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Child Labour in India - An Overview

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ABSTRACT The prevalence of child labour is one of the most important problems confronting the world at large, especially developing countries such as India. In many cases, child labour is mainly necessitated by economic compulsions of the parents. The main reason which gives rise to child labour is widespread unemployment and underemployment among the adult poor strata of the population, inter alia, due to sharp growth of population. Large families with low income and often lack of educational facilities, illiteracy and ignorance of parents about the importance of education as well as about the impact of labour on the health of their children are some of the reasons which breed child labour. Over the years, however, global consciousness about the seriousness of the problem has created. The constitution of India also committed to the protection and promotion of the welfare considerations over the economic ones. Therefore, series of committees and commissions have been appointed by the Government of India either specifically on the question of child labour, which gives us insights into the problem and to give suggestions to alleviate this problem. Policies of modern governments in relation to child labour and child development must be pragmatic and comprehensive.