

ough govt of India has taken considerable measures in eradicating child labour, challenges still persist. Elucidate.

Child labour is defined as the work which deprives the children's childhood, potential and their dignity and the one which is harmful to their physical and mental development. The process of eradication of child labour has been boosted up in between 2001 to 2011 due to proper programmes, schemes, changes in laws and their proper implications. Eventhough these efforts where successful child labour still persist due to poverty being a driving force, which has now been boosted up due to unemployment due to pandemic.

Govt initiatives:-

(1) Education being the greatest means to produce bright future and reduce child labour.

- Right to education Act (RTE) 2009 → compulsory education for children 6 to 14 yrs age
- Mid day meals scheme → to reduce hunger due to poverty.

- MGNREGA 2005 → employment in rural areas to reduce poverty in rural areas.

- Art 21A → right to education as Fundamental right

(2) Protection of children:

- Art 24 (DPSP) → protects children from forced labour and abuse.

- Juvenile Justice Act (2000) (Care and protection of children)
↳ gives protection and care to working child.
- Art 24 (FR) → protects children from employment in hazardous areas.
- child labour (protection and prohibition) Amendment Act 2016.

Challenges:

Though all these steps have been effective still there persist challenges due to

- poverty.
- definitional issue in defining the age of child labour.
- weak enforcement of law.
- lack of parental education.

WAY FORWARD:-

1) Eradication of child labour requires a complete level of commitment, policy and pragmatic intervention.

2) Strong alliance b/w centre and state govt in reducing child labour and increase children's education.

3) to attain sustainable development goals of 8.7 to eradicate forced labour and end modern slavery and human trafficking.

Thus right children education is the only way to eradication of poverty, underemployment and the way to set the sustainable future of the nation.