# The Triangular Paradigm

The elimination for child labour, achievement of Education for All (EFA) and poverty alleviation are inter-connected global goals.

#### Child Labor

Worldwide 152 million children are working. Out of these, nearly 73 million children are engaged in hazardous work where they are likely to meet exploitative situations by nature or circumstances of work. The situation is particularly alarming in Sub-Saharan Africa, where 72 million children aged 5-17 are child labourers, compared to 62 million in Asia-Pacific, 11 million in Americas, 6 million in Europe and Central Asia and 1 million in the Arab States.

> International Labour Organization (ILO) Global Estimates of Child Labour, Results & Trends, 2012-2016

Child labourers do not get the opportunity to develop their skills and end up doing jobs that are repetitive in nature. This hampers their employability and they inadvertently enter the vicious circle of poverty.

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property of the property of th 264 million children are out of school today, this includes 61 million children of primary school age (6-11 years), 62 million young children of lower secondary school age (about 12-14 years) and

Out of school children

are at risk of exploitation and are more likely to

be engaged as child

labourers at the cost of

their education, health,

freedom moral

physical, &

141 million youth of upper secondary school age (about 15-17 years)

- UNESCO Institute for Statistics, 2015

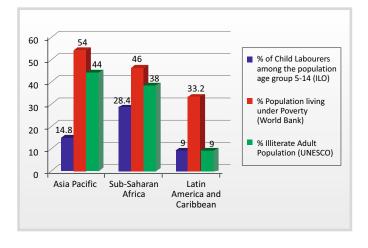
education would grow up to be as illiterate. They would not be aware of their rights and are more likely to

767 million people are estimated to have been living below the international poverty line of US\$ 1.90 per person per day, i.e. 10.7% of the global population. Though poverty is declining the global poor are predominantly rural, young, poorly educated, mostly employed in agricultural sector, and live in larger households with more children.

World Bank Group, Poverty and shared prosperity, 2016

In poor countries, the effects of poverty and unemployment are dramatic. The child's very right to survival may be threatened by parents' unemployment. In addition to suffering severe economic hardships families are disintegrating. In addition to preventing child labour, the education sector can provide special measures to reintegrate children withdrawn from hazardous work into school. Still, policies that focus exclusively on the education system without accounting for economic environment of households and the general state of labour market will be insufficient to reduce child labour and achieve education for all over the long term.

This underscores the importance of addressing the root causes of child labour and poor quality and access to education within a broader poverty alleviation strategy.



# Bringing together policy and action for a unified response to child labour, illiteracy and poverty

An anti-poverty and child-friendly strategy must therefore pay much attention to converge with other policies on education and the elimination of child labour. EFA and the elimination of child labour should find a prominent focus in poverty alleviation programmes.

#### **Education For All**

International Instrument:

Dakar Framework of
Action and Education For
All Goals

National Instrument:
National Action Plan for
EFA

The Convention calls

for the elimination of

child labour up to the

age of the completion

education but this has

not been translated into

actions at national level

of compulsory

actively.

- Improving access and enrollment
- Construction of school buildings
- Resource mobilisation
- Improving teacher pupil ratio
- Enhanced efforts are required towards childfriendly policies for retaining children at school
- Policy efforts are inadequate to address the special needs of working children
- Investments in Education for All has not been sustained

### The Elimination of Child Labour

International Instrument:

ILO Convetion 182 on the Worst Forms of
Child Labour

National Instrument:

National Action Plan and Time-Bound

Program on the Worst Forms of Child

Labour

- Ensure ratification of Convention 182 on worst forms of child labour and constant assessment of progress made with respect to Roadmap 2016 on elimination of worst forms of child labour
  - Loosely defined national laws ensuring the rights of the child coupled with lax enforcement
  - Non-formal education for a small fraction of children withdrawn from work
  - Inadequate efforts towards re-integration of children withdrawn from work into main stream society and formal education
  - Inadequate efforts to meet the commitments in elimination of worst forms of child labour while simultaneously working to abolish child labour in general
  - Inadequate economic upliftment efforts for the households vulnerable of sending children to work.
  - Economic crisis could further push more children to work

### **Poverty Alleviation**

International Instrument: Millennium Development Goals

# National Instrument: Poverty Alleviation Strategy Papers

- Welfare approach of providing relief to poor people
- Economic assistance through micro credit facilities without focus on improving lives of children
- Inadequate focus on child centric poverty reduction strategies for the households
- Inadequate efforts for providing meaningful and quality state sponsored education for children

A multi-dimensional approach consisting of awareness building and consciousness raising, community participation, alternative and viable socio-economic rehabilitation and enforcement of national and international legal instruments in relation to children and other similar plans, is needed for linking the elimination of child labour with the overall poverty alleviation and education strategies. There needs to be a synergy in policy planning and programmes that address these vital issues that affect the lives of millions of children for a sustainable development.

There must also be better cooperation and understanding between policy planners, children and advocacy groups working on children's behalf.



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