

Modern Day Photos  
Children Working in Coal  
Mines - India 2013



Despite a law passed in 2010 banning child labor, 28 million children still work in India



Poverty, corruption, decrepit schools and absentee teachers are among the causes, for child labor in India



“Mostly the ones who come are orphans,” said Mr. Subba, who supervises five mines and employs 130 people who collectively produce 30 tons of coal each day.



“People die all the time,” he said. “You have breakfast in the morning, go to work and never come back. Many have died this way.”



Ms. Thapa said that three of her younger sons would go into the mines when they wanted to.

“If they don’t do this work, what other jobs are they going to get?” she asked.



While the Indian government has laws banning child labor and unsafe working conditions, states are mostly charged with enforcing those laws. The country's police are highly politicized, so crackdowns on industries sanctioned by the politically powerful are rare.



Tarp-and-stick shack near the mines. Suresh Thapa, 17, said that he has worked in the mines near his family's shack "since he was a kid," They have no running water, toilet or indoor heating.