CHAPTER - II

METHODOLOGY OF STUDY

The methodology adopted for the present research is a combination of analysis of secondary data from Censuses of India and Tamilnadu and also creation of original data on child labour through a survey records. For the former analysis the data were taken from the census reports on Tamilnadu States for the decades of 1961, 71 and 81 periods. For the latter part a fresh micro level study was carried out in major pockets and child labour concentration in different types of wagework in Tamilnadu in order to go deeper and supplement the first part of the study. Because, the secondary data though valuable in many aspects may not cover all the areas and that too at the micro level. However secondary data is the only source to consider the problem over a period of decades in order to know the changes in trends, differentials and certain determinants of child labour and so also fertility. Further for a State-wide analysis of the problem in Tamilnadu followed by districtwise analysis of the same is feasible only through census data. Therefore both secondary and primary data have been taken together for the preparation of present thesis.

In order to know the trends, differentials and determinants at the State and district levels of Tamilnadu on the various facts of child labour problem, data from the past three census periods viz. 1961, 71 and 81 have been considered. As the benefits of socio-economic planning and development since independence would have reached the child labour population ever since the planning process started in
India since 1951, the data only from 1961 onwards had been considered and 1981 is the latest census data available now. Therefore a comparative analysis of various parameters of child labour across these three census periods may provide a complete picture of the problem in Tamilnadu since independence to till to day. All the relevant data on child labour and related economic, social and demographic factors on Tamilnadu as a whole and also relating to all the districts have been collected for the analysis of the first part of the thesis. They are gathered from the published reports as well as from the tapes preserved at the State level Census office and Registrar General's office, New Delhi.

For generating the primary data from a limited sample house holds where child labour concentration was relatively high a house hold survey was carried out during 1986-87 period. Through this primary data, all the necessary data related to child labour and fertility behaviour including the determinants of child labour and parental fertility behaviour particularly economic factors on child labour and other relevant aspects have been considered. The Primary data focusses more on the present pattern, differentials and determinants of these problems after discussing the economic aspects in the study areas at the district levels. Thus it forms the third and micro level discussion of the problem one after the other from the State to the district and at the peripheral level. This approach can help to make a more or less complete coverage of the problem at different levels. The second part dealing with primary data however focusses in detail and in this problem in the recent past. It is obvious that the secondary data may have only a limited coverage of factors as in any other similar data
despite its general value to examine it one a decadal perspective. Keeping this strategy in view, this thesis is formulated.

(i) **Objectives of the study:**

The present study is formulated with the following objectives.

1. To glean salient features on child labour and fertility aspects of Tamilnadu population from various sources and to give a picture of this problem at the State and district levels in the context of the given socio demographic scenerio.

2. To generate data from different categories of child labours at the micro levels in order to analyse the pattern, differentials and their determinants.

3. To study the fertility behaviour of the parents of child labourers and find out its major determinants particularly child labour, its economic aspects besides other social factors and family planning with sample studies and construct a policy frame for the future.

(ii) **Hypothesis:**

Main hypotheses formulated in the study are:

1. The magnitude of child labour problem significantly differs across most of the districts in Tamilnadu. It is greater in agriculture dominated districts than in non-agriculture dominated districts.
There exists significant inter-caste variations in the prevalence of child labour in the study areas.

Availability of more number of children got by chance encourages parents to commit their children for wage work.

Dropping out of children from schools is a child labour determinant.

Easy availability of jobs for children provides a favourable situation for perpetuating the practice of child labour.

Parents of child labourers may possess several value dimensions of children leading to high fertility.

Socio-economic status of parents is negatively associated with fertility. The socio-economic status may include the family income, economic status of the family, parental education, type of house, number of dependants and occupational mobility.

In addition to these already stipulated hypotheses a few more may emerge out of the study for further investigation.

(iii) Operational definition of Concepts used in the study are:

1. Child-Labour:

   Child-labour is usually defined as participation in any gainful activity by children in ages of five to fourteen. International Labour Organisation's Convention of 1973 set out a definition of "unacceptable child-labour covering dangerous work jeopardising the health, safety and morals of children below fourteen years of age and even part-time light-work below the age of 12". On the other hand the

   * 'normal' work for children below fourteen years of age.
Chairman of the U.S. Child Labour Commission defines child labour as "any work by children that interferes with their full development, their opportunity for a desirable minimum education and their needed recreation".

Framers of Indian Constitution seem to have preferred age criterion for defining child labour. According to Article 24 of the Constitution "no child below the age of fourteen years shall be employed to work in any factory or mine or engaged in any other hazardous employment". Indian labour legislations - (eg.) The Factories Act, the Mines Act, the Employment of children Act etc. also use this minimum age for differentiating between adult and child labour. Operations Research Group (ORG) defines "A working child is that child who was enumerated during the survey as a child falling within five to fifteen age bracket and which is a remunerative work - may be paid or unpaid and busy any hour the day within or outside the family" (Khatu et al 1983:69). The Concerned For Working Children (CWC) defines a child-labourer as "a person who has not completed his/her fifteenth year of age and is working with or without wages/income on a part-time basis. The term child labourers and child-workers are used synonymously." (CWC 1985:6).

Thus age is commonly used to differentiate a child-worker from an adult-worker. But in the Indian Census the definition of "worker" had been changed in 1971 and 1981 compared to that in 1961.

The 1961 Census\textsuperscript{2} definition reads "In case of seasonal work like cultivation, live-stock, dairying, household industry etc., if a person has had some regular work of more than one hour a day throughout the greater part of the working season, he was to be regarded as a 'worker'. In case of regular employment in any trade, profession, service, business or commerce, the basis of work would be satisfied if the person was employed during any of the fifteen days preceding the day of which he was enumerated of enumeration due to illness or other causes was a worker. Work includes not only actual work, but effective supervision and direction of work".

But 1971\textsuperscript{3} Census defines a 'Worker' as 'a person whose main activity is participation in any economically productive work by his physical or mental activity. Work involves not only actual work but effective supervision and direction of work". The reference period here is one week prior to the date of enumeration in the case of regular work in trade, profession, service or business and the last one year in the case of seasonal work like cultivation, dairing etc. 'Work' in 1981 Census reads as follows - "work may be defined as any economically productive work by an individual's physical or mental activity. Work involves not only actual work but effective supervision and direction of work". Main workers are those who have worked for the major part of


* A person who was working but was absent from his work during the fifteen days proceeding the day.


the year preceding the date of enumeration and whose main activity was in either cultivation or in other work. Marginal workers are those who have done some work but cannot be treated as main workers.

Thus census categorises child-labour by its participation in the wage labour force while most of the child's work takes place outside this sector.5

In the present study any person below the age of fifteen doing work for a wage either in cash or kind or both, is defined as child labourer.

(2) Urban area: are

a) those place with a municipality corporation or cantonment Board or notified town area; (b) all other places which satisfied the following criteria of (i) a minimum of population of 5000. (ii) atleast 75 per cent of the male working population engaged in non-agricultural (and allied) activity; (iii) a population of at least 100 per km (or one thousand per square mile). (Census 1981).

(3) Rural area:

Areas not treated as urban area under Census concept are classified as rural areas in this study.

(iv) Study area, Sample Frame and Size

Area selected for the micro level study in Tamilnadu State of India. The present study in general has two parts and the first part is based on the study of mainly the population of Tamilnadu

and also all the districts within it. This part of the study is based on secondary data gathered from Census reports of 1961, 71 and 81 periods and focuses on child labour in its various facets in Tamilnadu as a whole.

The second part of the study is based on a micro level survey of sample house-holds having child labourers and their respective parents who are alive and also in the reproductive age group. They are drawn from three town areas and also five villages. The number of villages selected are more as these particular group of respondent child labourers having parents in the reproductive age group are found dispersed more in rural areas but found relatively in large numbers in towns. These three urban areas and five rural areas are selected at random from Kamarajar, Madurai, and Thanjavur districts. These districts were first selected purposely to get a better geographical representation and concentration of child labour found in the central and southern regions of Tamilnadu which are accessible to the researcher. From all these four districts urban areas and villages having sizable concentration of child labour had been listed out separately for each district. Since child labour activities area found to be more centered in urban oriented activities in Kamarajar and Madurai districts one town each for each of these districts was selected at random. In Thanjavur, rural based activities were found to be more and hence to study the same three villages had to be selected at random to get the required number of respondents. In Anna district there seen to be wide diversity in child labour activity and to study the same one town area and two village areas were selected at random. Thus Srivilliputhur (town in Kamarajar District), Thirumangalam, (town in Madurai District) and
Seruthur, Valakkarai and Melavalakkarai (villages in Tanjore district), Chinnalapatti (town) and Melakkottai and Chikkanampatti (villages) in Anna District were selected at random. From these selected areas, house-holds with eligible couples living together and having atleast one child labourer had been listed out separately for each district and 100 house-holds from each of the four district had been selected at random. Thus 400 house-holds formed the source of primary data for the second part of the study. They formed almost one third of the total house-holds finally listed out. Thus selection of sample was done on a multi stage on. Purposive random sampling basis. Thus the respondents of this study constitute the 400 selected child labourers and their respective mothers (400) who live with their respective spouse and are within the reproductive age group. However in certain cases, father's had been interviewed due to the non availability of mothers at the time of interview.
TABLE NO. 2.00

SAMPLING FRAME

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>District</th>
<th>Town</th>
<th>Village</th>
<th>No. of house-holds</th>
<th>No. of sample house-holds</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Kamarajar</td>
<td>Srivilliputhur</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>317</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Madurai</td>
<td>Thirumangalam</td>
<td>Kuthiraichari-kulam</td>
<td>298</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Anna District</td>
<td>Chinnalapatti</td>
<td>1)Melakkottai</td>
<td>302</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2)Chikkanam-patti</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Thanjavur</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1)Valakkarai &amp; Melavelakkarai</td>
<td>295</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2)Seruthur</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>Total</td>
<td>1212</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(v) Area Profiles:

(a) Anna District:

Anna District is a newly formed one out of few northern taluks of the undivided Madurai district on 15.9.1985 and named after a popular Political leader and a farmer Chief Minister of TamilNadu, Sri C.N. Annadurai. This district now consists of two revenue divisions consisting of 14 Development Blocks. Total area of the district is 6070.26 Sq.km.

It is bounded on the North by Periyar and...


Note: Through a Tamil Nadu Government notification Anna district in rechristioned as Dindigul, Anna district as on 1.4.1989.
Tiruchirapally districts and on the West by Coimbatore district and some parts of Kerala state. On its South lie: part of Kerala State and Ramanathapuram district of Tamil Nadu and Eastern side is lounched by part of Tiruchirapally district.

Total population of the district is estimated as 15,63,488 with 34.56 percent of them being literate. Urban population is estimated as 22.50 percent. The district has a density of 285/- sq.km. and crude birth rate of 18/1000 and crude death rate of 5/1000. Its sex ratio is 980. Scheduled Caste amount to 0.5 per cent of the population.

The district has total cropped at of 2,55,551 hectares of which 94.75 percent amount to net sown area. Main crops grown are paddy, bajra, ragi, cholam, ground-nut, cotton and sugarcane. Percentage of agricultural workers to total workers is estimated at 31.10 percent.

Industries consist of mostly small scale and cottage type. Industrial products produced include handloom cloth, leather goods, tobacco-products, steel fabrication, fruit processing, locks and umbralla making etc. Most of the industrial units are clustered around Dindigul town which is the head-quarters of this district. There are 363 factories working. Industrial workers form 26.60 percent of total workers.

Educational infrastructure is fairly developed. Around 67.90 percent of children in the age group of 6 to 10 years are attending school with a male component of 55 percent and female."
Component of 44.8 percent.

Transport and communication facilities are fairly developed. Dindigul Railway Station links this district with other parts of the State, also road transport is the main mode of transportation. One National Highway passes through this district.

Public health facilities are not adequate. On an average one Primary Health Centre serves 86,859 population.

Athoor block in which the Chinnalapatti and Melakkottai and Chikkanampatti - actual study areas - are located is in Dindigul taluk. Agriculture is the main occupation of the people in the block. Paddy, cholam, combu and cotton are major crops here. It also has got certain chunks of predominant, exholic grape growing area.

Chinnalapatti town from where majority of the sample respondents-from the district is selected - is famous for handloom art silk sarees. As per 1981 census this town had a population of 24,423 in 5231 households. It had scheduled caste population of 4.50 percent. 60.78 percent of the population in the town is literate with 58.21 percent male and 39.77 percent of female literacy.

From this town and also its adjacent villages viz. Melakkottai and Chikkanampatti one hundred sample households were selected at random out of 302 households having parents living together within reproductive age group and at least have one child - labour from their children.
Boys working in steel furniture unit.

Winding-art-silk-yarn

Household Work
(b) **Kamarajar District**

This new district was carved out of the undivided Ramanathapuram district on 15.3.1985. It is named after the illustrious son of the district who was also a former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu. This district consists of eleven development blocks viz. Vembakottai, Sathur, Aruppukottai, Kariapatty, Virudhunagar, Trichuli and Narikudi, with Virudhunagar as its headquarters.

Total area of this district 4222 k.m.\(^2\) It is bounded on the West by Madurai district, on the North and East by the new Ramanathapuram district and South by Kattabomman district. It has a total population of 13,40,907 with 6,69,772 female and 6,71,135 male. 4,90,928 are literate. It has total scheduled caste population of 2,32,908.

The climate here is hot with a annual rain fall of 839.5 m.m. It has no perennial rivers except minor rivers like Arjunanadi, Vaipar, Sevalaperi and Mudangainer which flow through this district. Palmyra trees are found in plenty in this district. Mountains in Sathur and Srivilliputhur contain valuable timber of several kinds. Srivilliputhur hills have Cardamom plantations also. Paddy is an important crop in large area of Sathur and Aruppukottai taluks. Cotton and ground-nut are important commercial crops grown here. This district is poor in ground-water resources. There is a sheep farm at Sathur with poultry extension centre attached. Cattle fairs' are popular in this district.

Chief industries here are handloom weaving of textiles, spinning and weaving of textiles in factories, match, crackers and fire-works making, printing and allied ones. While Aruppukkottai, Rajapalayam and Srivilluputhur are important hand-loom centres, Sivakasi is a predominant in manufacturing of matches, crackers and fire-work and printing. Metal articles from copper, brass and aluminium for domestic use are mostly made in Srivilluputhur. Trade is another important activity here. Two ware-houses one at Virudhunagar and another at Rajapalayam-are functioning in which food grains, spices, pulses, cotton, chillie and gaggery are stored and traded.

Fairly good rail link is available in this district. Road transport facilities are adequate. Two National High Ways and State High Way crosses through this district. Postal and telegraph facilities are also developed.

Srivilluputhur block is the third largest one in this district occupying 18.60 per cent of the total inhabited area and it accommodate is 15.7 per cent of the population of the district. Urban population is estimated as 42.30 per cent.

Paddy, Cardomon, Cholam and Samai are grown here. Handloom is an important industry here besides, others like making metal utensils. Transport and communication are adequate. As per 1981 census it has 139 villages, one primary health centre, four rural health centres, 73 noon-meal centres, five middle school, four high schools, 85 Primary School are recorded. All rural development programmes are implemented here.
Srivilluputhur town which belongs to the above said block had a total population of 61,458 with 30,433 male and 31,015 females and sex ratio of 1019 as per 1981 census. One college, one Higher Secondary School, three Middle Schools and 3 Primary Schools are functions here.

From different wards of this town, 317 households were found to have child-labourers with parents in reproductive age group and living together. Out of them, one hundred households were selected at random for generating primary data from this district.

3. Madurai District

With the bifurcation of undivided Madurai District into Anna and Madurai districts, the total area of the new Madurai district is reduced to 6,394 sq.kms. Out of the earlier, 13 taluks, Palani, Vedasandur, Natham, Dindigul, Kodaikkanal and Nilakottai taluks have come under Anna District. Now it has a total area of 6540.14 sq.kms.

The new Madurai district is bounded by Periyar, Anna and Thiruchirappalli districts in the North, Kamarajar district and a part of Kerala in the South, New Ramanathapuram and Pudukottai districts in the East and Coimbatore district and part of Kerala in the West. Climate is hot, dry and variable. Annual rain fall is roughly 854 mm. Majority of the working population (65%) is engaged in

cultivation. Crops like fruits, vegetables and flowers are important agriculture products and are exported to other districts and State.

It is famour for archards and forest products and hand loom weaving. Its total cropped area is 418,887 hectares and 83.28 per cent of this being net sown area. It is predominantly an agricultural district, but never-self sufficient in rice and other food grains.

Madurai district has a large number of industrial and trading population standing only next to Coimbatore. Industries, include household, small scale, medium and large scale industries. About 35 per cent of the urban population are engaged in household industry. Handloom is a major household industry. Large industries are located in Madurai taluk. Other important industries are chemical, cotton seed oil, metal and alloys, cement, electric goods, automobiles, paper and pulp product engineering products, sugar mills, food products etc.

After bifurcation, its total population is estimated as 29,72,409 as per 1981 census. In the undivided Madurai district, 47.36 per cent were literate with 59.48 per cent of literate male and 34.94 per cent of literate female. Annual growth rate of population was 2.41 per annum, density being 4066/sq.km. and sex ratio of 958.

The district is well served by roads and railways. Major part of the district is served by railways. Madurai town has an important railway junction. An Airport links it with the rest of the world. Post and Telegraph facilities are also adequate.
Children transporting match-box bundles.

Children engaged in filling match sticks.

Boy assistant in Cycle shop.
Thirumanglam town is situated in Madurai District. As per 1981 it had a total area of 33,950 hectares accommodating a total population of 6913 with 34675 male and 34,456 female. Infrastructure facilities for communication facilities are better. Open wells and also hand pumps are main source of drinking water. Public health and educational facilities are better.

From different wards of the Thirumangalam town, 298 households were found to have child-labour parents, belonging to reproductive age group and living together and have at least one child working for a wage. Out of them, one hundred were selected at random for generating primary data.

(d) Thanjavur District

It is acclaimed as the Granary of South India as it is the highest rice producing district in the whole of India and produces about 1/3 of the total output of rice in the State. It is bound in the North by South Arcot district, in the West by Tiruchirapalli and Pudukottai districts, in the South by Pudukottai district and in the East by the Bay of Bengal.

It covers an area of 8,280 sq.kms forming 8.30 per cent of the total area of the State. As per 1981 census the district had a population of 4,06,3548 with 2,043,724 males and 2,019,821 female. 3/4th of the population live in rural areas. It has a high density of

population of 491 per sq.km. compared to state average of 372/sq.km. Its sex ratio is more (985) than the state figures (977). Literacy level is also higher (50.36%) than that of the State (46.76%). Urban population is lower (27.94%) than the State (34.99%).

Out of the total area of 781,139 hectares, under food grains 80 per cent is under paddy cultivation. It is one of the 8 coastal districts in the State and account for about 30 per cent of the total marine fish catch of the State.

Agriculture forms the main stay of about 71 per cent of workers. Main food crop is paddy and main non-food crops are edible and non-edible oils. Chief source of irrigation are rivers, few ranifed tanks and wells. Animal husbandry is an allied activity. Marine fishing is another important activity.

It is identified as an industrially backward area. It has a flourishing centre of Cottage industries and handicrafts. Handloom occupies an important place providing livelihood for more than 72,600 people in the district.

Trade of this district mainly consists of the export of rice, fish, handloom cloth, silk and cotton sarees, metal work and handicraft goods. Sea-borne trade is made through the port of Nagapattinam.

Regarding transport facilities, there is neither any national high-way passing through the district, nor is it directly linked with rest of the world by air. But it has a good net work of roads. The district has fairly good number of post and telegraphic offices,
Boys grazing goats

Boys launching catamaran

Serving in Snack-bar
functioning in its entire length and breadth.

Nagapattinam Block is situated in Thanjavur district. It is a coastal area facing the Bay of Bengal. Its area forms 3.79 per cent of the area of the district. Only 58 per cent form net area Sown. It had a total population of 2,07,318 person as per 1981 and it shared 5.10 per cent of the population of the district. Scheduled caste form 19 per cent of the population, in the block. Fishing, forestry, plantation and growing archands are the main activities of people.

Nagappattinam port situated in this block. Onion is exported and wheat, rice and fertilizer are imported through the port, but no passenger traffic is not made through this port.

Paddy, groundnut and vegetables are cultivated mostly in this block. Uppanar and Oodampokkiyar are the main rivers which flow through the block.

A rolling-mill unit functions here. Besides a small co-operative unit is established where steel furnitures are made.

'Valakkarai and Melavalakarai and Seruthur are the villages selected from this block at random to select 100 households. It has a total area of 367.23 hectares with a population of 2999. Agriculture is the main stay of people here. Chandra Nathi runs through the village dividing the village into Valakkarai and Melavalakkarai. Paddy and pulses are cultivated here. While agriculture and allied activities are done by Hindus, Muslims confine themselves, to fishing and trade.
Seruthur is a small village situated on the northern side of Prathapanathapuram. Velankanni is on its northern side. It has an elementary school, and a Balwadi. A unit of Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation is situated here. Main occupation of the people here is fishing in the sea and during off-season, they fish in the nearby lagoon and rivers nearby. Road facilities are inadequate and people use country boats to reach bus terminal or market or high school situated at Velankanni.

Out of these two villages, one 295 households were found to have parents in reproductive age group living together and having atleast one child doing wage-with. Out of these households, one hundred were selected at random as respondent households.

Information on sampling is presented in the sampling frame given.

(vi) Instruments and Data Collection

The first part of the study was carried out using secondary data and only for the second part an exclusive schedule with two sections had been evolved. For second part one schedule is prepared for the mothers of the child labourers and another one for interviewing the child labourers. These schedules have several types of questions including open ended and semi-structured ones. They were pre-tested and finalised before using for the survey.

The child workers and their respective mothers were interviewed by the researcher through questioning and observation. Whatever information needed on the family, parents and the mother were
gathered from the mothers and information, pertaining to child labourers and work related particulars were gathered directly from the child respondents. Height and weight of each child respondent had been recorded using a measuring tape and also a weighing machine. Their personal grooming, type of hair, dress and presence of angular stomatitis were recorded through observation. The interview was started in all the selected towns and villages after establishing necessary rapport with the respondents through their employers, local leaders, womens club members and peripheral workers of the health departments in the local areas.

As a result of the good rapport established through various sources with the respondents there was less difficulty for data collection and non-response was negligible.

(vii) Data Analysis:

The completed schedules were scrutinised and edited and used for coding and verification of the same. The coded data were transferred on to a computer tape for analysing the entire data. Using this facility, one way, two way and three way frequency tables were prepared. In addition to these tabulations certain correlation coefficients and path analysis were also carried out in order to specifically identify the relative importance and influence of independent factors on child labour as well as on fertility behaviour.

(viii) Development of the Thesis:

Based on the tables prepared from secondary and primary data seven chapters were organised. The secondary data was
used for evolving the early chapters and the primary data was made use of for drafting the rest of the chapters. In addition to these chapters, introduction, review of literature and summary and findings form part of this thesis. The chapters we specifically listed on the following pattern I) Introduction and review of literature. II) Methodology of the study III) Demographic and social profile of India with special reference to Tamilnadu and Trends and differentials in child labour in Tamilnadu. IV) Child labour profile in Tamilnadu - District wise and also path analysis on determinants of fertility at micro level. V) Determinants of child labour - micro studies. VI) Factors determining fertility behaviour and path analysis of major variables. VII) Major findings, conclusion and policy frame. Besides these, bibliograph N SNC appendix are given separately at the end of the thesis.