Summary & Conclusions
SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Child labour is becoming a major problem in India with serious social, economic and moral consequences. It is a complex phenomenon, calling for an informed and integrated approach for its solution. An important issue in human resource development is the prevalence of child labour. Child labour is usually defined as participation of children between the ages of 5 and 14 years in gainful activity. Today, India has the largest population of child labourers, constituting nearly seven per cent of the workforce, who contribute a considerable amount to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). But one cannot ignore the period of childhood.

Casteism, poverty, family size and income level of education, etc. are some of the major factors that have intensified the problem of child labour in India. No doubt, child labour is an intense socio-economic problem in the country and requires a long-term multi pronged strategy on a continuous basis.

Keeping in view, these facts the present study entitled, “A study of the prevalence of child labour in Kanpur district” was undertaken with the following specific objectives.

1. To study the socio-economic profile of respondents of selected slums in Kanpur district.
2. To study the prevalence and causes of child labour in selected slums in Kanpur district.
3. To study the working conditions and terms of employment of child labour in selected slums in Kanpur district.
4. To suggest the measures policy for alleviation of child labour.
Research Methodology

The study was conducted in Kanpur district. Kanpur Nagar is divided into six zones, two zones and two slums were randomly selected. Total 200 sample size were selected. Dependent and independent variables were used and statistical tools were used in the study such as mean, correlation, chi-square etc.

Major Findings

- 44.0 per cent household respondents were of age-group 30-40 years and 35.0 per cent households belong to age-group 20-30 years. 56.0 per cent households illiterate, it was observed in this study that 26.0 per cent of total households were having education up to primary level and 11.0 per cent up to secondary level. This indicates that the households were not having that educational standard which is required at present time. 56.0 per cent of the total households were of SC and 27.5 per cent were of OBC.

- 59.0 per cent household were earning annually up to Rs. 15,000 and 36.0 per cent between Rs. 15,000 to Rs. 30,000. 85.0 per cent household were belonged to nuclear family system. More than half per cent of household were having contract labour as main occupation and 24.0 per cent were having private services. 66.0 per cent households were resided in mixed type of houses and 26.0 per cent households resided in Katcha houses.

- 94.0 per cent households have a cycle and 66.0 per cent were having radio.

- Maximum respondents 76 (38.0 %) reside in house provided by slum. 82 (41.0 %) and 42 (21.0 %) respondents inhabitate in rented.
• 49.0 per cent belonged to low socio-economic status whereas 33.0 per cent respondents belonged to medium socio-economic status.

• Majority of respondents (41.0 %) have no health centre facility whereas 28.0 per cent respondents have private health centre facility. 56.0 per cent respondents have electricity in their house while 44.0 per cent respondents have no electricity facility. 20.5 per cent respondents have sewage facility, while 47.0 per cent respondents have govt. hand pump whereas only 14.0 per cent have tap water facility. Maximum 46.0 per cent respondents have no proper toilet facility at their house.

• 41.0 per cent respondents have no child labour policy programme in their areas. 27.0 per cent respondents have Serve Siksha Abhiyan Programme in their slums areas.

• 42.0 per cent were benefited by integrated child development welfare programme while only 28.5 per cent respondents were benefited by family and child welfare project.

• Water facilities in house 28.0 per cent families were used govt. hand pump whereas 33.0 per cent were used tape water. 61.0 per cent households were used community toilet while 31.0 per cent households were used welfare programmes like integrated child development scheme, whereas 8.0 per cent household used family and child welfare projects.

• 76.0 per cent of total respondents were having illiterate and 21.0 per cent respondents up to primary level. This indicates that the
respondents were not having that educational standard which is required at present time.

Those who started working earlier stopped education at much early age while those who continue education till primary and above entered child labour at the higher age-group up to secondary level wanted to continue education but due to poverty they were taken jobs.

- 65.0 per cent child labour were male labour and 35.0 per cent female labour.
- It is evident that 70.0 per cent families were having large family size while 20.0 per cent families were having medium size.
- 31.0 per cent child labour were as a industrial worker and 22.0 per cent were as a domestic servant whereas 20.0 per cent child labour.
- 80.0 per cent child labour were earning up to Rs. 1000 monthly and 15.0 per cent respondents earning Rs. 1000 to 2000 monthly.
- 31.0 per cent father educated up to primary while 42.5 per cent mothers were educated up to primary level. 29.0 per cent fathers were educated up to secondary and 22.5 per cent mothers.
- 38.0 per cent child labours were earned income Rs. 500 to Rs. 1000 and 29.0 per cent child labour were earned up to Rs. 500. Minimum 10.0 per cent child labour were earned monthly income Rs. 1500 and above.
- 63.0 per cent child labour were belonged to under weight while 61.0 per cent child labour have improper height.
- In age-group 12-14 years the mean height of male child labourers were less than recommended in female mean height 122 cm in 6-8
years age-group were more than 2.5 per cent recommended and in 9-11 years age group the mean 135 cm 1.4 per cent less recommended.

- Lot of male respondents were weight decreased 26.5 per cent compared with RDA. In slum area male and female respondents were done work long hours/day and they have not taken proper diet due to low wages and other responsibility. So majority of the male and female respondents were suffering from under weight problem.

- It was found that most of the child workers were starting work in early age-group (9-11 years). Because they were suffering from poverty, large family size and ignorance of parents.

- 55.4 per cent male and 30.0 per cent female were living with their parents, whereas 24.6 per cent male and 41.4 per cent female child labourers belonged to mother not alive category.

- 46.0 per cent respondents were working 2-3 years followed by 38.0 per cent were worked above 3 years.

- 43.0 per cent respondents were unskilled labour and this constituted the single largest reason for low wages being paid to them. The excess of child labour available at the disposal of employers gives opportunity to them to dictate their own terms and conditions.

- Low income of bread earner and illiteracy of child are two major causes of child labour and have I rank in male and female respondents respectively.

- Large number of child labour 46.0 per cent worked for 8 to 10 hours, which keep aside and legal provisions of maximum 8 hours a day for adult workers.
60.0 per cent respondents said covered place and 59.0 per cent respondents were said congested working area. 58.0 per cent respondents said worked place very humid due to not proper ventilation and light and 62.0 per cent child labour said improper sanitation in work area.

34.0 per cent replied that they work in hot temperature and only 7.5 per cent said that the temperature was very hot. This leads to a number of diseases.

47.7 per cent male child respondents have no toilet facility at work place. 32.3 per cent male child labourers used public complex toilet facility. Majority of child labourers have no proper toilet facilities at working place.

44.6 per cent male and 60.8 per cent female child workers are having insufficient and partially sufficient light facilities respectively. 18.5 per cent male and 25.7 per cent female child labourers are having partially sufficient and insufficient light facilities respectively.

10.0 per cent male respondents have open drainage facility.

Majority of male respondents 60.0 per cent and 80.0 per cent female workers did not have sickness benefit 63. per cent per cent male and 74.3 per cent female workers did not have daily allowances. 59.2 per cent male and 65.7 per cent female respondents have no leave facilities 64.6 per cent male and 61.4 per cent female child labourers have no holiday benefits.

In most of the industries it was found that there is no provision for paid holidays and leave of any kind. Leave and holidays are based
on the principle that the wages would be paid according the number of days they had really worked.

- 61.5 per cent male were always facing the chance of accidents, 50.0 per cent male and 57.1 per cent female respondents respectively did not get employer’s help after accident.

- It is the practice of employers to give advances to the child labourers so that they can be compelled to remain on the work till the time the advance is adjusted.

- There was some negatively relationship between causes of child labour with education and income so concluded that education and income increases then causes decreases respectively.

- 69.0 per cent child labour have taken rest time less than ½ hrs followed by 23.0 per cent respondents were taking ½ to 1 hrs rest in working time.

- 58.0 per cent child labour were avail shoe/chappal facilities.

- 65.0 per cent child labour were taken increment in the wages in 1 to 2 years.

- 56.0 per cent male and 64.3 per cent female were facing deprivation from clear and written contractual agreement, so child labourers have no idea about clear and written contractual agreement of their work while it is right of every child labourers.

- Whereas, 41.5 per cent male and 22.9 per cent female child labourers had no increment in the wages.

- 55.4 per cent male child labourers were partially satisfied with their job and 52.8 per cent female child labourers were partially satisfied.
Many have no opportunity to go to school as were forced to drop out because of the demands of their job.

- 16.9 per cent male and 31.4 per cent female respondents were not satisfied with working condition. They were suffering from uncomfortable environment of work. In fact 37.7 per cent male and 22.8 per cent female child labourers were suffering unhygienic condition of work.

- It was found that listening music is one of the most important recreational activities among the child workers.

- 54.6 per cent male child labourers were facing bad behaviour of employer.

- Hence according to age of child labour, the working hours were increased.

- 57.1 per cent female respondents were not using protective appliances and working with dangerous appliances at work places respectively. Child workers are immature and they don’t know the proper handing of equipments, so they were suffering from this problem.

- 47.7 and 31.4 per cent of male and female respondents were suffering from fatigue and inadequate sleep respectively. In fact, 15.4 per cent and 24.3 per cent male and female respondents respectively were suffering from communicable diseases like skin disease, jaundice, T.V., cold and cough.

- Their vulnerability is increased by the high incidence of malnutrition and under nourishment.
• Maximum 46.3 per cent child labourers were suffering T.B. Hence, T.B. was found the most common communicable disease in the child labourers.

• 43.1 and 44.3 per cent male and female respondents were eating pan masala, whereas 29.2 and 28.6 per cent male and female respondents chew tobacco. Whereas, minimum number 10.8 and 10.0 per cent male and female respondents were smoking tobacco.

• All these bad habits affect their health as well as all sound development and growth.

• 40.0 per cent male and 48.6 per cent female respondents were sexually abused by inappropriate touching, whereas 22.8 per cent male and 22.8 per cent female child labourers were sexually abused by exposure to indecency. They sexually abused child may appear withdrawn or retarded may have poor peer relationship may be unwilling to participate in activities, may indulge in delinquent behaviour may run away or may display bizarre or unusual sexual knowledge.

• 43.1 per cent male and 55.7 per cent female were facing traffic accidents and street violence respectively. In addition the extreme air pollution in more and more cities is damaging the health of children working and living in the streets.

• Excessive noise can lead to hearing loss and hot, damp and dusty conditions on the transmission of communicable disease.
34.6 per cent male and 35.7 per cent female respondents were facing dump and dusty condition and excessive noise at work place respectively.

- Child workers who are employed in homes were having servants is a sign of social status are sometime abused.
- 15.4 per cent male and 17.2 per cent female child labourers were facing solve condition at work place.

The observed value of $x^2$ (30.06*) significant at 2 d.f. hence male were effected harsh discipline at work place.

- Many children are to work in night hours in service establishment. In domestic sectors they are working for more than 12 hours per day, which is quite embarrassing.
- 50.0 per cent and 40.0 per cent male and female child labourers were doing excessing work and facing cruel behaviour respectively, whereas 16.2 per cent and 17.1 per cent male and female respondents were exploited by irregular payment.
- The observed value of $X^2$ (44.34) significant at 5 per cent level of significance at 2 d.f. hence male respondents were exploited by employers.

**Suggestions and policies for implication**

Definite solutions exist wherever problem exist. The child labour problem is no exception. A close study, analysis and understanding of this problem provides practical solutions to tackle it more effectively. Here it may be worthwhile to mention that not all of the solutions proposed are applicable at the same time or the same period. But one thing can be clearly said: they have been tested and found
suitable. May be not immediately, may be not in all circumstances, may be not with the same rate of success, but practical, sensible and useful, yes.

Let us now look closely at each of these solutions and see their special relevance to this problem.

1. Residential camps

Residential camps are must for older child labourers in the age-group of 9-14 years, as they require a fast paced system of education. This because in many cases, they have missed any form of regular schooling until now. These camps lay stress on the overall development of the child, that is, in the area of education, health and hygiene, sports and physical activities and vocational training. Each of these items is to be closely monitored and evaluated periodically.

2. Bridge courses

Bridge courses are specifically required for children between the age group of 6-9, in their respective villages. For every 20 children, there should be one bridge course volunteer who will teach them and also pay extra attention to weak students. These volunteers can be called ‘local tutors’ or ‘tuition masters’, and very often they have to hold special classes in the evenings.

3. Anganwadis and Crèche Facilities

In several areas, anganwadis along with crèche facilities are a must. This must be built adjacent to the regular schools. Furthermore, the working hours of anganwadis and crèches must match those of the regular school, otherwise the purpose is lost.

4. Necessary Infrastructure

Space is a matter of primary consideration when plans are made for running residential camps, bridge course centre, anganwadis and crèches. The success of these programmes would depend to a great extent on the availability of proper
buildings. Very often, there are Government buildings, which are either lying unutilized or partially utilized. These can be repaired, renovated and refurnished and put to use as residential camps.

5. Vocational and Professional Training

The idea of imparting vocational training along with teaching of a purely academic nature is, indeed, a practicable one. This is because the skill thus acquired will not only equip them to earn a living and fend for themselves later in life, but also sale of products created by the children in the course of training will be an immediate source of income. The children, thereby, learn to believe in the dignity of labour and to appreciate the importance of money.

6. Convergence and Tapping of all Resources

All the different departments of the Government have to come together, or converge, in order to eliminate the evil of child labour. A united effort is required to create residential camps, anganwadis and crèches, which will then gradually eliminate the need for sending children out to work. Convergence has to be carried out under the effective guidance and chairmanship of the district collector/magistrate as he is the head of the district.

Department like Housing, Education, Forestry, Rural Development, can be converged to work together. NGOs, by themselves, cannot tackle a problem of this magnitude, but if they are supported by all the departments of the government, it will definitely lead to success.

7. Compulsory Education

Almost everyone agrees that education is central to any strategy on the elimination of child labour, while children are at school, they cannot be at work. The concept of compulsory education, where all school aged children are required to attend school, combats the force of poverty that pulls children out of school. Policies relating to compulsory education not only force children to attend school,
but also contribute appropriate funds to the primary education system, instead of higher education. Formal full-time education should become and remain free of costs for all children that include any additional costs like school books, uniforms and school transport which should especially where the poor are concerned be borne by the government.

8. Teachers

The human element is the most vital in any endeavour. If teachers provide the right atmosphere and good motivation, half the battle of getting children into schools is own. Teachers have to be bright, resourceful, well educated and highly motivated. Therefore, good teachers must be honoured, rewarded and encouraged with awards and certificates of merit.

9. Enforcement of Labour Laws

There are various articles in the Indian constitution safeguarding the interests of children. Such rules and regulations that exist under the Indian labour laws should be strictly enforced by the labour departments. All our preaching is of no use if there is no practice. Enforcement of law is an important as all the other pre-requisites for eliminating child labour.

10. Community Mobilisation

Community action is preferred to enforcement by many engaged in the battle against child labour. This may prevent child labour, as well as cure it. Mobilization of the community is necessary for more than one reason – beginning from identification up to application of all other inputs. Child labour can be tackled only if there is a will in the community to do so. The best way to mobilize is to initiate the bottom – up planning. In the planning process, one can mobilize the people to come up with the problems and solutions for child labour.
11. Awareness Programme

The need for major improvement of India’s schooling system can only be the answer to eradicate child labour in India. In rural areas the existing food programmes should be extended to cover working children as well. To make people aware of the evils of child labour and the importance of education, the district administration in the affected states should launch an awareness campaign through Cinema Slides, Cable Televisions, Wall Paintings, Pamphlets and Human-Chains and Cycle Rallies all over the country.

12. Youth groups

Youth groups are the perfect vehicles for tackling the problems of child labour. They help in mobilising child labourers for residential camps.

My personal suggestion is that in college’s candidates who are active performer in NSS and NCC camps they should have must knowledge about abolishing child labour. In slums these candidates must go and run a campaign programme and included as regular activities.

On local level teacher should be appointed in NGOs and instead of govt. programmes for NCC and NSS candidates. It should be compulsory programme than this programme will be more successful and it will settle new dimensions in the forthcoming era.

At last I would like to say that my research work would be helpful for government, parents of child, colleges, institutions and NGOs. The study will show the way through which the basic conditions of child labourers in various sector will be promoted in national to international view and concepts about the child labour.