

Child Labour: A Neglected Issue

Outline

1- Introduction

There is no denying the fact that international organizations and nation states are working to eradicate menace of child labour. However, the ground realities are different and proving that child labour is widely a neglected issue.

2- An Overview of Child Labour

3- Facts which prove that child labour is neglected issue

A- High enrollment of children in labour force

B- Low 'enrollment' ratio of children in schools

C- Children working in hazardous places are proving negligence of issue

D- Lack of political will of governments to debate on child labour is depicting a neglect of issue

E- Child trafficking is carrying on to exploit children for labour

4- Facts which prove that child labour is not neglected issue

A- International organizations are keeping an eye on child safety

B- Funding of international organizations on education of children

C- ~~Safe~~ Safety of children is ensured in the constitutions of states

D- International organizations meet annually to combat child labour

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A- International organizations are actively advocating child's rights in developed world

B- Funding of international organizations for children often neglects peripheral countries.

C- Upholding of constitutions is not practicing in hybrid democracy

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D. Annual meetings of international and national organizations are limited to paper work only

E. Despite strict regulations policies, child trafficking is common ill practice

6- Conclusion

"The international language is cry of child". This line of founder of the "Save Children" rings alarming harsh reality of Child labour globally. Around 138 million children, aged 5-7 are trapped in child labour. Despite this eye-opening figure, child labour is a neglected issue. The neglect of issue is due to multifaceted and interlinked underlying forces. Child labour is involvement of children into labour activities and exploitation. There is no denying the fact that international organizations and nation states are working to eradicate menace of child labour. However, the ground realities are different and proving that child labour is widely a neglected issue. Some people argue that child labour is neglected issue as manifested in facts such as high enrollment of children in labour force, low enrollment ratio of children in schools, children working in hazardous places and lack of political will of governments to debate on

child labour. Moreover, child trafficking is carrying on to exploit children for labour. On the other side, some people claim that child labour is not neglected issue as international organizations are keeping an eye on child safety, funding of international organizations on education of children and safety of children is ensured in the constitution of states. In addition to this, they claim that international organizations meet annually to combat child labours and strict regulation of laws to curb child trafficking. Nevertheless, the ground realities and evidences are proving that child labour is a neglected issue. Therefore, this essay argue that child labour is a neglected issue.

Child labour is a complex and harsh reality of today's world. It involves

work that harms children's well being, education or development.

There are multiple causes of child labour such as poverty, lack of access to education and cultural norms. According to International Labour Force Survey 2024, around 138 million children are in child labour globally. This ratio is high in sub Saharan region, around 83 million children are trapped in child labour.

The child labour has devastating impacts on child's education, behaviour pattern, health and well being.

Some people argue that child labour is neglected is neglected issue. First and foremost argument is high enrollment of children in labour force. Around the world, children are forced to do work for multiple reasons. The ratio of children in labour is high in low developing and poor countries. According to the report of Unicef, the global agriculture sectors accounts for 61% of child labor, followed by services and industry where

enrollment is 27% and 12%. Therefore, children's enrollment in labour force is high which shows that child labour is neglected issue.

Next is low enrollment ratio of children in schools. The low numbers of children in education leads to involvement of children in labour activities. As per report of UNO, 31% of children from global population are indulge in child labour. This is an alarming figure. The high enrollment ratio of children in labour forces and low numbers of children in education are directly linked to each other. So, this enrollment ratio of children is proving that children are not attending schools and not receiving attention as pressing issue.

Moreover, children working in hazardous places are proving negligence of issue. There are worrying figures of children working in life-threatening places. According

to the report of International Labour Force Survey 2021, around 58% of children are working in mining processes. This is posing risks to their lives. Despite severity and intensity of issue, Child labour is neglected. Hence, child labour is neglected issue.

Further, there is a lack of political will of government to debate on child labour as harsh reality and pressing issue. This issue did not receive due attention, nor it is receiving. Other issues of world have eclipsed the intensity of this issue. For example, Climate change and economy are central points of big summits and conferences. Child labour is hardly discussed topic at any big platforms. The irony is that it is never highlighted on media. Child labour gets attention on only World Children's Day which celebrated on 20th November of each year. Otherwise

this issue is dormant and neglected. Therefore, child labour is a neglected issue.

Furthermore, child trafficking is carrying on to exploit children for labour. It is practising globally. Children are sold for child labour. Child trafficking is form of child labour which involves recruiting, transporting and receiving children for exploitation. It can be domestic or international. Girls are more vulnerable, making up to $\frac{2}{3}$ of child trafficking. According to the report of UNO in 2023, around 2.1 million children became victim of child trafficking. Thus, child labour is a neglected issue despite its intensity.

Some people on the other side claim that child labour is not neglected issue. First and foremost argument is that international organizations are keeping an eye on child safety. There are many international organizations which are acting as guarantor of

Children such as UNICEF, Save the Children etc. They fund globally to protect children from labour, violence and exploitation. The International Justice Mission combats human trafficking and poverty facing by child. These organizations highlight the child labour. Therefore, international organizations are aware of child's safety.

Besides this, the international organizations fund for education of children in under-developed areas. According to the report of "Save the Children" in 2024, 3 billion dollars are allocated for out of school children. In addition to this, this organization helps in schools infrastructure, rehabilitation of schools and training of teachers to bring back children. Thus, funding of international organizations discourage children in labour force.

Next is safety of children is ensured in the constitutions of states. Each constitution of the

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country is upholding children's rights. For instance, Article 14 of the Constitution of Pakistan ensures safety of children by not allowing working in hazardous places such as mines. This shows that constitutions protect children from labour and harmful activities. Hence, child labour is not neglected issue.

In addition to this, international organizations meet annually to combat child labour. These are annual sessions of international organizations. All nation states are signatory of child protection laws. They meet annually on Children's Day to highlight child labour and other child related issues. So, child labour is not neglected issue.

Moreover,

people claim that international organizations are following strict regulations to curb child trafficking. Each nation state is following this. The organizations like the International Labour Force

and UNICEF work to combat child labour through conventions and programs. For instance, Pakistan introduced Child Labour Policy to eliminate child labour in 2005 and National Action Plan for Human Rights which focuses on child labour and trafficking. Therefore, child labour is not neglected issue.

Nevertheless, the points given above in support of "Child labour is not neglected issue" are rebuttal in this way.

First and foremost evidence is that international organizations are actively advocating child's right in developed world. They are neglecting child labour in poor countries. The developed world exploited children for cheap labours. For example, children are transported from poor countries such as Ethiopia, Sudan to developed world through sea routes to exploit them. Therefore, international organizations are not equally advocating child's right.

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Moving next, international organization's funding for children often neglects peripheral countries. The poor countries in the world are ignored by international institutions. This leads to increase in child labours. It is evident from the fact that around 87 million children are involved in Child labour in Africa as per report of the International Labour Force 2024. Thus, this prove that peripheral countries are excluded from fundings.

Further, upholding of constitution is not practicing in hybrid democracy. According to PILDAT's 2023 report, there are only 8% countries are enjoying true democracy. Remaining countries are in hybrid regimes and dictatorships. These hybrid regimes are not upholding constitutional spirit, nor they attend international meetings. Hence, upholding of constitution to safeguard child's right is not practicing.

Furthermore, annual meetings of international organizations are limit to paper work only. There is not difference in reduction of alarming figures of child labours. As per report of the International Labour Force, 138 million children are in labour force. This is alarming figure. If these organizations are meeting annually, why there is no decrease in this high figure? This proves that more work is on papers only and little on ground.

Lastly, despite strict regulation policies, child trafficking is common ill practice. The children are being force into labour force and transported for cheap labour. As per report of the world Bank 2022, 2.1 million children are recruited and transported for child labour in developing countries. This trafficking is done through sea routes which

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are illegal and porous borders.
Hence, child labour is neglected
issue as no regulatory measures
are implemented by nation states.

To
sum it all, it can be concluded
that Child labour is harsh
reality of today's world. Around
138 million Children are in labour
force as per reports of international
institutions. Some segment of
society claim that child labour
is not neglected issue as
international organizations and
nation states are collaborating to
eliminate this. On the other
side, some people argue that
child labour is neglected issue
widely as manifesting in
ground realities such high ratio
in labour force, low enrollment ratio
in schools and child trafficking.
Global and institutional institutions
are not paying attention to this
menace. Ultimately, this essay
argues that child labour is
neglected issue.

