CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Much has been written on child labour in different forms; still it is organizing, stigmatizing and confusing. The existence and perpetuators of child labour is a blot on the conscience of modern day civilized society. The future of human would much depends on the children and the fate of nation in extricably intertwined with the welfare of its children. They are too buds, which needs to be properly nursed and well taken care of so, that they bloom fully, grow into the able human beings, and contribute their worth to the future development of the society.

A child of today is a responsible subject of a nation tomorrow. The nations of today are not judged by the capital resources which they possess rather these are assessed in terms of developed human beings whom they own. Indeed this developed, proficient and expert human resource finds its source in children. The children are the future hope of every nation and these beautiful flowers of life's garden are supposed to take over the reins of nation in future times and to shape its destiny through their achievements and excellence so as to confer on it a status of superiority over other nations. Any development conscious nation cannot ignore the proper physical and mental development of the children to keep its future in safe hands. Nations have progressed through their people in economic, educational, cultural, social, scientific, industrial and spiritual fields only when care has been taken of the subjects' right from their childhood.
The employment and exploitation of children has been witnessed since immemorial past but wide prevalent poverty and illiteracy had made one and all unconscious of the gravest situation. The employment of child labourers in different occupations especially cottage level industries is not of recent origin; its evidence has been found even in the earlier days of human civilization. Not only this but also their conditions of work and wages of these workers have not undergone any appreciable changeover decades. Moreover in the absence of any formal agreement between the child servant and his employer the terms of employment are most arbitrary and exploitative and no job security is provided to them. They can be hired and fired on any flimsy pretext by their mighty employers. They have to work right from early hours in the morning till late hours in the evening with or without intermittent rest pauses, for pitifully low wages. The child labour laws appear to have made a little dent on their life and the employers of these establishments enjoy a long rope in regulating their conditions of work and wages.

Indeed, child labour is a curse upon the society, disgrace for the world of mankind, a malady that may wrack the economic backbone of a country. It is commonly stated that children are the most reliable assets of the society, their rights are largely ignored across the world, but unfortunately rights from mother's ... and infancy stage a large number of children are subjected to various forms of discrimination, maltreatment, abuse and neglect, which affect their moral, physical and mental development and a result the nation loose a good amount of pertentional human resources.
The general perception that children and women are docile and less resistant to suppression makes them all-time victims and worsens the situation. In the entire world of today, there is wide spread concern regarding the rights of children to grow and flourish as respectable and creative minds of a nation.

It is indeed an agony that the children especially in under-developed countries and backward societies are still being deprived of their rights and freedom to flourish by subjecting them to various harassments and exploitations by vested interests.

The employment of children in hazardous occupations is fatal to their proper physical and mental growth which is not a healthy sign for a responsible nation. Not only this but the exploitation of children has also taken different ugly dimensions and now-a-days children are being used in armed conflicts as soldiers. There are about 3,00,000 child soldiers around the world today.

The health hazardous jobs to which children are put especially in economically backward societies is yet another cause of concern. In the normal socialization process, children do perform different activities, though not economic in nature, it is only those activities which are economic in nature and bear an adverse affect on the mind and physique of children due to nature of job or excessive work derived by unscrupulous employers to the detriment of children which is sounding alarm in the whole of the world and emerging as a cause of concern for children's rights activists. The practice is undesirable in whatever form and magnitude the exploitation continues. The exploitation has grown to alarming proportions and despite various soft and hard measures the
problem could not be controlled to full extent. An absolute eradication of child labour practices seems to be long term plan and a distant dream but efforts are underway to minimize the incidence of child labour through different measures including persuasion and awareness programmes.

Children are being seen in employment in both organized and unorganized sector. The involvement of children in economic and non economic activities is a wide spread concern. There are children who are put to much work within their household like fetching of water and other essentials of life, taming of animals and engaged with agricultural work and are all non-paid activities. These activities interfere with their schooling and are put to excessive work which always remains unaccounted for. Though a distinction lies there in child labour and child work but the common fact being that the children in both cases hardly get time to be children and enjoy the bounties of childhood.

The circumstances which beset many children in the world open doors for their exploitation at the hands of unscrupulous and selfish human beings. The affection of parents for their children is always unquestionable being the outcome of laws of nature. The parents may be rich or poor, high or low, mighty or weak, destitute or self-sufficient; they would always like to see their children far ahead of others. It is only when every increase in the family strength becomes troublesome, that the parents are forced to send the children to ugly work situations for their own survival and survival of the family. Under such a situation, their tender age, innocence and docility becomes a curse and
they are dragged to hazardous and non-hazardous occupations at an early stage like dumb driven cattle. These children are deprived of proper schooling, nourishment, mental, physical and moral growth and they always find themselves as an inferior lot. Unsuitable working conditions at an early stage deforms their body structure, blurs their vision, makes them victims of many diseases like chronic bronchitis etc and even reduces their HB level. This seems to be worst kind of human rights violation under the category of children rights violations. These children are even sent for bonded labour and they are made slaves of their employers against meager advances of money which parents get against their “Hypothecation” to their masters. Quite often these children are put to inhuman treatment and are put to excessive work load which gets symbolized from their facial expression and disappointment. Children are often separated from their families, subjected to abuse, deprived of education and forced to work in conditions that adults tolerate (Youth Advocate Programme International). Children have, at times, met with accidental deaths on such hazardous jobs and in unsuitable working conditions which call for absolute maturity of mind and precaution expected of adults only.

Child abuse in the shape of child labour has caught the attention of world community and there seems to be launch of a result oriented movement to end the menace and atrocities on children. As human beings, children have their own rights to grow and develop, snatching of which is a sin against the mankind. A number of ILO conventions and laws enacted by different nations of the world to end child labour and to leave no scope for capitalizing on their docility have not been effective in absolute terms. The fact of the matter being
that either there is no proper enforcement of the laws or the laws are not acceptable to the society under the prevailing conditions. In spite of stringent measures, the problem of child labour goes on with impunity.

There are many schools of thought regarding child labour. Some people believe that child labour is a best alternative for destitute children who may otherwise have to beg. Yet some others believe that it is a law of nature and any interference in it may have adverse repercussions. Some believe that involvement of children at an early stage in a particular activity makes them expert hands as adults. Some have the notion that working children are exposed to realities of life at an early stage which makes them experienced, bold and responsible to face any odd in future. These notions are taken as a better direction to human resource development by their advocates. All these issues are, however, debatable.

With 250 million children at present, the world is becoming more alert to the situation and various measures are adopted and contemplated at governmental and non-governmental level. The highest population of child workers is in Asia with India in lead. In India, child labour is not only widely prevalent but it has come to be socially accepted. According to the figures of Census 2001, there are 12.5 million working children in the age group of 5-14 years as compared to the child population of 252 million. This is the official figure and other estimates show a higher figure.

India claims to have followed a pro-active policy in tackling the problem of child labour. It has stood for constitutional, statutory and developmental
measures, which are needed to eliminate child labour. India's judiciary up to the apex level has demonstrated profoundly emphatic responses against the practice of child labour. New Delhi has ratified six ILO conventions exclusively related to child labour. In spite of all these measures, the country feels that there can be no rapid fire solution to the problem as it has varied implications and ramifications.

1.2 Statement of the Problem:

Child labour is a multi-dimensional problem. Poverty, family tradition, size of the family, labour scarcity, wages rates, illiteracy, ignorance, schooling facilities etc. are the major factors for the occurrence of child labour. Parents view that more children mean more earnings and hence they force their children to work. Poverty and child labour go together and tend to reinforce each other in poor families. In order to earn a living, they have adopted many occupations like cottage level industries which they can perform within the households even tough these are hazardous to their health and also fetch low economic returns. These cottage level industries are lock manufacturing and bangle making, in every nock and corner of the Aligarh and Firozabad. There is a dence of child labour in these industries is high as the presence of work centres in all geographical areas coupled with the economic backwardness of the state has bured many parents to send their children to these work centres leading to early drop outs from schools. While the parents have their compulsions, destitute are clamoring for food, clothing and shelter, the greedy employers are all set to enhance their profitability by hiring this cheap and docile labour.
Traditionally, children of the upper caste families begin their lives in schools according to their own culture whereas children of the lower castes start their lives in work according to their family culture. In urban areas the children assist their parents in work activities. The girl children have to provide help to their mother in household work.

The child labour problem may be looked at either from the supply state or from the demand side. The supply is determined by the income of the family at the given moment and conditioned by the cultural background of the parents. The problems aggravated in an ambience which does not appear to affect a trade off between future benefit to be derived from it by either the child or its family.

The state government seems to be no different and unconcerned about the plight of working children and thus the menace of child labour makes its way without any report of violation of laws or suo moto cognizance by the Government. If Article 24 of the Constitution prohibits the employment of children in hazardous establishments and Article 21 A makes education as a fundamental right of children but it is a question of doubt as to who will invoke Article 32 of the Constitution regarding right to constitutional remedies when the practice of employment of children has virtually come to be socially accepted. The eradication of child labour in fact calls for a concerted effort on the part of parents, employers and the State.

Every business establishment is socially responsible and anything done by the business which bear a tendency to deform or de-shape the social fabric is really unethical. Child labor is one such area in which employer is a very
important player in the convergent approach to discourage it. If the employers understand their ethical duty, they will surely desist from employing these children for their business gains. The malafide intention behind employment of these children is to pay them less for more work without facing any threat of unionization or resistance otherwise there is no reason that immature minds and delicate hands will be preferred over mature minds and strong hands.

1.2 Objectives of the Study

The study has been carried out to achieve the following objectives:

1. To analyse the important factors responsible for prevalence of child labour of Aligarh and Firozabad district in lock and bangle industries.

2. To study and evaluate the socio-economic problems of child labour in lock and bangle industries of Aligarh and Firozabad district.

3. To analyze the living and working condition of child labour in lock and glass bangle industries of Aligarh and Firozabad.

4. To through light on wages, working hours, medical and residential facilities, educational background, reason from dropout from school, reason for joining these establishment at such early stage, behaviour of the employer towards the child labour, mode of employment.

5. To make an evaluative and critical study of affectiveness in implementation of legal measures for combating the problem of child labour.
6. To suggest the policy measure on the basis of study that may be adopted as remedies to eliminate the problem of child labour as substantiated by the observation and the empirical data.

1.3 Scope for the Study

The study covers the problem of child labour in Aligarh and Firozabad districts of Uttar Pradesh. The reason to confine the present study to, these two districts are densely populated with the child work, with special reference to lock and glass bangle industries. The study covers all children whether working in a family setup or out of family setup and working on whole time basis.

The manufacturing units of lock industry are scattered all over Aligarh. Though the households engaged in various process of lock making or assembling are found all ones the city. For the purpose of this study the following mohallas which are the child labour concentration pockets, were selected. They are Bhujpura, Babri Mandi, Usmanpara, Hathipul, Tan Tan Para, Chowk Bundu Khan, Delhi Gate, Shahjamal, Sarai Rehman, Sheikh Khan. These mohallas are located in different wards of the city.

The present study also relates to the child worker engaged in the glass bangle industries in Firozabad. The city of Firozabad is characterized by highest density of population in Uttar Pradesh. The children engage in process of blow glass and bangle production and making of the semi finished bangles.

Generally there are three major types of glass work in Firozabad. The glass product, moulding, factories, the bangle industry, and bead making unit. The children work in the most hazardous environment is self-destructive
streuneous and risk their lives to earn a meagre wage. The children work near furnaces as helpers and semi-skilled workers in glass blowing factories. They work for ten to eleven hours without break for tea or meals. They wears cheap clothes and are poorly nourished.

In these two districts the field survey was very easily taken. For this atleast 10 localities were taken from each districts. In addition to this data was taken from the different government offices of these two districts in order to find the child workers in the industries.

The study covers the children in the age group of 5-14 years for hazardous and non hazardous work. The study also cover all the resident children whether local or non-local.

1.4 Hypotheses

The study proposed following hypotheses for the purpose of enquiry and investigation on different aspect undertaken for the study, personal observations, discussion with intellectuals and available reports on child workers, certain hypotheses were framed to be tested by the study, these are as follows :

1. Most of the child workers of the lock and glass bangle industries belongs to the lower caste.

2. Most of the child workers in lock and glass bangle industries belongs to illiterate families.
3. Most of the children join the labour market at the early age because of the poor economic condition of the families.

4. Most of the child workers of the lock and glass bangle industries dropped out their schooling due to death or illness of the heads of the household.

5. The working conditions in most of the industries are poor and unhealthy.

6. Most of the child workers working in these industries were not satisfied.

7. The service condition in most of the industries for the children do not meet the legal requirement.

1.5 Research Methodology

To achieve the laid down objectives of the study inferences have been drawn from both primary and secondary sources. Primary data for all categories of child worker were collected through personal interviews using detailed interview schedule which was prepared, covering question, related to research problem. For getting more information secondary sources was consulted from published document, and various reports of government and non-governmental organization. Secondary sources like books, journals and newspapers available with the libraries were also consulted.

During the course of study, a number of social reforms, officials of the ministry of labour were consulted to discuss the matter in depth and to explore their views on the causes and consequences of child labour.

A selected random group of employee and parents of working children were interviewed to know their view points regarding the issue of child labour.
The questionnaire for employer was devised with multiple choice answer on the basis of ranking scale, the employee and parents were asked to give most appropriate answers to a given statement indicating their ranking in case they feel that more than one answers are appropriate. The passive perception questionnaire was developed on the basis of five point scale propounded by revis ticket and was administered upon 200 respondent from a cross section of the society comprising of public functionaries, academician and advocates, the respondent were given a choice to agree, disagree or be indifferent to a given statement indicating the degree of agreement and disagreement.

The questionnaire are structured ones and one pre-tested before actual use. As regard the sample method, first the potential areas where the child labour involved were identified and stratified, random method was adopted to choose 500 household were inferred from different areas of two districts of Uttar Pradesh i.e. Aligarh and Firozabad. These two district are taken as study areas schedule questionnaire and explained to the respondent in their mother tongue and their response were noted down in the proper column of the interview schedule.

Different tools of empirical research besides interview with child labour with the help of structured and guided schedule, formal and informal discussions and participants observation etc. also form the part of the methodology. A field drawing had also been mentioned to note down the off coming comments for analysis the data and information so collected have been tabulated, analyzed and presented.
Of the various methods of collecting data, direct personal interview method was found to be the most appropriate and in having interaction with the child labour, interview method gave an opportunity to observe their individuals attitude and behaviour.

1.6 Review of Literature

Child labour is widely prevalent in all over the world. However, the incidence of the child labour is more in developing countries. In India child labour is a chronic problem. Awareness about this problem came early in developed countries and they more or less solved the problem, now developing countries also making efforts to eradicate the child labour. In our country too, detailed analytical studies have been done. Various scholars have studied child labour problem in detail analyzing numerous factors which influences the child labour e.g. demographic, social and economic, especially after independence.

Moreover, Government, International Organizations and Non-governmental Organizations (NGO’s) have also done numerous studies and field research work. The review of the existing literature presented here provides a broad idea of the work have done and analyzed it from different angles by Various scholars, planners, researchers and technocrats.

Jinesh Chandra Kulshreshtra’s study, Child Labour in India, brings forth some vital aspects of child labour and its evil consequences. It reveals that large families, poverty, ignorance of parents, absence of family allowances and compulsory education are the root cause for the prevalence of child labor in India. Besides, inadequate legislation coupled with its inefficient enforcement is also responsible for the continuation of child labour.
The study of Neera, Burri\(^2\) Born to Work, concentrates on the working children of specific industries of glass making, brassware, gem polishing and lock making. She describes the socio-economic conditions of the child labourers and hazardous processes involved in the work. The study brings to light the fact that a large number of children as young as five or six years work through the night under great health and safety hazards resulting in stunting the growth of these children both mentally and physically. Even the state policies aimed at protecting children are poorly conceived and badly enforced.

According to S.S. Mehta\(^3\), Why Child Labour, to a large extent agricultural labourers and scheduled castes and scheduled tribes are overlapping categories. These together would cover 2/3rd of all rural people. She worked out the percentage of child labour in each State to the total child labour in the country and also the percentage of agricultural labour of the country and worked out the correlation between them. These two are significantly and positively correlated. Vemuri\(^4\), in his study of Child Labour in India, noticed over 61 agro climatic regions, defined by NSSO showed that the presence of scheduled castes in the region increases the occurrences of the child labour. Sharma, Kumar, and Padmade\(^5\) have observed and found the incidence of child labour is more in those areas which are socially, educationally and economically not well developed. B.M. Dinesh\(^6\) in his study observed lower schooling rates and higher work participation in the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. Mishra and Pandey\(^7\) noticed in a study that 81 percent of the child labours are males and most of them belong to the age group of 7 and above. Almost 45 percent of
them could never attend the school and about 35 percent of them dropped out due to their compelling situation.

A.N. Singh's the child Rag-pickers Socio-economic perspectives and intervention Strategies, is a multi-disciplinary investigation into various aspects of pressing socio-economic problems facing child rag-pickers in slum areas of Kurukshetra, Haryana. The study provides a comprehensive evaluation of children's participation at work in general and rag-picking in particular. A similar study by A.N. Singh, child labour in India, socio-economic perspective, reveals that economic conditions of majority of child worker's families forced them to undertake carpet weaving.

Pramila H. Bhargava's work, The Elimination of Child Labour: Whose Responsibility, is a compilation of her field notes and experiences which gives a true picture of the child labour problem. It narrates the work done in an area, which is drought prone, dominated by extremists, very backward and where incidence of rural child labour is very high. It focuses on the need for the convergence of various departments and ministries as a pre-requisite for the elimination of child labour.

Leela Dube, The Economic Role of Children in India: Methodological Issue, by studying different tribal groups in Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan found that children often started working even at the age of 7 or 8 years, both inside and outside the home. Singh and Mohanty showed that the lack of education leads to high fertility ultimately results in to higher child labour. According to Sandha and Tewari 36 most of child labour are from the rural areas, who lacks in school facilities.
I.S. Singh's study on child labour focuses on the incidence of child labour, socio-economic background of the child labourers, types of services and areas where there is concentration of child labour and the age group so employed, it examines the child labourers mental capacities with special instruments and compare mental abilities of the child labourers engaged in different services with those of normal children of the same age group. Lasker, Bharul Islam in his study, Child Labour in Aligarh Lock Industry, told that social and economic presence compel children to enter into low wages, hazardous work environment that proves detrimental to their educational and health prospects.

Mustafa and Sharma in their study, Child Labour in India - A Bitter Truth, deal with working conditions of child labour in Delhi covering working children in six vocations tea stalls, dhabas, automobile workshops, domestic child workers - other three of self-employed shoe-shining rag picking, evening newspaper hawkers it reviews the various child labour legislations as also some selected Supreme Court Judgments regarding child labour. V.V. Giri National Labour Institute, observed that parents want to educate the child but poverty forced them to send their child for work. Satta-ur-Omar Child Labour in Nepal, observed that poverty, feudal system, traditions of society, ignorance of the value of education and child rights and migration to urban areas from rural areas are the causes of child labour.

B.K. Sharma and Vishwa Mitar's Child Labour and Urban Informal Sector, highlights the significant role that the urban informal sector has come to
play in providing employment to child labourers in a developing economy. The socio-economic structure, the family base, the level of income and employment, the occupational mobility and the contribution of child labour towards family income are some of the other aspects analyzed in the study. UNICEF's study shows that most of the children who are out of school having economic difficulties for the continuation of their education, they are working either due to lack of money or increase in family expenditure.

Mendelievich's Children at Work states that the reason for employing children has been to supplement the family income, when it has not been sufficient to meet the requirements of the family; and secondly, having more children is considered as a great advantage, because every child means two extra hands to work, which means more income for the family.

Mishra and Pandey, in their study of Child Labour in Carpet Industry, in Bhadoi, Mirzapur, found that most of the children are illiterate and among literates, most of them left the school at primary level due to lack of money. Nidhi Sinha in her study Child Labour in Indian Silk Industry says that parents, illiteracy or lower education is a hindrance to the child's proper socialization.

Laskar in his study in Aligarh lock industry noticed that problem of child labour in India is rising due to poverty, displacement of the poor from their lands, social insecurity and adult unemployment.

Meepheron Stewart noticed that majority of poor children are from the developing countries, social polices faces a great challenge of welfare of this
group. For poor children survival itself is most often a significant victory, a good deal of attention is paid to a number of specific interventions, as part of social policy for child welfare can increase the chance of survival and reduces the level of illness.

Child Labour in India\textsuperscript{23}, an empirical study of Orissa, by S.K. Tripathy, looks into the causes, magnitude and extent of the problem in our country. The work analyses the safeguards presently available at international and national level, the ILO's work in this area and relevant national legislation, available in the past and present, along with their overall implementation in the present context. Finally, the author suggests possible measures, for the rehabilitation of these children and gradual removal of the problem.

V.C. Sahoo\textsuperscript{24} in his study, Child Labour in Agrarian Society, says through a survey of a village in Orissa that poverty, illiteracy, chronic unemployment, rapid demographic expansion, regional backwardness and apathy of the State are responsible for the child labour. He says that agriculture and allied sectors that employ 90 percent the under-aged workforce has received little concern. The nature of agrarian capitalism being primitive is prone to employ and expropriate the cheap labour, including that of children.

B.N. Shukla and Bimla Shukla\textsuperscript{25} in their theoretical study on Child Labour in the Informal Sector, touches upon certain question like the nature and composition of the child labour force, factors that bring them in to informal sector, their wages and conditions of employment and causes for the apathy on the part of the government for not undertaking any significant ameliorative steps.
Nazir Ahmed Shah in his study Child Labour in India, reveals that modern industrialization exposed these young to new challenges and hazards. Situation is even worse in the unorganized sector. The working conditions are not hygienic; children have to work to supplement the earning of the family.

Working Children in Urban India by B.R. Patil, is a comprehensive survey, which attempts to analyze the problem of child labour at the macro level with reference to India as also the reasons why the children have taken to wage labour. It also brings out the harsh realities of child employment with regard to their wages and monthly earnings/income and reveals that the meager wages the children earn is the means of survival for their families. Finally, it outlines some policy measures to tackle the problem of child labour in the short term and its elimination in the long run.

Pandey in his study, Street Children of India: A situational Analysis, examines the extent and causes of the problem. Vijaygopalan in his study of carpet industry of Mirzapur, Bhadohi found the problem originates in the social structure. Krishna Kumari while studying Child Labour in Banglore City, found that most of children want to study along with the work, as they cannot depend on the family due to poverty.

Richard Anker et al. in their study, Economics of Child Labour in Hazardous Industries of India, which is a collection of papers addressing the problem of child labour, presents the findings of studies based on child labour in carpet, glass, diamond and gem industries. It gives an understanding on the economics of replacing child labour with adult labour in these industries. The
study further highlighted that non-pecuniary and non-economical factors are often very important reasons why employers hire children. The authors conclude that the elimination of child labour would cause only a small increase in the cost of production almost always below 5 percent. It is also likely to increase the prevailing wage rate because of a reduction in the supply of labour.

UNICEF's study in many Asian countries like India, Sri Lanka, Philippines and Thailand revealed that most of the children were expected to be at work in home or outside instead of going to school and a large portion of school going children have to work part-time, especially, those who are from low-income group. Male children working outside while the girl children take care of their younger siblings and helping their mothers in domestic work.

S.N. Tripathy's work on Exploitation of Child Labour in Tribal Areas in India, analyses the multi-dimensional problem of child labour, causes of child labour and its magnitude, as demonstrated in India, from a historical perspective. It explores the socio-economic and historical factors responsible for child labour and its magnitude, as demonstrated in India, from a historical perspective. It explores the socio-economic and historical factors responsible for child labour in Orissa and particularly in the tribal and backward district of Phulbani. Besides this, it analyses the features of the problem of child labour manifested in the tribal district of Phulbani. Finally, it examines the various legislations enacted both by the Central and State governments which aims at removing the exploitation of the child labourers.
Ramanis in a survey showed that around 53 percent children are studying as well as working and 28 percent dropped out of school and 19 percent never attended the school. Major proportion of students dropped out of school at the primary and secondary level. There are more boys attending school then the girls.

Hirway, Cotty and Pandey in their study, Towards Eradication of Child Labour: An International View, noticed that the child labour mainly arises from the traditional attitudes and associated social problems, educational system and poverty being faced by the developing counties. Phillips says that several factors like poverty rejection or divorces, family tensions, death of parents, ill treatment by steps, selling children as bounded labourers are the conditions that have brought there children on the street.

Myron Weiner’s study, The Child and the State in India, provides a brief picture of the situation of India's children, their place in the labour force and in the school system. The book presents a descriptive analysis of the attitudes of these attitudes shape Indian policies toward compulsory education and child labour laws. Finally, the author examines the experiences of South Korea, Taiwan the People's Republic of China, Sri Lanka and several other contemporary instances in the third world where states have successfully intervened to enforce compulsory education and markedly brought down the incidence of child labour.

R.P. Singh observed in his study Education in Scheduled Caste Girls that 70 percent of the non-enrolled children are girls; most of them are from
rural areas. Enrolment rate in schools is poor of the girls belonging to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. Sujata K. in his study of Yenadi Tribe’s education in costal areas of Rayalseena noticed that they are lagging behind in education, mainly because of low enrolment; alarming drop out rate and considerable stagnation. The main reasons are household economy, agrarian basis of work and children are not interesting in education.

Lakshmidhar Mishra’s study Child Labour in India, analyses the oppressive reality of Indian labouring Children and provides perhaps the fullest macro-perspective on the nature and scale of the problem, as well as what this problem means in human and economic terms. The author critically examines constitutional and legal provisions on the subject, the national policy and programmed action, international instruments and recent international initiatives, and the role of NGOs, trade unions, central employers' organizations, and the media.

Nadeem Mohsin, in his paper on “Poverty: Breeding Ground for Child Labour”, has described the historical development of child labour and the legislative facilities for child labour. It was found that acute poverty was the main reason forcing children to seek jobs. The author suggested adopting a two-sided approach to the problem - one that eliminates household poverty, and the other, that makes education compulsory for all children. The former would come through improved employment and wages and better conditions of work for the householders, and the latter through incentives in the form of free books, food, clothes, medicines etc, to all school-going children.
V. Verma in his paper, “Child Labour: Need for Social Awareness”\textsuperscript{42}, emphasized the need for a plan of action in the field, removal of barriers of ignorance and backwardness; and the need for a specific thrust on education. No dramatic result can be expected and without people’s participation and social awareness, the flow of child labour cannot be diverted. Singh and Verma by studying child labour in Nainital District of Uttar Pradesh found that the parents of below poverty line sent their child to work. Mehta had found a highly significant-positive relation between the percentages of child workers to total women as percentage of population below poverty line in different states.

Salazar\textsuperscript{43} in his study of child labour in Columbia noticed the same thing, unemployment as well as low wages, forced the parents to send their child to work. Rosenzweig and Evanson\textsuperscript{44} observed in their study that the wage rate of children has a negative influence on the school enrolment of the children. Mehta in her study noted a significant positive correlation between the number of child labour and number of unemployment on daily status basis. Empirically, it has been found wherever of unemployment is low; the child work participant is less. Kumar\textsuperscript{45} in his study, “Child Labour and Education”, noticed that lack of employment opportunities and lack of regular and quality employment encourages parents to send their child to work. Children as well as adult workers try hard to get jobs for their basic needs. It is noticed that wherever the problem of unemployment is low, child work participation is also low. Rosenzweig and Evahson\textsuperscript{46} found a significant negative relationship between the adult, female wages rate and child work participation rate. In this
beings. Several legislative measure have been taken in the Government of India. Besides, several non-Governmental organisations have taken keen interest in combating this issue.

A number of surveys carried out by local voluntary groups and researchers as discussed below reveals that economic compulsions, social customs, illiteracy of parents and broken family have contributed in the increase of child labour.

Singh\(^{52}\) (1982) has pointed out in his paper entitled “Study on Problems and Social Services Needs of Child Labour in Agriculture in Uttar Pradesh” that the average age of the child workers was 13.6 years while the majority of child workers (70.2 per cent) belong to the age-group of 13-18 years. The majority of the child workers were from the sect of non-tribal Hindus and Scheduled Castes. The maximum number of child workers who discontinued the studies were in the age group of 8-12 years.

Similarly, another study carried in CSIR\(^{53}\) (1984) on the working condition of children employed in unorganised sector (Match industry) which was based on a sample of 900 male and female child workers below the age of 16 years. The study has indicated that 67% of the total children employed in match units in Sivakasi were girls (33% were boys). Out of the total number of children under survey, 8 per cent children were below 8 years of age and a majority of the child workers (71 per cent) were in the age-group of 13-16 years. Another study conducted by Singh M. (1980) on the working children in Bombay has highlight that working children who were in the age group of 6-15
study they had also observed that the wage rate of children has a negative influence on the school enrolment of the children.

G.K. Murthy and T.J. Rani\textsuperscript{47}, in their paper on “Wages of Child Labour”, have examined the pattern of wages of child labour in small restaurants on the context of the minimum wages prescribed by the state government. It also analyses the socio-economic variables that motivate the employers to engage and the employees to get into service. Finally, the paper examines the importance of certain factors viz, nature of work, capacity of the employer to pay, the hours of work, ethical considerations levels of income, etc, on wage determination. The income of the household is one of the most important determinants of child labour Rosenzweig and Evanson\textsuperscript{48} observed strong inverse relationship between income of the household and child work participation. Rodgers\textsuperscript{49} said that higher income generally associated with a higher level of education and there is a lesser need for the children to work.

Jodha and Singh\textsuperscript{50} in their study of some villages in Maharashtra, Gujarat, Madhya Parades and Rajasthan observed that the child work participation rate is very high among the rural poor. Operation Research Group\textsuperscript{51} in a study “Child Labour in Diamond Industry of Surat City” found a high correlation between income of the families and their life style, lower the income higher is the child labour.

Child labour is a social evil. Now Government is determined to combat this lingering problem. Both at International and National level efforts have been made to bring down child labourer and to make them a better human
years belonged to low income groups in urban centres who generally reside in slums and depressed areas. This study was conducted on 203 boys (67.7%) and 97 girls (32.3%), three per cent of them belonged to the age-group of 6-9 years, 25.7 per cent belongs to the age group of 9-12 years and 71.3 per cent were in the age group of 12-15 years. Out of these 300 working children 211 (70.3%) worked under the employer and 89 (29.7%) were self-employed. Out of 300 working children 287 lived with their parents and 13 lived with their guardians and relatives. The majority of the families of the working children (63.8%) had 5 to 8 members in the family and 36.2% had the average size of family 5 to 6. Most of the children were Hindus and employed in the workshops. Another study carried out by the Committee on Child Labour (1979) appointed by the Ministry of Labour, Government of India examined various dimensions of child labour in different occupations. The study revealed that the incidence of child labour was highest in Andhra Pradesh where it accounted for about 9.0 per cent of the total labour force, 9.2 per cent of the total child population and 3.7 per cent of the total population of state in 1971. The Child labour was more prevalent in rural areas than in urban areas. A higher percentage in child (5.31%) in rural area were workers whereas this ratio in urban areas was only 1.82%. The participation of children in the labour force in the age-group of 10-14 years was very high (28.9%) for males as compared to females (20%).

Sharma has conducted a study on the working children in Hissar and has revealed that a majority of the child workers joined the labour force due to acute poverty of their family, death and chronic illness of the earning members and there was no source to supplement their family income.
Children came from different States. About 4/5 of the children came from the families whose average monthly income was less than Rs. 300/- and the size of the family was 8 on an average. The social circumstances such as rude behaviour of fathers and lack of affection in the family forced the children to seek jobs in different industries.

One more study was conducted by CSIR, 1984 on the working conditions of Children employed in unorganised sector, in Sivakasi found that children were the main bread winners in most of the families. A large number of families depended on the income from match units either as main source or as supplementary source of family income. Out of the total number of respondents 95% took up jobs in match units because of the poor financial conditions of their families and 5% of them were interested to continue their studies but were forced by their parents to work to support their families or to supplement the family income. Similarly, another study conducted on Child labour in Himachal Pradesh found that economic necessity compelled the families to send their children to work. Besides, increasing incidence of debts created more pressure on families to send all possible hands to work for wages.

A study (Gopunjkar 1980) on the working children in the tribal areas of Maharashtra, conducted with a view to preparing a detailed not on different types of work children did, revealed that children participated in all the occupations/jobs available to them and activities of home/family occupations and kept themselves engaged throughout year. The child starts working from about 5 to 6 years of age. The income from the work of the child is of two
types in cash and in kind. Wages in each are governed to some extent, by the Minimum Wages (Amendment) Act of 1979. But in many cases labourers are paid less than what is due to them. The wages in kind are given at rates in accordance with the local practice.

Another study (Singh S. 1982) on problems of social service needs of child labour in agriculture in U.P. showed that in average monthly income of the child worker had been Rs. 68, Rs. 86 which came to about Rs. 2 per day. A majority of child workers were engaged in carrying water, house watching, cattle grazing, working in night on irrigation and crop watching etc. on an average monthly income of the children workers was Rs. 60.86 and in the majority of cases, payment of wages was made directly by the employers and received directly by the child workers. Child workers were suffering from minor ailments only caused by seasonal variations though they were exposed to various serious diseases. A majority of the child workers stated that employers did not exploit them for undue work. The health of the majority of the child workers was poor and their guardians were illiterate without any technical knowledge. The entire monthly earning was between Rs. 200 to Rs. 400 only.

Juyal (1985) conducted a study on Child Labour in Varanasi at the suggestion of a Committee on Child Labour appointed by the Govt. of India, indicated that wages paid to the Child workers varied form occupation to occupation. Similarly, the mode of payment of wages also varied from occupation to occupation. About 36.56% employers said that they had child workers because they are cheaper, 27.13% employed them due to easy
availability. The hours of work and employers behaviour varied form occupation to occupation and depended on the nature of activities. However, in most of the activities, the working hours ranged form 9 hours to 15 hours. The environment of 198 work units was generally clear but derty in 73 units. Out of 258 employers, as many as 206 (80%) answered that they had not been encountered by any representative of the labour laws enforcement agencies coming to the unit for an inspection. Khato (1983) has conducted a survey in carpet weaving industry in Kashmir which shows that about 80,000 to one lakh children belonging to the age group of 6-14 years and engaged in carpet weaving. They work about 10-12 hours a day and earn a total of Rs. 10 to 15 daily.

Neera Burra59 (1989) has criticised widely. Child labour Act as that Government put it to use law as the main instrument for culminating child labour as mentioned in the National Child Labour Policy 1987. But this attempt was acknowledged to be a failure. Even in attempting or prohibiting child labour in certain areas and processes, the act had included a provision, which negated all that was said in the section, By keeping out of purview any occupation, work or process that is carried on by a family, the Government has offered protection to the match industries of Sivakasi in Tamil Nadu; the Carpet Industry of Mirzapur and glass units of Ferozabad in Uttar Pradesh; the beedi industry in various parts of the country; and all the rest to continue their exploitation of children under the umbrella of the family. Thus the 1986 Act turned out to the legislation to legitimise child labour in the name of program.
V.R. Krishan Iyer (1987)\textsuperscript{60} has pointed out that "A dicition in the constitution has been contradicted". Ever since the new legislation passed no employer of hazardous industry has been booked guilty or inflicted punishment. Thus the law is only a showpiece of the Government and the people at large are just the spectators. The acceptance of child labour of any tender age is indicated by regulating child labour without mentioning the minimum age limit for the employment of the child.

Uma Joshi (1988) and Usha S. Nayyar\textsuperscript{61} (1989) have observed that their discussion has mainly veered about the areas in which existing legislation that need to be enlarged to achieve the ultimate goals in the sphere of child labour and the need to probe plug the loopholes of the act concerning child labour in the unorganised sector.

Iffat Faridi's\textsuperscript{62} study on lock manufacturing industry in Aligarh had been one of the earliest studies focusing on numerous lock manufacturing process and types of labourers employed in the manufacturing units. The study observes that the factory owners do not face shortage of labour as it is available in abundance, especially the availability of women and children to work in the home-based units. The study also highlights the exploitation of children in the home based manufacturing. According to him children form 24\% of the total workforce. The author blames the prevalence of primitive technology for the existence of child labour.
1.7 Design of the Study

The study has been divided into following nine chapters.

Chapter one discusses the problem of child labour in general. It further gives the statement of the problem, the chapter states the objective and scope of the study besides giving detailed account of the methodology adopted to collect data from various sources and its subsequent analysis, and comprehensive account of the review of related literature of the study form last of the chapter.

Chapter second discusses the concept of child labour definition and nature of the problem. It also discusses the cause of the child labour.

Chapter third deals with the child labour in the world scenario, the ILO convention, the problem of child labour has been explained with reference to international convention. It also discusses the standard set by international labour organization regarding child labour.

Chapter fourth deals with the child labour in the Indian scenario and discusses the historical perspective of child labour in India. It mention the socio-economic background of child labour.

Chapter fifth deals with the constitutional and legal framework regarding child labour. The chapter further discusses to review legislative framework and it discusses the origin of the laws relating to the child labour and it also discusses with a detailed account of state interventions and the policies taken from time to time to counter to the growing menace of child labour.
The chapter sixth discusses a socio-economic condition of child labour in Aligarh and Firozabad with special reference to lock and glass bangle industries and is based on empirical investigation conducted by the research on sampling basis. The chapter gives a detailed account of the findings of the child labour. Chapter also deals with the historical view of the lock and glass bangle industries in Aligarh and Firozabad and its origin.

Chapter seventh deals with the causes and concern of child labour in Aligarh and Firozabad in lock and glass bangle industries.

Chapter eighth deals with a detailed account of public perception and opinion on child labour.

Chapter ninth deals with the role of judiciary on child labour in India. The last chapter makes a number and recommendation on the basis of findings through analysis of the data and conclude and suggest certain remedial measures to put the employment of children completely a way.
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