

The Impact of Child Labour on Their Future Development in Developing Country

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Abstract:

In this paper we study about the impact of child labour on their future development. The child labor has become the one of emerging issue in a developing country like. Where many children of poor family have become the prey of child labour by destroying their whole life. Because child labor entails forcing children into manual and exploitative labour, frequently against their choice and in spite of physical resistance, it is important to study child labor. This problem pertains to human and minor rights and causes long-term harm by impeding personal growth and robbing society of vital contributions and abilities, which eventually results in a loss of social and human capital. The impact of child labor on adult wages is unclear. While working children might develop a strong work ethic, their lack of play and education can impair cognitive development, potentially reducing future earnings. Additionally, child labor violates their rights, risks their health, and often denies them education. In severe cases, it can lead to exploitation and abuse, treating children as commodities in illegal activities. The fast-changing global priorities and societal shifts in India present new challenges for child labor. NGOs, social movements, and civil society are vital in keeping the focus on child labor while issues like terrorism, economic instability, and conflict take centre stage in the news. They help hold global capital and the state responsible for their actions.

Key words: *Child labour, child development, minor rights, cognitive development*

Introduction:

Child work has a significant and enduring impact on children's future development. Early employment frequently deprives kids of educational opportunities, which are essential for social and cognitive development. These kids are less likely to develop the skills necessary for better job chances without access to a quality education, which perpetuates the poverty cycle. Their capacity to grow as adults is further hampered by the emotional stress and chronic health problems that might arise from the psychological and physical strains of labor. Their worldview and sense of self-worth may be adversely affected by this early exposure to hard labor, making them ill-equipped to make constructive contributions to society. In general, child labor severely compromises a child's ability to grow into a healthy, productive adult, keeping them in a loop of poverty. Additionally, the physical and psychological demands of labor can result in chronic health issues and emotional trauma, which further hinder their ability to thrive as adults. This early exposure to harsh working conditions can also negatively influence their self-esteem and worldview, leaving them ill-prepared to contribute positively to society. Overall, child labor significantly undermines the potential for healthy, productive development, trapping children in a cycle of disadvantage that is difficult to break.

Child labor has always been one of the main barriers to socioeconomic advancement. Achieving the long-term objective of eliminating all types of child labor is a challenge faced by many nations. These days, it's regarded as a major problem, particularly in developing nations. Children who work as children miss out on their youth and are deprived of the necessities that every child should have. By child labour they are violating their rights to education and speech. It increases their chance of getting sick. In the worst cases, children are used as commodities and forced

into unlawful occupations such as prostitution, the illicit drug trade, or military service to further the agendas of adults. Children whose parents work full-time seldom send them to school, therefore they are deprived of their educational rights. The labor status of children from illiterate homes having a higher employment rate than those from educated families. Psychosocial dangers lack the palpable nature of many physical threats and their impact on children's well-being. Youngsters employed in dangerous environments. Due to the child labour the children's life is being destroyed and many of the time they became the prey for illegal hazardous activities. They are being driven away by the normal life like other children.

Studying child labor and its consequences is crucial because it involves children and teenagers being forced into manual and exploitative work, often against their will and despite their resistance. This raises significant human and minor rights issues. In the long run, child labor leads to a loss of social and human capital, undermines individual development, and impedes the acquisition of skills, abilities, and knowledge essential for meaningful societal contributions. There is a clear connection between high poverty rates or low income and the involvement of children and teenagers in labor. Families struggling with poverty may be compelled to have their children work, which detracts from the children's ability to develop human capital through schooling. Child labour is a significant issue not only in India but also in other developing countries, as it impedes both the physical and mental development of children. Despite numerous laws aimed at prohibiting child labor, these measures have not fully resolved the problem. The link between poverty and child labour deprives children of their childhood and dignity, while negatively affecting their health, education, and overall development potential. This situation conflicts with the concept of human development, which emphasizes the improvement of lives through economic well-being, education, and health. Childhood is a crucial and formative period with the potential for future advancement, and the future of any developing nation is closely tied to the welfare of its children. Various interconnected factors contribute to the prevalence of child labour. It also affects their health and leads to many diseases. A child's involvement in labor can impact adult health through two main pathways. Firstly, physical injuries sustained while working can lead to long-term health issues, whether these injuries are immediately or manifest later due to factors like toxin exposure. Secondly, psychological stress or trauma experienced during childhood labor may contribute to health problems in adulthood. Research suggests a strong link between childhood stress and the persistence of mental health disorders, such as depression, anxiety, panic disorders, and schizophrenia, as well as physical health issues like diabetes, heart disease, and immune system disorders.

Literature Review:

Educational Consequences:

Child labor significantly hampers educational opportunities for children. According to the International Labour Organization (ILO, 2020), child laborers often face substantial barriers to accessing and completing education. These barriers include time constraints due to work responsibilities, fatigue, and the direct costs associated with schooling. The ILO report highlights that children engaged in labor frequently drop out of school early, resulting in diminished academic performance and lower literacy rates.

Empirical studies reinforce these findings. For instance, Basu and Van (1998) establish a strong correlation between child labor and educational deficits. Their research demonstrates that children who work are more likely to have lower school attendance rates and poorer academic outcomes compared to their non-working peers. This lack of education leads to a cycle of poverty, where the lack of qualifications limits future employment opportunities and perpetuates economic disadvantage.

Educational deficits stemming from child labor also have long-term consequences. Children who miss out on educational opportunities often struggle with limited job prospects and lower lifetime earnings (Basu & Van, 1998). As these children transition into adulthood, their inability to secure well-paying jobs reinforces the socioeconomic gaps initiated during their childhood.

Economic Impact:

The economic repercussions of child labor are profound and multifaceted. The World Bank (2022) notes that child laborers face severe economic disadvantages due to their early and often premature entry into the labor market. These individuals typically lack the educational qualifications and skills required for higher-paying jobs, resulting in reduced lifetime earnings and limited career advancement.

Research by the World Bank highlights that child laborers are often employed in low-wage, informal sectors with limited opportunities for career progression. The early work experience gained does not translate into substantial economic benefits because these positions do not provide the training or credentials needed for more lucrative employment.

Additionally, the economic impact extends to broader societal levels. Economies with high rates of child labor often experience slower economic growth due to the underutilization of human capital and increased poverty rates. By preventing children from attaining higher levels of education, child labor effectively diminishes the potential for economic development and prosperity in the long term (World Bank, 2022).

Health Implications:

Child labour also poses significant risks to both physical and mental health. According to UNESCO (2021), children engaged in labor are exposed to hazardous working conditions, which can lead to acute and chronic health issues. These conditions include exposure to toxic substances, unsafe machinery, and physically demanding tasks that contribute to a range of health problems.

Beyond physical health, child laborers are also at increased risk of mental health issues. The stress and trauma associated with labor, combined with the lack of time for recreational and social activities, can lead to anxiety, depression, and other psychological disorders (UNESCO, 2021). These mental health challenges further exacerbate the difficulties faced by former child laborers in their adult lives, affecting their ability to secure and maintain employment and leading to lower overall quality of life.

Long-term health problems resulting from child labor not only affect individuals but also place additional burdens on healthcare systems. The persistent health issues experienced by former child laborers often require ongoing medical care, which can strain public health resources and impact overall economic productivity (UNESCO, 2021).

Research Methodology:

Research Problem:

This study investigates how child labor influences future life outcomes, focusing on educational achievement, economic stability, and health.

Objectives:

- To examine the impact of child labor on educational attainment.
- To assess how child labor affects future economic opportunities.
- To analyze health consequences related to child labor.

Data Sources:

This study will utilize secondary data from several reputable sources to provide a comprehensive analysis of the impact of child labor on future life outcomes. The primary data sources include:

- International Labour Organization (ILO) reports
- World Bank economic data
- UNESCO educational statistics
- Academic research on child labor and health

Data Collection:

Data will be sourced from reputable organizations and academic studies. Criteria for data selection include relevance, credibility, and timeliness.

Data Analysis:

The study will use statistical methods to analyze educational attainment, economic status, and health outcomes. Comparative analysis will be conducted to differentiate between child labourers and non-labourers.

Results and Discussion:

Insufficient education and awareness among children frequently lead to a substantial depletion of potential human capital for a nation. Child labor in dangerous sectors like mining, construction, and manufacturing not only deprives them of educational opportunities but also exposes them to significant health hazards. These perilous working conditions can result in a range of illnesses, such as asthma and skin cancer, which create additional financial burdens on their families. The confluence of inadequate education, health hazards, and economic burden emphasizes the pressing necessity for comprehensive strategies to tackle child labor and drive improved educational and health results for children. Education plays a vital role in disrupting this cycle by equipping children with the necessary skills to enhance their future opportunities and actively contribute to the progress of their host country. The worldwide scope of this problem further emphasises the essentiality of international collaboration and compliance with norms established by organisations such as the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and UNICEF. Overall, child labor is a multifaceted issue with profound consequences for individuals, families, and societies. It requires a comprehensive strategy to safeguard the rights of children and ensure their futures are stable.

Child labor exerts significant adverse impacts on the health, economic stability, and education of children, so establishing a self-perpetuating cycle that sustains poverty and impedes the progress of a nation. Child labor imposes a grave physical burden, since children are subjected to perilous circumstances that can result in life-threatening illnesses and injuries. Furthermore, the psychological consequences are equally detrimental, as

numerous child laborers experience sexual assault, resulting in depression, anxiety, and a diminished sense of self-assurance. Child labor exerts significant economic strain on families, ensnaring them in poverty as the productive and creative potential of their children is suppressed. This phenomenon not only reduces the future opportunities of the children but also has a detrimental effect on the overall economy, since a labor force lacking education and skills is less competent in making contributions to the development of the nation. Moreover, the engagement of children in labor prevents them from attending school, so sustaining illiteracy and hindering their access to most fundamental education. Insufficient education condemns numerous children to a future devoid of prospects, so reinforcing their entrapment in a cycle of poverty and constraining their capacity to make meaningful contributions to their personal and national progress.

Conclusion:

In conclusion, with regards to this study, I would like to propose certain aspects such as the need of adopting a comprehensive strategy to successfully address child labor. This strategy should start by increasing educational opportunities and enhancing the standard of schooling to guarantee that every child has the chance to attend and derive advantages from education. Enhanced and rigorous enforcement of child labor laws is equally crucial, requiring revised regulations and heightened penalties to discourage infractions and safeguard children from exploitation. Administering economic assistance and social welfare systems can mitigate the financial burdens that frequently compel families to depend on child labor, so diminishing the necessity for children to engage in employment. Furthermore, by means of community campaigns and stakeholder involvement, it is possible to heighten awareness and promote child rights, so influencing societal attitudes and obtaining wider backing for the cessation of child labor. Ensuring the provision of health and psychological assistance to child laborers is of utmost importance in addressing the physical injuries and psychological distress they may have suffered, so facilitating their recovery and reintegration into society with a revitalized sense of optimism and prospects.

To sum up, child labor is a critical issue that needs immediate action from both governments and everyday people. It robs children of their right to education and a healthy upbringing, trapping them and their families in a cycle of poverty. Governments must implement and enforce strong laws to completely eliminate child labor, ensuring all children get basic education and proper nutrition. At the same time, communities need to educate families about the dangers of child labor and the benefits of sending children to school. Providing financial help and social support to struggling families can reduce their reliance on child labor. It's also important to give medical and emotional support to children who have been affected by labor. By working together—governments, organizations, and local communities—we can give every child the chance to grow up safely, learn, and succeed, ultimately creating a fairer and more just world for all.

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