CHAPTER-I

INTRODUCTION

“I am the child. All the world wants for my coming. All the earth watches with interest to see what I shall become. Civilization hangs in the balance. For what I am, the world of tomorrow will be. I am the child. You hold in your hand my destiny. You determine, largely, whether I shall succeed or fail; Give me, I pray you, these things that make for happiness. Train me, I beg you that I may be a blessing to the world” according to Mamie Gene Cole of United Nations.¹

Article 32 of UN convention on the rights of child states that “state parties recognize the right of child to be protected from economic exploitation and from performing any work that is likely to be hazardous or to interfere with child’s education or to be harmful to child’s health, physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development. Convention 182 of International labour Organization (I.L.O.) has main aim, “to eliminate the worst form of child labour”. Even with other constitutional and legal legislations the child labour is still exists. United Nations secretary general, Kofi Annan, has commented on child labour as “child labour has serious consequences that stay with the individual and with society for far longer than the years of childhood.

¹ The quotations are collected from different literature of U.N.O and I.L.O. which are placed in web sites.
Young workers not only face dangers of working conditions, but they also face long term physical, intellectual and emotional stress. They face an adulthood- unemployment and illiteracy. The international labour organization (ILO) estimated the following data of child labour. (As per the report in the year 2006).

- There are 250 million working children of ages between five to seventeen.

- 126 million children are estimated to work in worst forms of child labour, one in every twelve of the world’s children who are in age group of five years to seventeen years age.

- 74 million children who are under fifteen years of age are in hazardous work, and should be withdrawn from the work. Child labour in slate mining and manufacturing at Markapur is considered as one in the list of hazardous processes and occupations.

8.4 million Children are in slavery, trafficking, debt bondage and other forms of forced labour, forced recruitment in armed conflict, prostitution, and pornography and other illicit activities and mostly girls are forced into these worst forms of child labour.

Around seventy percent of children work in an unpaid work for their families which are poor.
36 million children out of 250 million world child labour (14.37 percent) are Indian child labour population.

Every second child of Indian child labour has no access to primary education.

Every third girl child in India does not see her happy teen years.

Child labour in Andhra Pradesh is around 16, 61,940 as per census of 1991.

Child labour in Prakasam is 73,920 as per the census and 36 percent of this population is in Mrkapur, Tarlupadu, Konakanmitla and Donakonda mandals, which constitute the slate mine belt.

This area is taken as our project area for the collection of data. Child labour in India is socio-economic phenomenon arising essentially out of poverty and lack of development and it is a cheap labour, which is preferred by many industrialists.²

According to the survey conducted by NCERT the following observations are made. The children are prevented to go to school due to work schedule. The children dislike going to school. The family is not having enough money for survival. The children do not have facilities to reach the schools as the schools are very far.

² UN system in India, position paper on child labour- ILO office, Geneva- 1998. (pp.2-5)
Child labour in India is socio-economic phenomenon arising essentially out of poverty, lack of development, lack of education and due to social customs. United Nations secretary General Kofi Annan has commented that “Child labour has serious consequences, which stay with the individual and with society for far longer than the years of childhood. They face adulthood unemployment and illiteracy in future.”

Due to the hard working conditions and their feeling that they are supporting the family along with their parents they themselves force adulthood on them.

This feeling of adult hood is the main reason for child marriages at Markapur. The majority of working children in India are rural children in the unorganized agricultural and allied sectors which are the traditional sectors of the Indian economy that often provides employment for all members of a family. They work primarily due to socio-economic factors and do so along with and under the supervision of their parents and guardians. They do not fall in the category of forced or indentured child labour. Every working child can not be regarded as a forced or indentured child labourer. The distinction between children working in a family and forced or indentured child labourers must constantly be kept in sight.

The government of India has identified ten industries where children are reported to be employed in hazardous occupations. The

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3 The quotations collected from different literature of U.N.O and I.L.O. placed in web sites.
slate industry at Markapur is identified as one among them. Markapur in Prakasam district of state Andhra Pradesh, is the biggest centre in the country for the manufacture of writing slates in the earlier time. Now it is the export centre of design slates used for construction work. The mines are spread around forty kilometers stretch in the surrounding areas of Tarulupadu, Donakonda, Konakanamitla, Tumalacheruvu, Vemulakota, Chennareddypally. Mostly twenty to twenty five percent of working population, around 15000 to 18,000, in mines is children. Government of India has identified the Markapur as the centre where children are employed in hazardous industries, so that steps are to be taken to abolish child labour, since the process of mining and manufacturing the slates is hazardous to health.4

A child is a person who has not completed his fourteenth year of age (The Child labour Prohibition and Regulation act -1986.) The child labour is a major challenge of our time, massive in scale and coercive and fatal in its consequences. It is a cruel to children, insulting to the dignity of human person and waste of human future capital and illegal in the view of legislature.

Thanks to the efforts of international agencies like ILO, UNICEF and several NGOs which are working from the last decade. Now most of the governments across the world started deliberating on the subject and taking up the legislative measures to curb this evil of child labour. What is rather imperative for an enforcement officer is to understand

the real reasons behind the employment of children from two angles viz., supply as well as demand side and the policy responses and support from the native people.

Some of the questions as below have to be asked and discussed.

Why does the parents, who love their children and see pride, happiness in their lives, decide to send them to work at very young age?

Why these young children are preferred by the industrialists and mine owners (even the elder work force is available), to be employed in hazardous and dangerous jobs, with the consent of the parents?

Does financial position and poverty is only the reason, which is pushing young children towards the work?

Is the tradition of making the children learning the family skill and also the illiteracy among parents, driving them to work at younger age?

Why there is a demand for child labour when there is abundant surplus of adult labour force.

Whether the family will be pushed to serious economic problems if the income generated by these children is stopped.

Is the children would be becoming skilled if they are employed from early childhood?

Are the child labour laws not being enforced strictly? Is there any lack of political will?

Is there any lack of response from the families for the suggested programs to eradicate the child labour?
The above are important issues to be faced by any body wanting to eradicate child labour. However it should be remembered that the employers in general, who prefer to employ children are neither philanthropists nor social workers. They may not educate the children and their families about the dangers involved in the processes of work. They force the families for work by utilizing their ignorance, poverty, illiteracy, debt of families and leniency of enforcing officials. Hence law makers have decided to impose ban on child labour. It is our duty to get the response and willingness from the natives.

Some times the tradition, culture and customs of some local caste sect has habituated the mine work and willing to do the same work from child to adult following the foot steps of their elders, calling it as “slate work culture”. Therefore conditions and social objectives must be changed such that local community (particularly Vaddera Community) will approach alternative job and see that their children go to school. This factor may not be very, very easy with out the help of trade union leaders, local politicians and community leaders.

In the earlier days (eight to ten years back), before starting of manufacturing design slate and export of design slates, the child

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Slate Work Culture:- Slate culture is the belief of local people as a custom and culture which provides food and shelter. They design and celebrate festivals and ceremonies involving the slate and mine. They feel that it is a culture left by their elders. In some castes, like Vaddera community, “slate and mine” is every thing for them and is their family job. In view of the immense faith of local people, the researcher brought this new term “slate work culture” to describe the complete mine work.
labour, generally worked in household slate manufacturing units and enameling and coloring units. In such cases the child labour was seen as a problem of only children and legislation. However with the change of slate industry and mining practices the problem of child labour is perceived as a problem of economy loss, future valid man power loss, impact on social structure such as child marriages, child pregnancy and an attack on Judiciary. As the production shifted to the production for markets i.e, towards the industrialization and export, the children usually accompany their elders in the same employment of their parents. However the employment of children comes to be seen as social evil and economic problem, if you see particularly as a human being. Hence the society reacted to protect itself and its children. During the beginning of slate industry, the forces conspired to create the child labour but while continuing or due to latter developments of industry the same forces has seen the child labour as a problem and want to eradicate the problem without their(conspired forces) true cooperation and also that of working children and their parents. In early phases of slate industry factors such as habit, custom and tradition, uneven technological advancement and lack of alternatives (especially education) virtually forced the children to be put to work by the families. In latter stages of industrialization, factors such as emergence of technological advancement and growing availability of education and development made the families to think about child labour as a problem.
However the gain is not up to the mark. Responses to the policy of government, trade unions, non-governmental organizations, judiciary, by the families are seen to be encouraging, provided the contract labour and contract lease system in mines are abolished. The contract labour system is looking like a retail shops supplying commodity of requirements of child labour. The contract leasing system of mines is making the labour force not in contact with the original lease holder. Now the problem is to stop it and think the ways and means to bring the new system of mobilization of eradication of child labour. The difficulty is to bring this fact, as this being an evil, to the house holds and get their positive response. Study is made on demand of child workers and role of mechanization and role of schooling (education program) and role of government organizations and NGOs along with responses and impact on the households of the area.

**NEED FOR THE STUDY AND LIMITATIONS OF STUDY:**

Child labour is a major challenge of our time, massive in scale and coercive and fatal in its consequences. It is cruel to children, insulting the dignity of human person and is a waste of human capital. Until few years ago, child labour was viewed with a mixture of indifference, apathy and even cynicism. Child labour was equated with child work, excused with the argument that work is good for children and means of helping the family. The position was one of denial by the government, by employers and by parents. For most organizations
child labour was illegal, and therefore what did not exist in law will not prevail in practice. For destitute parents trapped in poverty, the employment of their children was considered as the only option left and its prohibition is a nuisance and even a potent of economic catastrophe. Even for the donor community child labour eradication was not found on its list of priorities. There was thus a silence born out of necessity and opportunism kept the problem hidden, making remedial action virtually impossible.

The wall of silence is crumbling, thanks to the efforts of international agencies like ILO, UNICEF and NGOs mainly from the last decade. What ever may be the reasons, most of the governments across the world have taken the legislative measures. Consequently the functionaries in the government started noticing the existence of child labour and planning for their release and rehabilitating them. Experiences of ILO suggests that child labour is a solvable problem, where significant progress can be made by well developed policies and actions if there is a sufficient public cooperation and government interest. There is no need to avail general prosperity or other prior social conditions before acting against it. What is rather imperative for an enforcement officer is to understand the real reasons behind the employment of children from two angles viz., the supply side and demand side.

Why do the parents who love their children and see pride and happiness in them decide to send them to work at very young age?
Why these young children are employed in hazardous and dangerous jobs, obviously with the consent of the parents?

Is the poverty alone reason that is pushing the children towards work?

Why there is demand for child labour, when there is an abundant surplus of adult labourers?

Is it true that parents thrust employers and send their children to the employers for doing some work?

Whether the children would become vagabonds or socially unwanted elements if they are displaced from work and children and families would starve if they are released from work.

Is it true that the family will be pushed into severe economic problems if the income generated by the children is stopped?

Is it true that the children would become skilled workers if they were asked to work from early childhood?

Is it correct that employers are protecting the families of children by offering them employment, food and shelter?

These questions need to be answered by way of a full length study of the problem from its root level. Using all their wisdom, the law makers have decided to impose a ban on child labour and the duty is therefore cast upon the enforcement officers to carry on the mandate. The misplaced sympathy and compassion shown by the enforcement
officers is directly benefiting the law breakers and denying precious
future to thousands of children. Hence the enforcement officers must
come out of this “sympathy syndrome.”

To find the solution and answers to the unanswered questions,
there is a need for the complete study of the existing problem at the
slate mines of Markapur. There is a need for repeated studies and
recommendations till the child labour is eradicated. The weak financial
position of the families around Markapur and near by villages is the
major reason for the child labour. Original lease holders, from the
government, are not taking the responsibility of answering the question
of employment of children as labour in the mines. This has to be
carefully studied because of the fact that the actual mining and
quarrying (called as pit mining) is done by the sub-contractors who
purchase the pits from the original license holder. The political power is
also acting as a fuel to the burning problem. Hence a detailed study is
necessary for bringing out the problems and necessary compromising solutions.

LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY:

The data collection for research work has to be stopped some
times in the middle of the data collection, because the mine owners
and factory owners have given clear instructions to the mine workers,
not to cooperate with outsiders in answering any type of questions.

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The slate workers are very much reluctant to answer the questions, without the presence of their supervisor, with a feeling that no outsider can help them and there is no use in answering the questions and entering into discussions, since many persons have earlier approached them and resultant change is not there. They say that everybody comes and talk with them, but no improvement in their work, social structure and in their life pattern. The researcher has to visit their houses at different places around the project area for getting more information about the family. This is not possible at the mine and by questioning the child labour alone.

Many trade union leaders and various other political leaders are taking advantage of the debt given to the workers and hence, the workers cannot talk against them with whom they are supposed to live in their town, where as the researcher has come from out side and he will go away after the questioning work is over. They are of the opinion that no resultant solutions are found to their problems and day today lively hood, by going against the management and trade unions. Most of the mine licenses are with the political leaders and getting permission, for questioning the child labour, from them has taken more time.

The surrounding area is with thick bushes and the development is not there. It is difficult to travel in the thick bushes to reach the working mines without proper guide as the abandoned mines will be there in thick bushes and there is a danger of falling in to it.
Since the children are very much immature (below ten to twelve years), they are advised by the local pit owners not to answer the questions. It has become difficult to get the answers, without the help of a social worker, even after the permission from their supervisor. In few cases it has become necessary to enter into discussion of persuasion with parents of child labour to get the answers from their children.

Many of the children do not have proper idea about the government schemes and hence we have to explain them and start questioning after they understood our aim and purpose. This process consumed lot of time.

The attitude towards Assist India (NGO which is locally operating) by the native people is not satisfactory. This has made the villagers to feel that we are also from the same type of organization and hence in no mood to give satisfactory answer.

The benefits expected by them, as a result of earlier surveys, are not implemented by the officials whole-heartedly. Example is that earlier researches have recommended that there must be a wage fixation and attendance registers to be maintained at each mine surface, for inspection by the officials. However it is not implemented by the officials and mine owners.

Sub contractors and pit contractors are increased in two-folds after the design slate business is surfaced in place of writing slates.
Hence at each mine we have to contact five to six pit contractors for their permission for questioning the child labour.

The lease holders have employed some persons whose duty is only to wander the leased area on motor bikes and obstruct newcomers and stop them going to the mine area. Even we go to the mine forcibly the signal must have reached the mine supervisor and we find that no child will be working at the mine.

The researcher may reach the mine by crossing the bushes, the difficulty is that getting answers from child labour is very difficult. It is because of the instructions from their mothers, who are also working at the same place, not to answer any question. Lot of time is wasted by the time the permission for limited time is obtained from the mine owner or lease holder and pit contractors as they feel that working time is lost.

Practically it is not possible to reach the mine places without the guide, and the guide should be also a locally known prominent person. Most of the time is wasted for the search of pit contractors and labour leaders who takes the contract in two to three mines at different places. Locally known guide can only help in getting reliable and correct answers from the child labour as well as from their parents.
REVIEW OF LITERATURE:

Before the period of industrial revolution, the phenomenon of child labour was prevalent all over the world, though having an altogether different nature and magnitude. The child labour problem is now largely different as the Indian economy has undergone a structural change in-favor of the informal manufacturing sector and this process of restructuring is still going on. The relative socio-economic status of various demographic groups, particularly of the “stigmatized” groups, has remained more or less unaltered. This has reflected on the existing social, economic, and political structure in the society and the relative family status of children and women have not changed. Several aspects of economy has changed but since the other crucial elements of family is not changed, a problem has come up as a by product in urban India. This problem is child labour problem. The various aspects of problems of child labour are discussed in the number of text books. Important matter related to child labour in mines and quarries is taken as subject matter, and reorganized to suit our requirement.  

RESOURCE BASE:

Lot of research has been taken place on child labour. Various authors have published their research work in the form of books and they have published huge number of articles in national and

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7 Andrew datta-The plight of child labour in Industrial senario. (p-8)
international journals. Several government organizations have submitted their reports on this important issue. Researcher has briefly reviewed the literature on child labour.

Different sources such as text books; journals; seminar reports and workshop papers, leaflets and other printed matter given by national, international organizations and government departments which are dealing with child labour eradication programs, different web sites concerned with child labour problem, media reports and trade union reports on child labour, are studied and required topics are selected. The sources, one after another, are briefly explained as below.

**Research reports, articles and journal papers:**

According to the working paper on quarry workers development society, Dindigul (www.indianngos.com) from an organization child labour and you (CRY), a society called Tamilanadu Quarry Workers Development Society (QWDS) was formed at Dindigul with quarry workers of five districts of Tamilanadu, namely Karur, Namakkal, Trichy, Perumbalur and Pudukottai, to solve their problems and reduce child labour in quarries. This has given the motivation to the author to recommend for formation of such development society at Markapur. Even though NCLP–ILO is working at Markapur, its ideas and objectives are different from that of Development Society.
The role of children in the economic growth and consequent effect on children is discussed. The child labour market, children as a source of capital is discussed in this thesis. The source is from, Child labour and economic growth, a thesis submitted by Nardos Kebreab Tesfay at university of Sarkatchewon, Canada.

The paper published at twenty eighth All India sociological conference at IIT Kanpur a pragmatic approach to the problem of child labour in India – by Dr Vinod Kumar Srivastava, reader in Gorakhpur University: - The child labour is defined, basing on human rights approach. He has clearly distinguished between “child labour” and “child work”. Child work which is beneficial to the child in its formative socialization should not be condemned as child labour, unless we have an actual plan to educate the children for better employment in the future. However child labour, which is a paid or unpaid, which are monotonous, involving strain, hazardous and unduly prolonged child labour should be condemned. Majority of children are under economic compulsions to work. Quality elementary education may contribute to eradication of child labour up to some extent.

The state of the world’s children–Carol Bellomy, executive director, UNICEF: - Education will solve child labour up to major extent and it becomes the main part of the rights of child. The gender sensitivity and girl’s education are the main themes in this article.
Child labour–violation of child rights–paper by Snehalatha Tandon and Neethi Tandon:- The paper focuses on the developmental and rights issues of the child worker and discusses about the steps taken for child labour eradication as well as the need for multi prolonged strategy.

Child labour in India and their right by Dr. Savitha Bhakhry of National Human Rights Commission:- Study is based on child labour in a) Glass industry of Uttara Pradesh and Tamilnadu states of India b) Match sticks and fire works industry at Sivakasi in Tamilnadu and c) Slate mines and slate pencil making at Mandsur in Madhya Pradesh and Markapur in Andhra Pradesh.

Wazir and Rekha, MVF-Children out of work and getting into school -M.V. Foundation, secunderabad is active in eight districts and 2500 villages of Andhra Pradesh and is successful in sending most of the child labour, in age groups five years to eleven years to regular schools. MVF programmers, having interlinked strategies, are able to stimulate awareness and demand for education among poor. The main policy is to enforce compulsory education and works towards strengthening of the existing schooling system instead of setting up a parallel school system or special schools.

Child labour and education policy in India. Working paper by Shantha Sinha of M.V. foundation The Administrator, Vol. XII, July–1996:- All the non-school going children are considered as child
workers in one form or other. Parents want to send their children to school, but the limiting factor seems to be poverty. Motivation and availability of infrastructure are key factors. The girl child education is stressed. The non formal education system of education is only temporary and the policy of compulsory education is permanent cure of child labour eradication. The non-formal education of child labour is like that keeping root intact and cutting leaves and stem.

Eradicating child labour the MVF experience- by Anjum Humera:- This case study focuses on the history of MV foundation, an NGO located in Andhra Pradesh. This foundation has transformed the agenda of elimination of child labour into a mass social movement of education. This NGO has proved that poverty alone is not the cause for child labour in India, and it is due to lack of educational facilities; which also plays an important role The public private partnership is a must for the creation of facility for education.

Progressive action against child labour in India by Subrata Sekar:- Explains the need of progressive action, than immediate eradication. The author discusses about the National program of action and policy against child labour.

Child labour and media-consultation report:- by A.P. Varma and Mahaveerjain of National labour Institute:- Media coverage has to be done on the projects for eradication of child labour. The coverage must be in the form of documentaries, serials or video programs. The media
will cover the program on four heads such as objectives, target groups, strategies and plan of action. Child labour in home based industries in the wake of legislation (gem polishing industry at Jaipur)- by Kanchan Madur and Pradeep Bhargava of Inst of development studies:- The evil of child labour is still continuing in the gem polishing industry of Jaipur, in spite of the directives from supreme court and efforts of state government. Reasons, remedial measures are discussed.

Child labour in gem polishing industry Jaipur– Report by National labour institute:- The child labour is used for cleaning, cutting and polishing the gems. The child labour suffers with number of diseases of heart and lungs. There is a need to use the modern technology in the places, where the children are being used.

Gendered lively hoods in small mines and quarries in India, living on the edge:- Kuntala and Laharit dut:- The confusion on definition of mines, small mines, quarries has been explained. The confusion over jurisdiction of the administrative members, who has to implement the laws of central and state governments and keep the records of child labour, has been the main reason for relaxation of implementation. Other confusion is about the laws relating to child labour and women labour and legal provisions regarding organized and unorganized sectors. The researcher has recomended the legal recommendations taking guidance from this paper.
Design, concepts, definition and procedure of socio-economic survey, by National sample survey organization, Delhi:- Different ways and means of survey is discussed in this publication. Details of schedule preparations in house hold survey and selected mines (not slate mine) are explained. The guidance for designing the schedule format for the sample survey of this project is taken from this publication.

Child labour in Brazil–solutions at the domestic levels–a Thesis submitted at Stanford University by Mylene Perrira Ramos:- Discussed about child labour problems and its solutions.

Child labour in brass ware industry Mordabad–Report by National labour institute:- The child labour is used for painting, cutting the rough edges, polishing of cast brass ware. The brass dust inhaled by the children, make them to lead a horrible future life. The children become unsuitable to lead peaceful future life.

Impact of technology change on the demand of child labour in Brass ware industry of Mordabad – by Mahaveer Jain of V.V.Giri National labour Institute; Noida:- The effects of technology changes has great effects on brassware industry. Due to technology improvement, the industry prefers to take educated and skilled workers. They are not in a position to accept the child labour and hence child labour is reduced. Based on this paper, the technology changes are studied at slate mines of Markapur.
Children participation and development- Creative Active People Action For Rural Development Society; Markapur (CAPARDS) – by K.Prasad:- This Markapur based organization is trying to form child labour unions and societies at Markapur. The organization is fighting against bonded labour, child marriages and HIV and Aids in children. This organization is mainly concentrating on pollution in which child labour is living and problem of drinking water at villages and near the mines. The secretary of the organization has accompanied the researcher and guided to different slate mines and slate factories in four mandals of the project area.

Segmented labour market for children–is it a demand side creation? A case study of slate industry in Markapur– by Suman Chandra:- The case study focuses on child labour issues related to writing slate industry in Markapur, Andhrapradesh. Manufacturing process of writing slates is explained. The two stages of the slate making process involve number of activities dealing with both men and machinery. In these two stages, a large number of skilled and semiskilled labourers are employed including women and children. The author recognizes the root cause as intermediatary system of contracting and sub contracting. Hence they must be removed first, for taking further action on eradication of child labour.

Children at work – By Elias Endcliffevies, ILO office, Geneva:- Discussion on minimum age of child, poverty and minimum wages. The child will work because of 1) need to assist parents 2) need to
play a role in the economic activity 3) parents them selves want their children to work 4) better than doing nothing 5) other reasons.

Economics of child labour in hazardous industries of India:- Richard Anker, Sundhya Bargav, and Joseph.M:- Discussion on factors considered for employment of children due to economic reasons. This book brings out the greediness of employers for getting more profit, by paying fewer wages. However the cost increase in non-employment of child labour is marginal and it is only five percent to six percent.

Girl child labour in the match industry of Sivakasi – research report by Helen R. Sekher:- The total work force at Sivakasi is two lakh workers. In this 50 percent are women, 30 percent are children and 20 percent are men. At Sivakasi the total number of fire works factories are 200, printing presses are 200 and match works are 2700. According to committee report that there are 1,25,000 women workers working in fire works factories at Sivakasi.

**Workshop Reports:**

Work shop on elimination of child labour at National Institute of Rural Development, Hyderabad. (Sponsored by IPEC–ILO, New-Delhi):- The main module of workshop is the Design, management and evaluation of action program for the elimination of child labour. The general trainer guide has been designed to facilitate the use by the
trainers. Work shop has mainly concentrated on the discussion about occupations of slate making and ILO programs (IPEC, CLASP etc.)

Work shop of district collectors and project directors on child labour at the National Resource Center on child labour of V.V. Giri National labour Institute, Noida:- The programs concentrated on family back ground of child labour, checking the health of child labour and study on industries classified as hazardous nature.

Trade union action against child labour – state level workshop in Andhra Pradesh at Hyderabad:- The six major trade unions of Andhra Pradesh have agreed to select the area of each for focusing the child labour problem. The trade unions have come up to propagate convention 182 (worst forms of child labour convention by ILO) by devising appropriate strategies. Trade union action component is involved by forming district level coordination committees. The convener of the Prakasam district committee (Mr R.Ravindranath) has given the information about Trade Union action component on child labour eradication program.

Work shop on design, management evaluation of action program for the elimination of child labour on 20th January 1993:- S.Gopalam, the secretary of labour department, government of India, formally launched the IPEC program in India. In 1992-93, IPEC has identified number of child labour cases in India. The factors of intervention are found out as education and training, awareness rising program,
welfare provision, regulation and enforcement, child and family welfare, community sensitization.

**TEXT BOOKS:**

Child work, poverty and under development:- By Gerry Rodgers, Guystanding- International labour office Geneva:- The child work is divided in 3 sectors and the problems are discussed in all sectors.

a) In the primary sector such as cultivation, agriculture labour, live stock labour, forestry child labour is discussed.

b) Secondary sector:- under this sector mining, quarrying, manufacturing, processing, servicing and repairs, construction are discussed.

c) Territory sector – traditional commerce, transport, and storage services will come under this sector.

Working children in urban India –By B.R. Patail:- Street children are mostly exploited group. The street children are mostly vulnerable group in the urban sector and hence most of the research is being done on urban child labour.

Exploited child, a national problem; By T.N. Kitchulu:- The author explains the different exploitations, the child faces from employers, middleman, contractors, business men as well as parents. The national problem considered at present is the exploitation of children only.
Towards eradication of child labour – By Indira Hirway, Jacqui coltyn:- Basic issues to eradicate the child labour are poverty, unemployment and attitudes of society towards the child labour, traditions and compulsions.

Children at work – a hand book on child labour for public service workers – by Hansengelberts, general secretary; public services international (PSI):- Social accountability of child labour as well as response to the child labour by public service workers is discussed in detail. Awareness rising, shareholder activation and action through alliances and partnerships are discussed in detail.

Child labour–hand book for enforcement officers by the commissioner of labour, government of Andhra Pradesh:- The enforcement official must come out of syndrome of sympathy on the family of child, viewing that removal of child from hazardous operation may lead to the loss of income to the family.

Global child labour; past as prologue–Hugh D. Hendman, Associate professor of Appalachian state university:- The industrialization has caused and increased the child labour problem. Supply and demand factors for child labour, role of schooling and role of mechanization are discussed with reference to child labour problem.

Socio – legal dimensions of child labour problem, Madabhashi Sridhar:- This book critically examines & investigates the child labour acts and comes to the conclusion that mere making of lofty schemes,
ideal programs and beautiful legislations including constitutional amendments cannot send every child to school and deter employers from employing the child. The paper concentrates on child education which will reduce the child labour but feels that compulsory and free primary education is a costly activity. If the governments do not show sincere will to generate funds and allocate them for child education, further generations remain uneducated and provide a large chunk of disorganized labour and disabled adults.

Arresting the menace of child labour through monitoring – Ali A Firdousi and B.S.Chetty:- Participatory monitoring and evaluation (PM&C) is a method to collect, record and analyze the data gathered by the members of local community to take appropriate decisions. The final strategic inventions are 1) Prevention of child labour 2) provision of additional income opportunities to the families 3) creating awareness on child labour 4) sensitization 5) capacity building towards elimination. These principles helped the researcher in designing the analysis of data collected from child labour at mines of Markapur.

The plight of child labour in Indian industrial scenario – by Andraw Datta:- Poverty is the cause of child labour and the author focuses on that and also says that poverty alone is not the cause of child labour.

Enterprise development, empowering the child labourers & families–by C.Reni:- The workable solution for eradication of child
labour is by adopting a multi dimensional approach. The severity of child labour must be tackled not only by taking legislative measures but also by improving the economic and educational state of below poverty level families. The author focuses on the micro-enterprise strategy to improve training, micro credit services.

Child labour in India, situation analysis, by S. Vijaya Kumar:- The author concentrates on the role of social partners (NGO) in addressing the problem. Child poverty is determined by mal nutrition, no schooling, neglected parental care etc.

Child labour legislations in India, are they effective? - By A.V. Narasimha Rao:- Main focus of this paper is based on regulation of child labour and legal environment in India. There are many international conventions organized by ILO and they are explained in detail. The paper describes the fact how the judiciary is committed to the eradication of child labour.

Combating child labour–edited by Assefa Beqvelc and Joboyden:- The author brings out the concept of acceptance by all that the child labour is due to wide spread poverty and institutional constraints placed before governments. The immediate abolition of child labour is not possible. Hence a short term and long term measures are to be taken up.

Child rights and social wrongs, an analysis – by Bolly Singh:- Violation of child rights is hooked to social wrongs. Why do children
not go to school? Common reasons cited are, over crowdedness in class
rooms, lack of teaching aids, unqualified teachers, unfair syllabus and
parents attitudes towards education. The UNICEF evaluated twenty two
community based projects in India. In India, UNICEF promoted “Rug
mark” program in the carpet industry where child labour is employed in
manufacture. Rug mark is the symbol/mark stamped on the items
manufactured with child labour. This symbol on the items will attract
the sanctions from the importers.

Child labour in hazardous sector-By R.N. Mishra & others:- Socio-
economic condition will continue to influence the fate of children,
contributing growth incidence of child labour. Child labour is a ticklish
issue, as the poor parents consider the children an economic capital.
Child labour in ancient times is different than present one. The child of
particular community was sold as slaves during Chandragupta time.
Even at that time the sale of some cast children was prohibited and
child labour for them was prohibited. The causes of child labour is
poverty, illiteracy, willingness of people to employ children. The
economic factors, social factors, psychological factors are main reasons.
Some times the children are influenced by the pictures where in the
actor will become a millionaire while in child hood he was a street child.
This will make children to go as street child first.

Economy and labour – Mainik publications:- Discussed about
economic reforms and labour national renewal found (NRF) which,
ensure that the cost of technical change and modernization of the
production does not remove the labour force. This fund will provide a social safety and protect workers from the adverse consequence of the technological transformation.

First things first in child labour and eliminating work detrimental to children - Bequelle and WE. Myers:- This book defines the problems of children in hazardous work. The author indicated the ways in which the child labour can lead their life in protective way. The first planned program must be implemented immediately before the next program is planned. The number of factors which has impact on the children in leading their life in safer ways is discussed.

Human rights and poverty in India: By S.N. Chaudhary, Barkatulla University Bhopal:- Among different economic sectors with in the developing world, child labour is highly concentrated in agriculture; where the nature of technology is largely primitive and the level of productivity is low. The remedial factors are enhanced investment in agriculture, technological up gradation, formalization of labour market and enforcement of minimum wages act. The agriculture sector, which employs mostly girl children, is only an informal sector and do not have any control either by the government or by the trade unions or by any other NGOs. The ways and means of combating child labour in agriculture sector is planned by some NGOs, which are financed by ILO.
OTHERS:

Child labour–from web site, www.childlabour.nic.in:- The literature is complete in discussing about child labour. It also explains different aspects of different acts of child labour and legislations, national policy on child labour, education policy, poverty conditions, reasons of child labour etc. Discussion was general. The declaration of rights of child, adopted by general assembly of U.N.O is taken up for discussion. The belief is that bonded labour and child labour are inevitable in India and they cannot be changed by force. The national policy on child labour (1974) states that equal opportunities for development of child during the period of growth must be provided. Indian Working children’s organizations in India, by Heike Roschenski, website www.childlabour.net:- It deals with the organizations such as Bal mazdoor union, Aasiru Sanyth, Bhima-sang etc. The activities and ideology of working children unions are discussed.

OBJECTIVES OF STUDY:

The main objectives of the present study is to study socio-economic conditions of child labour and their families working in slate mines and slate factories and suggest measures to eradicate child labour at design slate mines and factories. They are detailed as below.
To examine the socio-economic conditions in the area by assessing the child labour at design slate mines, finding the causes of high incidence of child labour in slate mines.

To identify the reasons and factors which are advantageous for the design slate industry for engaging children against the provisions of law.

To find out the background of socio-economic conditions which are influencing the families to send the children for work in the mines.

To find out the health and educational aspects and average age of children who are working.

To study the inclination of children towards work, nature of their work, problems which are faced by child labour.

To study the changes in wage structure of the workers and the benefit of slate mining using old methods instead of modern mining methods which reduce the child labour.

To study various regulatory measures of different acts concerning child labour, the ways of implementing and reasons for negligence.

To study the impact on regional economy and social structure, if the child labour is continued.

To study the legal frame work applicable to design slate mining.
To study the Slate Work Culture\(^8\) prevailing at the project area.

The production is shifted to the design slate mining and export. The impact of this on child labour problem is tremendous and it is to increase the child labour in the mines.

Hence the problem is to study the design slate mining, keeping in mind that the earlier legislations were made for the manufacture of writing stone slates and other writing slate manufacturing units.

It is also necessary to study in detail about the responses of local people, society to the existing child labour eradication programs.

The study include the reasons for sending the children to mine work by their parents, even though they have the knowledge of hazardous nature of work.

The discussion is focused towards the difference in wages between male, female child labour and also adult labour and child labour.

\(^8\) Slate Work Culture:-Slate culture is the belief of local people as a custom and culture which provides food and shelter. They design and celebrate festivals and ceremonies involving the slate and mine. They feel that it is a culture left by their elders. In some castes, like Vaddera community, “slate and mine” is every thing for them and is their family job. In view of the immense faith of local people, the researcher brought this new term “slate work culture” to describe the complete mine work.
The impact of political leaders, union leaders, societies and N.G.Os on child labour problems is studied.

The child labour participation in different customs, ceremony and their impact on continuation in the mine work is studied. The study also includes the impact of the food habits and migration (to other areas) on child labour.

**METHODOLOGY:**

The methodological aspects of the study includes the selection of the district, selection of revenue division, selection of mandals, selection of sample child labour respondents, sources of data, tools of data collection and tools of analysis and scheme of presentation.

The present study is conducted in Markapur revenue division of Prakasam district of Andhra Pradesh. The study has been carried out in thirty four selected slate mines out of one hundred and five mines which are earmarked in the project area of four mandals, Markapur, Tarlupadu, Konakanamitla, and Donakonda. Multi stage random sampling method has been used for selecting the sample respondents. Accordingly in the first stage, one revenue division where child labour is highest has been considered for study. In the second stage four mandals are selected and in the third stage thirty four slate mines have been selected randomly. The basis in selection of these thirty four mines is based on the following criteria.
Mines nearer to the villages and where women and children are employed, where works are carried out without using any machines, where girl child labour does most of the works, where mines busy with commercial production of design slates (a new product of mining in Markapur region), where the child labour working along with their parents are selected. Also the mines are selected which are nearer to the villages seeing backwardness of the area, mostly rocky area and also on caste wise basis. The sample size is selected as 141 samples in sixteen mines of Markapur mandal, 45 samples in five mines of Tarlupadu mandal, 46 samples in five mines of Konakanamitla mandal, 68 samples in eight amines of Donakonda mandal. In total three hundred samples in thirty four mines are selected. Large sample size is selected in Markapur mandal due to the greater concentration of child labour in the mines situated in this mandal.

The researcher has conducted face to face interview with the child labour and parents of child labour and filled the questionnaire. In addition to the above formal interviews, informal observations and persuasion are carried out at the mining place to identify and know the facts of the answers given by the child labour.

The interview schedule is the main instrument used for conducting the survey. The schedule is designed by the researcher taking the guidance from the pre-tested frame works of publication “Socio-Economic survey, design, concept, definitions and procedures, instructions-2009” which is published by the National sample survey
organization, Ministry of statistics and program implementation, New Delhi.

The interview schedule is prepared with information on number of aspects including details of the entire households and the local customs. For this a long and detailed interview schedule becomes inevitable. Due to the child labour problem, being a complex and multi-dimensional, the large size of three hundred sample child labour working in the selected mines is considered after considering the supply and demand sides. The questionnaire was carefully prepared with the different questions broadly giving information about needed requirements, without hurting the child worker and the families as well as the interest of the mine owners and contractors. The questions cover the following broad aspects.

Socio-economic conditions of family, impact on children, reasons for child labour.

Perception of parents of children in sending their children to mine work and attitudes and aspirations of child worker

Education levels, literacy rate of child labour as well as their family members.

Working conditions and health aspects of children.

Wages of children and their habits and details of spending.

Exploitation of money lenders and the contractors.

The interest rates on the debt.
Food habits, diet of child worker.

Facilities at the mines and sanitation system. Facilities at residences of child labour.

Contract system and role of brokers.

Role of government and NGO’s, political parties and Trade unions in the development of the child worker and eradication of child labour.

The child labour problem at design slate cutting, polishing and packing and factors leading to the child labour problem.

It is also necessary to study the reality of the problem of child labour and how best it can be controlled with the cooperation of local political leaders, social workers and child labour as well as their parents and guardians. The final questionnaire was made to suit the existing conditions of selected project area. The questionnaire was tested with preliminary survey and modified accordingly before going to the final required survey.

**Sources of data and tools of data collection:**

The present study is based on both primary and secondary sources of data, published books research journals, official records, govt. orders, web sites news papers and other related material are the major sources of secondary data. The primary data has been collected from child labour respondents through a well structured interview schedule which was pre-tested and with the necessary changes to suit the present study. The schedules were filled in with the help of the sample child labour respondents through a face to face interview by
the researcher. Focused discussions with child labour respondents and their parents were held to get their views on various aspects of child labour.

Investigator has initiated a general discussion, explaining them with the help of interview schedule, keeping the questions in mind. This has been done in most of the mines, because the mine owners and contractors were very apprehensive in discussing crucial matters of child labour and not cooperative with any investigator. They doubt about that some body is writing statements of children and it may lead to some legal and social complications. However they were persuaded by saying that it is for research purpose and hence they need not fear. The help of village elders and local social workers are taken and the interview schedules are filled up. Also observation method was followed to gather information on working conditions and facilities at mines, factories. The researcher has visited the residences of child labour, along with a local leader, and assessed the conditions of living.

**TOOLS OF ANALYSIS:**

The data which is collected through schedules has been classified and tabulated into many tables for analysis purpose. Simple statistical tools like averages, percentages etc., have been used to analyze the data. Based on the data collected certain conclusions were drawn and the suggestions are presented in the concluding chapter.