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**CHILD LABOUR IN HAZARDOUS INDUSTRIES ANALYSIS IN RAJASTHAN**

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**Abstract:**

The sociodemographic overview of India indicates that this country is rising to its peak of success only by the inclusion of labour to an ample extent. *Rajasthan* is considered to be one of the main states which are reported abundantly by child labour. There is a wide range of industries in Rajasthan, such as the *mining industry, brick industry, crackers industry, granite and marble industries* that are reported to have problems related to child labour. The mining industry has been rising to a spacious assortment which indicates that mining and brick industries are hazardous because it has a large workforce that needs to be maintained for generations of revenue. In case of the sandstone mining, child labour is also reported to a large array that is the main rising problem in this regard.

Children are involved 2.68% under *14 years* of age which is the rising problem in this scenario. *Child labour* prohibition act, 1986 has involved prohibiting children under age of *14 years* with approx *18 occupations* and *involvement* in *65 processes*. Therefore, the mitigation of child labour is considered to be important for shaping the future of this country. This study discusses some critical aspects of child labour in hazardous industries in Rajasthan with the aid of, civil society, labour statistics and some other aspects. Trafficking and the modern form of bondage child labour have also been properly highlighted for proceeding with the best outcome. Moreover, *acts, policies* and Government initiatives have also been discussed widely in this study to understand the process of mitigation of child labour.

**Keywords:** *Child labour, child labour prohibition act, Government initiatives, Government laws.*

**Introduction:**

Child labour is considered to be a present-day practice that engages children in case of economic activities that are based on both *part-time and full-time*. The worst picture of poverty is visible in the form of

child labour and represents an *underdeveloped form* of a country. *India* is ranked *113th* in the case of child labour among *182 countries*. *Rajasthan* is ranked after *Uttar Pradesh* in child labour, is one of the most important aspects of this research. Affix of child labour is happening at the end of *2021* which is detrimental in these recent times. The situation of child labour is considered to be debated in present times. In the case of high skilled industries, workers with a perfect are inaugurated to an ample extent. Child labour in hazardous industries is region and case-specific. In *urban areas* of *Rajasthan*, children labour is suspended to *manufacturing, service, and repairing*. In semi-urban and rural areas, it is become changed from a low resolution to high resolution. For example, in rural areas, *agricultural and field-level* labour consists of children. Poverty and helplessness are significant facets of child labour in India.

*Amendments of Industrial Labour law* indicate that there is a significant change in chapter A and chapter B. The national policy of children indicated that *18 years* of an individual is considered to be a child. As per *ILO convention 182*, all people under the age of *18 years* is considered to be a child in this scenario. Due to the presence of harsh *socio-economic reality*, the first and foremost crucial aspect is dependent on the responsibilities of children in the direction of *their family*. The most important cause of this problem is related to their *poor economic status and helplessness*. It is also possible that their parents or guardians are *physically challenged*. It is also possible that due to the *stubborn nature* of their guardians for earning something, some children are fully driven to the harsh world. This study discusses the problems and legal perspectives pertaining to child labour.

### **The problem of child labour in Rajasthan:**

Child problems in Rajasthan can be taken into consideration as the main theme in this context. In the case of the tribal population in Rajasthan, the problem is enhanced to an ample extent. *Parental absence and poor households' characteristics* are considered to be principal aspects in this regard. On the contrary, it is evident that deterioration of the economic status is considered to be a principal aspect for the affix of child labourers. In different industries, such as *firm-based activities, the manufacturing* condition of child labour is different. Children in Rajasthan are also involved in *livestock, grazing, transportation, mining and construction*, and also in *hotels*. The problem is also presented in the case of child workers in form of *migration*. In *Dhaba and shop*, children are found to pay off their families in the opinion of *agreed contracts*.

Children trafficking become observed in the case of *Rajasthan* from different states such as *Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, and West Bengal*. One of the most common consequences of child labour is observed in cases of *bodily and mental harm* and poor slavery behavior. It results in the personal and cognitive development of a child. Due to poor personal and cognitive development, one portion of society becomes *lame* in the direction of development. In the case of the *civil sector*, problems pertaining to child labour indicate that *accident tendency* has been increased that drives an individual to death. It is one of the most detrimental aspects of child labour. Apart from that, the presence of an unhealthy and desiccative environment is considered to be the main hazard in Rajasthan. Use of the "*nimble fingers*" justification can be taken into consideration in this regard for proceeding with an appropriate understanding pertaining to the

labour law . In several industries of Rajasthan, an argument can arise in this regard which indicates that *children* can only carry out a range of specific tasks in this regard and can enhance the competitive advantages of a shop or restaurant. Children need to learn and acclimatize the problem that is based on the workplace.

The most possible reason behind this is to suppress the *ramshackle skeleton* of the Indian economy and society. At the time, when children are considered to be the backbone of society, some of the society is wanted to proceed with their *benefit and spoil* their future. It is not only the problem of *children in Rajasthan*, but it is a problem of the whole society of *India*. The manufacturer or the person with export contracts is considered to be responsible in this regard. In the case of the manufacturer industry child labour is associated more precisely than others. The most important reason behind this, executives or the owner do not want to appoint some *adults* due to a *low-profit margin*.

### **The magnitude of the child labour:**

The contribution revolving around child labour is considered as one of the main themes in this regard because affix of business practices are also related to it. The magnitude of child labour indicates that the labour market determines the *wage level* to an ample extent. Current production and technological advancement have increased the magnitude of child labour. If the minimum *wage* is *effective* then child labour might be discouraged. Dickensian condition of the people becomes observed in the Rajasthan district which indicates that *a majority of bangle factories* are associated with child labour. Due to the outbreak of *covid 19*, the majority of child labourers become enhanced (Pandey & Mondal, 2022). The necks and shoulders of children become *hunched for long periods* which are also detrimental in this scenario. Moreover, *eyes squinting against* sunlight become wracked due to the presence of malnutrition.

*Five bangle companies* in Rajasthan that become associated with child labour are taken into consideration as a serious offense. They become charged with a range of *different sections of Indian penal code 304*. The relevant section of the *Juvenile Act, 1986* are also eligible to bring a charge against *child labour*. The death rate of children has not been able to prevent a sharp *surge of labour* in this context. Moreover, it is also associated with the generation of hatred against the *government*. Therefore, the Government of Rajasthan as well as India is facing a wide range of problems for proceeding with a hazardous outcome. *Prohibition and regulation act of child labour, 1986* become associated with the affix of child death and increase of malnutrition. For example, *a seven-year-old boy in Jaipur* interpreted that, he is suffering from multifarious problems related to his health. The boy is also suffering from a *sleeping disorder* that is the main consequence of child labour. A vast developmental problem and the *nondurable backbone* of the society are observed in this context which can downfall the socioeconomic status of Rajasthan along with India.

### **Act and policies and Government initiatives to prevent child labour:**

In order to prevent hazards pertaining to the development of conditions regarding child labour, the first and foremost aspect is dependent on the *constitutions of India*. Amendments and articles of the Indian constitution represent a wide range of initiatives to solve their problem to an ample extent. *Article 24 of the Indian constitution* indicates that *no child will be included as labour in any factory below the age of 14*. Education is compulsory and minimum in case of the child below the age of 14. The employment of adolescence is considered to be strictly prohibited by the *Government of India*. In contrast to the *child labour prohibition and regulation act*, the first and foremost essential aspect relies on the *1986 amendment bill*. An adolescent with *14- 18 years* involved in any industry as labour might be punishable by the *Indian penal code*.

This initiative of the *Indian government* is beneficial to enhance the competitive advantages to an ample extent. Moreover, the overall developmental pattern of children might be enhanced in this context by the presence of an *integrated child protection scheme*. These schemes are allocated by the *Government of India* to provide a safe and secure environment for children and the abolition of labour. Care and the protection of the children are also associated with *their nourishment* in thinking and learning. Another perspective indicates that the government of India ensures children's protection rights in this scenario for mitigating the problems related to it. Apart from that, the *Juvenile Justice and Children Act, 2000* for care and protection become associated with an increase of a wide range of thinking perspectives of society. The *Juvenile act* might be taken into consideration as the perfect initiative for mitigating the *affix of hatred against society* in the mind of children.

### **Rajasthan Government initiatives:**

An initiative of the Rajasthan Government is also associated with *State child policies* in this scenario. The *State child Policy* is formed in the year *2008* that is focused on the comprehensive development of children. Comprehensive development of children is also associated and intermingled with the *protection of rights* for highlighting the problems of mainstream children in this regard. Protection of rights and enhancement of *areas* become associated with districts of Rajasthan. *RSCPCR* or “ *Rajasthan State Commission for Protection of Child Rights* have started functioning in this scenario for monitoring implementation of *equality rights* for the children. This committee has a wide range of persuasive that is dependent on the establishment of a separate department of child rights.

The formation of a separate department of child rights is also associated with a wide range of thinking perspectives than the area of gathering knowledge. This area consists of ample objectives which need to be associated with the *programmed learning outcome of the constitution of India*. Indian Government has taken some perspectives for protecting *aboriginal people and children* associated with work in restaurants. Furthermore, in May 2015, a separate department of child rights become associated with the overarching administrative in this scenario that considered to be one of the main themes in this regard. The inclusion of a separate department of child rights is adjuvant for solving the common problem

associated with the outcome. Streamline governance and perfect monitoring are also associated with the quality outcome. Directorate of the child rights in Rajasthan indicates that role of the *Government* must need to be represented as the version of equality. The programmatic intervention of some basic rights is also associated with a range of *legal perspective* fulfilling some common agenda.

These common agendas are compiled with reviewing policies that focus on *changing the action plan* of state government and *independent statutory environment*. Children legislation of compulsory education act 2009, indicates the provision of the sustainability's to an ample extent . A range of child developmental programs are consists of *child-specific regulations* to an ample extent. Some important initiatives related to the *Government* focus on some schemes and rehabilitation to an ample extent. Important points are as follows:

| <b><i>Government Initiatives</i></b> | <b>Description</b>   |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| Laws and schemes for implementation  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Inclusion of <b><i>Juvenile justice act, 2015</i></b></li> <li>● Integrated child protection scheme, or ICPS.</li> <li>● Pahalyojana, (Provision of financial supports for children)</li> <li>● “<b><i>MukhyamantriHunarVikashYojan</i></b>that is applicable for provision of the skill development of vulnerable children.</li> <li>● “<b><i>Sponsorship guidelines of 2015.</i></b></li> </ul> |

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <p><b><i>Rehabilitation and restoration</i></b></p>          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b><i>“Rajasthan state Child protection safety and district child protection units”</i></b> are associated with the mitigation of problems with children complaints about child labour.</li> <li>● Rajasthan Government has developed <b><i>33 child welfare committees</i></b> for developing juvenile justice boards for children.</li> <li>● <b><i>“ 23chid line services”</i></b> are needed for solving common problems related to child safety.</li> </ul> |
| <p><b><i>Reinforcement of child care institution</i></b></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b><i>Protsahan Yojana</i></b> has taken into consideration for <b><i>promoting CSR</i></b> by taking educational responsibilities to solve common problems of the child.</li> <li>● <b><i>The inclusion of DCR</i></b> has also intermingled with the <b><i>provision of loop</i></b> commenced in Ajmer and Jaipur.</li> </ul>   |

**Table 1: Rajasthan Government initiatives for protecting child rights**

**Challenges for civil society in Rajasthan regarding child labour law:**

A vibrant citizenry is associated with the *Rajasthan Government* that focuses on a range of legal perspectives. Rajasthan has made a wide range of *civil innovations* in this scenario. Literacy and child marriage are considered to be some of the most important aspects in this regard. High-risk industries with the aid of civil society intervention of Rajasthan indicates that Preventive action has been taken by the Government of Rajasthan for proceeding with the best outcome . In the case of worksites, the first and foremost important aspect relies on *service provision, unions, and rescue with rehabilitation*. Now in the present day, the first and pivotal aspect of advocacy is dependent on *human rights diligence* in this scenario. Changes in the laws are also associated with the police sensation and building of community awareness. The building of community awareness and safety entitlement of the child is also associated with awareness outcomes.

Now in recent days, states have made *NGOs* in this regard to proceeding with the best outcomes. The organization has worked on some ethical issues by making programmatic linkage with bonded labour for the provision of sustainability in societal practices. NGOs are also improving community-based understanding between the child and them for making the society flexible. Making of a flexible society is considered to be

best for the development of children. *ILO convention and minimum age convention act, 1978* indicates that due to lack of knowledge, protection from economic exploitation can be taken into consideration for sufficing with the best outcome. In recent times, it has been observed that the *Government of India* have taken a range of persuasive for mitigating child labour to an ample extent.

*The principle of effective abolition of child labour* indicates that the *stop of work* for children has been jeopardized to an ample extent in this regard. One barrier for the development is also associated with changing present-day conditions of the labour pertaining to the *responsibilities of income*. Children with poor financial status need to be taken as *vulnerable* from the perspective of *laws* and must need to take responsibility for mitigating their problems. *International standards* for labour focus on the proper thinking and learning perspectives through different stages of development. On the other hand, the principle extends to the formal agreement must need to be focused on the mitigation of laws to an ample extent. Incorporation of *domestic service status* needs to be focused on including some common aspects such as mitigating acceptable forms of labour.

Effective abolition of labour rights might take some initiatives for enforcing minimum ages at which *children can enter* different types of works. On the other hand, economic and educational facilities are also associated with imposing some humanity practices to an ample extent. Incorporation of *pay-free e-education or offline education* might be taken as a challenge to the government for proceeding with the abolition of labour laws. On the other hand, an inadequate system of social protection *and age of admission* is another aspect that needs to be driven inversely in this scenario.

Formative environment and the inclusion of the relationship difficulties are considered to be the principal aspect in this regard that need to be managed by taking concern of the child's health. Poverty and a range of social norms have been well accounted for this purpose that including lack of decent work opportunities for adults and adolescents to a spacious assortment. Due to presence of *migration and emergencies*, children are susceptible to executive of many hazardous industries such as *mining, crackers, marble and others*. Another challenge in this concern shows that *deprivation of education* and problem related to the increase of skin and some other diseases need to be well incorporated for proceeding with the best outcome. It is the present concern in the industry that, if a maximum percentage of children are associated with the hazardous industries then what will be the future of the country. If the government does not take any initiative in this regard then the entire framework of a country might be thin in the air. Informal and disguised child labour is also associated with a range of major challenges for this purpose. It might be the cause of being devoid of skill education but future possibilities might be addressed for proceeding with the best outcome. Educational enlightenment needs to be undertaken properly for this purpose, which might be helpful to mitigate hazards.

### **Child labour statistics of Rajasthan:**

Manual harvesting is considered to be another hazardous purpose which observed to be the inclusion of the child labour in present day society. In the case of the low middle class different region are observed to be consists of 50% of child workers at least. According to the report of 2012, released by *union ministry of*

*statistics and programmed implementation*, a considerable increase in the child labour has observed to a spacious assortment. According to *2001 sensus*, *284 children* and *55 child traffickers* have passed to the ugly reality that is the rising problem of the child labour in this context. Moreover, another crucial aspect has been observed in this scenario that is regarding status category of child. The status category of the child labour also shows that *5% of the workforce* has been generated in this context. It is suspected in the age group of *5-14 years*. Moreover, the worst performing become observed in the *Jhunjhunu district of Rajasthan*. Occurrence of the child labour in this district becomes *10.8%*. This is also matched with the present day statistics of child labour occurrence in Rajasthan to an ample extent. The condition become from *9 years onwards*.

Children are also observed to be engaged in the mining factory and garment factory that is the principle aspect of hazardous condition. *3-4 major* district's in the Rajasthan are accounted for by the inclusion of the child labour system. According to the word of *Ramakanth Sathpathy*, manager of child protection department, government of Rajasthan might need to take ample initiatives for proceeding with the best outcome. Government also needs to include a range of schemes in this scenario for supporting children.

#### **Findings of this study also show that:**

- In the case of *brick kilns*, children are observed to be most engaged in preparing wet mud to a range of *41%*, *drying (47%)* and *making bricks (48%)*. Therefore, the percentage is high in the case of making bricks. It is one of the problematic aspects for a child to cope with the inauspicious culture in the brick industry.
- In stone quarries as well as the cutting industries, engagement of the children with the age group of *8-17 years* is observable that consists of a range of departments. Those departments are *Sawig (32%)*, *polishing (38%)*, *lapping works (23%)* and *sanding (24%)*. Earning of each child is observed to be *80-300 INR* per day.
- The workshop of *Jaipur*, regarding *cutting and cleaning*, indicates that *10-17 years* is the rating scale of age in this context. In the case of polishing, *33%* of the individual are observed to be children and are in a hazardous state related to safety. In the case of *bangle making*, children are also observed to have in decorating to *98%*. In the case of making the paste, the number of workers is *22%*. Earning scale in this context becomes observed to be *50-60 INR*.
- The agricultural place is also observed to have a chunk of the labour force that is represented by the inclusion of *tribal children*. Inclusion of the tribal children is observed to be main in this context to a range of multifarious departments such as *irrigation 65%*, *hand weeding 55%* and *fertilizer 27%*.
- One of third of children in the Jaipur is observed to be *34%*, engaged in the hub of decorative items and bangles.

The above points indicate the hazardous condition of the child in this scenario. Moreover, another important is that the government and organizations are not taking any persuasive in this regard for



implementing policies for mitigating problems related to child labour. Planning is only going in this regard that discusses the mitigation planning but, implementation programming has not started yet. Several *NGOs or charities* also need to take initiatives for mitigating this crux related to child labour.

| States/UTs | 5-9 years |       |       |      |        | 10-14 years |       |       |      |        |
|------------|-----------|-------|-------|------|--------|-------------|-------|-------|------|--------|
|            | Rural     | Urban | Total | Male | Female | Rural       | Urban | Total | Male | Female |
| Rajasthan  | 1.73      | 0.99  | 1.58  | 1.48 | 1.68   | 10.23       | 2.87  | 8.61  | 7.52 | 9.84   |

**Figure 1: Proportion of the child labour statistics in Rajasthan**

(Source: Rajas, 2011)

The above figure discusses the proportion of child labour in Rajasthan. According to the census of 2011, 848,386 *child workers* are accounted for in many industries in Rajasthan. Yet, this is a partial decrease to the child workers. These statistics are increasing day by day that opening the skeleton of the social system of India. It also competes with the child labour of Africa that have accounted for the highest increase pertaining to the global era.

The worker population ratio of men, women and child labour indicates that the highest increase is present in the case of rural areas in comparison with the urban area. In the case of the rural area, 1.73% of children are accounted for an overall increase in the child labour rate, whereas in the urban areas the proportion becomes less by 1.06%. A disaggregation of the data is observed in this context to a rate of 12.82% of the children aged 10-14 years. It is highly competitive with the male workers that are observed to have 14.42%. Scheduled caste of child labour is accounted in the Rajasthan to a rate of 52% found to be highly expansive in this context.

| Age          | Share in total population |        | Share in total Main Workers |       |        | Distribution %   |       |        |              |      |        |
|--------------|---------------------------|--------|-----------------------------|-------|--------|------------------|-------|--------|--------------|------|--------|
|              | Male                      | Female | Population                  | Male  | Female | Total Population |       |        | Main Workers |      |        |
|              |                           |        |                             |       |        | Total            | Male  | Female | Total        | Male | Female |
| 5-9          | 52.78                     | 47.22  | 0.61                        | 0.64  | 0.58   | 15.45            | 15.60 | 15.29  | 0.32         | 0.25 | 0.53   |
| 10-14        | 53.92                     | 46.08  | 5.23                        | 5.31  | 5.14   | 13.33            | 13.75 | 12.87  | 2.38         | 1.79 | 4.00   |
| 5-14         | 53.31                     | 46.69  | 2.75                        | 2.83  | 2.66   | 28.78            | 29.35 | 28.16  | 2.71         | 2.03 | 4.53   |
| <b>Rural</b> | 52.22                     | 47.78  | 30.49                       | 41.35 | 18.61  |                  |       |        |              |      |        |
| 5-9          | 52.81                     | 47.19  | 0.66                        | 0.67  | 0.64   | 15.76            | 15.94 | 15.57  | 0.26         | 0.26 | 0.54   |
| 10-14        | 54.15                     | 45.85  | 6.01                        | 5.90  | 6.14   | 13.31            | 13.80 | 12.77  | 2.62         | 1.97 | 4.21   |
| 5-14         | 53.43                     | 46.57  | 3.11                        | 3.10  | 3.12   | 29.07            | 29.34 | 28.34  | 2.96         | 2.23 | 4.75   |
| <b>Urban</b> | 52.47                     | 47.53  | 24.41                       | 38.94 | 8.37   |                  |       |        |              |      |        |
| 5-9          | 52.61                     | 47.39  | 0.41                        | 0.52  | 0.29   | 14.22            | 14.25 | 14.17  | 0.24         | 0.19 | 0.49   |
| 10-14        | 53.02                     | 46.98  | 2.19                        | 2.94  | 1.34   | 13.42            | 13.56 | 13.26  | 1.20         | 1.02 | 2.12   |
| 5-14         | 52.81                     | 47.19  | 1.27                        | 1.70  | 0.79   | 27.64            | 27.82 | 27.44  | 1.44         | 1.22 | 2.60   |

**Figure 2: Child labour in the different age groups**

(Source: Vagdhara, 2022)

This image is about the present labour condition in Rajasthan pertaining to the enhancement of the workforce in different industries. In urban areas, the highest rate of child labour increase is observed to an

ample extent. Most of the industries are observed to be on a tier basis. The profit-making scale is observed to be high in this scenario because the rate of child labour per day is too low. The magnitude of child labour indicates that it occupies a hazardous place in the Indian economy. Moreover, another important is observed in this scenario that showcases the broken backbone of the society that have discussed earlier. Apart from that, the economic growth of the particular industry is also observed to be increased by downgrading the future of child labourers.

### **Amendment of labour law:**

Child labour prohibition act is completely changed in this context that has got the president's approval. President has approved the rules and the regulation of the child prohibition act because of the decrease of socio-cultural rights. It is also intermingled with the imbalance and inequality of social rights. This bill prohibits the employment status of *children within 14-18 years*. It is completely focused on the non-hazardous occupation and processes. Under this bill, it has been observed that children with special responsibilities can work in the grocery store but cannot work in a *chemical factory*. A balance between the need for education and reality between the socio-economic statuses has been established in this context. Not only that, but this bill also criticised taking away of the basic protection for some workers, those are observed to be comfortable for a typical industry.

It can also be observed that the children who are employed below 14 years for any work, except the condition of the family helping are not to be employed in that work. Those who are employed might get up to two year of imprisonment. A maximum fine of *RS. 50,000* might be observed in this scenario. This law is not applicable for a child who is working in a film or any kind of the advertisement. People, practitioners and policies makers have shared a range of tumultuous and fraught relationship in this context which shows that *expectation and frustration* has been increased to an ample extent. Not only that, challenges and the mobilisation of the people with *mine working and mineral extraction* are observed to face a range of problems in this regard. Minor and mineral extraction industries are also observed to have a problem pertaining to the increase of child labour.

The administration of India has defined and expanded the prohibition act in this context for making the world adjustable for children. Social workers might help an individual in this context which shows that plantation, livestock and forestry are considered to be pivotal that is pivotally accounted for the increase of child labour. Three articles have stated well in this regard that provided a vital chance for increase *right to education and prohibition of the employment of children*. *Article 21A: the right to education*, it provides free and compulsory education to all of the children aged *6-14 years* as stated by law. Therefore, it means, it shall provide the best opportunities for providing free and compulsory education to all children for any hazardous condition. In the case of a range of hazardous employment, the first and foremost crucial aspect solely depends on the policies of securing. Policies of securing indicate the *health and strength of workers*.

*Article 39* indicates that the health and strength of workers are accounted for workers are focused on male, female and children. This act tends to regulate the condition of employment conditions to all

occupations and is not observed to be prohibited under the act mentioned in *part 3 of the article*. Section 3 of this article is observed to be punishable with imprisonment that is not less than *3 months*. ILO has also made a range of core interventions pertaining to child labour which shows that international treaties and instruments are legally binding obligations for ratifying them. *8 core conventions* to the ILO regarding child labour are:

- Abolition of forced labour convention (No, 105)
- Equal remuneration convention (No. 105)
- Freedom association and protection of the right to an organized convention (No. 87)
- Minimum age convention (No. 138)
- The worst form of child labour convention (No. 182)
- Forced labour convention (No. 29)
- Right to organize and collective bargaining convention (No. 98)
- Convention of discrimination (No. 111)

Two of the core convention becomes observed to have a wide range of complexities that are related to the child labour and ILO convention. The ILO convention becomes intermingled with *138 and 182*. India has ratified both of the core conventions that are related to the increase of child labour in Rajasthan as well as in India. In convention no 138, it has been discussed that the age of schooling is not become certified to treat a child as labour in this scenario. The physical and mental development of young people is certified in this regard.

### **Sectorial dimension of child labour:**

Child labour is a big issue of entire Rajasthan and this issue is increasing day by day.

Children are engaged in many industries and the number of child labour is increasing.

- Child labour in marble industry
- Child labour in granite industry
- Child labour in glass industry
- Child labour in crackers industry
- Child labour in bricks industry
- Child labour in carpet weaving.

Rajasthan is a householder of stone of India and most of the marbles come from Rajasthan across India. This huge industry is mainly run by child labours. It is reported that 38% of children of Kota and Bundi district are involved in stone industry . It is an alarming situation for society. Poor economic condition, increasing unemployment, lack of good education are the main reasons to promote this child labour. The demand of marble is increasing all over India and with this increasing demand; demand of workers in marble industry is also increasing. As a result number of child labour in marble industry is

growing. Another big stone industry in Rajasthan is granite industry. In this industry many child labours are involved, and they are working with a average money. Among child workers most of the labours are working as cobblestones makers. The demand of granite in domestic market is increasing as people are using it immensely. The owners of granite industry are hiring more children to fulfil the market demands. The child labour is mainly used to make raw materials for sandstone. Family members who are engaged in granite industry involve their children to this industry. Lack of awareness and lack of proper education parents involve their children in stone industry to earn money. Recently many colourful types of granite are exported to over the world and to fulfil this demand more labours are needed. As a result more children are engaging with this industry. 32% children are directly involved in granite industry as child workers.

Rajasthan is a house hub of raw materials of glass industry. Raw materials Ball clay, Fire-clay, Silica is mainly made by child workers. For this reason the gem industry in Rajasthan is growing and this industry needs more workers to run. The children who belong to poor families are involved with glass industry. The children are basically working to prepare raw materials for making glass. Crackers are heavily used in India to celebrate Diwali and many other occasions. For these reasons the demand for crackers is high in the market . These crackers are prepared by children reducing labour cost and the manufacturing companies can sell the products in low prices compared to the other rivals. This will make the company profitable and get extra advantages. Without proper training workers should not be allowed in cracker factories. . Sometimes children lose their livers due to explosions during making crackers. Many cracker companies of Rajasthan are using children as workers in crackers factories to fulfil the need of market demands. Mud is a basic need to make bricks; owners deploy children to bring mud from the heap as it is not a difficult task. The owners prefer children doing this task to reduce cost and to make more profit. The physical and mental health of the children is affected and growth of their physical and mental is also affected. As the children are working for many hours and they do not get healthy food. Many children suffer from many diseases and sometimes they lose their lives suffering from diseases. 48% children are working as child labour in Rajasthan in making bricks .More than 33,000 children are involved in carpet weaving industry. Children do this work to support their family economically so that their family would be financially stable. About 6.00% rural and 2.30% urban children of Scheduled cast are involved in child labour in India as per the report of 2021. 10.60% rural and 3.40% urban children of Scheduled tribe are working as child labour in India.

### **Trafficking children from Southern Rajasthan:**

Due to the high poverty level of India and high rate of unemployment many children are employed as workers. In Gujarat, there is high demand for workers for the cotton field. Every year thousands of children from Rajasthan's Udaipur, Dungarpur and Banswara are trafficked for workers in cotton fields. Some of the children come with their parents and some of them come for money. 10% of total child labour of India works in mining industry. Sometimes thousands of children from Bihar, UP, Odisha are brought to Rajasthan to work in the mining industry to reduce mining cost. Children of Scheduled caste and tribes are engaged in different industries to fulfil their requirements. Children are found to be working in many private

households, hotels and dhabas. Children from Dausa, Jaipur, Hanumangarh, Bikaner are brought to different industries regarding their labour requirement. People from Southern Rajasthan are very poor and their economic condition is bad. They are not educated and they belong to Niama, Meena, Bheel tribes. The people of Banswara, Pratapgarh and Dungarpur have no regular job opportunity. As a result their children are brought to different industries forcefully due to their unemployment and education. For the past few years children of Southern Rajasthan have been risking their lives for money. The children work as a bondage workers who work in the Surat cotton field. Brokers take the children from their poor families, promising them giving money every month. Many children are rescued by Anti Human Trafficking Units and most of the children are belonged to poor and tribe family. Many children who are parentless are working in hard working conditions. Brokers give them the temptation of salary and children agree to work in cotton factories due to being parentless. In many cases the ages of the children are between 8 and 17. The brokers can easily bring them to Surat for working in cotton factories.

The State government of Rajasthan has taken strong action against child trafficking from Southern Rajasthan. The State government has collaborated with different NGOs to rescue children who work as bondage workers. Anti-Human Trafficking unit has rescued 25 children from Udaipur district. The children are from poor families and they belong to tribes. Brokers have taken them in Surat district of Gujarat for working the children in cotton factories. In another rescue operation 29 children have been rescued by Anti Human Trafficking unit collaborating with NGO . In these areas most of the people belong to tribes and they are not educated. Their economic condition is below the poverty line, they have no opportunities for employment. They cannot afford the expenses of their children's education. For these reasons the children are brought to different states of India for work in different kinds of factories and mills. Sometimes the children work in factories in dangerous conditions and they are faced with accidents.

Facing an accident the children sometimes lose their organs as for example hands, eyes and many others. It is reported that children from 60 villages are missing from Southern Rajasthan. The authorities have noticed the fact and they have discovered the children from Gujarat in cotton factories. Many children work in sari factories as bondage workers.

Many children are brought from Southern Rajasthan to Telangana for working in different chemical factories. In chemical factories many children lose their hands, eyes, noses and other organs. Many children are used to making handicrafts. Thousands of children are trafficked and collected in rooms and they make different handicrafts. In Covid pandemic children were unable to find out their home as they were from Rajasthan and they had no idea about the workplaces. After the pandemic many rural people have become jobless and their social and economic condition has become bad.

At that time they are trying to find a job where they can earn money to feed their families. Brokers come and give them a tempting salary of 4 to 5 thousand for each child. Due to the high risk of unemployment, parents agree to send their children to different states or different cities of India. Many girl children are trafficked for sexually abused to many cities of India. The State government has taken multiple policies to stop child trafficking from Southern Rajasthan. Many NGO are active in Southern districts to

counter the problems. They have come to aware the tribes about bondage work. NGOs have started to spread education for the children that they would be educated. The issue of child trafficking is raised in Rajasthan politics. Unemployment, proper education, social and economic development of tribes people are becoming main issues to stop child trafficking. Government has collaborated with Civil society that will be impactful against bondage child work. Government has been encouraged to collaborate with a large number of Civil societies to research and tackle the challenges against child labourers. The Rajasthan government has implemented many policies to highlight the right of work for the tribe's people. Several organizations are working to focus on the stone industry, brick industry and many other industries. Government should focus on building workshops in Authorities should have visited the areas several times so that brokers cannot tempt the tribes for bondage work.

### **Various laws for children:**

#### **a) The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015:**

The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 consolidates and brings amendment in the laws related to child labours; this act considers the needs of proper care, development of children, provide protection and social reintegration through adopting different kinds of approach. Under “clause (3) of article 15”, “clause (e) and (f) of article 39”, “article 45 and article 47” on Rajasthan ensure the protection of the children’s and protect human rights. Child friendly approach is given in this Act to perform well in the child labour sector in different industries. Under this act, the different districts in Rajasthan formed “33 child Welfare committees”, “constituted 34 juvenile justice boards” and “41 special juvenile police units”, to work in different categories to protect the children's rights

#### **b) Bonded Labour System Abolition Act, 1976**

Bonded labour act levied in India to protect the bonded children’s. The constitution of India ensures free movements of all children’s around the country and prohibits forced labour through “article 21, 23 (1) and 24”. NHRC provided its report on bonded labour in 2001; through this report they said that political will is affecting the implementation of laws. Bondage labour is still a big problem in different districts in Rajasthan. Bonded labour leads to the loss of freedom of the workers. Bonded labourers are forced to work in an intolerable situation, employers provide less spaces and less money to the bonded labourers. In order to protect the children from this situation government introduce Ultramodern Slavery in India, 2012

#### **c) Protection of children from sexual offence Act, 2012 (POCSO)**

This act provides protection to the children from sexual harassment, different kinds of sexual assaults and pornography. Objective of this act is to protect below 18 years children's, save them from evidence recording, trial, investigation of offenses, trial of offenses and reporting. Provide rehabilitation and relief after lodging the complaint with the help of a special juvenile police unit of Rajasthan.

**d) Foster Care Rule, 2014**

Under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, it is an arrangement by which a child gets care with the help of his family members. A child should grow with his family or with the family members of close friends or in the family of any relatives. These options are when not available then the child should come into foster care. Rajasthan is in the second place in India in the implementation of this act. Total 16 children have taken advantage of by the foster act in Rajasthan.

**e) Integrated Child protection Scheme (ICPS)**

ICPS is a scheme which builds a protective environment for the children's in different circumstances. Through ICPS different child protection schemes come within an umbrella. This scheme creates a database of children who need the protection service, give strength to the family and the community of child protection and collect responses from grassroots level. In Rajasthan Under this scheme through 152 children home no of children benefited is 5309. 42 government homes and 38 funded shelters hand to provide facilities to those suffering children's Greh Unnayan Samity is formed under the chairmanship of principal secretary to observe and improve the conditions of different child care institutions.

**f) Protshahan Yojna**

This yojna is launched to give strength to the government run homes which are beneficial for children's. This scheme enhances CSR activities and gives advantages to the corporates to do so. Under this scheme Hindustan Zinc supports the development of government children homes for boys in the Bhilwara district.

**g) Mukhymantri Hunar Vikas Yojna**

State government realized the need to develop the skills of the children's to follow this government of Rajasthan introduced CM Hunar Vikas scheme. 314 children have taken the benefit of this scheme and children's have developed their soft and technical skills through this yojna.

## **h) Bonded situation of children**

Rajasthan has about 252,000 child labourers most of them are within the age group of 5 to 14 years. The highest number of child labour is in the Jodhpur district after that Jaipur and Bhilwara comes in the second and third place. Ajmer and Jalor district consists of more than girl child labour in respect of boys. Rajasthan is in the first place in the country in child marriage, districts are suffering high rates of child marriage (based on data from the Annual Health Survey). As per survey 22% women married between 10 to 15 years, 36% of women are married in the age between 15 to 17 years. It is also noticed that the majority of the child labourers come from the outside of this state such as Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal. As per media reports an organized gang working on trafficked girls from Madhya Pradesh to Rajasthan, they lifted near about 1300 girls over the few years. In the last ten years missing children cases filed up to 823 in the Kota city, the police of Kota city are under pressure of High court, as High court asked the state police to prove the matter and solve it as soon as possible.

Rajasthan takes several steps in order to develop the situations of the child labourers. In the brick industry children's are forced to work as their families are not financially good to run the family expenses. In a survey it is found that most of the families which are beside the brick industry the child's of these families are forced from their families to make bricks. In the brick industry children's are suffer from eye problems which are affected by the smoke of this industry. They also suffer from breathing problems as they live beside the industry. Brick kilns consist of a large number of migrants from Bihar, UP and Assam. The Rajasthan government needs to take several steps to overcome these problems.

In Rajasthan 79 different kinds of minerals can be found both metallic minerals and non-metallic minerals. It is estimated that in different districts of Rajasthan such as Jodhpur, Bundi, Bharatpur, Bikaner, Jaisermir, Kota, Karauli near about 900 million tons of sandstones are deposited in these districts. The marble and granite industries need huge labour to conduct smoothly. In order to reduce the cost of the stones, owners engage the children's in this work. This industry uses huge amounts of chemicals which have a deadly effect on children's health. Children's are suffering from headaches, hearing problems, respiration problems and joint problems. In this industry children carry heavy weights which are the main reason for their depression. Depression pushes them to adopt different kinds of destructive habits such as drug abuse, smoking and many more. Children's are forced to work 10 to 11 hours a day in this industry which is a real reason for their anxiety. Mining is considered as a terrible for of child labour which almost destroys the normal life of children's. Mining industry need more structural development in order to overcome the problem of child labour.

Agriculture sector needs a huge amount of labour to meet this situation. Family members force their children to work in the field. Large number of farmers has small plots of land; using that small land they cannot run their family expenses. Large landowners are taking advantage of this and they asked the cultivators to send their children's in the cultivation process. This situation increases the demand for bonded



labourers. More than hundred families of sharia tribes are bonded to landlord owners. Sharia tribes are trapped in debt bondage with rich peoples. Most of the harvesting process is done by manually this system increases the demand of child labour. There is a good sign that the government is taking initiatives to rescue the families from this and giving employment under the government's rural employment guarantee scheme (MNREGA) This scheme helps families to rebuild their financial conditions, which is reducing child labours. Bondage labourers are becoming more financially stable and they are focusing on child education.

Children's are work in the glass industry to support their families. In this industry most of the child labourers are engaged in the bangle making process. Owners of this industry want to hire children's as they are more vulnerable and cheaper to hire. The glass industry in Rajasthan is not familiar with child labourers, facilities provided by the government are not properly placed in this industry. Services and social securities are almost nil in the industry. Most of the families live as a migrant beside the industry; hence they cannot enjoy public distribution system (PDS) benefits. Children's are working in contact with explosives, at the end of the work explosive dusts are coated in their full body, which is a major reason for their skin problems and eye allergies.

Most of the child labourers engaged in the firework industry is from the age of 6 to 14. This industry carries high chances of bursting; a burst of a firework can burn the childhood. Child labourers lost their lives as frequent accidents occurred in the factories. Environment and polluted air has a destructive effect on children's health. Till now the government of Rajasthan has not taken any major steps to prevent the children's from cracker industry.

### **Conclusion and recommendation:**

Working children's to not get the chance to develop their skills and they have no opportunity to go to the schools. The Rajasthan government needs to take more crucial steps in order to decrease the child labourers in different districts. Government can take a 3 to 5 years resolution in order to improve the situation of child labourers. Business organizations should fast their CSR activities to rescue children's from bondage. Government can enhance their PDS process and ensure that every family can avail the advantages of this scheme. Officials need a more strategic training programmer to handle this problem. Children are the future of India and they must be saved. Child labour is destroying the future of India. The children don't get opportunities to educate and reduce the job opportunities. The social life of tribes of Rajasthan will not be developed in case the children of them will not be educated for the future. Child trafficking is a big issue of Southern Rajasthan for the tribes of some districts. The State government and different NGO have come forward to counter the issues.

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