratified the Convention 138 which states that no child below the age of 18 (age of schooling) can be employed in any economic activity because at this age children's are not prepared mentally and physically. India has not ratified the convention because our Government believes that compulsory schooling up to the age of 14 is sufficient.
- ❖ Government of India also believes that poverty and skill development should be given more value than the issue of children at work. Our 1986 Act explicitly excludes children working with parents, even if the occupation is hazardous. Thus, there is no action taken if the age bar in our legislation is infringed.

- ❖ India has also not ratified Convention 182, which deals with the worst forms of Child Labour including slavery, bondage, trafficking, serfdom, prostitution, pornography, combat and mining. We have poor implementing legislation for these two important Conventions.
- ❖ Indian Government has launched various programmes like National Plan of Action to combat trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation of women and children, The Sarva Siksha Abhiyan and various Education Department to rehabilitate children through its residential bridge courses and mainstream them into formal schools, and National Child Labour Project to protect the children from labour but failed to achieve the desired results.
- ❖ The Ministry of Women and Child Development also provide job training to girls who plan to migrate for work overseas, and educates them on their rights as Indian emigrants.
- ❖ The Sarva Siksha Abhiyan and the education department have taken up the responsibility for rehabilitating children through its residential bridge courses and mainstream them into formal schools.

Remedial Measures to Eradicate Child Labour:

Child labour is a serious issue. It is the responsibility of government, non-government organizations, social welfare societies, media and other civil societies to take necessary recourse or legal actions to eradicate it. National and International tourism organizations, can also play an effective role in eliminating this problem. It is true that this serious problem can't be removed in short run but efforts can be made to reduce the intensity of child labour. Some preventive measures like providing free health care, free education, free meal, less working hours and provision of rehabilitation centers etc can be helpful in reducing the seriousness of this problem.

The government of India recently announced a ban on the employment of children as domestic servants and workers in roadside eateries, restaurants, hotels, and shops etc. to save them from physical violence, psychological trauma and sexual abuse. With the ban coming into force, child labour in tourism industry is now categorized as hazardous work under the child labour act.

In the name of effective implementation of the ban, children are picked up from the streets, roadside eateries and hotels and put in rehabilitation and juvenile homes not protected from sexual abuse and exploitation. Thus this ban does nothing to eliminate child labour. This ban is being seen as a tool by the government to curb the menace of child labour but does not address the issue behind the problem. Though measures have been underway by to eliminate the poverty which is the major cause of child labour but actual rehabilitation can't take place unless or until the poverty and thereby the means of livelihood for the family are not thought about and taken care of.

Projects implemented in various states of the country adopt an essentially holistic approach, combining strategies aimed not only to the withdrawal of children from work, but also to enhance communities' awareness, ownership and collective action for the protection and promotion of children rights. Existing strategies include: a) Promotion of education as both, key preventive measure and essential component for the rehabilitation of released children; b) Addressing poverty related factors through the promotion of self-help-groups; c) Advocacy and social mobilization for the elimination of child labour.

In Uttar Pradesh, for instance, this strategy led to an increase of more than 47 per cent in school enrolment and attendance among the villages targeted by the ongoing UNICEF child labour elimination intervention. Self-Help-Groups/NREGP has been playing a crucial role in reducing indebtedness among poor rural families. But still it requires much more to done to address the problem of child labour.

Initiatives to Combat Child Labour in Tourism Sector from United Nation

World Tourism Organization:

UNWTO established a Task Force in the year 1997 to Protect Children from Sexual Exploitation in Tourism. This is a global action platform of tourism-related key-players from the government and the tourism industry sectors, international organizations and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and media associations whose aim is to prevent, uncover, isolate and eradicate the

sexual exploitation of children in tourism. In the year, 2001 The Global Code of Ethics for Tourism (GCET)³ was adopted with a comprehensive set of principles which outlines to guide tourism development and to serve as a frame of reference for the different stakeholders in the tourism sector, with the objective of minimizing the negative impact of tourism. In the preamble of the global code of ethics, they have very clearly agreed and referred to the conventions and recommendations adopted by the International Labour Organization (ILO) in the area of prohibition of forced labour and child labour. The only mandate of the task force was to look into protection of children from sexual exploitation, but in the year 2007 they agreed to rewrite the objectives of this Task Force to make clear that the sexual abuse would remain the main focus, but with a broader view to include other aspects that could lead to sexual abuse such as child labour⁴. The reason to broaden the scope of the task force was because they acknowledge that the children working in tourist areas were often invisible and mostly behind the scenes is hazardous to the child and leading to sexual abuse.

To eradicate this menace a multi-dimensional approach consisting of awareness building and consciousness rising, community participation, alternative and viable social economic rehabilitation and enforcement of national and international legal instruments in relation to children and other similar plans are needed for linking the elimination of child labour. Tourism Industry also needs to contribute or take steps to eliminate child labour.

CONCLUSION:

Child labour is a serious social problem. It is clear that the problem of child labour and commercial sexual exploitation of children can't be solved easily unless collective efforts have been made by Government officials, NGO's, Civil Society workers and Tourism Industry employers to eradicate it. Policies and legislations should not only formulate but implemented in right spirit. Government and all other institutions must join their hands together to stop all forms of exploitation of children otherwise we will fail to secure the rights of our children who are the future of our India.

Recommendations:

- ❖ Different sectors and sections in tourism such as unorganized sector, business development sector and industry must formulate a code – “Child Labor free Tourism”
- ❖ Tourism Industry must follow the minimum age provisions in accordance to National labour laws and Regulations.
- ❖ They must develop their own codes of conduct and must make it explicit in their company’s formal policy that all forms of child labour will be avoided, and they will adopt a “No Child Labour Policy”.
- ❖ The employers and their organization can form their employer’s federations to influence the development of national policies on child labour.
- ❖ Must Create awareness among tourism personnel on the rights of the child and how to stop child labour.
- ❖ Must participate in efforts to combat child labour in industries through multi-stakeholder initiatives – collaborative efforts of industries, companies, trade unions, NGO’s, Government etc.
- ❖ Working with NGO’s by assisting the children to go back to school etc.

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