

Date 8/1/2024

Topic Criminal neglect of child labor and its consequences

Outline

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- b) Lack of access to education
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- d) Inadequate legal protection of children
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Consequences

3) Consequences of criminal neglect of child labor

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- d) Violation of human rights
- e) Rise in economic disparities
- f) Impacts on future generations
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4) Strategies to curb criminal neglect of child labor

- a) Strengthening legal frameworks
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A child named, Iqbal Masih, was sold by his parents at an age of 4 to a feudal in order to repay a debt. Later, the child was killed for attempting to break-free from the shackles of slavery. This case was publicized around the globe. Yet, on nearly every street in our society, a child can be seen tirelessly engaging in intricate tasks, irrespective of the working conditions or weather. This situation depicts the society's alarming acceptance of the criminal neglect of child labor. When a practice becomes acceptable in a society, people often overlook its consequences and the legal implications, as it is currently evident in many developing countries, including Pakistan. There are many causes and consequences of the neglect of child labor but then, there are strategies to curb the situation from getting worse, present.

There are innumerable causes as to why criminal neglect of child labor exist but the most ^{important} is poverty, which forces people to be involved in an illegal practice of child labor. Families struggling with finances of daily life resort to child labor as a means of survival. Moreover, the dearth of access to resources and opportunities coerces parents to involve their children in work to contribute to family income. Therefore, poverty plays a great role in augmenting the negligence of a crime

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like child labor.

Along with poverty, lack of access to education also contributes to child labor. Insufficient access to quality education restricts children's options, which makes them more vulnerable to engage in labor than attending school. Moreover, despite article 25-A in our constitution which refers to providing free quality education to children, there is absence of free or affordable quality education which further forces families to prioritize their economic needs over ~~long~~ investment on education for their children. Ergo, restricted access to education pushes many children towards child labor.

Due to lack of access to education and resources, urbanization and migration take place which aggravates the issue of child labor. As the rapid urbanization creates demand for cheap labor in urban areas, drawing vulnerable children into the workforce to meet this demand. Plus, the families migrating from rural to urban areas may face increased vulnerabilities, as they often lack a support system and find it difficult to adjust into new environment, which ~~makes~~ puts migrant children at a higher risk of exploitation. Hence, a rise is seen in criminal neglect of child labor due to urbanization and migration.

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Furthermore, there is inadequate legal protection of children. The existence of insufficient and poorly enforced child labor laws create an environment, where employers feel no fear in neglecting the legal consequences of exploiting child labor. And they mostly prefer child as a labor due to cheap cost. All in all, the child labor takes place due to weak legal framework for protection of children.

Among other causes, the family size and structure also contribute to child labor. As the larger families may find it challenging to meet basic needs, which might force them to include young members of family in the workforce. Moreover, the orphans are also naturally forced to work for ~~their~~ ^{their} and themselves and siblings survival, in some cases. To sum it up, children are also forced to work because of their family's size and structure.

There are consequences of every action. Similarly, in this case there ~~are~~ ^{exist} consequences of criminal neglect of child labor, which are discussed below.

It

There are several consequences of the criminal neglect of child labor, chief among which is the physical health issues of the child. Children are made to work

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under hazardous conditions which often involves no safety gear, exposing the child to physical injuries, illnesses and health long-term health problems. Moreover, children are made to work for longer hours which may lead to inadequate nutrition, resulting to malnutrition and stunted growth. In summary, physical health of the child is heavily impacted due to the criminal neglect of child labor.

In addition to the physical health of a child, the mental health is impacted as well. The exposure to hazardous working conditions can cause emotional trauma, affecting a child's mental well-being. Moreover, the stress and pressure associated with child labor can have detrimental effect on mental health of a child and cause anxiety, depression etc. Altogether, the neglect of child labor damages the mental health of a child.

Along with the impact on mental health of a child, child labor also limits the access to education for children. The neglect of child labor disrupts access to education, hindering a child's ability to develop reading, writing and numeracy skills. Further, due to dearth of literacy skills, the child's opportunities for advancement are minimised. Ergo, limited access to education ^{to children} is caused by the neglect of child labor.

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Moreover, the consequence of criminal neglect of child labor also includes the violation of Human rights. As the child labor infringes upon the fundamental human rights, mentioned in UNOHR, including the right to education, protection from exploitation, and the right to a safe and healthy environment. Further, the child labor can also be escalated to worse situations / crimes like human trafficking.

All in All, the neglect of child labor violates the basic human rights as a consequence.

Due to the violation of basic human rights, economic disparities are created as a consequence of neglect of child labor. The child labors, when they grow old, tend to have a low earning potential as they limited opportunities to earn due to dearth of education and skill development. In addition, the same people contribute to the cycle of poverty as they struggle to break-free from economic hardships like their elders.

In a nutshell, neglect of child labor consequently create economic disparities in society.

As the economic disparity is created, it further impacts the future generations of a former child labor. Children trapped in the cycle of poverty and labor are likely to ~~isolate~~ make their future generations part of the

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same cycle, as they adjust and accept that life-style, and sometimes consider it their and their future generations fate, leading to continued societal issues.

There are far more consequences of criminal neglect of child labor, but like every problem has a solution. Similarly, there are strategies present to curb the neglect of child labor, discussed next.

Among the myriad of strategies to curb criminal neglect of child labor, strengthening legal frameworks is the most crucial. Enforcing and strengthening laws against child labor must be prioritized. Along with imposing severe penalties for violations to instill a fear in employers. Also, collaboration with international organizations, NGOs would also create awareness and strengthened legal framework for childrens protection against labor. Hence, strengthening legal frameworks is the most important strategy to curb criminal neglect of child labor.

Furthermore, working towards economic empowerment of marginalized groups could also mitigate the criminal negligence of child labor. Implementing poverty alleviation programs could address the root-cause of child labor and provide economic alternatives for families. Moreover, vocational training, skill development programs must be

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launched to support impoverished families. All in all, the neglect of child labor could be controlled by economically empowering the marginalized groups of society.

Along with economic empowerment programs, the ~~date~~ education must be made accessible and affordable. There must be strict enforcement of article 25-A, so that every child can develop basic literacy skills, which could make them less prone to child labor. Affordable and easy access to education would also encourage parents to enroll children into school, as they would not have to think about the financial ~~in~~ monetary investment. To sum it up, ~~easy~~ easy and affordable education could restrain the criminal neglect of child labor.

In a nutshell, there are many causes to the criminal neglect of child labor, mainly caused by the alarming ~~situation~~ acceptance of child labor by the society. Then, there are ~~conseq~~ consequences of the neglect, which affects the whole society but then, there are strategies to curb the worsening situation of neglect of child labor. My essay pinpointed the causes and consequences of the criminal neglect of child labor and the strategies to restrain the neglect. Lastly,

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it is never too late to pledge for a new change to create a new tomorrow. When there is a will, there is always a way. Hence, regardless of the ~~as~~ obstacles, we can stop the criminal neglect of child labor and ~~save~~ safe childrens future.