CHAPTER II

OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY
This chapter presents the statement of the problem, review of literature, objectives, need for the study, and other methodological aspects of the study.

Child labour is one of the major problems of the world. It is, as matter of fact, a burning topic especially in third world countries, because of the magnitude of the child labour and problems associated especially in unorganized sector. It has attracted the attention of the policy makers, sociologists, philanthropists, Government and Non Government agencies including Social Science researchers. Owing to its contemporary relevance and social importance, there is a dire need to study the socio-economic conditions and compulsions of child labour, magnitude of the problem, analyze the occupational patterns of the children and the measures to the initiated to eradicate child labour especially in backward areas like Kurnool is imperatively felt urgently called for. With this background in mind, this chapter is planned out accordingly.

**Statement of the problem**

Child labour is a global phenomenon. It is a causing concern in third world countries in general and India in particular. It is well known fact that India is a diversified country with socio-economic political, cultural and educational disparities. Poverty, economic backwardness and illiteracy are the factors pulling down the development of the economy. Child labour, especially in unorganized sector is found growing enormously today than ever before. The children labour is said to be the labour falling below 14 years of age but engaged in various activities. The reasons for child labour are many and varied. Poverty, illiteracy, indebtedness, ignorance are the major problems. To mitigate the problems
associated with child labour Government enacted different child labour protective measures to eradicate it. However, it is observed that these Acts could not altogether eradicate the problem. Kurnool district which is one of the backward districts in Rayalaseema region as per the records, the child labour especially in unorganized sectors like hotel, mechanics and beedi are engaged more compared to other activities. Since, the researcher hails from the same district, it was thought of to have a detailed study on this vital topic.

**Review of Literature:** Hereunder an attempt is made to discuss various studies made in the area of child labour.

Sudha and Smitha Tewari (1985)

Lingamurthy, Ramaiah and Sudarshan (1985)

Neera Burra (1986), conducted a case study on the child labour working in glass factories of Firozabad, U.P. The author selected four children for intensive study.


Karunanithi(1990)

Krishna Chaitanya (1991) has conducted a comprehensive study on tribal child workers engaged as porters in the border areas of Arunachal Pradesh. Singh (1992) selected 200 children, aged 8 to 14,
working in hotels, truck garages and doing household chores of Ahmedabad city in Gujarat state. Mahaveer Jain (1990)\textsuperscript{7} pursued a case study on child labour in quarry industry and revealed that children are used to cut the big stones into small pieces, which is harmful to their health.

Usha, S.N. (1991)\textsuperscript{9}, held the view that multi dimensional exploitation is inflicted upon the Indian girl child labourers both at home and at their job economically, sexually, personally and educationally, Kashyap, S.P. (1991)\textsuperscript{10}, in his study of the diamond industry in Surat found that there was no earnings advantage to starting work early as a child labourer.

Rao, B.V.R. and Mallik, B. (1992)\textsuperscript{12}, in their study revealed that the highest percentage of child labour parents i.e. , 57.0 per cent are in the very low income group and 42.60 per cent in the low income group. The number in the middle income group is negligible. Grootaert, C.l. and Kanbur, R. (1995)\textsuperscript{13}, in their paper took an economic perspective on the problem of child labour and focused on demand and supply.

Kusuma Latha Tiwari (1996)\textsuperscript{14}: in her article on “problems and solutions of child labour”, pointed out that various legal and other kinds of steps were taken by government and organizations throughout the world. She had given some other aspects of the problem to be considered in order to solve the issue easily. The study concluded that the State and the people should give the children full protection so as to convert the child labour into the assets of the nations.

Das (1996)\textsuperscript{15}: stated that education is one of the very important tools to eradicate child labour in our country. Economic backwardness is one of the reasons that
forces parents to send their children to work. The commitment of international organizations, constructional obligations, observations of the Supreme Court, determination of the highest authority accompanied by prospective programmer demonstrate that child education can play a prominent role in restricting the incidence of child labour. The author suggested that the compulsory education at least to primary school level is found to be the means for controlling child labour.

Human Rights Watch (1996)\textsuperscript{16}: stated that children working under bondage in beedi industries work between 10 and 14 hours a day. For these poverty-stricken families, bondage is cyclical phase. As children, they are bonded and as matured adults, they face growing pressure due to illness, wedding, funerals, housing needs and alcohol addiction.

Weiner (1996)\textsuperscript{17}: emphasized that there is a need for considerable expansion in public and official knowledge on the magnitude and consequences of child labour in India. He depicted that with 90 million of its children outside the education system, India clearly has a long way to go to build a mass human resource base.

Karumanith (1997)\textsuperscript{18}: examined the children engaged in the beedi works run the risk of health hazards such as tuberculosis, chronic bronchitis, nutritional anemia and eye irritation. The long hours of working in particular posture causes adverse effect on the physical development and general health conditions of the children. They have the problem of malnutrition and as a result, they are highly susceptible to respiratory infections.
Shibni Dasgupta (1997)\textsuperscript{19}: In her article highlighted a legal and artistic social picture and child labour in India and he world as well. Further the author mentioned various financial as well as statutory measures as suggested by Supreme Court in solving various problems of child labour.

Rita Panicker (1998)\textsuperscript{20}: in her study found that “Child labour in India” emphasizes a systematic and comprehensive analysis of the burning problem called ‘child labour’. She made mention of the various strategies that have been adopted by the Government of India to eliminate child labour. Further she was under the opinion that poverty is the main force that made children to own to labour. She suggested that NGO’s must deal with this problem at local as well as global levels.

Sekhar (1998)\textsuperscript{21}: strongly held that the poverty gap is to be reduced in order to reduce the incidence of child labour. This is because there is a strong correlation between poverty and child labour. The enforcement of child labour, laws must be supplemented by the implementation of welfare measures to have the desired effects.

In one of the articles of Archana Sexena (1999)\textsuperscript{22}: “Eliminating Child Labour” suggested that collective efforts are required to abolish child labour from the Indian society. She further stressed that policy makers need to shift their main focus from policy making to policy taking that ensures policy implementation.

Archala Savyasaachi (1999)\textsuperscript{23}: undertook a study on child labour spiritual, metaphorical and statistical documentary observations. The author further stressed the practical living conditions of the children are industrial from their parents.
Dwarakanath (1999)\textsuperscript{24}: In a study titled “Child labour needs for new Social Revolution” touched upon the magnitude of child labour and the problem associated therein. He was under the opinion that though the employment of children who are below 14 years are prohibited under different child labour laws but have a limited coverage.

Hajara Kumar (1999)\textsuperscript{25}: identified that the problem of working children is not an unexplored problem. Today we are seriously concerned about street and working children as a result of growing awareness and pressure of national and international bodies. For the last fourteen years, child labour becomes a notable field of social worker’s intervention.

Basudeb Sahoo (1999)\textsuperscript{26}: opined that growing importance to agriculture and its related activities and traditional practices, illiteracy, disrupted family order, poverty, social insecurity and regional imbalances are the causes for child labour. According to him, child labour is economically unsound, psychologically disastrous and physically dangerous and harmful”. He also recognized the importance of Government and NGO’s in eradicating child labour.

Jayantilal Bhandari. J. (2000)\textsuperscript{27}: observed that the child labour problem is an intense socio-economic problem that requires a long-term multipronged strategy to be carried out on a continuous basis. The strategy should include enforcement of child labour acts.

Santha Sinha (2000)\textsuperscript{28}: in her article gave a detailed description of the various impacts and manifestations of child labour. Further she was under the firm opinion that as long as poverty prevails and continues so long it is difficult to
eliminate child labour. However, she suggested an alternative effort is to ban child labour in hazardous areas and ameliorate the conditions of work in other areas.

Jayathi Lal Bandar (2000)\textsuperscript{29}: In her study entitled “Child Labour – The Challenges ahead” stated that problems of child labour stands as one of the most important global stand and challenges. She particularly emphasized that casteism, poverty, family size, levels of income are some of the important socioeconomic problems that are pushing the children to become child labour. Strengthening of primary education in the rural areas, rehabilitation of the child labour, improvement of economic conditions of the parents of child labour through various poverty alleviation and employment generation programmes.

Pramila H. Bhargava (2001)\textsuperscript{30}: “A study on analysis and understanding of the problem of child labour” provided practical solutions to tackle child labour more effectively. Here it may be worthwhile to mention that all of the solutions proposed are applicable at the same time or the same period. The author undertook a project on child labour elimination in Anantapur district of Andhra Pradesh under South Asia poverty Alleviation Programme (SAPAP). Her multifaceted project involved a mix of dynamix formal system together with community participation and a host of innovative and creative methods. The author also suggested some practical solutions to eliminate this social evil.

According to D.K. Giri (2001)\textsuperscript{31}: Unemployment is the main cause for child labour. This can be solved by proper education, social and cultural cooperation among people. The Grama Panchayats by virtue of their implementation under
article 73 of the Indian constitution can play an effective role in solving this problem.

Manivannan. M. (2002)\textsuperscript{32}: Examined the new trend of inclusive education focuses upon the integration of disabled children in the normal set up. All children have the right to be included in regular schooling. The author concluded that the policies and budgetary provisions are therefore, needed a special emphasis.

M. Samstha, S. Vijaya Priya (2002)\textsuperscript{33}: Observed that girls who are employed in domestic work at an age less than 14 years must be regarded as child labour. The social imperatives which force other children into child labour operate on the girl's child domestic life also. Hence, it can be concluded that hard work, low rewards and lack of education impinges adversely on development and welfare of these young children and destroys all their hopes for a better future.

The study by P. Ambiga Devi and Meenakshi. N. (2003)\textsuperscript{34}: Found in Coimbatore city that apart from poverty, there are other factors also playing a role in contributing to the increase in child labour. They suggested that it is not merely economic advancement but the overall social development including education is necessary to remove child labour. Strong radical government interventions are needed to see that parents are not allowed to use children to increase their income.

Suguna B. (2003)\textsuperscript{35}: In her research explained the unfortunate conditions of female child labour. According to her girls are forced to work due to social and economic backwardness and are working in the condition of unhygienic health. Many girls are living in bitter insecurity and poverty. At present Rs.1.62 crores girls are working in beedi, match industries and diamond cutting industry at the
rate of 12-15 hours of a day. They are prone to diseases like skin disease, respiratory and diseases related to eyes. She felt that a separate set of laws can solve this problem.

In a study of Sujay Mitra (2003)\cite{36}: Examined the phenomenon of child labour as multi-dimensional and multi-layered. It applies not only to the children working in industries but also in all forms of non-industrial occupations, which injure to their physical, social, mental, cultural and political development. This phenomenon ruins the youthful life of children and restricts the prospects of education that can enable children and ultimately it harms the prosperity and progress of an economy. They felt that poverty will not vanish over night, but in the meantime.

Sundari (2003)\cite{37}: Observed that most families are impoverished and children are often forced to earn income. Therefore, many boys and girls drop out from schools and end up in the labour markets as child labour making urban slums the bigger feeder blocks for child labourers in cities.

Gopal Bhargava (2003)\cite{38}: In his study stated that the economic exploitation of children ahs always been an area of concern in the world over. He observed that a number of working children is increasing from year to year, some reasons are economic situation of their family, lack of employment opportunities for the adult members, and the preferences of the employers to hire children to save production costs. He concluded that a large numbers of both industrialized and developing countries have adopted child labour legislation to protect the child labour.
Renuka Chowdary (2006) felt that children are the first agenda of development not only young children are the most vulnerable, but also the foundation for the life long learning and human development is laid in the crucial early years. The author further said that India is the home of the largest child population in the world and finally concluded that the development of children is the first priority on the country’s development agenda, not because they are the most vulnerable, but because they are our supreme assets and also the future human resources of the country.

Need for the Present study

It is evident from the review of literature that there are some studies on child labour both in rural and urban areas. Some studies are concentrated on working conditions while some on problems of child labour. Few others have made on school dropouts among child labour. Some more have made studies on different child labour Acts and their impact on the child labor. However, it is surprised to find that scant attempts are made on the child labour in unorganized sector. More so, no study on empirical basis is made on child labour in unorganized in Kurnool district. Hence the present study is an empirical attempt in this direction.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of study are

1. To examine the socio-economic conditions of child labour working in unorganized sector in Kurnool town.
2. To trace the factors responsible for the children to undertake the economic activity.

3. To present and review various Child Labour Acts enacted by the Government.

4. To find out the working and living conditions of child labour in the selected occupations and identify the problems faced by child labour and

5. To suggest policy measures to eradicate child labour especially in unorganized sector.

Sample of the universe

For a detailed study, as many as, 150 children working in Hotel, Mechanical and Beedi works are purposefully selected. While selecting the respondents' purposive random sampling method is adopted by giving equal representation by selecting 50 respondents from each activity are selected. Their responses to the Interview Schedule and the secondary data available with the labour department of Kurnool district, Internet, published books, and Journals are the basis for analysis.

Scope of the study

Because of the practical problems of the researcher, the study is confined to child labour in unorganized sector in Kurnool town that too three major activities such as hotel, mechanical and beedi works wherein majority of the child labour in Kurnool city are engaged.
Method of data collection

The data for the present study are collected both from primary and secondary data. Primary data are collected by administering an interview schedule among the selected child labour. However, the secondary data are pooled from the official records of District Labour Office, State Directorate of Labour, published books, Journals websites; unpublished Dissertations. Informal discussions, are also made with the officials concerned as to get first hand information on various practical problems of child labour especially in unorganized sector.

Statistical Tools

The collected data are processed, tabulated and analyzed with the help of tables and percentages. The data are also shown in appropriate diagrams.

Limitations

Needless to say that this study is not free from some limitations. Because of the practical problems of the researcher, the study is confined to child labour in unorganized sector in Kurnool town. The findings of the study are confined to 150 children who are engaged in three major activities such as hotel, mechanic and beedi works. Inspite of the repeated trips made to the places where the children are engaged, researcher is not allowed to spare their time to interview. Finally, the researcher herself took the address of the children and went to their houses and collected the data. Therefore, the findings and suggestions thereon are subject to the responses given by the selected child labour.
References


