**Speech on Child Labour**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today, I want to address a pressing issue that continues to plague our society: child labour. Despite significant progress, millions of children in India and around the world are still trapped in this vicious cycle.

**Facts and Examples**

[In India, over 10.1 million children are engaged in child labour, according to the Census 2011](https://www.nextias.com/blog/child-labour-in-india/)[1](https://www.nextias.com/blog/child-labour-in-india/). [These children work in various sectors, including agriculture, manufacturing, and domestic services](https://www.nextias.com/blog/child-labour-in-india/)[2](https://www.humanium.org/en/child-labor-in-india/). For instance, in the brick kilns of Uttar Pradesh, children as young as 10 are forced to work long hours under hazardous conditions[3](https://www.unicef.org/india/press-releases/child-labour-rises-160-million-first-increase-two-decades).

Globally, the situation is equally alarming. [The International Labour Organization (ILO) and UNICEF report that 160 million children are involved in child labour worldwide, with a significant increase due to the COVID-19 pandemic](https://www.nextias.com/blog/child-labour-in-india/)[3](https://www.unicef.org/india/press-releases/child-labour-rises-160-million-first-increase-two-decades).

**Conditions in India**

The conditions under which these children work are often deplorable. [They are exposed to dangerous environments, suffer from malnutrition, and are deprived of basic education](https://www.nextias.com/blog/child-labour-in-india/)[1](https://www.nextias.com/blog/child-labour-in-india/). This not only hampers their physical and mental development but also perpetuates the cycle of poverty.

**Comparison with Other Countries**

While child labour is a global issue, its prevalence varies. [In sub-Saharan Africa, extreme poverty and lack of social protection have led to a significant rise in child labour](https://www.nextias.com/blog/child-labour-in-india/)[3](https://www.unicef.org/india/press-releases/child-labour-rises-160-million-first-increase-two-decades). [In contrast, countries like Brazil and Indonesia have made notable progress in reducing child labour through stringent laws and social programs](https://www.nextias.com/blog/child-labour-in-india/)[3](https://www.unicef.org/india/press-releases/child-labour-rises-160-million-first-increase-two-decades).

**Reasons for Child Labour in India**

1. **Poverty**: The primary driver of child labour in India is poverty. [Families in dire financial situations often rely on their children’s income to survive](https://www.nextias.com/blog/child-labour-in-india/)[1](https://www.nextias.com/blog/child-labour-in-india/).
2. [**Lack of Access to Education**: Many children do not have access to quality education, forcing them into the workforce](https://www.nextias.com/blog/child-labour-in-india/)[1](https://www.nextias.com/blog/child-labour-in-india/).
3. [**Informal Economy**: The informal sector, which is difficult to regulate, employs a large number of child workers](https://www.nextias.com/blog/child-labour-in-india/)[1](https://www.nextias.com/blog/child-labour-in-india/).
4. [**Cultural Norms**: In some communities, child labour is culturally accepted and even expected](https://www.nextias.com/blog/child-labour-in-india/)[1](https://www.nextias.com/blog/child-labour-in-india/).

**Solutions**

1. **Education**: Ensuring access to free and quality education for all children is crucial. [This can be achieved through government initiatives and community support](https://www.nextias.com/blog/child-labour-in-india/)[1](https://www.nextias.com/blog/child-labour-in-india/).
2. [**Economic Support**: Providing financial assistance to families in need can reduce the economic pressure that forces children into labour](https://www.nextias.com/blog/child-labour-in-india/)[3](https://www.unicef.org/india/press-releases/child-labour-rises-160-million-first-increase-two-decades).
3. [**Strict Enforcement of Laws**: Strengthening and enforcing child labour laws can deter employers from hiring children](https://www.nextias.com/blog/child-labour-in-india/)[1](https://www.nextias.com/blog/child-labour-in-india/).
4. [**Awareness Campaigns**: Educating communities about the harmful effects of child labour can change cultural attitudes](https://www.nextias.com/blog/child-labour-in-india/)[1](https://www.nextias.com/blog/child-labour-in-india/).

**What We Can Do as Citizens**

1. **Support NGOs**: Contribute to organizations working to eradicate child labour.
2. **Raise Awareness**: Use social media and other platforms to spread awareness about the issue.
3. **Advocate for Change**: Urge local and national governments to implement and enforce stricter child labour laws.
4. **Promote Education**: Volunteer or donate to programs that provide education to underprivileged children.

In conclusion, child labour is a complex issue that requires a multifaceted approach. By working together, we can create a future where every child has the opportunity to learn, grow, and thrive.

Thank you.

**Speech on Malnutrition in India**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today, I want to address a critical issue that affects millions of lives in our country and around the world: malnutrition.

**Facts and Data on Malnutrition in India**

Malnutrition remains a significant challenge in India. [According to the National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5), 35.5% of children under five years are stunted, 19.3% are wasted, and 32.1% are underweight1](https://clearinghouse.unicef.org/download-ch-media/505dbd1c-e526-4072-a59f-d4b283d36a3f). [Additionally, over 100 crore people in India cannot afford healthy food, leading to poor diets and insufficient nutrition2](https://www.indiatoday.in/diu/story/malnutrition-in-india-global-organisations-reports-comparison-with-other-countries-2407735-2023-07-17).

**Causes of Malnutrition in India**

1. **Poverty**: A significant portion of the population lives below the poverty line, making it difficult to afford nutritious food.
2. **Lack of Education**: Limited awareness about nutritional needs and healthy eating habits contributes to malnutrition.
3. **Healthcare Access**: Inadequate healthcare facilities and services hinder proper nutrition and growth monitoring.
4. **Agricultural Practices**: Inefficient agricultural practices and food distribution systems lead to food insecurity.

**Comparison with Other Countries**

[While 42.1% of the global population cannot afford healthy food, this number is 74.1% for India2](https://www.indiatoday.in/diu/story/malnutrition-in-india-global-organisations-reports-comparison-with-other-countries-2407735-2023-07-17). [In contrast, only 10.9% of the population in China faces this issue](https://clearinghouse.unicef.org/download-ch-media/505dbd1c-e526-4072-a59f-d4b283d36a3f)[2](https://www.indiatoday.in/diu/story/malnutrition-in-india-global-organisations-reports-comparison-with-other-countries-2407735-2023-07-17). [India’s malnutrition rates are higher than many sub-Saharan African countries, despite impressive economic growth](https://clearinghouse.unicef.org/download-ch-media/505dbd1c-e526-4072-a59f-d4b283d36a3f)[3](https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s43545-023-00811-7).

**Solutions to Malnutrition**

1. **Government Initiatives**: Strengthening programs like the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), mid-day meals, and Poshan Abhiyaan.
2. **Education and Awareness**: Promoting nutritional education and awareness campaigns to encourage healthy eating habits.
3. **Healthcare Improvements**: Enhancing healthcare infrastructure to provide better maternal and child health services.
4. **Agricultural Reforms**: Implementing efficient agricultural practices and improving food distribution systems.

**What We Citizens Can Do**

1. **Support Local Farmers**: Buy locally grown produce to support farmers and ensure fresh, nutritious food.
2. **Volunteer**: Participate in community programs that focus on nutrition and health education.
3. **Spread Awareness**: Educate others about the importance of nutrition and healthy eating habits.
4. **Advocate for Change**: Support policies and initiatives that aim to reduce malnutrition and improve food security.

In conclusion, tackling malnutrition requires a collective effort from the government, communities, and individuals. By working together, we can ensure a healthier and more prosperous future for all.

Thank you.