**You feel sad and disgusted as you find so many children working in shops, hotels and factories. In spite of the government’s best efforts to give them education, the situation has become very dismal. Evaluate the pathetic situation of child labour with a few examples from daily**

**CHILD LABOUR**

**(SACHI DHUPED 9th JK2)**

Our country has many crisis affecting it at the present time. Among them is the very ruthless and near-dejecting problem of child labour. We can still see innocent children who lift bricks, and heavy loads instead of their school bags and books, just because of their poor financial situation. Child labour refers to “ The phenomenon of children working in conditions of servitude, in order to earn money or pay off debt.” This is an illegal act as it damages, spoils and destroys the future of the children.

No doubt our country India has progressed a lot, in these past few years, but it is still known for having a lot of wrong doings, one of which is child labour. Even today while walking on the streets one can see naïve children working their limbs out at hotels, shops or factories. Any foreigner or outsider who sees this will point a finger at the government. But it is high time we realise that it is the illiterate families of those children, who refuse to take the opportunities given by the government. The law in Indian soil says that any child below the age of 14 years cannot be employed either in a factory, office or a restaurant because otherwise they will not get enough time for primary and secondary education; and they are most likely to remain completely illiterate, unskilled and perhaps with a weak nutrition. It was just another day, me and my family were on our way to the opening ceremony of my uncle’s new factory in Panvel. It was an industrial area so we had to park our car in the parking lot, which was a few metres away from the factory. While we were walking in the scorching heat of Mumbai’s summer, we saw a young lad with torn clothes, rough hands, tired eyes and a body full of sweat, carrying bricks to a nesarby construction site.

The hands meant to write and play,  
Pick up bricks and clay,  
Why do they have to work all day  
Aren’t they supposed to be childish and gay

After having a conversation with him we came to know that his father was a drunkard and his mother sent him to work at different places in place of his father. Speaking about education, his family did not promote education, as they didn’t want him to do any other job, other than labour. The government school teacher tried to convince them but all her efforts went down the drain. I could see that the boy was unhappy and wanted to study and progress in life, but he couldn’t.

I left , but the thought kept running in my mind, why don’t children from such back grounds get their rights? Everyone must be blamed for this. The people who assign them to do work are the biggest culprits. Followed by them is the government, who takes no notice on serious action against child labour. Then we the silent watchers who are uninformed, supporting the ruthless act by not raising our voices. Secondly illiteracy is the mother of most of the problems of India. These poor families always turn a deaf ear to any kind of advice, we as their well-wishers give. Indian society really needs to change to secure the future of the new generation.