

Zain

Criminal neglect of child labor and its consequences

Outline.

1- Introduction.

2- The current crisis situation of child labor.

3- What are the causes of this criminal neglect of child labor?

(a) Poverty is the primary driver of child labor, as poverty-stricken children are forced to work.

(b) Judicial lacunae and weak law enforcement mechanism provide impunity child labor an opportunity to exist with impunity.

(c) Economic constraints of the states prevent them from investing in the education sector.

(d) Child trafficking and forced labor are another cause of the child labor.
relate to neglect not directly to child labour

4- What are the consequences of the criminal neglect of child labor?

(a) Short term consequences of child labor:
Discuss the consequences of neglect not the consequences of child labour

(a) Extreme bodily and psychological harm resulting from extreme working conditions.

(b) Economic exploitation of the working children, due to their lack of bargaining

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abilities to demand their due
(C) Sexual exploitation of children involved in child labor due to lack of parental and legal oversight.

(ii) ~~long term consequences of child labor:~~

- (a) Stunted growth due to malnutrition and extreme working conditions.
- (b) Greater susceptibility to chronic diseases due to lack of ~~access~~ access to quality healthcare.
- (c) Poor school achievement and lower skills result in marginalisation and poor socio-economic status, often leading to ~~crime or radicalisation~~ ^{many points} crime or radicalisation.

5- How can the criminal neglect of child labor be solved?

- (a) Strengthening legislation and the law enforcing mechanism.
- (b) Ensuring access to both high quality and modern education.
- (c) Ensuring social welfare programs to provide a cushion to low disposable income households.
- (d) Utilising the assistance of civil society and non-governmental organizations to combat child labor.

6- Conclusion:

On June 17, 1999, the International Labour Conference unanimously adopted the Convention No. 182, the convention concerning the "Prohibition of Child Labour and Immediate Action Against the Worst Forms of child labor." Followed by this, there was a chain reaction, as child labor was criminalized throughout world. However, the dream of the elimination of child labor still remains to be materialized. This criminal neglect of child labor continues to affect the millions of children across the globe. The fact is one country may imitate a law, but that does not mean there will be some miracle in this regard. Expression Because, the structural issues still remain unresolved, similar is the case with child labor. The countries under pressure signed in droves the charter of International Labour Organisation (ILO) without radically taking steps against the menace of child labor. This criminal neglect of child labor is caused by factors like poverty, judicial lacunae, weak law enforcement mechanism, and

Economic constraints of countries to prevent them from investing in quality education. Similarly, the child trafficking and forced labor too condemn underage children to a life of slavery, which is child labor. As a result of this

Sentence structure

criminal neglect, of child labor, whose consequences are both short-term and long-term. The short-term consequences of

Not consequences of child labour, The discussion should relate to consequence of neglect.

child labor include, extreme physical, mental harm, economic and sexual exploitation. The long-term consequences of child labor include, stunted growth

among children, vulnerability to chronic diseases, and poor socio-economic status resulting in crime and radicalisation.

Don't enlist the points in intro

Thus, child labor remains one of the most potent forces to be reckoned with.

Though it is criminalized across ^{the globe}, however, the criminal neglect of child labor demands more concerted measures globally to eradicate

this evil. Otherwise, the dream of an egalitarian, just, and inclusive world will remain in pipes for a long time to come if not forever.

(5)

Despite being criminalized since ^{for} decades, the evil of child labor still haunts the world. According to the International Labour Organization (ILO) reports (2023) the estimated number of 160 million ^{children} are being put to work. Similarly, the UNICEF report (2023) revealed that additionally some 9 million children are being forced to work as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and its economic consequences. Furthermore, this trend is more rampant in the developing countries like Pakistan, India, Nigeria, and Afghanistan. According to the statistics of UNICEF, alone 3.3 million children in ~~Pakistan~~ are forced to work. Moreover, lack of education due to child labor is fanning the waves of crime and violent extremism. Therefore, the criminal neglect of child labor needs to be plugged properly to contain this virus, that is pushing children towards a life of virtual slavery.

One of the major reasons of the criminal neglect of child labor

is Poverty. No doubt that states may have criminalized or legislated on the issue of child labor. However, it is akin to treating a problem without knowing the structures which actually caused the problem. Poverty is one of these structures. As poverty-stricken parents struggle to meet ends meet, the possibility of employing a child seems lucrative to them. Being unable to either provide a quality education or quality life, the poverty-stricken parents make the Faustian bargain of putting their children into some manual labor.

As per World Bank's prediction that by the end of 2023, ~~23~~ 17.2% of people will live in absolute poverty in Pakistan. Pakistan is a unique case as population explodes exponentially more than

This does not prove that poverty results in neglect of child labour. This only states that there is poverty in Pakistan.

3 million more ~~people~~ join the ranks of poor every ~~four~~ years. Thus, poverty is the primary driver of child labor, that forces people not to pay any regard to the criminal offence of putting under age children to work.

Judicial lacunae and weak law enforcement mechanism provide for the evil of child labor to exist with impunity. Despite legislation prohibiting child labor, weak implementation, corruption and lack of awareness of people about the laws condemn children to a life of perpetual misery. Pakistan is a case in point. For example, in 1991 the Employment of Children Act was passed, that made it illegal for children under the age of 14 to work. According to Pakistan's Labour Force Survey (2023), the percentage of under age children is still around 8.2%. Moreover, existing laws, enforcement mechanisms and expensive ^{yet delaying} mechanism for justice make legislation, no matter how progressive they may be, a complete farce. Thus, a vacuum for child labour is created by the same laws, which ironically sought to eliminate it.

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and technicalities in laws
result in neglect

Besides weak laws, the economic constraints of developing states prevent ^{provision} of free, accessible and quality education. As a result of that education

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remains a neglected sphere in most of the developing countries. Because these countries lack funds and adequate resources to meet the demand of education.

Resultantly, the education sector proves to be hindrance in combating child

labour. It is worth noting that appropriate funding is essential for high quality education. However, the countries like Pakistan

with weak economic fundamentals, volatile fiscal budget, and mounting international as well as domestic borrowing and debt, leave lesser or little space (fiscal) for

investing in education. While the other South Asian neighbours of Pakistan spend more than 4% of their GDP (Gross

Domestic Products) on education, Pakistan hovers around 1.7% to 1.8% in almost every fiscal year. Thus, lack of education (quality) prevent

the children from getting necessary skills to become both independent and integrated into economy. Therefore, children are

forced to drop out and engage themselves in some manual labour, this cycle then goes on and on.

(9)

Furthermore, the bane of child trafficking and forced labour in concentration-camp like work environments are another causes of the child labor. The criminal gangs and syndicate involved in trafficking abduct under age children, with the aim of putting them into forced labour. The towering figure of Iqbal Masih is a case in point. In 1990s, a Pakistani kid named Iqbal Masih unearthed many unknown facts about forced child labor. Iqbal himself was a bonded labourer in the carpet weaving industry. His master sold him to another, when he was being taken away to Karachi, Iqbal escaped and reported to the Police. However, when Iqbal became a global icon against child labour, his former predators got killed, while he was campaigning against child-labour. This explains how deeply entrenched network of child traffickers and forced labourers is in Pakistan. This cycle is rampant in brick-tiln camps in Pakistan and forced begging in the urban or commercial centres.

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 This is just a narration of event

The criminal neglect of child labor poses many short and long term consequences. The short term include the physical and psychological harm, which results from bad working environment, such as brick-furns, cement industry, carpet manufacturing, glass manufacturing, and building industries. The toxic work environment takes a heavy toll on the physical and mental well-being of children. As children are expected to lift either heavy weights at work or are over-burdened. This poses many physical consequences, like fatigue, no stress and psychological traumas as well as stress and depression.

Similarly, the working children are exploited economically, due to their being under-age and lack of bargaining skills. Because, child-labour is a crime, and the employers know that very much, means child labour exist as an informal sector of economy. The informal nature of child labor markets help them bypass regulation and governmental oversight. Thus, when the children

Do not list things

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Should be discussed in neglect

are not paid their due in wages, they have no other option but to tolerate that exploitation. Similarly, the subsistence wages keep the children subservient although they work longer hours and shifts. This sheer exploitation closes the door of mobility and resultantly, the children remain trapped in this vicious cycle for time being, until they do not become legally viable to work.

Besides economic exploitation, the working children are exposed to dehumanizing abuse. The lack of parental oversight exposes children to sexual abuse at workplaces, either from employers or fellow adult workers. As per the World Health Organization's (WHO) figures, that high burden of emotional (20.8%), physical (19.7%) and sexual abuse (8.5%) is reported among child labourers working in Pakistan. The sexual violence among child workers was alarmingly high among those employed in agriculture, hotels, and restaurants. Thus, this abuse takes a heavy toll on the physical, emotional, and psychological

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well-being of children.

The long-term consequences of ~~child labour~~ include stunted growth among children, which is becoming an alarming phenomenon. It means due to malnutrition or proper diet, children stop growing, as a result their physical and mental faculties ~~too~~ stop growing. According to the caloric deficit method of determining poverty and poverty line, a healthy person needs to consume at least 2300 to 2400 calories daily. However, the extreme working conditions, stress, and subsistence wages force children to either ~~miss~~ ^{overeat} their meals or they cannot afford it. Thus, child-labour not only destroys their childhood and ~~adolescent~~ days but affects their adult life too.

Similarly, malnutrition result in weak immunity system among the working children, which means ~~workers~~ ^{long} are more susceptible to ~~catch~~ ^{child} chronic diseases. The impact of hazardous work can cause profound long lasting health related problems, that

may become evident in adulthood or during ~~the~~ adolescent days. This uncertainty makes them difficult to measure or prove. According to a study in European Union, child labour can cause, cancer, infertility, and chronic back-pain as the long-term negative health outcomes. These health related consequences are worsened by poverty and the lack of efficient or quality healthcare system. This situation is more pronounced in developing countries like Pakistan, where governance standards are often backward or outdated, provision of public services like healthcare inefficient. Thus, child labour is a disastrous notion, that plays with the lives of innocent children.

Likewise, poor education, skills and proper field-knowledge ~~to~~ of working children remains a hindrance for their emancipation. As industries are becoming more and more modernized and require skills to work in them, this lack of skills among working children traps them in the same exploitative and unregulated

sectors of economy. Resultantly, they are marginalised in adulthood due to their poor socio-economic status in society. This marginalisation then often forces these people to either commit a crime or makes them fall prey to violent extremism. According to a report of the Global Conflict Tracker, violent extremism is more rampant in societies with high rates of unemployment, as these gullible lot of individuals are more expected to be swayed by radicalisation by terrorist organisations.

Paragraphs should in our around the idea

However, this criminal neglect of child labour and its consequences can still be contained, provided, that concerted efforts are taken in this regard. The first step towards the right direction would be the strengthening of legislation, law enforcing mechanism, and bringing culprits to justice. This requires, the plugging of judicial lacunae and speedy disposing off of cases related to child labour.

Throughout the world, more focus has been on criminalising the child labour but it is just one-dimensional attempt to resolve the problem. The corruption and inefficiency of law enforcing agencies becomes pivotal, so does the time consuming process of judiciary. Thus, urgent reforms are required to resolve this issue of legal lacunae.

Similarly, access to quality education is the fundamental human right of every children. However, states with misplaced priorities have for long ^{too} did not pay any attention to the provision of education. Education is necessary for learning new skills. As in globalized world and interconnectedness of economies, skills are considered the currency for tomorrow. Thus, states with illiteracy rates (higher) will struggle in future to stay relevant in the global economic markets. Therefore, the provision and access to quality education should be treated as a tool to fight against this evil of child labour.

Day: _____

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Date: _____

Likewise, the social welfare programs play a key role in providing a cushion to low income households. Because these households are more prone to pull-out their children from schools and employ them in manual labour. Thus, targeted welfare programs will help these households stay afloat and become self-sufficient. Lessons should be learned from a comparative study of countries with state of the art social welfare programs. For example, Pakistan's Benazir Income Support Program (BISP) and Bangladesh's Grameen Bank credit facilitation schemes are a case in point. These social welfare programs have one thing in common, that is these programs made women the beneficiaries. Because women are considered more prone to invest in nutrition and education of children, whereas the patriarchs of house may spend the credit and cash transfer on non-developmental and luxury items. Thus, the role of these social programs become pivotal in making marginalised and poor households self-sufficient, resultantly, the children too are saved from

the cause of child labour as the standards of living are improved, the parents become less interested in putting their children to work.

Last but not the least, the role of civil society organisations and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) is recognized throughout the developed world for bridging the gap between the government and society. Thus, the support of these organisations should be effectively utilised in the fight against the cause of child-labour. The shelter homes, orphanages, and child rescuing organisations have been playing a key role in saving children from bonded labour. For example, the Society for the Protection of the Rights of the Children (SPARC) is a leading organisation in Pakistan that is defending children's rights at local level, which includes combating child labour. SPARC works alongside the International Labour Organisation (ILO) to provide children protection services across Pakistan like saving them from the deadly threats of bonded-labour.

To conclude, it can be said that although child labour is considered a crime throughout the world. However, the weak implementation of law and unresolved structural hindrances like socio-economic disparities and illiteracy are key drivers of this phenomenon. These factors are responsible for the criminal neglect of the laws regulating child labour. Furthermore, the phenomenon of child labour poses both short and long-term ~~to~~ consequences to society in general and children in particular, which range from physical, psychological, sexual abuse, economic, emotional and health related exploitation. In contemporary world, the phenomenon of child labour has become most pressing issue especially in developing states like Pakistan, which have neither required resources nor a robust judicial system. Thus, merely criminalizing a issue won't fundamentally change the situation. Therefore, concerted efforts are required to resolve these structural issues which provide an impetus to child labour.

	Category	Total marks	Obtained marks
Content	Qualitative analysis	10	1
	Quantitative analysis	10	1
	Validity & Reliability	10	0
	Relevance	10	1
Language	Sentence structure	5	1
	Vocabulary	5	0
	Clarity	5	1
	Command of language	5	1
	Expression	5	0
Structure	Outline	5	1
	Introduction	5	1
	Body paragraphs	5	1
	Conclusion	5	1
Coherence	Cohesion	5	1
	Coherence	10	0
Total			11