CHAPTER-II

DESIGN OF THE STUDY
2.1. STATEMENT OF PROBLEM:
Child labour is considered one of the phenomena caused by under development and poverty. Poverty which is the product of under development is the major factor for child labour. Research studies reveal that the children in developing countries, who account for 98 per cent of working children, work to survive and contribute to the survival of their families. There is no single cause for the problem of child labour. Poverty is not the only cause; it is inherent in the cycle of poverty, unemployment, underemployment and low wages, caused by inequitable distribution of resources, unleashed by a centralized and lopsided economy and the backward nature of agriculture.

The non availability or non accessibility to schools, an irrelevant school curriculum and the cost incurred for education, push the child towards the labourforce. The higher the rate of child employment, the lower is the rate of adult employment. Even in terms of earnings, it is observed that the market value of the children’s labour is even less than half the value for adults. Apart from employment and earnings, child labour is directly related to child health and exerts a negative effect upon it. It seriously interferes with their education and strikes at the very root of normal and healthy personality development. Also, a job situation results in loss of schooling, mental retardation, physical strain and deprivation of avenues for sports and pastime which is so vital to a child’s normal growth. It may be said that child labour is economically unsound as it undercuts adult labour, reduces wages and increases adult unemployment in consequence.

India has all along been following a proactive policy in the matter of tackling the problem of child labour. India has always stood for constitutional, statutory and development measures required to eliminate child labour. The Indian constitution has consciously incorporated provisions to secure compulsory universal elementary education as well as labour protection for children. Labour Commission in India has gone into the problems of child
labour and has made extensive recommendations. In spite of all these efforts the problem of child labour is everywhere.

2.2. REVIEW OF LITERATURE:

Keeping in view the severity of the problem of child labour, several studies were undertaken especially after 1979 i.e., the international year of the child. A brief picture of some of the studies is given in the following paragraphs.

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 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 the state in 1971. Child labour was more prevalent in rural areas than in urban areas. A higher percentage of children (5.31 per cent) in rural area were workers whereas this ratio in urban areas was only 1.82 per cent. The participation of children in the labour force in the age group of 10 to 14 years was very high (28.9 per cent) for men as compared to women (20 per cent).

Musafer Singh, V.D.Kaura and S.A. Khan (1980) in a survey on "Working children in Bombay" conducted by the National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development, NIPCCD (1978) revealed that the preference for the child labour by many employers is mainly due to the fact that it is cheap, safe and without liability. In urban areas, the reasons advocated for child labour are migration, urbanization, industrialization etc. It was found that 40 per cent of children started working due to economic compulsions. Other reasons were as follows: the child was idle and doing nothing (17.5 per cent) had left school (16.3 per cent), death / diseases job of the earning member (14.6 per cent) and children gave various reasons for discontinuing studies. 33 percent told that they could not meet school expenses, 12.4 per cent due to death / diseases of parents, 7.3 per cent due to lack of interest in studies or ill treatment of teachers and 12.4 per cent due to other reasons. The per capita income increased from Rs 53/- to 69/-. When the contribution of the children was included in the family, income and
expenditure i.e., Rs.69/- and Rs.64/- respectively. The distribution of working children in Bombay into occupational categories showed that 17.2 per cent were engaged in domestic work, 16.8 per cent in trade and crafts (zari and embroidery work and saree printing), 15.6 per cent in trade and commerce 14 per cent in production (plastic works, leather works, electrical goods), 15 per cent in repairs and services, 7.1 per cent in construction. On an average, a child worked for 8.76 hours per day. About 60 per cent worked for 6 to 10 hours a day and another 25 per cent for more than 10 hours a day. The time interval between leaving home and returning home varied from child to child. Except for 11 per cent of children who were away from their homes for 14 to 18 hours, the remaining children were away for more than 8 hours a day. In urban Bombay the average monthly earnings of the children came to Rs. 40 to Rs. 80/-. Children engaged in construction works, arts and crafts production were highest paid, their monthly average wages ranged from Rs. 105/- to Rs.110/-. Those working in households and restaurants were the lowest paid in terms of hard cash (Rs.37/- and Rs.31/- respectively on an average) and 62.5 percent of these children received their wages themselves. In the case of the rest, it was the parent / guardian who received the wage.

Chandrakanth Sharma and Raj Singh (1980) carried out a study on 100 child labourers in Hissar town of Haryana. Their study revealed that in majority of cases acute poverty of their families forced children to join labour force. The average size of their family was 8, which indicated that families whose economic standings was Below Poverty Line supplied children to work as labourers. 2/3 of children were from labour families around 4/5th labour families. Caste, family size, literacy levels, company of friends, crude behavior of father, lack of affection in family members of respondent families being illiterate were contributing factors in most and only a few were educated up to primary level indicating a positive association between illiteracy and child labour. About 45 per cent of children started working when they were in the age group of 7-10 years and 30 per cent children when they were in the age group of 11-12 years. Most children joined the labour force as soon as they became capable of undertaking physical work. This study further revealed that children were employed increasingly to do light jobs particularly
in unorganized sector and it has proved and boon to private employer as child labour is cheap. Their survey also revealed that 50 per cent of child labourers had to work for 15-18 hours per day and the rest for 10-15 hours.

Adikesavulu Naidu (1981) in his study on child labour participation in India aimed at analyzing the interstate variations in child labour in terms of sex, residence and sectorial distribution and identifying the demographic and socio-economic factors associated with economic activity rates of children. The study revealed that the proportion of child workers was much higher in rural areas than in urban areas. The percentage of child workers was higher for males than for females. Different states in India vary from 2 per cent in Kerala to 14.25 per cent in Andhra Pradesh. And the demographic factors associated with it were higher in child activity rate in countries where dependency burden on the young is heavy. The socio-economic factors associated with it were the magnitude of the child labour force participation which bears a close relation to the type of economy. If the economy is of the household unit type where the family itself is the exclusive unit of production, the major source of labour power is the family members including children. As the economy moves from the household unit type to the commercial industrial type the household becomes relatively unimportant as producing unit and the economic significance of children declines appreciably.

Weiner, Myron(1991) in his study draws a clear picture of working children in India. He did not find much credibility in official estimates of working children because official figures generally omit children engaged in nonwage domestic work. He raises questions on the status of 90 million children as per government estimate who were not attending school. A high dropout rate of 47 per cent in the primary stage of education and a higher rate of 62 per cent in the elementary stage that includes primary and upper primary level would be swelling the rank of out of school children. Government estimate counts those children among them as workers only if they are engaged in economically productive activities that result in production of tangible output or intangible services. Children's labour inputs have to be used for production of commodities or services to be sold in the market. However,
this restrictive definition excludes many works of children, the output of which may not find its way to market. Exponents of broader definition vehemently contest this underestimation.

The Child Labour Prohibitions and Regulation Act of 1986 is the comprehensive legal instrument to deal with child labour in organized industries. The act, in its spirit, lays emphasis on regulation rather than on prohibition. The act bans employment of children in hazardous industries but does not restrict children's employment in nonhazardous occupations. Children are not legally permitted to work in large factories but are allowed, as per the provision, in small scale units, cottage industries, in home based units, in home based sub - contracting.

Smithee Kothari (1997) made an indepth study on the situation of children in match industry of Sivakasi. The study remarked that most studies on child labour have focused on the economic factors leading to employment of children and that the recommendations have stopped at stressing the need for improvement of working conditions, payment of better wages, provision of facilities for schooling and strict enforcement of applicable laws. As one of the members involved in the preparation of UNICEF report, she feels that there is need to understand the wider implication of child labour, its employment, exploitation and its impact on child survival and health, not only in the match industry but also in other industries such as carpet making, embroidery, explosives, mining and various other units.

In a report on “Working Children in Urban Delhi” by the Indian Council For Child Welfare (ICCW) (1997), the occupational profile of working children revealed that the largest number of children were engaged as service workers and they constitute 24.5 per cent of the total number of working children. Of these, 70 per cent as cooks, waiters etc, both domestic and institutional workers. Other important occupations were sales workers (10.6 per cent), productive and related workers, transport equipment operators and labourers etc (27.1 per cent). 70 percent of child workers worked for more than 12 hours a day. The monthly wages of (children working in non-family enterprises) 39 out of. 48 earning children were less than Rs. 50/-.
children in non-family enterprises, 24 received wages themselves and in case of the remaining 29 children the wages were paid directly to their parents.

Abha Agrawal (1998) in his study on child labour focused on two factors that need to be assessed i.e., child labour as a source for and contribution to the subsistence of the family and child labour as an apprenticeship to learning skills and upward mobility in labour market. The problem of child labour in hazardous industries deserves immediate attention. It cannot be argued that this should be tolerated until total elimination of child labour is achieved. A series of initiatives ranging from better monitoring of implementation of legal restrictions to emphasis on poverty alleviation measures and overall development programmes are called for.

Focusing on special schools or economic support to families of children already in employment will not tackle the vast reservoir of child labour power that would continue to be available if the socio-economic profile of the catchment areas is not addressed. It is also important that any strategy to deal with this problem should not sound the death knell to the informal sector altogether which ensures survival of a large section of dispossessed rural and urban poor. Effective mechanism for the elimination of intermediaries who profit at the cost of the producers would go a long way in this process.

Olga Nieuwenbuys (1999) in his study examined the role of children in the developing world. He feels that the current restrictive approach to child labour is grossly inadequate. Basically, the inadequacy rests on the followings assumptions: the nation of child labour, first, assumes the universality of a specific capitalist form of work, namely, waged or hired labour, that is only dominant in highly – industrialized countries. The rural economics of Third World countries are characterized by a wide range of work forms, often varying seasonally and periodically. The notion of child labour leaves the work routine within the family context of hundreds of millions of children unnamed and unperceived and obfuscates the contribution solicited from children of exploited adults. It puts upon these desperately poor parents shoulders the responsibility for protecting their children from excessive
drudgery. This is obviously a mystification, as the integration of rural households into the market economy has transformed work, which may have been morally desirable in a far, possibly even mythical, past into objectionable forms of exploitation.

The notion of child labour stipulates that children should not perform activities that impair their 'health' development which in fact, amounts to saying that they should not engage in gainful employment or perform economically valued work. This assumption works from the idea of childhood as a social arena placed in the 'happy' children's activities would, in this perception, be emotional attachment and love for their parents, and not the search for gain or economic self-interest as happens in the 'happy' adult world. This makes children purely emotional and irrational beings that are far removed from reality. Though appreciation and love undeniably carry more weight in their lives than in an adults life, the pursuit of such prosaic rewards as food, clothes, money and leisure appear to be in real life just as important for children as for adults. But children's ability to step out of the moral economy to which they are relegated should not lead, as happens recurrently, to the wrong conclusion that they therefore have no childhood or are robbed of it. In the absence of criteria valid across cultures of what a healthy and happy childhood implies, it is no simple matter to balance the positive aspects of work against the negative ones. Children work overwhelmingly for no pay, but this does not make their work less demanding or less important for the family and the economy at large. But the remaining unpaid lot does reflect a weaker bargaining position and is, in last resort, the expression of inter generational inequality in the distribution of income and wealth.

Santha Sinha (2000) examined some of the issues relating to child labour in India. She identifies that there is no uniformity of opinion on what constitutes child labour, or for that matter, to what extent it is necessary to prevent children from working. To a large extent, the diversity in views is reflective of the wide variations in the socio-economic context in which child labour survives.

Despite the formulation of specific policies for dealing with child labour, and the implementation of a large number of programmes by the
government directly and through NGOs in pursuance of these policies, the impact on child labour in the country has been minimal. The basic reason why the policies and programmes adopted in the country by the government as well as by most NGOs have failed to create much of an impact on the child labour situation is that they are simply not designed to do so. A closer look at the premise on which these policies and programmes are based reveals that its very nature leads to a situation where no impact on child labour is possible. The basic premise on which all these policies and programmes are based is the poverty argument. In its simplest form, this states that households especially those belonging to the lower economic strata of the society, cannot survive unless the children in the family also work. Child labour, therefore, is an inevitable consequence of the economic forces operating on a family. Any effort to withdraw a child from the work force without adequately raising the economic status of the child’s family. In other words, the only method of withdrawing a child from work is by compensating the family adequately for the loss of income. This approach is amply reflected in many of the schemes described earlier which have been taken up both by the government as well as NGO’s.

Dr. Jayantilal Bhandari (2000) identifies that with the heralding of the new millennium, the burning challenges that have appeared globally, the problem of child labour stands as one of the most acute among them. More than a billion of children in the world today come under child labour because of their non-schooling or because of their dropping out of school at the initial stage.

On reviewing the factors resulting in the prevalence of child labour, casteism, poverty, family size and income level of education etc, are found to be some of the major factors that have intensified the problem of child labour in India. Gurupadswami Committee has revealed in its report that the child labour problem is a result of poverty and elimination of poverty in itself is a great problem. Therefore, despite all efforts of the government, it is very difficult to solve this problem. Therefore, education, recreation and relaxation and with the condition that the said employment shall not cause insecurity to the health of the children. The child labour problem is an intense socio-
economic problem in the country that requires a long term multi pronged strategy to be carried out on a continuous basis. This strategy should include enforcement of child labour Acts, strengthening of primary education in the rural areas, rehabilitation of the child labour, improvement of economic conditions of the parents of the child labour through various poverty alleviation and employment generation programmes. It is also necessary that a strong evaluation and monitoring be done for the various child labour elimination programmes and projects. Strong enforcement of the labour Acts may be done to ensure legal action against those who employ children for work. The child labour problem is an evil that requires awareness and change of approach in all sections of the society. The government, media and the NGOs should unite together to play a very important role in this holistic task, only then the child labour problem shall be completely solved and future generations shall be free from this curse.

Dhirendra Nadha Konar (2001), made an analytical survey on child labour and its relevant in Indian economy. He discussed theoretical issues relating to child labour and examined the magnitude of child labour in India. He also identified some salient features of child labour in India and identified number of causes behind the wide spread prevalence of child labour in India. Because of the social, cultural and economic reasons the slum dwellers have more children and naturally there will be more child labourers among them. Another reason behind the existence of high magnitude of child labour in India is poverty. Lack of education and educational opportunities in India is another reason behind the prevalence of child labour. Due to sickness in different factories many parents have themselves become unemployed. They are to fall back upon their children’s income, however meager it may be. As a result children even reluctantly become compelled to take jobs at whatever place and at whatever ways it becomes possible. He feels that in spite of attacking child labour we should try our best to attack poverty under the same time to reduce the growth rate of population through the formulation of suitable and effective population policy. If poverty gets addressed the need for child labour would automatically diminish.
Mohammad Mustafa and Onkar Sarma (2003) in their study examined working conditions, wages and earnings of working children. They presented child labour laws in India and analyzed various Supreme Court judgments on child labour. The main finding of the study is that more number of child labour are from underdeveloped countries, with the Asians, contributing to the maximum extent. Most of the child labour is concentrated in South and South East Asia. A vast majority of child workers are employed in the important sector, where they are subjected to prolonged hours of hard labour for minimum wages and without weekly offs or proper rest intervals.

Apart from poverty, the low educational and occupational status of the parents, and inadequacy of the legislation system, as well as, its insufficient enforcement are the other reasons for the persistence of child labour. Many of the employers proper to employ children over the adults for their greater benefits. Most of the female children were working as unpaid family labourers, where they could adjust their working hours according to the requirements. It was also observed that apart from the wage work, female children contributed more in the household chores than their male counterparts. Despite their hard labour for prolonged hours and minimum wages, children are not provided with even the basic amenities like toilet at the place of their work. The study suggests that child labour is a complex socio-economic demographic phenomenon which can be reduced and eliminated by multiplicity of actions, both by Government and public at school as well as at individual levels.

Child labour is rooted in poverty and must be viewed with patience and understanding. The progressive elimination of this problem is possible through improvement in the income distribution and social awakening, the measures which may be addressed to the society as a whole and not particularly to the children. The income disparity can be removed by providing better employment opportunities to the lower stratum of the society through creation of more jobs, agrarian reforms, enforcement of minimum wages, law, social security, pension to agricultural workers etc. These measures make it less
necessary for low income groups to rely on children for meeting subsistence requirements, or for providing security for the future.

Satya Prasad Padhi (2004), made an attempt to analyse whether the policy for the child labour should undermine the critical role of poverty or not. He raised two inter related policy issues whether the policy proposal for the elimination of child labour can be made effective without acknowledging the critical role of poverty and whether the correct cross regional association between poverty and child labour could be inferred from the region wise data on child participation rate and poverty ratio or not. Similarly, do the cross-regional results highlighting close association between child labour participation and overall labour participation ratio undermine the role of poverty. Poverty related solution to child labour, on supply side considerations, depends primarily on the effective participation of the poverty ridden marginalized households in good employment opportunities. This policy option is intuitively clear: it is universally acknowledged that households with access to good employment opportunities provide the best support system to children’s welfare that, in turn, hinges on formal schooling. The concerned marginalized households, therefore, provide the best support system to children with draw from workforce, when their economic compulsion of sending children to work place is replaced by availability of good employment opportunities to the adult members of the households. On the demand side, the effective withdrawal of child labour, by a ban, should be part and parcel of a policy of realignment, where activities prone to child labour give way to good employment opportunities.

Neerá Burra (2005) argues that the distinction at the conceptual level between child labour and child work is essentially flavored. Some of the empirical questions around this distinction be abandoned both at the level of the theory and practice. She concludes that such a distinction reasons why children are hired, and forced to work for industries on grounds that they are most suitable for the work. Researches on the ground shows that this is simply not the case. She also identified several factors for failure of child labour act-1986. She proposes some practical solutions to eradicate child
labour. The NGO’s and educationists should teach the value of formal education for the poor. The elimination of child labour is the responsibility of the education department and not the labour department. Solutions to child labour elimination lies in strengthening the formal schooling system.

Santha Sinha (2006) made some observations on the state of child labour in India. She asserts “any child not in school is immediately drawn into supplementing family labour on a full time basis either assisting in family occupation, managing family assets, or simply engaging in a wide variety of domestic adult realizing activities”. Strictly speaking, therefore, no child is ever kept idle and one cannot invoke the concept of idle children to explain the large number of missing children in the binary categories of students and child labourers. She suggests, as a method to resolve the issue of missing children to consider all of them as child labourers. She argues that segregation work done by a child into exploitative ‘labour’ and non-exploitative ‘work’ suffers from basic flaws, as there is no simple method by which some activities engaging a child could be classified as ‘work’ and some as ‘labour’. There is wide variation in the work situation of children. Therefore, such a categorization is extremely difficult to accomplish. The distinction should be rather based on working conditions rather than on the work itself. She argues to judge and distinguish between child work and child labour is highly subjective and artificial process. This task is rendered even more arbitrary by the fact there is nothing to prevent the child from transiting from one category to another. In the ultimate analysis, exploitation in the current employment notwithstanding. Since any child out of school is ultimately put to work and the concept of an ‘idle child’ does not really hold good in the Indian context, any child out of school has to be treated as child labour.

Sudip Chakraborthy (2006) had undertaken a study on child labour in rural context. He sheds light on how current literature on child labour spins around four perspectives: the labour market, human capital formation, social responsibility and child centred perspectives. He opines that diversity of perspectives is a natural outcome of society’s pursuit of various social aspirations. The labour market perspective of child labour is unfolded bit by
bit. The role of state is explored in removing all children from work place and putting all of them in school by enacting legislation stipulating minimum age of entry into labour force. He made a distinct demarcation between Child work and child labour. Children who have been found to be engaged in work activities that do not interfere with their nominative development. Work, which does not detract from the other essential activities of children, namely leisure, play and education is not child labour. Child labour is that work, which impairs the health and development of children. Child labour hinders the passage to productive adulthood. Child work is an aspect of life of rural children. It ranges from household work or domestic work to economic work around home. His study finds that poverty is a significant factor in schooling children. The likelihood of a child stepping into the world of labour depends on the economic status of the household. His study reveals the surroundings and realities of child labour families. Mothers remain outside home for long hours evidently to undertake paid work. A prolonged absence from home affects girls adversely as they take up the domestic chores and kitchen work that derails them from schooling.

Family income has a negative impact on labour time use of children. Thus, rise in family income can reduce child labour significantly. Families that survive on income from child labour should be covered on priority basis under anti-poverty programme. Panchyats should shoulder the lead in identifying such families; in designing appropriate income earning schemes for them and in taking special care to encourage and supervise the schemes for successful operation of the projects.

Neera Burra (2006) had undertaken a detail study relating to the child labour working in the glass industry of Aligarh, the brass-ware industry of Moradabad and the pottery industry of Khurja in the state of Uttar Pradesh. She also studied polishing industry of Jaipur in the state of Rajasthan. She draws attention to the different types of health hazards faced by working children and classified different types of hazardous occupations. The first type were occupations where children and adults could contract silicosis, pneumoconiosis, or byssinosis because of chemicals and other substances used
in the production process. Second, there were occupations where the hazards found their origin in the poor working environment. And third, there were occupations which may be considered safe, but the vulnerability of children made these occupations hazardous for them. The conditions under which children and adults worked were atrocious. The early entrance into the labour force shortened the working lives of many young workers who, now as adults, were too ill to work in the labour force. They were, therefore, forced to send their own children to work. Full – time work of children seriously jeopardized the chances of a child getting education.

She believes that the poor parents had a deep interest in education their children. In all the industries the children of the master craftsman and the better off artisans went to schools regularly and spent perhaps a couple of hours a day learning the trade. It was the children of the lowest level of workers, the underemployed or the unemployed, who did not attend school and constituted the bulk of the child labour force. By and large, such children belonged to the Scheduled Castes, lower castes or the Muslim community. These groups represented a combination of economic and social disadvantages. She felt that wide spread awareness about the importance of education is key to improve the prospects of children.

Asha Bajpai (2006) pointed that India has some of the most far-reaching laws in the world. Yet, they are very rarely implemented. Laws by themselves are not a sufficient condition for bringing about social change or change in attitudes, beliefs, and practices. However, they are necessary tools which can be used by empowered communities to fight for their rights. In the context of children’s rights, the laws are woefully inadequate and, in many cases flawed. Part of the problem is related to the fact that children are not seen by the society as being independent entities deserving of rights. They are perceived as being family assets and this has a strong impact on public policy. When it comes to children’s working, this is seen as legitimate activity and parents can pledge or use them in times of need. Discussion on the need for legal frame work to protect children from the hazards of work has, therefore, vacillated between the rights of child and the needs of the parents. This is
reflected in all the laws related to child labour and compulsory education. It goes without saying that children work largely in the informal economy where labour laws are almost nonexistent. Asha Bajpai provides a detailed overview of the rights of the child in different contexts.

She provides estimations on the magnitude of child labour as well as and causes and consequences. There are also testimonies of child domestic labourers who were tortured by inhuman employers. Bajpai rightly points out how hazardous it is for children who work as domestic labour. She draws attention to the fact that Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 does not define domestic labour as ‘hazardous’, and therefore, there is no protection to this category of child labour in the current legislation, even though the Constitution of India (Article 21), provides protection to life and personal liberty. She lists all the provisions in the constitution supposed to prohibit and regulate child labour in India as also all the Acts of Parliament from 1881 onwards. Several Acts were revised periodically to make the laws more stringent. However, as she rightly points out, provisions relating to child labour under various enactments have concentrated mainly on aspects such as minimizing working hours increasing minimum age and prohibiting employment of children in occupations and processes detrimental to the health and well being of young children. She discussed details on the evaluation of child labour and bonded labour legislation. She provides a useful summary of the judicial response to child labour with details of important case law. She rightly points out that child labour legislation is inadequate in its understanding of the situation.

U.C. Sahoo (2007) in his study examined the diverse dimensions of child labour in India. He feels that recent proliferation of child labour studies in India, there is a paucity of new ideas and insight into the process of the historical and social conditioning of the phenomenon. Conventional wisdom explains the existence and change of the phenomenon in terms of poverty, illiteracy, chronic unemployment, rapid demographic expansion, regional backwardness and apathy of the state. These factors, through crucial, are not sufficient for the comprehension of the nature and dynamics of employment of
children. The treatment of the phenomenon in isolation from the larger historically evolved political economy provides little sociological insights into the issue. In other words, the conventional approach indicates only certain dimensions of phenomenal existence and conveys little about the structure of its reproduction. It is time to move beyond simple truisms to a profound analysis of the mechanisms perpetuating the phenomenon of child labour. Not only the child labour studies refrain from holistic and historical analysis of the phenomenon but also confined to urban un organized sector which employs barely one- tenth of the total child work force. Meanwhile, agriculture and allied sectors which employ over 90 per cent of the under-aged work force has received little academic or potential concern. In fact, there is almost little substantive research on child labour in advanced agricultural regions. Surprisingly, it has been found impossible to arrive at any generalized propositions on the formation, nature and character of child labour force; their structural position in the total production context, their consciousness, struggle and future. His study tried to formulate and develop new dimensions and approaches in the child labour research. It also questioned the widely held fallacious notion that agricultural growth would contribute to the decline of employment of children in productive process. Instead, the study has demonstrated that the nature of agrarian capitalism being primitive is prone to employ and expropriate the cheap labour, including that of children.

The study has argued that the nature of child labour varies in space and time depending on the character and strength of the given political economy. The two major propositions, that the higher the development of agriculture (primitive accumulation of capital), the greater is the peasant pauperization and consequent increased employment of children; and that uneven development of agriculture tends to larger recruitment of children into the under paid force from among the lower classes and castes, are amply substantiated.

R.D.Sampath Kumar (2007) under taken a study on urban child labour to ascertain the socio- demographic characteristics of working children. He also examined the nature, causes and working conditions of employment of
child labourers. The nature and extent of child abuse, the parent's perspectives about their child work life is also examined. He has suggested many policies and programmes for the welfare of working children. According to him, there are three important aspects to note regarding the background of the child labourers; i.e. entry in to the job at an easy age, illiteracy and predominantly rural, urban migration.

The necessity of the child to take up employment depends mainly on the socio-economic status of the parents. It is found from his study that most of the parents of child labourers in the motorized two-wheeler service units have relatively better socio-economic status compared with the other three categories. As regards the neglect of child labourers by their parents, it is noted that most of them are compelled to take up employment and as such there is neglect of children by the parents as well as family members. Further, children are reported to be an abused verbally and physically by the members of the family. Children are also neglected and abused in their work setting. Neglect of the health and emotional needs of the child labourers by employers is found to be prevalent. The authoritarian approach and formal relationships of the employers are major hurdles for the child's growth and development. He is of the opinion that poverty is the main reason for child labour, several poverty alleviation programmes such as Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), Training for Rural Youth in Self Employment (TRYSEM), Self Employment for Urban Poor (SEPUP), Chief Minister's Employment For Youth (CMEY), Prime Minister's Employment For Youth (PMEY), Food for Work, Jawahar Rojgar Yojana etc. initiated by the government should be intensified for larger coverage of the beneficiaries so that there can be a better quality of life.

Ratan Khasnadi, Tania Chettarjee (2007) examined various reasons for poor attendance behavior of students in formal schools. An analytical survey is undertaken in the slum - dominated part of East Kolkata between November-2003 and July-2005. The survey covered 9969 children from 104 schools spread over 11 wards of Kolkata. Three types of schools namely Kolkata Primary School Council (KPSC) schools, Kolkata Municipal
Corporation (KMC) schools and Shikshalaya’s (alternative formal schools by NGO’s); were purposively selected for this study. The main conclusions of the study are: the country is yet to achieve the targeted goal of universalisation of elementary education. The government has launched the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) which is trying to face this challenge by developing awareness among the disadvantaged parents. The non government organizations have also been invited to participate as facilitators of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) in many states of India. The ground reality; however is that the students belonging to the disadvantaged families still don’t attend classes regularly. Even if they are induced to get enrolled in formal schools, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) retaining them in the school till they complete the primary education is still a big problem. Retaining the students in formal schools is far more difficult than enrolling them, particularly if the students are from very poor economic background. The scenario is not expected to change radically unless the basic socio-economic issues related to the disadvantaged families are addressed properly. The field survey, however, indicates that the intervention by the NGO’s might have a positive contribution in meeting this challenge. For such cases where absenteeism can be checked by counseling of the parents and also by developing community consciousness. The NGOs with their flexibility in approach can contribute positively in this endeavour. The NGO intervention may also help the child in improving their school performance.

Subodh Dhawan (2008) in his study on Child Labour, opines that the Indian society is facing the problem of child labour due to illiteracy from the masses; this is the reason why India has the largest number of child labour in the world. Child Labour is wide-spread, disguised and persistent in India, despite the notification of child labour (prohibition and regulation) Act on 10th October-2006. He identified that girl children of poor Muslim artisan families are very often employed in Zari- Zardozi karkhanas. There is a scope of developing these karkhanas (workshop) into skill training centers on the pattern of ITI.
He emphasized that the free, compulsory and good quality schooling for all children can eliminate child labour. This is a very essential plank of any effective strategy. This is just one of the reasons why it is so important to ensure the adoption of a right to education law that ensure universal schooling without exceptions or caveats. It is also necessary to make such legislation effective in terms of allocating sufficient public resources for this and making sure that community control and adequate teacher training allow for good quality schooling for all. For ensuring free elementary education to all children between the age of six years and fourteen years, the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government launched the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) in 2001 and brought a constitutional amendment in 2002 making elementary education a fundamental right. Hence, universalization of education is the best available solution to the problem of child labour.

Preet Rustagi (2009) highlights the potential understanding of children’s work participation more comprehensively, through the adoption of time use survey (TUS) techniques. Children, and also women, are involved in a host of economic activities. This study deals with the work profile of children across age cohorts, by sex and state as derived from the detailed survey. The household survey data and the time use survey are both utilized to capture the children’s work profile. It is a questionnaire based survey along with time use survey to better capture the daily practices and routines of rural children. The sample the study consists of 1981 households selected from a total of 48 villages, from 17 blocks, in 8 districts in 4 states of India. The identification of the four states of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan in different geographical regions of the country, which report high incidence of child labour and ‘no where children’, provides a wide canvas for analysis. Two districts were identified in each of the states, with one being a relatively developed one while the second was a relatively backward district. From these two districts, six villages were selected from two or three blocks, which formed the sample villages. In each village, approximately 40 to 50 households were covered in the sample.
The main conclusions of the study are as follows: Details of the number of hours spent per day and the percentage weekly time utilized in undertaking economic activities, both paid and unpaid reveals that more girls are involved than boys. The potential for eliciting improved estimates of women’s participation through time use survey has always been a point in its favour for capturing unpaid work. However, the estimates from these four states, which are characterized by a higher incidence of child labour than other states show that many more girls than boys are involved in not only unpaid work but also paid work, irrespective of the time they put in. The districts level analysis reveals that work participation rates for girls exceed that of boys in many areas. Girls exceed boys in all categories in terms of the work they undertake among the out of school children, among the dropouts and among the child workers.

2.3. NEED FOR THE STUDY:

Many research studies have been conducted at macro and micro level in recent years, but very little work has been done on the causes and consequences of child labour in the State of Andhra Pradesh in general and of Prakasam district in particular. In the absence of such studies, an attempt is made to study the causes and consequences of child labour in the Prakasam district of Andhra Pradesh.

2.4. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

The main objectives of the study are;

1. To study the magnitude of the child labour in India and in the State of Andhra Pradesh.
2. To find out the socio-economic causes of child labour in India.
3. To examine the policy initiatives relating to child labour in India.
4. To probe into the working conditions, job security and exploitation of child labourers by their employers in Prakasam district
5. To identify the causes and consequences of child labour in Prakasam district, and

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6. To identify the main problem and offer appropriate suggestions to eliminate child labour.

2.5. HYPOTHESES:

The following hypotheses are tested in the study.

1. Prakasam district is characterized by marked under development in agriculture.

2. More number of child workers of the sample belongs to lower Caste and illiterate families.

3. Poverty is the main cause for prevalence and perception of child labour.

4. The working conditions and environment are not favourable for child’s normal growth and development.

5. Parents and employers of child labourers are in the perception that child labour is right and inevitable considering the poverty conditions in which they are living.

6. Child labour in Prakasam district is due to failure of the implementation of legislation.

7. Child labourers are interested in continuing their studies, if opportunities are provided.

8. Child labourers do not have time for play and other recreational activities.

2.6. SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY:

The change in the economic conditions of the families of the child labourers and the households is an important factor for generalization of the findings of the study. The economic conditions, education status, the cycle of poverty, unemployment, underemployment and low wages differ from region to region. Since the present study is based on the smaller size of sample, one cannot claim that this study is completely perfect. The main findings, which are confined to Prakasam district of Andhra Pradesh, cannot be generalized and similar studies on wider scales are to be conducted. In view of the recall lapses on the part of the respondents, the information gathered cannot be treated as totally free from errors. However, efforts are made to collect
reasonably satisfactory information from sample respondents by visiting them at repeated intervals and through checks and counter checks while canvassing the schedules. This is another serious limitation of the study. In spite of all these limitations, the results of the study may be generalized for the entire study area and in particular different regions in India with similar socio-economic conditions.

2.7. METHODOLOGY:

The methodology of the study is as follows:

2.7.1. Sample design: The basis of the study is a sample survey. The stratified survey method has been used while drawing samples. Prakasam district, which is divided into three revenue divisions; i.e., Ongole, Kandukur and Markapur, is just one example of incidence of child labour. In each division two revenue mandals were chosen i.e., one urban and another is rural for comprehensive study. Mandal wise list of child labour is obtained from the available records of the project officer (PO) Sarva Siksha Abhiyan (SSA), Ongole in Prakasam district. Using simple random sampling technique, 15 per cent of the child labour and child labour households in each revenue mandal are selected for the study. Thus, the study is confined to 318 child labour households and child labourers in the Prakasam district. The sample design in the study area is given below in Table 2.1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S.No.</th>
<th>Revenue Division</th>
<th>Selected Mandals</th>
<th>No.of Child labourers in the mandal</th>
<th>Sample (15%) of total child labour</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Ongole</td>
<td>Chimakurthi (Rural)</td>
<td>282</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Ongole (Urban)</td>
<td>181</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Kandukur</td>
<td>Kanigiri ( Rural )</td>
<td>577</td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Kandukur (Urban)</td>
<td>198</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Markapur</td>
<td>Yerragondapalem (Rural)</td>
<td>647</td>
<td>97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Markapuram (Urban)</td>
<td>235</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2120</td>
<td>318</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Records of Sarva Siksha Abhiyan, Ongole

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2.7.2. **Data base**: The study is based on both primary data and secondary data. The secondary data are collected from the offices of the Labour Commissioner, New Delhi, Labour Ministry, Government of Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad, National Child Labour Project (NCLP) office, Ongole, Sarva Siksha Abhiyan (SSA) office, Ongole and International Labour Organization (ILO) office, Hyderabad. Supporting data are collected from published sources like Census Department, Hyderabad, Reports, Books, Journals, Periodicals, and Dailies.

The literature on the subject, available in the libraries of Central University, Hyderabad, Osmania University, Hyderabad, Sri Venkateswara University, Tirupati, Centre for Economic and Social Studies (CESS) Hyderabad, SVUPG Centre, Kavali and Jawahar Bharati Degree College, is also utilized. The primary data is collected from the sample child workers and households of child workers with help of schedules. Proper care is taken to explain different aspects in schedules to elicit truthful information from the households and child workers. The schedules are pre tested before conducting the field survey.

2.7.3. **Tools of analysis**: Suitable and appropriate statistical tools and mathematical devices like averages, percentages, analysis of variance, t-test, Chisquare tests are employed while tabulating, analyzing and interpreting the data. Maps, graphs and diagrams are also used to present the facts and figures clearly.

2.8. **CHAPTER SCHEME**:

The study is presented in seven chapters. The first chapter is aimed at understanding the concept of child labour and classification of children by activity status. The second chapter is confined to the review of literature and research methodology adopted in the study. The third chapter examines the magnitude of child labour in India. Chapter four makes an attempt to understand child labour position in the State of Andhra Pradesh. The fifth chapter consists of policy initiatives relating to child labour. The sixth chapter
covers child labour situation as well as the socio-economic conditions of child labour in Prakasam district. The seventh chapter presents the main findings of the study and also suggestions to tackle the problem of child labour.
References:


21. Dr. R.D. Sampath Kumar; "Urban Child Labour Abuse And Neglect"; The Associated Publishers-2007

