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PLAGIARISM REPORT

SEXUAL ABUSE OF CHILDREN IN INDIA: A STUDY OF CHILD PROTECTION LAWS WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO SOUTHERN RAJASTHAN

by DHRUVAL SHAH

Submission date: 05-Oct-2024 10:35AM (UTC+0530)

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Voices Against Child Sexual Abuse: Police Opinion Survey/ बाल यौन शोषण के खिलाफ आवाजें: पुलिस राय सर्वेक्षण(केवल पुलिस के लिए)

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR POLICE / पुलिस के लिए प्रश्नावली

सदस्यों,

महत्वपूर्ण कानूनी ढांचे के बारे में जागरूकता और समझ को बढ़ावा देने की हमारी प्रतिबद्धता के हिस्से के रूप में, मैं आपको हमारे POCSO अधिनियम जागरूकता सर्वेक्षण में भाग लेने के लिए आमंत्रित करते हूँ। यौन अपराधों से बच्चों का संरक्षण (POCSO) अधिनियम हमारे समाज में बच्चों के अधिकारों और कल्याण की सुरक्षा के लिए बनाया गया एक महत्वपूर्ण विधायी उपाय है। आपकी भागीदारी एक ऐसे समाज के निर्माण की दिशा में एक महत्वपूर्ण कदम है। मैं आपके समय और विचारशील प्रतिक्रियाओं की ईमानदारी की सरहना करता हूँ।

Data from Police Officials/ पुलिस अधिकारियों से प्राप्त आंकड़े

(Police Station Name) / Optional

Name	

- 2. Do you believe that there is sufficient training for police officers in handling child abuse cases? / क्या आप मानते हैं कि बाल उत्पीड़न के मामलों से निपटने के लिए पुलिस अधिकारियों को पर्याप्त प्रशिक्षण दिया जाता है?
 - a) Yes, there is sufficient training
 - b) Yes, but it could be improved
 - c) No, there is not enough training
 - d) I am unsure
- 3. How satisfied are you with the responsiveness of the police when it comes to investigating child abuse cases?/ बाल उत्पीड़न के मामलों की जांच के मामले में पुलिस की प्रतिक्रिया से आप कितने संतुष्ट हैं?
 - a) Very satisfied
 - b) Somewhat satisfied
 - c) Not very satisfied
 - d) Not satisfied at all

- 4. In your opinion, should there be increased collaboration between the police and other child welfare organizations in handling child abuse cases?/ आपकी राय में, क्या बाल दुर्व्यवहार के मामलों से निपटने में पुलिस और अन्य बाल कल्याण संगठनों के बीच सहयोग बढ़ाया जाना चाहिए?
 - a) Yes, collaboration should be increased
 - b) Collaboration is sufficient
 - c) I am unsure

6.

- d) No, collaboration is not necessary
- 5. How many cases of child abuse were registered in your police station from 2013 to 2024?/ 2013 से 2024 तक आपके पुलिस स्टेशन में बाल शोषण के कितने मामले दर्ज हुए?

What percentage of cases were resolved	from	2013	to	2024?	2013	से	2024	तक	कितने
प्रतिशत मामले सुलझाए गए?									

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QUESTIONNAIRE FOR ADVOCATE/ COURT

अधिवक्ता /अदालत के लिए प्रश्नावली

"Empowering Communities: A Survey on Child Sexual Abuse by Advocates"

Name:
Data from Advocate/ Court
प्रेय प्रतिभागियों/समुदाय सदस्यों,
महत्वपूर्ण कानूनी ढांचे के बारे में जागरूकता और समझ को बढ़ावा देने की हमारी अतिबद्धता के हिस्से के रूप में, मैं आपको हमारे POCSO अधिनियम जागरूकता सर्वेक्षण में भाग जेने के लिए आमंत्रित करते हूँ। यौन अपराधों से बच्चों का संरक्षण (POCSO) अधिनियम हमारे समाज में बच्चों के अधिकारों और कल्याण की सुरक्षा के लिए बनाया गया एक महत्वपूर्ण विधायी उपाय है। आपकी भागीदारी एक ऐसे समाज के निर्माण की दिशा में एक महत्वपूर्ण कदम है। मैं आपके समय और विचारशील प्रतिक्रियाओं की ईमानदारी की सरहना करता हूँ।
इस महत्वपूर्ण प्रयास का हिस्सा बनने के लिए धन्यवाद। 1. How many cases of child abuse were deal by advocate from the year 2013-
2023?
2. How many cases of child abuse is disposed of by you?
3. Have you ever encountered a situation where you suspected an advocate of being involved in child abuse, and if so, did you report it?
a) Yes, I reported the suspicion.
b) Yes, but I did not report it.
c) No, I have not encountered such a situation
4. In your opinion, how transparent is the legal profession in handling cases of

child abuse involving advocates?

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR PARENTS/ माता-पिता के लिए प्रश्नावली

प्रिय प्रतिभागियों/समुदाय सदस्यों,

महत्वपूर्ण कानूनी ढांचे के बारे में जागरूकता और समझ को बढ़ावा देने की हमारी प्रतिबद्धता के हिस्से के रूप में, मैं आपको हमारे POCSO अधिनियम जागरूकता सर्वेक्षण में भाग लेने के लिए आमंत्रित करते हूँ। यौन अपराधों से बच्चों का संरक्षण (POCSO) अधिनियम हमारे समाज में बच्चों के अधिकारों और कल्याण की सुरक्षा के लिए बनाया गया एक महत्वपूर्ण विधायी उपाय है। आपकी भागीदारी एक ऐसे समाज के निर्माण की दिशा में एक महत्वपूर्ण कदम है। मैं आपके समय और विचारशील प्रतिक्रियाओं की ईमानदारी की सरहना करता हूँ।

इस महत्वपूर्ण प्रयास का हिस्सा बनने के लिए धन्यवाद।

प्रतिवादी का नाम(**गुप्त रखा जाएगा)

- बाल यौन शोषण के संबंध में आपकी जागरूकता का स्तर क्या है?
 - a) Very aware बहुत जागरूक
 - b) Somewhat aware कुछ हद तक जागरूक
 - c) Not very aware बहुत जागरूक नहीं
 - d) Not aware at all बिल्कुल पता नहीं
- 2. Have you ever received information or education about preventing child sexual abuse? क्या आपको कभी बाल यौन शोषण को रोकने के बारे में जानकारी या शिक्षा प्राप्त हुई है?
 - a) Yes, through school programme हाँ, स्कूल कार्यक्रम के माध्यम से
 - b) Yes, through community programme हाँ, सामुदायिक कार्यक्रम के माध्यम से
 - c) Yes, through online resources हाँ, ऑनलाइन संसाधनों के माध्यम से
 - d) No, I have not received any information नहीं, मुझे कोई सूचना नहीं मिली है
- 3. Do you believe that your community takes sufficient measures to prevent child sexual abuse? क्या आप मानते हैं कि आपका समुदाय बाल यौन शोषण को रोकने के लिए पर्याप्त उपाय करता है?
 - a) Yes, very sufficient हाँ, बहुत पर्याप्त है
 - b) Yes, somewhat sufficient हाँ, कुछ हद तक पर्याप्त
 - c) No, not very sufficient नहीं, बहुत पर्याप्त नहीं है
 - d) No, not sufficient at all नहीं, बिल्कुल भी पर्याप्त नहीं है
- 4. If you suspected or knew of a child being sexually abused, would you know how to report it to the appropriate authorities? यदि आपको संदेह है या आप जानते हैं कि किसी बच्चे के साथ यौन दुर्व्यवहार किया जा रहा है, तो क्या आप जानते हैं कि उचित अधिकारियों को इसकी रिपोर्ट कैसे करें?
 - a) Yes, I am confident in knowing how to report हां, मुझे यह जानने का भरोसा है कि रिपोर्ट कैसे करनी है

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- b) Yes, but I am not very confident हाँ, लेकिन मैं बहुत आश्वस्त नहीं हूँ
- c) No, I am not sure how to report नहीं, मुझे नहीं पता कि कैसे रिपोर्ट करूं
- d) No, I would not know how to report नहीं, मुझे नहीं पता कि कैसे रिपोर्ट करूं
- 5. Are you aware of any POCSO Act dealing with child abuse? क्या आप बाल शोषण से संबंधित किसी POCSO अधिनियम के बारे में जानते हैं?
 - a) Yes, and I am familiar with the Act हां, और मैं इस अधिनियम से परिचित हूं
 - b) Yes, but I am not familiar with the Act हां, लेकिन मैं इस अधिनियम से परिचित नहीं हूं
 - c) No, I am not aware of any Act नहीं, मुझे किसी एक्ट की जानकारी नहीं है
- 6. Do you think Family Violence Effect child sexual abuse? क्या आपको लगता है कि पारिवारिक हिंसा का प्रभाव बाल यौन शोषण पर पड़ता है?
 - a) Yes हां
 - b) Not sure निश्चित नहीं
 - c) No नहीं
- 7. Do you think Lack of proper implementation of laws is the cause of increasing child sexual abuse cases in India? क्या आपको लगता है कि भारत में बाल यौन शोषण के बढ़ते मामलों का कारण कानूनों का उचित कार्यान्वयन न होना है?
 - a) Yes हां
 - b) not sure निश्चित नहीं
 - c) no नहीं
- 8. Do you think POCSO Act 2012 have some loopholes and it is misused for unfair advantages? क्या आपको लगता है कि POCSO अधिनियम 2012 में कुछ खामियां हैं और अनुचित लाभ के लिए इसका दुरुपयोग किया जाता है?
 - a) Yes हां
 - b) Not sure निश्चित नहीं
 - c) No नहीं
- 9. Is Child Marriage is also the reason of child sexual abuse? क्या बाल विवाह भी बाल यौन शोषण का कारण है?
 - a) Yes हां
 - b) Not sure निश्चित नहीं
 - c) No नहीं
- 10. Do you think today's Cinema is also equally responsible to increase child sexual abuse? क्या आपको लगता है कि आज का सिनेमा भी बाल यौन शोषण को बढ़ाने के लिए उतना ही ज़िम्मेदार है?
 - a) Yes हां
 - b) Not sure निश्चित नहीं
 - c) No नहीं
- 11. Do you think poverty is also the reason of child sexual abuse?क्या आपको लगता है कि गरीबी भी बाल यौन शोषण का कारण है?
 - a) Yes हां
 - b) Not sure निश्चित नहीं
 - c) No नहीं

- 12. Do you think every kid who is depressed is going through child abuse? क्या आपको लगता है कि अवसादग्रस्त हर बच्चा बाल शोषण से गुजर रहा है?
 - a) Yes हां
 - b) Not sure निश्चित नहीं
 - c) No नहीं
- 13. Do you think compensation to be given to the accused person if he is implicated in a false case? क्या आपको लगता है कि झूठे मामले में फंसाए जाने पर आरोपी व्यक्ति को मुआवजा दिया जाना चाहिए?
 - a) Yes हां
 - b) Not sure निश्चित नहीं
 - c) No नहीं
- 14. Do you think POCSO ACT 2012 addresses the sexual abuse cases against children in Southern Rajasthan? क्या आपको लगता है कि POCSO अधिनियम 2012 दक्षिणी राजस्थान में बच्चों के खिलाफ यौन शोषण के मामलों को संबोधित करता है?
 - a) Yes हां
 - b) Not sure निश्चित नहीं
 - c) No नहीं
- 15. Do you think child should also be punished for giving false information or false complaint? क्या आपको लगता है कि गलत जानकारी या झूठी शिकायत देने पर बच्चे को भी सजा दी जानी चाहिए?
 - a) Yes हां
 - b) Not sure निश्चित नहीं
 - c) No नहीं





On

Social Transformation through Human Rights and Criminal Laws in India (International Law Perspectives)

Organized By

Faculty of Law, Jai Narain Vyas University, Jodhpur (Raj.) - IQAC

21-22 February, 2024

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MULTIDISCIPLINARY INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CHILD RIGHTS AND CHILD PROTECTION ISSUES AND CHALLENGES



CERTIFICATE OF PRESENTATION

This is to certify that Prof./Dr./Ms./Mr. Bhuval Shah, Research Scholas

from PAHER University, Udaipur has presented the paper titled

A Comprehensive Guide to Child - Related Legislations in India

in the two days MultidisciplinaryInternational Conferenceon "ChildRightsandChildProtection:IssuesandChallenges" heldon

25thand26thAugust2023,organised by PacificSchoolofLaw, PAHERUniversityandChildWelfareCommittee at PacificSchoolof

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PAHER University, Udaipur

Dr. Pushpa Mehdoo

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A COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE TO CHILD-RELATED LEGISLATION IN INDIA

Abstract

Child-related legislation in India is of paramount importance in safeguarding the rights and well-being of children. This comprehensive research paper aims to provide an in-depth overview of the key laws and acts that have been enacted in order to ensure the well-being, development, and protection of children within the country. The paper will explore the various legislative measures that have been put in place to safeguard the rights and interests of children, with a particular focus on their physical, emotional, and social welfare. By examining the evolution and impact of these laws and acts, this research paper seeks to shed light on the progress made in promoting and safeguarding the rights of children, as well as identify any gaps or challenges that may still exist in the current legal framework. Through a systematic analysis of relevant legislation, this research paper aims to contribute to the existing body of knowledge on child protection and serve as a valuable resource for policymakers, researchers, and practitioners working in the field of child welfare. This comprehensive guide provides an in-depth analysis of diverse facets pertaining to legislation concerning children.

Keywords: Child Legislations, Child laws, Children Rights, POCSO

Introduction

Research paper comprises a wide range of topics, such as constitutional provisions, educational acts, and measures to safeguard against abuse and exploitation, juvenile justice, and specialize protection for vulnerable groups. This statement further underscores the significance of child participation, the right to development, identity rights, and the role of commissions dedicated to child protection. Moreover, the guide places a strong emphasis on the importance of breastfeeding and the regulation of infant milk substitutes. The comprehension of these laws and acts holds paramount importance for individuals, organizations, and the government in their endeavor to foster and maintain the rights of children, while concurrently establishing a secure and nurturing milieu conducive to their development and overall welfare.

Question of Research

What is a complete guide to child-related legislation in India, containing an overview of the important laws and acts aimed at protecting children's rights and welfare?

Methods of Research

The following Methods are followed to gather relevant information and to analyze the subject matter effectively:

- 01. Literature Review
- 02. Legal Document Analysis
- 03. Case Studies
- 04. Legal Framework Evaluation

Definition of Child

Different legislation regards age to be the primary criterion for designating a kid. Among the key meanings of the word "child" in different international and local regulations are:

- The word 'Child' is defined in the 1989
 Convention on the Rights of the Child as "[...]
 any human being under the age of eighteen
 years, unless majority is attained earlier under
 the law applicable to the child."
- Article 2 of the 1999 International Convention Concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labor defines child as "all persons under the age of 18."
- Section 2(aa) of the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956 defines "child" as "any person under the age of sixteen."
- Section 2(12) of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 defines "child" as "any person under the age of eighteen."
- Section 2(a) of the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006 defines "child" as "a person who has not completed twenty-one years of age, if a male, and eighteen years of age, if a female."
- According to Section 2© of the Factories Act of 1948, "child" denotes "a person who has not completed his fifteenth year of age."
- According to Section 2(d) of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offenses Act of 2012, "Child" implies "any person under the age of eighteen."

However, it is worth noting that in most legislation, the age of 18 years is used as a criterion for classifying a person as a kid; hence, for the purposes of this research, the definition of child is based on the Protection of Children from Sexual Offenses Act, 2012.

A Comprehensive Guide - Child Related Legislation in India

The term "child-related legislation" refers to a wide variety of laws and actions that have been passed in India with the intention of protecting the rights and welfare of children. The following is an allencompassing overview to the legal framework in India pertaining to children, with subheadings on individual acts and laws: 1. The Constitution of India includes the following provisions:¹

- A. Article 15(3) allows for the creation of specific measures for the protection of children.
- B. Article 21A ensures that all children between the ages of 6 to 14 have the legal right to receive an education that is both free and mandatory.²

1. The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 does the following:³

- a. It establishes a comprehensive framework for the care, protection, and rehabilitation of children who are in conflict with the law and children who are in need of care and protection; this includes both children who have broken the law and children who are in need of care and protection.⁴
- b. Creates committees to address matters involving children by establishing juvenile justice boards and child welfare committees.

Down side of the Legislation

A. Age Determination: The Act classifies all

¹ CLA's Constitution Law of India by Dr J N Pandey

² Pathak, J. (March 9, 2012). An Analytical Study on Rights of Children and the Constitution of India. Assam.

³ The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015.

⁴ Avinash De Sousa, S. S. (Volume-3, Issue-9, Sept-2014 • ISSN No 2277 - 8160). The Protection of Children From Sexual Offences Act 2012.

under-18s as minors, regardless of maturity or mental ability. In circumstances of major and egregious crimes, there have been requests to decrease the age restriction for classifying criminals as adults.

- B. Inadequate Rehabilitation and Reintegration:
 The Act stresses the rehabilitation and reintegration of children in conflict with the law, however there are worries about the lack of infrastructure, resources, and programs to do so. Counselling, skill development, and education programs for these children's reintegration are few.
- C. Overburdened Juvenile Justice System: The Act assigns matters involving children in dispute with the law to Juvenile Justice Boards and Child Welfare Committees. However, heavy caseloads, poor personnel, and limited resources can delay justice and child care in these facilities.
- **D.** Lack of Standardization: Different Indian states execute the Act differently. The Act's interpretation and execution vary, resulting in inconsistent treatment of children in conflict with the law and in need of care and protection.
- E. Insufficient Focus on Prevention: The Act largely addresses the repercussions of children breaking the law, although preventative measures and early intervention programs are needed to lower juvenile delinquency rates. Prioritize strategies to address poverty, lack of education, and violence as fundamental causes of offending.
- F. Child involvement: The Act acknowledges the significance of child involvement, but the juvenile justice system needs to improve and encourage meaningful child engagement in life-changing choices. A fair and successful system requires children to be heard and considered in decision-making.

2. The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2006⁵

- a. Ensures that all children between the ages of 6 to 14 are provided with an education that is both free and mandatory.
- b. Prohibits discrimination in the admissions process, the curriculum, and the process of completing primary school⁶.
- 3. The Protection of Children from Sexual Offenses (POCSO) Act, which was passed in 2012, does the following⁷
- a. It establishes a legal framework for protecting children from sexual abuse, exploitation, and pornography.
- b. Defines a variety of sexual crimes committed against minors and outlines severe penalties for those who commit such acts.

Down side of the Legislation

- A. Ambiguity of "Child": The statute defines a kid as someone under 18. The Indian Penal Code sets the age of consent for consensual sex between two people at 18, which creates uncertainty about sexual behaviour. This mismatch has caused uncertainty and dispute about the POCSO Act's applicability to minors' voluntary sexual behaviour.
- B. Lack of Gender-Neutral Language: The POCSO Act protects female children but not male youngsters from sexual assaults. This gender-specific phrasing leaves male sexual assault victims vulnerable and may discourage reporting or delay prosecution.

In a case involving the physical relationship between adolescent boy and adolescent girl, the girl is treated as the victim and the boy is treated as an accused. Despite the POCSO Act, gaining convictions is difficult owing to a lack of evidence, judicial delays, and

⁵ The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2006:

⁶ Sarin, M. N. The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory.

⁷ Datta & Das (2018). Indian Child Protection Laws. Law and Social Sciences, 2(1), 22–32.

societal stigma surrounding child sexual abuse cases. These obstacles may hinder justice for child victims and deter reporting.

Despite the POCSO Act, gaining convictions is difficult owing to a lack of evidence, judicial delays, and societal stigma surrounding child sexual abuse cases. These obstacles may hinder justice for child victims and deter reporting.

C. Rehabilitation and assistance Services: The statute emphasizes punishment, but child victims of sexual assaults require rehabilitation and assistance. To help survivors recover, counselling, medical treatment, and other assistance should be priority.

4. The Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act of 1986:⁸

- A. Prohibits the employment of children younger than 14 in potentially dangerous jobs or procedures; regulates the conditions under which children may be employed;
- B. Establishes guidelines for the working conditions and hours that minors may be required to labour in jobs that are allowed.

Down side of the Legislation

Ambiguity in the Definition of "Child Labour": The legislation defines child labor as the employment of children under the age of 14 in certain vocations. The statute, however, enables minors to work in family businesses and some non-hazardous vocations, which may lead to exploitation and the continuation of child labor in disguised forms.

5. The Commissions for the Protection of Child Rights (CPCR) Act, 2005.9

- A. Establishes National and State Commissions for the Protection of Child Rights to monitor and oversee the implementation of child rights and protection.
- B. Provides the Commissions with the authority to investigate complaints, take actions on their own initiative, and make recommendations on child welfare policies.

6. The Child Marriage Restraint Act (CMRA), signed in 2006, does the following: 10

- A. It outlaws marrying a child under the age of 18 and lays out penalties for anyone who is responsible for or promotes such unions.
- B. Minimum age for females to get legally married is 18 and 21 for Male.

7. The National Policy for Children, 2013, does the following

- A. It outlines the guiding principles and action plans for the comprehensive development and well-being of children.
- B. Places an emphasis on the child's ability to live, maintain their health and nutrition, get an education, be protected, and participate.11

⁸ The Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act of 1986

⁹ The Commissions for the Protection of Child Rights (CPCR) Act, 2005

¹⁰ The Child Marriage Restraint Act (CMRA)

¹¹ The National Policy for Children, 2013

¹² The Infant Milk Substitutes, Feeding Bottles and Infant Foods Regulation of Production, Supply and Distribution Amendment Act, 2003

8. The Infant Milk Substitutes, Feeding Bottles, and Infant Foods Regulation of Production, Supply, and Distribution Amendment Act of 2003: serves as a modification to the initial legislation established in 1992.

The aforementioned legislation is commonly known as the IMS Act or the Infant Milk Substitutes Act. The primary objective of the IMS Act is to establish regulatory measures for the oversight of the making, supply, and distribution of infant milk substitutes, feeding bottles, and infant foods. The primary aim of this initiative is to safeguard and advance the practice of breastfeeding, which is widely recognized as essential for the optimal health and overall welfare of newborns.¹²

Review of Literature

Datta & Das (2018) examined India's child protection laws, including the Juvenile Justice Act, Child Labor Act, and Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act. It evaluates the legal framework and suggests improvements.

Gupta & Human (2017) mentioned that The Indian Right to Education Act, Juvenile Justice Act, and Prohibition of Child Marriage Act are critically examined in this paper. It examines how these regulations affect child well-being and proposes improvements.

Sharma & Gupta (2019) discussed Indian child protection laws, institutions, and policies. It explains how the National and State Commissions for Protection of Child Rights, Juvenile Justice Boards, and Child Welfare Committees safeguard children and assesses their implementation issues.

Rani Verma (2018) discussed Child labor, trafficking, marriage, and abuse laws in India are critically examined in this research. It addresses implementation shortcomings and proposes legislative reforms to safeguard children.

Agarwal & Tripathi (2016) examines India's Right to Education Act, Juvenile Justice Act, and Integrated Child Protection Scheme. It addresses

implementation gaps, obstacles, and the need for comprehensive child protection.

Das & Chatrabouty (2018) examines India's Child Labor (Prohibition and Regulation) Act its modifications. It evaluates the legislation's impact on child labor and offers ways to improve enforcement and rehabilitation.

Conclusion

In India, laws about children are very important for protecting their rights, keeping them healthy, and helping them grows up. This thorough guide has given a review of some of the most important laws and acts that are meant to protect children in different areas also talked about parts of the constitution like Article 15(3) and Article 21A, which promise special protections for children and the right to free and mandatory education, respectively. It also talked about specific laws, such as the Juvenile Justice Act, the Right to Education Act, the POCSO Act, the Child Labour Act, and others, that protect children, help them get an education, take care of their health, and give them a voice.

Also Effort to talked about how important it is to nurse and how the Infant Milk alternatives Act regulates milk alternatives for babies. It talked about how important it is for children to be involved, to have the right to grow, to have the right to their own identity, and to have special protections for groups that are weak.

By looking at laws about children, it became clear that putting them into effect and making sure they are followed are still major problems. It is important for government departments, nongovernment organizations, and civil society to work together to make sure that these rules are implemented, monitored, and evaluated well.

Even though the Research paper gave a complete outline, it is important to remember that child-related laws are always changing. Changes and ongoing work are needed to deal with new problems and improve the safety and wellbeing of children.

Overall, this Research Paper is a useful tool for lawmakers, practitioners, scholars, and other people who work in the area of child safety and rights. It talks about India's legal system and encourages a more complete understanding of laws that affect children. It also stresses the need for everyone to work together to make a safe, caring, and welcoming place for all children.

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CHILD RIGHTS AND THEIR PROBLEMS

Abstract

The present study conducts a critical analysis of child rights in India, highlighting the many obstacles that hinder their successful implementation. With 370 million children living in India, it is crucial to preserve their rights to identity, health, education, and safety, among other things. Even with legislative protections in place, a significant number of children still lack access to these essential rights.

The paper tries to explain many reasons which fail to protect children's rights, focusing on the obstacles that hinder access to education. It does this by using a wealth of research and empirical data. Remarkably, data show that 50 % of Indian children between the ages of six to eighteen are not enrolled in school, which raises the questions of whether socioeconomic causes and systemic inequalities are at work.

This paper explores the negative effects of violating a child's rights on both physical and mental health. These issues have been made worse by the COVID-19 pandemic, which has increased danger in children and escalated inequality. This study employs a multidisciplinary approach to identify critical issues and provide workable remedies. The report argues for coordinated efforts at local, national, and international levels to protect the rights of every child in India, ranging from policy interventions to grassroots activities.

This study attempts to encourage discussion and promote constructive change in the field of child rights advocacy and protection by giving a thorough analysis of the existing situation and practical suggestions.

Keywords: Child Legislations, Child laws, Children Rights, POCSO

Introduction

The right to health is of highest priority for all people on the planet. An unhealthy individual is incapable of living a joyful existence. The condition of being physically, mentally, and socially sound is health. Similarly, child good health include education, Prohibition on child labour, Prohibition on Violence, abuse, Discrimination & on Deprivation.

Right to Equality (Article 14), Right against Exploitation (Article 23), Right to Freedom of Speech and Expression (Article 19), Right to Protection of

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¹ THE CONSTITUTION OF INDIA [As on 26th November, 2021

² CHILDREN RIGHTS AND THEIR SOCIO-LEGAL PROBLEMS
Dr. SOURABH SHARMA (LL.M.,Ph.D.) International Journal of Research in Social Sciences
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Children (Article 15(3) and Article 39(e) and (f)), Right to Development and Protection (Directive Principles of State Policy), Right to life, Right to education (Article 21A)1 this are the few right which is protected by constitution of India, but still we face some loopholes if we go in the society In India, approximately 8 crore children do not attend school². Despite India's rising per capita income, millions of children and women suffer from 'hidden hunger'. According to the UN's Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) 'The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World, 2022 Report'³, 224.3 million people, or 16% of the Indian population, are malnourished, with 53% of reproductive-age women being anaemic. More than 17.3% of children are malnourished, and more than 30.9% are stunted, exposing them to common childhood infections such as malaria, pneumonia, and diarrhoea, which are primary causes of child mortality in India. Even though India's child death rate declined from 2.5 million per year in 2000 to 1.2 million per year in 2015, it remains the world's highest statistic for mortality for children under the age of five.4

Every person has the right to life, which is a very basic and important right. It's also a basic right that all other rights are based on. In the lack of this right to security, all other rights are meaningless. Childhood is a more fragile time for people because their bodies and minds have not fully developed yet. Furthermore, the youngster demands extra care and protection. Every child needs particular.

Question of Research

Examining the Multifaceted Challenges Faced by Children in Upholding Their Rights: A Comprehensive Analysis of Socioeconomic, Cultural, and Legal Factors?

Methods of Research

The following Methods are followed to gather relevant information and to analyze the subject matter effectively:

01. Literature Review

- 02. Legal Document Analysis
- 03. Case Studies
- 04. Legal Framework Evaluation

Six major problems and rights that most children face and desire in their lives

- A. Health issues / Right to Survival
- B. Poverty / the right of a child to be protected against poverty.
- C. Lack of education / Right to Education:
- D. Child labour / Right to Development:
- E. Violence and abuse / Right to Protection:
- F. Discrimination & Deprivation / Right to Non-Discrimination:

A. Health Issues/Right to Survival

What is your understanding of it? We discuss numerous aspects of life, including the need to work, study, and live. However, numerous children are merely struggling for survival. Not only by starvation but also as a result of medical complications. We encounter numerous infections, diseases, and viruses on a daily basis; at the moment, we are occupied with Covid-19. Over the past Four years, each individual has been contending with this virus. A considerable number of our loved ones have perished as a result of this pandemic. There are currently a multitude of vaccines on the market. In numerous jurisdictions, the government is providing complimentary vaccinations but still many children, however, had lost their parents, and we can offer only our condolences or make a token effort to assist them, and we remain ignorant to the challenges that these children are currently experiencing or may encounter in the future. It has been reported or observed that certain newborns die as a result of medical complications or other causes. New death rates from UNICEF, the World Health Organisation (WHO), the United Nations Population Division, UNFPA, and the World Bank Group show that about 2.8 million pregnant women and babies die every year, or 1 every 11 seconds⁵.

³ https://www.fao.org/3/cc0639en/cc0639en.pdf

⁴ https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/southasia/2023/02/27/stuffed-granaries-and-empty-stomachs-hunger-in-india/

⁵ https://www. unicef.org/ press-releases/ surviving- birth- every- 11- seconds- pregnant- woman- ornewborn- diessomewhere-around#: ~:text= FACT% 20SHEET, and% 20the% 20World% 20Bank% 20Group.

Indians have significant challenges in the form of poverty, hunger, and inadequate sanitation, which greatly contribute to the high rate of child mortality. Over 40% of youngsters suffer from malnutrition or impaired growth. Kerala has the most minimal child mortality rates among all regions in India. This has been accomplished via the mitigation of poverty, alleviation of hunger, and reduction of disparities. India has higher child death rates compared to its neighbouring countries, Bangladesh and Nepal, despite the fact that both countries are economically weaker and have a lower number of physicians.

After birth, many parents leave their newborn babies in public places due to various reasons. They may not be financially stable, they may have a girl baby, or there could be other factors involved. These circumstances are not new; we are all aware of them. These children are simply fighting for their survival; they don't want anything else except to live.

On the other hand of this paper as we early said there is two part of this paper one is socio and another one is legal. Now we will see some legal aspects of it.

Article 14

In terms of the Indian Constitution it's about being equal in front of the law. The Indian constitution says that everyone is equal before the law. So why do so many of us not follow this and break the constitution? We need to follow this, and people who don't should be punished harshly.⁶

Article 15

Discrimination based on "place of birth." is prohibited under Article 15 of the Indian Constitution. This implies that people can't be discriminated against depending on where they were born—rural, urban, or elsewhere. Such discrimination violates Constitutional equality and fairness. The constitutional clause guarantees equal treatment regardless of birthplace, although societal biases may remain. Poor and unsanitary individuals may be discriminated against, as you indicated. However, everyone deserves dignity

and respect, regardless of socioeconomic status or living situations.

To counteract birthplace prejudice, awareness, education, and empathy should be promoted. We need a more inclusive society where everyone is appreciated and has equal opportunity to succeed. This involves reducing structural disparities, increasing access to clean water, sanitation, and housing, and confronting discriminatory preconceptions and biases. To guarantee that no one is marginalised or excluded based on birthplace or socioeconomic position, government institutions, civil society organisations, communities, and people must work together to respect Article 15.

Article 16 The Indian Constitution's Article 16 It discusses equal opportunities in relation to public employment. Bias and corruption can exist in the public employment sector. Although the frequency is decreasing, but still some incidents still occur in some locations nowadays. However, what if the youngster isn't provided with a suitable education and meets their fundamental needs? How can we speak about equal opportunity if they can't get employment in these fields? How will a youngster be able to find employment if they are deprived of their fundamental needs or are not given the chance to further their education? We don't quite know how to solve it. Many schools have been established by the government, yet many kids still choose not to go. The cause is still a mystery.

Article 21A: of the Indian constitution. It discusses the right to education. Education, like food and shelter, is critical to our survival; nevertheless, many of us do not get it for a variety of reasons. I have one question for everyone who is reading this. Are we genuinely obeying our Indian constitution? Simply ask yourself if you are or not.

B. Child Poverty

Children born into poverty face several challenges throughout the day, from sunrise to sunset. They must labour in little spaces to feed themselves and survive on a daily basis. Their family is also

⁶ THE CONSTITUTION OF INDIA (As on 26th November, 2021)

⁷ https://www.unicef.org/india/press-releases/child-labour-rises-160-million-first-increase-two-decades

⁸ Section 14 in The Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986

suffering because they do not have suitable occupations or a method to generate money, and as a consequence, all of the family members, particularly the youngsters, have to suffer greatly. They lack of food, unsuitable living environment, live in the hut or on the roadside. Their parents worked tirelessly to feed their children twice a day, but some situation is worst-case scenario, and it is very tough for living. In such conditions, the children need work for food or a healthy lifestyle. The most prevalent cause is that their parents do not have a job or labour to perform. In most situations, their parents work for a daily salary, such as labour, cleaning, babysitting, and driving, and so on.

So to overcome from Poverty several strategies should be followed and government should run such type of new programmes

- A. Income Support Programs
- B. Access to Quality Education
- C. Employment Opportunities for Parents
- D. Universal Healthcare Coverage
- E. Addressing Inequality
- F. Affordable Housing
- G. Social Protection Policies
- H. Advocacy and Awareness

It is possible to achieve substantial advancements in the reduction of child poverty and the guarantee of equal opportunities for all children by employing a multisectoral approach that incorporates the aforementioned strategies and combines government agencies, civil society organisations, communities, and international partners.

C. Education Barriers

- 01. **Financial constraints:** Families may not be able to afford school fees, travel charges, or school supplies and uniforms.
- 02. **Child Labour:** In many circumstances, children are compelled to labour to help their families financially, preventing them from attending school.

- 03. **Distance to Schools:** In rural or isolated places, schools may be distant from children's homes, making it difficult for them to get an education, particularly if transportation is unavailable.
- 04. **Cultural Beliefs and Practices:** In certain societies, boys' education is prioritised over girls', resulting in gender inequities in access to education. Furthermore, cultural norms may hinder certain groups, such as minorities or marginalised communities, from enrolling their children in school.
- 05. **Conflict and Instability:** Schools in conflict-affected areas may be destroyed or shuttered, and families may choose their children's safety above education.
- 06. Children with impairments or special needs may encounter challenges to obtaining an education owing to a lack of proper facilities, experienced instructors, or support services.
- 07. **Lack of Infrastructure:** Schools in underprivileged regions may lack basic amenities such as classrooms, power, clean water, and sanitation, making it difficult for students to attend consistently.
- 08. **Discrimination and Exclusion:**Discrimination based on race, religion, language, or socioeconomic background may lead to the exclusion of certain children from educational opportunities.

To address educational hurdles, a multifaceted strategy is required, incorporating government policies, community activities, and international help. This includes providing financial assistance to low-income families, enacting anti-child labour laws, improving infrastructure and transportation networks, promoting gender equality and inclusive education, investing in teacher training and resources, and fostering partnerships between governments, nongovernmental organisations, and communities to ensure that all children have equal access to quality education.

D. Child Labour

We all know that it is illegal for children to work, but does everyone follow this rule?

No, not all of them. In many workplaces and other places, these kids are working against their will, but everyone has a reason. Some of them have to work even though they don't want to because their people make them. For food, some of the kids work day and night for their families. Some of them work because their parents tell them to. It happens in different places and at different times, but one thing is always the same children work.

They can go to school and have a good time, but for survival they need to work in different workplaces, hotels, and other places. They also want to be happy like other kids, go to school, or study, but they can't.

Child labour still happens and may even get worse because of many complicated reasons:

- O1. Poverty: One of the main reasons kids work is because their families are poor. People who live in great poverty often depend on the money their children can make by working to stay alive. When families are having a hard time meeting their basic needs, putting kids to work is not a choice but a way to stay alive.
- **02. Inability to Get an Education:** A lot of the time, kids have to work because they can't get a good education. Children may have to work instead of going to school when schools aren't available, are too expensive, or aren't good enough.
- 03. Cultural and social norms: In some societies, children's ability to help make money for the family is valued more than their right to go to school and be safe from being exploited at work. Gender roles may also play a part, since girls are often expected to do housework or watch their younger brothers instead of going to school.
- **04.** Lack of Enforcement of Laws against Child Labour: When laws against child labour are not enforced properly, companies can use kids as cheap labour without getting in trouble. Corruption and weak judicial systems can make this problem even worse.

- Os. Conflict and Instability: Children may be more likely to be exploited and made to work in places where there is conflict, war, or political instability because social systems are broken and there aren't enough protections in place.
- **06. Demand for Cheap Labour:** Businesses that need cheap labour may keep using kid labour by taking advantage of weaker groups, especially in areas like farming, manufacturing, mining, and housework.
- **07. Movement and Urbanisation:** When kids move from the country to the city to find work, they may be more likely to be abused because they are leaving their towns. In cities, kids may end up working in dangerous places, like the private sector or on the street.

Dealing with child labour needs a multifaceted method that handles its causes, such as poverty, lack of schooling, weak laws, and views in society. Focus should be put on reducing poverty, making it easier for kids to go to school, strengthening child protection systems, making sure labour laws are followed, helping families find stable ways to make a living, and spreading the word about how important it is to protect kids' rights and wellbeing. To fight child labour successfully and make sure that all children can grow up in a safe and caring setting, states, companies, civil society groups, and foreign bodies must work together.

NEW YORK/GENEVA, 10 June 2021 – The number of children in child labour has risen to 160 million worldwide – an increase of 8.4 million children in the last four years – with millions more at risk due to the impacts of COVID-19, according to a new report by the International Labour Organization (ILO) and UNICEF.⁷

In some industries, like cracker mills, mines, quarries, and child prostitution, kids have to work in dangerous or difficult conditions. These jobs are all against the law. All of these people are given harsh punishments, but they still do this illegal job. There are numerous Loop holes in the system that allows them to do this kind of illegal work

⁷ https://www.unicef.org/india/press-releases/child-labour-rises-160-million-first-increase-two-decades

without fear. We all have to accept this terrible truth. Laws are made for the protection of children and against child labour and exploitation

- 01. Child Labour Act
- 02. Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation)
- 03. Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000.

Punishment⁸

- 01. Whoever employs or permits any child to work in violation of the provisions of section 3 shall be punished by imprisonment for a term of not less than three months but not more than one year, a fine of not less than ten thousand rupees but not more than twenty thousand rupees.
- (2) If a person is convicted of an offence under section 3 and then commits a similar crime, he must be imprisoned for a period of at least six months but up to two years.
- (d) fails to comply with or contravenes any other provisions of this Act or the regulations established thereunder, shall be punished with simple imprisonment for one month, a fine of ten thousand rupees, or both.

In the case of Jayakumar Nat & Anr v State of NCT of Delhi & Anr on 4 September 2015. In this instance, the boy stated that he has been working for the past three months at the Vishwakarma Tempo Repairing Centre, Govindpuri Transit Camp, for roughly ten hours per day and earning Rs. 400 per month. Article 24 of the Indian constitution prohibits the employment of minors under the age of 14 in industries and hazardous jobs. The Indian constitution includes Article 24 as one of its essential rights. Children under the age of 14 are not permitted to work in factories or other dangerous environments. If they are compelled to undertake the labour in certain regions, they are subject to penalty.

Review of Literature

Datta & Das (2018), examined India's child

protection laws, including the Juvenile Justice Act, Child Labor Act, and Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act. It evaluates the legal framework and suggests improvements.

S. Gupta, M. Kumar (2017) Mentioned that the Indian Right to Education Act, Juvenile Justice Act, and Prohibition of Child Marriage Act are critically examined in this paper. It examines how these regulations affect child well-being and proposes improvements.

Sharma & Gupta (2019), discussed Indian child protection laws, institutions, and policies. It explains how the National and State Commissions for Protection of Child Rights, Juvenile Justice Boards, and Child Welfare Committees safeguard children and assesses their implementation issues.

Rani & Verma (2018), Mentioned that Child labor, trafficking, marriage, and abuse laws in India are critically examined in this research. It addresses implementation shortcomings and proposes legislative reforms to safeguard children.

Agarwal & Tripathi (2016), examined India's Right to Education Act, Juvenile Justice Act, and Integrated Child Protection Scheme. It addresses implementation gaps, obstacles, and the need for comprehensive child protection.

Das & Chakraborty (2015), Examind India's Child Labor (Prohibition and Regulation) Act its modifications. It evaluates the legislation's impact on child labor and offers ways to improve enforcement and rehabilitation.

Conclusion

This article aims to explore several subjects pertaining to children's rights and the challenges they face. I have engaged in conversations about health concerns, educational matters, poverty, child exploitation, and certain sections of the constitution, including Article 14, 15, 16, and 21A. I have analysed their issues in separate sections and provided my perspective on potential remedies in the form of responses to specific questions outlined in my abstract. Numerous articles and research papers on comparable topics

⁸ Section 14 in The Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986

⁹ https://www.indianconstitution.in/2021/11/section-14-child-labour-prohibition-and.html

may be found on various websites. Everyone has spoken their perspective, and I have done the same. However, the challenge is in how individuals handle this situation. While it may be simple to express opinions or engage in discussions, finding a resolution might prove to be challenging. Is it so challenging that we are unable to fix it? The solution is within our control; if we possess the desire to address it, we will indeed resolve it.

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