

Reducing child labour through technology

1. Why do parents send their children to work in carpet-weaving industry?

A. This occupation is banned under the employment of children's act 1991. However, the law is not applicable in homes and child labour is widely used by poor families in rural areas. Involving children in the work is often the only way in which families can sustain themselves. So parents send their children to work in carpet-weaving industry.

2. Explain the health problems of children involved in carpet-weaving industry?

A. From a study conducted last year, carpet-weaving children were frequently found to suffer from persistent knee, back shoulder and neck pain caused by long hours spent in a crouched position, Girls more often suffered from musculoskeletal problems, since they usually worked longer hours, had less physical exercise of other kinds and suffered from a poorer diet.

3. Comment on the impact of child labour laws on society?

A. Among the major international agents in the field, in particular the ILO, UNICEF, and the World Bank, a consensus has been reached to focus efforts to curb the worst forms of child labor. All three organizations assist governments in developing policies and strategies, and they also support implementation programs. The impact of laws against child labour on society fails in many ways. Those laws are bound to only books. The laws of child labour are not effectively implemented by government.

4. Child labour is an inevitable phenomenon in developing countries. Do you agree with this view?

A. An estimated 120 million children between the ages of five and fourteen are employed in the world's workplaces ranging from factories to farms, fisheries, mines and almost every type of unskilled labour done by adults. They are mostly in developing countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America. Yes, Child labour is an inevitable phenomenon in developing countries.

5. Mention the industries in which child labour is prevalent in India?

A. Carpet-weaving industry, glass industry, liquor industry, chemical industry, textile industry and many more other industries are there in which child labour is prevalent.

6. Suggest some technological solutions to put an end to child labour in various sectors.

A. Historians have largely assumed that technology has acted as an independent force compelling the replacement of children by machines. However, this study shows that technology had contradictory impacts upon the employment of children, reducing it in some areas. Improvisation in machines will lead to high production with adults only. So, the child labour can be reduced.