

Child labour in India: a health and human rights perspective

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Child Labour has become a growing phenomenon across the world. Millions of children are working in hazardous and exploitative conditions harmful to their physical, mental and moral development. When we talk of health of child workers, most of the children work more than 12 hours, inhuman conditions which result in physical deformities and make them vulnerable to several infectious and other disorders and diseases. Often the long hours work and poor environment conditions in the work place expose children to cramped conditions and hazardous substance. The acts and provisions are been stated by the government but their implementation is in stake.

Background

Various studies have been made by scholars who stress on the conditions of work of children, the status of health and human rights; still child labour is an inevitable reality. Looking upon the rural society where child labour is in practice various attempts are been made by the government to provide health information literacy. Rural child labour schools are been introduced to educate children and abolish child labour. Various acts and amendments are made to help the child to live a healthy and happy life. Burra has pointed out that these children are born to work. Children are intimately linked with poverty due to which children are engaged in a struggle to support their families.

Objectives

This paper would attempt to describe the health and human rights of children working in the sectors such as carpet making, pottery, shoe making, agriculture and quarry in Agra District.

No. of students	Name of the school
195	No.1 Dhanoli (Carpet making and Agriculture)
182	No 2 Etah , Nagra Daru (Pottery)
110	No 3 M.M Khan Agra (Quarries)
63	No 4 Fethabad Agra (Shoe Making)

Findings

The children working in these sectors in Agra district have enrolled themselves in rural child labour schools situated nearby which is been introduced by the Uttar Pradesh

Gramin Majdoor Sangathan. The students go to school in the morning and after they are back they help in the parental occupation, in carpet making, shoe marking, quarry, pottery and agriculture. Children are victims of occupational hazards which not only cripple their life but also affect the child's intellectual status and leads to premature pseudo maturity, aberrations in behaviour and personality. Due to work physical changes is triggered off which make an abrupt and unnatural transformation from childhood to permuted adulthood.

Due to work pressure children cannot give time to their natural urges and as a result are blunted and the whole mental world is impoverished. The burden of work responsibilities coming on him/her at a very tender age leads to premature economic worries that are unhealthy for his/her present and future well being. The child does not stop to think about it or rebel against it which has an important implication for child's mental health work.

The national initiatives taken by the government and non governmental organizations aim at protecting the human rights of children. They come forward as activist and health workers and anchored the system fully to protect the child's right. Despite of the attempts made by the constitution and provisions been placed. Child labour as a problem continues to exist. Scholars feel that the solution to the problem of child labour is primarily linked to social and economic development

Conclusion

Thus total abolition of child labour is not possible, as it will affect the poor families In spite of the presence of educational facilities in the rural area under there is a need to improve the working conditions and provide extensive care to safeguard the child workers from exploitation.