FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION

This research study has resulted in some important findings about the plight of child labourers in the Thiruvarur District. The major findings of the study are listed below.

Findings

1. Age distribution of the respondents reveals that 31.34 per cent of male and 26.67 per cent of female child labourers are in the age group of 13-14 years.

2. The survey indicates that among the child labourers 86.66 per cent of male and 93.34 per cent of female children belong to Hindu religion.

3. With respect to caste, among males 83.34 per cent and among females 64 per cent belong to scheduled caste. So it can be concluded that a high percentage of child labourers belong to scheduled caste community.

4. It is seen that 43.34 per cent of the male respondents have only two members each in their families. Among females 33.35 per cent of the respondents have 5 members each in their families.
5. The percentage of female children leaving school at middle school level is 45.34 per cent. 42 per cent of male children become child labourers at secondary school stage.

6. In 110 households of 150 male respondents only one child goes to work in each household. In the 60 households of 150 female respondents two children go to work from each household. Among boys it is found that in 73.34 per cent of the families only one child works in each family, whereas among girls it is not that much.

7. The empirical view of the data expresses that 62.4 per cent male and 60 per cent of female respondents are child labourers because of low family earnings.

8. Nearly 70 per cent of the male respondents’ fathers and 76 per cent of the female respondents’ fathers are agricultural labourers.

9. Six types of occupations of mothers, have been identified. 60 per cent of male and 66.66 per cent of female respondents are working on daily wages. Remaining 6.66 per cent of mothers of boys and 3.35 per cent of mothers of girls are self employed and engaged in their own farming works.

10. The study reveals that exactly 90 per cent of the respondents are working as coolies in agricultural sector. Most of the respondents
are agricultural labourers. There is no self–employed and privately employed respondent.

11. It is inferred that 46.66 per cent of the families of male respondents belong to the ₹. 1500-2000 income group and 40 per cent of the families of female respondents belong to the income group of ₹.1000 – 1500.

12. The study shows that 38 per cent of males and 13.33 per cent of females are coolies in agriculture. Cotton harvesting work is being done by 31.32 per cent of female respondents and 16.68 per cent of male respondents are doing plantation work.

13. It is seen that 92 per cent of male and 80 per cent of female child labourers do not have adequate training. Very small number of respondents ie 8 per cent of males and 20 per cent of females have sufficient training.

14. It is clear that most of the respondents have become child labourers due to poverty. Among 300 respondents 33.34 per cent of male and 36 per cent of female respondents have become child labourers due to poverty.

15. Parents of 8.66 per cent of male have borrowed money. Parents of 91.34 percent of male and100 percent of female respondents do not have any loan.
16. It is found out that 46 per cent of male respondents got their jobs with the help of their family friends and 70 per cent of the female respondents got their job through their parents.

17. For 53.34 per cent of male respondents and 100 per cent of female respondents the working hours are fixed.

18. For 54 respondents are working on part time basis and the remaining children are working on full time basis.

19. The survey reveals that 50 per cent of males and 29.42 per cent of females get a wage of ₹.10 - 20 per day. In addition to that 58.82 per cent of female respondents get a wage of ₹.20 - 30.

20. The study reveals that the wage payment for 99 males and 116 females ranges between ₹. 40 - 50 and 31 male labourers get ₹. 50 - 60 as daily wage.

21. Among males 6.66 per cent and among females 20 per cent of the respondents do not like their work.

22. The study reveals that 40 per cent of male and 53.34 per cent of the female respondents like to work mainly to help their families economically.
23. It is observed that 93.34 per cent of the male and 80 per cent of
the female respondents like the work they do.

24. Among males 30.66 per cent respondents do not give the wage
money to anybody and they spend the money for themselves.
Among female respondents 34.66 per cent give the wages to
their parents.

25. It is seen that 98 per cent of the male and 62 percent of the
female respondents are of the opinion that the pocket money
given by the parents is sufficient.

26. The study reveals that 53.33 per cent of male and 51.34 per cent
of female respondents spend their income for household
expenses.

27. It is inferred that 80 per cent of male and 69.34 per cent of
female respondents feel that the motivation they get for saving is
sufficient.

28. The percentages of male and female respondents who save
money in chit funds are 35.34 and 34.68 respectively.

29. It is seen that 56 per cent of male and 46.66 per cent of female
respondents do not spend any money on the purchase of dress.

30. Around 40 per cent of the male respondents spend an amount of
Rs.20-30 on entertainment.
31. It is seen that 93.34 per cent of female respondents spend an amount of less than ₹ 300 on fancy and Jewels items.

32. The study reveals that 62.66 per cent of male and 12 per cent of female respondents spend an amount of less than ₹ 0.5 on snacks.

33. It is inferred that 33.33 and 43.35 per cent of male and female respondents respectively are affected by occupational diseases.

34. It is inferred that 64 per cent of male and 80 per cent of female respondents are affected by health problems.

35. The study reveals that 33.33 male and 73.34 female respondents suffer from pain / ache.

36. Compared to boys, 58.66 per cent of female respondents earn an amount which is less than ₹ 0.10-15 and 40 per cent earn the wage which is less than ₹ 0.15-25.

37. The major difference of wage payment is found in ₹ 0.30-35 range among female and ₹ 35 and above in case of male respondents.

38. As informed by 80 per cent of male and 100 per cent of female respondents they experience full stress or strain in work.
39. Among the 300 child labourers 150 male members are not given any meal. Only very meagre percentage ie.6 per cent of male labourers could get meal from employers.

40. Among the males 46.66 per cent take rest for 30 minutes during working hours. But all the female respondents take rest for 30 minutes.

41. Among all respondents 10.66 per cent of male and 4 per cent of female respondents have undergone punishment and others have not experienced any punishment.

42. It is observed that 10 out of 150 male and 6 out of 150 female respondents express their view that their employers punish them through verbal abuse whereas 6 male respondents are punished by wage deduction.

43. It is observed that 60 percent of male respondents say that their families are happy as they work. 56 per cent of female respondents say that their families feel sad about it.

44. From the analysis, it could be inferred that 93.34 per cent of male and 94.66 per cent of female respondents have no knowledge about laws relating to child labour.
45. It is found out that 96 per cent of males and 100 percent of females welcome the child labour abolition by law and say that this law is must and acceptable.

46. It is observed that 88 per cent of the male respondents and 93.34 per cent of female respondents express their happiness about child labour elimination.

47. The study gives the opinions of the respondents on the consequences of the work load of the respondents. All the respondents are affected both physically and mentally by the heavy work load.

48. Both males and females put together 47.66 per cent of respondents have no idea about their future life. They do not have any plan for the future.

49. Around the 260 respondents have the desire to continue their education and parents also support this because it is not possible to depend on agriculture.
Conclusion

In this research the reasons for child labour are explained vividly and many more suggestion to root out the child labour and to enhance the quality of the life children are enumerated.

It is not possible to eradicate child labour only by inflicting punishment and imposing penalty on the erring persons. In rural areas children below the admissible age get false identity cards saying their age in excess to secure a job in 100 days work opportunity. They get themselves engaged in this job or else they engage some one else in the job.

Poverty is the only cause which forces the children to this grave situation. If poverty is eradicated we can get rid of the child labour. Even if the child labour is eradicated from one side, clandestinely child labour is generated in other side by a few.

While poverty prevails, we could never root out the child labour fully. Unless the poverty is uprooted, the status of these children will not take a turn. Hence it should be every ones thought and responsibility to eradicate poverty.

Even though so many reasons have been said in respect of eradicating child labour, these are all only temporary and hence should not be construed as permanent.

One can say outwardly that there is no child labour but it is not a fact. If not now, the other day they are sent to work indirectly. There are a few causes too.