

TOPIC:- CRIMINAL NEGLIGENCE OF CHILD LABOUR AND ITS CONSEQUENCES.

Outline:-

1. Introduction

Thesis Statement:-

Criminal negligence of child labour refers to the violation of child labour laws and regulations that are due to weak enforcement of laws and social acceptance of child labour. However, it can be eradicated by promoting access to education and by providing decent work opportunities and wages for elders.

2- What is criminal neglect of child labour.

3- What are the causes of criminal negligence of child labour

- a) Rising inflation and poverty
- b) Lack of education

- c) weak enforcement of child ^{labour} ~~enforcement~~ laws.
- d) Social acceptance of child labour
- e) lower wages and unmet needs compel children to earn.

4- What are the consequences of negligence of child labour

- a) violation of child labour laws leading to harm, injury and exploitation of children.
- b) It perpetuates poverty by limiting personal development.
- c) violation of basic fundamental rights.
- d) Increased number of out of school children.
- e) Phys Psychological disturbance and behavioural issues due to assault and abuse.
- f) stunted growth due to hazardous working conditions.

5- Ways to eradicate the evil of child labour.

- a) promote decent work and

wages for elders.

b) strict implementation of child labour laws.

c) Improve access to education and equality.

d) International collaboration for safety and protection of children.

6- Conclusion.

Essay-

Every sensible human being tries to get rid of the disease that threatens his life because it is a foolish act not to treat a disease after diagnosing it. But we as a society are biggest fool who in spite of knowing the worst consequences of child labours are completely neglecting it. Napoleon Bonaparte once said, "The world suffers a lot. Not because of the violence of bad people but because of the silence of good people." This quote clearly

explains that inspite of knowing that its crime to involve child in labour we have handed tools to these little hands which should have pens. Child labour can be def. as any form of systematic exploitation of children by employers outside the children's family. Looking into the cause of child labour and its criminal negligence, the social acceptance of child labour can be considered to be the biggest cause of the issue. Lack of education and ~~ex~~ weak enforcement of law are also adding more to the cause. Although, it ~~is~~ has caused various negative effects on children which are witnessed ~~as~~ in the form of harm, injury and exploitation of children. Another negative effect is limited personal growth which perpetuates cycle of poverty and violation of basic fundamental rights. Nevertheless, the issue of negligence of child labour can be eradicated by promoting education promoting

and ^{by} providing decent work opportunities and wages to elders. However, Criminal negligence of child labour refers to the violation of child labour laws and regulations that are due to weak enforcement of laws and social acceptance of child labour. But it can be eradicated by access to education and equality.

Criminal negligence of child labour refers to the violation of child labour laws and regulations which can lead to harm, injury or exploitation of children. The international labour office (ILO) considers this phenomenon as a social problem in which work of children hinders their harmonious physical and mental development. According to the recent International labour organization statistics, 246 million children aged 5 to 17 years are engaged in child labour most of the children between

the ages of 5 to 14 in developing countries are part of - this vicious circle. Child labour has become a pervasive phenomenon and it is strikingly common everyday in most countries of the world especially in urban centres and rural centres mostly witnessing agricultural labour only.

To begin with - the causes of criminal negligence of child labour the most notable cause is rising inflation and poverty. The year 2023 has witnessed the peak of inflation in Pakistan. According to Pakistan bureau of statistics inflation rate in Pakistan accelerated to 29.2% in November 2023 with 28% rise in food inflation. High prices of commodities have made it difficult for people to live their lives with meagre income and high inflation this thus resulted in poverty which ^{can be} witnessed by

37.2% rise, according to (world bank report) so, high inflation has resulted in poverty which has been the cause of child labour and its criminal negligence as people need more earning hands to make their both ends meet.

Adding more to it, lack of education is also a cause of child labour in Pakistan and it is also a reason of criminal negligence of child labour. People are not aware of their children rights protected by the state.

Along with this, children who lack access to quality education are more likely to engage in child labour, as they may not have the skills or knowledge to pursue other opportunities. According to Pakistan Labour survey 13.7% of children aged 10-17 years who should be in school are engaged in child labour. Thus, lack of education is also cause of criminal negligence of child labour where parents

do not speak about the exploitation of their children and children do not possess any skill or knowledge to engage better opportunities.

likewise, weak enforcement of child labour laws is also a cause of criminal negligence of child labour. Pakistan is a country which is weak in enforcement of laws and violation of rule of law can be seen at various instances. So, the weak enforcement of law is the issue which is problem not only in case of child labour criminal negligence but at various levels. The most important laws regarding child labour in Pakistan are The factories Act 1934, The employment of children act 1981, Punjab Compulsory education act 1994, and many others. But these laws are only confined to papers and have no legal status or practical approach. Thus this weak enforcement structure is a cause of criminal

negligence of child labour.

Furthermore, social acceptance of child labour is also another cause of criminal negligence of child labour. People are normalizing and promoting child labour in Pakistan. This can be witnessed by the research of International Labour Organization which says that, "one in every four households in Pakistan employs a child - predominantly girls aged between 10 to 14 years.

This report was published in July 2022, which shows a dark picture of child labour in Pakistan. Along with this, the social acceptance of child labour can be seen in agricultural fields where children work hard with their families and landlords without earning any money in return. All these incidences are representing social acceptance of child labour which is neglecting its criminal status.

Moreover, lower wages standard in Pakistan and unmet needs of the family is also contributing in child labour. A labour in Pakistan daily earns \$2.5 to \$3 maximum which is equivalent to Rs. 27,000 in a month. This meagre income is not sufficient for the families to meet their both ends. Due to unmet needs families compel their children to earn money so that they can earn bread for the whole day. According to a research published by picodi.com, with an average income of 37,628 rupees Pakistani needs 621 years and 3 months to earn \$1 million. This shows the substandard wages Pakistani get and the condition of lower class is even ~~more~~ worst.

Talking about the consequences of criminal negligence of child labour, the very first

negative impact is violation of child labour laws due to criminal negligence that is leading to harm injury and exploitation of children. Pakistan is one of the leading countries with most number of cases of children exploitation which includes abduction, domestic violence, trafficking of children, & sexual and verbal abuse as well. According to world health organization, In 2023, the total number of exploitation cases in Pakistan were 2227, out of ~~which~~ ^{this} 54% victims were girls. The figure is showing the gloomy picture of violence and exploitation which is negative impact of ~~not not~~ criminal negligence of child labour.

Another negative effect of child labour and its criminal negligence is that it perpetuates poverty by limiting personal development. Child labour if reported at earlier stages can help in breaking the vicious

circle of poverty. As the child who is engaged in child labour do not get opportunities for personal development and got trapped into the wheel of - that day and night underpaid struggle, which ^{his} exploits ~~it~~ his basic rights and deprive him of other skills ~~that~~ he might learn to make further progress. The worst behaviours of their heads also make child understressed and affects the behaviour of the children. ~~which~~ In this way, child labour perpetuates cycle of poverty by resisting personal development.

Adding more to the consequences of criminal negligence of child labour it paves the way for the violation of fundamental rights of the children.

Article 19 of the constitution of Pakistan prohibits slavery and forced labour under the age of 14 years and also do not allow work in hazardous employment.

but this basic fundamental right is being violated by many industries and factories in Pakistan where children under 14 age are employed. According to child rights movement, about 70 children were killed by their employes in last- 15 years. This is violation of fundamental right of life and liberty. Thus, negligence of criminal violence has negatively impacted the violation of fundamental rights of children.

Furthermore, one of the most notified negative impact is out of ^{school} children due to forced labour and fewer opportunities.

Article 25(A) of the constitution of Pakistan reads "The state shall provide free and compulsory education to all children of the age of five to sixteen years" yet according to a study by world bank, nearly 23 million Pakistani children aged five to sixteen do not attend school, which is the second largest out

of school population in the world. Regrettably, of these children mostly are involved in child labour. Thus, criminal negligence of child labour has negatively impacted education of children resulting in large number of out of school children.

Besides, another negative impact of criminal negligence of child labour is psychological disturbance and behavioural issue due to assault and abuse. Domestic violence and abuse lead to psychological disturbances and behavioural issues, including depression, anxiety and post-traumatic stress disorder. According to international labour organization more than 140 cases of assault, abuse and murder of child domestic workers were reported in the Pakistani media during the past 10 years. Whereas, most of the cases of such nature are not highlighted in media

the figure still is too high. Thus, the audacity of carrying out these heinous crimes is only due to criminal negligence of child labour in the country.

Last but not the least, stunted growth of children due to working in hazardous is also a negative outcome of child labour. Children working in factories and industries are at high risk of asthma, skin problems, heart problems and cancer. Along with this, they do not ~~not~~ get enough nutrients from the food they get from their workplace or get no food at all. According to world health organization 38% of the children are already stunted in Pakistan. The situation is worst in Sindh. The involvement of child labour at hazardous sites and workplaces is ~~add~~ further adding to the stunted growth rate that would result in severe diseases and malnutrition.

Thus, stunted growth of children due to involvement of negative impact of hazardous conditions working at hazardous factories is a negative impact on health of children.

However, child labour can be eradicated from the society by promoting decent work and wages for elders.

This would help in fulfilling the needs of household and would also discourage child labour as the family would think of empowering the children by giving him chance to learn skills and for personal development instead of entangling him in the responsibilities of earning for the families. Pakistan needs to fix a decent standard earning which can also compete the salary survey of south Asia where Pakistan was at lowest in term of average salary.

Another step worth considering is strict implementation of child labour laws. Government should ask the officials and department to strictly follow child protection and labour laws. If constitution of Pakistan denies working of up to 14 years of children in hazardous employment government should put strict check on ~~the~~ such factories which might be proved hazardous for children and employment of children in such areas should be prohibited or criminalized. Likewise, prohibition of employment Act-2015 of KPK states that no children (under 14 years) shall be employed or permitted to work in any establishment. All such child labour laws must be strictly enforced to ensure a better state of children employment.

Another recommendation is to improve access to education and equality among the children of the state. Government should

made efforts to work out the Article 25 (A) of the education that ensures free education to children from 5 to 16 years. This would help in creating awareness in the children regarding the difference between employment obligations and exploitation of their rights. It would also help children in analysing the working condition and next step to be taken in case of any danger. Along with this, state should provide equal opportunities for the development of the children either they belong to middle or lower class, on the basis of merit. This education and equality will help in empowering children,

Furthermore, international collaboration for safety and protection of children is also a step worth considering. Pakistan can collaborate with various international organiz-

- ations. These organizations can help in protecting children
- like ILO may work out with children labour organizations and NGOs in Pakistan to ensure strict compliance of internally and internationally set standards. like wise, world's food and health organization may startup programmes to provide food that may end the need of child labour and could help in children's development and their good health. In the same way, stipend should be given by the ~~goverment~~ government to help the needy to continue education ^{which} that would help eradicating child labour.

To conclude, it can be said that criminal negligence of child labour is exploitation of children that may harm children and show weak enforcement of child labour laws and regulat-

-ions. Although, the cause of criminal negligence of child labour are: rising of inflation and poverty, lack of education and social acceptance of child labour. This has negatively impacted society in a way that it has increased out of school children, it has disturbed the children psychologically due to assault, domestic violence and abuse and has resulted in stunted growth due to working in hazardous conditions. However, the issue can be addressed by strict implementation of child labour laws and by international collaboration for safety and protection of children. With international cooperations and good enforcement of laws there is a hope for better picture of the issue. As, the best gift we can give to child is his childhood.