

CHAPTER - 3

SIZE AND

DISTRIBUTION OF

CHILD LABOUR IN

INDIA AND PUNJAB

Size and Distribution of Child Labour in India and Punjab

The problem of child labour is very vast and beyond the scope of any individual or an organization to deal with all the aspects related to child labour (NIPCCD, 1997).

Today millions of children worldwide are engaged in labour that is hindering their education, development and future livelihoods; many of them are involved in the worst forms of child labour that cause irreversible physical or psychological damage, or that even threaten their lives (ILO, 2002b). Thus, *Children are the most vulnerable group in any population and in need of greatest social care on account of their vulnerability and dependence. They can be exploited, ill treated and directed into undesirable channels by unscrupulous elements in the community (NIPCCD, 1997).* Children continue to form a sizable section of labour force in several fields of employment around the world (Satpathy et. al., 2010). While in the less developed countries, the incidence of children's participation in labour force is considerably high (*ibid*). It is not totally absent in the more developed nations too. In many of the third world countries, the problem of child labour is accepted either as a harsh reality or as an inescapable necessity. Increasing inter-linkages of economies and societies across the world have resulted in reaching an emergent consensus that child labour poses a serious threat to real and meaningful social development, while in turn perpetuating poverty and compromising with the objectives of attaining economic growth along with social justice (ILO, 2002).

Actually both supply and demand factors are responsible for the prevalence of child labour and the supply and demand of child labourers is certainly determined by the socio-economic status of parents. The global distribution of child labour is similarly a reflection of the country's economic status, the poorer the country the higher the prevalence of child labour (Grootaert and Kanbur, 1995; Swinnerton and Rogers, 1999). The problem of child labour is more pathetic in India, children in the poor families are sent to work to supplement the family income and since the poor do not have resources to send them to schools so they send them to work instead of keeping them idle. Actually, the supply of child labour is not their own but that of their parents' decision, yet the loss in the long term is not only private but social as well. The working children are deprived of education and a fair chance to move out of the poverty trap in which they are born (Barge et. al., 2004). Socially, if we take the human capability or human capital perspective (Sen, 2000), then incidence of child labour in any society leads to lower human capital and human capability which means enormous loss to the economy. Thus we can say, child labour not only prevents from acquiring the skills and education they need for a better future, but it also perpetuate poverty that affects economy negatively through loss of competitiveness, productivity, and potential income. Incidence of child labour is not only influenced by supply side determinants but also from demand side determinants.

On demand side, child labour is considered as a product of the market economy. Demand for child labour by some industries is often justified on the ground that children are most suitable for certain jobs, for instance, there is 'Nimble Finger' argument (ILO, 1996b) in carpet industry. However, the 'substitution' axioms (Basu and Van, 1998) of the child labour theory essentially refutes this argument and propounds that subject to some 'adult equivalence corrections' adults are

equally substitutable for any kind of works (Levison et. al., 1998). It is now well documented that employers – whether in farms, households or industries, employ children because of, both, pecuniary and non-pecuniary reasons. It is a common phenomenon that child workers are invariably underpaid as compared to current market wages; they are exposed to long working hours; denied compensation for overtime; and are deprived of social security (Satpathy et. al., 2010). Further, employer prefers to use child labour because it is cheap and easy to manage. They can be coaxed, admonished, pulled up and punished for defaults without jeopardizing relations. Moreover, children are not organized on lines of trade unions which fight for their rights. Even on average, children are paid half the salary of adults, and they are much less troublesome (Miller, 2003). On the other hand, increased competitiveness and use of modern technology in today's globalised scenario is sending a signal that employing children is no longer an economically viable solution for them. Hence, many large industries may be interested in setting adequate labour standard by stopping the use of child labour (Ramachandran, 2009). Hence, many large industries may be interested in setting adequate labour standard by stopping the use of child labour (*ibid*). The concept of 'social labeling' as designed and pursued by some big industries' associations around the world has been one typical example of this. Despite these efforts, the industries which carry out manufacturing on cottage, tiny and small-scale basis, where a major part of the work is outsourced, the reliance is still on traditional, simple, manual appliances and labour intensive and primitive processes where in addition to the family labour hired child labour is used (Sekar, 2007). So, there is no wonder that we still find million of children working around the world. This can be observed in the following section.

Child Labour in Global Context

Child labour in the developing countries has become a matter of grave concern but estimates of the numbers of children involved vary enormously. ILO has put the number of children below 15, for whom work is the primary occupation, at 210 million and out of total number, 73 million working children are less than 10 years old (ILO, 2004). In the third world, at least one in four children between the ages of 10 and 14 is a worker. Many of them may be working in family undertakings, including agriculture or in domestic occupations. A number of these activities may not call for an immediate ban, but a significant number of children are involved in work and are working in conditions that have identified as 'worst forms', and as requiring an immediate and effective action for their prevention and eradication. Unfortunately, the work that these children do is often deemed absolutely necessary for their own survival and that of their families (IREWOC, 2005). Across the globe to a lesser or greater extent, visible or invisible, admittedly or otherwise, child labour exists (Sekar and Mohammad, 2001). Child labour is a pervasive problem throughout the world. Industrialized economies especially of Europe, North America, Australia, etc. have by now reduced it to a considerable extent. But the problem as faced by the developing economies today has indeed serious dimensions. Africa and Asia together account for over ninety percent of the total child employment. Though there are more child workers in Asia than anywhere else, a higher percentage of African children participate in the labour force (Bhat, 2010). ILO (2002), estimates that, in the developing countries alone, there are at least 120 million children between the ages of five and fourteen who are fully at work, and more than twice as many (or about 250 million) if those for whom work are a secondary activity are included. Of these 61 per cent are in Asia, 32 per cent are in Africa, and 7 per cent in Latin America and out of this 111.3 millions are in

hazardous work. We can see economic activity of children by region all over the world from table 3.1.

Table 3.1: Global Trends of Children’s Economic Activity by Region (5-14 years)

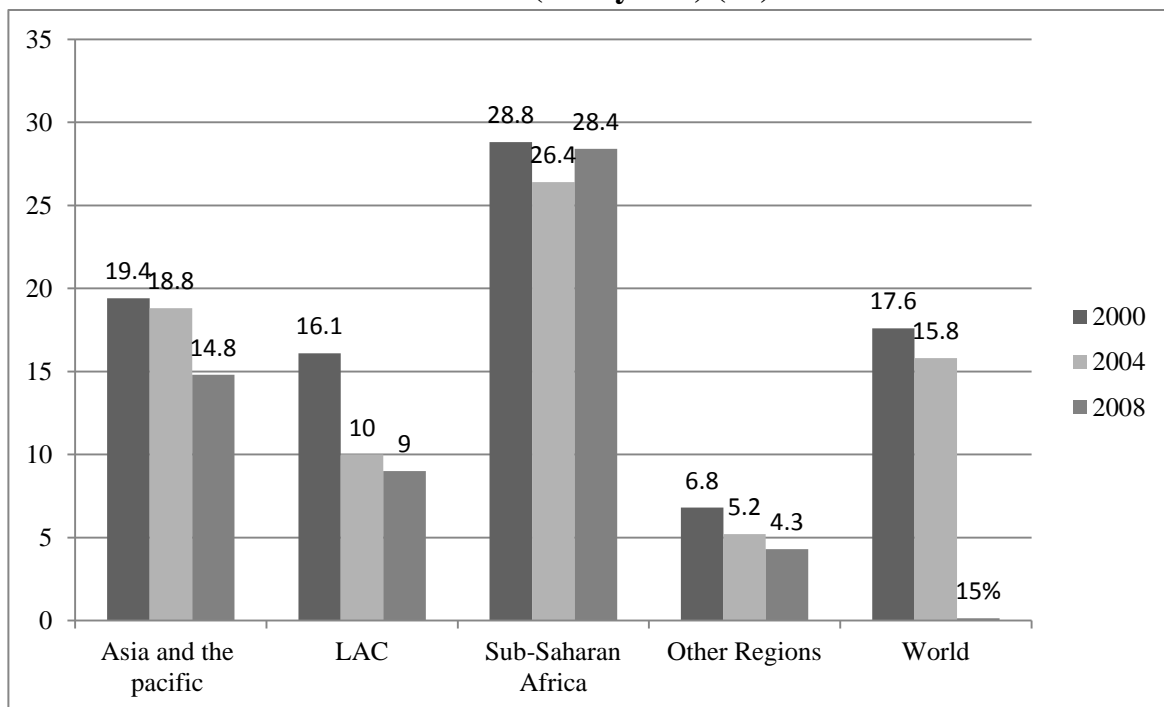
Region	Child Population (millions)			Economically Active Children (millions)			Activity Rate of Children (%)		
	2000	2004	2008	2000	2004	2008	2000	2004	2008
Asia and the pacific	655.1	650.0	651.8	127.3	122.3	96.4	19.4	18.8	14.8
Latin America and the Caribbean	108.1	111.0	110.6	17.4	11.1	10.0	16.1	10.0	9.0
Sub-Saharan Africa	166.8	186.8	205.3	48.0	49.3	58.2	28.8	26.4	28.4
Other Regions	269.3	258.8	249.2	18.3	13.4	10.7	6.8	5.2	4.3
World	1199.3	1206.6	1216.9	211.0	196.1	176.5	17.6	16.2	14.5

Source: Global Child Labour Trends 2000, 2004 and 2008, Accelerating Action Against Child Labour, 2010, ILO.

Table 3.1 shows that the involvement at global level of children in economic activity has declined over the four years from 2000-2004 and 2004-2008 both in absolute and relative terms in 5-14 age groups. The Asian-Pacific region continued to harbor the largest number of child workers, 96.4 million in total in 2008. It is followed by Sub-Saharan Africa (58.2 million) and Latin America and the Caribbean (10.0 million). From the table it is clear that the number of children decline in Asia-Pacific and in Latin America and the Caribbean, but not in Sub-Saharan Africa, where the number of children in employment actually increased sharply from 49.3 million in 2004 to 58.2 million in 2008 (with an increase in the activity rate from 26.4 to 28.4 per cent).

On the other hand, in the mean time Asia-pacific showed a massive decline in the number of economically active children by 25.9 million (from 122.3 million in 2004 to 96.4 million in 2008). Similarly, Latin America and the Caribbean also showed a significant decline in children’s work. The regional activity rate also fell significantly in case of Asia-Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean but the picture in Sub-Saharan Africa is more mixed. While the number of child workers increased constantly from 2000-2004 and 2004-2008 but the incidence of work dropped by 2 per cent in 2000-2004 and again increased by the same percentage in next four-year period. As per ILO (1996a) child labour also remains a problem in many developed countries and is emerging in many central and eastern European as well as Asian countries which are moving towards a market economy and this will lead to high demand of child labour.

Figure 3.1: Global Trends in Children’s Activity Rate by Region, 2000-08 (5-14 years) (%)



The Region wise activity rate of children is also presented in figure 3.1, which shows that the activity rate of the children in the region declines from 16.1 per cent in year 2000 to 10 per cent in 2004 and further decline as 9 per cent in 2008. In Sub-Saharan Africa, the region with the highest incidence of child labour, small decline in the activity rate from 28.2 per cent to 26.4 per cent has emerged over the four years but again increased to 28.4 in 2008. However, the population of economically active children has increased. Thus the fall in activity rate is due to extremely high rate of population growth in region. Asia and the Pacific registered declines both in the child population and in the number of economically active children, but only a very small decrease in activity rate. The ILO estimated that this region has the largest number of child workers in the 5-14 age groups i.e. 122 million, with 62 million engaged in work that is considered hazardous. Other Regions – a heterogeneous group consisting of developed countries, transition economies and the developed regions of the Middle East and North America, has also registered decline in activity rate and child population. Hence, the region wise data show that we are reaching a critical threshold in the elimination of child labour. This decline in the activity rate by children may be due to growing international commitment to the elimination of child labour and the increasing efforts by the worldwide movements against child labour at the national and international levels.

Magnitude of Child Labour in India

Child labour is extensively used in India as elsewhere in many countries of South Asia. The prevalence of child labour is more or less seen in all periods of time, it varies in nature and dimension depending on the existing socio - economic structure of society. In India, the problem of child labour is inextricably linked to certain basic social problems that we have been grappling with over the past five decades

of freedom: illiteracy, unemployment and poverty (Gupta, 2007). Child labour is one of the problems that occur as a result of responses to the economic problems faced by vulnerable children. In India, child labour is grave and extensive problem. It is well recognized that child labour is one of the important vulnerable groups in Indian societies. India has got the dubious distinction of employing the largest number of children in the world. Child labour in India is to be found in almost every sector of the informal economy. It has the largest number of world's working children. The report of Human Rights in U. S. Department of State (1998), the ILO estimated the number of child workers as 44 million, while Ministry of Labour and other NGO's estimates show it as 55 million. According to their estimates there are 25 million children employed in agricultural sector, 20 million in service jobs (hotels, shops and as servants in home) and 5 million in the handloom, carpet making, gem cutting and match making industries. 91 per cent of child labour in India is in rural areas, while 9 per cent is in urban areas. In India every third child is a working child and every fourth child in the age group 5 -15 is employed (ILO, 2007). Thus a considerable number of children are not only losing their childhood but also opportunities for education (Ghosh, 2004). However, whatever estimate we take, this inevitable reality remains the same that child labour is a problem of massive proportion.

Census data on child labour according to main and marginal workers have been revealed in table 3.2, which shows that there were 14.5 million child workers in 1961 which declined to 10.8 million in 1971 then increased to 13.6 million in 1981. The number again fell to 11.3 million in 1991 and then rose to 12.7 million in 2001. Notwithstanding fluctuations in absolute numbers, the proportion of working children in the workforce has declined over the decades. The data given in table 3.2 shows a continuous declining trend in the child labour participation rate. The child

population in India has increased from 113.09 million in 1961 to 253.16 million in 2001, in the mean time the proportion of working children has declined from 12 per cent to 5 per cent that is a fall of 7 percentage point.

Table 3.2: Working Children in India (5-14 years) (Census)

Years	Number of Children (in millions)	Number of Child Workers (in millions)	Proportion of Working Children (percentage)
1961	113.09	14.5	12.07
1971	150.07	10.8	7.01
1981	179.05	13.6	6.01
1991	209.09	11.3	5.37
2001	253.16	12.7	5.0

Source: Census of India 1961, 1971, 1981, 1991, and 2001. Available from <http://labour.nic.in>; cited on March, 18, 2010

Besides this, there are about 74.4 million children who are neither enrolled in schools nor accounted for in the labour force, who come under the category of ‘nowhere’ children (Sekar, 2001). The trends between 1991 and 2011 of declining main child workers along with increasing marginal workers may indicate the changing nature of work done by children. Thus, India holds the dubious distinction of having the highest concentration of child labour in the world. Despite several proactive legislations and policies in India, and child labour related provisions in various other labour laws, the decline in the magnitude of child labour has been less progressive than expected and as a result, the problem persists as a challenge to the country.

Due to multiplicity of definition, different methods of computation and the collection of data at different point of time, there are variations in the data on child labour. A declining trend similar to that observed from Census data is also evident

in the NSSO (National Sample Survey Organization) results. According to NSSO the estimated total number of working children was 19.4 million in 1977-78 (35th Round) which was increased in 1983 to 20.6 million but after that, from 1987-88 to 2009-010 the number of working children has been declined continuously (17.7 million to 4.98 million). (Table 3.3)

Table 3.3: Working Children in India (5-14 years) (NSSO)

Years	No. of Child Workers (in millions)
1977-1978	19.4
1983	20.6
1987-1988	17.7
1993-1994	13.3
1999-2000	10.23
2004-2005	8.6
2009-2010	4.98

Source: NSSO, Various Rounds, Employment and Unemployment Situation in India.

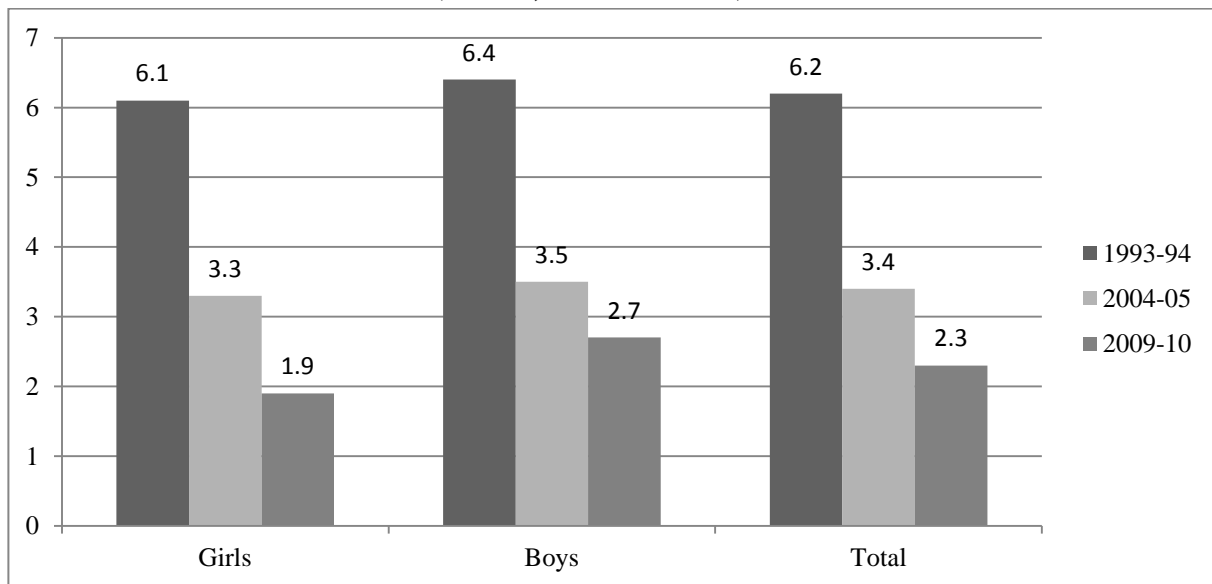
As per the NSSO result the estimated total number of working children was 13.3 million in 1993-94, 8.6 million in 2004-05 and 4.98 million in 2009-10. They constituted about 6.2 per cent of children in age group 5-14 years in 1993-94, 3.4 per cent in 2004-05 and 2.3 per cent in 2009-10. Table 3.4 shows that there is a massive decline in proportion of working children in case of both boys and girls during 1993-94 to 2009-10 (Boys from 6.4 percent to 2.7 per cent and Girls 6.1 percent to 1.9 per cent). The proportion of working male children was more than those of girl children (Figure 3.2). This can be due to the fact that girls (many of who worked in homes, side by side with their female kin at home) had remained invisible, and it could have been a reason why boys, who were most likely to work out in open (in agriculture), were more visible, and were, therefore, reported.

**Table 3.4: Proportion of Working Children by Gender (5-14 years)
(NSSO, Usual Status)**

Years	Boys (%)	Girls (%)	Total (%)
1993-94	6.4	6.1	6.2
2004-05	3.5	3.3	3.4
2009-10	2.7	1.9	2.3

Source: NSSO, Various Rounds, Employment and Unemployment Situation in India.

**Figure 3.2: Proportion of Working Children by Gender (5-14 years)
(NSSO, Usual Status)**



Hence main message emerges from this analysis is that the work done by girls is usually underestimated, thereby, may lead to serious implications for the total count of girls workers. Further, from the table 3.5 a considerable fall in child workforce can be observed among boys and girls. During 1983 to 2009-10, this number has declined from 12.1 million to 3.1 million, and 8.5 million to 1.8 million respectively for boys and girls. During 2009-10 total magnitude of child workforce stood at 4.9 million as against 20.6 million in 1983. Table shows that from 1983 to 2009-10, the number of working children has declined sharply by 15.7 million. This decline

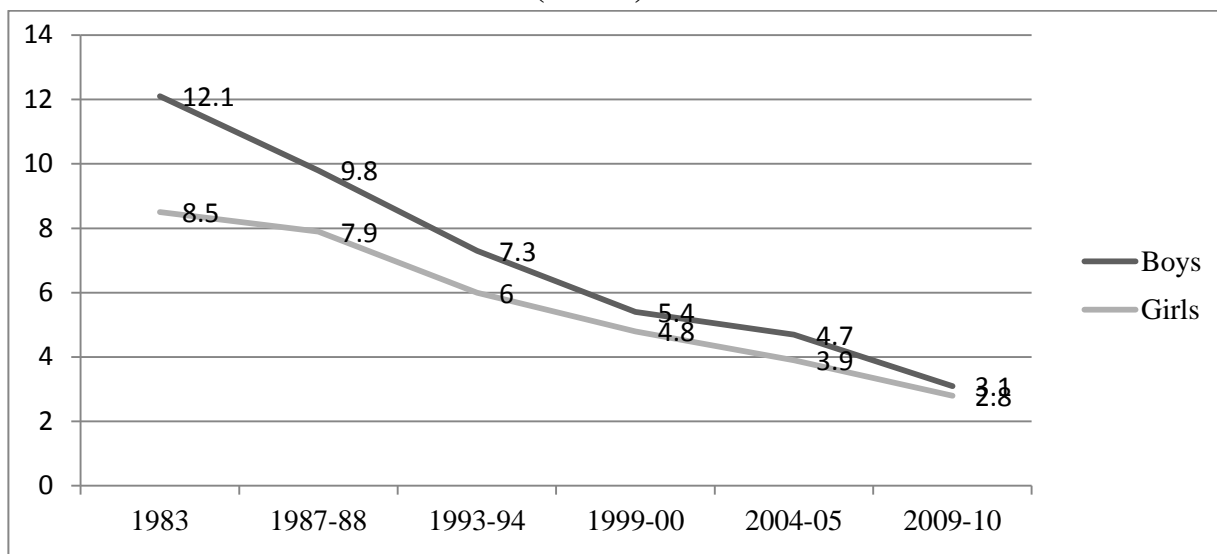
shows a great progress in eliminating child labour in India. This could have been possible only because of government efforts and social awareness regarding education among people.

Table 3.5: Estimate of the Magnitude of Child Labour in India, 1983-2009/10, NSSO (in millions)

Year	Boys	Girls	All
1983	12.1	8.5	20.6
1987-88	9.8	7.9	17.7
1993-94	7.3	6.0	13.3
1999-00	5.4	4.8	10.2
2004-05	4.7	3.9	8.6
2009-10	3.1	1.8	4.9

Source: NSSO, Various Rounds, employment and Unemployment Situation in India.

Figure 3.3: Trends in Child Workforce in India by Gender, 1983 to 2009-10 (NSSO)



In effect, the gender difference that existed between boys and girls (adverse against boys) during the early 1980s has almost dissipated in recent years, the difference being slowed down from 3.6 million to roughly 1.3 million (Figure 3.3). It is clear

from the figure 3.3 the fall in boys during 1999-00 to 2009-10 (2.3 million) is less as compared to 1983 to 1993-93 (4.8 million) but the fall in case of girls during 1999-00 to 2009-10 (3.0 million) is high as compared to 1983 to 1993-93 (2.5 million). Although there is substantial evidence that girls in developing countries like India have significantly less accessibility to schools as compared to boys (Lloyd et. al. 2005, World Bank, 2009). But in recent years, the awareness among parents for girls' education has increased and even government is also encouraging girls' education by providing various amenities to poor people who cannot send their children especially girls to schools due to financial problems.

Trends in Decline

As per NSSO 2009-10, about 4.98 million children in the age group of 5-14 are working in India. The NSSO data on child labour force participation rate in India by gender and residential status from 1993-94 to 2009-10 has been shown in table 3.6. Table shows a sharper decline in work participation of children among the age groups 10-14 than among the 5-9 age group (9.3 per cent decline in males and 9.6 per cent in females).

Table 3.6: Child Labour force Participation Rates in India According to Usual Status, 1993-94 to 2009-10 (in percentage) (NSSO)

Particulars	1993-94 (50 th Round)		1999-00 (55 th Round)		2004-05 (61 st Round)		2009-10 (66 th Round)	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
Rural								
5-9	1.1	1.4	0.7	0.7	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.4
10-14	13.9	14.2	9.3	9.6	7.0	7.5	4.6	3.6
Urban								
5-9	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.1
10-14	7.1	4.7	5.2	3.7	5.3	3.5	3.0	1.2

Source: NSSO, Various Rounds, employment and Unemployment Situation in India.

The reduction in the workforce participation rate of children is more pronounced in rural areas than in urban areas – to some extent a reflection of growing and substantial rise in enrollment of children in rural schools. Urban India, however, appears to have reached a stage wherein further reduction in children’s work participation is hard to come by owing to higher demand for such menial jobs and also due to sustained inflow of rural children flocking to urban areas in search of employment due to acute distress experienced in rural areas.

Further Table 3.7 shows the trend of child labour in India by their age group and residential status. According to the NSSO data of 1993-94 (50th Round), 1999-00 (55th Round), 2004-05 (61st Round), and 2009-10 (66th Round), Rural-Urban break up of child workforce also reflects some disquieting concerns.

Table 3.7: Estimates of Trends in India’s Child Labour by Rural-Urban, NSSO (1993-94 to 2009-10) (in millions)

Year (Round)	5-9	10-14	5-14
Rural			
1993-94 (50 th Round)	1.1	10.5	11.6
1999-00 (55 th Round)	0.7	8.1	8.8
2004-05 (61 st Round)	0.2	6.8	7.0
2009-10 (66 th Round)	0.2	4.0	4.2
Urban			
1993-94 (50 th Round)	0.2	1.5	1.7
1999-00 (55 th Round)	0.07	1.33	1.4
2004-05 (61 st Round)	0.08	1.42	1.5
2009-10 (66 th Round)	0.02	0.68	0.7
Combined			
1993-94 (50 th Round)	1.3	12.0	13.3
1999-00 (55 th Round)	0.77	9.43	10.2
2004-05 (61 st Round)	0.38	8.22	8.6
2009-10 (66 th Round)	0.11	4.79	4.9

Source: NSSO, Various Rounds, employment and Unemployment Situation in India.

The data documented in the table reveals that much of the reduction in child workforce has primarily occurred in rural areas during the last two decades. Accordingly, the magnitude of child labour has been declined from approximately 11 million in 1993-94 to about 4.2 million in 2009-10. On the other hand, in urban areas a significant proportion of working children has declined (1.7 million to 1.0 million) over the period 1993-94 to 2009-10 but if we observe the table, it has shown a rising tendency from 1999-2000 to 2004-05. Data shows that the number of working children are much higher in rural areas than urban areas specially in the age group of 10-14 but it is also interesting to note that child workforce in the age group 5-9 has recorded sharp decline than in the 10-14 age group in rural areas. Although the incidence of child labour has declined during 1993-94 to 2009-10 but still a large bulk of children working specially in rural India. Actually most of child labour come from the poor families and the higher incidence of poverty accounted in rural than urban India. Thus, it was not surprising that child workers were concentrated in the rural areas (Deshpande, 2004).

State Wise Magnitude of Child Labour in India

Distribution of child labour in India is not uniform across different states. In order to understand the magnitude of the problem of child labour employed in different parts of our country, a state wise analysis of the distribution of child workers is shown in table 3.8. We can observe a decline in the incidence of child labour in the Southern and Western Indian States and UTs between 1991 and 2001. However, there has been an increasing trend in the Eastern and North Indian States and UTs. There is an increase in the absolute magnitude of child labour between 1991 and 2001 in the states of UP, Bihar, Rajasthan, Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh.

**Table 3.8: Changes in the Magnitude of Child Labour and WPR between
1991 and 2001 (5-14 years)**

States	Child Workers 1991 (In Numbers)	Child Workers 2001 (In Numbers)	Work Participation Rates (%)		Percentage Share of Child Labour in the State	
			1991	2001	1991	2001
Andhra Pradesh	1661940	1363339	9.98	7.7	14.7	10.8
Arunachal Pradesh	12395	18482	5.65	6.06	0.1	0.1
Assam	327598	351416	5.46	5.07	2.9	2.8
Bihar	942245	1117500	3.99	4.68	8.3	8.8
Chhattisgarh (New)	-	364572	-	6.96	-	2.9
Delhi	27351	41899	1.27	1.35	0.2	0.3
Goa	4656	4138	1.95	1.82	0.04	0.03
Gujarat	523585	485530	5.26	4.28	4.6	3.8
Haryana	109691	253491	2.55	4.78	1.0	2.0
Himachal Pradesh	56438	107774	4.55	8.14	0.5	0.9
Jammu & Kashmir	-	175630	-	6.62	-	1.4
Jharkhand(New)	-	407200	-	5.47	-	3.2
Karnataka	976247	822665	8.81	6.91	8.7	6.5
Kerala	34800	26156	0.58	0.47	0.3	0.2
Madhya Pradesh	1352563	1065259	8.08	6.71	12.0	8.4
Maharashtra	1068418	764075	5.73	3.54	9.5	6.0
Orissa	452394	377594	5.87	4.37	4.0	3.0
Punjab	142868	177268	3.04	3.23	1.3	1.4
Rajasthan	774199	1262570	6.46	8.25	6.9	10.0
Sikkim	5598	16457	5.18	12.04	0.05	0.1
Tamil Nadu	578889	418801	4.83	3.61	5.1	3.3
Tripura	16478	21756	2.29	2.79	0.1	0.2
Uttar Pradesh	1410086	1927997	3.81	4.04	12.5	15.2
Uttaranchal(New)	-	70183	-	3.24	-	0.6
West Bengal	711691	857087	4.16	4.5	6.3	6.8
India	11285349	12666377	5.37	5.0	100.0	100.0

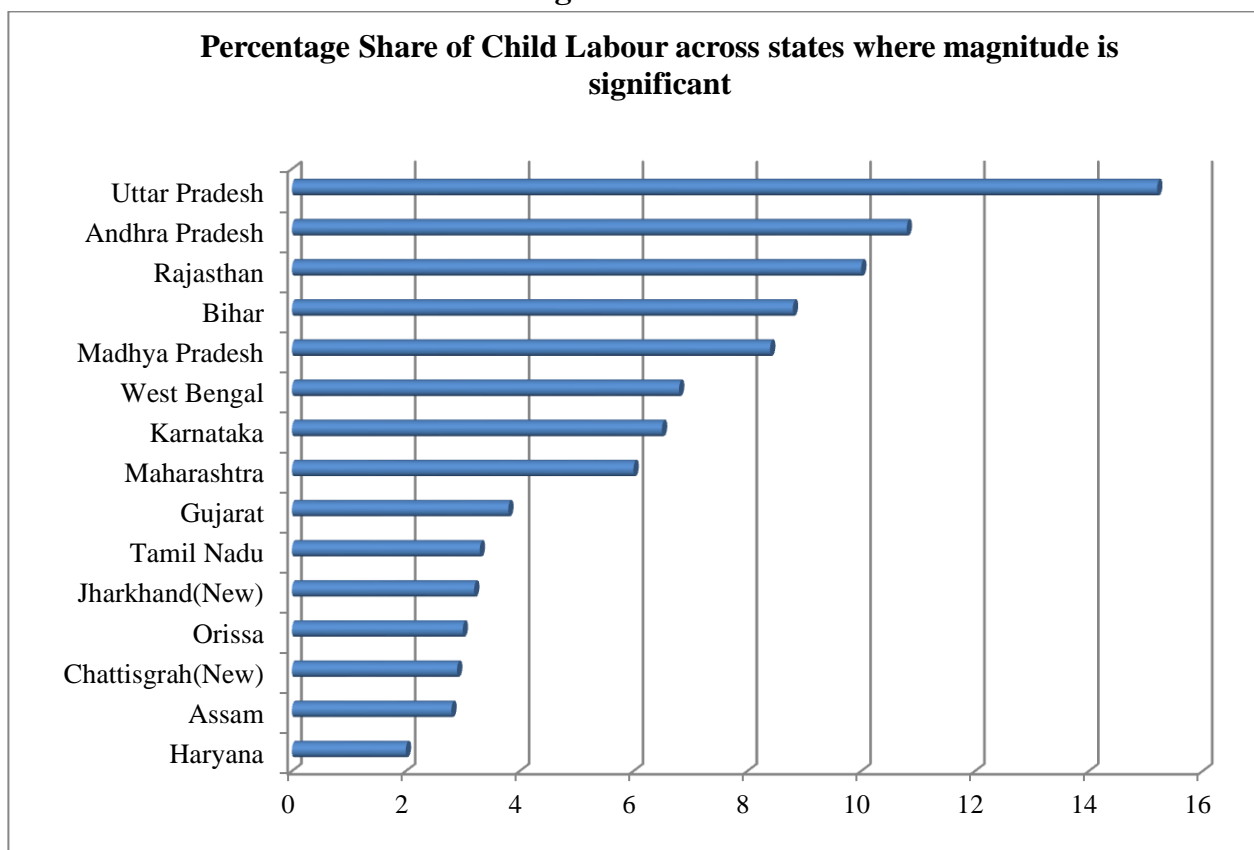
Source: Census of India 1991 and 2001

Note: Work Participation Rate (%) in the respective total child Population

If we combine the bifurcated states from MP, UP and Bihar, the increase in the magnitude is much more than what is seen in the divided states. On the other hand it is interesting to see that the state of Andhra Pradesh, that had a dubious distinction of having the largest child labour force in the country, shows reduction in magnitude of child labour and work participation rates. But still this state is the second largest state in terms of magnitude by 2001 Census. According to the census figures of child labour populations, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra are the two best states in terms of absolute decline in child labourers between 1991 and 2001. Both these states saw the child labour population decline by close to 300,000 between 1991 and 2001 (Table 3.8). Despite this, in the states of Goa and Gujarat, however, there has been increasing demand of child labour in the hospitality and tourism industries, reported low level of incidence of child labour. As far as the percentage of child labour across the states, Uttar Pradesh account for a larger share of about 15 per cent all child workforce in India followed by Andhra Pradesh, with 10.8 per cent. Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar respectively garnered 10, 8.8 and 8 per cent of India's child employment. But in case of Uttar Pradesh, the share of working children has shot up from less than 10 per cent during 1991 to 15.2 per cent in 2001, which is a cause for serious concern. Similar increase is also evident in many other states like Punjab, Bihar, Rajasthan, West Bengal etc. Over 53 percent of the child labour in India was accounted for by the five states namely UP, AP, Rajasthan, MP and Bihar during 2001. Karnataka, Maharashtra and West Bengal together had about 20 percent of the child labourers in India during 2001. It is also to be noted here that there is a general increasing trend in the magnitude of child labour in the north east region of the country. Surprising is the case of Himachal Pradesh where, the percentage of child workers has gone up from 0.5 per cent in 1991 to 0.9 per cent in 2001. Actually if we see the case of Himachal

Pradesh the absolute number of child labour in this state has nearly doubled during 1991 to 2001. Other states like Karnataka, Orissa, Assam has also shown a significant fall in per cent of working children. In case of work participation rate Sikkim had the highest WPR in the country with 12.04 percent (child labourers among total children in the age group of 5 to 14); among major states Rajasthan had the highest WPR with 8.25 percent during 2001. Himachal Pradesh closely followed Rajasthan with 8.14 percent. The other states having higher than the national average of 5 percent WPR for children are Andhra Pradesh (7.7 per cent), Chhattisgarh (6.96 per cent), Karnataka (6.91 per cent), Madhya Pradesh (6.71 per cent), J&K, Arunachal Pradesh, Jharkhand and Assam (Table 3.8).

Figure 3.4: Percentage Share of Child Labour across States where Magnitude is Significant



% Share of Child Labour (Census 2001)

Sectoral Distribution of Child Labour in India

It's a common sight in India to see children engaged in various forms of work ranging from "carrying head loads of grass, firewood, pots of water, grazing cattle from dawn to dusk, spending hours in back-breaking chores of transplanting, weeding, working to cross-pollinate plants and applying pesticides and chemical fertilizers on the farms" (Burra, 2005). Despite having a stringent legislation against child labour particularly in hazardous industries, children continue to be engaged in significant numbers both in hazardous and non-hazardous sectors. Reflecting the overall trend in the workforce participation most of the child employment is concentrated in agriculture and allied activities. According for over two-thirds of child workers, agriculture is the single largest sector of the concentration of child labour in India.

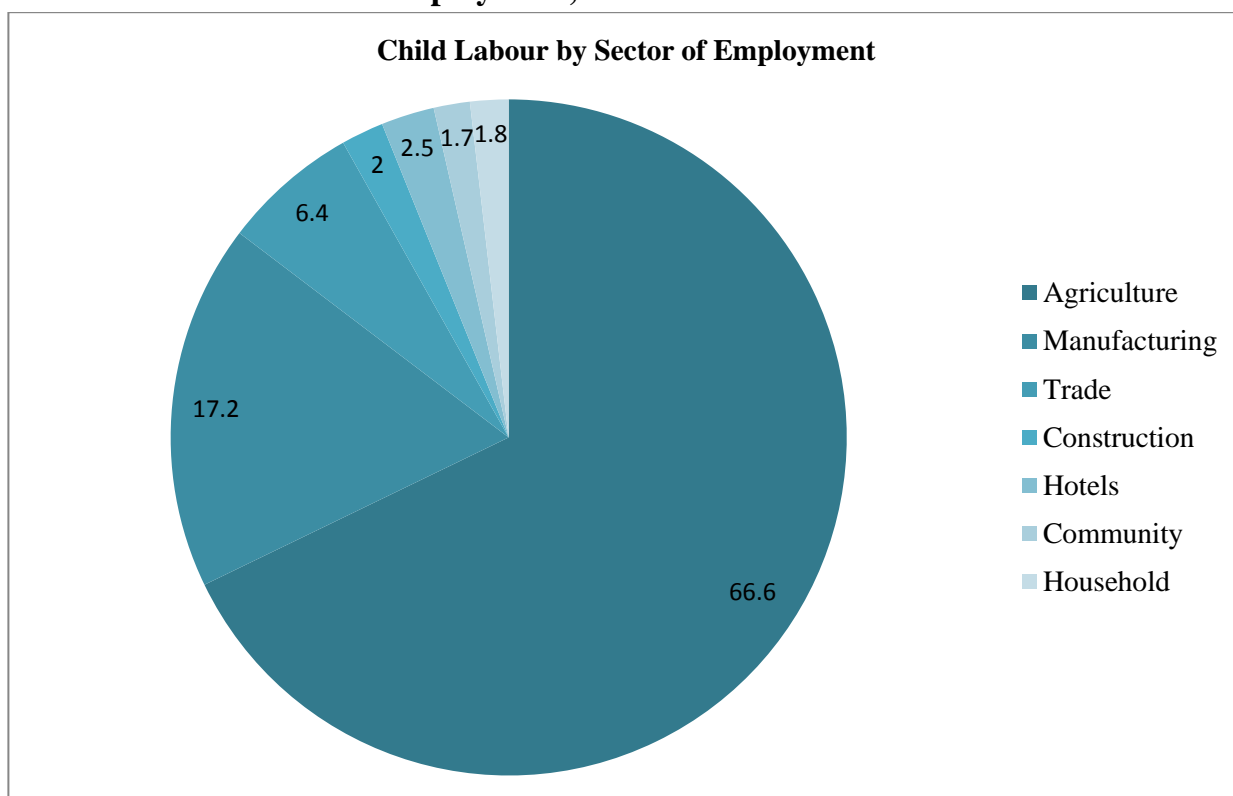
Table 3.9: Percentage of Children (5-14 years) by Sector of Employment, 1993-94 and 2004-05 (NSSO)

Sectors	Percentage of Child Labour	
	2004-05	1993-94
Agriculture	66.6	75.8
Mining	0.2	0.6
Manufacturing	17.2	12.7
Electricity, Gas Water	0.02	0.03
Construction	2.0	1.2
Trade	6.38	4.57
Hotels	2.5	1.7
Transport	0.7	0.4
Real Estate	0.6	0.01
Education	0.02	0.01
Community	1.7	1.38
Household	1.78	1.58
Total	100.00	100.00

Source: NSS 61st and 50th Rounds, 2004-0, 1993-94, Employment and Unemployment (Table has taken from NCEUS Report, 2007).

Table 3.9 shows the percentage of child labour by sector of employment during 1993-94 and 2004-05. Observations are very clear from the table that agriculture sector has the highest incidence of child labour in India and it stands at 66.6 per cent in 2004-05. This is followed by manufacturing wherein 17.2 per cent of total working children are found to be engaged. After observing the table, we can see that the percentage of child labour by sectors in 2004-05 slightly increased from 1993-94 except in agriculture and mining sector. The percentage of children in agriculture sector was 75.8 per cent in 1993-94 which decreased to 66.6 per cent in 2004-05. In mining sector the percentage of working children has declined from 0.6 to 0-2 per cent during the period. Trade, Hotels, and household also account for a significant share of child workers, with 6.4, 2.5 and 1.3 per cent respectively (Figure 3.5).

Figure 3.5: Percentage Distribution of Child Labour by Sectors of Employment, NSSO 2004-05



Activity Status of Children

Considering schooling and labour market participation as the two extremes of activity statuses of children four different situation may emerge, such as children (a). Only pursuing schooling and do not participate in labour market; (b). Mainly pursuing schooling and also participates in labour market; (c). Neither pursue schooling nor participate in labour markets; (d). Do not pursue schooling only participate in labour market. NCEUS (2007) has computed the trends of child labour in India by including the out of school children as they are always being at the risk of entering the labour force. Table 3.10 shows that as per NSSO results, the number of children who are not studying has declined by 2004-05 compared to 1993-94, but still about 18 per cent of the child population (15 per cent of boys and about 21 per cent of the girls) is not studying in the schools. This amounts to 45.2 million children during 2004-05. Out of these 8.6 million (3.4 per cent) are involved in an economic activity while 36.6 million (14.5 per cent) are out of school, which may be considered as potential child labour.

Table 3.10: Number and Percentage of Children (5-14 years) who are Workers, Non-workers and Students by Sex (Usual Status, NSSO) (in millions)

Usual Status	1993-1994			2004-05		
	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
Labour	7.3 (6.4)	6.0 (6.1)	13.3 (6.2)	4.7 (3.5)	3.9 (3.3)	8.6 (3.4)
Non-Workers	22.2 (19.5)	32.0 (32.2)	54.1 (25.4)	16.1 (12.0)	20.5 (17.4)	36.6 (14.5)
Total Out of School	29.4	38.0	67.4	20.8	24.4	45.2
(Labour Pool)	(25.9)	(38.3)	(31.6)	(15.4)	(20.8)	(17.9)
Students	84.4 (74.1)	61.3 (61.7)	145.8 (68.4)	113.9 (84.6)	93.2 (79.2)	207.1 (82.1)
All (5-14)	113.9 (100.0)	99.3 (100.0)	213.2 (100.0)	134.7 (100.0)	117.6 (100.0)	252.3 (100.0)

Source: Computed by NCEUS (2007) from NSSO 50th and 61st Rounds

Note: Out of school children is sum total of labour and non-workers

Table 3.11: Number and Percentage of Children (5-14 years) by Workers, Non-Workers and Schooling Status by Rural/Urban Residence (Usual Status, NSSO)

Usual Status	1993-1994		2004-2005	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
Number (million)				
Labour	11.6	1.7	7.0	1.5
Non-Workers	46.9	7.3	31.0	5.6
Total Labour Pool	58.5	9.0	38.0	7.2
Students	101.6	44.2	152.0	55.1
All (5-14)	160.0	53.2	190.0	62.3
Percentage				
Labour	6.4	6.1	7.3	3.2
Non-Workers	19.5	32.2	29.3	13.7
Total Labour Pool	25.9	38.3	36.5	16.9
Students	74.1	61.7	63.5	83.1
All (5-14)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: NSS, 50th and 61st rounds, 1993-94 and 2004-05, Employment and Unemployment (Table has taken from NCEUS Report, 2007).

Further, the proportion of labour in rural areas in 1993-94 was 6.4 per cent which increased to 7.3 per cent in 2004-05 (Table 3.11). The proportion of non-workers of total labour pool in rural areas is also increased in 2004-05. In rural areas, the total labour pool for the children has increased from 25.9 per cent in 1993-94 to 36.5 per cent in 2004-05. While in urban areas this percentage has declined from 38.3 per cent to 16.9 per cent during the same time period. As a result, the proportion of students in urban areas increased to 83.1 per cent from 61.7 per cent over the period, whereas the proportion of students in rural areas in 1993-94 was 74 per cent which gradually decreased in 2004-05 to 63.5 per cent. One of the reasons for decreasing the percentage of students in rural areas can be a huge seasonal demand

of child labour. Jacoby and Skoufias (1997) examine that in India, agrarian households use their children’s labour during seasonal shocks, resulting in erratic school attendance. Another important reason can be debt bondage which is commonly found in rural areas where traditional class or caste structure and semi – feudal relationship survive. Landless or near landless households, as well migrant labourers, are particularly vulnerable to debt bondage because they have no alternative sources of credit so, due to debt their whole family including children work for employer as bonded labour (ILO, 2002c). Thus, we can find high incidence of child labour in rural areas as compared to the urban areas.

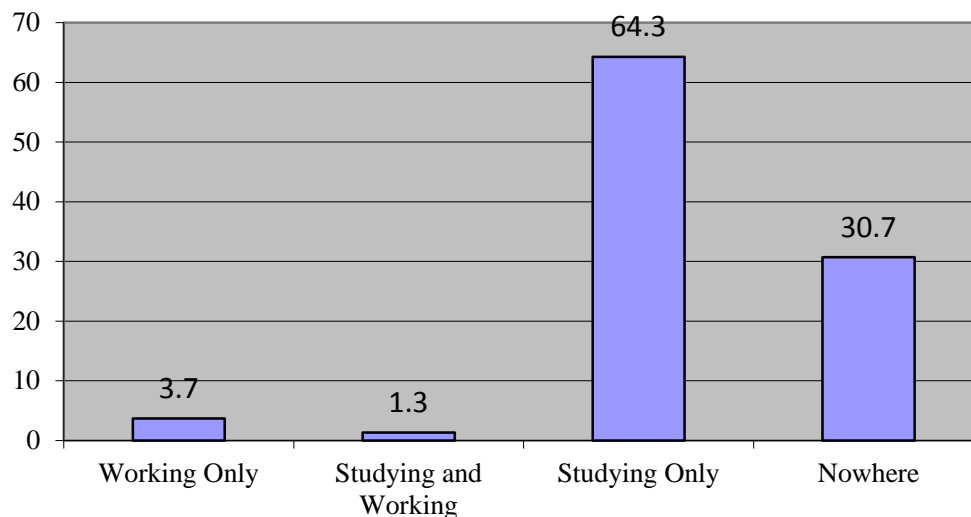
Though According to Article 21-A “The state shall provide free and compulsory education to all children of the age six to fourteen years in such a way as the state may, by law, determine” (www.constitution.org/cons/india, visited as on October 6, 2009) but still a large number of children in this age group remain out of school or involved in economic activities. The working status of children 5-14 age group has been shown in table 3.12.

Table 3.12: Working Status of Children (5-14 years) (Census 2001)

Working Status	Percentage
Working Only	3.7
Studying and Working	1.3
Studying Only	64.3
Nowhere	30.7

Source: Census of India 2001

**Figure 3.6: Working Status of Children (5-14 age group) (Census 2001)
(Percentage)**



It is universally accepted that education is a basic right of every child (UNCRC, 1989) and he/she should have access to it. In this rights framework, children who are not found attending the school – whether they are idle, reported as working or working but not reported as working – are all deprived of their right to education. But in case of India an undesirable number of children are either working or are nowhere children. This can be seen from table 3.12 which shows that out of total children 3.7 per cent are working only, 64.3 per cent are studying only while 1.3 per cent are those who are studying and working both whereas 30.7 per cent are nowhere children (neither studying nor working). From figure 3.6, it is clear that the percentage of children who are studying only is high than rest of the children with different status. Moreover a very few working children (1.3 per cent) get chance to continue their studies with work. Further, table 3.13 shows that boys outnumber the girls, whether they are school going or working, whereas in case of nowhere children girls outnumber the boys. Girl children are engaged in non-remunerative household chores. From the table we can see that out of total school going children

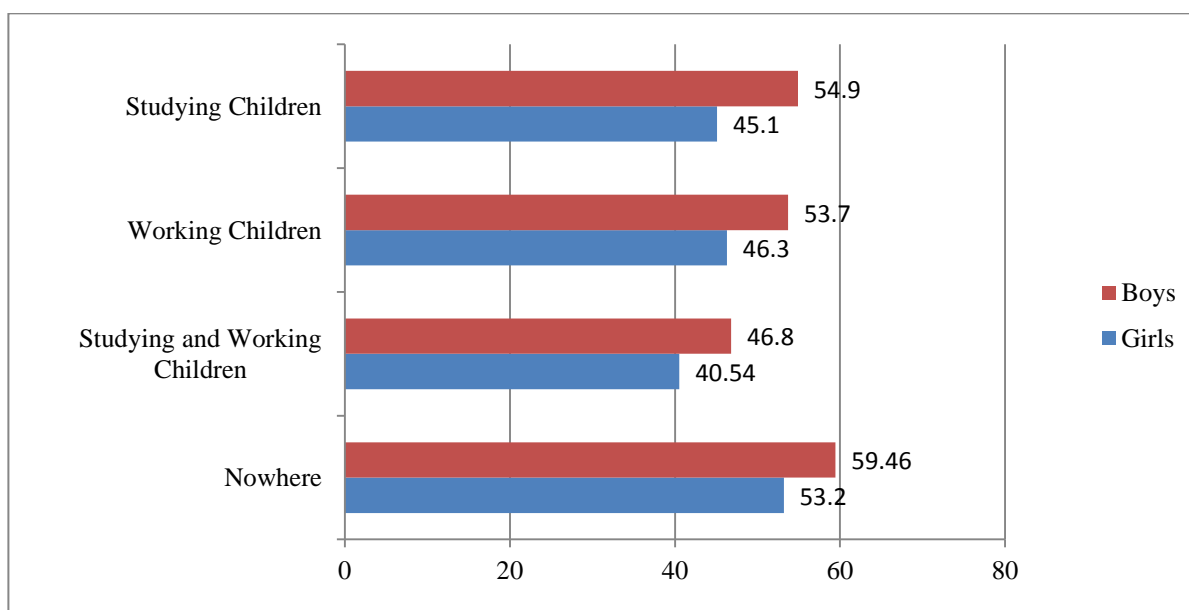
45.1 per cent are girls and 54.9 are boys. Amongst working children 46.3 per cent are girls and 53.7 per cent are boys. In case of nowhere children, girls are 53.2 per cent and boys are 59.46 per cent.

**Table 3.13: Sex Wise Working Status of Children (5-14 years)
(Census 2001)**

Working Status	Boys (%)	Girls (%)
Studying Children	54.9	45.1
Working Children	53.7	46.3
Studying and Working Children	46.8	40.54
Nowhere Children	59.46	53.2

Source: Census of India 2001

**Figure 3.7 Sex Wise Studying and Working Status of Children (in percentage)
(5-14 years) (Census 2001)**



Thus we can see that except in the case of nowhere children, rest of the children whether they are studying only, working only or both studying as well as working, the boys outnumber girls. Though the percentage of children who are studying is

not less but still due to work a large number of children (both boys and girls) are losing their childhood. The situation is worse for the nowhere children who are neither at work nor at schools (figure 3.7). Every child should be in school because in the long run these out-of-school children miss the opportunity of benefiting from schooling. Thus in India, a significant proportion of children are denied of their right to education. Actually, scarcity and adequacy of teachers, inferior teaching facilities and inaccessible schools reinforce many parents' belief that education is worthless endeavour and that their children are better off learning skills at work, helping with domestic chores, or being idle rather than attending school (The Probe Team, 1999). Thus, all these factors make returns from education very low and make it unattractive for household to send their children to schools. As provision of compulsory education is the state's main methods of controlling child labour. But Myron Weiner (1991), had aptly identified the issue of the failure of the state in providing school education. He stated that less than half of India's children between ages six and fourteen (82.2 million) are not at school. So schooling, however, must be affordable and relevant to the child's circumstances, and should provide practical skills and knowledge if it is seen as worthwhile investment by the child's family.

In the existence of various policies and laws on child labour, it is still a pervasive problem to be tackle. So to accelerate the progress of child labour elimination, joint action is needed at all levels; local, national, regional and international. Moreover, it is important to understand the interconnected causes and consequences of child labour at all levels. This issue is too complex to be dealt with by a single government ministry or a few organizations and agencies (MFAN, 2009). Thus, Ministries of Finance, Economic Affairs, Education, Labour, Health, Social Welfare, Women and Gender all have to corporate each others to deal with this multifarious problem.

Table 3.14: Relationship between Total State Budgeted Expenditures in Social Sector and on Education and Incidence of Child Labour (Year 2004-05)

States	% of Working Children	Social Sector Expenditures! (%)	Expenditures on Education and Training (%)
Andhra Pradesh	39.2	29.3	13.94
Arunachal Pradesh	16.8	31.2	14.70
Assam	9.8	32.4	25.65
Bihar	9.2	30.5	19.09
Delhi	1.1	33.1	27.46
Goa	17.7	31.4	18.27
Gujarat	14.8	29.0	18.73
Haryana	4.9	24.2	16.61
Himachal Pradesh	5.1	29.0	19.08
Jammu & Kashmir	22.0	27.9	9.50
Karnataka	23.5	28.5	19.11
Kerala	1.2	36.2	23.04
Madhya Pradesh	15.9	24.7	19.44
Maharashtra	16.3	28.1	22.61
Orissa	21.8	28.9	17.70
Punjab	7.3	17.8	13.59
Rajasthan	28.5	34.1	20.72
Sikkim	17.1	22.2	9.78
Tamil Nadu	10.8	32.6	18.89
Tripura	12.2	37.6	22.46
Uttar Pradesh	20.8	28.6	18.64
West Bengal	23.2	29.1	18.42
India	17.7	29.7	18.99
R²		-0.043	-0.410*
N		23	23

Sources: 1. Incidence of child labour computed from Report of NSSO 61st Round, Employment and Unemployment Situation, 2004-05

2. Social Sector Expenditures Taken From RBI Report on State Finances 2004-05. Available from www.rbi.org.in; cited on October, 14, 2011

3. Report of Human Resource Development (Department of Higher Education Planning Monitoring Unit, Government of India, 2007

Note: *significant at 5 per cent level of significance

!Percentage of Social Sector Expenditures is from Total Expenditures

Undoubtedly, government of India spend huge amount on education and in social sector for the welfare of masses in general and children in particular. However, these expenditures may have a significant impact on the incidence of child labour. This can be observed from the table 3.14. This table depicts the state wise scenario of incidence of child labour, social sector expenditure and government expenditures on education and training. It has been observed that there is a negative relationship between government expenditure in social sector and on education and the incidence of child labour. It may be noted that although the relationship between incidence of child labour and government expenditure in social sector is not statistically significant but it is significantly and negatively correlated with expenditure on education. In this sense, only public expenditures in social sector are not enough, government must give emphasis on education which can be the key component to reducing the problem of child labour.

There is no denying the fact that the war against the worst form of child labour cannot be won simply by improving school enrollment. Proactive policies along with a resolve to improve socio-economic environment of the deprived population are required. Thus, from the current magnitude, trends and pattern of the child workforce in India, it must be inferred that there is a need of different policy interventions for different categories of children. While the first category of children i.e. with the 'no-where' status may need a variety of collaborative policies to encourage them to join schools, the children with work status need to be withdrawn from the work first, may be by following many coercive policies along with a set of incentives. However, many policy related social programmes and benefits are certainly relevant for both the categories of children.

Child Labour in Punjab

Punjab economy, better known as grain basket of India is a prosperous agricultural economy. Per capita income in the state is among the highest and the poverty ratio is among the lowest. In case of Human Development indicators, it is also far ahead many states. It is being invariably placed at second rank (next to Kerala) in the Human Development Reports of India (Planning Commission, 2002). Besides, though the magnitude of absolute poverty is relatively less than in many other states, relative poverty exists in Punjab. This has contributed to a sizeable child labour force. In most of the cases children contribute to augmenting the family income. Employers not only take advantage of their vulnerable position by paying fewer wages, they have also pushed them to hazardous work. Besides the Schedule Castes and Backward Castes of the state, migrant labour from Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Orissa and other states have also contributed in aggravating the problem of child labourers in Punjab as they generally send their children to work as child labourer to enhance their income (Government of Punjab, 2002).

No doubt Punjab has made tremendous economic progress ever since the introduction of green revolution in the state and has been a leading state in per capita income and food production in the country. However, the state has also witnessed a high incidence of child labour. According to the Census figures, there were 232774 working children in Punjab in 1971, 216939 in 1981, 142868 in 1991 and 177268 in 2001. Evidently there has been a tremendous decline by 0.07 million in the number of working children in Punjab over the decade 1981-1991. But during the time period of 1991-2001, extent of child labour has slightly increased by 0.03 million (Table 3.15).

Table 3.15: Estimates of the Magnitude of Child Labour in Punjab, (Census)

Years	Working children (in numbers)
1971	232774
1981	216939
1991	142868
2001	177268

Source Census of India, 1971, 1981, 1991, 2001

Thus the incidence of child workforce in Punjab shows the continuous decline from 1971 to 1991. But from 1991-2001, the situation shows the increment in number of working children in Punjab. This can be due to the lack of strict implementation of law and policies on child labour in the state. Further exploration of Census data, it shows that the incidence of child labour in Punjab is higher for the age group 10-14 as compared to the age group 5-9 and it can also be observed that rural areas have higher percentage of children going to work as compared to their urban counterparts.

Table 3.16: Percentage of Working Children in Punjab by Age group, Sex and Residence (Census) both Main + Marginal Workers

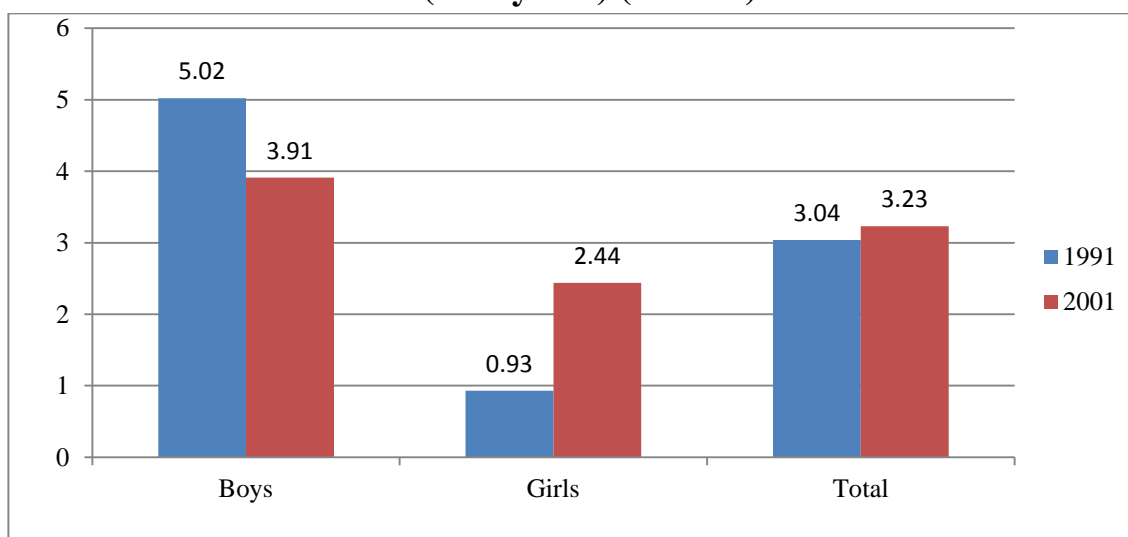
Age Group	1991			2001		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
Rural						
5-9	0.72	0.34	0.52	1.33	1.04	1.22
10-14	11.01	1.96	6.73	7.25	4.71	6.12
5-14	5.92	1.11	3.61	4.32	2.97	3.70
Urban						
5-9	0.46	0.28	0.30	1.15	0.78	0.91
10-14	5.11	0.55	2.93	5.02	1.87	3.52
5-14	2.72	0.36	1.61	3.13	1.36	2.37
Total						
5-9	0.71	0.22	0.58	1.29	0.90	1.14
10-14	9.30	1.59	5.61	6.52	3.88	5.23
5-14	5.02	0.93	3.04	3.91	2.44	3.23

Source: Source: Statistical Abstract of Punjab 2006, available at <http://punjab.gov.in>, cited on March 30, 2010.

Notes: 0-5 Age group population is not included.

Table 3.16 shows that according to census 2001, 3.70 per cent of total child population in rural areas and 2.37 per cent in urban areas are working. Although the percentage of working children is less in Punjab during 1991 but even on that time period incidence of child labour was high in rural areas than urban areas. Moreover, the percentage of total working children for the age group 5-9 has increased during 1991 to 2001 (0.58 per cent to 1.14 per cent) but declined for the age group 10-14 from 5.61 per cent to 5.23 per cent during the same period of time. Table also shows that the boys outnumber the girls in both the rural and urban areas but the difference is starker in urban areas as compared to the rural ones. This can be due to the fact that the urban areas offer a range of activities outside agriculture where the male children can be easily employed. Similarly, we can see from figure 3.8 that the proportions of working boys are higher than girls in 1991 and 2001. Although from 1991 to 2001 the percentage of working boys have been decreased from 5.02 to 3.91 but at the same time the proportion of girls have increased from 0.93 per cent to 2.44 per cent.

Figure 3.8: Proportion of Working Children in Punjab by Sex (%) (5-14 years) (Census)



District Wise Magnitude of Child Labour in Punjab

In order to understand the magnitude of the problem of child labour employed in different parts of the State a district wise distribution of child workers can be observed from table 3.17. Census data 2001 on child labour in various districts of Punjab shows that highly populated areas have higher number of working children like Gurdaspur (10602), Amritsar (30295), Ludhiana 18987) Sangrur (17225), Firozpur (16955) etc.

**Table 3.17: District Wise Estimates on Child Labour in Punjab (5-14 years)
(Census 2001)**

Districts	Total Workers (in numbers)	Percentage Share of Child Labour in the District	Total Child Population (percentage share)
Gurdaspur	10602	5.98	8.76
Amritsar	30295	17.09	13.26
Kapurthala	3688	2.08	3.07
Jalandhar	9108	5.14	7.54
Hoshiarpur	7021	3.96	5.84
Nawanshahr	5670	3.20	2.34
Rupnagar	6219	3.51	4.46
Fatehgarh Sahib	3221	1.82	2.13
Ludhiana	18987	10.71	11.74
Moga	7238	4.08	3.71
Firozpur	16955	9.57	7.88
Muktsar	7228	4.07	3.27
Faridkot	3441	1.94	2.31
Bathinda	11919	6.72	4.83
Mansa	7099	4.01	2.98
Sangrur	17225	9.72	8.35
Patiala	11352	6.40	7.55
Total	177268	100.00	100.00

Source: Census of India 2001

Notes: 0-4 Age group population is not included

Total Workers includes both Main and Marginal Workers

In this case, a simple logic may follow that where more people reside, child population is higher so is that of the working children. So if we compare the ‘percentage share of child labour in the district’ with ‘percentage share of total child population in the district’, it can be seen that some districts seems to have a little larger share of working children than their share in total population like Amritsar where the percentage of working children is much higher (17.09 per cent) than the percentage share of this district in total child population of the state (13.26 per cent).

Similar situation can be observed in case of Moga, Nawanshahr, Firozpur, Muktsar, Bathinda, Mansa and Sangrur districts. Actually, various factors may be responsible for the variation in the incidence of child labour among districts of Punjab. Like distribution of population, the distribution of child labour is also affected by the rate of urbanization, share of particular area in total non-agricultural investments, total migrant inflows, Illiteracy level etc. Thus, these factors should be kept in mind while making policies to eradicate child labour from the country.

NSSO Estimates on the Magnitude of Child Labour in Punjab

Apart from Census data, NSS (National Sample Survey) is one another important source of secondary data. While the census is conducted during the beginning of every decade the NSSO is conducted twice in each decade. Thus NSSO data also provides the mid-decade trends of various aspects of the economy. According to the various rounds of NSSO, it is clear the incidence of child labour in Punjab declined with significant proportion. Table 3.18 shows that as per data, during 1993-94 about 7 per cent children were working in Punjab which declined to 2.9 per cent in 2009-10. A massive decline is recorded during 1999-00 to 2004-05. In Figure 3.9 the trend of child workforce in Punjab has been shown during 1993-94 to 2009-10. It

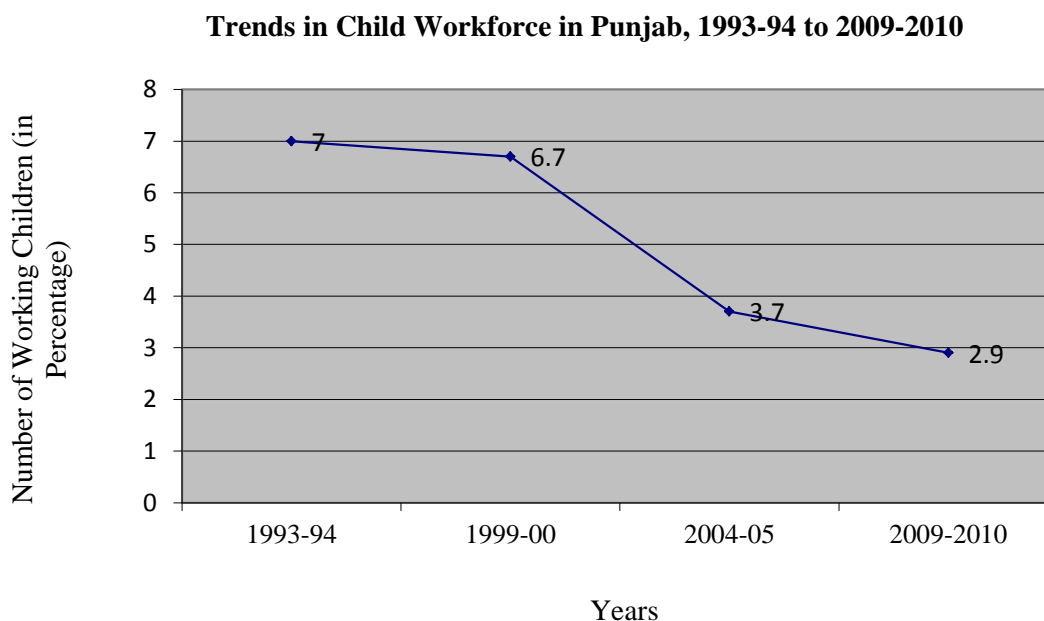
shows the continuous decline in the number of working children which shows the improving situation of the state in tackling with this pervasive problem.

Table 3.18: Percentage of Working Children in Punjab according to Usual Activity Status (5-14 years) (NSSO 1993-94 to 2009-10)

Years	No of Working Children
1993-1994 (50 th Round)	7.0
1999-2000 (55 th Round)	6.7
2004-2005 (61 st Round)	3.7
2009-2010 (66 th Round)	2.9

Source: NSSO, Various Rounds, Employment Unemployment Situation in India.

Figure 3.9: Trends in Child Workforce in Punjab, (5-14 years) (NSSO 1993-94 to 2009-10)



Further, according to NSSO data, there are variations in the incidence of male and female child workers in Punjab. Like census data, as per NSSO the percentage of male child labourers is high as compared to female child labourers in Punjab.

Table 3.19: Percentage of Working Children in Punjab by Sex and According to Usual Activity Principle, (NSSO 1993-94 to 2009-10) (5-14 years)

Years	Males	Females
1993-1994	12.2	1.3
1999-2000	10.5	2.6
2004-2005	6.6	0.7
2009-2010	4.2	1.4

Source: Source: NSSO, Various Rounds, Employment Unemployment in India

But an interesting observation is that the percentage of male workers is continuously declining from 12.2 per cent to 4.2 per cent during 1993-94 to 2009-10 while the percentage of female workers showing variations as it has increased from 1.3 per cent to 2.6 per cent during 1993-94 to 1999-00 but declined by 1.9 per cent in 2004-05 and again rose to 1.4 per cent in 2009-10 (Table 3.19). Apart from this, the status of working children by their sex, age and residence can be observed from table 3.20. The table clearly shows that the number of working children in Punjab is less for the age group of 5-9 as compared to 10-14.

Table 3.20: Percentage of Working Children in Punjab by Sex, Residence and Age Group (NSSO 1993-94 to 2009-10) (Usual Activity Status)

Years	Sex and Age Groups					
	Males		Females		All	
	5-9	10-14	5-9	10-14	5-9	10-14
Rural						
1993-94 (50 th Round)	-	7.2	-	0.9	-	4.2
1999-00 (55 th Round)	0.2	6.5	0.2	1.4	0.2	4.0
2004-05 (61 st Round)	0.2	4.0	-	0.7	0.1	2.5
2009-10 (66 th Round)	-	1.1	-	-	-	0.6
Urban						
1993-94 (50 th Round)	-	5.0	-	0.4	-	2.8
1999-00 (55 th Round)	0.4	3.4	-	1.0	0.2	2.3
2004-05 (61 st Round)	-	2.5	-	-	-	1.3
2009-10 (66 th Round)	-	3.1	-	1.4	-	2.3

Source: NSSO, Various Rounds, Employment Unemployment Situation in India.

In rural areas where the percentage of male children in the age group of 10-14 has declined during 1993-94 but at the same time period the percentage of female children for the same age group has increased. In rural areas a significant fall can be seen both in case of male and female children (especially females workers) during 2004-05 to 2009-10. But in urban areas, the situation of child labour is different as from 1993-94 to 2004-05, the percentage of male workers has declined but increased in 2009-10 from 2.5 per cent to 3.1 per cent (10-14 age group). The percentage of female children for the same age group increased during 1993-94 to 1999-00 from 0.4 per cent to 1.0 per cent which further increased to 1.4 in 2009-10. Like Census, NSSO data also shows that the percentage of working children is more in rural areas as compared to urban areas. Although Punjab is a prosperous state but the situation of working children underlines the fact that rising incomes and prosperity do not by themselves eradicate child labour (Swami, 1997).

To sum up, we can say that the magnitude of child labour as reported by official sources has shown a declining trend. Given the context of globalization and declining employment growth in the country, the reduction in the magnitude of child labour observed in Census as well as in NSSO data could be due to reduction in general employment. The analysis also shows that male children are much more likely to work than female children. Besides, the high incidence of child labour prevails in rural areas as compared to urban areas and most of the child labour in rural areas is involved in agricultural activities. In case of education fewer girls are enrolled in schools than boys, especially in rural areas. Thus, a multi-pronged strategy is needed for the eradication of child labour. But there must be emphasis on compulsory primary education and the education of girl children needs to be especially taken care of.