



**FACULTY OF JURIDICAL SCIENCES**

**COURSE: LLM TWO YEARS Constitutional & Administrative Group /Criminal group/ corporate & business group**

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**SUBJECT: Law and social transformation in India**

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# Lecture-15



## Child Labour in India

Child labour has been a major concern in the world because it affects the children both mentally and physically and it also destroys the future of children. Child labour is one the serious issue not only in India but also in other developing countries. It is widely prevalent in developing countries because of poverty .it is a great social problem because children are the hope and future of a nation. There were many laws enacted to prohibit child labour but they are ineffective. According to 2017 statics India is one of the leading countries in Asia has a whopping 33 million children employed in various forms of child labour. Let me explain the major laws enacted to prohibit child labour and their impacts on society under the following sub heads.

### Child Labour

"Child" as defined by the child labour (prohibition and regulation) Act 1986 is a person who has not completed the age of 14 years .As a layman we can understand that Child labour is the practice of having children engage in economic activity, on a part or full time basis. Every child is considered as a gift of god, it must be nurtured with care and affection with in the family and society. But unfortunately due to the socio economic problems children were forced to work in industries, leather factories, hotels and eatery. The child labour is not an isolated phenomenon it is coupled with socio economic problem of the society so in order to eliminate child labour first we should focus on socio economic issues of the society. It is in the hands of administrative .It should bring effective measures to eliminate child labour.

### Causes of Child Labour:

#### Poverty

Poverty is one of the main causes of child labour. In developing countries poverty is one of the major drawback and the children were considered as helping hand to feed their families, to support their families and to support themselves .Due to poverty, illiteracy and unemployment parents are unable to send them to schools, instead the children were asked to help them in running a family so that the poor parents send their children for work in inhuman conditions at lower wages.

#### Debts:

The poor economic conditions of people in India force them to borrow money. The illiterate seek debt from money lenders during emergency situation .At later point of time they find themselves difficult in paying back the debts and interest, as a result the debtors were made to work for money lenders and then debtors drag their children too in assisting them so that the debts could be paid off.

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#### Professional Needs:

There are some industries such as the bangle making industry, where delicate hands and

little fingers are needed to do very minute work with extreme excellence and precision. An adults hands are usually not so delicate and small, so they require children to work for them and do such a dangerous work with glass. This often resulted in eye accidents of the children.

Rights of Children Under International Law:

Universal declaration of human rights 1948 stipulates under article 25 para 2 that childhood is entitled to special care and assistance. The above principles along with other principles of universal declaration concerning child were incorporated in the declaration of the rights of the child of 1959.

International covenant on civil and political rights under articles 23 and 24 and international covenant on economic, social and cultural rights - under article 10 made provision for the care of the child .

International labour organisation (ILO) provides universal standards and guideline, a specialized agency of UN ,aims to provide guidance and standards for labour practices around the world .

Convention on the rights of the child, 1989 It is another international instrument which protects the child.