

Child Labor Prevention Program (CLPP)



Child labor deprives children of education and opportunity and stacks the odds against their securing a decent income and stable employment as adults.

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Contents

1. About Child Labor	3
2. Child Labor in the Indian Context	4
3. Child Labor Statistics	4
3.1 As per ILO (International Labor Organization) Child Labor Global Estimates 2020 Report:	4
3.2 As per the 2011 National Census of India:.....	5
4. The Causes of Child Labor	6
5. Challenges in Eradicating Child Labor	6
6. Interventions of PARD INDIA under the “Child Labor Prevention Program”	7
7. All Programs under our “READ Project” are designed to Prevent the Child Labor	9
8. Call for Collective Action at the Grassroots.....	9
9. Reference Website Links	10

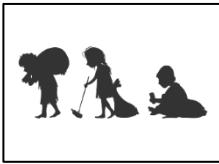
Rural Education and Development (READ) Project

Child Labor Prevention Program (CLPP)

“Every child has a right to education, a right to quality education.”

1. About Child Labor

Not all work done by children should be classified as child labor. Children’s or adolescents’ participation in work that does not affect their health and personal development or interfere with their schooling is generally regarded as positive. This includes helping their parents around the home, assisting in a family business, or earning pocket money outside school hours and during school holidays. These kinds of activities contribute to children’s development and the welfare of their families; they provide them with skills and experience and help to prepare them to be productive members of society during their adult life.



The term “**child labor**” is often defined as work that deprives children of their childhood, their potential, and their dignity, and that is harmful to physical and mental development. It refers to work that:

- is mentally, physically, socially, or morally dangerous and harmful to children; and
- interferes with their schooling by:
 - depriving them of the opportunity to attend school.
 - obliging them to leave school prematurely, or
 - compelling them to combine school attendance with cumbersome work.

In its most extreme forms, child labor involves children being enslaved, separated from their families, exposed to serious hazards and illnesses, and left to fend for themselves on the streets of large cities, often at a very early age.

CHILD WORK: UNICEF is not opposed to children working. Children’s or adolescents’ participation in work – economic activity – that does not negatively affect their health and development or interfere with their education is often positive. Light work (that does not interfere with education) is permitted from the age of 12 years under ILO Convention No.138.

CHILD LABOUR: Child labor is a much narrower concept and refers to children working in contravention of ILO standards contained in Conventions 138 and 182. This means all children below 12 years of age working in any economic activities, those aged between 12 and 14 engaged in more than light work, and all children engaged in the worst forms of child labor.

WORST FORMS OF CHILD LABOUR: These involve children being enslaved, forcibly recruited, prostituted, trafficked, forced into illegal activities or exposed to hazards.

2. Child Labor in the Indian Context

As per the Child Labor (Prohibition and Regulation) Act 1986 of India, amended in 2016, a "Child" is defined as any person below the age of 14, and the Act prohibits employment of a Child in any profession, including as domestic help. It is a cognizable criminal offense to employ a Child for any work. Children between the ages of 14 and 18 are defined as "Adolescents," and the law allows Adolescents to be used except in hazardous occupations and processes, including mining, flammable substances, and explosives-related work.



3. Child Labor Statistics

3.1 As per ILO (International Labor Organization) Child Labor Global Estimates 2020 Report:

- ✚ Child labor remains a persistent problem in the world today. The latest global estimates indicate that **160 million children** – **63 million girls** and **97 million boys** – were in child labor globally at the beginning of 2020, accounting for almost **1 in 10** of all children worldwide. **79 million** – nearly half of all those in child labor are in hazardous work that directly endangers.



- ✦ Involvement in child labor is higher for boys than girls of all ages. Among all, **boys - 11.2%** are in child labor compared to **7.8% of all girls**. In absolute numbers, boys in child labor outnumber girls by **34 million**.
- ✦ **Child labor is much more common in rural areas**. There are **122.7 million rural children in child labor compared to 37.3 million urban children**. The prevalence of child labor in rural areas (**13.9%**) is close to three times higher than in urban areas (**4.7%**).
- ✦ Most child labor – for boys and girls alike – continues to occur in **agriculture**. Seventy percent (70%) of all children in child labor, 112 million children in total, are in agriculture. Many are younger children, underscoring agriculture as an entry point to child labor.
- ✦ The largest share of child labor takes place within families. Seventy-two percent (72%) of all child labor and 83% of child labor among children aged 5 to 11 occurs within families, primarily on family farms or in family microenterprises. Family-based child labor is frequently hazardous despite common perceptions of the family as offering a safer work environment. More than one in four children aged 5 to 11 and nearly half of the children aged 12 to 14 in family-based child labor are in work likely to harm their health, safety, or morals.

3.2 As per the 2011 National Census of India:

The total number of child laborers in India, aged 5–14, is **10.1 million**, i.e., about **4%** of the whole **child population of 259.64** million in that age group.

- ✦ 10.13 million child laborers between 5-14 years in India (2011 Census data)
- ✦ Child labor in 2011 has decreased by around 20% from 2001 Census Figures
- ✦ There are 22.87 million working children in India between 15 and 18 years old.
- ✦ As per the 2011 Census, 1 in 11 children work in India (5-18 years).
- ✦ Of an initial enrolment of 100 students, on average, only 70 finish school (Grades 11 & 12) in India, which has a dropout rate of 30%; about 25% drop out during the secondary level (Grades 9 & 10) and 6% during elementary education (Grade 1 to 8).
- ✦ Children from the poorest and the most marginalized communities, such as Scheduled Castes, Muslims, and Tribal, are the most dropouts at the school level. Often, these children are among the first generation in their families to have ever stepped inside a classroom.
- ✦ 80% of India's child labor (8.1 million) is concentrated in rural areas.



Percentage of working children in both rural and urban India.

Year*	Percentage of working children (5-14)			Total number of working children (5-14) (in millions)		
	Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban	Total
2001	5.9%	2.1%	5.0%	11.4	1.3	12.7
2011	4.3%	2.9%	3.9%	8.1	2.0	10.1

*Source – Census 2001 and 2011

Distribution of working children in India by type of work in 2011

Area of work	Percentage	Numbers (in millions)
Cultivators	26.0%	2.63
Agricultural laborers	32.9%	3.33
Household industry workers	5.2%	0.52
Other workers	35.8%	3.62
Total	100.0%	10.1

*Source – Census 2011

4. The Causes of Child Labor

The main factors that contribute to child labor include the following:

- poverty and illiteracy of a child's parents.
- family's social and economic circumstances.
- lack of awareness about the harmful effects of child labor.
- lack of access to primary and meaningful quality education and skills training.
- high rates of adult unemployment and under-employment.
- cultural values of the family and surrounding society.
- bonded to labor due to a family indebtedness.
- out of school or risk of school dropping out can quickly be drawn into work.
- urban migration exposes children to work.
- lack of livelihood options leads to a child's "need" to contribute to their family income.
- conflicts, droughts, other natural disasters, etc.

5. Challenges in Eradicating Child Labor

Due to the complex nature of child labor, no single strategy can eliminate it. Combatting child labor requires long-term coordinated action, which involves many stakeholders and the government. This includes educational institutions, mass media, NGOs, community-based organizations, and government agencies. The attitudes and mindsets of people must be changed to employ adults instead and allow all children to go to school and have the chance to learn, play, and socialize as they should.



Education is crucial in preventing child labor and has been one of India's most successful methods of reducing child labor. This includes expanding education access to schooling, improving the quality and relevance of education, addressing violence in schools, providing relevant vocational training, and using existing systems to ensure child workers return to school.

They are everywhere but invisible, toiling as domestic servants in homes, laboring behind the walls of workshops, hidden from view in plantations. Millions of girls work as domestic servants and unpaid household help and are especially vulnerable to exploitation and abuse.

6. Interventions of PARD INDIA under the “Child Labor Prevention Program”

Our “Child Labor Rehabilitation Program” covers those children under the age of 14 years living in rural or slum areas whose work is interfering with their education and development. The following are our critical initiatives under “Child Labor Prevention Program”:



- ✓ Understanding the root causes that force families and communities to allow children to be engaged in labor.
- ✓ Identify child labor in rural areas and educate those children and their families on the importance of education and provisions provided by the government for their development and seeking their reentry into the school.
- ✓ Undertake rehabilitation programs, including reorienting the drop-out children towards the classroom by providing special classes to bridge the gap between their educational requirements to become regular students.
- ✓ Involve parents, local communities, government agencies, and the local school administration in rehabilitation efforts of child labor.

- ✓ In instances of Child Trafficking, PARD INDIA, and grassroots partners work on the rescue, repatriation, and rehabilitation of children through child protection networks under the Juvenile Justice Care & Protection Act and the Integrated Child Protection Scheme.
- ✓ Work with our partners to create a platform for school-going children to play an essential role in influencing those who are out of school to get enrolled/re-enrolled. They are also instrumental in voicing their opinions to parents, panchayats, government bodies, and decision-makers on issues related to child labor and the need for education.
- ✓ All our programs under the “**Rural Education and Development (READ) Project**” inter-alia address the core issues of the development of poor children (V-kids), potentially helping to control school dropouts.
- ✓ Our “**After School Education Program**” has a system of measuring each child's presence in the school, and any drop in the daily attendance helps us to track the child's performance and escalate the issue with the school staff and parents and with necessary counseling, we draw back the children to the classroom.
- ✓ Run **Bridge School** in the nearby school classrooms for children who are identified as Child laborers, as per our [Survey Form](#) (attached hereto), and impart education for a minimum of one year to fill the gaps in the educational needs of children and help them enroll into regular classes in the adjoining school.
- ✓ Our “**V-kid Educational Fund**” and Scholarship Programs (**VKKB & VKSP**) help children overcome the economic hurdles attracting them towards education.
- ✓ Partner with the local **Juvenile Homes** to protect them from dangerous work that might harm children's health or education and participate with the management in collective implementation of rehabilitation programs promoting educational events.
- ✓ Promoting **the Right to Education Act 2009** in rural areas that has made it mandatory for the state to ensure that all children aged 6 to 14 years are in school and receive free education.
- ✓ Promoting **Article 21(A) of the Constitution of India**, which provides ‘free and compulsory education of all children in the age group of 6 to 14 as a Fundamental Right and the opportunity to use education to combat child labor in India.



✓ Promoting [Target 8.7 of SDG](#) (Sustainable Development Goal) at the grassroots to “take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labor, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labor, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labor in all its forms.”

7. All Programs under our “READ Project” are designed to Prevent the Child Labor



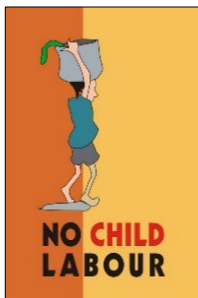
All our programs under the **READ Project** address the core issues of child labor, drawing them back to the classroom and preventing potential school dropouts as child laborers, promising them a happier and healthier world.

READ-00	Rural Education and Development (READ) Project	Child Labor Prevention
READ-01	After School Education Program (ASEP)	✓
READ-02	Village Knowledge Centre Program (VKCP)	✓
READ-03	V-kid Knowledge Boost Program (VKKB)	✓
READ-04	V-kid Scholarship Program (VKSP)	✓
READ-06	Quality & Value Education Program (QVEP)	✓



World Day Against Child Labor: Each year on **12 June**, PARD INDIA joins the World Day movement against Child Labor that brings together governments, employers and workers’ organizations, civil society, as well as millions of people from around the world to highlight the plight of child laborers and what can be done to help them.

8. Call for Collective Action at the Grassroots



Child labor deprives children of their childhood and their future. Child labor is harmful to the physical, mental, and social development of a child. It also interferes with their schooling. Child labor is both a cause and a consequence of poverty, reinforcing social inequality and discrimination.

Every child deserves to be in school, not work in fields and factories. Join our efforts to ensure children go to school instead of work and unlearn those skills that rob them of their childhood.

“Let us promise to future generations (children) to end child labor. There is no time to lose.”

“Let us work to create a world without forced labor, modern slavery, human trafficking, and child labor.”

Support Us.

DONATE to our “V-kid Educational Fund”

Donate to our “Corpus Fund”

9. Reference Website Links

- <https://childlabourplatform.org/sdgs/>
- <http://unicef.in/whatwedo/21/child-labour>
- <https://www.soschildrensvillages.ca/news/child-labour-in-india-588>
- <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/ilab/resources/reports/child-labor/india>
- <http://www.legalserviceindia.com/legal/article-92-child-labour-in-india.html>
- <https://www.cry.org/issues-views/child-labour>
- <https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/child-labour/lang--en/index.htm>
- <https://www.un.org/en/observances/world-day-against-child-labour>
- <https://www.ilo.org/ipecc/Campaignandadvocacy/BuenosAiresConference/lang--en/index.htm>