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Influence of Child Protection Laws in India

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ABSTRACT

Child protection laws in India have a significant influence on safeguarding the rights and welfare of children by providing a legal framework to address abuse, exploitation, and neglect. These laws aim to create a safe environment for children, ensuring their physical, emotional, and educational well-being. Key legislations such as the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012, establish stringent measures for the protection of children from crimes like trafficking, sexual abuse, and exploitation. The implementation of child protection laws has led to the establishment of mechanisms like Child Welfare Committees (CWCs), Juvenile Justice Boards (JJBs), and Special Courts under the POCSO Act to handle cases related to children sensitively and efficiently. These laws also promote rehabilitation and reintegration of child victims through institutional and non-institutional care, emphasizing a child-centric approach. Additionally, the Right to Education Act, 2009, has been instrumental in addressing child labor by mandating free and compulsory education for children aged 6 to 14 years, thereby reducing vulnerability to exploitation. The influence of these laws extends beyond legal enforcement, as they also contribute to raising awareness and shaping policies for child protection. By reinforcing children's rights, these laws significantly impact their safety and development.