

Eliminating Worst Forms of Child Labour: An Examination of Ilo Convention 182 and Recommendations 125 & 190

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ABSTRACT:

Child labour is a pervasive and complex issue that affects millions of children worldwide, undermining their education, health, and well-being. The International Labour Organization (ILO) has been at the forefront of efforts to combat child labour, promoting the adoption of international labour standards and providing technical assistance to countries to support the elimination of child labour. This article provides an in-depth analysis of the convention – 182 of 1999 and recommendations – 125 of 1965 & 190 of 1999 which aim to prohibit and eliminate worst forms of child labour and provide for additional standards relating to conditions of employment of young persons underground in a mines and protect children's rights by examining their key provisions, implementation mechanisms and impact on child labour. Despite concerted global efforts to eradicate child labour, this scourge persists, imperiling the well-being and future prospects of millions of children worldwide. This article examines the complex and interconnected factors that contribute to child labour and concludes by highlighting the need for sustained and coordinated efforts to eliminate the child labour. It emphasizes the importance of addressing the root causes of child labour, including poverty and inequality, and promoting access to education and social protection and also calls for increased support for the ILO's efforts to combat child labour and for greater coordination and cooperation among governments, employers, workers, organizations, and civil society. It concludes that, by strengthening laws and enforcement mechanisms, raising awareness, and supporting research and data collection, governments, civil society, and the international community can work together to eliminate child labour and create a brighter future for all children.

Keywords: Child labour, International Labour Organization, Convention 182, Recommendations 125 & 190, International Programmes.

INTRODUCTION:

Children are a vital component of humanity's future, and their developmental journey during childhood lays the groundwork for a society's progress. When children are nurtured in an environment that supports their cognitive, physical and social growth, they are empowered to become active contributors to their communities. A nation's prosperity is inextricably linked to the well-being and development of its children, making investment in their future a critical priority. In situations of severe economic hardship, children are often compelled to abandon their educational pursuits and enter the workforce, frequently under exploitative conditions. Driven by desperation, families may feel forced to send their children to work as

a means of survival, despite the risks of inadequate compensation and hazardous working environments. Child labour poses a significant barrier to children's access to education, depriving them of the fundamental right to attend school. This phenomenon not only hinders children's educational development but also jeopardizes their health and safety. India has consistently demonstrated a commitment to addressing child labour through a multifaceted approach, encompassing constitutional, legislative, and developmental measures. ILO has played a crucial role in promoting international labour standards and protecting the rights of children. Key instrument in this effort are ILO Convention 182 & Recommendations 125 & 190, which aim to prohibit and eliminate worst forms of child labour and provide for additional standards relating to conditions of employment of young persons underground in a mines and protect children's rights. Convention 182 prohibits the worst forms of child labour, including slavery, forced labour, and hazardous work. The Indian Constitution guarantees compulsory primary education for all, while labour commissions and committees have provided comprehensive recommendations to tackle child labour. Furthermore, India's judiciary has exhibited empathy and taken a strong stance against child labour. Despite these concerted efforts, child labour remains a pressing concern for the country.

DEFINITION OF CHILD AND CHILD LABOUR:

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989) defines the term 'Child' means every human being below the age of eighteen years unless under the law applicable to the child, majority is attained earlier¹. The term child shall apply to all persons under the age of 18². Child means a person who has not completed his fourteenth year of age³. Not all work performed by children constitutes child labour. In fact, children and adolescents above the minimum working age who engage in employment that does not compromise their well-being, education, or personal growth can have a positive experience. Beneficial work activities for children can include assisting in family-run enterprises or engaging in part-time jobs outside of regular school hours. These endeavors foster valuable skills, provide practical experience, and prepare children for a productive adulthood while contributing to their family's welfare. Child labour is commonly understood as any form of work that robs children of their innocence, hinders their development, and undermines their self-worth. This phenomenon encompasses work that poses risks to children's physical, emotional, or social well-being. Specifically, child labour refers to work that jeopardizes children's health, safety, and moral well-being, activities that hinder children's educational pursuits by limiting access to education, prompting early school dropout and imposing excessive workloads that conflict with school responsibilities. Child Labour means any work that is likely to be hazardous or to interfere with the child's education or to be harmful to the child's health or physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development⁴. Determining whether a particular activity constitutes child labour depends on various factors, including the child's age, the nature and duration of the work, the working conditions, and the specific goals and context of each country. The classification of child labour may differ significantly between countries and between sectors of the same country.

PERPETUATION OF CHILD LABOUR:

The causes of child labour are multifaceted and far-reaching, involving a tangled web of factors that conv-

1. Article 1 of United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child 1989

2. Article 2 of Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No.182)

3. Section 2(ii) of Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986

4. Article 32 of United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child 1989

erge to force children into exploitative work situations. These factors are often deeply rooted in poverty, inequality, and social injustice, and are frequently perpetuated by a lack of access to education, healthcare, and social protection. Understanding the underlying causes of child labour is crucial to developing effective strategies to prevent it, and to ensuring that all children have the opportunity to grow and develop in a safe and supportive environment⁵.

Poverty

Poverty is considered as one of the contributory factors in child labour⁶ and a primary driver of child labour, as families struggling to meet basic necessities like food, water, education, and healthcare often rely on their children's earnings to make ends meet. The relationship between poverty and child labour is complex, with poverty exacerbating other contributing factors such as limited access to quality education, scarce decent work opportunities, and increased vulnerability to natural disasters, conflicts, and displacement. Ultimately, poverty and child labour are intertwined, forming a self-perpetuating cycle that must be addressed concurrently in order to achieve meaningful progress.

Lack of access to quality education:

Inadequate access to quality education is a significant obstacle to preventing child labour. For education to be effective, schools must provide a supportive environment, with manageable class sizes, a relevant curriculum, and affordable tuition fees, particularly in rural areas. While enrolling children in school is a crucial step, ensuring they remain in school requires making quality education accessible and inclusive for all.

Poor access to decent work:

Limited access to decent work opportunities is another factor contributing to child labour. Young people who lack basic education and skills are often unable to secure safe and fair employment, leaving them vulnerable to hazardous work conditions. When children above the minimum working age engage in hazardous work, it is also considered a form of child labour.

Limited understanding of child labour:

A lack of awareness about the risks and consequences of child labour can contribute to its persistence. When families are not informed about the potential harm that child labour can cause to their children's physical, emotional, and psychological well-being, they may inadvertently put their children in vulnerable situations. Additionally, certain cultural attitudes and societal norms can perpetuate child labour, often stemming from a misguided belief that work is beneficial for children's development and character formation.

Natural disaster and climate change:

Climate-related shocks and natural disasters are exacerbating the problem of child labour. In rural areas, farming families who rely heavily on favorable climate conditions are increasingly vulnerable to unpredictable weather patterns, soil degradation, and extreme weather events. When crops fail or farmland is damaged, families face significant economic hardship, often leading them to resort to sending their children to work in nearby farms or other hazardous environments to supplement their income.

Conflicts and mass migration:

Conflict and disaster situations significantly increase the risk of child labour. Children displaced by war are particularly susceptible to exploitation, including child labour, due to heightened economic instability,

5. <https://www.eclt.org> (accessed 8 December 2024)

6. Ali M, Shahab S, Ushijima H, de Muynck A. Street children in Pakistan: A situational analysis of social conditions and nutritional status 2004

disrupted social support systems, and compromised access to education, basic services, and child protection. In countries affected by conflict, the prevalence of child labour is alarmingly high, exceeding the global average by a substantial margin. Furthermore, children in these situations are also vulnerable to being recruited into armed conflict, a phenomenon considered one of the most egregious forms of child labour.

LEGAL FRAMEWORK PROHIBITING CHILD LABOUR:

Child labour is a pervasive and complex issue that affects millions of children worldwide, denying them their fundamental rights to education, health, and protection. The exploitation of children through labour is a violation of their human rights and has severe consequences on their physical, emotional, and psychological well-being. Child labour also perpetuates cycles of poverty, limits opportunities for social mobility, and undermines economic development. In recognition of the gravity of this issue, the international community has established various frameworks, conventions, and protocols to prevent and eliminate child labour. These frameworks provide a foundation for countries to develop and implement policies, laws, and programs aimed at protecting children from exploitation and promoting their rights. The international frameworks on child labour are built on the principles of human rights, social justice, and sustainable development. They emphasize the importance of education, social protection, and labour inspection in preventing child labour and promoting the well-being of children. These frameworks also recognize the need for international cooperation, coordination, and collaboration to address the complexities of child labour and its global dimensions. This will examine the key international frameworks on child labour, including the Rights of the Child, UN Convention, the ILO's Conventions and other relevant international instruments. By understanding these frameworks, we can better appreciate the global efforts to prevent and eliminate child labour and promote the rights and well-being of children worldwide. A child is defined as an individual who has not yet reached the age of 14 under section 2(ii) of **Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986**. Section 3 of the legislation explicitly bans the employment of children in 18 specified occupations and 65 designated processes, as detailed in the Act's Schedule. A Technical Advisory Committee is established under the Act to provide guidance on the inclusion of additional occupations and processes in the Schedule. The Act establishes guidelines for the working conditions of children in occupations and processes that are not explicitly prohibited. Employers who violate the provisions of Section 3 by hiring children are liable to face penalties, including imprisonment for a minimum of three months and a maximum of one year, and/or a fine ranging from Rs 10,000 to Rs 20,000⁷. The enforcement of the Act's provisions falls under the jurisdiction of the Central and State Governments, with the Central Government responsible for establishments under its control, such as railways, major ports, mines, and oil fields. In cases outside the central government's jurisdiction, the state government assumes responsibility for enforcing the Act.

The Mines Act, 1952, and its accompanying rules and regulations, govern the safety, health, and welfare of mine workers. The enforcement of these regulations falls under the purview of the Directorate-General of Mines Safety, a department operating under the Union Ministry of Labour and Employment. Pursuant to Section 40(1) of the Mines Act, 1952, a statutory prohibition is imposed on the employment of individuals below 18 years of age in mines or any part thereof. Section 45 of the Mines Act, 1952, prohibits individuals under 18 years of age from accessing areas above ground at mine sites where mining operations

7. Section 14 of Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986.

are underway. DGMS officers conduct regular inspections to verify compliance with this regulation and take action as prescribed by law based on their findings. Pursuant to the **Factories Act of 1948**, children below 14 years old are legally barred from working in factory settings. The Merchant Shipping Act of 1958 restricts children under 14 from working on ships, with certain exceptions.

The Motor Transport Workers Act of 1961 similarly restricts the employment of children under 14 years old within the motor transport sector. The **Beedi and Cigar Workers (Conditions of Employment) Act, 1966**, imposes a statutory ban on employing children below the age of 14 in establishments manufacturing beedis and cigars. The **Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, enacted in 1976**, prohibits the employment of individuals, including children, in bonded labour, effectively abolishing this exploitative practice. Additionally, the **Explosives Act of 1984** establishes 18 years as the minimum age for employment in the explosives industry.

CONVENTION & RECOMMENDATIONS RELATING TO CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT OF YOUNG PERSONS:

Convention No. 182 of 1999 concerning Worst Forms of Child Labour:

Since its establishment in 1919, the International Labour Organization (ILO) has been dedicated to combating child labour globally. Global estimates from the International Labour Organization reveal that approximately 152 million children are trapped in child labour, with a concerning 73 million exposed to hazardous working conditions. The agriculture sector is the most prominent area where child labour occurs, primarily due to poverty and the struggles of parents to secure decent employment. In 1999, the International Labour Organization (ILO) took decisive action by introducing Convention No. 182, a landmark instrument aimed at outlawing and eradicating the most egregious and exploitative forms of child labour. This includes a range of abusive practices, such as slavery, compulsory labour, and human trafficking, as well as the exploitation of children in war zones, hazardous industries, and illicit activities. Convention No. 182 serves as an important pillar of the ILO's overarching framework that consists of eight essential conventions, which aimed at addressing labour issues, including the elimination of forced labour, promotion of workplace equality, and protection of fundamental worker rights.

A major milestone was achieved in the global fight against child labour when Tonga, a small Pacific island nation, became the last country to endorse Convention No. 182, solidifying international commitment to safeguarding children's rights. The International Labour Organization (ILO) formally adopted Convention No. 182 during its 87th Session, which convened in Geneva on June 1, 1999. It contains 16 Articles and has been ratified by 150 Members. The primary objective of this Convention is to establish a comprehensive framework for prohibiting and eradicating the most egregious forms of child labour, thereby making it a paramount concern for national and international action. Notably, this Convention serves as a complementary measure to the 1973 Convention and Recommendations on Minimum Age for Admission to Employment, a foundational instrument in the global effort to address child labour. The Convention re-endorses the importance of basic free education and the need to remove children from all such work and to provide for their rehabilitation and social integration. The Convention acknowledges that poverty is a primary driver of child labour, and that a sustained solution requires long-term economic growth and targeted poverty reduction efforts. Furthermore, the Convention builds upon the foundational principles outlined in the 1989 United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. The issue of worst forms of child labour is also addressed in other key international instruments, including the Forced Labour Convention of 1930 and the 1956 UN Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery. Thus, the

ILO in this Convention adopted proposals for the elimination of worst forms of child labour as a matter of urgency.

The term 'worst forms of child labour' comprises all forms of slavery and practices such as sale and trafficking of children, debt-bondage and serfdom and forced or compulsory labour including forced recruitment; the use, procuring or offering of a child for prostitution or for the production of pornography or pornographic performances; the use or procuring or offering child for illicit activities, trafficking of drugs as defined in the relevant international treaties; work which is likely to harm the health, safety and morals of children⁸. National laws, regulations, or authorized bodies determine hazardous child labour, considering global standards. The hazardous occupations list should be reviewed periodically. Each country must establish a monitoring system to ensure effective implementation of this Convention. Members are encouraged to establish initiatives aimed at eliminating the most exploitative and hazardous forms of child labour. To enforce this Convention, countries should establish penalties, prioritizing education in eliminating child labour. They should take timely measures to prevent children's engagement in hazardous work, remove them from such situations, and provide rehabilitation and free education. Countries should cooperate to implement the Convention's provisions, including collaboration on social and economic development, poverty eradication, and education. The Convention also outlines procedural matters related to ratification and denunciation. The International Labour Organization's Director-General must notify the UN Secretary-General of all registrations, ratifications, and denunciations. The Governing Body may report on the Convention's implementation and consider revisions. If a member ratifies a revised Convention, they will be bound by the new version; otherwise, the original Convention remains in effect.

Recommendation No.190 of 1999 Concerning Worst Form of Child Labour:

In 1999, the International Labour Organization (ILO) established guidelines to combat the worst forms of child labour through Recommendation No. 190, adopted in Geneva⁹. Recommendation No. 190 is divided into three parts, focusing on programs for action, hazardous work, and implementation.

Part I of the Recommendation proposes various programs to eradicate the worst forms of child labour. It emphasizes the need for urgent action, collaborative efforts, and consideration of the perspectives of affected children, their families, and relevant stakeholders. Programs aimed at eradicating child labour should focus on several key objectives: (i) Identifying and exposing the worst forms of child labour, while providing rehabilitation, social integration, and addressing educational, physical, and psychological needs. (ii) Providing special support to vulnerable groups, including younger children, girls in hidden work situations, and children with unique needs. (iii) Collaborating with high-risk communities to identify and assist children in need. (iv) Raising awareness and mobilizing public support, including among children, families, and concerned groups.

Part II of the Recommendation addresses hazardous work, emphasizing the need to consider specific factors when identifying types of hazardous work. These factors include: (i) Exposure to physical, psychological, or sexual abuse. (ii) Work in high-risk environments, such as underground, underwater, or at heights. (iii) Operation of hazardous machinery or equipment. (iv) Manual handling of heavy loads. (v) Exposure to unhealthy environments, including hazardous substances or extreme temperatures. (vi) Work under challenging conditions, including long hours, night shifts, or confinement. It is also provided in the Recommendation that for the types of work referred to under Article 3(d) of the C.No. 182, national laws

8. Article 3 of C. No.182 – Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999

9. Adopted in its 87th Session held at Geneva on 1st June, 1999 along with the C.No.182

or regulations or competent authority, after consultation with the employers and workers organization concerned, authorise employment of work as from the age of 16 years, on condition that the health, safety and morals of the children concerned are fully protected and they receive adequate vocational training¹⁰.

Part III of the Recommendation outlines implementation methods, emphasizing the importance of collecting and updating detailed data on child labour. This data should encompass: demographic information (sex, age, occupation, etc.), employment status and school attendance, geographic locations, violations of laws. Effective birth registration systems and regular data updates are crucial. This information should be maintained confidentially and shared with the ILO regularly. National laws should establish mechanisms for monitoring and enforcing child labour regulations. Authorities should be held accountable for implementation, and individuals responsible for non-compliance should be identified. The Recommendation also encourages international cooperation to combat child trafficking, exploitation, and abuse. Countries should establish networks to detect and prosecute offenders, and maintain registers of perpetrators.

The Recommendation urges member countries to criminalize the most egregious forms of child labour, including: Slavery, child trafficking, debt bondage, and the production of exploitative content, Procuring children for illicit activities or the production and distribution of prohibited substances. These offenses should be punishable under law. The Recommendation underscores the need for collaborative efforts, both domestically and internationally, to achieve its objectives. This includes: raising awareness among parents and communities, providing rehabilitation and education programs for affected children, offering mutual legal assistance and technical support, mobilizing resources for national and international initiatives, promoting social and economic development, poverty eradication, and universal education.

Recommendation No.125 of 1965 Concerning Conditions of Employment of Young Persons (underground work):

The ILO adopted this Recommendation No. 125¹¹ at Geneva on 1965. The purpose of this recommendation is to provide for additional standards relating to conditions of employment of young persons underground in a mines. It defines the term 'mine' in same manner in which it is defined in C.No. 124 of 1965. The term mine means any undertaking, whether public or private, for the extraction of any substance from under the surface of the earth by means involving the employment of persons underground¹². It contemplates the methods of implementation to give effect to this Recommendation through national laws, regulations, collective agreements, arbitration awards or court decisions. To ensure health, safety and welfare, training programmes for young persons employed underground in mines, including practical and theoretical instructions have been recommended, particularly concerning health and safety hazards to which they are exposed in mines, hygiene, first-aid and other precautions to be taken should be provided by persons experienced in this field.

Employers are required to inform the young persons being employed underground in mines of the risks to their health and safety. Further officials in-charge of safety, safety delegates, safety and health committees and the national inspection should be provided. Facilities for safety equipment, protective clothing etc. should be provided by the employer on his own expense. With a view to keeping young worker

10. Prof. Ahmedullah Khan, Commentary on the International Labour Organization and the Indian Response, 2005, Asia Law House, Hyderabad, 2005.

11. Adopted in ILO's 49th Session held at Geneva on 2nd June, 1965.

12. Article 1(1) of Medical Examination of Young Persons (Underground Work) Convention, 1965 (No. 124)

underground in mines healthy and able to promote their normal physical development, measures for recreational activities including sports, changing rooms, showers separate from adults and reserved for persons under 18 years of age should be taken. Weekly rest and annual holidays as per specified norms should be provided. For persons under 18 years of age, weekly rest of not less than 36 hours for each period of 7 days should be given. Annual holidays should be at least for 24 working days with pay for 12 months service rendered by young persons. The Recommendation, further stipulates for training programmes for technical and occupational development along with educational development and their human capacities to be provided.

RIGHTS OF CHILD AND THE INDIAN CONSTITUTION

The Indian Constitution was formulated concurrently with the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. As a result, the Constitution's framers drew inspiration from the burgeoning concept of human rights, incorporating its principles into the nation's foundational document. The Constitution of India provides a robust framework for safeguarding human rights, predating the incorporation of similar rights in the 1966 International Covenants.

Legally enforceable or justiciable rights are contained in Part III and non-justiciable rights are contained in part IV of the Indian Constitution. Part IV of the Constitution casts a duty upon the State to direct its policy towards securing inter-alia that the tender age of the children are not abused and that they are not forced by economic necessity to accept avocations unsuited to their age or strength¹³. The States shall also ensure appropriate opportunities to the children for proper development of their personality¹⁴. The State is further directed to provide for free and compulsory education for all children until the age of 14 years¹⁵. India's Constitution makers recognized the importance of safeguarding children's fundamental rights, deeming them essential for fostering healthy development and nurturing human personality. Consequently, the Constitution guarantees specific inherent rights to children. Article 23 of the Indian Constitution explicitly prohibits the exploitative practices of human trafficking, forced begging, and other forms of coerced labour, thereby safeguarding the rights and dignity of individuals. In a case, **Raj Bahadur v. Legal Remembrancer**¹⁶ it is held that, 'Traffic in human beings' means selling and buying men and women like goods and includes immoral traffic in women and children for immoral or other purposes.

This framework is composed of multiple provisions that form a constitutional requirement, compelling the state to enforce them. Article 14 ensures equal treatment and non-discrimination for all individuals, including children, under the law. Article 15 expands on this by prohibiting discrimination based on factors like religion, race, and sex. Additionally, Article 15(3) allows the state to implement special provisions for women and children, acknowledging their distinct requirements and vulnerabilities. The Constitution also guarantees children's rights, including freedom of expression (Article 19(1)(a)), protection of life and liberty (Article 21), and free compulsory education for children aged 6-14 (Article 21A). Furthermore, the Constitution bans child labour, trafficking, and forced labour (Articles 23 and 24), ensuring children are safeguarded from exploitation and mistreatment. Articles 39(e) and (f) emphasize the state's duty to protect children's health, strength, and youth from abuse and ensure their healthy development, free from

13. Article 39(e) of Constitution of India, 1950.

14. *ibid.*, Article 39(f).

15. *ibid.*, Article 45.

16. AIR 1953 Cal 522.

exploitation and neglect. The state is also mandated to provide early childhood care and education until age six (Article 45), shield children from social injustice and exploitation (Article 46), and the state is also obligated to ensure that all citizens, including children, have access to adequate nutrition, a decent standard of living and enhanced public health services, as mandated by Article 47.

CHALLENGES:

Many countries lack awareness about the Convention and its provisions, making it difficult to implement. This lack of awareness can be attributed to inadequate training and education programs for government officials, employers, workers, and communities. Countries may not have sufficient resources, including funding, personnel, and infrastructure, to effectively implement the Convention. This can hinder the establishment of effective enforcement mechanisms, inspection systems, and social protection programs. Countries may not have strong enforcement mechanisms in place to prevent and respond to the worst forms of child labour. This can be due to inadequate laws, regulations, and policies, as well as insufficient institutional capacity and resources.

Child labour may be deeply ingrained in local cultures and social norms, making it challenging to change attitudes and behaviors. This can be attributed to historical and traditional practices, as well as socioeconomic factors. Children may be trafficked or migrate to other countries for work, making it challenging to protect them. This can be due to lack of effective border control measures, inadequate laws and regulations, and insufficient international cooperation. Children may not have access to quality education, making it difficult to provide alternative options to child labour. This can be attributed to inadequate education infrastructure, insufficient resources, and socioeconomic factors.

STRATEGIES AND SOLUTIONS TO ERADICATE CHILD LABOUR:

To eradicate child labour, a multi-faceted approach is necessary. To tackle the complex issue of child labour in India, a multi-faceted approach is necessary, here are some key strategies¹⁷.

Strengthening Laws and Enforcement - Enforcing and strengthening existing laws, such as the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, is crucial. This includes aligning amendments with international standards and imposing stricter penalties for offenders.

Quality Education for All - Ensuring universal access to free and quality education is vital. Implementing and enforcing the Right to Education Act can help reduce dropout rates and increase enrollment in schools.

Poverty Alleviation - Addressing the root causes of child labour requires implementing poverty alleviation programs. Providing economic support to families living in poverty and promoting livelihood opportunities for parents can help.

Raising Awareness - Conducting widespread awareness campaigns targeting parents, communities, and employers can help inform them about the detrimental effects of child labour.

Rehabilitation and Social Protection - Developing comprehensive rehabilitation programs for rescued child labourers, including access to education, vocational training, healthcare, and psychological support, is essential. Establishing social protection schemes for vulnerable families can also prevent children from entering the labour force.

International Cooperation - Collaborating with international organizations, such as the International Labour Organization (ILO) and UNICEF, can provide access to expertise, technical assistance, and finan-

17. Child Labour in India: Causes, Consequences and Solutions, <https://www.cry.org> (accessed 8 December 2014)

ial resources to combat child labour effectively.

Empowering Local Communities - Involving local communities, including parents, teachers, and community leaders, in preventing child labour is crucial. Empowering them to identify and report cases of child labour and provide support for rehabilitation and reintegration efforts can help create lasting change.

SUGGESTION:

Conducting awareness-raising campaigns and training programs for government officials, employers, workers, and communities to educate them about the Convention and its provisions. Providing technical and financial assistance to countries to help them build their capacity to implement the Convention. This can include support for the establishment of effective enforcement mechanisms, inspection systems, and social protection programs. Establishing and strengthening enforcement mechanisms, including labour inspections, to prevent and respond to the worst forms of child labour i.e., the development of effective laws, regulations, and policies, as well as the provision of training and resources for inspectors and other enforcement officials and supporting community-based programs and initiatives that aim to change cultural and social norms and promote the elimination of child labour. This can include support for education and awareness-raising programs, as well as initiatives that promote the empowerment of women and girls.

Establishing and strengthening mechanisms to protect migrant children from trafficking and exploitation, including through cooperation with countries of origin and destination i.e., development of effective laws, regulations, and policies, as well as the provision of training and resources for border control officials and other relevant authorities. Supporting programs and initiatives that aim to improve access to quality education for all children, including those in rural and disadvantaged areas. Providing assistance to facilitate the setup of new educational institutions, enhance essential learning materials and resources.

Additionally, encouraging countries to establish national action plans to eliminate the worst forms of child labour i.e., specific goals, objectives, and strategies for eliminating child labour, as well as mechanisms for monitoring and evaluating progress and supporting social protection programs that provide financial assistance to families to help them keep their children in school. Encouraging companies to adopt corporate social responsibility practices that promote the elimination of child labour in their supply chains. Supporting research and data collection to better understand the nature and scope of child labour and to monitor progress in eliminating it. This may involve backing initiatives such as nationwide child labour surveys, creating metrics to measure child labour, and setting up systems to track and monitor child labour cases. Strengthening international cooperation to eliminate child labour, including through the exchange of best practices, the provision of technical assistance, and the coordination of efforts to address child labour in global supply chains.

CONCLUSION:

Children, whose bodies and minds are still developing, exposure to workplace hazards can have devastating and long-lasting consequences. Prolonged exposure to toxic pesticides and dehydration are common causes of these health issues. Furthermore, children working in hazardous sector often experience higher rates of work-related injuries compared to children working in other sectors. Despite government efforts to prevent hazardous child labour, it remains a significant concern. Children under 18 working in rural areas are frequently engaged in hazardous activities and the Governments should update their lists

of hazardous occupations to reflect the risks associated with these activities and protect children accordingly. However, even when laws prohibit hazardous child labour, enforcement is often inadequate due to limited inspection mechanisms. Child labour is a pervasive problem that transcends geographical boundaries, impacting nations at various stages of economic development. Forced child labour is another significant concern. Children are coerced into work, such as being forced to participate in work instead of attending school or being trafficked to work. The Convention on the Worst Forms of Child Labour is a critical step towards protecting children from exploitation and ensuring their right to education and a safe childhood. While significant progress has been made in implementing the Convention, challenges persist, and continued efforts are needed to address the root causes of child labour. By strengthening laws and enforcement mechanisms, raising awareness, and supporting research and data collection, governments, civil society, and the international community can work together to eliminate child labour and create a brighter future for all children.

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