

## **“A Critical Analysis Of Child Labour In India”**

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**Abstract :** *Child labour is a serious problem from many decades and a challenge for many developing countries. It has existed over the centuries not only in the impoverished areas of developing countries but also in developed countries until the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Many countries have enacted various laws and have taken serious initiative to eradicate child labour, yet still the problem is very widespread throughout the world. The problem of child labour appears in severe form and various factors are involved with it. The causes for the incidence of child labour in India are complex and deeply rooted into the society. Poverty seems to be the main cause. Child labour can be found in both 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. This paper analysis the various responsible factors for child labour and attempts to find out those areas where there is discrimination in child labour. In addition the objective of this paper is to make a critical analysis of child labour in India. The findings reveal that child labour was a serious evil for the developing country -India. But now as per census report 2011, The total number of working children in the country has declined from 1.26 crore as per the census 2001 to 43.53 lakh as per census 2011 which shows 65 percent reduction.*

**Keywords:** *child labour, forms, factors, discrimination, critical analysis*

### **I. 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 Dessay and palling (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 developing countries like India to achieve banning child labour.

**Meaning Of Child Labour :** Child labour refers to the employment of children in any work that deprives children of their childhood, interferes with their ability to attend regular school, and that is mentally, physically, socially or morally dangerous and harmful

Defining child labour is not as simple and straight forward as it may appear because it encompasses three difficult-to-define concepts “child”, “work” and “labour”.

In the context of child labour, a working definition of a “child” may be a person below the general limit of fifteen years or in special circumstances fourteen years, set by the Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No.138).

According to ILO(1983), “child labour includes children prematurely leading adulteries, working long hours for low wages under conditions damaging to their health and to their physical and mental development, sometimes separated from their families, frequently deprived of meaningful education and training opportunities that would open for them a better future.”

## **II. Contemporary Definitions Of Child Labour**

Child Labour is both a cause and a consequence of poverty – the international Center on Child Labour and education- (<http://www.knowchildlabor.org>).

The term child labour has many definitions by different scholars. According to Suda(2011), the term child labour refers to when children is working in any type of work that is dangerous and harmful to children’s health or the work hinders their education. For Moyi(2011) child labour refers to low wages, long hours, physical and sexual abuse. According to Edmonds and Pavcnik(2005) child labour is viewed as a form of child labour abuse, when children work in bad conditions and hazardous occupations. The term child labour is generally interpreted as “all cases in which children are exposed to harm at work whether or not children are less than 14 years old or less” (UNICEF, 2005, p.10), the meanings and implications of child labour have been highly dependent on its social, cultural, and economic contexts as well as missions, strategies, and objectives of each working organization (Post & Sakurai, 2001; post, 2001a).

Trade unions, consumer groups and the International Labour Organization (ILO) often used “child labor” and “child laborer” instead of “working children,” implying that children should be kept away from the labor force at least until they reach a minimum working age on the basis of the fact that these organizations historically tended to protect and secure adult labor markets (ILO, 1997; Post, 2001a; Myers, 1999). In other words, the ILO’s primary concern was to protect adult employment and wages, the idea that “children’s economic freedom should be abridged to protect the economic welfare of adults” has been reiterated implicitly in various forms of child labor legislation. Conversely, UNICEF and UNICEF- affiliated NGOs referred to “child labor” according to article 32 of the Conventions on the Rights of the child, in which child labor includes any economic activities impending or hindering the child’s full development or education. This UNICEF tradition continues, as these organizations often describe child labour as “working children” ([www.unicef.org](http://www.unicef.org)).

The term 'child labour', suggests ILO, is best defined as work that deprives children of their childhood, their potential and their dignity, and that is harmful to physical and mental development. It refers to work that is mentally, physically, socially or morally dangerous and harmful to children, or work whose schedule interferes with their ability to attend regular school, or work that affects in any manner their ability to focus during war and clubs and bouts, school or experience a healthy childhood.

## **III. Types Of Child Labour**

Child labour is a term that needs to be unpacked: it cannot be used in a sweeping manner but covers a range and variety of circumstances in which children work. Child labourers are involved in the following forms of works:-

- **Child labour:** - Those children who are doing paid or unpaid work in factories, workshops, establishment, mines and in the service sector such as domestic labour. The ministry of Labour, Government of India has employed the term ‘child labour’ only in the context of children doing ‘hazardous’ work. By implication, children who are not doing ‘hazardous’ work are not considered to be child labourers and are said to be doing child work.
- **Street children:** - Children living on and off the streets, such as shoeshine boys, ragpickers, newspaper-vendors, beggars etc. are called street children. Most children have some sort of home to go back to in the evening or nights, while street children are completely alone and are at the mercy of their employers. They live on the pavements, in the bus stations and railway stations.
- **Bonded children:** - Children who have either been pledged by their parents for paltry sums of money or those working to pay off the inherited debts of their fathers. Bonded children are in many ways the most difficult to assist because they are inaccessible. If the carpet owner has bought them, they cannot escape. If the middle-class housewife has paid for them, they cannot run away. If the landlord in the village owns them, they will spend their life in servitude till they get married and can, in turn, sell their children.

- **Working children:** - Children who are working as part of family labour in agriculture and in home-based work. If children are working 12-14 hours a day along with their parents at the cost of their education, their situation is similar to that of children working for other employers. In fact children, particularly girls, are expected to take on work burdens by parents in complete disproportion to their strengths and abilities. This is the largest category of children who are out-of-school and are working full time. And it is here that we find the largest percentage of girls working at the cost of education.
- **Children used for sexual exploitation:** - Many thousands of young girls and boys serve the sexual appetites of men from all social and economic backgrounds. Direct links between the commercial sexual exploitation of children and other forms of exploitative child labor are numerous. Factories, workshops, street corners, railway stations, bus stops and homes where children work are common sites of sexual exploitation. Children are especially powerless to resist abuse by employers, either as perpetrators or intermediaries. The physical and psychosocial damage inflicted by commercial sexual exploitation makes it one of the most hazardous forms of child labor.
- **Migrant children:** – India faces a huge challenge with “distress seasonal migration “. Millions of families are being forced to leave their homes and villages for several months every year in search of livelihoods. These migrations mean that families are forced to drop out of schools, something that closes up the only available opportunity to break the vicious cycle generation after generation. At worksites migrant children are inevitably put to work. Many industrial and agro- industrial sectors like brick-making, salt manufacture, sugar cane harvesting, stone quarrying, construction, fisheries, plantations, rice mills and so on run largely on migrant labour.
- **Children engaged in household activities:** – Apart from children who are employed for wages (either bonded or otherwise) as domestic help, there are a large number of children (especially girls) who are working in their own houses, engaged in what is not normally seen as “economic activity”. These children are engaged in taking care of younger siblings, cooking, cleaning and other such household activities. As seen in the literature on women’s work, such activities need to be recognized as ‘work’. Further, if such children are not sent to school, they will eventually join the labour force as one of the above categories of child labour.

#### IV. Review Of Literature

Krveger (1996) has 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 household. Basu et.al. (1999) has found that during the beginning up the Industrial Revolution children were forced to work around family farms in factories , tending crops or preparing food . They worked in Industries and their working conditions were very dangerous and often deadly. At that time the industry preferred children to work because children provided cheap labour and more malleable workers. Bass (2004) has analyzed the frequency of child labour in developed as well as developing countries. Indeed child labour was almost completely reduced from the developed world. However currently child labour still continues because of rapid population growth, high rates of unemployment, inflation, poverty, malnutrition, bad leadership, corruption and low wages.

Serwadda Luwaga (2005) has described that child labour is taking place all over the world particularly in low income countries and these children are working in all sectors of economy, such as, agriculture, manufacturing, fishing, construction, domestic service, street vending etc. children are normally unregistered as employers and working in a very poor and dangerous condition without social protection. Lavison and Murray (2005) have reported that child labour 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 hazard. Omokhodion and Odusote (2006) have attempted to report that any work that children does outside home is classified as child labour. According to them, working outside home is usually exposed to environmental hazards which may affect their health and safety. Fasih (2007) has started that child labour creates unskilled and uneducated labour which affects country’s development and economy.

Bhat (2010) has described the definition of child labour. He has said that it is not simple because It includes three difficult concepts to define which are ‘child’ ‘labour’ and ‘work’. He has also claimed that the term of childhood could be defined by age but in some societies, people ceased to be a child at different ages. Bilal Ahmad Bhat (2010) tried to analyse the importance of education in the context of child labour .He tried to find out the impact of child labour on children’s school attendance. He suggested some solutions to overcome child labour with the help of education. Bhat (2011) has reported the first legislation came to ban child labour in 1833 and 1844 .It complied that children should not work , and the idea was to remove all children should not work,

and the idea was to remove all children from labour which interfered with school. However many children as child labour which was prohibited by law continued to be involved. Aqil (2012) has analyzed that when parents have worked in their childhood, their children will work as well, passing it from generation to generation. Then once they are grown, they become uneducated and low skilled. That's why Parents Education plays a vital role in children education as it can increase the possibility for their children to have a good education.

Das (2012) has reported that the incidence of child labourers throughout the world is difficult to verify because of the lack of reliable statistics of child labour and many child labourers are invisible.

## V. Objectives

The objectives of this paper are:

- 1) To analyze the various responsible factors for child labor.
- 2) To find out those areas where there is gender discrimination in child labor.
- 3) To make a critical analysis of child labor in India.

## VI. Research Methodology

The research design of this paper is based on descriptive studies. The study is based on primary data and secondary data. Observation method is used to meet the second objective of the study. To fulfill the third objectives, the researchers have used analytical term. The analytical study is based on the data of last five decades from 1971 to 2011.

## VII. Socio-Economic Factors Related To Child Labour

There are some socio-economic factors that causes child labour –

- 1) **Poverty as root cause** : Different circumstances affect the child labour. Studies have demonstrated that the most notable reason is poverty (Bhat & Rather, 2009). Decisions about child labour and schooling are generally made by parents. If the family's income below the poverty line, parents think that children should also contribute in their family income. Basu (1998) used a theoretical model of child labour, where he showed the only reason parents send children to labour is because of their low income. Consequently poor parents cannot afford schooling for their children. Thus, mainly poor households are to send forced their children to labour instead of sending to school.
- 2) **Family size** : In fact, the involvement of children in large poor households usually more rather than smaller households which demonstrates family size have an effect on child labour. Parents oblige their children to work because they are not able to manage the demands of a large size family. There are also gender differences among household size. Not everyone and of all age in the family are working as child labour, which depends on the child's age and gender, for example boys are more likely to attended to school than girls.
- 3) **Family condition** : There are many growing children who have either lost one or both the parents and those impacted by HIV/AIDS in the family, are forced to work in order to support themselves and their siblings. The numbers of orphaned children are increasing particularly in sub Saharan Africa, many whom become street children, and live in very difficult circumstances. (Vandenberg, 2007).
- 4) **Traditional or cultural factors** : Culture is another factor which forces children into labour market. Different cultures of many societies make children start work at very young age which are related to traditions and cultural factors. They assumed that children need to learn skills that can be good for their future. According to Tauson (2009) in rural Guatemala; parents prefer their children to work because they considered it beneficial for them as they learn work skills.
- 5) **Corruption** : Corruption is the one of major cause for abusing resources, wherever there is poverty; there is also corruption (Murphy, 2005). According to United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) (2012) "Corruption exacerbates poverty and inequality, undermines human development and stability and sustains conflict, violates human rights, and erodes the democratic functioning of countries". Corruption can have hugely negative effect on children's right that deprives basic services such as health care, education and infrastructure. Corruption can diminish children's ability to escape poverty.

- 6) **Civil war** : The civil war is another factor contributing to child labour. The war destroys the economy of the country, people become much poor and all resources go to the war. Wars burn all good things that any country could have. It brings diseases, poverty, damages, and many other horrible things. Again, no help will be of use as long as the war is continues.
- 7) **Urban migration** : Many rural families migrate to urban areas because of rural push and urban pull factors. As a consequence of that, they are often forced to live and work in the street as they lack access to basic requirements such as food; shelter etc. and these children become street workers as vendors. Mostly street workers are vulnerable to violence and become more susceptible to illegal works, such as stealing, trafficking, drugs and prostitution (Yadav & Sengupta, 2009). These children live in urban poverty; many child labourers live in unhealthy poor conditions slum areas and work in poor environment such as domestic work, or work in hotels and restaurants etc. (Serwadda- Luwaga, 2005)
- This means that the population is increasing in cities due to immigration and natural growth. Urban poverty is a multidimensional phenomenon. Urban poverty in developing countries faces many challenges in their daily lives. Many poor people are living under great hardship, due to unemployment, housing shortages, violence and unhealthy environments. Increased urbanization has resulted in poverty in the cities. Urban poverty raises slums. These areas are characterized by high unemployment, poor sanitation, inadequate access to clean drinking water and inadequate housing.
- 8) **Globalization** : Globalization is another cause of child labour. Globalization has positive and negative impacts, nevertheless; globalization might give developing countries the opportunity to increase their gross domestic production (GDP) per capita via new trade possibilities and ascend their foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows. Globalization also has brought adverse impacts on child labour in developing countries. In recent years, many international companies moved their production abroad. These companies often indulge in hiring children as cheap labours as they are endurable, and Carry out commands given by their employers even if they're abused and exploited (Mapaure, 2009). Mishra (2012) claims that in India, globalization has obliged more children to work in hazardous occupations like brick kiln, motor garage, hotels, shops, transportation, manual loading work etc.
- 9) **Relationship between child labour, Family income and Education** : Lack of education or poor quality education is another factor that contribute to high incidence of child labour. Education is considered one of the main alternatives to abolish child labour. Practically family income affects children's education and poor parents cannot afford to pay for children however, children are compel to work and are less enrolled.
- 10) **The opportunity costs of education** : The cost of education is another problem amongst poor households. This has contributed to the exploitation of children. Schools need to be affordable and accessible. Kondylis and Marco (2006) assume, that schools available in developing countries may help to increase school enrollment but may not reduce the incidence of child labour. Bhat (2010) argues that the quality education can help to keep children away from work, consequently it is important for a school to have educated teachers ratio in the classrooms. However for many poor parents it can be costly to send their children to school, as they families live on children's income and cannot afford school fees, uniforms or other additional costs. (Bhat-2010). This is a problem in developing countries to provide quality free education because it will cost money for governments (Budhwani et al. 2004).

**Areas Of Gender Discrimination In Child Labour-** : Discrimination is also present amongst child labor themselves. Older children may discriminate against younger children, foreign or minority children or children from a different caste. The sex division of labour of adults is also reflected in children's occupation.

**Meaning of gender difference:** While studying issue of gender difference, it is important to keep in mind that the term of "gender" is different from term "sex". "Sex" means the biological differences between male and female that do not change. The way of treatment of boys and girls and their expected behavior are based on gender differences. The activities that boys and girls are expected to do are referred to as their gender roles. For example- A person is not born being able to do beautiful needle work and art of cooking but he/she can learn how to do it but in most cultures, it is found that girls are taught these activities rather than boys. "Gender"

refers to the learned, social differences and relations between girls and boys. Process of socialization through which children learn how to behave is not gender- neutral but shapes the various roles and responsibilities of boys and girls are assigned which is based on their sex. As children grow up, they follow the behavior of people around them such as parents, relatives, neighbors and teachers and reproduce the existing social differences between men and women. For example- A boy often acts in a manner that is consistent with the way he has seen other boys and men around him behaving.

**Factors affecting gender difference:** Gender affected by factors like age, class/caste, race, ethnicity, location (rural or urban), culture, religion, socio-economic factors to determine what opportunities present themselves to young people and the working conditions.

**Reasons of gender differences in child labour :** Existence of gender difference can be seen in child labour. Hence, it is necessary to check out the different factors related to this. Gender differences usually depend on different cultural determinants, family background and tradition of the work culture assigned to boys and girls. There is a discrimination of work between boys and girls. Boys may often be engaged towards sectors like automobile, fishing & mining and construction etc. because such nature of job is considered as heavy work and girls are motivated to do domestic work and lighter work like in Textile Industry usually women are employed. This discrimination is based on biological factors which is baseless.

**The involvement of boys and girls in different areas (as per general observation)-**

| Areas                                   | Involvement of boys and girls as child labourer |
|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Domestic work                        | Girls are more involved rather than boys        |
| 2. Dhabas / restaurants / hotels /      | Boys are more involved rather than girls        |
| 3. Agarbati, dhoop and detergent making | Approximate equal involvement of boys and girls |
| 4. Paan, bidi and cigarettes            | Boys are more involved rather than girls        |
| 5. Spinning / weaving                   | Girls are more involved rather than boys        |
| 6. Construction                         | Boys are more involved rather than girls        |
| 7. Brick – Kline, tiles                 | Boys are more involved rather than girls        |
| 8. Jewellery                            | Boys are more involved rather than girls        |
| 9. Carpet making                        | Boys are more involved rather than girls        |
| 10. Automobile, vehicle, repairs        | Boys are more involved rather than girls        |

**Work Participation Of Children As Per Nss**

**Work Participation of children**

|         |                | Distribution of (per 1000) of persons by principal usual activity category |        |       |        |       |        |
|---------|----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|-------|--------|-------|--------|
| NSS     | Age (in years) | Rural                                                                      |        | Urban |        | Total |        |
|         |                | Male                                                                       | Female | Male  | Female | Male  | Female |
| 2004-05 | 5-9            | 2                                                                          | 1      | 2     | 1      | 2     | 1      |
|         | 10-14          | 54                                                                         | 49     | 44    | 24     | 52    | 43     |
| 2009-10 | 5-9            | 2                                                                          | 1      | 0     | 0      | 1     | 1      |
|         | 10-14          | 27                                                                         | 21     | 24    | 8      | 26    | 18     |

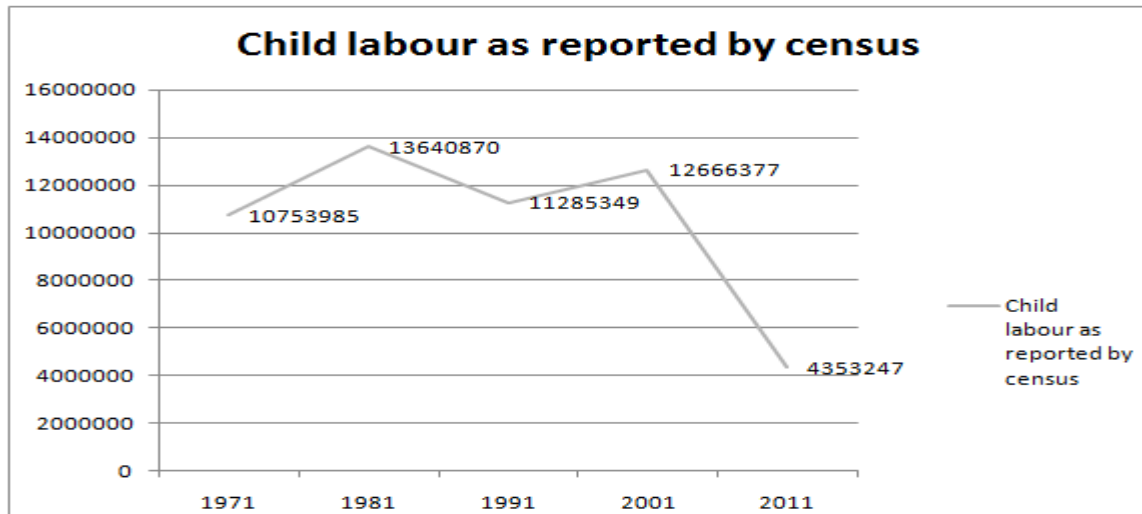
If we compare the above data of 2004-2005 and 2009-2010, it is observed that the child labor has declined both in the age group of 5-9 and 10-14. Similarly the work participation of children has decreased, both in rural and urban areas. But the involvement of male persons is more than the involvement of female person both in rural and urban areas. As per the statistics, child labor appears to be more in villages than in urban areas. Nine out of ten village children are employed in agriculture or household industries and craftwork. Due to urbanization,

more children are getting in to the service and trading sectors rather than marketing. To differentiate on the basis of gender, it is considered that more boys are employed in laborious activities than girls. This consideration is made based on the fact that it is difficult to take a count of girls working in households.

| Activities                                                                             | Children of Age Group (5-14 years) |       |       |                               |        |         |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------|-------|-------------------------------|--------|---------|
|                                                                                        | Number of Children (%)             |       |       | Number of Children (in 100's) |        |         |
|                                                                                        | Boys                               | Girls | Total | Boys                          | Girls  | Total   |
| Children engaged in "economic activities"                                              | 4.18                               | 3.86  | 4.02  | 52967                         | 45618  | 98392   |
| Attended domestic duties only                                                          | 0.30                               | 3.15  | 1.67  | 3770                          | 37208  | 40788   |
| Attended domestic duties plus free collection of goods, tailoring, weaving for HH only | 0.25                               | 1.92  | 1.06  | 3178                          | 22693  | 25897   |
| Children at Work                                                                       | 4.73                               | 8.93  | 6.75  | 59915                         | 105519 | 165077  |
| Attending schools                                                                      | 72.98                              | 61.45 | 67.44 | 925350                        | 725964 | 1651186 |
| Children neither at work nor at school                                                 | 17.26                              | 20.42 | 18.80 | 218889                        | 241255 | 460205  |

**Critical Analysis Of Child Labour In India :**As per the census 2011, the total number of child labor in the country has reduced by 65 percent. The government also said that elimination of child labor was its "priority". The total number of working children in the country has declined from 1.26 crore as per the census 2001 to 43.53 lakh as per census 2011 which shows 65 percent reduction.

| Year | Child labor as reported by census 1971 to 2011 |
|------|------------------------------------------------|
| 1971 | 10753985                                       |
| 1981 | 13640870                                       |
| 1991 | 11285349                                       |
| 2001 | 12666377                                       |
| 2011 | 4353247                                        |





**State-wise Distribution of Working Children according to 1971,1981,1991,2001 and 2011  
Census in the age group 5-14 years**

| S. No. | Name of State/UT         | 1971                    |                             | 1981                    |                             | 1991                    |                             | 2001 ****               |                             | 2011                    |                             |
|--------|--------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
|        |                          | No. of Working children | % of Total Working Children | No. of Working children | % of Total Working Children | No. of Working children | % of Total Working Children | No. of Working children | % of Total Working Children | No. of Working children | % of Total Working Children |
| 1      | Andhra Pradesh           | 1627492                 | 15%                         | 1951312                 | 14%                         | 1661940                 | 15%                         | 1363339                 | 11%                         | 404851                  | 9%                          |
| 2      | Assam *                  | 239349                  | 2%                          | **                      |                             | 327598                  | 3%                          | 351416                  | 3%                          | 99512                   | 2%                          |
| 3      | Bihar                    | 1059359                 | 10%                         | 1101764                 | 8%                          | 942245                  | 8%                          | 1117500                 | 9%                          | 451590                  | 10%                         |
| 4      | Gujarat                  | 518061                  | 5%                          | 616913                  | 5%                          | 523585                  | 5%                          | 485530                  | 4%                          | 250318                  | 6%                          |
| 5      | Haryana                  | 137826                  | 1%                          | 194189                  | 1%                          | 109691                  | 1%                          | 253491                  | 2%                          | 53492                   | 1%                          |
| 6      | Himachal Pradesh         | 71384                   | 1%                          | 99624                   | 1%                          | 56438                   | 1%                          | 107774                  | 1%                          | 15001                   | 0%                          |
| 7      | Jammu & Kashmir          | 70489                   | 1%                          | 258437                  | 2%                          | **                      |                             | 175630                  | 1%                          | 25528                   | 1%                          |
| 8      | Karnataka                | 808719                  | 8%                          | 1131530                 | 8%                          | 976247                  | 9%                          | 822615                  | 6%                          | 249432                  | 6%                          |
| 9      | Kerala                   | 111801                  | 1%                          | 92854                   | 1%                          | 34800                   | 0%                          | 26156                   | 0%                          | 21757                   | 0%                          |
| 10     | Madhya Pradesh           | 1112319                 | 10%                         | 1698597                 | 12%                         | 1352563                 | 12%                         | 1065259                 | 8%                          | 286310                  | 7%                          |
| 11     | Maharashtra              | 988357                  | 9%                          | 1557756                 | 11%                         | 1068427                 | 9%                          | 764075                  | 6%                          | 496916                  | 11%                         |
| 12     | Chhattisgarh             |                         | 0%                          |                         | 0%                          |                         | 0%                          | 364572                  | 3%                          | 63884                   | 1%                          |
| 13     | Manipur                  | 16380                   | 0%                          | 20217                   | 0%                          | 16493                   | 0%                          | 28836                   | 0%                          | 11805                   | 0%                          |
| 14     | Meghalaya                | 30440                   | 0%                          | 44916                   | 0%                          | 34633                   | 0%                          | 53940                   | 0%                          | 18839                   | 0%                          |
| 15     | Jharkhand                |                         | 0%                          |                         | 0%                          |                         | 0%                          | 407200                  | 3%                          | 90996                   | 2%                          |
| 16     | Uttaranchal              |                         | 0%                          |                         | 0%                          |                         | 0%                          | 70183                   | 1%                          | 28098                   | 1%                          |
| 17     | Nagaland                 | 13726                   | 0%                          | 16235                   | 0%                          | 16467                   | 0%                          | 45874                   | 0%                          | 11062                   | 0%                          |
| 18     | Orissa                   | 492477                  | 5%                          | 702293                  | 5%                          | 452394                  | 4%                          | 377594                  | 3%                          | 92087                   | 2%                          |
| 19     | Punjab                   | 232774                  | 2%                          | 216939                  | 2%                          | 142868                  | 1%                          | 177268                  | 1%                          | 90353                   | 2%                          |
| 20     | Rajasthan                | 587389                  | 5%                          | 819605                  | 6%                          | 774199                  | 7%                          | 1262570                 | 10%                         | 252338                  | 6%                          |
| 21     | Sikkim                   | 15661                   | 0%                          | 8561                    | 0%                          | 5598                    | 0%                          | 16457                   | 0%                          | 2704                    | 0%                          |
| 22     | Tamil Nadu               | 713305                  | 7%                          | 975055                  | 7%                          | 578889                  | 5%                          | 418801                  | 3%                          | 151437                  | 3%                          |
| 23     | Tripura                  | 17490                   | 0%                          | 24204                   | 0%                          | 16478                   | 0%                          | 21756                   | 0%                          | 4998                    | 0%                          |
| 24     | Uttar Pradesh            | 1326726                 | 12%                         | 1434675                 | 11%                         | 1410086                 | 12%                         | 1927997                 | 15%                         | 896301                  | 21%                         |
| 25     | West Bengal              | 511443                  | 5%                          | 605263                  | 4%                          | 711691                  | 6%                          | 857087                  | 7%                          | 234275                  | 5%                          |
| 26     | Andaman & Nicobar Island | 572                     | 0%                          | 1309                    | 0%                          | 1265                    | 0%                          | 1960                    | 0%                          | 999                     | 0%                          |
| 27     | Arunachal Pradesh        | 17925                   | 0%                          | 17950                   | 0%                          | 12395                   | 0%                          | 18482                   | 0%                          | 5766                    | 0%                          |
| 28     | Chandigarh               | 1086                    | 0%                          | 1986                    | 0%                          | 1870                    | 0%                          | 3779                    | 0%                          | 3135                    | 0%                          |
| 29     | Dadra & Nagar Haveli     | 3102                    | 0%                          | 3615                    | 0%                          | 4416                    | 0%                          | 4274                    | 0%                          | 1054                    | 0%                          |
| 30     | Delhi                    | 17120                   | 0%                          | 25717                   | 0%                          | 27351                   | 0%                          | 41899                   | 0%                          | 26473                   | 1%                          |
| 31     | Daman & Diu              | 7391                    | 0%                          | 9378                    | 0%                          | 941                     | 0%                          | 729                     | 0%                          | 774                     | 0%                          |
| 32     | Goa                      |                         | 0%                          |                         | 0%                          | 4656                    | 0%                          | 4138                    | 0%                          | 6920                    | 0%                          |
| 33     | Lakshadweep              | 97                      | 0%                          | 56                      | 0%                          | 34                      | 0%                          | 27                      | 0%                          | 28                      | 0%                          |
| 34     | Mizoram                  | ***                     |                             | 6314                    | 0%                          | 16411                   | 0%                          | 26265                   | 0%                          | 2793                    | 0%                          |
| 35     | Pondicherry              | 3725                    | 0%                          | 3606                    | 0%                          | 2680                    | 0%                          | 1904                    | 0%                          | 1421                    | 0%                          |
|        | <b>Total</b>             | <b>10753985</b>         | <b>100%</b>                 | <b>13640870</b>         | <b>100%</b>                 | <b>11285349</b>         | <b>100%</b>                 | <b>12666377</b>         | <b>100%</b>                 | <b>4353247</b>          | <b>100%</b>                 |

Note:

|      |                                                                |
|------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| *    | 1971 Census figures of Assam includes figures of Mozoram       |
| **   | Census Could not be Conducted                                  |
| ***  | Census figures 1971 in respect of Mozoram included under Assam |
| **** | includes marginal workers also                                 |

#### States with Maximum %age of Child labour as per Census 1971-2011 in age group 5-14 yrs

| 1971           |                             | 1981           |                             | 1991           |                             | 2001 ****      |                             | 2011           |                             |
|----------------|-----------------------------|----------------|-----------------------------|----------------|-----------------------------|----------------|-----------------------------|----------------|-----------------------------|
| State          | % of Total Working Children | State          | % of Total Working Children | State          | % of Total Working Children | State          | % of Total Working Children | State          | % of Total Working Children |
| Andhra Pradesh | 15%                         | Andhra Pradesh | 14%                         | Andhra Pradesh | 15%                         | Uttar Pradesh  | 15%                         | Uttar Pradesh  | 21%                         |
| Uttar Pradesh  | 12%                         | Madhya Pradesh | 12%                         | Uttar Pradesh  | 12%                         | Andhra Pradesh | 11%                         | Maharashtra    | 11%                         |
| Madhya Pradesh | 10%                         | Maharashtra    | 11%                         | Madhya Pradesh | 12%                         | Rajasthan      | 10%                         | Bihar          | 10%                         |
| Bihar          | 10%                         | Uttar Pradesh  | 11%                         | Maharashtra    | 9%                          | Bihar          | 9%                          | Andhra Pradesh | 9%                          |
| Maharashtra    | 9%                          | Karnataka      | 8%                          | Karnataka      | 9%                          | Madhya Pradesh | 8%                          | Madhya Pradesh | 7%                          |
| Karnataka      | 8%                          | Bihar          | 8%                          | Bihar          | 8%                          | West Bengal    | 7%                          | Rajasthan      | 6%                          |
| Tamil Nadu     | 7%                          | Tamil Nadu     | 7%                          | Rajasthan      | 7%                          | Karnataka      | 6%                          | Gujrat         | 6%                          |
| Rajasthan      | 5%                          | Rajasthan      | 6%                          | West Bengal    | 6%                          | Maharashtra    | 6%                          | Karnataka      | 6%                          |
| Gujrat         | 5%                          | Orissa         | 5%                          | Tamil Nadu     | 5%                          | Gujrat         | 4%                          | West Bengal    | 5%                          |
| West Bengal    | 5%                          | Gujrat         | 5%                          | Gujrat         | 5%                          | Tamil Nadu     | 3%                          | Tamil Nadu     | 3%                          |
| Total          | 100%                        | Total          | 100%                        | Total          | 100%                        | Total          | 100%                        | Total          | 100%                        |

#### Statistics of child labour in India:

As per census reports, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and Maharashtra are top five states where no. of child labour is more than other states. The highest jump in terms of percentage is of Uttar Pradesh where child labour increased by 12% to 21%. More than 300000 children are estimated to be trapped in India's carpet industry. Most of India's carpets are woven in Uttar Pradesh where the majority of workers are low-caste Hindu boys. As per the previous records, the child laborers were mostly working in agriculture, paan (betel), bidi, construction, domestic work, spinning, and weaving sector etc. The priority of the government is to eliminate child labor especially in hazardous occupations. Indian law specifically defines 64 industries as hazardous and it is a criminal offence to employ children in such hazardous industries. In 2001, an estimated 1% of all child workers, or about 120,000 children in India were in a hazardous job. Notably, Constitution of India prohibits child labour in hazardous industries (but not in non-hazardous industries) as a Fundamental Right under Article 24. Additionally, various laws and the Indian Penal Code, such as the Juvenile Justice (care and protection) of Children Act-2000, and the Child Labour (Prohibition and Abolition) Act-1986 provide a basis in law to identify, prosecute and stop child labour in India. India formulated a National Policy on Child Labour in 1987. This Policy seeks to adopt a gradual & sequential approach with a focus on rehabilitation of children working in hazardous occupations. It envisioned strict enforcement of Indian laws on child labour combined with development programs to address the root causes of child labour such as poverty. In 1988, this led to the National Child Labour Project (NCLP) initiative. This legal and development initiative continues, with a current central government funding of Rs. 6 billion, targeted solely to eliminate child labour in India. The Ministry of Labour and Employment had implemented around 100 industry-specific National Child Labour Projects to rehabilitate the child workers since 1988.

Under this scheme, children in the age group of 9-14 years are rescued from hazardous occupations and enrolled in NCLP special training center which has provisions for bridge education, vocational, training, mid-day meal, stipend, health care and others before being mainstreamed into formal education system. A 2009–10 nationwide survey found child labour prevalence had reduced to 4.98 million children (or less than 2% of children in 5–14 age groups). The 2011 national census of India found the total number of child labour, aged 5–14, to be at 4.35 million and the total child population to be 259.64 million in that age group. The decrease in number of children working is an encouraging sign, and suggests the effectiveness of the schemes (direct or indirect like focus on primary school enrollment under “The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act” of 2009) implemented by the Government though other reasons including social awareness and economic growth are also playing a role. Many NGOs like Bachpan Bachao Andolan, ChildFund, CARE India, Talaash Association, Child Rights and You, Global march against child labour, RIDE India, Child line etc. have been working to eradicate child labour in India.

### VIII. Conclusion

In 2015, the country of India is home to the largest number of children who are working illegally in various industrial industries. Agriculture in India is the largest sector where many children work at early ages to help support their family. Many of these children are forced to work at young ages due to many family factors such as unemployment, a large number of family members, poverty, and lack of parental education. This is often the major cause of the high rate of child labour in India. A variety of Indian social scientists as well as the Non-Governmental Organization (NGOs) have done extensive research on the numeric figures of child labour found in India and determined that India contributes to one-third of Asia’s child labour and one-fourth of the world's child labour. Due to a large number of children being illegally employed, the Indian government began to take extensive actions to reduce the number of children working, and to focus on the importance of facilitating the proper growth and development of children. Due to the increase of regulations and legal restrictions on child labour, there has been a 65 percent decline in child labour from 2001 to 2011. Although this is a great decrease in the country of India, there is still high numbers of children working in the rural areas of India. With 85 percent of the child labour occurring in rural areas, and 15 percent occurring in urban areas, there are still substantial areas of concern in the country of India.

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