

TOPIC

CHILD LABOUR: A NEGLECTED ISSUE

Outline

A. Introduction:

Child labour remains a silent-humanitarian crisis despite international commitments and legal frameworks.

i) Understanding Child Labour

B. Thesis Statement:

Despite national laws and international conventions, child labour remains a neglected issue due to poverty, weak enforcement, social acceptance, and political apathy, resulting in the systematic exploitation of children worldwide.

● C - Forms of Child Labour

i) Domestic Labour

For example: Child domestic workers suffer abuse without legal protection.

ii) Industrial and Informal sector Labour

Informal economies rely heavily on cheap child labour.

For example: Children stitching footballs in Sialkot gained global attention.

iii) Hazardous labour

Case study: Children employed in mines face lifelong respiratory diseases.

Q. Causes of Child Labour Neglected

i) Poverty and Economic Pressure

(Case Study) 1) Brick kilns in South Asia employ children to support family earnings.

(Case Study 2) Over 1.6 million children in Sindh are engaged in child labour

ii) Weak Enforcement of Laws

Example:- Thousands of children work in Karachi's mechanic shops, exposed to abuse and exploitation with almost no state oversight.

iii) Lack of Access to Education

Case Study: The Sindh Survey reported significantly lower school attendance (40.6%) among working children compared to non-working peers.

iv) Insufficient Public Awareness

Example: Public Outreach Campaigns by Child Rights Commissions highlights the issue but struggle to change entrenched attitudes.

v) Social Acceptance and Cultural Norms

For Example:- Child domestic workers suffer abuse without legal protection.

vi) Hazardous Working Conditions Overlooked
Case Study: In KPK, the official child labour survey found that (73.8%) of child labourers aged 10-17 work in hazardous conditions - including dangerous tools, night work, long hours, and abuse.

E. Impacts of Child Labour

i) Physical and Mental Harm

For Example: Factory work leads to spinal deformities in children

ii) Educational Deprivation

Case Study: International Labour Organization (ILO) report show higher illiteracy among child labourers.

iii) International Poverty

For Example: Uneducated ~~to~~ Child workers grow into low-paid adult labourers.

F. Conclusion

Essay:

"Every child has the right to education, to protection from exploitation, and to a childhood."

— United Nations —

Child labour is one of the most serious social problems in the modern world. It refers to the employment of children in work that deprives them of their childhood, education, health, and dignity. Instead of playing or learning, millions of children are forced to work for long hours in harsh and unsafe conditions. Children are often employed in sectors such as agriculture, domestic work, manufacturing, small workshops, and informal businesses. Many of these

Workplaces are unsafe exposing children to hazardous conditions. A 2023 survey in Sindh province reported that over 50 per cent of children aged 10-17 who work are exposed to such hazards.

Similarly, in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa about (73%) of working children face unsafe working environments, including night-work and exposure to heavy machinery. These statistics reveal not only the scale of the problem but also its dangerous nature, which has long-term consequences on health, mental development, and future opportunities.

One of the primary reasons child labour is happening is poverty. Families living below the poverty line often cannot meet their basic needs without additional income provided by children. In many cases, parents

prefer sending children to work rather than school, believing that earning money is more urgent than acquiring education. In rural areas and low-income urban communities, schools may be far, overcrowded, or under resourced. In such contexts, working becomes a practical necessity rather than a choice. As a result, children are trapped in a cycle of work and deprivation that can last their entire lives.

Another reason is the lack of access to quality education. In many ~~rural~~ rural and poor urban areas, schools are far away, unsafe, or of poor quality.