

Essay

Criminal neglect of child labour and its consequences

Outline:

1) Introduction

Child labour deprives children from the fundamental rights ensured by state. It is the consequence of socio-economic, moral, political and environmental injustice. Hence, it has the dire consequences on the social and economic welfare of the society.

2) How can criminal neglect of child labour result in dire consequences

3) Causes of criminal neglect of child labour

- Surge in Population
- Rampant Corruption
- Obstruction in education sector
- Proliferation of Poverty
- Increase in unemployment

4) Consequences of neglect of child labour

- Child abuse goes in child labour
- Increase the illiteracy rate
- Widen the class conflict
- Dearth of skilled labour

- e) Encroachment on fundamental rights
- f) Stagnant Economic growth
- g) Impact on capital Development Index
- h) Increase in crime rates

5) Milestones achieved in order to overcome Child labour

- a) International treaties to protect rights
- b) Domestic laws for child protection

6) Necessary steps to overcome child labour

- a) Sufficient funds to education sector
- b) Alleviation of poverty
- c) Adjustment of laws with changing dynamics
- d) Awareness regarding population control.

Conclusion:

The proverbial donkey could not differentiate between short-term and long-term gains. It ended up increasing its burden by soaking the cotton in water. Similarly, to gain short-term economic gain families destroyed the future of children by promoting child labour. It has the dire consequences in long-run. As child labour is the social phenomena it is the by product of many other social problems like rampant corruption, over-population, proliferation of poverty, lack of access to quality education and surge in unemployment. Moreover, it has the dire impacts on the society in long-run as it is cause of child abuse, it promotes illiteracy, it encroaches on the fundamental rights and exacerbates the economic adversities. Furthermore, it creates the social conflicts, increase the crime rates and impact the overall human development index. However, some milestones are achieved to hinder the child labour in form of international bindings and domestic laws. Moreover, some important steps are required to mitigate this problem. There is an urgent need to allocate sufficient funds to education sector, alleviate poverty, adjustment

of laws with changing dynamics and awareness regarding population control. As child labour deprives individual from the fundamental rights ensured by state. It is the consequence of socio-economic, moral, political and environmental injustice. Hence, it has the dire consequences on the social and economic welfare of the society.

As the criminal neglect of child labour result in dire consequences. It deprives the individual from the liberty which is ensured by the UN Declaration of Human rights. Apprehending right to liberty violate the free freedom of expression and right to education. As convention on protection of childrens right 1989 ensures that every child has the right to education. Furthermore, article 11 of 1973 constitution of Pakistan prohibit child labour. Article 25(A) ensures that all individual has the right to education. Hence, depriving childrens from fundamental rights will create social and economic hinderance in development of state. As children are considered as the future of a country. Depriving them from fundamental rights mean bearing the development of state in all forms.

The surge in population contributes in the child labour. As the size of the family grows the number of individuals require more resources to fulfil needs. In order to cover the needs the male members of the society despite the age factor, have to earn the money. According to American Bureau of Statistics World's population has reached 8 billion. According to resources Pakistan's population has crossed 241 million (Pakistan Bureau of Statistics). As with increasing number of people the trend of child labour is also increasing. In Patriarchal society women are limited to house chores while men are responsible for livelihood. (Gender Performativity theory, Judith Butler). Hence, surge in population contributes in child labour.

Likewise, rampant corruption also paved the ways of exploitation of labour children disguised as child labour. As the report of Transparency International 2023, highlights that in Pakistan most corrupt department are Judiciary, Police, Healthcare and Education. As education is important for building block of any nation. As corruption in such department hinders the child growth. When a child has no opportunities to quality education. They will strive for do child labour for survival. Moreover, according to Corruptions

Perception Index 2023, Pakistan is at 140/80 in corruption perception index. As all above departments are contributing in favour of extractive institutions. These extractive institutions are creating social problems like child labour. (**Why Nations fail, Daron Acemoglu and James Robinson**). Hence, corruption promotes child labour.

In similar way, other obstructions in the way of education sector also promote the child labour. Pakistan only contributes 1.7% of GDP for education sector (**Pakistan Economic survey of Pakistan 2022-23**). The lack of fund creates structural and policy hurdles to improve the education sector. **23 million children are out of school** due to poor structure and improper policy implications (**Economic survey of Pakistan, World Bank**). Furthermore, education equip individual with skills and knowledge. When children have no access to quality education they lack skills both social and professional. It hinders the growth. This phenomena promotes the child labour in the society. As child labour it self promotes the myriad of problems.

Moreover, the proliferation of poverty also intrigates the child labour. As inflation rises it automatically increase the **CPI (Consumer Price Index)** with increase in the price of commodities the demand for goods decrease. The decrease in demand for goods and services impact the production of industries. As the consequence of this there will be Job turn out.

The job turnout will automatically increase the demand for cheap labour. It paves the ways for child labour. According to World Economic Forum the covid impacted the developing economies severely. As the result there is sharp increase have been witnessed in child labour market.

As according to IMF Pakistan's inflation is 29%. Hence, it is alarming as it is creating lacuna for child labour in state.

Furthermore, an other phenomena unemployment creates a looming threats to the growth of economy. As unemployment increases it widen the gap between haves and have not. Due to unemployment the feudal lords exploit the workers. Moreover, there's exploitation is not limited to age factor as it exploits all age groups. According to ILO there are 5.6 million people are unemployed in Pakistan. According to Pakistan Bureau of Statistics 56% of 14 million child labourers under age of 10 are employed in agriculture sector alone in Punjab. Hence, due to unemployment and lack of awareness, child labour is the biggest problem that is plaguing the agriculture sector in Punjab.

How. The child labour has the dire consequences on the welfare of state. As child abuse grows in child labour. It increases the violence in the state. According to ILO report more than 30% of ~~subjected~~ women and children are subject to violence. As care takers do violence on children and women. In Pakistan there are myriad of examples that depict the child abuse grows in the child labour. **The Case of Fatima 2023** is far from isolation. A 10 year old domestic worker was raped and tortured to death. Hence child labour has become the a free licence to torture or violence. As children are too young to record protest they are subject to violence easily. Hence, child labour is increasing violence or promoting harmful behaviour in the society.

Correspondingly, the child labour result in increase in the illiteracy rate in the country. As the number of school going childrens are out of school. It automatically impacts the literacy rate of the country. **There are 23 million children are out of school in Pakistan.** As in Pakistan literacy rate is the **59%** (**Economic Survey of Pakistan 2022-23**). Hence, children today out of school impact the future economy of state. As it violates the constitutional rights of the children which

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results in low literacy rate, low skilled labour and lack of research and development. There are necessary for slow growth. Hence, in long run it deteriorates the literacy rate of the country.

In similar ways, it widens the class conflict. When there is child labour in the society, the lower middle class will have less opportunities to explore in future ~~and~~ due to lack of access ~~of~~ to resources. As According to **Karl Marx, Communist Manifesto** highlighted the **Bourgeoisie** and proletariat. That how one owns the resources rule the society due to control over superstructure of society. Hence, child labour further deprives the children from their due rights and create class conflict.

As Furthermore, child labour hinders the ways to education as education equips one with knowledge and skills. Hence, deprivation of education effect the **cognitive development of children** as it ~~gives~~ ^{gives} birth to rational thinking in a children. **Jean Jacques Rousseau** in his book **Emile** explains the importance of knowledge and how it equips individual with skills. Hence,

child creates the dearth of skilled labour due to low on educational linking.

Moreover, child labour depicts the encroachment on the fundamental rights of the children. As it violate UN Declaration on human rights which advocates individual liberty. Furthermore, it violates the article 25A which explain the right to ~~exp~~ free education. **John Locke** in his ~~works~~ **Understand Essay Understanding Human Nature** explains the importance of liberty. Hence, incarceration on individual liberty is the encroachment on human rights. Hence, it is manifested in child labour that it apprehend ~~a~~ child to have access to the fundamental rights.

In similar way, it stagnant the economic growth. As child labour is the byproduct of inflation, poverty, over population, exploitation, absence of rule of law and lack of access to education. As all these factor collectively increase the risk in the market. **Highly Markets with high risk** ~~less~~ attract less economic domestic or foreign investments. As the result it stagnant the economic growth of the society. moreover, it creates **fiscal and current account deficit** which automatically impact the economic growth

of the economy. Pakistan has less 11% tax to revenue ratio with respect of GDP. As according to World Bank for economic growth tax to revenue ratio must be 15%. Hence, child labour hinder economic growth.

Likewise, child labour impact the human capital development index. As children has less opportunities to develop rational thinking. It impact the capital development index. As Pakistan has only 40% HC DI according to International Human Capital Development Index 2023. Hence, child labour impact the capital development index.

Furthermore, child labourer contributes in surge in crime rates. According to Travis Hirschi Bond Theory when children have weak bond with the family. They tend to deviate from social norms and indulge in criminal activity. Child labour creates the distance between child and its family members. Hence, child labour contributes in surge burgeoning crime rates.

Paradoxically, few milestones have been achieved in order to overcome child labour problem in the society. The international treaties UN declaration on human rights and UN convention on child rights are important steps to protect the children rights and ensure the fundamental law. As the result domestic law regarding the protection of children rights are ICT (Islamabad Capital Territory Child Protection Act 2018) and The employment of child Act 1991 to protect children rights are steps taken to protect the children from the child labour menace.

However, some important measures are necessary to mitigate the problem of child labour in the society. First and foremost step is to allocate sufficient funds to education sector. Furthermore, structural and policies reforms are required to control the corruption within the department or in other departments to promote the education at grass root level. Hence, education sector should be strengthened.

In similar way, government should take effect fiscal and monetary measures to improve the condition of families so they can support their childrens. This can be improved through alleviation of poverty by providing economic opportunities and attracting foreign direct investment. Hence, poverty alleviation can hinder the ways of child labour.

As government already introduced laws regarding prevention of child labour, furthermore, the provisions should be added to these law with changing dynamics of the society. Hence, this will improve the condition of the society. Hence, adjustment in laws with circumstances will improve the condition.

Another major problem that investigate the child labour is over population. Cooperation both individual and government level is required to tackle with issue of burgeoning population. As government should spread awareness

as contraceptive pills and importance of providing quality life to the children. Hence, effective strategies and policies by government can control the population growth. Hence, it is to feed small cater the needs of small population. Hence, controlling population will automatically reduce the child labour.

In nutshell, one can say that "Nothing can be changed by changing the face everything will change by facing the change" (Jane Austin). As child labour is huge problem which is effecting the core of societies. As the result it creates myriad of social problems like illiteracy, poverty, class conflict, increase in crime rates and stagnant growth.

As child labour is social problem which is by product of many problems. Hence, it can be controlled through collective efforts of states and society. As it is often said that

— there is always a ray of hope even
in the darkest of the tunnel.

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