

The background of the journal cover features a top-down view of a desk. On the left, a pair of black leather brogue shoes is partially visible. In the center, an open notebook with lined pages and a silver pen lies on a light-colored wooden surface. To the right, a black leather bag with a zipper and a black leather watch with a silver face are also visible. A large, semi-transparent white rectangular box is centered over the image, containing the journal's title and ISSN information.

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The aim of *White Black Legal – The Law Journal* is to promote excellence in legal research and to provide a credible academic forum for the analysis, discussion, and advancement of contemporary legal issues. The journal encourages original, analytical, and well-researched contributions that add substantive value to legal scholarship.

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- Cyber Law, Artificial Intelligence, and Emerging Technologies
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CHILD LABOUR IN SIVAKASI FIREWORKS INDUSTRIES

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Abstract

Child labour remains a persistent socio-legal issue in India, particularly in hazardous industries such as fireworks manufacturing in Sivakasi, Tamil Nadu. Despite stringent legal frameworks, children continue to be employed due to poverty, lack of education, and weak law enforcement. This study examines the extent, causes, legal aspects, and consequences of child labour in Sivakasi, highlighting the urgent need for effective implementation of laws and socio-economic reforms.

1. Introduction

Child labour refers to the employment of children in work that deprives them of their childhood, education, and development. The fireworks industry in Sivakasi contributes significantly to India's economy but is also associated with hazardous working conditions.

Children have historically been involved in activities such as mixing chemicals and packaging, exposing them to toxic substances and explosions. Despite legal prohibitions, the issue persists due to socio-economic factors.

2. Objectives of the Study

To examine the prevalence of child labour in Sivakasi

To analyse socio-economic causes

To study legal frameworks in India

To evaluate government initiatives

To suggest measures for eradication

3. Causes of Child Labour

Key factors contributing to child labour include:

Poverty and low family income

Lack of education and awareness

Parental pressure

Demand for cheap labour

Ineffective enforcement of laws

4. Working Conditions and Impact

Children in fireworks industries face:

Exposure to hazardous chemicals

Risk of burns, explosions, and injuries

Long working hours

Health issues such as asthma, eye diseases, and tuberculosis

Child labour also leads to:

Poor education outcomes

Psychological stress

Long-term socio-economic disadvantages

5. Legal Framework

International Laws

UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989)

ILO Convention No. 138 (Minimum Age)

ILO Convention No. 182 (Worst Forms of Child Labour)

Indian Laws

Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986

Right to Education Act, 2009

Juvenile Justice Act, 2015

Factories Act, 1948

Important Case Laws

M.C. Mehta v. State of Tamil Nadu (1996)

Bandhua Mukti Morcha v. Union of India (1984)

Save the Children v. Union of India (2006)

R.K. Garg v. Union of India (1981)

These laws prohibit employment of children in hazardous industries like fireworks.

6. Critical Analysis

Despite strong legal provisions, child labour persists due to:

Weak enforcement

Corruption and middlemen

Economic dependency of families

Lack of rehabilitation measures

7. Conclusion and Suggestions

Child labour in Sivakasi is a serious violation of children's rights and human dignity.

Suggestions

Strict enforcement of labour laws

Poverty alleviation programs

Free and compulsory education

Awareness campaigns

Rehabilitation and skill development programs

Provide financial support and employment

Opportunities for families

Ensure universal access to quality education

Conduct awareness campaigns on child rights

Implement rehabilitation and skill development programs for rescued children

Promote corporate responsibility and ethical practices in industries

8. Bibliography

International Labour Organization

www.ilo.org

Indian Kanoon

<https://indiankanoon.org>