

## Covid Pandemic - Reversing the Impact of Child Labour

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### Abstract

Child labour is not a regional problem but a global problem that is found in large numbers, mainly in developing countries where people with low socioeconomic status and resources live. Unfortunately, poor families and their broods are the first victims of forced labour. are there. The major causes of child work are social and family poverty, dearth of social safety and education; illness of guardians; absence of admission to schools; orphaned children; and uneducated guardians, among the myriad reasons. Child work is a major obstacle to the social, economic, and multidimensional development of every child. Approximately 152.09 million children (89 million lads and 65 million young women) are at work, accounting for 10% of the teenager population. Currently, COVID-19 has had a profound effect on the robustness, livelihood, and socioeconomic life of the people. This has controlled to a reduction in adult labour, which has controlled to an increase in inflation and unemployment, resulting in vulnerable and poor children being most endangered becoming child labour. India has the highest figure for child labour compared to other developing countries, with about 11.2 million children working or seeking work. This article emphasizes the problems, roots, penalties, and other consequences of child work. It reviews international laws and judicial issues in India. **Keywords:** Poverty, child development, child health, exploitation, COVID pandemic, abuse.

### Introduction

It is clear from the current global figures that the figure of child workers globally is close to 160 million—in 2020, 9.4 million children will have been pushed into forced work. Looking at the I.L.O and UNICEF reports, it can be said that 89 million boys and 65 million girls will be engaged in forced work worldwide in 2021–22, which is 10.02 per hundred the residents of children. This figure has increased from 6.5 million to 79 million in the last 20 years. No meaningful effort has been made to eliminate forced labour during the period of the COVID pandemic. giving to this report, children aged 5 to 17 years are doing hazardous work that is causing harm to their health, safety, or morals. From the source of the I.L.O report, the lockdown during COVID-19 has increased unemployment, illiteracy, and poverty, because of which the delinquent of starvation and penury has increased in society due to child labourers.

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Many more new children were forced into child workers as their parents became unemployed. The situation worsened with the closure of the school. Globally, this number will increase to around 10.1 million child labourers by 2022-23 in COVID-19. Child workers are a worldwide pandemonium that undermines children, deprives them of teaching, and leads them into the vicious circle of poverty, which leads to their physical, social, and intellectual degradation.

### **Problem Statements**

We have several laws aimed at eradicating child workers, nevertheless, progress has been slow. COVID-19 has hit the physical, economic, and intellectual health of children. This epidemic can increase unemployment, poverty, and illiteracy, which can lead to a huge intensification of child workers. Many children feel that they have nothing but to do any work choice that will help their family's life. That's why this pandemic has likely created the worst situation for child work.

### **Objectives**

1. To find out the causes of child labour.
2. To find out the unexpected growth in the amount of child labour.
3. To find out various provisions to guard the interests of obligatory labour.
4. To find out the initiatives and results in contradiction of child labour.

### **Research Methodology**

The present research is grounded in research methodology. For the data collection, the collection researcher relied on secondary sources for the articles as books, periodicals, case laws, articles, newspapers, internet sources, and related provisions were reviewed.

### **Review Literature**

The International Labour Organization's IPEC (1992) program aims to eradicate child labour so that children get their fundamental rights and improve their education so that they can have a brighter future. (ILO Convention on Child labour) (IPEC) (<https://www.ilo.org>). "The Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act" (1986) Universal Law (2016 ed.) Special laws for children have been made by the government to provide free and compulsory education to children from the age of 6 to 14. UNICEF – (Protecting the Child from Violence, Exploitation, and Abuse) "The article focuses on child abuse and the erection of violence against children. The International Labour Organization has defined the definition of "who is a lad." They put their problems and their solutions out to the world to end child labour. Ambika Pandit wrote in the Times of India article "Covid-19 Pandemic and Lockdown, Childline" with over 3600 children saved from labour, in which there was discussion on child exploitation and health, communication, employment, and security.

**"Child labour" definition** - The I.L.O. defines child labour as "the work that withdraws kids of their upbringing and dignity, that impedes their access to education and the acquisition of skills in situations that are prejudicial to their vigor and development." "The Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) 1986" describes "a child" who is elder than 14 years.

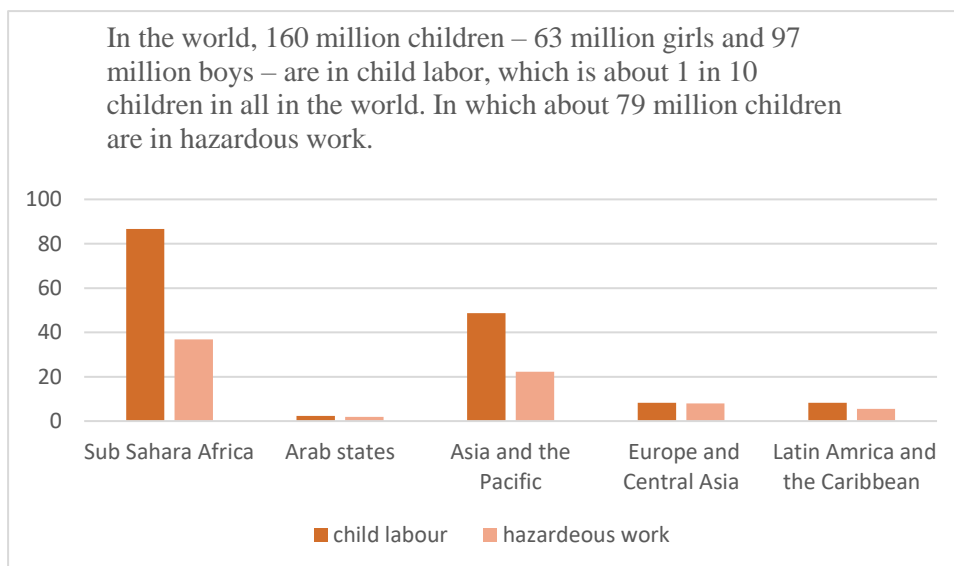
**Constitutional provisions on child work:** Many such provisions have been created in the constitution for the abolition of forced employees and the intellectual progress of children. As-Article 15 (3) provides that "nothing shall prevent the State from making any special provision for children". Article 21 ensures the life and personal liberty of every citizen of India. The state will deliver free and obligatory education to children from the age of 6 to 14. Forced labour and human trafficking are prohibited by the rule of law, the desecration of which will be punishable under article 23. Article 24 says that no child under 14 years of age shall work in a hazardous area. The government will offer facilities to children to grow up in good standing with liberty and self-esteem for the protection of infancy and adolescence. "Article "45" states that the government will make provision for the care and education of those children who have completed the 6-year age." Article 51A(k) states that every parent/guardian must provide educational opportunities for their children aged 6 to 14 years.

**Major Legislation of Child Labour:** The Mines Act bans children younger than 18 years from working in a coalfield. (Democratic Rights vs. Union of India). The Factories Act of 1948 is an important act that prohibits the working of children and prescribes their working hours. (MC Mehta vs. State of Tamil Nadu, 1996). The Juvenile Justice Care and Protection Act of 2000 prohibit the purchase or sale of a slight child or employment is slightly perilous employment. The Child Labour Prohibition and Regulation Act (1986) seeks to protect children less than 14 years from engaging in hazardous employment and to prevent child exploitation in such other occupations. In the RTE Act 2009, provision has been made for free education for whole children from class one to eight or below 15 years of age, and 25% of seats should be allotted in private schools for children with disabilities. Child work is the combined result of various factors like poverty, unemployment, population density, deficiency of education accommodations, customs, and traditional attitudes, ignorance of parents about the reputation of edification, socio-economic backwardness, etc. The requirements of protective labour laws are not clear, and the enforcement machinery of the state authorities is almost inadequate, which means it is not effective in eradicating child labour. Economic globalization is particularly attributable to child workers. Children as young as 14 are not smart enough to talk about their losses and losses. They are mostly silent listeners and are unaware of the plans and agendas made for their benefit. Hence, child workers are not completely eradicated.

**International conventions:** International resolutions have endeavored to make worldwide regulations used for the eradication of child workers. The United Nations Resolution on the Constitutional Rights (CRC) (1989), is the major international legal instrument for child workers. The two ILO conventions (Minimum age Resolution No. 138 (1973) and the nastiest form of child worker resolution No. 182 (1999), the United Nations announcement of civil rights (1948), and the International Treaty on social, economic, and social rights, also address

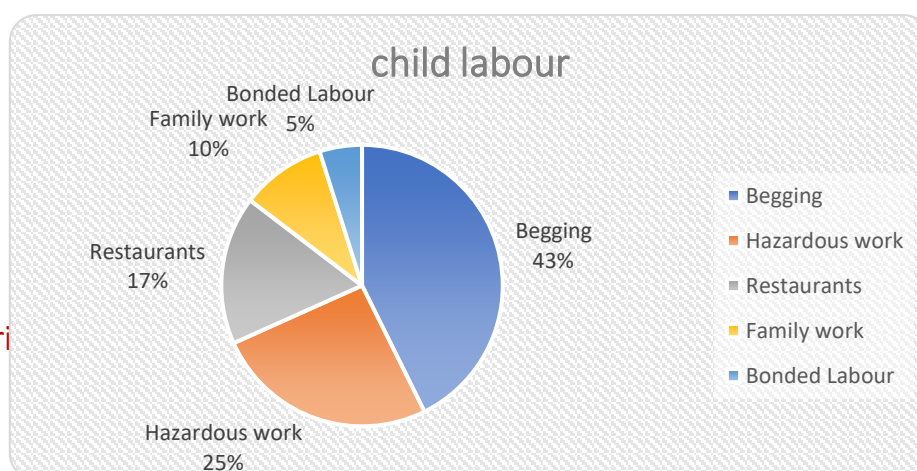
compulsory education, with the CRC and ILO prominently protecting the civil rights of children.

**International Labour Organization (ILO):** It belongs to the United Nations agency whose mission is to develop financial and civil justice from a position of labour principles globally. which was established in 1919 in Geneva the minimum age resolution number 138 by ILO has specified that the lowest age for child workers to labour is 15 years, while in some special circumstances it is specified as 14 years. For working labour, the lowest age is defined as 18 years, which is important for health and safety reasons. Children under the ages of 13 and 15 are allowed to do things that don't damage their vigour. No. 182 resolution (1999) On the worst forms of child worker conventions, they ratify that a conducive environment and a protective approach to the eradication of child labour be effectively implemented. both of which are called "fundamental" conventions. which means, under the Statement of ILO, all statuses have a compulsion to encourage the elimination of child work to guard the children.



*ILO and UNICEF: Child Labour: Global estimates 2020, trends and the road forward (New York, 2021)*

**COVID-19 and Child Labour** - In the previous two decades, it is a gradual deterioration in child workers in the global world, but ILO conferring the COVID-19 disease halted the trend and pushed the world into a quagmire of deficiency and hunger. minimum 6 crore people have been trapped in a vicious cycle of poverty in 2019–20, forcing many paternities to refer their young ones to work. the joint report by the U.N.O Children's Trust, the ILO says that a 1% increase in poverty increases child labour by about 0.7%. While the whole world is battling COVID.



*Some of the latest census figures are available at [studytoday.net](http://studytoday.net).*

Data from India shows that children were heavily exploited by child workers during COVID-19. During the COVID pandemic and right after the lockdown, both these conditions helped to pull children out of school (since they were officially closed). Owing to this, his studies came to a halt. Many children were forced to work in farms and factories, and many were pushed into child trafficking. Lockdown across India from 13–14 March to 25 March 2020 due to which the disorder of child labourers worsened. It is possible that, as a resultant COVID disease, the lot of people in extreme poverty will rise from 50 to 70 million this year, resulting in a 20 to 25 percent increase in 2020. poverty is probable to increase to 85 million, 180 million, and 420 million people, respectively, compared to 2018. The ILO report states that approximately 90 lakhs of children are in danger of being engaged in child labour in 2022. it could be 49 million in the future.

### **Conclusion —**

The ILO report said that there is strong evidence that child abuse has spread easily and is exacerbated by the loss of employment for most people by COVID-19. Because of this, poverty and unemployment are increasing day by day. Owing to the closure of schools, the education of children has been adversely affected. Children are enforced to work in worse conditions for an extended period. The following suggestions are recommended: Increasing universal social security for all; protecting child rights; returning to educational institutes through freer, quality schooling; encouraging family income-enhancing activities; agricultural development; and child protection in countryside areas, and reducing migration. Massive investment in infrastructure, including public services, should be encouraged. "We urge governments and international development banks to prioritize investing in programs that encourage children to return to school rather than becoming child labourers," said UNICEF Executive Director "*Henrietta Fore*"

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