

CHAPTER III

CHILD LABOUR IN INDIA

In this chapter, the author will focus on discussing the problems that occur in child labor in India. The root of the problem referred to is the problem and in what areas child labor occurs in India. Which causes and this sector can provide information on how child labor was born in India.

The term “child labour” is often 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; and
 - interferes with their schooling by:
 - depriving them of the opportunity to attend school;
 - obliging them to leave school prematurely; or
 - requiring them to attempt to combine school attendance with excessively long and heavy work.
- (ILO, 2012)

In its most extreme forms, child labour involves children being enslaved, separated from their families, exposed to serious hazards and illnesses and/or left to fend for themselves on the streets of large cities – often at a very early age. Whether or not particular forms of “work” can be called “child labour” depends on the child’s age, the type and hours of work performed, the conditions under which it is performed and the objectives pursued by individual countries. The answer varies from country to country, as well as among sectors within countries. (ILO, 2012)

A. The Form of Child Labour in India

Claims the ILO report, exact number of child labourers in India's diamond and gem industry is unknown; they estimate that child labourers in 1997 were between 10,000 and 20,000 out of 1.5 million total workers (about 1 in 100). The ILO report claims the causes for child labour include parents who send their children to work because they see education as expensive, education quality offering no real value, while artisan work in diamond and gem industry to be more remunerative as the child grows up. (Korgaokar & Myrstad, 1997)

The largest percentage is in the field of industry because India is a developing country that has a reasonable population if there are industrial companies there, besides the natural resources that can be utilized by foreign companies, abundant and cheap labor can be obtained in India. Then the children who help the family's economy participate as well as child labor there with underage age and get a small wage and there is no guarantee of health, safety at work, and education. In the field of industry there are several industries that involve many children as workers, among others:

1. Fireworks manufacture

The town of Sivakasi in South India, known for its fireworks and matchsticks industries, has been reported to employ child labour in the production of fireworks. (NDTV, Child labour taints fireworks industry) In 2011, Sivakasi, Tamil Nadu was home to over 9,500 firecracker factories and produced almost 100 percent of total fireworks output in India. The fireworks industry employed about 150,000 people at an average of 15 employees per factory. Most of these were in unorganized sector, with a few registered and organized companies.

2. Diamond Industry

India is famous for its diamonds. Almost the biggest diamond supplier in the whole world is from India. So the

diamond industry is the most in India. Similar to child labor in agriculture in the field of industry, child labor is also permitted by their parents because they think it is better to work than school.

According to the 1999 ILO paper, India annually cuts and polishes 70 percent of the world's diamonds by weight, or 40 percent by value. Additionally, India contributes 95 percent of the emeralds, 85 percent of the rubies, and 65 percent of the sapphires worldwide. (BBC, 2009) India processes these diamonds and gems using traditional labour-intensive methods. About 1.5 million people are employed in the diamond industry, mostly in the unorganised sector. The industry is fragmented into small units, each employing a few workers. The industry has not scaled up, organised, and big operators absent.

3. Silk manufacture

A 2003 Human Rights Watch report, claims children as young as five years old are employed and work for up to 12 hours a day and six to seven days a week in silk industry. (rediff.com, 2003) These children, claims, are bonded labour; even though the government of India denies existence of bonded child labour, these silk industry child are easy to find in Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu, claims Children are forced to dip their hands in scalding water to palpate the cocoons and are often paid less than Rs 10 per day.

B. The Cause of Child Labour in India

1. Poverty in india

In India the problem that is at the center of the country's attention is poverty, even though it is one of the fastest growing economies in the world. According to this revised

methodology, the world has 872.3 million people below the new poverty line, Nigeria and Congo are expected to overtake India by the end of 2019. In 2014, 58% of the total population lived on less than \$ 3.10 per day. According to the concept of the Modified Mixed Reference Period (MMRP) proposed by the World Bank in 2015, India's poverty rate for the period of 2011-12 reached 12.4% of the total population, or around 172 million people; took the revised poverty line as \$ 1.90. (express, 2015) with the number of poverty as follows, if poverty is the main cause of child labor. The low level of welfare of the Indian community then causes child labor. As we know that the poverty level of a country will have a big influence on the welfare of its people. India which has a high poverty rate in the world causes its people to have no choice but to work by not paying attention to the age of the child.

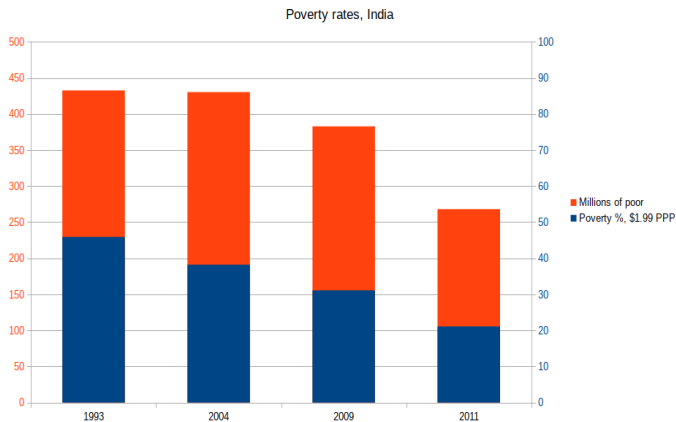


Figure 1.1 India Poverty Chart

(Bank, 2018)

From the above data we can see that the latest data in 2011 in India still contained poverty rates. Given the very dense population of India, with a large poverty rate, child labor in India is in the world spotlight.

And in the end the main determinant of child labor is a factor of poverty and people's mindset. the level of the economy of the Indian community is not evenly distributed as the basic reason for the widespread spread of child labor in various dangerous sectors in India. Then the narrow mindset of society that causes child growth in the doctrine by situations that surround children. Not only the poverty factor and the people's mindset, especially the parents, but the condition of education in India also needs to be improved. The number of illiterate children and dropout rates reflects the inability of the education system. High school dropout rates because children are forced to work to support their families. lack of participation of parents who feel that work develops skills that can be used to earn income while education does not help in this regard.

2. Corruption

Corruption is the one of main reason for abusing resources, wherever there is poverty; there is also corruption(Murphy,2005).According to United Nations Development Programme(UNDP) (2012)“Corruption exacerbates poverty and inequality, undermines human development and stability, encourages and sustains conflict, violates human rights, and erodes the democratic functioning of countries.” Corruption may have hugely negative impact on children’s right that deprives basic services such as education, health care and infrastructure. Corruption can reduce children’s ability to escape poverty. For example in

many countries employers corrupt labour inspectors to hire underage children such as India, where the incidence of large number of child labourers indicates towards corruption (Osment, 2014).

3. Traditional or cultural factor

Culture is another causes which is driving children into child labour. The existence cultures of many societies make children start work at very young age which are related to traditions and cultural factors. They assumed that children need to learn skills that can be good for their future. According to Tauson (2009) in rural Guatemala; parents prefer their children to work because they consider it beneficial for them as they learn work skills. Obinna E and Osita-Oleribe (2007) assume that many families in Africa want their children to help in contributing towards family income. (Osment, 2014)

C. The Effect of Child Labour in India

1. Health condition

Health is the right of every human being to live a normal life. Health can be in the form of physical health such as healthy food and avoid all kinds of diseases. Not with children victims of child labor in India who do not get proper health at work. Child labor is not permitted in an international environment, therefore every child who becomes a child labor is actually an illegal worker who is paid very little by the factory that employs it. With this small wage, it is clear that the factory or industry where they work does not guarantee their health or safety while working. Many banks in India

work in industries or in chemical plants or pollution can be a source of disease for them without adequate security tools.

Poverty influences children in many social ways, for instance that malnutrition can affect health and education which in turn may impact a child's long term development (Ortiz, 2012). According to UNICEF child poverty is based on child rights, these children lack adequate nutrition, lack decent water and sanitation facilities, health services, education and information (Osment, 2014).

2. Education condition

Education is the birth right of every child in this world. But child labor has stolen this right from these 44 million children. These children in India who are involved in child labor are not able to have time to go to school due to the intense and long working hours. (Osment, 2014) According to the International Labour Organization's report, "Child labour leads to reduced primary school enrolment and negatively affects literacy rates among youth" (ILO, 2018). The report also found strong evidence that in a situation where school and work was combined, school attendance falls as the number of hours at work increases (ILO, 2018). This fact to prove that child labour in India involved in labor struggle to attend school due to their harsh and exploitive working hours which causes them continuous fatigue. As India has the highest level of child labor in the world, it is due to this reason that India's rank in the Education Development Index (EDI) is a disappointing 102nd out of the 129 countries in the index (UNESCO, 2009). The EDI measures a country's performance on universal primary education. High level of child labor in a country is often related with its low and unsatisfactory performance on the index (Osment, 2014). The Indian government should start enforcing their law against child labor so that these children can go to school easily.

3. Psychological condition

Children are the future of the nation, they are vulnerable due to their age and physical power and they cannot make plan for their future and cannot understand the result of any work. So they should be protected from exploitation and should be given opportunities for their physical and mental development. (Pramod Kumar Agarwal, 2015) mental health must also be considered in child development because trauma or mental unhealthy will affect the child's future. In the case of child labor, it is clear that children do not get good psychological conditions which in this work the child must work with the same results as adults. Children fulfilling family needs are also a burden where school-age children should play exploration according to their age rather than working in factories or industries. Children are the assets of the nation where psychological conditions are disrupted or bad because of child labor in India.