

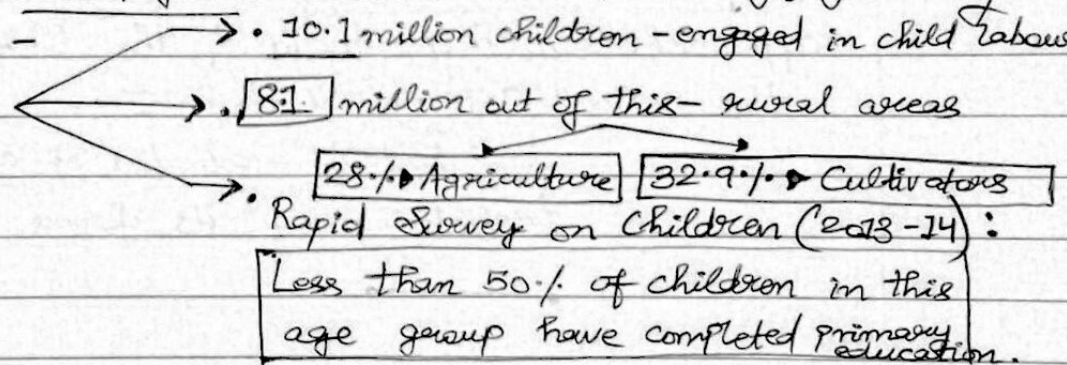
Ques- The manifold challenges posed by child labour can be tackled with the right level of commitment among the relevant stakeholders and the presence of right mix of policy and programmatic intervention. Discuss.

→ The lockdowns imposed nation-wide to prevent Covid-19 Pandemic in 2020 & 2021 has elevated the existing factors that lead to child labour, including:-

- ✓ Lack of social security and employment.
- ✓ Children-exposed to hazardous work for family income.
- ✓ Lack of schooling which curbs opportunities of jobs.
- ✓ Dropping out of schools due to 'Digital Divide'

→ According to the National Report on Access to Education (2020) - Less than 1/3rd of children have been provided with basic gadgets to access education during dis-tant learning.

• The wobbly state of children, especially in the age group : 5-14 years can be noticed through following estimates -



• STEPS FOR IMPROVEMENT:-

→ ① Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MNREGA), 200.

② National Rural Educational Policy, 2009.

③ Mid-day meal scheme.

④ Assurance for employment for unskilled labour in rural areas.

↳ The International Labour Council (ILC) - Two conventions have been ratified:-

- Convention 132: Minimum Age.
- Convention 138: Prevention from Hazardous work.

↳ Indian policy-makers have worked in the direction of reducing this trend of increase in child labour. Though lockdown has backtracked these efforts to a great extent, we've still managed to slow the growth of forced & trafficked child labour by 2/3rd its development in past.

• WAY FORWARD -

- Current trends to be kept in mind before formulating more policies in this sector.
- Programmatic intervention - involving government, child development initiatives & other social sectors.
- A multilateral development - better interventionist approach. Can help India & the World achieve the Goal 8.7 of SDGs 2025:-

↳ Entails eradication of child labour & trafficking in all its forms by 2025.
