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The Impact of Child Labour on the Rights of Children in India - An Analysis

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ABSTRACT

Child Labour is a menace that has plagued the Indian society for long. According to the report of International Labour Organisation (ILO), around the 12.9 million children in India are engaged in labour and are employed in hazardous industries. In spite of having numerous legislations and constitutional provisions ridiculing and prohibiting child labour, there seems to exist a continued practice of employing young children to work in areas which have proved to be detrimental to their mental, physical and emotional well being. Discrepancy in the estimation of children who are part of the workforce, concealment of facts by parents, improper implementation of the legislative enactments, etc have aggravated the issue further. The research aims at addressing this element of concern, sorting out the scope of the legislations prohibiting child labour in India, pointing out the probable causes behind this growing peril, analysing the consequences it had on the children and also exploring the measures that could be taken in order to keep child labour in check.

Keywords: *Child Labour, Child Rights in India.*

I. INTRODUCTION

In the words of Kailash Satyarthi, the Nobel Laureate and advocate of child rights – “There is no greater violence than to deny the dreams of our children”. According to the definition given by the United Nations’ Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), every human being who is below the age of the Declaration of Child Rights on November 20, 1949 the General Assembly of the United Nations has henceforth asserted on the importance of securing the right of a child to a holistic development and against exploitation or trafficking. Owing to its status of being a member nation to the United Nations and a signatory to the UNCRC, India has recognised the rights of child enumerated in the charter and has therefore declared those to have a binding effect on the country (Roy, 2013).² Despite having articles in the Constitution which professes the protection of children against ill-treatment, child labourers working at tea-

¹ Author is a student at Xavier Law School, St. Xavier's University, Kolkata, India.

² Chandan Roy, *Child Rights & Child Development in India: A Regional Analysis*, Indian Journal of Regional Studies, (January 2013).

stalls, brick kilns, carpet weaving, garment making, fireworks industry is a common sight. The Census Data of 2011 projected that about 4.35 million children are engaged in labour. The deprivation that children face in the form of mental, spiritual, bodily, social harm because of engaging into these acts at such tender ages makes child labour no less of an abomination. This research, hence, would detail out the extent to which the violation of child rights has taken place in India and also propose areas where rectifications are needed in order to tackle this crisis.

(A) Detailed Literature Review

Poverty is certainly a major factor in compelling children to engage in laborious activities. But according to the study of Das and Mukherjee³, school dropout has also been a driving force. In the study, they have established the linkage between parental education and child's involvement in the workforce. This has more prevalence in the urban areas. Gender differentials also affect the incidence of child labour in India (Das, 2012)⁴. Researches conducted on this issue of child labour in India have found out that there is a complete lack of uniformity in the number of working hours allotted and the minimum wages provided. Norms like fixation of set of hours of work, night work, rest interval are not properly maintained. Vending at crowded places like streets and railways and carrying other heavy loads, much of the childrens' rights are violated (Pathak, 2012).⁵ Working in hazardous environments can have detrimental effects on the health of the child labourers, severely affecting their neurosystems. It can lead to musculoskeletal disorders, back problems, respiratory disorders, asthma at very early ages of life. According to the Bequele Report, the Committee on the Health and Safety Implications of Child Labour 1998, children are prone to hazards caused by noise, heat and ionizing radiation (Yadav and Sengupta, 2009)⁶. Apart from this, Dr. Preeti Bharadwaj and Dr. Rajwanti Sadhu have noted lack of education, luring promises of goods jobs or marriage, family backgrounds with poor economic and financial conditions, low status of females, to be among the major causes of child and other forms of human trafficking in areas of South-East Asia (Bharadwaj and Sadhu, 2016)⁷. Government and the other administrative authorities have

³ S. Das and D. Mukherjee, *Role of Women in schooling and Child Labour Decision: The Case of Urban Boys in India*, Social Indicators Research, Vol 82, no.3, (2007).

⁴ Saswati Das, *Incidence of Child Labour and Child Schooling in India: Pattern and Determinants*, International Scholarly Research Network, ISRN Economics, (2012).

⁵ Jyotiraj Pathak, *An Analytical Study on Rights of Children and the Constitution of India*, SSRN Electronic Journal, (2012).

⁶ Surendra Kumar Yadav and Gowri Sengupta, *Environmental and Occupational Health Problems of Child Labour: Some Issues and Challenges for Future*, J Hum Ecol, 28(2), (2009).

⁷ Dr. Preeti Bharadwaj and Dr. Rajwanti Sadhu, *Human Rights of Children in India*, UNICEF Journal on Rights of the Child, Vol 1 Issue 1, (2016).

tried to counteract the ongoing crimes against children by setting up the National Commission for the Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) in March 2007 which operates at the central level and various State Commission for the Protection of Child Rights (SCPCR). As stated in the works of Dr. Anindita Choudhari, the functions of NCPCR include examination and reviewing of laws related to child abuse, inquiring into violation of child rights, analysing the factors which leads to crimes in children such as trafficking, ill-treatment, torture, prostitution, etc, recommending measures to curb the same and spreading awareness for securing child rights (Choudhary, 2019)⁸. In spite of having these tracking agencies in operation, it can be still observed that children engage in these tasks of labour, so much so that the count of those engaged in workforce runs into millions. In the review published by Dr. Prateep roy named “Situation of Children and Child Rights in India – A Desk Review”, he highlights that the survey by ASSOCHAM Ladies League on “Situational Analysis of Street Children in Metro Cities”, almost 2000 kids are victims of substance abuse with 12% drinking alcohol, 16% chewing tobacco and gutka and 21% involved in smoking (Roy, 2015)⁹. All these factors have proven to be detrimental to the well-being of children in India. This research would therefore bring to light the flaws in the implementation policies and the range to which the welfare of children has been hampered.

(B) Research Problem

Rama Kant Rai in his work enlists a number of legislations enacted by the parliament of India in order to eradicate child labour – some of them are the Factories Act of 1948, Mines Act of 1952, Child Labour and Protection Act of 1986, Bonded Labour System Abolition Act of 1976, the Juvenile Justice (Care & Protection) of Children Act of 2000, the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education of 2000, etc. In addition to these, constitutional provisions also direct the State to secure the rights of children by providing free and compulsory education to all children within the age group of six to fourteen years (Article 21A), protecting them against trafficking (Article 23), protecting them from being employed in any factory or mine or in any hazardous places (Article 24). The Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSPs) which are there to assist the State in framing guidelines have also assert on the State’s responsibility to take care of the child’s welfare (Rai, 2011)¹⁰. However, crimes against children have been on a rise in India with regional disparities in estimation of the same. Many of them go neglected thereby.

⁸ Dr. Anindita Choudhary, *Violation of Child Rights: In Indian Perspective*, International Journal of Current Research, Vol II Issue 8, (August 2019).

⁹ Dr. Prateep Roy, *Situation of Children & Child Rights in India*, (2015).

¹⁰ Rama Kant Rai, *History of Child Rights and Child Labour*, School Management Committee Manual – National Coalition for Education, (2011).

Exploitation of their childhood is certainly a crime against humanity at large and therefore must be curbed. The authorities need to figure out where the loopholes are lying and why, despite so many legislations calling child labour as a punishable offence, there is widespread prevalence of the same. All these aspects have guided the performance of the research.

(C) Research Objectives

- To explore the probable causes behind child labour in India.
- To find out the extent to which the rights of the child have been violated.
- To propose reforms in the implementation policy in order to curb the growing menace.

(D) Research Question

What are the measures provided in the Constitution of India and other legislations of the parliament to secure the rights of the child and how effective has the implementation been in curbing the incidents of child right violation in India?

(E) Research Method

The research method used is doctrinal. Various research articles published in eminent journals have been read. In addition to this, statistical datas have also been referred to in analysing the subject matter of the research paper.

(F) Chapterisation

- **Chapter 1:-** This chapter would discuss the various statutory provisions and legislations enacted in order to protect the rights of child in India. In addition to this, it will also examine the statistics depicting violation of child rights, child abuse and number of children engaged in labour.
- **Chapter 2:-** This chapter would explore the causes behind the rampant abuse of child rights in the form of child labour and also the detrimental impacts it had on the mental, physical, emotional well-being of the children.
- **Chapter 3:-** This chapter examines prospective reforms that can be introduced within the system and the nitty-gritties that need to be looked into so that it is ensured no loopholes exist that might hamper the effect of the legislation.

II. CHAPTER 1

Rama Kant Rai states in his research the work of Llyod De Mause – ‘The History of Childhood, in which Mause illustrates how in the ancient times, a child used to be mistreated and subject to abandonment, beating, thrashing and even sexually abused. He points out that ‘childhood’ was discovered at a much later phase of development. The children’s Rights Movement was a

landmark movement in professing the rights of children. The movement brought with it three fundamental rights that are to be secured to all children – right to provision, to protection, to participation (Rai, 2011). The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child has regarded every human being below eighteen years of age, i.e, those who have not attained the age of majority, to be a child. Various legislations, codifications and statutes have prescribed age limits for those to be considered as a ‘child’; for instance sections 82, 83 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) states that a child under age 7 cannot be held to be guilty of any offence whereas one below 12 would be tested on the grounds of attainment of sufficient maturity. The Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956, considers every person who has attained the age of sixteen years to be a minor (Palanichamy, 2016)¹¹. The Parliament of India has over the years enacted a number of legislations to safeguard the rights of the child. The Factories Act of 1948 specifies the duration of employment in factory for those aged between fifteen to eighteen years. The Mines Act of 1952 prohibits a person below eighteen years of age to be employed in mines. The Bonded Labour System Abolition Act of 1976 safeguards children from all forms of forced labour. Moreover, the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection) of Children Act of 2000 makes employment of a child in any hazardous activity or in bondage a criminal offence. In addition to these, constitutional articles like article 14, 15 prohibits the State from discriminating, whereas article 15(3) legalises protective discrimination of women and children or bringing about an egalitarian society, as the above mentioned groups are perceived to be a part of socially weaker sections. In addition to this, as discussed by M.P. Jain¹², there is express prohibition on employment of children below the age of fourteen years in any factory, mine or hazardous employment – a position which has been reiterated by the Supreme Court in the case of *Labourers Working on Salal Hydro-Project v State of Jammu and Kashmir* [AIR 1984 SC 177: 1983 2 SCC 181]. The leading case of *MC Mehta v State of Tamil Nadu* [(1996) 6 SCC 756: AIR 1997 SC 699] presented a firm ruling on the eradication of the employment of children in hazardous workplace and abolition of child labour in the notorious Sivakasi match industries. Article 23 protects children from being trafficked and getting employed in activities of forced labour or bonded labour where they are exploited and made to work in subhuman conditions. This was realised by widening the scope of the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956. The right of free and compulsory education to all children between the age group of six to fourteen years under article 21-A has been recognised through the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act of 2009, with the article getting introduced by the 86th

¹¹ Anuradha Palanichamy, *Child Rights, Poverty and Protection: An Indian Perspective*, UNICEF Journal on the Rights of the Child, (2016).

¹² M.P. Jain, *Indian Constitutional Law*, Lexis-Nexis, Eighth Edition, 3rd Reprint, (2019).

amendment act, 2002. The Directive Principles of State Policy through articles 46, 39(c), 39(f), 51A promotes the welfare interests of the children (Rai, 2011). Several other statutes like the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act of 2006, Protection of Children From Sexual Offences Act of 2012 and organisations like National Commission for the Protection of Child Rights and SCPCRs have been instituted to safeguards child rights in India (Choudhary, 2019).

But the sad yet gripping fact about child labour in India is that inspite of all these constitutional provisions, statutory professies, legislations, there has been a number of reports and statistics show that India still has a long way to go in its eradication of this menace. In an examination of the incidence of child labour in India by region and sex (2004-05), Saswati Das in her report indicates that there were almost 1349 male children and 1072 female children in the rural areas between the age group of 10-14 years who were engaged in labour, and in the urban areas for the same age group, it was 518 for male children and 259 for the female ones (Das, 2012). In another report, presented by Chandan roy, the regional contrast in Child Education & Child Labour in India has been represented, wherein Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra have been identified as good performing states with respect to lessening occurrence of child labour whereas Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, etc have been identified as bad performing states with higher incidences of child labour. The Ministry of Women and Child Department, in its report of 2007, painted a very gruesome picture of the extent to which child abuse is existent in the country. It includes physical abuse of slapping, kicking, beating with stick, sexual abuse and sexual advances, emotional abuse by using obscene language and neglecting the girl child. Kerala is a state that has fared well in child development whereas states like Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar hold a back-seat with respect to this index (Roy, 2013). Dr. Prateep Roy has revealed in his study that almost majority of the children who are abused fail to report it. The National Study on Child Abuse had taken 13 states as it sample and 69% of the children who were victims of physical abuse, 54.68% were boys (P. Roy, 2015). As per census of 2011, the states of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar have the highest number of children involved in labour. According to the statistics represented by the Poisson Log-Normal Model (Parameter Estimation), the Histogram presented that the population engaged in child labour could be estimated at 13.2 million (Kim, 2020)¹³. Despite criminalising child abuse and child labour in several of the existent statutes, the problem is undeniably quite rampant, so much so that it calls for an examination of the causes behind it.

¹³ Jihye Kim & Wendy Olsen & Arkadiusz Wisnowski, *A Bayesian Estimation of Child Labour in India*, Child Indicators Research, (2020).

III. CHAPTER 2

The 2011 National Census of India estimated 4.35 million in the age group of 5-14 to be involved in child labour; the data is indicative of the fact that the menace of child labour is starkly high. Infact, UNICEF has estimated that India has the highest number of labourers in the world who are less than fourteen years of age (Choudhary, 2019). The fact that inspite of the existence of so many statutory safeguards the facts and figures involved in estimation of the said crime reflects a desolate imagery of the crime being rampant in India, calls for the need to examine the causes factoring it. In their work, Sudeep Limaye and Milind S. Pande identifies a list of eight causes which operate behind the widespread existence of child labour in the country – they are poverty, lack of education, uncertainties in the economic sector, indebtedness, search for employment, the fact that in the rural areas majority of the population is landless, weak policy of legal framework, lack of social awareness. That the government plans arget these issues to be resolved depict that they are certainly the major factors behind child labour (Limaye, 2013)¹⁴. Poverty is certainly a significant contributorto this, but in addition to that several other factors too have played a major role – that the political will of the nation is not strong enough, there are expectations and traditions of the family, lack in the existence of good schools in proximity alongwith a lack in the healthcare services, discrimination against children majorly because society underpins the role of children, certainly sections of the society are in favour of exerting coercion on the children and the grim fact that it is easy to coax children into working for lomng hours at low wages, are other contributory causes towards the rise in the rate of this social issue (Rai, 2011). The society in India has a lot of tabooes within it. Hence many a times has it happened that the rights of the children are not discussed and the child as a result of this, remains quite in the dark as to what all rights are available to him or her. Choudhary lists out seven such causes which are responsible for factoring the violation of the rights of child in Indian society. Innocence of the child paired with ignorance of the society make children easy victims of the exploitators. Villagers in the rural areas are significantly illerate or under-educated. Hence, they do not recognise the special rights that are possessed by the children. Those who belong to the socially or economically lower or poorer stratas are even more vulnerable to exploitation as they might have to aid their family in financial earnings. Upbringing also plays a major role in shaping the child's destiny. Gender discriminatory practices aren't new elements in the Indian society and have been there since long. These alongwith lack of parental cae and control and insufficient

¹⁴ Sudeep Limaye & Milind S. Pande, *A Study of Child Labour in India – Magnitude and Challenges*, (2013).

awareness of the rights of children give rise to crimes against juveniles (Choudhary 2019).

Biggeri and Mehrotra¹⁵ in their study have stated that in the South-East Asian nations, macroeconomic causes have resulted in the growth of child labour; that poverty and unavailability of goods and services influence the supply side of child labour and the fact that there is a growth in the low paying informal sectors rather than the high paying formal sectors acts as the demand side of child labour. The two economic hubs, Maharashtra and Gujarat as per the census data of 2011 have the highest number of child labour in India of the age group between 5-14 years. Over the years it has been reflected that poor economic backgrounds and low financial stability, apart from being primary causes behind the menace of child labour, have also feeded into juvenile delinquency. States with high Human Development Index (HDI) have recorded lower rates of crime committed by children whereas those with low HDI have recorded the opposite. Owing to the state-wise figures, the previous census has recorded Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra to have high juvenile delinquency rates. High rates of substance abuse in children have also undermined child's welfare; children need to be prevented from consuming alcohol, gutka, tobacco, cannabis, etc (P.Roy, 2015). In South-East Asia, another factor that has brought about the prevalence of child labour, bonded labour is the abominable practice of trafficking in human beings. Female children are lured in the name of good job or marriage and are convinced to leave their family. Parents, on account of being under-educated and bound by traditional narratives that a girl child is a burden on the society, give into these coercions. Sometimes they think that letting off their children go and engage into laborious tasks would relieve them to certain extent from their conditions in abject poverty (Bharadwaj, 2016)¹⁶. Dr. Sophy K.J in her research has also thrown light on the fact that children are sometimes found engaged in agricultural home-based work or even artisanship. The underlying reason behind this is the rural mentality of 'family enterprise' which calls onto children of the family to join hands in the service where the adult members of the family are employed. Kiran Bhatt¹⁷, however, has mentioned in her work that the occurrence of the practice of child labour has less relevance to the state of poverty and is more linked to social attitudes and sensibilities (Sophy, 2016)¹⁸. These practices have a very longlasting and worsening impact on the physical, mental health and well-being of the children. Working for

¹⁵ Mario Biggeri and Santosh Mehrotra, *Asian Informal Workers: Global Risks, Local Protection*, Routledge, (2007).

¹⁶ Dr. Preeti Bharadwaj and Dr. Rajwanti Sandhu, *Human Rights of Children in India*, UNICEF Journal on the Rights of the Child, (2016).

¹⁷ Kiran Bhatt, *Child Labour: Breaking the Vicious Cycle*, 31 Economic and Political Weekly 384, (1996).

¹⁸ Dr. Sophy K.J, *The Child Labour Amendment Bill: Legal Dilution of Efforts At Elimination of Child Labour*, UNICEF Journal on the Rights of the Child, (2016).

long hours with little or no wages, alongside their parents, exposed to fatal and non-fatal injuries, child labourers have to endure a number of hazards. From the pesticides in the field, to poor sanitation facilities, these hazards are several in count. According to report by Bequele A. et al¹⁹, lack of first aid, sufficient light, sanitation, protective equipment and exposure to dangerous machinery can cause serious damage to the child workers. Thermal rays and other carcinogenic material like lead and methyl mercury can penetrate through the child's thin layer of skin and cause serious harm to the nervous system. They can cause skin disorders, renal disorders and also affect the musculo-skeletal development of the children as they have higher susceptibility to toxins²⁰ (Yadav, 2009)²¹. As reported in the work of Anuradha Palanichamy, child beggars are a common sight in India. These children who at their tender ages are thrashed brutally if they are unable to earn, grow up to become pick-pockets and drug peddlers. There is a gross neglect of the child's physical needs as they are not provided with adequate food, hygiene or medical help, educational needs as quality education is denied to them, emotional needs as they are not nourished with psychological assistance but are rather subjected to violence at the domestic level as well as the workplace (Palanichamy, 2016). The access to educational institutions is also inconvenient. It has been found that on an average, upper primary schools are located at 3km away from the residential area for almost 22% of the area under habitation. Shortage of conveyance hence makes reaching school a difficult task. Moreover, in places where children are employed, there is no mercy shown to them on account of them being so young. They are served with very little to eat, almost no nourishment received, toxic chemicals accompanied with poor ventilation systems suffocates them and thereby takes a heavy toll on their health (Bharadwaj, 2016). On analysing the causes for the rapid rise in child labour and its rampant existence throughout India and the detrimental impact it has on the children of the society, it is understandable that the policies haven't been implemented well. Government policies on child labour primarily focus on mitigating the harshness with regard to the exploitative aspects of this menace and keeping in view the fact that child labour and child abuse are interlinked (Pathak, 2012). What henceforth needs to be examined are the prospective reforms that can be introduced for putting into effect the statutory provisions prohibiting the atrocities and analysing measures that would help in curbing the same.

¹⁹ Bequele A and Myers WE, *First Things First in Child Labour: Eliminating Work Detrimental to Children*, International Labour Office, Geneva, (1995).

²⁰ Forastieri V, *Children At Work: Health and Safety Risks*, International Labour Office, Geneva, (1997).

²¹ Surendra Kumar Yadav and Gowri Sengupta, *Environmental and Occupational Health problems of Child Labour: Some Issues and Challenges for Future*, J Hum Ecol 28(2), (2009).

IV. CHAPTER 3

What one can understand after analysing the legislations criminalising the act of child labour is that there is no dearth of statutory provisions protecting the interests of the child but the causes behind the violation of such interests are yet to be addressed in a productive way. That, however, must be done without delay as the impacts of the hazards have been heavy on the welfare of the children. Sudeep Limaye and Milind S. Parde pointed out that in order to lessen the causes factoring behind child labour (which he identifies as illiteracy, indebtedness, unemployment, etc), the Government has tried to follow a multiprolonged strategy involving not just the practicable enforceability of the existent legal provisions but also ensure rehabilitation of children and endeavour to increase the income of their parents. In addition, Government has also thought of reducing the incidence of child labour pockets through the National Child Labour Project (NCLP) and enrol the children to formal educational schools, vocational training institutions. The author suggests reforms in his article - he asks to come out a new definition and understand the difference between child labour and child work. He calls for an amendment to the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act of 1986 for imposition of stringent penal provisions. As much as a new policy for child labour is needed to re-examine the statutory provisions, the NCLP programmes should be made more adaptable. Educational centres for migrant children should be instituted, inclusivity should be depicted by making the children participate more and more in community functions so that there is increased social mobilisation. Surveys should be conducted in order to correctly detect the incidences of child labour and the regional variations should also be noted. Another remarkable suggestion from this work is the correction of anomalies present in different statutes regarding the age by which a person can be considered a 'child' or not (Limaye, 2013). Surendra Kumar Yadav and Gowri Sengupta in their article highlights the need for taking in a multidisciplinary approach wherein there would be involvement of medical science with psychological emphasis paired with social-anthropological research. In addition to this, focus on improving working conditions call for immediate attention. Government must not only shoulder the responsibility of providing better healthcare to children but also aid in helping those children whose psychological health is at risk (Yadav, 2009). Rama Kant Rai proposes a more effective role of the NCPCR and the SCPCRs in monitoring the rights of child and their access to elementary education. He also suggests certain steps to be taken if one finds a children engaged in labour. The first of them is to call the police to lodge a case and to book the accused under the Bonded Labour Act and the Juvenile Justice Act. The second of them is to inform the Labour Department under which the employer has to pay a fine of ten thousand rupees with a maximum

of twenty thousand rupees and serve a maximum of three months imprisonment. In addition to this, Rai also brings to light the remedy provided under the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976 where one can address the problem to the Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) and the child can avail a rescue package of Rs 20,000/- and a social security for Rs 400/- for his life (Rai, 2011). Saswati Das in her research elucidates that if the violation of the rights of the child is to be curbed and social justice is to be ensured then special attention should be given to the participation of the local people along with introducing children with higher education through proper implementation of literacy campaigns like Sarva Siksha Abhiyaan and promoting literacy among the female population through the scheme of National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREG) (Das, 2012). What we can therefore decipher, is that social awareness needs to be increased for doing away with social evils.

It has been observed that children have been deprived of vaccination facilities. On an analysis, all major religious communities in India have faced a steep fall in the vaccination graph. However, the child immunisation rate has been rising in the Scheduled Tribes (ST) but falling among the Scheduled Castes (SC) and Other Backward Classes (OBC) children. These discrepancies need to be corrected and the public health expenditure should be increased. Chandan Roy also suggests that the rights of the children should also be taken care of at the Panchayat Level by the local government to prevent sexual offences amongst children, as the predators find them as easy victims, what is needed is the more stringent implementation of the POSCO Act. Also, such vulnerability of children could also be lessened by promoting and encouraging sex-education in schools (Roy, 2013). Another trouble noticed is the discrepancy and a number of ambiguities while calculating the number of children engaged in labour. Jihye Kim, Olsen, Wisnowski suggests that in order to avoid estimation problems, a closer look at the working hours of the children should help. Also, seasonality of occupation is not handled in the survey. That should be considered (Kim, 2010). Impartion of pre-vocational training at NCLP schools and help of proposed macro-level institutions like People's Forums, Corporate Entities should, according to Anuradha Palanichamy, aid in removing the menace from the society. In her research, the above author enlists suggestions for each stakeholder – NGAs can organise for provision of economic sanctions while monitoring the implementation of acts passed by the Government. The NGOs can assist governmental organisations and also spotify areas where child labour is rampant to report it to higher authorities. While the civil society forms can counsel and motivate parents to send their children to schools and organise protests and rallies against child labour, corporate entities can come forward and introduce welfare schemes for children. In addition to this, individuals should also be vigilant enough to resist

child labour and report to the concerned authorities of any incident concerning violation of child rights. Palanichamy also points out to the need of having a well-designed tracking and monitoring system for getting access to credible and authentic data on the performance of children in educational institutions alongwith those who need to be rescued from the shackles of labour (Palanichamy, 2016).

V. CONCLUSION

As Dr. Sophy K.J. suggests in her article mere regulation of child labour would be insufficient primarily because that wouldn't bring about much welfare to the child as that wouldn't include planning out a proper future for them. What instead should be done is that there should be introspection, monitoring of the same (Sophy, 2016). From the examination of the existent laws, it is understandable that there is no scarcity in the number of statutory legislations that prohibit the abusive act of child labour. But a further look into the causes that factor the same also paint a grim picture of the fact that not sufficient consideration has been made for bringing about an alteration in the system. Hence, as pointed out in the suggestions for reforms, what is required is a comprehensive outlook and deliberation on what all possible measures can be undertaken in order to get rid of the same. A patient hearing of the child's needs and a willing an empathetic heart can certainly go a long way in bringing about a difference by returning back to the children their rights and rescuing them from the shackles of child labour – as expressed by Rippan Kapur (the founder of CRY – “Child Rights and You”): “It is important for us to listen to what children feel and want for their world”.

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