





# WBCS MAINS 2022



**ENGLISH**

# ESSAY ON SOCIAL ISSUES PART-1



**LIVE** 06:00PM | **26 SEP 2022**



# TOPIC OF THE DAY



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# CHILD LABOUR IN INDIA

AN UNAVOIDABLE DILEMMA

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# POINTS TO HIGHLIGHT

ज्ञान

5:00

- Child labour means employment of children in any kind of work that hampers their physical and mental development.
- Parental illiteracy is also one of the contributors to this problem.
- Bonded child labour is one of the worst forms of child labour.
- Educated citizens can contribute significantly in spreading the awareness about the harmful effects of child labour.



250-300

Brief Intro.

# INTRODUCTION

the most important.

Childhood is considered to be the golden period of one's life but this doesn't hold true for some children who struggle to make their both ends meet during their childhood years. At a tender age, which is supposed to be an age of playing and going to school, some children are compelled to work in factories, industries, offices or as domestic help.

# INTRODUCTION

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90  
31-40

Child labour means employment of children in any kind of work that hampers their physical and mental development, deprives them of their basic educational and recreational requirements. According to the data from Census 2011, the number of child labourers in India is 10.1 million of which 5.6 million are boys and 4.5 million are girls.

# History of Child Labour in India

Earlier, the children used to help their parents in agricultural practices such as sowing, harvesting, reaping and taking care of cattle etc. But industrialisation and urbanisation have in a way encouraged child labour. Now, children are employed in hazardous work such as bidi rolling, cracker industry, pencil, matchbox and bangle making industries, roadside dhabas (restaurants), hotels etc.



# RISKY AREAS TO CHILD

- In the bidi industry, children are expected to perform all the chores of rolling, binding and closing the ends of bidis using their nimble fingers.
- The cracker industry poses threat to the lives of the children due to their direct exposure to the explosive material.
- The bangle and pencil making industries make the child susceptible to different respiratory problems and lung cancer, in the worst cases.

# CAUSES OF CHILD LABOUR

lower than  
Middle class

Problem

A number of factors could be attributed to the rise of this menace. In the poor and lower strata families, children are considered to be an extra earning hand. These families have a conviction that every child is an earner, so they have more number of children. The children are expected to shoulder their parents' responsibilities. Parental illiteracy is also one of the contributors to this problem. Education tends to take a backseat in the lives of these children. The uneducated parents consider education as an investment in comparison to the returns which they get in the form of earnings of their children.

belief

# HARDSHIPS FACED

The child labourers are subjected to unhygienic conditions, late working hours and different atrocities which have a direct effect on their cognitive development. Due to poor working conditions and undernourishment, child suffers from various health complications. The young and immature minds of the children find it difficult to cope with such situations leading to different emotional and physical problems. Uneducated/ Unguided children who work in society sometimes get influenced by criminal activities and commit crimes at a low age.

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Copy.

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# HARDSHIPS FACED

Bonded child labour is one of the worst forms of child labour. In this, the children are made to work in order to pay off a loan or debt of the family.

Bonded labour has resulted into trafficking of the children from rural to urban areas in order to work as domestic helps or in small production houses or just lead the life of street beggars.

Mid-day - meal

# ROLE OF GOVERNMENT & NGOS

The government has an important role to play in this fight against child labour. As poverty is one of the major cause of child labour in India, the government needs to assure that it provides basic amenities to all its citizens and there is an equal distribution of wealth. It needs to generate sufficient jobs to assure employability to the poor.

# ROLE OF GOVERNMENT & NGOS

At the same time, NGOs can provide vocational training to people in order to get them good jobs or to make them self-employed. The government, in collaboration with NGOs, should reach out to the poor people to make them understand the importance of education. They should be made aware of the government's initiative to provide free education to all the children between the age group of 6-14 years. The parents must be encouraged to send their children to the schools instead of work places.

# EFFORTS TO STOP CHILD LABOUR

To prohibit the child labour in India, the Nobel Prize winner Kailash Satyarthi took an initiative. He is the founder of Bachpan Bachao Aandolan (BBA), an organisation dedicated towards the eradication of child labour and rehabilitation of the rescued former child workers. The former President Pranab Mukherjee launched a "100 million for 100 million" campaign, that was conceptualised to end child labour, child slavery, violence against children, etc.



# LAWS TO SAFEGUARD CHILDREN'S RIGHT

The Indian Government enacted many laws to protect child rights, namely the Child and Adolescent Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986, the Factories Act, 1948, the Mines Act, 1952, the Bonded Labour System Abolition Act and the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000.

And Many more - - - -

# CONCLUSION

Strict measures need to be taken against those who encourage child labour in any form.  
Children are the future of a country and a nation full of poverty ridden illiterate children cannot make progress. So, it becomes the collective responsibility of the citizens, society and the government to provide them an environment which helps them to bring out the best of their capabilities, thus, participate in the nation building process.



**Sraya Ma'am**

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