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West Bengal, India.

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## A Critical Study of the Official Policies on Child Labour in India 1947-1979

Dr. Samiparna Rakshit<sup>1</sup>

### ABSTRACT

*This article essentially analyses the different constitutional provisions, all the laws and regulations, committee resolutions regarding child labour during the period from 1947 (the year of India's Independence) to 1979 (International Year of the Child) to tease out the actual official attitudes of the post-colonial Indian nation-state to the problem of child labour. We have also resorted to critical reading and deconstruction of texts as official policies are largely reflected in the drafts and final texts of the Five Year Plans, other policy documents and the wrings, speeches and comments of ministers, legislators and policy-makers. In order to situate the Plans, policies and official programmes discussed in this article in their appropriate economic and political context, we have also drawn upon the relevant gamut of social-scientific literature. The child labourers were obviously elided by the State's policy makers as they were exposed to successive links in a chain of exploitation. The poorer sections were being systematically exploited because an unequal economic system was pinning the lower classes down to poverty.*

Key words: Child labour, exploitation, constitutional provision, laws, parliamentary debates

The term 'child labour' is often defined as work that deprives children of their childhood, their potential and their dignity, and that is harmful to physical-mental development. It refers to work that is mentally, physically, socially or morally dangerous and harmful to children, and interferes with their schooling by depriving them of the opportunity to attend school, obliging them to leave school prematurely or requiring them to attempt to combine school attendance with excessively long and heavy work. The statistical figures about child workers in the world have variation because of the differences in defining categories of age group and engagement of children in formal and informal sector.<sup>2</sup>

Despite a number of important constitutional provisions and legislations prohibiting child labour, even today the child labour scenario in India presents an alarming picture. According to the Census 2001 figures there are 1.26 crore working children in the age group of 5-14 as compared to the total child population of 25.2 crore. There are approximately 12 lakhs children working in the hazardous occupations/processes which are covered under the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act i.e. 18 occupations and 65 processes. As per survey conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) in 2004-05, the

<sup>1</sup>The author is working as Assistant Professor of History, Vijaygarh Jyotish Ray College, Kolkata



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West Bengal, India.

# Biosorption of Heavy Metals by Various Micro Organisms : A Review

Soumyajit Gulu & Dr. Saswati Gayen

[Department of Microbiology, Vijaygarh Jyotish Ray College, West Bengal, India]

**Abstract :** Heavy metal pollution through various wastewater discharges from industries have currently become a key environmental concern throughout the whole world. Release and distribution of heavy metals has adverse affects on the environment via contamination of surface- and ground-water resources. The heavy metals present in the aquatic environment are considered to be the major inorganic contaminant for their mobility in the aqueous ecosystem, toxicity to various life forms and non-biodegradable nature. The heavy metals detrimental to human health include Pb, Hg, Cd, As, Cu, Zn and Cr. As and Cd cause cancer, Hg can cause mutations and genetic damage, while Cu, Pb and Hg can cause brain and bone damage. The problem of heavy metal pollution in aquatic ecosystems, including fish needs continuous monitoring and surveillance as these elements do not degrade and tend to bio-magnify in man through food chain. Hence, there is a need of constructing effective strategies for removal and proper management of heavy metals. The commonly adopted methods for removing the heavy metal ions from aqueous streams includes chemical precipitation, lime coagulation, ion exchange, reverse osmosis and solvent extraction. These so-called conventional methods are usually ineffective when the metal concentration in the effluent is low. These methods are also non-selective, costly and non eco-friendly. Biosorption, the process of passive cation binding by dead or living biomass, represents a potentially simple and cost-effective way of eliminating toxic heavy metals from industrial waste waters. While the abilities of various microorganisms to remove metal ions from solutions have been extensively studied, fungi have been recognized as a promising class of low-cost adsorbents for removal of heavy-metal ions from aqueous waste streams. Algae, fungi and bacteria differ from each other in their constitution, giving rise to different mechanisms of metal biosorption. Adsorption process may be an alternative technology for the removal of heavy metals, which are present in very low concentration in the aquatic environment. In recent times, significant improvements were made in both efficiency and economy for removal of heavy metals and metalloid (arsenic) from water using adsorbents. But less attention was paid to recycling of used adsorbents and recovery of the heavy metals from the desorbing agents. The main objective of this review paper is to discuss the available information on heavy metals removal by utilization of microbial biomass and scrutinize the practicality of exploiting them for heavy metal remediation.

**Key Words:** Biosorption, Heavy Metals, Adsorbents, Microorganisms, Wastewater

## Introduction

The soil and water contaminations are frequently occurred by toxic heavy metals and organic pollutants as a consequence of human activities. Several toxic metals (Cd, Cu, Hg, Pb, Mn, As, Ni,



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## 19. The Ethics of Buddhist Philosophy and its Applicability to Modern Society

Dr. Samiparna Rakshit

Assistant Professor of History, Vijaygarh Jyotish Ray College, Jadavpur, Kolkata.

Siddhartha Gautama Buddha was an ancient Indian philosopher and spiritual leader born in northern India in the sixth century B.C. The Buddha sought to evolve and propagate a social code of conduct applicable to everyone. Ethics basically is the study of principles relating right and wrong conduct. The basic concepts and fundamental principles of ethics is to develop decent human conduct. It includes study of universal values such as the essential equality of men and women, human and natural rights, obedience to the law of land, concern for health and safety and increasingly, also for the natural environment. Ethics are important and lasting beliefs or ideals shared by the members of a culture about what is good or bad and desirable or undesirable. In the philosophy of the Buddha, we have an analytical study of ethical concepts and theories as well as positive recommendations to lead a way of life.

In this context the present article would seek to find out the main principles of ethics that have been enunciated in the Buddhist philosophy. The main focus of the paper will be on human ethics and values as have been propagated by the Buddha to uplift the moral values of human mankind. In this connection the article would seek to see the applicability of the ethics of the Buddhist philosophy to the technologically developed complex modern society of today. Here the 'applicability' means how the ethical values of Buddhist philosophy can pose as a panacea to all the ills and evils of modern human society.

The Buddhist ethics has an close connection with social philosophy as well. Values have major influences on a person's behaviour and attitude and serve as broad guidelines in all situations. The Buddha introduced the idea of placing a higher value on morality and the equality of people. Buddhist values have inculcated a respect for the environment and a realistic attitude towards the importance of material things, an attitude which sees the folly of plundering and extravagantly wasting what cannot be replaced. Buddhism has not encouraged ideas of dominance of man on environment and on his fellowmen. The Indian term for ethics or morality used in Buddhism is 'Śīla'. 'Śīla' in Buddhism is one of three sections of the 'Noble Eightfold Path', and is a code of conduct that embraces the precept with the principal motivation of being non-violent.





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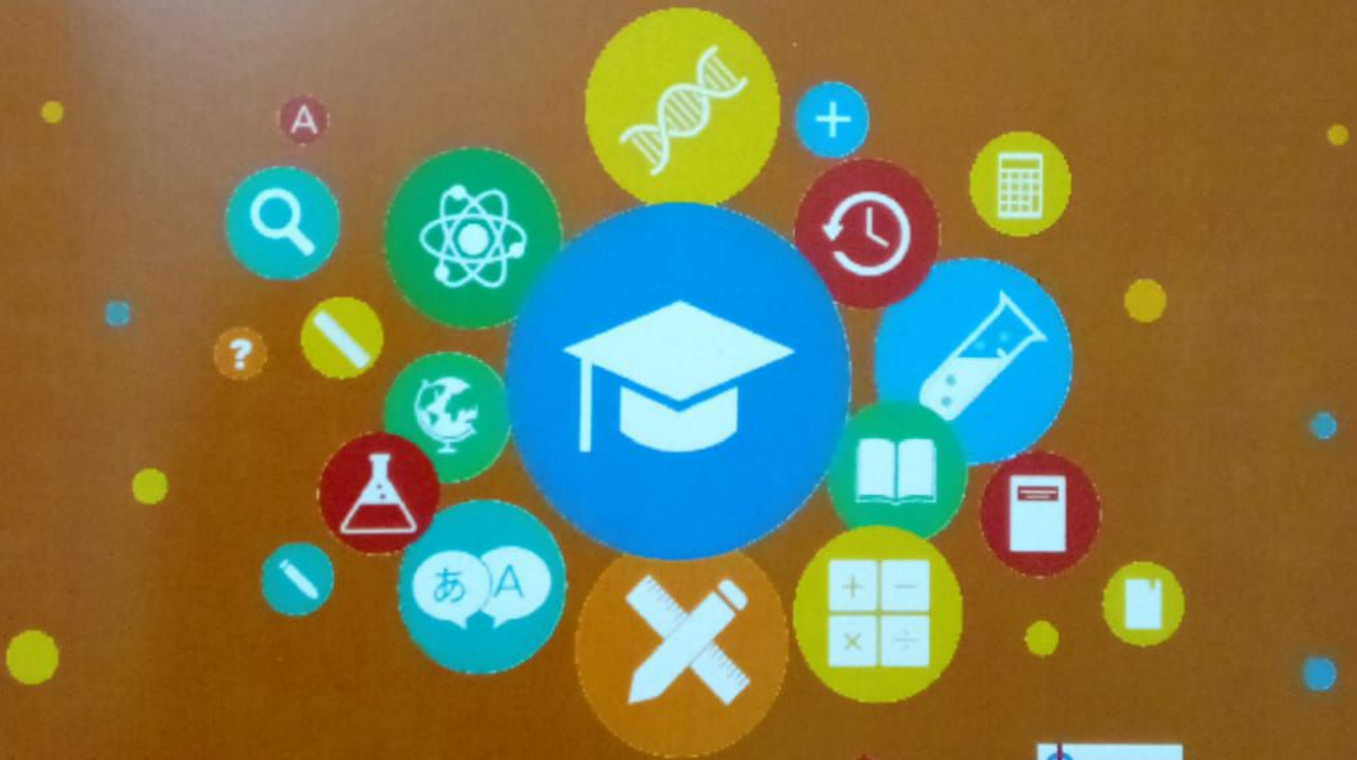
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# Gender Impact on Intergenerational Transfer of Education in India

Palashpriya Halder

[Assistant Professor, Dept. of Economics, Vijaygarh Jyotish Ray College, West Bengal, India]

Dr. Ishita Mukhopadhyay

[Professor, Dept. Of Economics, University of Calcutta, West Bengal, India]

**Abstract:** Mobility is one of the pillars in the process of development. This lack of mobility means that many sections of the society are unable to reap the benefits of the phenomenal levels of economic growth of the country. Economists have looked at the persistence as a channel through which the inequality is transmitted across generations. In absence of mobility over generations, the gains from growth accrue disproportionately across the population and in particular some sections of the population are unable to take advantage of the opportunities that the growth process in the country has provided. For the benefits of the growth process to be distributed in a much more egalitarian manner, the population needs to be mobile, specially, in terms of increasing the level of educational attainment across generations. While the issue of intergenerational mobility in educational attainment has received some attention in other countries, the issue has received surprisingly little attention in the context of India. The absence of intergenerational educational mobility among the socially excluded classes in the developing countries in comparison to certain advanced groups is another manifestation of long-standing discrimination in terms of capability formation (educational attainment). India serves as an excellent case study because of the presence of diverse social groups and a long history of gender discrimination between them. In the present paper, we examine the extent of intergenerational mobility of education from father and mother to son and daughter, in term of educational attainment, respectively. We use India Human Development Survey (IHDS), Round II (2011-2012) dataset to examine the extent of educational mobility over generations in India across gender. In this regard, we would further like to see which factors turn out to be significant in the transfer mechanism.

**JEL Classification:** O12 ,J21 ,C31

**Key Words :** Intergenerational Transfer, Education, Gender, Social Groups, India

## Introduction

India's rapid economic growth since the 1980s has been accompanied by increasing inequality in *outcomes*, raising widespread concern that it may be a reflection of growing inequality in *opportunities*. Inequality in opportunities across people – when different groups have unequal chances of acquiring assets, earn unequal returns to assets (for similar effort), or have unequal access to basic services —



# Premarital Blood Screening: A Newspaper Analysis and Survey among the Young People in West Bengal

Sumitra Banerjee

[Faculty, College of Nursing, Medical College and Hospital Kolkata Govt. of West Bengal]

Dr. Arnab Kumar Banerjee

[Assistant Professor, Dept of Journalism & Mass Communication, Vijaygarh Jyotish Ray College, West Bengal, India]

**Abstract :**  $\beta$ -Thalassemia is one of the major genetic disorders and present almost in every community. Thalassemia is caused by a genetic inability to make normal amounts of hemoglobin and it is transmitted genetically from parents to their children. Failure to synthesize the  $\alpha$  or  $\beta$  chains of hemoglobin in balanced amounts results to hemolysis, anemia, and splenomegaly. There are about 240 million carriers of  $\alpha$ -thalassemia worldwide, and in India alone, the number is approximately 30 million. The average prevalence of  $\alpha$  thalassemia carriers is 3–4% in India and in West Bengal 3.92%. Every year, about 6 percent of the adult population in India are infected with sexually transmitted infections and reproductive tract infections (STIs/RTIs). Between the years 2007 and 2017, a total of 34.9 million episodes of sexually transmitted infections and reproductive tract infections (STIs/RTIs) were treated. As per the NACO report 2017, National adult (15–49 years) HIV prevalence in India is estimated at 0.22%. The total number of people living with HIV (PLHIV) in India is estimated at 21.40 lakhs and in West Bengal the figure is 1.44 Lakh in 2017. Awareness of the people regarding Premarital Blood Screening may contribute to the decrease of the above mentioned disease load. The present study was done on Premarital Blood Screening: A newspaper analysis and survey among the young people in West Bengal to assess knowledge, attitude and scientific temperament regarding Premarital Blood Screening .

**Key Words :** Premarital Blood Screening, Knowledge, Scientific Temperament, Matrimonial Advertisement

## Introduction

Genetic diseases like Thalassemia, Sickle cell disease etc are very common in developing country like India. India has a huge burden with an estimated 100,000 patient with Beta thalassemia syndrome and 150,000 patient with Sickle cell disease, but few among them are optically managed . In 2017, 88,000 people in India were newly infected with HIV. There were 34,000 new infection among women and around 3700 among children (0-14 yrs). So prevention and control of HIV is very important to control HIV epidemic in India. Premarital blood screening is defined as conducting

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# Bioremediation of Arsenic by Microbes and Plants-A Review

Dr. Saswati Gayen

[Assistant Professor, Department of Microbiology, Vijaygarh Jyotish Ray College, Kolkata]

**Abstract :** Arsenic is a toxic metalloid existing everywhere in the nature. It is toxic to most organisms and considered as human carcinogen. Arsenic contamination leads to severe health problems with diseases like damage of skin, lungs, bladder, liver, kidney as well as central nervous system. As arsenic can be found everywhere in nature it may come in contact with food chain very easily through either water or cultivated crops. A number of mitigation attempts including application of fertilizers have been suggested to reduce the toxicity of arsenic in soils, plants and animals. Bioremediation process in this regards is an option that offers the possibility to destroy contaminants using plants and microbes. Amongst the various bioremediation processes, phytoremediation and bioremediation by microbes are quite effective. Phytoremediation includes the removal of contaminants with the help of green plants, while the microbial bioremediation includes the removal of heavy metals by microorganisms (bacteria, fungi, yeast and algae) as sorbets. The aim of this article is to give an overview of the mechanism of removal of arsenic from the contaminated sources by the potent application of plants and microbes.

**Key Words:** Arsenic, Microbial Bioremediation, Phytoremediation

## Introduction

Arsenic contamination in the groundwater has been reported from many countries, with the most severe problems occurring in Asia, namely West Bengal, India [1, 2], Bangladesh [3, 4], China [5, 6], Vietnam [7] and Taiwan [8]. It is now recognized that millions of people from India have been endangered by the prospect of consuming water contaminated with arsenic at levels greater than the guideline value of acceptable level set by the World Health Organization [9] (10 µg/liter); of which more than 95 % of them live in West Bengal [10]. Adverse health effects of arsenic depend strongly on the dose and duration of exposure. Chronic intake of drinking water with elevated arsenic concentrations can cause the development of arsenicosis, the collective term for diseases caused by chronic exposure to arsenic. It includes several kinds of skin lesions and cancers, like hyperpigmentation, keratosis, gangrene, cancer of different internal organs [11-13]. A number of mitigation attempts including application of fertilizers have been suggested to reduce the toxicity of arsenic in soils, plants and animals [14]. Among various methods, bioremediation of arsenic has the advantages over other technologies due to a number of reasons including cost and environmental safety. However, success of bioremediation depends largely on the adequate knowledge about the appropriate use of the method to be applied to a particular crop or field under consideration. Bioremediation is a natural process which relies on bacteria, fungi, and plants to alter contaminants