

Essay :-

"Criminal Neglect of child labour and its consequences."

OUTLINE :-

Introduction

1. ^{These statements} What is Child Labour?
2. How Child labor is criminally neglected,
 - a) Children are easily employed in small factories.
 - b) School going kids are earning bread and butter.
 - c) Weak laws regarding child labour.
 - d) Child labourers are preferred over adult labourers.
 - e) Poverty and rising inflation makes one forget morals.
 - f) Lack of awareness regarding child labour.
4. Consequences of child labour
 - a) Adverse health conditions of child labourers
 - b) Disturbed mental health conditions.
 - c) Maltreatment of child labourers.
 - d) Victim of abuse at work.
 - e) It affects the literacy rate of the country.
 - f) Child labour leads to economic exploitation.
 - g) Child labourers easily end up in wrong hands.
5. How child labor can be prevented.
 - a) Awareness about adverse impacts of child labour
 - b) Ensuring children are going to school.
 - c) Strict laws against employing child labourers.
 - d) Providing aid to poor families.
6. Conclusion

Thesis Statement:- "Child labour, the most visible yet neglected problem is rising day by day. It disrupts the physical and mental well-being of innocent children. However, taking strong preventive measures can minimize this vicious cycle."

Introduction:- Child labour is criminally neglected in today's world, causing serious consequences. It is a vicious cycle which engulfs the childhood of innocent children and deprives them of their physical and mental well-being. It should be among the taboos in a society but unfortunately, it is neglected and taken as something mundane. However, by taking strong measures in this regard, can minimize this problem at a greater level, for which all sorts of efforts should be considered seriously.

The term child labour simply means depriving children of their childhood by indulging them in enormous work. It is simply work that deprives them of their physical and mental well-being. It includes all sorts of labour that should be done ideally by an adult. It includes work like

shoes, factory workers, farmers, forced labour, illicit activities, drug trafficking etc. Thus, child labour is a menace which is criminally neglected.

Children nowadays are easily employed in small factories. They work there for tiresome hours and are not even paid appropriately. Small level factories prefer children to work for them as they can be easily exploited. A report of International Labour Organisation states that more than 7% of children are working in ~~all~~ factories especially in Africa. Thus, they are easily employed for benefits and easy exploitation.

School going kids are seen in villages and small towns, working day and night to earn bread and butter for their families. Due to poverty and over population, poor families tend to have more children so that they can earn for the family and fulfill the basic necessities of life. Hundreds of children can be seen on streets who sell flowers, brinjals, fruits or sweets to earn for their families. They are deprived of their basic right to education and in age where they should be going to school, they are earning like adults for their loved ones. All this ~~is the~~ ^{cycle} of child labour keeps on working because of poor

Laws regarding child labour. As people have no fear about strict implementation of laws, therefore, they keep on employing children to work for them. Children are seen working in mines, factories and farms tirelessly. Despite legislation against child labour, corruption and lack of awareness allows the employers to exploit children for cheap labour.

Children are preferred to work instead of employing adults because of easy exploitation and cheap labour.

Also, children tend to do work more honestly and finely than adult labourers.

All this makes them easy targets of cheap labour. In the world's poorest countries, slightly more than 1 in 5 children are engaged in child labour (UNICEF), June 2023).

Furthermore, poverty and rising inflation is another major cause of child labour. Poverty makes one forget all morals, and rising inflation acts as the last nail in the coffin.

It makes one brutal and insensitive to innocence of children. It compels the poor families to make their children work, instead of sending them to schools. The Pakistan Labour Force Survey 2017-18 reported that 13%.

of children, aged 10-17 years, are being engaged in hazardous child labour.

Consequently, children suffer more and are heavily employed in hazardous work. Therefore, awareness should be spread about the adverse impacts of child labour.

People should be made aware that their children are precious and should be kept away from this vicious cycle of child labor. But unfortunately, all we see and witness around us is lack of

awareness regarding child labour. It is conceived in society as something necessary and absolute normal, which brings severe consequences for the society.

All this results in severe bad health conditions of the child labourers.

They are made to work above their basic potential which hampers their physical well-being. They are employed in heavy labor for continuous hours and without proper food. They are even paid unfairly for their heavy duties.

According to National Labor Survey of Pakistan, 6.6% of working children (5-14 years) frequently suffer occupational injuries.

Child labour also leads to disturbed mental health conditions. It drives the children into depression,

anxiety and severe stress. It also leads children to the use of cigarettes and drugs, making them drug addicts. It hampers the normal functioning of their mind. They lose their creativity and analytical abilities as well.

Child labour forces the kids to face the maltreatment at work and survive all the tough situations themselves. They are underpaid for their work. They are overworked for their shifts. They are exploited at all levels for cheap labour.

Children also face abuse at their workplace. They are often severely tortured for not working well or learning the new skills. They are also abused mentally and physically.

WHO reports "high burden of emotional (20.2%), physical (19.1%) and sexual violence (8.5%) among child labourers" working in Pakistan.

Furthermore, the literacy rate of the country heavily depends upon these innocent souls who are deprived of their education. Children are forced to work and skip school in order to earn for the family, which adversely impacts the

literary value of the country. child labour also leads to economic exploitation as well because children are not properly paid for the heavy labour that they perform. This leads to a disrupt in the economic flow and economic cycle of the society.

lastly, child labour drives the innocent children into wrong hands. Mostly children are employed in drug trafficking and illicit activities because they are easily exploited. In fact, child labor is a crime itself which should be heavily punished.

Considering all the above mentioned consequences of child labor, some preventive measures may be useful for eliminating this menace from the society. First of all, awareness is most important. Social media, print media can be used effectively to raise voice against child labour and make people aware of its dire prevention.

Secondly, parents must ensure that their children are going to school instead of doing some labour. Strict laws should be enforced against parents who force their children for such atrocious activities and action must be taken against them.

Furthermore, strict laws should be implemented against those employers who employ child labour for cheap labour. Heavy fines and strict punishments should be given to such offenders.

Lastly, most important is providing aid to the poor families who are suffering because of rising inflation and poverty. If the cause which compels them to send their children for labour is minimized, then this cycle of child labour can be prevented.

In conclusion, all the above mentioned discussion clearly elucidates that child labour is actually criminally neglected, which brings harmful impacts and consequences for the society. However, if active measures are taken in this regard, then this calamity can be prevented, as Martin Luther King Jr. said-

"Child labour is a burden on society that we must collectively shoulder and eliminate for a better future".