CHAPTER - TWO

OBJECTIVES, SCOPE, COVERAGE OF THE STUDY AND THE REVIEW OF LITERATURE

2.1 Objectives of the study:

The child labour is a fait accompli and a reality in the poverty stricken area. It causes deprivation of children from early education resulting in child abuse and exploitation. Its growth and magnitude, therefore, is a serious concern to all in the society.

The problem of child labour in the area under study though not so intense and severe, yet, it cannot but be reckoned with. In absence of indepth study taken up by any organisation or individual scholar, the magnitude of the problem of child servitude of the district under reference has not been measured and highlighted properly. A study of the problem of child labour of the district has, therefore, become a priority and it has been taken up with the objectives that intend to:

1. Analyse the genesis, growth, magnitude and causes of child labour in the district.

2. Analyse the consequences of child labour, its virtues and vices.

3. Examine and evaluate the efficacies of Govt measures taken up so far to control and remedying the problem of child labour.

4. To find solution for effective control or elimination of this societal evil.
2.2 Scope, rationale and coverage of the study:

The district of Kamrup with all its socio-economic characteristics is a facsimile of Assam. It exhibits the picture of agrarian economy on the one hand and urban economy of concomitant growth of organised/unorganised and informal sectors on the other hand. The district with heterogenous ethnic groups of people and immigrants has developed a vivid socio-economic and cultural milieus, giving rise to child labour of agrarian structure, child labour of urban and city slums along with migrant child labour etc.

The district exhibits highest percentage of distribution of main workers of all ages both in secondary and teritary sectors. As per census 1991 in secondary and tertiary sectors the p.c of main workers engaged are found 13.0 and 41.4 respectively against the state’s percentage rates of 6.1 in secondary and 20.0 in tertiary sectors. This indicates the concomitant problem of child labour partly in secondary and tertiary sectors apart from primary sector.

The area under study having highest urban population with 35.81 p.c and the highest decadal growth of population amongst the districts (during 1991-2001) \(^1\) at the rate of 25.75 against 18.85 for the state and also having shared highest percentage (9.44 p.c) of state’s population among the districts is obviously bearing the burden of child workers of distinct varieties.

None-the-less, the district’s literacy rate is fairly well and it figures 74.69 p.c. and is much higher than most of the districts of Assam, yet the p.c of non-enrolled children found as 18.65 and the drop-outs rate is 2.69 with 97.31 p.c as the
retention rate at elementary level as on 2002. The non-enrolled and drop-outs along with the migrant lots of children make their ways to the child servitude. All these factors underlie the importance of studying the problem of child labour which has so long been slighted and remained unaddressed to. In the study, attempt is, however, made to investigate the magnitude of child labour prevail in the unorganised and informal sectors of the rural and urban areas through reasonable samples. Investigation is also made partly to measure the intensity of child labourers of organised sector of urban area of the district.

2.2.1 Coverage of the study:

The district with 3 sub-divisions (now two) has fifteen numbers of revenue circles with 17 C.D. blocks. In point of revenue circles it’s position is highest and inregard to C.D. blocks it’s status is 2nd highest amongst the districts of Assam. The geographical area under it’s coverage is high. It being third highest with highest area falling under urban segment. The district is characterised by the existence of child labour of agrarian and urban societies, the latter being expanding in the area unlike other parts of the state tremendously. The area, further, falling under the impact of rapid industrialisation and the migration as well immigration has resulted in child labour of all varieties which other districts do not exhibit.

Against this backdrop the study has been undertaken to surface the genesis, nature/types and causes of child labour in the district covering both the sub-divisions selecting 4 (four) community development blocks, 2 (two) being from each sub-division. From each of the C.D. Blocks, 3 villages have been selected covering 14
households per village. In one C.D. block (Hajo) an additional 15 households have been sampled bringing the total rural households’ tally to 183. This apart, 18 households of city area and another 89 business establishments, workshops, such as steel fabrication, transport undertakings, garage, tea-stall, dhaba, restaurant, grocery shops, stone-crushing, stone quarry, rag-picking, vending, newspaper selling etc. have been identified in this process of stratified sampling and data have been collected accordingly. Thus in the entire survey covering rural and urban areas of the district 290 samples have been taken up.

2.3 Hypotheses drawn and tested:

In observing and comprehending the situation of child labour in the district certain corollaries have been made before the study undertaken. The hypotheses drawn have subsequently been testified. The hypotheses pre-empted are:

1. The abject poverty and lack of employment to adults are the significant causes of the growth of child labour.

2. Child labour has assumed serious proportions in the area due to migration and immigration as well.

3. The sociological factors such as tradition of family occupation, parents’ illiteracy, absence of required educational facilities, social tension and caste etc. seem to play also vital role in the growth of child labour in the area under study.

4. The ineffectiveness of legal provisions and govt directives for protection of children against exploitation have also resulted in the growth of child labour.
In the process of probity and verification of the hypotheses drawn, *ut supra*, attempts have been made to undertake detail study in chapters 4, 5 and 7 measuring and analysing the trend, dimension, composition of child labour; socio-economic compulsion and other factors attributing to child labour and the efficacies of legislations on child labour respectively.

2.4 **Methodology adopted:**

To testify the hypotheses an empirical study has been undertaken and inferences drawn accordingly since no other study has been made by any individual scholar and agencies on the issue in the project area. The methodology adopted in analysing and interpreting the findings of the empirical study is out and out a descriptive one. In the empirical study the collection of data from primary source deemed expedient and necessary. For comprehending the conceptual frame-work, use of secondary data from secondary source relevant to the issue has also been made.

The study has been made at two levels, one at the village and the other at household level. The block level study has been made from secondary source and partly from field level. For study of village and households two separate sets of questionnaire have been prepared and appropriate data collected by canvassing the questionnaire at field level. For urban area another set of questionnaire has been prepared to study the impact of migrant/immigrant child labour and child workers of informal sector. In both the cases interview method has been adopted.

The selection of 4 C.D. blocks has been made by random sampling.
villages, 3 of each C.D. block and 14 households of each village have been selected on random basis. Altogether 183 households of rural area, inclusive of 15 additional households of Hajo C.D. block have been covered. This apart, 18 households of city area and another 89 samples of business establishments, commercial undertakings of unorganised and informal sectors accommodating child labourers along with migrant child labourer have been surveyed and interviewed respectively as per scheme to measure the intensity of child labour in unorganised and informal sectors of both the rural and urban areas of the district. The total size of samples comprise 290.

2.5 Format of the study:

The frame-work of the project study is such that it has been divided into 8 parts. Each part is placed in separate chapter. Chapter-1 is introduction that deals with concept, child labour and child worker, economic activities of child as labourer, emergence, growth, nature and dynamics of child labour, types, characteristics and causes of child labour, child labour in international perspective, child labour in India, Assam and the in area under study. Chapter-2 deals with the objectives, scope, rationale, coverage, hypotheses drawn, methodology adopted and review of literature relevant to the topic brought about. Chapter-3 elaborates on demographic, socio-economic profile of the project area from district to C.D. block and village level. Chapter-4 deals with the trend, dimension and composition of child labour as per survey. Chapter-5 deals with the embryology of child labour and factors attributing to it. Chapter-6 elaborates on diseconomies and economies of child labour. Chapter-7 deals with the efficacies of
legislations on child labour and chapter-8 provides the findings, appraisal and suggestions for policy framework on the problems of child labour of the state and the district as well.

2.6 Review of literature:

Child labour is a problem which has constantly agitated the minds of social thinkers, legislators, politicians, philanthropist and economists as well from hoariness. The problem of child labour is acute, particularly in the underdeveloped countries. Whereas the child labour in developed countries assumed serious proportion from the days of industrial revolution of early 19th century, for India, it is a post independence phenomenon none-the-less, it could be traced out in ancient India in different forms.

The term ‘child labour’ is synonymous with ‘Working Child’ and it implies any work done by them for monetary or other material gain. But more commonly, than not, the term is used in a derisory sense that suggests something which is spiteful and exploitative.

The child labour indicates any kind of work done by the children of the age-group of 6-14 years for material gain, the performance of which affects their physical development, their opportunities for desirable minimum education and their needed pleasure and recreation etc.

Different studies on the problems of child labour have been made by different scholars within and outside the country since long. The concept of child labour even was known to the ancient India. There is suitable reference in ‘Manu Smriti’ as to the need of education of children. The parents were punished by the community
if, they did not send their wards to the “Ashramas” (hermitage of Guru). ‘Kan
yanang Sampradanang Ch, Kumaranang Ch Rakshanam’, - Says Manu Smriti. Kautilya in
his ‘Arthsashtra (Part-III ch-13) also refers to the prevalence of child labour in
ancient India. Children of 5 years age, according to Kautilya could be bought and
sold like slaves. Most of the slaves were from Mlechchas ie from backward and
lower caste people. Kautilya in his ‘Arthsashtra’ prohibited the marketing of slaves
since children were not physically fit to do dishonourable work3.

The magnitude of the problem of child labour though not is much severe in
Assam in comparison to other states of India, yet, its prevalence is no less alarming.
People were very much unaware about its magnitude and dimension due to lack of
its proper focus. The present study, however, aims at bringing this multifaceted
problem into focus.

2.6.1 Relevant literature on child labour in Assam:

No fruitful study has been made so far in regard to the child labour problem
of Assam and as such there is an absolute dearth of literature relevant to the issue.
Sporadic studies, however, have been made by a few individual scholars of O.K.D.
Institute of social change and devt, Guwahati during 93-94 and 2000. This apart.
Axom Sarva Siksha Abhiyan, Mission (ASSAM), agency working for
universalisation of elementary education in the state, of late, has made a study on
the issue during 2002-03. But these micro level studies based on purposeful sampling
confine only to some selected areas such as the cosmopolitan city of Guwahati in
case of the former and selected districts of Assam in latter case. In the latter case, a
purposeful survey was made in 14 non-DPEP districts by SSA purely on professional line sans academic pursuit. The SSA has made survey aiming at the coverage of child labour under short-term bridge courses for mainstreaming them to formal schooling as per the programmes of universalisation of Elementary Education launched in the state since 2001.

The socio-economic study on child labour of Greater Guwahati (Sarma P.P. 1993-94) exemplifies a limited study of child labour of the city in the sense that it does not cover employment of different varieties in non-formal and unorganised sectors. The study focuses only the problems of garage worker, tea-stall workers, rag-pickers and house-hold workers. A similar study is made under the banner ‘Child Labour in the Guwahati City- a study made with special reference to the rights of the child’ (Medhi Navanita, O.K.D). Institute of social change and development, Guwahati, 2000). This study too is devoid of other socio-economic aspects of the issue. It has dwelt upon the rights of the child in lieu of focusing the problems of child labour.

Further, a study under the caption “shorter study on socio-economic conditions of maid servants in Guwahati (Saha Sujata-1991) deals with the conditions of a section of child labour only. The report suggests registration of domestic servants, minimum wage to them and it speaks up the need of legislation to regulate the conditions of employment etc.

Currently an UGC sponsored research project carried out by an individual scholar, Hazarika (under the caption ‘child labour in India’ has come to light. The minor research project covers samples from 35 selected village of a particular
district of Assam viz. Sibsagar. The study based on empirical research mainly deals with the problems of child labour in Indian and global perspective paying scant attention to the peculiar problems with reference to the State of Assam. The study, moreover does not provide an insight into the types, nature and dynamics of child labour, its trend, magnitude, diseconomics etc. Its coverage centres round rural segment and is devoid of urban sector.

These apart, the census of India reports-1971-1991 etc (in 1981 there was no census in Assam) which also deal with the population of age-group of 0-14 years have brought to light the scenario of children engaged in economic activities as main, marginal and non-workers etc. However, the census and other studies made in regard to the child labour in Assam covered only few aspects of this multidimensional problem. An-in-depth study of the multifaceted problems of child labour has become a necessity, therefore. The present study of child labour in the district of Kamrup appears to be of wider dimension. It coveres various aspects of child servitude.

2.6.2 Legal provisions vis-a-vis child labour:

In India and in international levels various legal provisions have been made on the issue of child labour. However, the International Labour Organisation (ILO), United Nations Organisations (UNO), United Nations International Children Emergency Fund (UNICEF) are the pioneers in the legal enactments on child labour. The declaration of Rights of child (1959), UNO convention of the rights of the child (1989) are some of the significant international laws dealing with children.
The declaration of the year 1979 as the International year for children is another landmark in the arena of child labour. The Govt. of India is not lagging behind in this respect. India has enacted the child labour prohibition and regulation Act, 1989 and ratified the u.n. convention of the Right of the child.

Further, the Govt. of India enacted Acts which aimed at regulation, restriction and prohibition of child labour in the country. A brief introduction of the laws and legal provisions made in the country is outlined chronologically.

**Indian Factory Act 1891** prohibits employment of children below 7 years of age and it increases minimum age limit to 9 years. **Mines Acts 1901** prohibits the employment of children under 12 years of age treating it to be dangerous to children health. **Factory Act 1911** reduces the working hours of children in factories to 6 hours a day.

In 1917 ILO is formed and in 1920 **All India Trade Union Congress** has been established giving an impetus to reform law relating to the conditions of labour in general and child labour in particular. **Factory Act 1922** admitted working hours of child as 6 hours with a half an hour recess and it prescribed the age limit of child labour as 15 years of age.

**The Mines Act 1923** raised the minimum age for employment from 12 to 13 years in mines. **The Tea District Emigration Labour Act 1932** was passed to check the migration of labour to the tea plantation works. **The Children Act 1933** prohibits the pledging of labour of children below to 15 years of age. **Factory Act 1939** prohibits employment of child under 12 years of age. The Act, further, reduces
the working time to 5 hours. The Employment of Children Act 1938 prohibits employment of children below 15 years in hazardous occupations like Railway, Ports etc. It also prohibits employment of children in beedi making, match and explosive manufacturing, cement processing and carpet weaving etc.

In post independence era the Factories Act 1948 was enacted extending its coverage to whole of India bringing all establishments with 10 employees and 20 employees with power and without power respectively to its fold. The Act prohibits the working of non-adolescents. Employment of children in production of Match stick and fireworks is prohibited. A certificate of fitness is to be issued by the competent authority. No child shall be employed or permitted to work in any factory for more than four and half hours in a day. No female child shall be required or allowed to work in any factory except between 8 AM and 7 PM. There should be notice displaying the working of children in factory. A register of all child workers, if any, be maintained. The period of work is limited to two shifts and each child has to be employed in one shift only. Apart from weekly rest day, the Act provides for leave with wages for one day in every 15 days of work to the child labour who completes 240 days continuous service in the factory.

The Minimum Wages Act 1948 speaks up different minimum rates of wages to be fixed for adults, adolescents and children. The Plantation Labour Act 1951 prohibits a child below 14 years or an adolescent in between 15-18 years of age to work in tea, coffee, rubber, cinchona etc. They can work only as per certificate of fitness issued by the health authority.
The Motor Transport Workers Act 1961 prohibits employment of persons under 14 year of age in any capacity in the motor transport undertaking. Without certificate of fitness the adolescent is also prohibited to work. The Apprentices Act 1961 provides that a person shall not be qualified for being engaged as an apprentice to undergo training in any designated trade unless he is not less than 14 years of age and satisfies such standards of education and physical fitness as prescribed.

The Beedi and Cigar Workers Act 1966 which concerns with making of Beedi and Cigar with or without the aid of power also prohibits the employment of children below 14 years. The State Shops and Establishment Acts prohibits the employment of children in shops, commercial establishment, restaurants, hotels etc. The age of children varies from 12 to 15 years.

The Child Labour (P & R) Act 1986 prohibits children below 14 years of age to work in any occupation connected with transport of passengers, goods or mails by railways and in any process connected with beedi making, carpets weaving, cement manufacturing, processing, making of matches, explosive, fireworks, wool cleaning, tanning etc. The Act, however, remains silent about welfare aspect of child labour.

2.6.3 An Over-view of literature of child labour:

Literature of significant numbers dealing with the problems of child labour in the country and outside it have been produced since long. These literature relate to child workers engaged in different sectors in the urban and rural areas are the
handiwork of some scholars, economists, social scientists and eminent writers. A brief appraisal of the main findings of such studies related to child labour have been placed here chronologically.

**Labour's Process And Some Basic Labour Problems - Harry A. Mills and Royal E. Montgomery - 1938.**

Dealing with the basic problems of child labour Mills and Montgomery observe that the problem of child labour is not a problem by itself, but it is a part of the larger problem of child welfare. They suggest that along with the taking of child out of factories or out of employment there should be legislation for compulsory, free, universal education as well as physical training and guidance and a programme of all sided development of the child. Increasing family income, provision of suitable living wage to the workers, fixation of minimum and fare wage and progressive system of social insurance would go a long way to solve this problem.

*The Social Cost of Child Labour*- Harry A Mills, London, 1938:

Children who spend any considerable part of their time in gainful employment are deprived of education beyond the minimum level required by the compulsory school laws. The loss, both to the children and society as a whole is irreparable. The costs, therefore, have to be liquidated.

**Labour in Ancient India : Purusuttam C. Jain - 1971:**

In dealing with the status of labouring classes from vedic age Jain C. Purusuttam observes that Baishya and Sudra (Born of evil) belong to labouring classes. The rules of caste though were strict yet interchange of professions could be done in necessity or during the days of misfortune specially between the two
lower classes. During the time of Gautam Budha, the chandalas, pukkasas, Nisadas all have been treated as untouchable labourers. Children of these classes of people could only become labour. The book reveals that Kautilya introduced commendable legislation to improve the condition of the labouring classes and raise their status in social and legal matters.


In analyzing the economic values of child labour the writers spell out the benefits from children enjoyed by parents such as the pleasure and psychological satisfaction given by child, contribution to family income made by child by participating in economic activity, assistance given in household chores and old age security provided etc.

**Child labour in India** - Seal, K.C. - 1979

Labour deprives the child of his education and prevents proper development of his potential. Based on this observation a correlation between incidence of child labour and low level of literacy, has been drawn in this study. The study based on census, NSS data, Labour enquiries etc reveals further, the basic facts about child labour and reasons for it.

**Child Labour and its social implication** - Kulashreshtha, J.C. - 1978

The book deals with the causes of child labour, narrates the tradition relating to protection of children against exploitation, elaborates ILO's role on child labour and existing legal frame work etc. The author finally speaks of a progressive protective legislation which is found quite inadequate for our nation. He also reiterates
the strengthening of administrative machinery to deal with the problem. Some other valued suggestions to deal with the problems of child labour include: Free and compulsory education to children, provision of family planning, social security to families and setting up of a board to study, identify and catalogue the nature and extent of child employment and focus the needs and working conditions of children.

**Bondage in Medak District - Sarma Dr. Marla - 1977**

It's a study on the problems of bonded labour in Medak District of Andhra Pradesh which contains the reference of child mortgage and pledging of children by the parents to clear off the debts.

**Child Labour - Mendelivitt, Elias - 1979**

Deals with child labour in broad perspective for ILO. It is based on international survey of 11 nations illustrating on situation of child labour. Analysing the laws, living and working conditions, causes and consequences, the author, concludes that developing nations and LDC have maximum incidence of child labour. The principal causes of child labour in developing nations are poverty, traditions and lack of infrastructures. In developed nations the child labour provides extra hands needed in sowing, harvesting of agriculture. It also provides labour for pocket money. The study has drawn the attention of Govt. and NGOs of LDC for this purpose.

**Child work, poverty and underdevelopment - Rodgers, G and standing, G. GENEVA ILO-1981**

It says about the economic roles of working children in low income countries. The work has reflected the multi-facets of child work and labour. The key issue is
the extent of exploitation of children in socio-economic context. The suppression of child labour is unlikely to increase welfare in absence of substitute income sources, according to the authors. The authors stress the need of regularization of child labour and increased welfare.

**Gurupada Swami Committee of Child Labour - Ministry of Labour, GOI - 1979**

The Gurupada swami committee deals with the living conditions of child labour in unorganised hazardous occupations of various parts of India.

**Humanising Child Labour (IPER) Ghose, A - 1985**

In the project on humanising child labour carried out under the aegis of Institute of Psychological and Educational Research (IPER), the author has stressed the need of primary education, health care, socialization and improvement in the working conditions to child labour. The project report says that child labour cannot be totally abolished and as such effective steps should be adopted to humanize and regulate it instead.

**Carpet Industries of Varanasi, U.P. - Singh A.N. - 1990**

The study is based on the sample survey of 309 child labourers of the age group of 11-15 years. The study reveals that the child are illiterate and belong to backward and schedule caste communities. It, further, reveals that the abolition of child labour is not favoured either by parents or employers on economic reasons. child labourers are happy because it gives them economic independence.

**Child and Action Plan for Development - Mandal B.B. - 1990**

The book provides painstaking analysis of the child situation not only at the
state level but also at micro level of a district and a village as well. To the author, the bulk of rural children live in the condition of social and economic deprivation. They are in vicious circle of poverty, ignorance and illiteracy. The book provides an action plan with the emphasis on preventive and promotive aspects of child development of a particular district viz Khagaria of Bihar. The plan is designed to serve as a model for child development for the district of Bihar.

**Child Labour in India - Shah Nazir Ahmed - 1992**

Dr. Nazir Ahmed Shah in his book has highlighted some peculiar problem of children working in some major crafts in Kashmir. It being a pioneering work in the state has unfolded many a hidden aspects of child labour. The book with limited coverage appears to be quite informative since it reveals distinguishing features of exploitation of children. Child labour, according to the author, is attributed to the factors like poverty, illiteracy, ignorance of parents, large family, absence of scheme for family allowance and that the child labour is a cheaper commodity etc. The author has provided some suggestions such as protective legislation, establishment of free legal defence councils, welfare programmes (healthcare, grant of stipends, playing facilities) educational facilities, v.o. for child welfare, fixation of minimum hours of work, good working conditions, minimum wages, public awareness, attack against poverty etc.

**Child Labour in Agrarian Society - Sahoo, U.C. - 1995**

The book is a shift from conventional approach in dealing with the problems of child labour in Orissa. In the beginning the book critically analyses the emergence
and substantive use of child labour force in different socio-political-historical contexts and their structural position in total production context. The latter part of the book delineates the changing agrarian production relation and use of child labour. The author in his book presents the qualitative data with respect to 20 selected child workers which, by and large implies that the employment of children is a fait accompli of developed economies.

**Born to work, Child Labour in India - Burra Neera - 1995**

The author has taken up the study of child labours of lock industry of Aligarh, gem polishing industry of Jaipur, Brass ware industry of Moradabad, child potters of Khurja etc. The author contends that the appalling practices of utilizing children, specially girls of 5 to 6 years of age are rampant in all these occupations in India. The state policies aimed at protecting children are poorly conceived and badly enforced. This wide spread exploitation and abuse on child workers can be alienated by plugging the loopholes of child labour (P&R)Act 1986. In favouring the compulsory education, the author, pinpoints the fact that the learning is primary for children and learning should not be in workshop, factories or mines but should be in schools. For street children the N.G.O. can do meaningful jobs such as giving shelter, counseling, health service, non-formal education, protecting against urban predatots etc. The state's role can be supportive nature. The author suggests the establishment of a statutory commission on child labour.

**Migrant Child Labour in India - Tripathy S.N. - 1997**

This is a pioneering and explorative study of the problem of child labour in
India with special reference to Orissa. The study aims at examining the socio-economic profile of exploited, abused migrant child labourers employed in the unorganized sector. The study presents a comprehensive analysis of legislative powers, measures and their evaluation. According to the author, the migrant child labour is attributed to frequent crop-failure, recurring droughts, assetlessness, landlessness of the parents, distressed living conditions, indebtedness and bondage etc. Other factors help emerged child labours are chronic poverty, unemployment, overcrowded homes, parental abuse, drug abuse, alcoholism, abandoning of children by parents, runaway of children. In his search for new paradigms, the author suggests to tackle the problems of poverty, remove inadequacies of educational system, stop the greed of employers, remove inability of Govt. machinery to enforce the existing laws, remove unawareness of parents besides the efforts to take away children from work.

Child Labour in Informal Sector, Institute of Applied Manpower Research - 1998

The book refers to the study of child labour in informal sector of Azamgarh District, U.P. poverty, urbanization, perception of parents/employers, sociological and other factors have brought home the nature and complexity of the child labour problem. Among others the study aims at addressing the issue like socio-economic and cultural context of child labour, deployment pattern of children in the age group 5-14 years, activities and work environment, extent and form of deprivation in respect of schooling, recreation and personality development for working children, impact of welfare programmes etc.
Finally, the study reveals that the parents and their wards who are in pursuit of various cultures are apprehensive about the role of formal education. Therefore, there is the need to transform parent's cultural perception for bringing about a change in their attitude towards their wards.

**Child Labour A Rural Reality : Shirol Dr. S. V. -2000**

The author in dealing with problem of the child labour of unorganised sector has given a vivid picture of the rural setting that is connected with it. To him the phenomenon of child labour is deep rooted in socio-economic stratification, restricted job opportunities and prevailing poverty situation in India. The parents do not only retain their children into work at the tender age but also deprive them of opportunities for a healthy social living according to the author. The most vulnerable area of child labour is found in the categories of agriculture field workers in the rural areas as per author's version. The book apart from dealing with various aspects of child labour delves into the socialisation and economic aspects of child labour. The author finally arrives at conclusion that the formal education should not be considered as an alien institution imported to the village. Schooling, according to shirol, should be made functionally effective and employment oriented.

**Population growth and child labour, the Indian dilemma - Prasad Narendra - 2001**

The book is divided into two parts. Part one deals with population and economic devt and part two deals with the child labour problem of the country in general and Bihar in particular. Rising population and child labour are the twin sins of the country. Strong political will power along with multidimensional approach
for reducing population and eradicating child labour is essential. In analysing the nature and dimension of child labour of Bihar, the author views that the child labour is a medium of economic exploitation and economic necessity of the parents and in many cases that of child himself. Hence, it is a socio-economic problem. Illiteracy, ignorance, low-wages, unemployment, low standard of living and social life all are the roots of child labour in Bihar according to the author. Despite plethora of legislative efforts, Bihar has largest working force of child labour in the country. Legislation according to the author be implemented forcefully and should be associated with punitive treatment and action. According to the writer, abolition of child labour should become an integral part of rural and urban devt programme. The solution of the problem of child labour calls for a multi-dimesional approach, the major dimensions being economic, education and legal.

**Child Labour - a Precarious Future - Gomango S.P. - 2001**

The publication aims to highlight the deplorable conditions of child workers. It further delves into the history of child labour, child slavery, sale of children, street children, sexual exploitation, child labour legal remedies, child labour and human rights, convention on the rights of the child etc. In dealing with the child labour problem the author emphasises the development of education with wide range of interventions. He, further, advocates strengthening flexible non-formal remedial education programmes, vocational education rehabilitation programmes etc. The author also opposes the universal evil of child servitude.
Child Labour in India, Causes, Consequences and Cures - Murthy. S edited - 2001

The publication divided into three sections deals with different issues on child labour. While section A delves into the emerging issues on the problem of child labour in India, the section B deals with the causes, effects and cure of child labour. Section C of the book incorporates miscellaneous aspects of child labour both of male and female.

Dealing with the problems of child labour in Section A, a good number of authors reveal the fact that the child labour is not something unique in India, it is a universal phenomenon and a world wide problem. Poverty, illiteracy and high growth of population in agrarian society are the root causes of child labour. The large scale industrialisation in urban area have led to many mal-adjustments and one of such mal-adjustments is the employment of children in factories of urban area. Considering child labour to be socially bad and economically unsound, psychologically disastrous and physically and morally deleterious, the nation all along is following certain pro-active policies in tackling the problem but these are not enough unless population is controlled, parents are given education, children are sent to vocational institutes and free and compulsory education provided. The removal of poverty and unemployment apart from ensuring minimum wage and family allowance to the families of B.P.L. and the co-operative efforts of V.O., N.G.O. and the Govt. are suggested by the authors in their writings. To them the legislative provisions alone cannot eradicate and control the child labour. The enhancement of economic circumstances of the families considered priority to the abolition or eradication of
child labour.

In Section B, the writers dealing with the causes, effects, and cures for child labour found very expressive. To all of them, there are economic, non-economic, and socio-logical factors behind the growth of child labour. For most of them, child labour is a complex reality and a multi-dimensional issue (Murthy, S).

In Section C, good many a writers term the child labour as the toil of innocents and challenge to the new millennium. To them, a long-term multi-pronged strategy to be carried out. The strategies interalia include enforcement of child labour acts, strengthening of primary education in rural areas, rehabilitation of child labour, improvement of economic situations of parents through various poverty alleviation and employment generation programmes. These also include a strong evaluation and monitoring of the various child labour elimination programmes and projects etc.

**Fundamentals of Child Rights: Arvind Kumar, editor-in-chief, 2002**

The encyclopaedic work in two volumes contains highly rich information supported by vital statistics, facts and figures as to the concepts, issues, and challenges in regard to the fundamentals of child rights. The editor-in-chief has drawn relevant literature from authoritative sources and incorporated the writings of scholars of repute. The book (V-I, V-II) deals with multiplex issues on children such as child care, child development, health-nutrition, legal intervention, constitutional and legal provision and U.N. convention of the rights of the child, national policies and plan of action on children, role of N.G.O.s in promoting rights of the child etc.
Child Labour in India: Hazarika, P. 2004

The book gives an account of child labour problem in pros and cons. Partly it is based on empirical research findings, but the larger part of the contents of the book covering whole of India is based on the secondary source. The study examines the child labour elimination efforts and the magnitude of child labour in India with a casual reference to the situation of Assam that prevails during the period 1961-2001 A.D. It also deals with the process of indentification of causes of child labour practices prevailing in India as a whole with special reference to Assam.

In providing framework and action plan the author suggests complete ban on child servitude, debt bondage, forced and compulsory labour. The author also suggests ban on child prostitutes, child beggars and children working as domestic servants. The author is in favour of extension of occupations and processes related to hazardous activities beyond 7 and 18 respectively as incorporated in child labour Act 1986. He is in favour of raising the age limit of working children from 14 to 18 years. The author suggests gearing up education measures, revamping National Policy on child labour, involvement of panchayat, NGOs to tackle with the problem of child labour.

Drug Abuse among Child Workers - Jitendra Mohan, Meena Sehgal, 2004

In the world of inequality an inequity, the greatest neglect is suffered by the 'marginalised children' who are forced to work due to economic reasons and are further pushed into 'drug abuse' due to criminalization of the insensitive social system, observe the authors. The drug abuse among child workers is a problem of complexed
nature compounded due to its nature and determinants. The book is not a research report, rather, it is a 'wake up' call to join in the effort to reconstruct a social order through realignment of all for bringing back smile on the face of innocent children.

**Problems of Child Labour in India - Dr. R.N. Misra edt, 2004**

The book is enriched with the writings of galaxy of writers dealing with different aspects of child labour. To the authors, the child labour as a mode of exploitation was necessitated by the economic compulsion of the parents and the child himself. Though it is a global problem, it has become a serious one in developing countries like India. 40 p.c. of population in India are children, of which 25 p.c are child labourers. Poverty, illiteracy, unemployment, social customs, population explosion, low income of parents are major problems which forced a grown up child to work as labourer. 9th 5 years plan elapsed, none-the-less, the standard of living of people fails to rise as expected hence the problems of child labour are still in dark, observe most of the writers.

**Problems of Child Labour - J.K. Chopra, 2005**

Dealing with the problems of child labour, the writer observes that after the onset of industrial revolution there has been exploitation of children in various industries in India and aboard. The developed countries of the west have solved to a great extent the problem of child labour. But in the developing world, exploitation of the children still continues which adversely affects their normal growth and status in society. The book deals with the fundamental problems, its causes, natural rights of children, statutory support, prevailing law, physical exploitation and
implementation of schemes for eradication of child labour in India. The author observes that the problem of child labour is not only a socio-economic but also has a very strong human dimension. The total prohibition of child labour is difficult if not impossible. However, a holistic and integrated approach is considered essential, according to author, to tackle and phase out the problem. For this reason a concerted and sustained efforts as well as appropriate interventions by states and V.Os are necessary. The author suggests strengthening of NCLPs in this regard.

References: