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Topic: Criminal Neglect of Child

Labor and its Consequences

Outline

1- Introduction

Thesis Statement:

There has been a perpetual neglect of child labor in the world. It has negative consequences for both the nations and the children. However, by taking certain measures, the repercussions of the conundrum can be minimized.

2- The criminal neglect of child labor is bound to lead to severe repercussions

⇒ 160 million children in the world are engaged in child labor

(ILO, 2021, International Year for the Eradication of Child Labor)

3- Causes of the criminal neglect of child Labour

a- Lack of political will in preventing child labor

⇒ no compliance with national laws and international conventions

⇒ no proper surveys of children engaged in child labor.

b- Dearth of economic incentives for the prosperity of children

Avoid sweeping statements

- No employment opportunities
- No social protection

⇒ Rampant poverty in the nations

c- Failure of society to have checks on child labor

⇒ Socially acceptable

⇒ Non-availability of data related to child labor & harassment

d- Insignificant role of education in doing away with the conundrum of child labor

⇒ Lack of universal education in most countries

⇒ Non-existent vocational and training facilities

⇒ Role of higher educational institutions

e- Burgeoning population as a factor leading to child labor and its neglect by the states

⇒ Urban population

⇒ Headache mostly for developing & populated countries

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## 4- Consequences of Criminal neglect of child

Labour

a- Bad international image of the state

suffers from uncontrolled child labor

→ most common in developing countries,

with more than 90% of the world

Child labor (New Global Estimate

on Child Labor, International Labor

Office, 2015 report)

→ Over 12m children engaged in

Child labor in Pakistan (HRCP report)

b- Economic downturn of the nations with

unrestrained child labor

→ unskilled children → unproductive youth

c- Prevalence of societal evils due to the

criminal neglect of child labor

→ Test for criminal institutions

→ Social insecurity in the nations

→ Cases of rape, harassment, etc

d- Child labor as a burden on already

growing population

e- Trouble for the children to find respectable profession in later ages

→ adds to further unemployed

f- Deterioration of the health condition of children due to neglect of child labor

→ Hazardous works by children

→ Psychological & emotional trauma

→ Hazardous child labor defined

in Article 3(d) of ILO Convention

No. 182

g- Criminal inclination in child labor and their turning into irresponsible citizens

→ Children are being used by

terrorist organizations (ministry of

Interior Pakistan in a study)

5- How neglect of Child Labor can be tackled

a- Significant role of politicians in doing away with the conundrum of child labor

→ Role of local government

representative in reports re child labor

→ Coordinate with other institutions

b- Economic incentives as preventive measure of child labor ✓

⇒ Employment opportunities to parents ✓

⇒ Part time jobs to really needy children ✓

c- Effective enforcement of law related to child labor prevention ✓

⇒ Proper training for police ✓

Judicial officers, labor officers,

probation officers etc. ✓

⇒ PPC in Act should be ~~strengthened~~ ✓

d- Role of education in eradicating child labor from a country ✓

⇒ National Child Labour Project (NCLP)

in India a best practice ✓

6- Conclusion ✓

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## ESSAY

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"You can get a child to school and give them catch-up classes, but if you don't address the reasons behind why that child was not in school, then you cannot get the children to stay in school.", said Purva Gupta, director Global March Against Child Labor. There is no denying the fact that a child having different sorts of matter in his/her mind cannot focus on their physical and mental growth. The same is quite prevalent in the contemporary world, and many of the developing countries are adversely being affected by the menace. Hundreds of millions of children the world over are engaged in child labor at the expense of the leisure of their childhood. There are several underlying reasons which lead to the criminal neglect of child labor. There is no political will to counter the problem. No economic incentives are in place to avert the dangerous repercussions of child labor. Similarly, there is acceptance in some societies of rampant child labor. Likewise, education plays minimal role in doing away with the issue. Also, the burgeoning population leads to neglect of child labor. Owing to these reasons of neglect of child labor, certain

repercussions are evident. It impacts both the individual child labor and their nation at large. As far as the nation are concerned, they face bad image internationally. They also find themselves suffering from economic downturn. Also, in such countries, social evils in various forms are the order of the day. Similarly, such children are considered burden on the already growing population. As far as the impacts on individual children are concerned, they face hardships in finding respectable profession in later stages. Their health is also deteriorated, and they build inclination towards criminal activities and become irresponsible citizens. However, the challenge can be confronted by taking various measures. First and foremost, it is the duty of politicians to handle the issue. Economic incentives to the children can also thwart the condition. Effective law enforcement should be in place. Last but not the least, the role of education really comes in handy in dealing with the menace of child labor. The discussion goes on, and certainly there has been a perpetual neglect of child labor in the world. It has negative consequences for both the nations and the children. However, by taking certain measures, the repercussions of

the conditium can be minimized.

That there has been a criminal neglect of child labor is evident from the study of human history, both in past and the present. The onset of various techniques such as agriculture & industries led men to enslave certain vulnerable portion of the communities. Children have been one of such vulnerable communities. It is evident from the fact that even in today's developed world, 160 million children the world over are engaged in child labour according to the ILO, 201, International Year for the Eradication of Child Labor.

This is quite a headache in most of the developing countries of the world. Pakistan is one of such countries suffers from the menace. As a law of nature, the uncontrolled child labor leads to severe repercussions to the world. It impacts both the individual child labor & their states.

Recognizing the grim reality, the UNICEF convened a convention on children right in 1989. In spite of the presence of such organizations, the child labor could not be controlled, & hence it poses threat to the contemporary world, owing to certain reasons.



To begin with, lack of political will is a preventive measure of child labor has always remained a reason behind its criminal neglect. The politicians do not wake up to the grim reality and its consequences. In spite of having a number of domestic laws & many international conventions, the issue has not been resolved as yet. Every country has certain set of procedure for eliminating the form of slavery from the society. As an example of such domestic legislation, Article 23 of the Constitution of Pakistan prohibits slavery and forced labor under 14 years in hazardous conditions. But, the result is zilch. Similarly, Pakistan, along with the other countries suffering from the problem are signatories to a number of international agreements on eradicating child labor. Also, there are no proper surveys regarding the exact number of children engaged in child labor. All these factors make ineffective any effort to eliminate child labor from a country. Hence, lack of political will is a major impediment in the way of doing away with child labor.

Similarly, the dearth of economic incentives for children and their parents is also

responsible for the uncontrolled child labor in today's world. Poverty is the source of all evils. Studies show that a one percent rise of poverty can lead to at least a 0.7 percent increase in child labor. Such condition leaves very little space for the children to focus on their physical and mental growth. In some families, owing to the death or poor health of male or father, children are forced to do labor work. In Pakistan, along with other regional and Latin American countries, children even under ten years of age are found engaged in child labor. There are no employment opportunities, no social protection programs for such suffering children. According to reports, in such countries a significant portion of the population lives below the poverty line. Hence, lack of economic incentives and opportunity is also a leading factor of child labor.

In the same vein, failure of a society to have checks on child labor is also one of the causes of the grave neglect of the men. They say culture is an unwritten constitution. At the end of the day, the child labor are



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is a concept of universal education in their constitution, it is not strictly implemented. It is evident in the fact that globally, hundreds of millions of children are out of school, and in Pakistan alone, the number is a staggering 23 million children (IMF). Such children are bound to be engaged in child labor. Also, vocational training facilities are quite non-existent, due to which the children found themselves unskilled, and hence participate in child labor. Similarly, role of the higher education in advising the policy maker is also nothing to write home about. Therefore, the superficial role played by education is also a factor why there is a criminal neglect of child labor.

Last but not the least, the burgeoning population in most of the countries is also a factor leading to child labor, and it is consistently being neglected by the states. The world cannot accommodate billions of people, and takes a heavy toll on them. A billion of 8 billion people cannot take care of every of the individual. Similarly, countries like Pakistan, which

has 280 million population at the moment can barely take stock of the condition of every individual, let alone children. It is

a headache for almost every developing country.

All the other social indicators are related to it.

The fact that millions of children are engaged in

child labor is testified to the fact. Interestingly,

the 23 million children out-of-school in Pakistan

constitute a population greater than the overall population of many individual countries in the world.

So, the rapidly increasing population has also

rendered the efforts of preventing child labor

quite ineffective, and all of the above mentioned

factors lead to severe consequences occurs for

the neglect of child labor. It impacts both the

nations & the individuals.

As far as the consequences on the states are concerned, first and foremost, it

leads to a bad international image of the

states which face uncontrolled child labor. It is

a case in most of the third world countries of the world. According to the New Global Estimates

on Child Labor, International Labor Office,

2015, more than 90 percent of the child labor in the world are from developing countries. From India to Brazil to South Africa, and from Pakistan to Bangladesh to Ghana, every developing country suffers from the repercussions of rampant child labor. According to the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan, over 12 million children in the country are engaged in child labor. It creates a negative image of the country in today's globalized world. Only to this factor, countries including India are taking firm actions to thwart child labor in order to improve their image globally. Hence, the unrestrained child labor is a major threat to the image of a country globally.

Similarly, the criminal neglect of child labor also leads to economic downturn of a nation. In today's world, a country having considerable child laborers are facing certain economic challenges. At the end of the day, it is the skilled children who become productive youth in the later ages. But if they are deprived of their childhood learning skills, they cannot contribute positively

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to the economy of their nations. They struggle to find employment opportunities in the society. It is a problem mainly with the developing countries, who have been struggling to harness the potential of their youth. Countries such as Japan have good economy just because of their productive youths who are a product of skilled children. Same is the case in Pakistan, which is on the verge of economic downfall just because of the criminal neglect of child prosperity in their early stages. So, the child labor also leads to the economic downturn of a state in the long run.

Likewise, prevalence of societal evils also owe their origin to the grave neglect of child labor. A child becomes a good individual when he is not deprived of his childhood opportunities. On the other hand, when they are engaged in child labor, they forget the societal norms and participate in certain evils, which become difficult to the state institutions to handle. Environment of insecurity is found in the society. The rampant cases of rape and harassment also have their origins to a larger extent, in the neglect

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of the personality of the children. When there is such an environment, the other children, especially gender-specific children feel insecure in the society, and the society becomes notorious for social evils. It is the case in almost all the backward societies and nations of the world. The crime rates are highest in sub-Saharan, Latin America, and the deprived nation of Asia. Therefore, it is safe to say that the emotional neglect of child labor makes a society insecure and gives birth to many societal evils.

Also, the children labor becomes a burden on the already growing population. It is wrongly perceived in some societies that more children will put more food on the table of the families. But, the case is quite opposite. Due to the lack of policies on curbing exploding population, the menace of child labor goes unnoticed, which in turn, becomes more burden on the population. Such children do not play their due role due to their deprivation in the childhood. They resort to green pasture of other parts of the world and suffer from labor works there as well. As a



example, millions of Pakistani workers resort to the middle eastern oil-rich countries where they feel that they are a burden on these countries and that they will not be able to find professions in their mother country. They also face the hardships of laboring in the target countries. Instead of becoming an asset for the country, such a growing population becomes a liability for them. Therefore, as in other fields, the continued neglect of child labor also becomes a burden on the already growing population of the affected countries.

To face the repercussions of the neglect of child labor to the individual children are concerned, first of all, it becomes troublesome for the children to find respectable professions in the later stage of their lives. What a person becomes in the later stages depends upon what he learns in his early childhood. So, when a child is deprived of proper school and learning in the childhood, he/she struggles to find a good profession in his/her youthful age. It first adds to the menace of unemployment. In the long run, it can suffer from the problem of uncontrolled

child labor, the youth is found to be mostly unproductive. They resort to some other form of activity in order to make their ends meet. They are not regarded as respectable citizens. They bear the brunt of the behavior of the people. Such children are constantly labelled as laborers. They also feel disgraced in front of the children of affluent families, and face employed hardships throughout their lives. Hence, the perpetual neglect of child labor affects an individual child greatly when it comes to find noble professions in their lives.

Most importantly, the neglect of child labor also gives birth to several health repercussions for the children. Their health is compromised greatly. Most of the child labor is engaged in hazardous works. They also face psychological and emotional traumas by the other segment of the society and by their labor counterparts in the factories, agriculture and industries. This fact was also recognized in Article 3(d) of the ILO Convention No. 182, which defined the hazardous

child labour. Such children are deprived of their childhood pleasures & open eyes to a hazardous environment. They remain in condition throughout their lives. They are tortured physically & psychologically & emotionally. They also inflict harm or violence on their family members, especially gender-based violence against the girls. All of such incidents are interconnected. Hence, the continuous neglect of child labour is one of the reasons of the health deterioration of the children engaged in such labour.

Last but not the least, the neglect of child labour turns many child labourers into criminal segments of the society. When the children are not properly educated, they grow criminal inclination. According to the Strain Theory of Merton, when society sets goals & does not provide legitimate means to achieve such goals, the people will resort to illegal means to achieve such goals. One such goal in the modern world is wealth. When a child is engaged in child labour during the childhood, they cannot learn the

skills require to amass wealth. They are left with no option but to resort to criminal means to achieve their goals. This is a predicament in almost all the corners of the affected world. An example according to the Pakistani Minister of Interiors, a considerable number of children are being used by the terrorist organisations in order to carry out their malicious campaign. Hence, all of this affirms as a testimony to the fact that the neglect of child labor makes the children criminal minded in the long run and it is important also to discuss the ways in which the criminal neglect of child labor can be done away with.

Foremost, the politician can play a significant role in doing away with the child labor. It is the political will which can turn the dream into reality. So an example, the role of local government representatives in reporting the child labor is of great significance. Often the cases of child labor go unnoticed by the central government. It is the local government representative

who deal with the people at grassroots levels. They can report each and every case of child labor and the central governments can plan accordingly. Also if there is proper political will, a number of policies will be made in accordance with the needs of children. Likewise, it is the political will which coordinates among the various institutions of a country to effectual implement any policy regarding child labor. So the political leader and government can play most crucial role in dealing with the concerns of child labor.

Secondly, certain economic incentives or preventive measures can do away with the long-awaited menace of child labor. The child resort to child labor not out of their free will, but they are compelled by the economic or financial condition of the family to do so. In the long run, the parents of the child labor should be provided with proper employment opportunities so they are no more dependent on their juvenile children. Also part time respectable jobs can be

provided to the children so they  
don't have to remain absent from  
school. It is to mention here that  
not all kinds of work or labor done by  
a juvenile constitute child labor. If they  
are engaged in half-day professional activities,  
which do not affect their education at school, it  
is okay. They will be able to help their really  
deserving parents. Hence, proper economic  
incentives to the children of the family can  
prevent the problem of child labor.

Thirdly and most importantly,  
the effective enforcement of laws related  
to child labor can ensure the eradication  
of child labor. In spite of having various  
laws related to children, the result appears  
to be zilch. In that vein, the training of the  
law enforcement agencies is of paramount  
importance. The police, the judicial officers,  
the labor officer and probator officer should  
be properly trained to enforce the law  
related to the children's rights. It is a  
problem with almost all of the affected



can be adopted by all countries suffer from criminal neglect of child labor, includes Pakistan. It is through proper vocational training by educational institutions that the children will get rid of the laborious child labor. Hence, education plays an extraordinary role in doing <sup>away</sup> with the continuous neglect of child labor.

In conclusion, it is derived that there has been a perpetual neglect of child labor in the world, which, in turn, has led to severe repercussions for both the states and the individual child laborers. The states affected face bad governance, bad international image, economic downturn and other societal issues, while the individual child laborers also suffer heavily. Their health conditions get deteriorated, the child finds it hard to get respectable professions and gets involved in a number of illicit criminal activities. However, as they say there is no mountain which has not been summited, the problem of child labor can also be dealt with if certain steps are taken.

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