

CRIMINAL NEGLECT OF CHILD LABOUR AND ITS CONSEQUENCES

Date

OUTLINE:

1) Introduction

Thesis Statement: Although child labor is surging in the country; yet, state and its functionaries are blind about this menace. This would have adverse repercussions on the country and on the children. Therefore, there is a need to take steps for saving the country's future and children.

2) Importance of children for a country

3) Manifestations of criminal neglect of child labour

- a) Large number of children are found in child labour.
- b) No strict implementation of laws regarding child labour.
- c) One out of four provinces has law regarding minimum age for employing child.
- d) Media is blind about child labour.
- e) Religious leaders are silent about child labour.

4) Consequences of neglecting child labour

- a) Large number of out-of-school children.
- b) Higher rate of juvenile delinquency.
- c) Children are falling victim of torture and inhumane treatment.
- d) The future of country is at peril.

Gracy

- e) Lack of future leadership
- f) Tarnishing global image of the country
- g) Higher chance of indulgence in drug abuse
- h) Surge in terrorism

- 5) Remedies for reducing child labour
- (a) Strict implementation of article 25A of constitution regarding free education
 - (b) Impose fine on households that employ child
 - (c) Counsel children & parents regarding detrimental effects of child labour
 - (d) Provide all the necessary ~~eat~~ edibles items to poor families at the start of month.

Recently, a heart wrenching incidents occurred in Rawalpindi- A judge employed a child girl for his household chores. The child was beaten, physically abused and mentally tortured. Her left arm was fractured when she was brought to hospital. Can someone after hearing this incident say that ~~the~~ state is focused on child labor? Absolutely not! This is not just one case, there are plenty of other that do not get media coverage. State's neglect can be manifested in many forms like large number of children found in child labor, lax implementation of the law, presence of law regarding minimum age for employing child in only one province. Moreover, it can be manifested through blindness of media about child labour and silence of religious scholars. This would have adverse impacts on both state and life of child. This includes high out of school children, surge in juvenile delinquency, becoming a victim of inhumane treatment, placing country's future at perils and paucity of future leadership. Furthermore, it would lead to tarnishing of global image of the country.

higher likelihood of indulgence in drug abuse, and surge in terrorism. Therefore, some steps are needed to be taken. This include strict implementation of article 25A of constitution, impose ban on household that employ child, counsel the parent of child and provide necessary edibles to poor families. In nutshell, the country is exhibiting a neglect regarding child labor. This would have adverse impacts. Therefore, some steps needed to be taken.

Children are important part of a country. Children are gems that a country have. As Nelson Mandella said, **"Children are important asset of country on which building of nation is built"**. Children are future of any country. They are building block of any country. Countries, who have made progress in the past, have invested in their children. If any country want to save its future, it must equip its children with modern skills. Children are future leaders of a country. If a leader is corrupt then entire country would be demolished. If any country is lacking behind in progress

but it is careful about the ~~future~~ growth of its children than that country would progress would progress by leaps and bounds in future - Hazrat Muhammad (SAWA) worked on the children and youngsters - He ~~in~~ inculcated qualities and equipped them with skills - The result of this hardwork was very fruitful in the form of emergence of people like Hazrat Ali, Hazrat Abu Talha and many other - Therefore, the children has an immense importance for any country -

Despite the enormous importance of children for a country, Pakistan is showing criminal neglect to child labour - This neglect is exhibited in many forms - One of them is large number of children are found in child labor - These children should have to be in schools reading books, composing white ups and playing with toys - However, no such kind of things are observed in Pakistan - Many international organizations have prepared reports regarding child labour in Pakistan - According to International Labour Organization, one in four of the child in Pakistan is engaged in child labour - Therefore, child labour is rampant in Pakistan -

And this factor that is responsible

For surge in child labour is the absence of strict implementation of laws regarding child labour. Although Pakistan has framed many policies, and enacted many laws yet child labour is still reaching the dizzy heights. The reason for this hike is obvious that laws are only in black and white. In addition to local laws, Pakistan is also a signatory of international convention but still child labour is increasing. Therefore, Pakistan is neglecting child labour by not implementing strict laws.

Only one out of four province in Pakistan has law regarding the minimum age for employing a child. Every country has some pieces of laws which deal with matters related to child. This also include laws related to child labour and minimum age for employing child. However, situation is different in Pakistan. The absence of law regarding minimum age for employing a child give factory owners, industry owners and household owners free hand and impunity regarding

employment of child of any age. Hence, Pakistan is neglecting the plight of children by not enacting law regarding minimum age for employing a child.

Media is also blind about child labour. Media is often portrayed as third state. No one can ignore the power of media in highlighting issues and diverting attentions of higher officials to any problem. However, media is in oblivion about the child labour.

The reason is crystal clear that media covers only those issues that can cause surge in TRP. The cases about child labour that media covers are few and far between. Media is busy in covering the fights and verbal spats among politicians. Hence, child labour is not getting that much media coverage which it has to be.

Religious leaders and scholars are also silent about the rights of children. Islam is the religion that has covered each and every aspect of life. It ~~has~~ has even set forth the rights of animals then how it can forget ~~to~~ to care ~~for~~ this problem of child labour. The

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Problem is that the entire public knows only that much Islam that has been told to them by religious scholars. Unfortunately, religious leaders are ~~also~~ silent about this very problem. They never give any fatwa regarding child labour. There fore, neglect regarding child labour is also observed from religious sides of the country.

This neglect has adverse ~~have~~ repercussions on the life of children and the state - This resulted into large number of out of school children in Pakistan. Children, who are busy in labour, find no time for going to school. According to World Health Organization, there are about 23 million out of school children in Pakistan. Poor families are unable to pay the hefty fees of schools. According to survey, 80% children are out of school due to poverty (Lack of Concern of Out of School Children, Dawn). Therefore, child labour is barring children from attending school. Another obvious effect of child labour is juvenile delinquency. Children are very sensitive

to environment - They quickly learn from their environment. As they are immature, they cannot distinguish between wrong and right. Children who are employed in factories, industry and at local dhabs are exposed to crime. They learn from environment and repeat the same in future. There are large number of juveniles in jails. Currently, there are about 1400 juveniles in jails and 90% of them are waiting for trial (Pakistan: Understanding Juvenile Delinquency, Eurasia review). Therefore, child labour is causing surge in juvenile delinquency.

Children engaged in labour are falling victim to torture and inhuman treatment. Children ~~are~~ ~~are~~ are weak. They are unable to deter attacks on them. Children in employment often face harsh treatment of their owners. The case of Rizwana is epitome of this who was battered and slapped. Other than that children are often sexually abused by their owners. The recent report of Unicef revealed that in 2023, around 21500 cases of child

are reported in Pakistan. Therefore, children are prone to physical and sexual violence in employment.

Child labour put future of country at perils. Children are future of country. If children are not groomed well then the future of the country would be obviously at danger. Child labour hampers large number of children from attending school. This would have repercussion on country in the form of high illiteracy rate. Children, who are engaged in labour, are more prone to criminal tendencies. This would ultimately cause surge in rate of terrorism. Therefore, child labour ~~is~~ has tendency to mar the future of country.

Child labour would result in lack of leadership for the country in future. The children of today are the leaders of future. If these children are groomed well, they would make efforts in future to better the country. However, they would be unable to grasp necessary ^{skills for} leadership. Their cognitive ability would not be upto the mark. 36 out of 100

children are at risk of cognitive limitation in Pakistan (**Human Capital Development, Dawn**). Their education would not be suitable for effective leadership. Therefore, Pakistan would likely to face leadership crisis due to child labour.

Child labour would also lead to tarnishing of global image of Pakistan. Pakistan would be unable to compete at global level. Nowadays, the entry into global platforms are made conditional. Countries have to fulfill certain demands before getting entry. Another thing is that the progress of country is often measured by literacy level. Child labour diminishes the literacy level. According to Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, literacy level of Pakistan is 59%. Child labour would also cause surge in terrorism, thereby, blocking the entry of Pakistan in global reputed platforms. Thus, child labour would spoil the global image of Pakistan.

There are higher chances of children engaged in child labour to indulge in drug abuse. There are large number of drug abusers in

Pakistan - According to Antinarcotics Force, there are about 7.6 million drug abusers in Pakistan. Children in labour have often lax parental oversight on them. This would greatly increase the chance of drug abuse as mentioned in social control theory of criminology. Moreover, children are also used for transferring substance from one city to another. Therefore, children in labour are at higher risk of substance abuse.

Child labour would also cause surge in terrorism. Terrorism is growing problem for Pakistan. Enhancing levels of child labour is preparing fertile grounds for terrorist outfits for employing children engaged in labour often have low cognitive ability. They are unable to understand the traps of these outfits. They lure them by promising them of financial benefits. Moreover, it is ~~more~~ ^{easier} to brainwash these innocent children than the mature ones. Therefore, child labour is making the children soft target of these outfits.

There is a dire need for taking some effective steps for curbing child labour. One of the step is to the strict implementation of article 25A of constitution. This article is related to free education - Government should make efforts to impart free education to children. It can collaborate with NGOs and international donors for financial assistance. It should build educational institutes in far flung areas of Pakistan. The government should appoints its officials in every tehsil to check whether all the children are going to school. It should check attendance list of schools and meet the families of missing children. This would curb child labour.

Impose strict fines on those household that employ child. This law should be uniformly apply to all parts of country. All the households that employing any helpers and servants should register themselves in government records. They must provide all the information of the helper including number of children that helper has. The government should ensure this that child-

children of that helper are enrolled in schools. This can be done by contacting relevant authorities of areas where that helper lives.

This can greatly reduce the child labour.

Another step that can be taken in this regard is to counsel the children's parents regarding the detrimental effects of child labour. They must be informed that monetary benefits that they are getting from child labour are temporary. If they give chance of education to their children then they would get high and permanent monetary benefits. They must be informed about recent cases in which child faced harsh circumstances and treatment due to employment. This can be done through seminars and individual counselling. Thus, this step has potential to diminish the levels of child labour.

Poor families should be provided with material assistance during the start of every month. This assistance should be in the form of edible items not in the cash. Many parents engage

their children in labour because of their indigent condition. If their necessities are fulfilled then there are greater chances of diminution of this practice. Therefore, fulfilling material necessities of family can lower child labour.

In a nutshell, Pakistan is showing neglect in addressing child labour. There are large number of children engage in labour, lax implementation of laws, ^{absence of} law mentioning minimum age for engaging child in labour and media is blind about this issue. This have adverse impacts on both child and the country. This include surge in out of school children and juvenile delinquency, placing country's future at perils and falling victim to drug abuse, terrorism outfits and inhuman treatment. However, all the purposed steps have potential to save the child and country. These steps are implementing laws, imposing fine on child labour, counselling children's parent and providing necessary material assistance to poor families. Pakistan is the country that ~~has~~ has fought many challenges. It has avoided default, implemented effective policies in corna and

brought down the level of terrorism
in past- what is required for
curbing child labour is the dedication
and commitment- The day is near
when child labour would be
ceases to exist in Pakistan