

Child Labour in Urban & Rural areas

According to the 2017 findings of the International Labour Organisation, the type of work children undertake in urban and rural areas of India are represented below:

Work	Urban	Rural
Cultivators	4.4%	31.5%
Agricultural Labourers	4.9%	39.9%
Household industry workers	7.2%	4.7%
Other workers	83.4%	23.9%

According to the same report:

- In rural areas, 4.3% of children between age 5-14 are working
- In urban areas, 2.9% of children between age 5-14 are working.

Thus, it is clear that a majority of children in rural areas are working in agriculture-related activities. Another notable distinction is the notion of rural children being cheap labourers due to their willingness to work to support their family's needs or to clear debt as a bonded labourer. The work can be of both paid and unpaid in nature. Additionally, the work is likely to be related to family or be of independent nature. Additionally, the role of education for the development of children is often not prioritised due to the poor infrastructure and lack of quality education. Thus, surveillance and monitoring of child labour is difficult in such rural areas. According to multiple reports, it is also sometimes the case where children from rural areas are trafficked to urban areas to work in factories such as garment weaving, bangle making, fireworks making, etc. or sexual trades, especially for girls, like pornography, and prostitution.

On the other hand, in urban areas children are employed in factories, domestic work, restaurants, food stalls, vehicle repair shops, begging, prostitution, and pornography. Migration to urban areas and the lack of sufficient infrastructure can be attributed to the increasing levels of child labour in India. Thus, child trafficking is a cause for concern for city police. Thus, regular raids to identify child labourers in poor and exploitative working conditions and to rehabilitate them is a challenge in urban areas.

In a 2008 study in urban and rural areas of Pondicherry, the most common reason reported by child labourers for working was low income (90% of children in rural areas, 80.8% of children in urban areas). Additionally, 78.6% of the children reported visiting a Health Centre or Hospital in past year for a Health issue. Moreover, 65.1% children in rural area and 62.8% children in urban areas reported being beaten or scolded by their employers.

Causes for Child Labour in India

Based on multiple research findings, some of the categorical causes for Child Labour in India are listed below:

Factor	Description
Child	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Desire to support family- Lack of interest in education or awareness of benefits of education- Lack of awareness of ill-effects of child labour
Family	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Loss of family income due to loss of work caused due to loss of work, harvest failures, death or disability of income earner, etc.- Low income due to fewer well-paying locally available opportunities or lack of education and skills- Lack of Family and financial planning leading to increased needs of the family- Lack of awareness about ill-effects of child labour, often leading to parents having expectations from children to support family- Desire for wealth leading to have more children to provide income but with fewer essential needs being met.
Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Poor work opportunities in local area- Lack of quality education and skill training in local area.- Poor support system for financially struggling families- Recruiters desire for cheap and gullible workers for self-interest.- Social norm: discrimination based on social characteristics – male vs female, caste, expectations for child to work in family business, etc.- Poor Enforcement of Law and irregular checks of child labour / trafficking hotspots- Armed conflict areas leading to an environment of child exploitation and abuse