

**ZION INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC SCHOOL**

**Puthur, Mappedu, Chennai - 600126**



**ENGLISH INVESTIGATORY PROJECT**  
**AISSCE 2023 – 2024**

**A VOICE TO THE VOICELESS  
(LOST SPRING)**

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# **ZION INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC SCHOOL**

**Puthur, Mappedu, Chennai - 600126**



## **BONAFIDE CERTIFICATE**

**This is to certify that the project titled \_\_\_\_\_  
is a Bonafide work  
done by \_\_\_\_\_ in partial  
fulfillment of the requirements in English Core (301)  
project as prescribed by CBSE for AISSCE 2023-2024.**

**REGISTER NO. \_\_\_\_\_**

**TEACHER-IN-CHARGE**

**PRINCIPAL**

**INTERNAL EXAMINER**

**EXTERNAL EXAMINER**

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

First and above all, I praise God, the Almighty for providing me this opportunity and granting me the capability to proceed successfully. This piece of work will never be accomplished without His blessings.

I would like to express my special thanks to my school's principal, Mrs. Jayanthi Sivakumar, and my English teacher, Mrs. Princy, for her tremendous support and assistance in the completion of my project. The completion of this project would not have been possible without her help and insight.

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# **INDEX**

<b>S.NO</b>	<b>TOPIC</b>	<b>PAGE NO.</b>
1.	What is Child Rights?	5
2.	Child Rights Day	7
3.	Objectives of Child Rights Day	8
4.	The Importance of Child Rights	10
5.	Child labour	11
6.	Exploitation	12
7.	Child Labour in India	14
8.	Reasons for Child Labour	16
9.	Impacts of Child Labour	18
10.	Survey Results	20
11.	Legal Aids	23
12.	Laws against Child Labour in India	24
13.	Measures to counter Child Labour	25
14.	Conclusion	27
15.	Bibliography	28

## WHAT IS CHILD RIGHTS?



A right is defined as an agreement or contract established between the individuals who possess it and the individuals or organizations that bear responsibility and obligations with regard to the exercise of that right. Child rights are specific human rights that pertain to all individuals under the age of eighteen.

The United Nations and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) define universal child rights. The UNCRC states that child rights are fundamental freedoms and rights that all individuals under the age of eighteen should have access to, regardless of their origins, money, race, color, gender, language, religion, or ability. As such, these rights should apply to everyone, everywhere.

These rights fall into four major categories. All civil, political, social, economic, and cultural rights of children are encompassed within these four categories :



- 1) **Right to Survival:** A child's prenatal care is essential to ensuring their survival. The Indian government states that a child's life officially begins twenty weeks after conception. Therefore, the right to survive includes the right of a child to be born, the right to a minimal standard of clothing, food, and shelter, and the right to a dignified existence.
- 2) **Right to Development:** Children have the right to all stages of growth, including mental, physical, and emotional. Proper care and the affection of a support system can fulfill emotional needs; education and learning can fulfill cerebral needs; and play, recreation, and a good diet can fulfill physical needs.
- 3) **Right to Protection:** A child is entitled to protection against abuse, exploitation, and neglect both at home and outside of it.
- 4) **Right to Participation:** A kid is entitled to take part in any decision-making process that directly or indirectly affects them. The level of participation varies depending on the child's age and maturity.

## CHILD RIGHTS DAY



November 20 is recognized as Universal Children's Day, or World Children's Day, which would be marked by global initiatives promoting children's wellbeing and centered around global fraternity and comprehension among children. The UN General Assembly adopted the Declaration of the Rights of the Child on this date in 1959. The Convention on the Rights of the Child was adopted by the UN General Assembly on the same day in 1989. The most widely accepted human rights treaty in history is the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).



## OBJECTIVES OF CHILD RIGHTS DAY

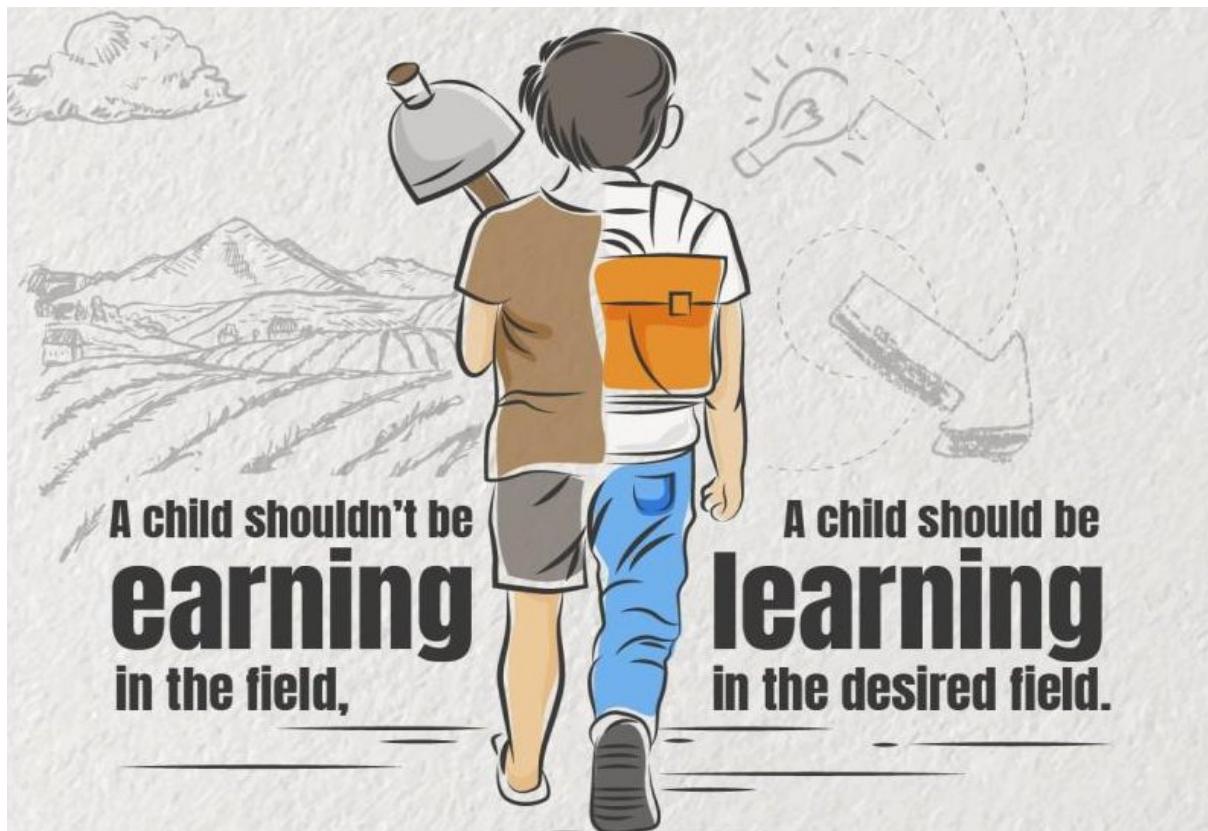
- Child rights day is celebrated every year in India to make sure that children are getting rights and respect.
- Give them the opportunity to grow and experience security to the fullest.
- To ensure that all laws, rules, and child rights objectives are being adhered to.
- To keep developing this plan in order to strengthen children's rights in society.
- To disseminate, advocate for, and convey the child rights strategy throughout the nation.
- To closely observe the living conditions of children throughout the nation's various regions.
- To provide parental guidance to all parents as they raise their growing children. to educate parents on their duties to their minor children.
- To create and carry out the new child rights policy for the kids from the underprivileged groups.
- To stop abuse and violence against children, to support their social and legal rights in society, and to ensure their bright future.
- To weigh every benefit and drawback of the nation's child rights policies.
- To investigate and combat child trafficking and sexual exploitation in the nation.

						
DEFINITION OF A CHILD	NO DISCRIMINATION	BEST INTERESTS OF THE CHILD	MAKING RIGHTS REAL	FAMILY GUIDANCE AS CHILDREN DEVELOP	LIFE, SURVIVAL AND DEVELOPMENT	NAME AND NATIONALITY
						
IDENTITY	KEEPING FAMILIES TOGETHER	CONTACT WITH PARENTS ACROSS COUNTRIES	PROTECTION FROM KIDNAPPING	RESPECT FOR CHILDREN'S VIEWS	SHARING THOUGHTS FREELY	FREEOM OF THOUGHT AND RELIGION
						
SETTING UP OR JOINING GROUPS	PROTECTION OF PRIVACY	ACCESS TO INFORMATION	RESPONSIBILITY OF PARENTS	PROTECTION FROM VIOLENCE	CHILDREN WITHOUT FAMILIES	CHILDREN WHO ARE ADOPTED
						
REFUGEE CHILDREN	CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES	HEALTH, WATER, FOOD, ENVIRONMENT	REVIEW OF A CHILD'S PLACEMENT	SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC HELP	FOOD, CLOTHING, A SAFE HOME	ACCESS TO EDUCATION
						
AIMS OF EDUCATION	MINORITY CULTURE, LANGUAGE AND RELIGION	REST, PLAY, CULTURE, ARTS	PROTECTION FROM HARMFUL WORK	PROTECTION FROM HARMFUL DRUGS	PROTECTION FROM SEXUAL ABUSE	PREVENTION OF SALE AND TRAFFICKING
						
PROTECTION FROM EXPLOITATION	CHILDREN IN DETENTION	PROTECTION IN WAR	RECOVERY AND REINTEGRATION	CHILDREN WHO BREAK THE LAW	BEST LAW FOR CHILDREN APPLIES	EVERYONE MUST KNOW CHILDREN'S RIGHTS
43-54 	<h1>CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD</h1>					
HOW THE CONVENTION WORKS						

# THE IMPORTANCE OF CHILD'S RIGHTS

- 1) Children are individuals: Children have the same status as other members of the human family; they are not the property of their parents, the state, or just people-to-be.
- 2) Children start life as totally dependent beings: From birth, children are completely dependent on people for care and direction as they develop into independent individuals. The State is the major duty bearer in determining an option that is in the best interests of the child when primary adult caregivers are unable to meet the needs of the child. Ideally, such nurture comes from adults in the child's family.
- 3) Children are more affected than any other group in society by the acts—or lack thereof—of the government: Children are impacted by almost every aspect of government policy, including public health and education. Policymaking that lacks long-term vision and disregards children has a detrimental effect on the prospects of every individual in society.
- 4) The political process should take children's opinions into consideration: Young people have previously not participated in politics or cast ballots. Without giving children's opinions, whether they are expressed at home, in schools, in local communities, or even in governments, their opinions on the many significant issues that currently or in the future affect them, go unheard.
- 5) Children are disproportionately affected by numerous societal changes, most of which are detrimental: Children are strongly impacted by changes in family structure, globalisation, climate change, digitization, mass migration, changing work patterns, and a declining social welfare net in many nations. These modifications may have especially disastrous effects during times of armed conflict and other emergencies.
- 6) The future well-being of any society depends on the healthy development of its children: Children are more vulnerable than adults to poor living conditions like poverty, inadequate health care, poor nutrition, unsafe water, substandard housing, and environmental pollution because they are still developing. Children's futures and, by extension, the futures of the societies in which they live are threatened by the effects of disease, malnutrition, and poverty.

## CHILD LABOUR



Economic hardship exacts a toll on millions of families worldwide - and in some places, it comes at the price of a child's safety.

Roughly 160 million children were subjected to child labour at the beginning of 2020, with 9 million additional children at risk due to the impact of COVID-19. This accounts for nearly 1 in 10 children worldwide. Almost half of them are in hazardous work that directly endangers their health and development.

Children may be driven into work for various reasons. Most often, child labour occurs when families face financial challenges or uncertainty - whether due to poverty, sudden illness of a caregiver, or job loss of a primary wage earner.

## EXPLOITATION



Despite rates of child labour declining over the last few years, children are still being used in some severe forms of child labour such as bonded labour, child soldiers, and trafficking. Across India, child labourers can be found in a variety of industries: brick kilns, carpet weaving, garment making, domestic service, food and refreshment services (such as tea stalls), agriculture, fisheries and mining. Children are also at risk of various other forms of exploitation, including sexual exploitation and the production of child pornography, including online.

Child labour and exploitation are the results of many factors, including poverty, social norms condoning them, lack of decent work opportunities for adults and adolescents, migration and emergencies. These factors are not only the cause but also a consequence of social inequities reinforced by discrimination.

Children belong in schools, not workplaces. Child labour deprives children of their right to go to school and reinforces intergenerational cycles of poverty. Child labour is a major barrier to education, affecting attendance and performance in school.

The continuing persistence of child labour and exploitation threatens national economies. It has severe negative short and long-term consequences for children, such as denial of education and undermining physical and mental health.

Child trafficking is also linked to child labour and always results in child abuse. Trafficked children face all forms of abuse-physical, mental, sexual and emotional. Trafficked children are subjected to prostitution, forced into marriage or illegally adopted; they provide cheap or unpaid labour, are forced to work as house servants or beggars and may be recruited into armed groups. Trafficking exposes children to violence, sexual abuse and HIV infection.

A key message in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child is that children have a right to voice their views on matters affecting them and to have these taken into account. Children have the power to play a significant role in preventing and responding to child labour. They are key actors in child protection and can give valuable insights into how they perceive their involvement and what they expect from the government and other stakeholders.



## CHILD LABOUR IN INDIA

A significant proportion of children in India are engaged in child labour. In 2011, the national census of India found that the total number of child labourers, aged [5-14], to be at 10.12 million, out of the total of 259.64 million children in that age group. The child labour problem is not unique to India; worldwide, about 217 million children work, many full-time.

As per the Child and Adolescent Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986, amended in 2016 ("CLPR Act"), a "Child" is defined as any person below the age of 14, and the CLPR Act prohibits employment of a Child in any employment including as a domestic help. It is a cognizable criminal offense to employ a Child for any work. Children between the ages of 14 and 18 are defined as "Adolescent" and the law allows Adolescent to be employed except in the listed hazardous occupation and processes which include mining, inflammable substance and explosives related work and any other hazardous process as per the Factories Act, 1948.

In 2001, an estimated 1% of all child workers, or about 1,20,000 children in India were in a hazardous job. Notably, the Constitution of India prohibits child labour in hazardous industries (but not in non-hazardous industries) as a Fundamental Right under Article 24.

UNICEF estimates that India with its larger population, has the highest number of labourers in the world under 14 years of age, while sub-Saharan African countries have the highest percentage of children who are deployed as child labourers. The International Labour Organization estimates that agriculture, at 60 percent, is the largest employer of child labour in the world, while the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization estimates 70% of child labour is deployed in agriculture and related activities. Outside of agriculture, child labour is observed in almost all informal sectors of the Indian economy.



# REASONS FOR CHILD LABOUR

The root causes that make children vulnerable to child labour include:

## 1) POVERTY

Poverty is certainly the biggest single force driving children into the workplace. When families cannot afford to meet their basic needs such as food, water, education or health care, they have no choice but to send their children to work to supplement the household income. Poverty and child labour form a vicious circle and we cannot eradicate it without intervention.

## 2) POOR ACCESS TO DECENT WORK

Children engaged in child labour often lack basic education that would enable them to acquire skills and improve their chances for a decent adult working life. When young people do not have access to safe and social security, fair pay, equality between men and women, and jobs that give employees the opportunity to express their opinions, they often have no choice but to do dangerous work. If minor children do dangerous work, it is also considered child labour.

## 3) LIMITED UNDERSTANDING OF CHILD LABOUR

The view that work is good for developing children's character and abilities. If families don't understand the dangers of child labour and its impact on a child's health, safety, well-being and future, they don't understand. are more likely to send their children to work. Some cultural beliefs and social norms can also be factors in child labour.

## 4) NATURAL DISASTERS AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Rural households dependent on reliable agricultural seasons are particularly vulnerable to changes in rainfall, soil erosion or extreme weather conditions. When crops are destroyed or farmland is damaged, families struggle to make ends meet and are more likely to send their children to work on neighbouring farms.

## 5) CONFLICTS AND MASS MIGRATION

There is a strong link between child labour and conflict and disaster. According to the ILO, children make up more than half of the total number of people displaced by war. These children are particularly vulnerable to forms of exploitation, including child labour, which have increased due to economic shocks, disruptions to social benefits, education and basic services, and disruptions to child protection services. The incidence of child labour in conflict-affected countries is almost twice the global average. Children are also vulnerable to armed conflict and it is considered one of the worst forms of child labour.

The infographic features a light beige background with a central title 'MAJOR CAUSES OF CHILD LABOUR' in bold black capital letters. To the left of the title is a graphic illustration. It includes a blue pencil standing upright and a brown hammer lying horizontally behind it. A large red circle with a diagonal slash (prohibiting symbol) is positioned above the hammer's head. A green circle with a white checkmark is positioned above the pencil's tip. Small blue 'X' marks are scattered around the base of the pencil and the hammer's handle. In the top left corner, there is a small logo with the word 'Wings' and some smaller text below it.

- **CHEAP LABOUR**
- **POVERTY**
- **LACK OF EDUCATION**
- **CHILD TRAFFICKING**
- **GENDER DISCRIMINATION**

# IMPACTS OF CHILD LABOUR



## IMPACTS OF CHILD LABOUR



- **POOR PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH**
- **FORCED MATURITY**
- **PHYSICAL ABUSE**
- **ADDICTION AND SEXUAL ABUSE**

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### 1. PHYSICAL ABUSE :

- Head trauma
- Long lasting effects of child's development
- Child traumatic stress
- Risk for depression and anxiety

### 2. MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES :

- Anxiety
- Embarrassment
- Humiliation
- Low confidence
- Mental illness
- Sleep deprivation

### 3. FORCED MATURITY :

- Compromising childhood due to too many responsibilities.
- The social and education development of a child is greatly affected by long hours and employment.
- Need for children to support their families financially.

### 4. ILLITERACY :

- One in every three child labourers in the age group 7-14 is illiterate, said a study based on census data.
- Close to 1.4 million child labourers in India in the age group of 7-14 years cannot write their names.

### 5. LOST CHILDHOOD:

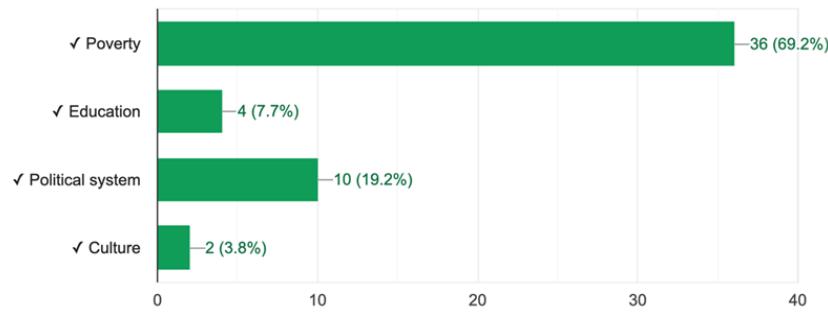
- Child labour can result in extreme bodily and mental harm and even death.
- It can lead to slavery and sexual or economic exploitation.
- It cuts children off from schooling and health care.
- It restricts their fundamental rights.



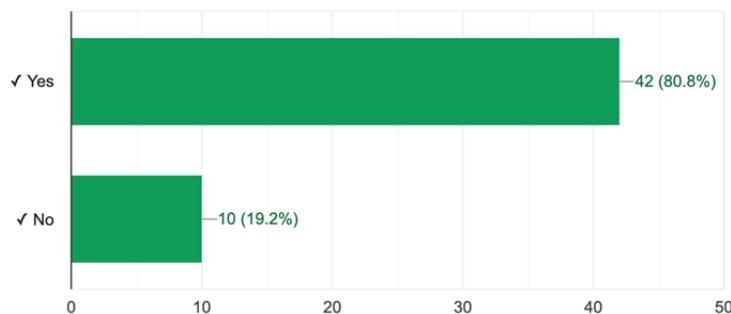
# SURVEY RESULTS

A survey was conducted and the responses of 52 people were recorded as given below :

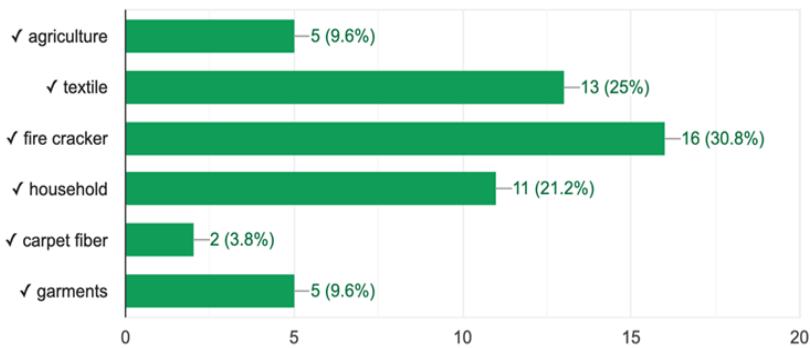
1. What do you think is the reason for child labour phenomenon?



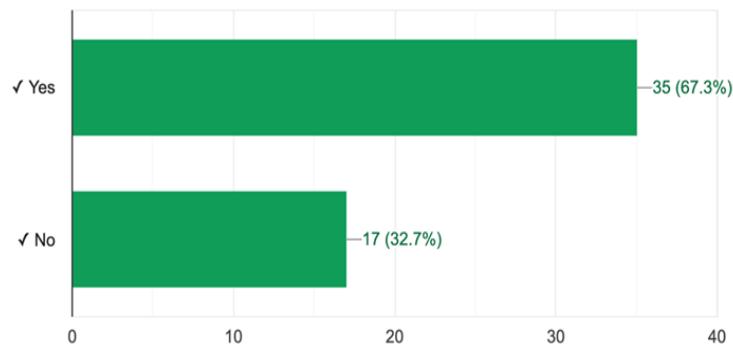
2. Will child labour decrease as poor countries develop?



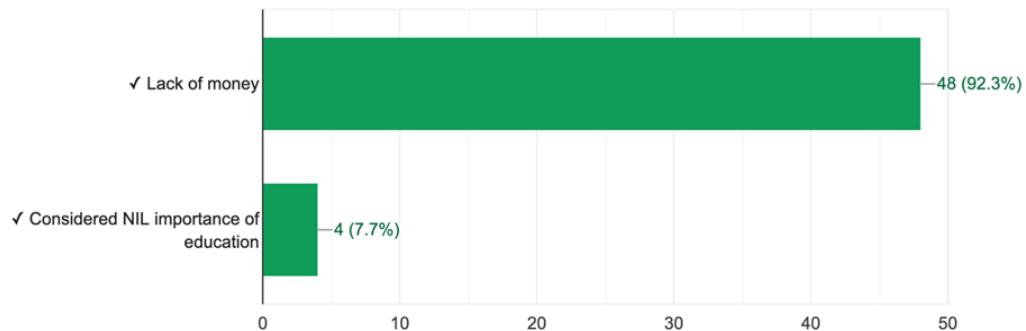
3. In which industry is child labour prevalent?



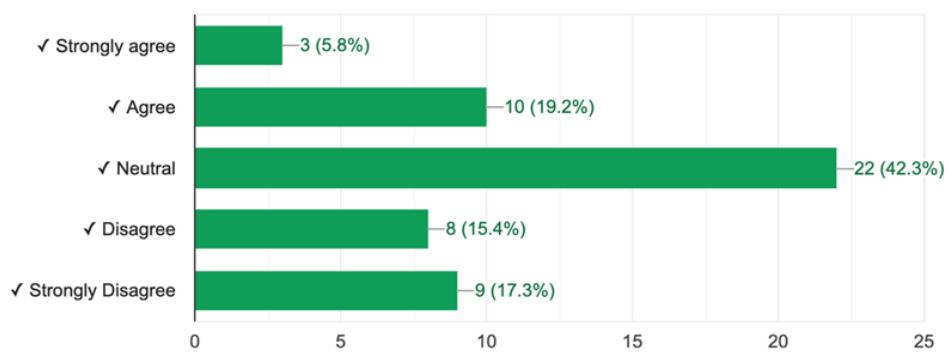
4. Will high economic growth through globalisation solve the problem?



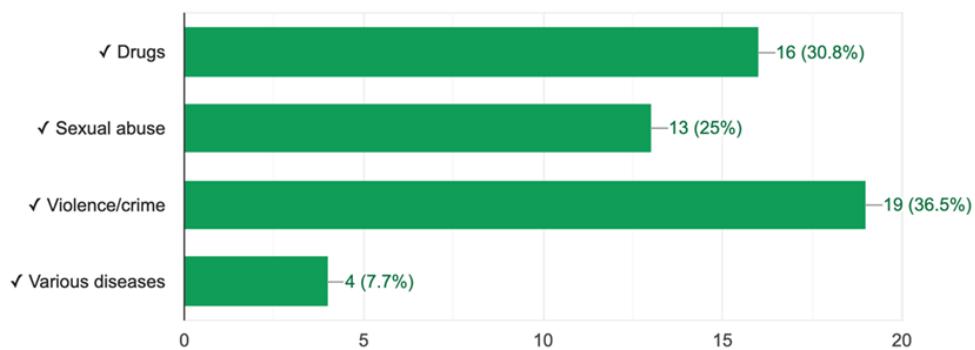
5. Why are children forced to do labour?



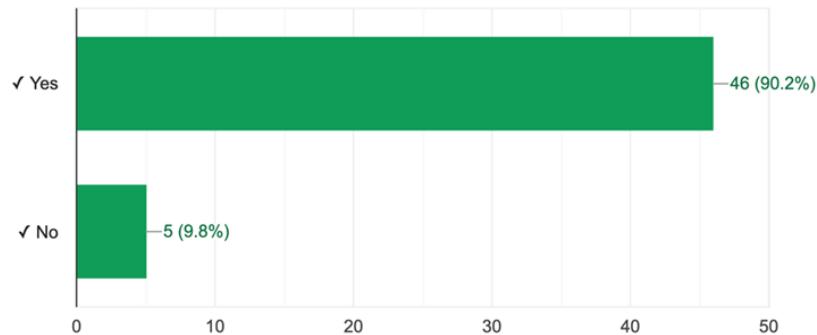
6. “If children don’t work, their families will starve.” What do you think?



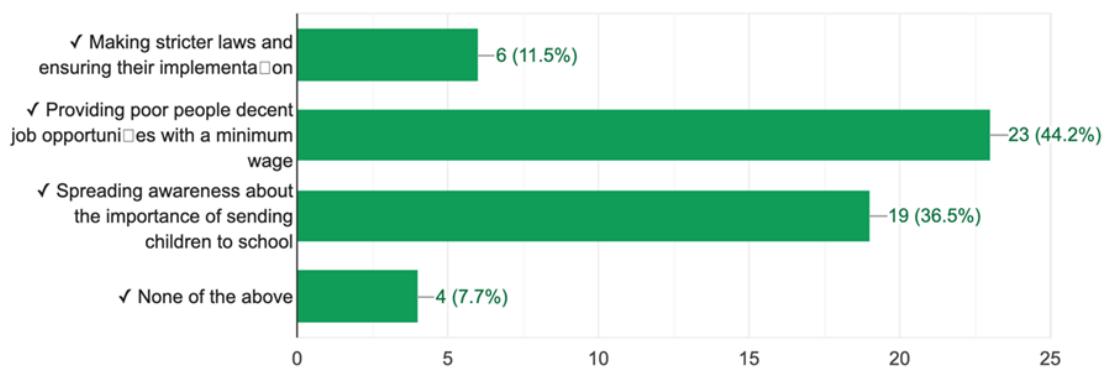
7. Which social evil are children most vulnerable to?



8. Are you aware that according to Child Labour Act 2016, children under the age of 14 are not permitted to work in any occupation?



9. What do you think will be the best method to eliminate this social evil?



## LEGAL AIDS

- Child labour remains a global concern, violating the rights of millions of children. To combat this issue, legal frameworks play a crucial role in providing protection and fostering change.
- Governments worldwide implement legislation to address child labour. These laws establish age limits for work, ensuring that children are not exploited in hazardous conditions. Additionally, they often mandate compulsory education, promoting a balance between learning and labour.
- International conventions, such as the International Labour Organization's Convention No. 182, provide a framework for countries to align their legal systems with global standards. Ratifying and adhering to these agreements demonstrates a commitment to eradicating child labour on an international scale.
- Enforcement mechanisms are integral to the effectiveness of legal aids. Governments must invest in robust inspection systems to monitor workplaces and enforce compliance with child labour laws. Strict penalties for violators act as deterrents, reinforcing the seriousness of eradicating this exploitation.
- Collaboration between governments, NGOs, and businesses is essential. Legal aids should encourage partnerships to address the root causes of child labour, focusing on poverty alleviation, education, and social support systems.
- Moreover, legal instruments should be adaptable to evolving challenges. As the nature of work changes with technological advancements, laws must be dynamic, ensuring they encompass emerging forms of child exploitation.

# LAWS AGAINST CHILD LABOUR IN INDIA

- **The Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986**  
This act prohibits the engagement of children in certain hazardous occupations and regulates the working conditions for children in non-hazardous occupations. It also outlines penalties for violations.
- **Right to Education Act (RTE), 2009**  
The RTE Act mandates free and compulsory education for all children between the ages of 6 and 14. By ensuring access to education, this act contributes significantly to preventing child labour.
- **Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015**  
This act focuses on the rehabilitation and social reintegration of children, including those rescued from child labour. It emphasises the importance of treating children in conflict with the law or in need of care and protection in a child friendly manner.
- **National Policy on Child Labour, 1987 (revised in 2016)**  
This policy provides a framework for tackling child labour by addressing the root causes, promoting education, and creating awareness. It emphasises a holistic and integrated approach involving multiple stakeholders.
- **Constitutional Provisions**  
The Constitution of India, under Article 21, ensures the right to life and personal liberty, which includes the right against exploitation. This constitutional safeguard reinforces the commitment to protect children from being subjected to any form of exploitation, including child labour.
- **International Conventions**  
India is a signatory to international conventions like the ILO Convention No. 182. This commitment reflects the country's dedication to aligning its laws with global standards to eradicate the worst forms of child labour.

# **MEASURES TO COUNTER CHILD LABOUR**

Child labour is an unforgivable crime that robs children of their childhood. Despite the government's efforts and stringent laws, this social evil continues to prevail in our society. Child labour hinders the growth and progress of a child and impedes an entire nation's the social and economic development. Therefore, we ought to come together and channelize our efforts in the right direction to stop child labour. Here are some of the ways to stop child labour.

## **1) Be vigilant**

While shopping at a local market or eating at a nearby restaurant, be vigilant. If you notice any child working as a child labourer, inform local authorities or call CHILDLINE 1098.

## **2) Know your laws**

Understanding the constitution and its role in child protection is an essential step towards preventing child labour. Once you are aware of the laws, you are well-equipped to tackle the menace and warn the individuals hiring child labourers.

## **3) Mindful consumer**

Before going shopping, research the brands that assure no children were employed while making the products. So, when you go shopping at a local store or a market you can buy products only from such brands.

## **4) Education and awareness**

Educating people, especially businessmen and employers, about the ill effects can help prevent child labour. Talk to them about the impact of child labour on children's mental and physical health and how it can affect their future. Also, inform them about the laws and their penalties

## **5) Conversation with the parents of child labourers**

If you know of any parent forcing his/her child into child labour in your vicinity, talk to him/her and inform about how child labour can jeopardize their child's future. Explain the consequences of child labour to them.

## 6) Partnering with a movement/organisation

To prevent child labour, you can associate with an NGO or an organisation working in this field. You can volunteer with them and be a part of their outreach and awareness activities. Supporting them generously by contributing to their cause is also a great idea.

## 7) Enroll more children in school

You can create an environment that fosters learning for street children in your neighbourhood. Raising funds to establish libraries and common learning centres in your locality can help vulnerable children to learn and educate themselves. You can also assist the parents in enrolling their children in school.

## 8) Conscientious voter

During legislative elections, support candidates whose agenda includes the prevention of child labour. If it does not feature in their agenda, then talk about it in the open forums and discussion platforms. You can spread awareness among other voters as well.

## 9) Connect with local leaders

Engage with local leaders and lawmakers and request them to undertake initiatives to prevent child labour. You can write to them to adopt humane and sustainable practices to ensure that rescued children are rehabilitated.



## CONCLUSION

Child labour is a major problem in today's world. The government has been addressing this issue head-on with a number of proactive initiatives. To make a dent in the issue, however, given the scope and magnitude of the issues at hand, society must work together to eradicate this social nuisance.

It's time to put child labour in the past and give every child the opportunity to realize their rights. Every child ought to be given the opportunity to mature and flourish in the happy surroundings of their families and schools. They shouldn't be restricted by their parents solely to keep the family's finances in balance or by companies to obtain labour at a reduced cost. Everyone has a responsibility to help end child labour, including governments, labour unions, corporations, international organizations, communities, employers, parents and youth.



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