



Child Labour doesn't work!



CONTENT

- Background
- Causes of Child Labour in India
- See what Save the Children is doing
- Launch of 45 days Anti-Child Labour campaign

Background

- India has one of the largest number of children in the world working as child labour, most of them in exploitative condition.
- The estimates of working children in India range greatly, with figures as varied as the 12.6 million as per Government Census and approximately 40 Million as suggested by many NGOs.
- With Right to Education coming into force, every child in this age group of 6-14 has the right to a free and compulsory elementary education.

Causes of Child Labour in India?

- This exploitation of children for labour is driven by a range of economic and social factors;
 - **Lack of economic alternatives for the household**

The desire to increase household income is normally behind the decision of families to allow their children to undertake hazardous employment.
 - **Ineffective policy enforcement**

The Child Labour Prohibition & Regulation Act 1986 (CLPRA) was a first and welcome step by the Indian Government towards eliminating child labour; it is nonetheless a flawed piece of legislation. For example, despite over 80% of all working children labouring in the agricultural sector, the law fails to include them in its categorisation of child labour.
 - **Inclusive Quality Education**

A poor education is both a cause and a consequence of child labour in many communities. Studies show that a large number of children working have completely withdrawn from school, with others still enrolled but only attending a part of the school year.

Causes of Child Labour in India? (Cont.)

- **Faltered Protection Environment**

Community based protection mechanisms and structures in communities are virtually nonexistent, which makes it especially difficult for children and adults to engage in prevention.

- **Apathy on part of the administration and lack of awareness**

Whilst child labour itself is often the decisive trigger in persuading a child to leave school, it is buttressed by a setting in which poor quality educational standards are common, notable for mediocre teaching practices.

- **Corporal punishment**

Corporal punishment is rampant and teachers do not have the capacity to address diverse learning needs in schools. Thus to both child and parent alike, school often seems an unattractive proposition.

See what Save the Children is doing

- Save the Children's responses to child labour include addressing a few key areas;
 - **Strengthening the Protection Environment**
 - Save the Children leverages its significant experience working closely with government duty bearer agencies for protection, such as Social Welfare, Child Welfare Committees, Juvenile Justice Boards, Department of Labour and the newly operational Integrated Child Protection Scheme to advocate for stronger implementation of child labour legislation and policy and more robust lines of accountability and community monitoring and prevention and response.
 - Save the Children also works to strengthen the implementation of Child Labour Prohibition and Regulation Act (CLPRA) and strategise on ways to enhance child labour policies to include children working. This approach compliments community-based approaches to reducing child labour and seeks to leverage the efforts of numerous stakeholders, rights holders and duty bearers.

See what Save the Children is doing (Cont.)

- **Save the Children addresses quality education by**

- Improving teachers' capacities to attract and retain all groups of children.
- By strengthening children's participation in teaching-learning processes in school.
- Ensure the provision of accelerated learning opportunities for children who are absent from school.
- By emphasizing towards enhancing parent's awareness on the right to education and its benefits in providing life opportunities for children.
- We encourage community participation, through local school and village education committees, in child enrolment and retention and we work with local and state governments for an improved school environment.

The newly enforced Right to Education Act will serve as a driving force in ensuring that all children have opportunities to attend school.

See what Save the Children is doing (Cont.)

- **Save the Children will address livelihoods through**
 - Practical mechanisms that ensure families access alternative sources of income when their children withdraw from/choose not to enter labour. Our approach focus on creating far greater awareness/take up on the various schemes that provide support to a household's income.
 - Adolescent children not returning to school are offered vocational training options with the Vocational education & training facilities.
 - We assist women to initiate or strengthen self-help activities and to access schemes that promote entrepreneurship, offer family support or female specific credit schemes offered by reputable credit institutions and Non-Government Organizations. Additionally, ensuring that all children have birth certificates and are therefore legally entitled to benefit from some of these schemes is a priority.
- **Save the Children responds to the policy environment**
 - The collation of the lessons learned from initiatives targeting this problem, in order to better ensure that a greater focus on analysis, research, documentation and advocacy work leads to effective multi-faceted responses to the challenges of child labour.
 - This approach allows Save the Children and its partners to focus on the link between policy and the development of good practice that is essential if long term mechanisms that lead to the progressive elimination of child labour are integrated into Government and Private Sector strategies.

Launching the 45 days campaign

- Save the Children launches a 45 days campaign which will include people of India signing a petition as one of the series of activities lined up;

“I want the Government to declare as illegal all forms of child labour up to the age of 14. I want the Government to ensure that all children now engaged in child labour are at school and complete elementary education because I believe even one working child means a childhood lost.”

- We intend to take this petition to the Union Labour Minister of India.

“Save the Children is often told that its aims are impossible- that there has always been child suffering and there always will be.

We know, it’s only impossible if we make it so. It’s only impossible if we refuse to attempt it”

-Eglantyne Jebb, 1927

A BIG THANK YOU TO **ALL** FOR HELPING US IN THE
COURSE OF MAKING THIS AIM POSSIBLE.