

Ques: The target to eradicate child labor by 2025 seems elusive in India. Examine the reasons and also discuss how could it be achieved.

28 NOV

Along with other issues associated with children like - infant mortality rate, child marriage, etc. child labor is also a cause of concern in India which seems elusive.

Reasons for prevalence of child labor in India :-

- Purchasing Power Parity (PPP) :- Due to widespread poverty & inequality, children are forced by their parents to make the both ends meet. Because it becomes difficult in a family of poor to even get adequate facilities like :- food, clean water, etc.
- Un-organised Sector :- The share of un-organised sector in India is more than 90%. due to which it becomes difficult to implement and monitor government laws & policies. E.g :- There is no surprise that on every 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> Dhaba, we find a child who is below 10 years, washing plates.
- Education & language :- In many tribal areas, drop-out ratio of children in schools is high due to factors like :- Teacher-children relations; mode of language for learning etc. Due to such reasons, drop-out children are forced to work. E.g :- Child workers in coal mines in states of Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand etc.
- Historical Reasons :- In India children always supported their parents in works like agriculture; craft works etc. But due to deteriorating conditions in sectors like agriculture, traditional skills etc. children are left vulnerable to work as child labor.

Suggestions to eradicate child labor :-  
→ Promotion of traditional skills, arts etc. will not only reduce cases of child labor due to involvement of children in family business but also address the problem of rising un-employment. This can be done through promotion of more GI tags.

→ Strict surveillance on trans-boundary movement of people would also reduce cases of child labor. This is because children are illegally trafficked from countries like Nepal, Bangladesh etc and are forced to indulge in activities like labor, prostitution etc. This issue can also be highlighted through conventions like Haque convention for child abduction.

→ Government can make a compulsory requirement for factories to register their workers through Aadhar card. This would made possible for government to find out number of child laborers. This can be addressed through portals like PENCIL.

Childhood is meant to study, enjoy, play and not to get exploited - both- mentally & physically. There is an urgent need to address the issues regarding child labor policies in country.