

The latest report submitted by the Govt in Lok Sabha, gives us a picture of declining trend in child labour instances (period of 2014 - '17) in India. It is indeed a well right path of our initiatives in handling this huge issue, & thus, has to be applauded. But HAS IT MET SDG GOAL 8? Time to have a check.

STILL A MENACE

ILO 2016 data indicates there 152 million working children globally b/w 5-17 years, of which around 24 million are in India. This shows it's still prevalent in many parts of our country.

WHY NOT A COMPLETE BAN?

The Child Labour Act of 2016 ^{was} amended for the禁 ban of child labour, in any occupation, along with strict punishments for such employers violating the provisions.

Then the question is why? Indian Govt's willingness to view this as a serious issue is commendable; Rather than addressing a issue at the tip of it, it's advisable to check the ground realities of the issue.

WHAT SHOULD BE DONE?

- ① Address the root causes of child labour - poverty, illiteracy, inequalities
- ② Real time addressal & ensure pscoplation of laws till the ground level.
- ③ Identify the sectors where child labour is heavily practiced & allot shadow police to check this sectors, and with adequate powers to take the employers in custody.
- ④ Education at affordable quality with nutritional additions.
- ⑤ Skill Training should be encouraged to help them get into formalised workforce.

children, a nation's future, have to be nourished & moulded in such a way that, they could create new identities for our well being. Govt with all stakeholders should play an equal role in ensuring that none of our children's childhood is lost.

Ar 21A & Ar 24 of our constitution has given a base for the protection & the rest can be effectively taken care of with legislations addressing the root causes. Inclusive growth & changing mindsets are entwined, thus adopting an inclusive environment for ~~every~~ people coming from different strata is a option policy makers have to work on.

BASIC NEEDS ARE COMMON IRRESPECTIVE OF SOCIAL ECONOMIC DIFFERENCES - addressing

this is the key for poverty illiteracy & food insecurity

and such a realization
is indeed the 1st step
to frame policies to
ban child labour
gradually.
