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Q8(c)

Point out the main causes of child labour' in India. How far the State policies have succeeded in its elimination?

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2020 · Sociology GS 2 · 15 marks · Industrialization and Urbanisation in India

Industrialization and Urbanisation in India: Evolution of modern industry in India; Growth of urban settlements in India; Working class: structure, growth, class mobilization; Informal sector, child labour; Slums and deprivation in urban areas.

Core demand of the question

- Point out the main causes of child labour in India. How far the State policies have succeeded in its elimination?

Revision summary

Poverty and informal production are the main causes of child labour.

Caste crafts and girls' unpaid care add hidden work.

RTE, bans and meals are the policy spine.

Hazardous visible work fell more than home and farm work.

COVID shocks showed how thin elimination still is.

Introduction

Child labour in India is caused by poverty, informal production, and a family system that treats the child's body as extra hands. State policy has reduced some of the most visible forms. It has not eliminated the work of children in homes, farms, and workshops.

Body**Main causes**

- **Agrarian and urban informal class structure:** mazdoor households need the child's wage or unpaid help.
- **Caste-occupational inheritance:** some crafts and sanitation still recruit children as a Ghurye-type lack of free occupation.
- **Weak schooling:** disparity that NEP names, plus costs and caste humiliation, push dropouts to work.
- **Household patriarchy:** girls' care labour is child labour that statistics often miss.
- Migration and trafficking corridors supply cheap child hands to cities.

State policies

- Constitutional duties, the **Child Labour Act** as amended, **RTE**, and bans on hazardous work are the legal spine.
- Mid-day meals, ICDS, and scholarships try to change the incentive.
- Rescue and **NCLP**-type projects exist as missions.

How far elimination

- Hazardous factory visibility declined in some inspected sectors.
- Home-based, agricultural, and domestic child work persist, especially after COVID income shocks.
- Enforcement meets the same rural-development capture and informal employer.
- Success is real as a norm and partial as a count.

Sociological close

- Elimination needs social security for adults, not only a police van for children.

Flow diagram

Poverty informal caste -> Child labour

Weak school -> Child labour

RTE bans meals -> Partial reduction

Home farm workshop -> Child labour

Conclusion

Child labour's causes are class, caste occupation, school failure, and gendered household work. State policies have named and reduced some hazardous forms. Elimination fails while informal India still needs the child's time.

Facts & figures

RTE

Right to education as the main pull against child labour.

2016 amendment

Tightened bans while family enterprises remain a grey zone.

NCLP

Project model of rescue and schooling for working children.

Invisible girl labour

Care and home-based work that elimination statistics undercount.