**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**

**(JUHI JHAVERI 9th JK2)**

Every child is innocent, pure hearted and full of life. Childhood is the most beautiful of a child’s life. It is the time for play, study and being oneself. A section of children get to enjoy their childhood, family environment, school life, studying, playing, making friends and pursuing their hearts desire. Be it the urban or rural sector, childhood is what makes a child into a true person. In the rural sector, children are seen to help their parents in their work and have their share of fun as well. But all children are not fortunate enough to have a happy and fulfilled childhood. It is something we should ask ourselves, and become aware of a harsh reality –child labour!

Child labour exists in several forms across the state and country. We see so many children who are deprived of their childhood and do not get the opportunity to enjoy life as children should do. They do not play, study or go to school. They are striving hard to earn their living by working in shops, hotels, factories, roadside stalls, railway dhabas and in several households as domestic helps. Children are seen doing odd jobs such as, polishing shoes, washing, dishes and utensils, cars, buses, auto rickshaws and taxis. They are not paid well and are seen as a cheap source of labour, that makes them vulnerable to exploitation. Th4ey are seen to work beyond the working hours and are seen slogging their lives pout for a meal or for a few pennies to support their families who are below the poverty line. In reality, these children should be in schools and doing all the things that normal children do.

According to the law child labour is a crime and whoever encourages it should be punished severely, so that innocent children aren’t deprived of their childhood. Every child has a right to education as per the law of the country, and I is time we begin implementing the same effectively, to get rid of this menace that is destroying the economy and future growth of the country. The country should ensure that child labour is banned and every child has a secure and happy childhood. In our own small way, we should also not encourage child labour in our homes and neighbourhood, and discourage those who think of employing children as domestic helps or making them do all kinds of odd jobs.

We should ensure every child’s childhood and we should work for a brighter future, and a progressive Indian society. Steps should be taken to educate and help these children, who are victims of child labour, and securing their future, instead of depriving them of their childhood. There are some schools, institutions and organizations who have taken up the task of educating street children and getting them t enjoy their childhood like any normal child. After all they are also citizens of India, whose constitution is for the people, of the people and by the people.