

Outline:

1) Introduction

2) ~~causes~~ ^{some} critical factors responsible for child labour.

A. Poverty is a primary cause of child labour.

B. ~~growing~~ ^{high illiterate} population in Pakistan is an instrumental

Factor.

C. ~~Lack of quality education~~ ^{Rising inflation} leads to child

labour.

D. ~~Absence~~ ^{weak} of law enforcement is one of

the reasons.

3) ~~with~~ ^{some} disastrous consequences of child labour in Pakistan.

A. Physical exploitation of the children due

to child labour

B. ~~Loss of childhood for children~~ ^{girls are disproportionately impacted} as a

result of child labour

C. intensified social inequality and growing

Child labour

D. Weak human capital a repercussion of child labour

4. The reasons for neglecting the issue of child labour:-

- A. Lack of political will is one of the major factor.
- B. ~~Cheap~~ ^{cheap} Labor demands in the informal sector is an important reason.
- C. Cultural Normalization of child labour a significant element
- D. Several other competing National crisis are ^{one} of the reason.

5. Some measures to alleviate the issue of child labour:-

- A. ~~Strengthening~~ ^{enforcement} of laws is an important measure
- B. Provision of Economic Support is a crucial step.
- C. Accessibility of education is ^{an} instrument measure.

6. Conclusion.

ESSAY

Child Labour has been one such issue that has been plaguing Pakistan's history. Since it's been a common practice around the globe with increasing Capitalism and Consumerism. While the issue still prevails, the ~~on~~ ^{repercussions} of it can not go unnoticed. The children at the receiving end of this practice suffer extreme exploitation, physical and mental. Increasing social inequality among the masses. A weak human Capital as a result of child labor is impeding ~~on~~ the National growth. This essay ~~aims to~~ ^{would} shed light on some critical factors responsible for child labour, ~~some~~ ^{track} down some of its disastrous consequences, ~~the~~ ^{help} understand a few of the reasons for neglecting this issue, and in the end would offer some measures to alleviate the issue of child labour.

Poverty is one of the primary cause of child labour. Families living in extreme poverty rely on the income generated by their children. According to World Bank ²⁰²³ 88% of the poorest household reliant on child income. In Afghanistan children work to buy meals. which goes to show that most of the people working in the child labour are from families living under poverty. Therefore, ~~Poverty~~ ^{child labour} is a result of the worsening poverty.

Lack of Education is a significant contributor to ~~the~~ child labor. Uneducated parent often lack skills required for stable jobs. which results in children working in order to supplement the income for the households. In such case Parents prioritise survival over Education for their kids. Especially common in rural areas of Sindh and Balochistan where families send children to Brick kilns or farms.

Rising inflation fuels child labour. It squeezes the household purchasing power and raises the cost basic survival needs. Such situations drive child labour, according to UNICEF-ILO, around 12.5 Million children in Pakistan are engaged in child labour. With the rising costs of Fuel, energy, Food worsen the situation. Thus, child labour is a serious consequence of the inflation.

A key driver of child labour is the ^{weak} ~~Absence~~ of law enforcement. Despite the constitutional guarantees and child labour laws, their enforcement remains weak. Due to which there's no fear of punishment, aggravating the situation. According to ILO assessments, the majority of children are employed in unregulated sectors such as brick kilns, domestic service, small

workshops, which largely escape oversight. This enforcement gap results in prevalence of child labour.

The paragraphs above discussed some of the key drivers of child labour. The next few paragraphs discuss the disastrous implications of child labour. ~~in Pakistan~~.

Child labour results in the physical exploitation of children. Seen in many cases reported by the media, children are often subjected to abuse at the work place. They are often made to work under hazardous working conditions. As per ILO, 40.4% of the children work for seven to ten hours a day. Often times they are provided with no safety gears when working Brick kilns or in Agriculture where they are exposed to pesticides.

So, physical exploitation is one of the dangerous implications of child labour.

In Pakistan, ^{child labour} ~~gender bias~~ ^{disproportionately} ~~deeply imp~~ affects the girls. There is an unequal burden on girls in ~~the~~ engaged in child labour. ~~As per~~ ^{As per} 80% of the girl labourers are unpaid and it's hidden, which often goes unrecorded and are confined to domestic roles. ^{As per} ILO, 60.9% of girls are in labour with 8.6% boys, their work is often invisible, trapping them in a cycle of exploitation and exclusion, perpetuating gender bias. Consequently, girls are often disadvantaged due to ~~gender~~ child labour.

Social inequality is intensified as an aftermath of child labour. The rich get richer by the exploitation of children from poor, rural or minorities. According to ILO they are 5 times more likely to

engage in child labour, which reduces the chance of social mobility. Therefore, child labour deepens the social stratification within the nation.

Weak human capital is a severe repercussion of child labour. With about 26.2 million children out of school, Pakistan's future, the human capital is destined to be doomed. Pakistan ranks 152/189 on the human development index (2023) with such a high rate of child labor, there's stunts in Pakistan's workforce. Thus, ~~there's a weak~~ child labor leads to a weak human capital.

The paragraphs above discussed the devastating impacts of child labour. The next few paragraphs discuss why this issue ^{has been} ~~was~~ neglected.

There has been a lack of political will to resolve the menace of child labour. Every ruling political party have their own agenda's and manifesto's, ~~planned~~ alleviating Pakistan of child labour is not one of it. The ruling government's indifference perpetuates the crisis, ~~instead~~ prioritizing short term gains over children's futures. Least amount of funds allocated for social protection as compared to other countries such as Brazil with 20% of GDP on social protection. For ~~this~~ ^{therefore} reason, ~~but~~ due to the lack of political child labor continues to prevail.

The Demand for cheap labour in the informal sector are a significant factor for the neglect of this issue. ~~the~~ 80% of Pakistan's work force is in informal sector, according to ILO. As per HRPC

1.8^{million} bonded labourers in Brick kilns. children are paid significantly ~~less~~^{lower} than adults. They are provided no healthcare benefits, no leaves, making them suitable for exploitation while maximising profits. Therefore, ~~the~~^{due} to the prevalence of informal economy, child labour continues to exist.

Normalisation of child labour, ~~is~~^{is} a major reason for this issue being neglected. Especially seen in rural areas where children and their ancestors have continued to provide services for the feudal families for decades. which has been a culture in many rural areas. The roles are inherited from their parents. In urban cities it is common to have underage maids take care of children. Consequently, child labor remains to be a problem due to its normalisation.

Pakistan is plagued by several other competing National crisis, putting child labour at the back burner. Crisis such as Terrorism, Economic instability and political instability are the major cause of concern. Child labour is secondary to all such issues. Priority is given to such matters instead of child labour. Therefore, several other competing crisis lead to ~~the~~ neglecting the child labour.

The paragraphs above shed light on why the issue of child labour has been sidelined. The next few paragraphs suggest some measures that can be taken to alleviate child labour.

~~Strengthening~~ ^{Enforcement} of laws regarding child labour is a crucial step forward. Implementation of the legal reforms strictly. Enforcing

the laws such as Punjab Child Labor Act 2016. Effective enforcement of Sindh prohibition Act (2017). Laws have been created, the enforcement has been lax. So, strict law enforcement is imperative to control child labour.

Provision of Economic support is crucial for reducing child labour. Investing more in Social Safety Nets such as the BISP programme can help solve the issue. The income support can reduce the dependency of child labour for additional income. Hence, child labour can be reduced through the ~~pro~~ economic support provided.

Access to education may help in alleviating the menace of child labour. ~~The~~^{It} is stated in Article 25 (A)

for free education to all till the age of 18. This can help in reducing the school drop out rate, and reduce the number of out of school children due to it being inaccessible or expensive. Therefore, accessibility of education is significant in reducing the growing rate of child labour.

To conclude, ~~this~~ child labour is a matter in question for many developing countries. ~~with~~ It has major far reaching impacts. It ~~leads~~ ^{results} in the human rights violation. It ~~&~~ results in psychological trauma on the children. ~~It~~ An increase in the crime rate is a manifestation of child labour. This Essay threw light ~~light~~ on some of the root causes of child labour, pinpointed some of its horrific and horrendous ramifications, suggested some reason for the neglect of the issue and in the ~~pend~~ end

proposed some measure to wipe out
child labour.