

Position of Children in the Organized Sector in India

The position of children in the organized sector in India has been a subject of concern due to the prevalence of child labor and exploitation. While significant efforts have been made to address this issue, challenges persist, highlighting the need for continued action and systemic changes. Here is an overview of the position of children in the organized sector in India:

Child Labor and Exploitation: Child labor refers to the engagement of children in work that deprives them of their childhood, interferes with their ability to attend regular schools, and is mentally, physically, socially, or morally harmful. The organized sector in India has witnessed cases of child labor and exploitation, particularly in industries such as textiles, garments, construction, domestic work, and agriculture.

Legal Framework: The Indian government has established a legal framework to combat child labor and protect the rights of children. The Child Labor (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986, prohibits the employment of children in certain hazardous occupations and processes. The Right to Education Act, 2009, guarantees free and compulsory education to all children aged 6 to 14 years.

Challenges and Reasons for Child Labor: Several factors contribute to the prevalence of child labor in the organized sector in India. Poverty, inadequate access to education, lack of enforcement of labor laws, social norms, migration, and limited employment opportunities for adults are some of the reasons why children end up working in hazardous conditions.

Efforts and Interventions: The Indian government, along with various non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and civil society groups, has taken initiatives to address child labor in the organized sector. These efforts include awareness campaigns, rescue operations, rehabilitation programs, and skill development initiatives to provide viable alternatives for children and their families.

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR): Many companies in the organized sector in India have recognized their responsibility to ensure child rights and combat child labor. Through their CSR

initiatives, they support education programs, skill development, and community interventions aimed at preventing child labor and providing support to vulnerable children.

Monitoring and Enforcement: Monitoring and enforcement of child labor laws remain a challenge in India. Insufficient resources, weak implementation mechanisms, and complex supply chains make it difficult to effectively identify and address instances of child labor in the organized sector.

Need for Continued Action: While progress has been made in reducing child labor, there is a need for sustained efforts to eradicate this issue completely. This requires a multi-pronged approach, including comprehensive social protection measures, increased access to quality education, enhanced enforcement of labor laws, awareness-raising campaigns, and poverty alleviation programs that address the root causes of child labor.

Efforts to improve the position of children in the organized sector in India must prioritize the elimination of child labor, ensuring access to quality education, and providing social support systems that protect children from exploitation. Collaboration between the government, civil society, businesses, and international partners is essential to create a society where every child has the opportunity to grow, learn, and thrive without being subjected to exploitative labor practices.