

The following offences/ behaviour are punishable by law and it is the duty of every adult citizen to abide by these laws:

Offences/Behaviours	Laws
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sexual assault, sexual harassment, use of a child for the pornographic purpose 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act 2012
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Production, dissemination and use of child sexual abuse materials 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Information Technology Act, 2000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disclosing the identity of the child victim to anyone other than the appropriate authority 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act 2012, JJ Act 2015
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sale and procurement of children for any purpose including illegal adoption, trafficking of children for sexual exploitation, use of children by militant groups, giving children intoxicating liquor, narcotic drug or tobacco products or psychotropic substances, offences against disabled children, trafficking of children for sexual exploitation/exploitative labour/other reasons and, kidnapping 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> JJ Act 2015; Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act 1956; Human trafficking (section 370 & 370A IPC), after the creation of specific section in IPC by the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act 2013
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Corporal punishment in child care institutions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> JJ Act, 2015
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Corporal Punishment in schools Adopting a child without due procedure through CARINGS and child welfare committees/ promoting or facilitating such illegal adoption 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment of children below 14 years in any occupation or industry 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JJ Act, 2015
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment of children 15-18 years in hazardous occupation or industries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2016

International Law:

The concept of equality of all human beings, as embodied in the **Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948**.

- The above principle along with other principles of the Universal Declaration concerning child was incorporated in the Declaration of the Rights of the Child of 1959.
- The **International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights** under Articles 23 and 24 and the **International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights** under Article 10 made provisions for the care of the child.
- The **International Program on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC)** is a global program launched by the International Labour Organization in December 1991.
- India was the first country to join it in 1992 when it signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with ILO.
- The long-term objective of IPEC is to contribute to the effective abolition of child labor. IPEC-India has, during the period 1992-2002, supported over 165 Action Programs.

Way Ahead:

- **Free education:** Free education holds the key to eliminating child labor. It has already proved to be a success in many places around the globe and with more effort, the cases of child labor will greatly reduce.
- **Mid-day meals schemes:** Mid-day meals schemes can also be used as a motivating factor for children whose parents can barely afford a meal to learn.

- **Moral Polishing:** Child labor should not be entertained at all. It is legally and morally wrong. Children should not be allowed to provide labor at the expense of getting an education and enjoying their childhood.
- **Create demand for skilled and trained workers:** By creating the demand for skilled and trained workers, child labor cases will reduce since almost all child laborers fall under the unskilled worker category.
- **Awareness:** Creating awareness about the illegality of child labor can also help in stemming from the practice.
- **Empowerment of poor people:** The poor living standards and financial constraints sometimes make them unwilling participants in this vice. Empowering poor people through knowledge and income-generating projects would go a long way in reducing cases of child labor.

Apart from this, the following could be the best solution to prevent the lacunae of child Labour-

- To prevent child labor, the **incidence of poverty needs to be reduced first**, so that poor people do not have to send their children to earn their bread and butter.
- To prevent child labor, we need proper implementation of laws that prescribe strict punishment to vendors, shopkeepers, and mill owners in case they engage children on cheap wages.
- Parents **should not make any difference between boys and girls**. By this practice, the number of girl child labor can be reduced to a great extent.
- **Spreading literacy and education** is a potent weapon against the practice of child labor because illiterate persons do not understand the implications of child labor.
- **Identifying the root causes** which force families and communities to allow children to be engaged in labor. Addressing these underlying issues by interacting with parents, community leaders.

Now, it is important for, as a society, to support the child, to facilitate access to a range of services including medical, legal, psychological and counselling support.

Elimination of Child Labour is a responsibility of the whole society. Other stakeholders such as District Administrations, local communities, civil society groups, NGO's, academicians and enforcement agencies have an important role to play.