

Review Article On Child Labour-Causes, Effects And Types**Meha Khiria****Research Scholar****M.G.S.University****Bikaner****(Received:26November2019/Revised:10December2019/Accepted:16December2019/Published:26December2019)****Abstract**

It has been observed over decades that, poverty forces poor families to send their children to work, which results in a serious problem the world is facing nowadays. Child labour can leave many severe consequences on children and their families. When children work, it does not mean as a standard, they support their families economically, neither all of them get paid for their work since many of them work as bonded labour or as slaves. In addition to that, they face many problems which may cause permanent damage to their childhood. Children usually work to contribute and provide financial support to their families. Their health is often ignored by their parents or they may not be aware about their children's health. This paper illustrates how both India and Nigeria have adopted laws and regulations to eliminate child labour. However despite all the efforts, child labour and the factors that influences the incidence of child labour continues to be prevalent. The results from this study explain the reasons which forces children to work, poverty. This paper also draws conclusion that governments, societies, and communities should cooperate in a better way with each other to decrease child labour. Possible and innovate solutions and suggestions are arose at the end of this paper.

Keywords: Child labour, Poverty, Education, India, Governments, International labour organizations

Introduction

For many years, child labour has been one of the biggest obstacles to social development. It is a challenge and long-term goal in many countries to abolish all forms of child labour. Especially in developing countries, it is considered as a serious issue these days. Child labour refers to children who miss their childhood and are not able to have the basic amenities which a child should have. Recently the International Labour Organization (ILO, 2013) estimated there are around 215 million children between the ages five to fourteen who work worldwide. They are often mistreated and work for prolonged hours, in very bad conditions. This can

affect their health physically, mentally and emotionally. These children do not have the basic rights like access to school or health care. According to ILO (2013) the largest numbers of child labourers are working in hazardous work and the total number of child workers is increasing, even though it is forbidden by law. These children are vulnerable to diseases and they struggle with long-term physical and psychological pain. The main cause that induces children to work is poverty. These children work for their survival and their families. (Mapaure, 2009). Some studies like Dessy and Pallage (2003) argue not all the work that children do is harmful or brutal. Some work may provide successful learning opportunities, such as babysitting or newspaper delivery jobs, but not if the work exposes them to psychological stress, like human trafficking, prostitution and pornographic activities. The international organizations have made great efforts to eliminate child labour across the world. Many countries have adopted legislation to prohibit child labour; nonetheless child labour is widespread throughout the world. It is not easy task for low income countries to achieve banning child labour. Several studies and international organizations considered that education is the key strategy in addressing child labour, and it can help children to stay away from work. However not every family can afford to send their children to school or, even if they enrolled, afford to keep them attending the school.

Background

The incidence of child labour is most prevalent in sub-Saharan Africa followed by Asia and the Pacific. The prevalence of child labour is very high in sub-Saharan Africa especially in Nigeria. About 48 million child laborers across sub-Saharan Africa, including 15 million in Nigeria engaged in child labour (Ajakaye,2013) In Asia and the Pacific is the region with the largest number of child labour, India has the largest number of children in the world (ILO,2012)Child labour is an old phenomenon in both India and Nigeria According to Vaknin(2009), it is traditional in both countries to send a child to work children participated in agricultural and household work. Parents consider that the work help children learn new skills, however these children are exposed to hazards and to physical factors. Both countries were colonized by British. Nigeria became a British colony in 1800 but acquired its independence in 1960. Since independence the country experienced a very violent history. Nigeria is the most populous country in Africa with more than 170 million people. The country has the largest oil and gas reserves in sub-Saharan Africa. Despite its oil wealth, however, Nigeria remains highly underdeveloped. Poor governance and corruption have limited infrastructure development and social service delivery and slowing economic growth

keeping much of the population suffers from extreme poverty (Ploch,2013) In 1612 India became British colony and independent in 1947. India is world's second most populous country with 1.2 billion people. Indian economy is among the fastest in the world, however the level of poverty in India is still high with high rate illiteracy rates, disease, and malnutrition and largest awareness of poor people in the world(Krishna , 2012) In this chapter I look into the child labour situation in India and Nigeria and how government supporting to eliminate child labour.

Child Labour In India

The use of child labour is very prevalence in India and the cause is deep rooted with poverty. UNICEF India has estimated 28 million children aged five to fourteen involved in work (UNICEF,2011) Child labour is not a new phenomenon in India where children has always worked. During the industrial revolution child labour increased, due to the shift of labour movements to colonial countries. Children can be found in every sector of the informal economy (Molanka,2008).The incidence of working children in India are engaged in hazardous occupations such as factories manufacturing diamonds, fireworks, silk and carpets, glass and bricks(Waghamode& Kalyan,2013). There are several factors that force children to work such as inadequate economic growth, poverty, unemployment over population and lack of education and health care (Ahmad, 2012). On school attendance in India a large number of children between ten to fourteen years of age are not enrolled in school because of household economic condition. Attendance in school or dropout differs for male and female while boys are more likely to provide financial income for the family, girls are more involved in household chores (Kakoli & Sayeed, 2013).High illiteracy and dropout rates are high in India due to inadequacy of the educational system. Even through many poor families don't see education as a benefit to society, they consider that work develops skills that can be used to earn income (Ahmed, 2012)

The Legal Framework And Policies To Control Child Labour In India

The India government has established various proactive policies towards elimination of child labour. India has not yet ratified ILO Conventions 138 and 182 on banning child labour and eliminating the worst forms of exploitation. However the government of India implemented a child labour law in 1986(The Child Labour Prohibition and Regulation Act) the legislation sets a minimum age for employment of children at fourteen years and forbid child labour in dangerous sectors. The Government prohibits forced and bonded child labour but is not able to enforce this prohibition. The Child Labour Prohibition and Regulation Act does not forbid

child labour but consider about regulating it. But indeed the law does not eliminate all forms of child labour specially when the vast majority of children under the age of fourteen are working in family farms or doing households (Venkatarangaiya Foundation;2005). India has a number of child labour projects which have been implemented to help children from hazardous occupations and provide them an education. Including the National Child Labour Policy (NCLP) started in 1987. The aim of NCLP is to help children in hazardous activities and provide non-formal education, vocational training, supplementary nutrition etc. The ILO IPEC (International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour) is also another programme which eliminate child labour, the programme sponsors 175 projects in India(Padmanabhan,2010) Furthermore, several NGOs like Care India, Child Rights and You, Global March against Child Labour, etc. have taken up the task to get the children back to school and also volunteers along with villagers. The MV Foundation is non-governmental organisation (NGO) whose mission is to tackle child labour through promoting elementary education, even approaching parents to send their children to school. In spite of various laws regarding child labour and much efforts done by the non-governmental organizations, nonetheless children continue to work on a massive scale in most parts of the country. This is a problem because most child labour laws in India do not cover all types of work such as agriculture, wholesale trade, restaurants and domestic works. Usually these children are the most vulnerable child labourers (Venkatarangaiya Foundation;2005). Despite these efforts, child labour legislation to protect children has been unsuccessful, this is because of the majority of Indian population lives in rural areas with lack of infrastructure and is difficult to enforcement of laws and policies in rural areas. Many of the policies and legislative tools in India are rooted deeply in deflection, allowing for illegal behaviours to take advantage of flaws. Many people believe that the cause of these behaviours is something technical, it will be shown that there is a relative heavy percentage of human omitting factor involved, often arising from the mentioned attitudes towards children's work(Murphy, 2005).

Rural And Urban Child Labour

Child labour has been a complex rural problem, as well with children helping out in the farm with their families. The vast majority of child labour is involved in agriculture. On the other hand agricultural sector is the mainstay of developing countries economy, particularly in Africa. (Baker,2008).Generally, throughout the world rural children were more likely to be engaged in economic labour activities compared to urban children, because poverty is more prevalent in rural areas especially among those who depend on agriculture(Akarro& Mtweve,

2011). Poor rural families considers making their children work in farms, may increase household's income (Serwadda-Luwaga,2005). Rickey (2009) points out that many rural areas lack basic services such as electricity and access to drinking water. In such cases their children must fetch water especially girls, who are more involved in housework. Child labour also exists in cities. According to World Bank, child worker is typically a sign of urban poverty in many countries, and special in Sub-Saharan Africa. Urban children usually are involved in domestic work or sales. Their working conditions are very poor, unhealthy and crowded. They work for long hours with very low wage or no wage. Girls are usually the most vulnerable; they are typically trafficked for commercial sexual exploitation in urban centres such as Mumbai, Calcutta and New Delhi (Baker, 2008). They face many problems due to poverty. Poor urban children are at particular risk of many problems such as lack of education, healthcare and social protection (Baker, 2008). Urban children attend more to school than rural children. Urban areas provide better educational access, quality and infrastructure than rural areas. For poor rural children living far off from school, transportation cost often becomes a challenging affair for their families (Hueble, 2008). According to Edmonds (2007) rural children work more and for longer hours than urban regions. Regarding attendance, due to limited access to school rural children are more likely to be involved in child labour. Moreover, urban and rural areas differ in the terms of how schooling and child labour are related. Education levels are generally very low among children in rural areas.

Gender Differentials In Child Labour

There is gender discrimination among child labour. Boys and girls often do different jobs and its differs by country and industry, for instance boys are more economically active than girls in Latin American countries like Bolivia and Colombia, but in Africa such as Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana, girls are more involved in economic activities. Girls and boys can be found in different types of economic activities. For example boys are more concentrated in manufacturing, trade, restaurants, hotels, and transport, while girls are more concentrated in agriculture and domestic work(World Bank: 2005). Another study by Edmonds (2007) found that a large number of child labourers are engaged in domestic works who are employed by private households, for example Kenya, Tanzania and Zambia. Edmonds (2007) assumes that boys in Bangladesh tend to engage more in industrial activities than girls. Boys are more likely to be found in fishing, wood furniture manufacturing, construction site, retail trade of grocery ,while girls are likely to work in textile, handcrafting and in private household

services. Mamadou (2009) asserts that boys tend to be engaged more in economic activities, while girls are more involved in household chores or taking care of siblings. In general, girls are often made invisible in labour whereas they represent a very large proportion of working children. This is because, parents often have to decide to send only some of their children to school, and it is often the girl who loses out (Bhat: 2010). Ray (2001) carried out a research in Nepal and Pakistan. Where he assumed that gender bias was more prevalence in case of Pakistan than compared to Nepal. In Pakistan boys are more likely work longer hours than girls and rural children are poorer than urban, while it was the opposite in Nepal.

Child Labour And Poverty

Poverty create many problems such as child labour, prostitution, corruption, robbery, increased unemployment, poor living conditions, malnutrition etc. (Owolabi,2012;Ekpenyong& Sibirii, 2011). Child poverty refers to children who are born to poor parents. Child poverty differs from adult poverty because it has different reasons and effects, for example it robs a child of his/her childhood. It may affect or bear a long lasting or psychological make up in their mind and the impact of poverty during childhood leaves permanent effects on children. 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 et al.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 (Ortiz et al.2012). Practically, poor people face inadequate basic needs such as food, clothing, health facilities etc. People who live below poverty line, live in sever housing conditions and poor sanitary and hygienic conditions. Many of them live in slums or poor residential areas and some of them lack hosing, health care and nutrition sufficiency. Although illiteracy is far more prevalent among poor people, many of them lack education or they drop out of school because of high cost of schooling. In general, poor people earn little and in such cases parents are not able to take care of all the responsibilities of their children and they oblige their children to work to increase household income (Khan,2001). Hosen (2010) showed that in Bangladesh poor rural parents can barley afford food let alone pay for school fees for their children. Several empirical studies show the link between living standards and child labor. Krueger (1996) showed evident trend from cross-country sample, that low income households are more likely to send their children to labour market which is uncommon in richer households. Duryea, Lam, and Levison (2007) found in urban Brazil that the father's unemployment compels their children to work to in

order increase families income. Aqil (2012) assumes that when parents have worked in their childhood their children will work as well, passing it from generation to a generation. As a result, once they are grown, they become uneducated and low-skilled. Therefore parents' education plays a vital role in children education as it can increase the possibility for their children to have a good education (Aqil, 2012; Wahba, 2000). Fasih (2007) assumes that child labour creates unskilled and uneducated labour which in turn affects country's development and economy.

Types Of Child Labour

Child labourers are involved in many different forms of works, which include risks and hazards. These children are vulnerable to physical pain and injury particularly being exposed to health hazards (Levison& Murray, 2005). According to ILO (2012) the vast majority of child labour is involved in hazardous occupations such as agriculture, mining, manufacture, construction bonded child labour, domestic work and fishing. Environmental and occupational conditions can impact on the health and development of the children. Children working in different sectors such as agriculture, factories, domestic labour, sex workers and carrying out their illicit activities, migrant labourers, and on the streets as vendors etc. The effect of job and activities can vary from a country to a country. Also working conditions, ages and gender of children involved in the differences too (O. O'Donnell et al., 2002). According to Amon et al., (2012) mainly child labourers in Sub-Saharan Africa and Southeast Asia are involved in the worst forms of child labour , which persists such as child trafficking, bonded child labour, child domestic work, hazardous child labour, etc. More than 90 percent of working children in hazardous jobs which are exposed to chemicals, and dangerous tools.

The International Organizations

The International Labour Organization (ILO) and the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) are two of the predominant international agencies working against child labour. The ILO support governments on setting policies or convention as well as implementing numerous programs. These include direct projects such as offering vocational training to children and indirect projects to strengthen the skill of government officials employers and organizations workers'. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) improves the healthcare and the quality of education. The ILO set two international labour standard conventions, which are presented as the following. The aim of two conventions are to protect the children from exploited employment, unsafe and unhealthy

work and set a minimum age, children under the age of fourteen are not allowed to work. Many organizations like ILO and UNICEF and scholars recommend that child labour can be tackled through public and education policy. (Bhat,2010;Bhat et al,2009) Moreover, many countries around the world have established child labour laws; however some countries have failed or could not achieve that goal because of social economic problems; such as poverty which makes poor families to push many children into labour market to increase family income. Huebler(2008) suggested that policy on child labour is not effective for society if the family lacks basic human needs. They are forced to send children to earn money ignoring the policies on education. Most countries have child labour laws to protect children under a certain age from workplace, although child labour laws are very difficult to enforce. Betcherman el., (2004) claims this is because of most child labourers work in rural areas or work for their families, or remain invisible working in domestic homes and unregistered establishments (Betcherman el., 2004).

Conclusion

The problem of child labour appears in severe form and various factors are involved. The reasons for the incidence of child labour in both countries are complex and deeply rooted into the society. Poverty seems to be the main cause. In general poor children contribute to household income. Child labour can be found in urban and rural areas. However the vast majority of child labour occurs in rural areas since poverty is more rampant. Although, many poor rural families struggle for a better life in urban areas, this pushes families to force their children to work in order to increase the family income and ensure survival. Study found children under the age of fourteen years are still engaged in economic activity in India and Nigeria. These children tend to work more consequently they are not regularly in school. However, besides poverty there are other causes such lack of schools, lack of regulations and enforcement, corruption, lack of awareness and rapid population growth. Both India and Nigeria have been implementing policies and programmes to eradicate the child labour. Various policies and programmes are also created by organizations on the global challenge of the child labour. Nigeria has ratified all the important instruments concerning the issue, the ILO Conventions No. 138 and No. 182, CRC. Which for India has not been yet possible because it is not ratified, the ILO Conventions. The governments of Indian and Nigerinan have enacted strategic policies which includes the prohibition of all forms of child labour. India introduced national legislation through Child Labour Prohibition and Regulation act1986. Both countries have their child labour problem even though they have some kind of

solutions provided by the government or NGOs. Any attempt to solve this problem should take in mind the root cause behind the problem and how it can be solved. Corruption could lead to the collapse of the country. Poverty and poor quality education is one of the major causes behind the problem, no magic solution are there. However, a successive and continuous controlling of countries resources and possibilities leads to a continued development. Building and establishing new culture were people refrain corruption, and take their responsibilities in developing their country is the only way to survive in all challenges that the country could face. Details about the child labour are very similar in India and Nigeria. Children who work are both boys and girls and the majority of them start working are under the age of fourteen. The most common forms of work performed by children are: agriculture, and domestic service. The incidences of child labour in India are high in rural areas than urban areas, while child labour in Nigeria is more rampant in urban centers due to rapid urbanization. Furthermore female children in India are more invisible than male child labour. In Nigeria the gender difference is not as prominent as in India. Many children in India and Nigeria under the aged of eighteen are unprotected and children are denied the right to an education. Even though, both governments provide education for all children up to fourteen years. Since poverty is key factors that force children out of school into labour and enforcement alone cannot help solve it, government should improving the economic conditions of their families. Both India and Nigeria have weak legal protection of children in labour market. The legislations in both countries have been inadequate due to several causes which impede child labour including poverty, inadequate policing and corruption. As a result, the policy enforcement has failed in India and Nigeria. Not only because the laws themselves have drawbacks, but also because of the human factors, and usually an international organizations and NGOs cannot fix the problem on their own, what they need is to intensify the cooperation with the governments who has the right of making laws. In a word, the key of the reduction of child labour is to emancipate children.

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