Chapter-VIII

CONCLUSION, SUGGESTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS
Child labour cannot be eliminated by focusing on one determinant, for example education, or by brute enforcement of child labour laws. The government of India must ensure that the needs of the poor are filled before attacking child labour. If poverty is addressed, the need for child labour will automatically diminish. No matter how hard India tries, child labour always will exist until the need for it is removed. The development of India as a nation is being hampered by child labour. Children are growing up illiterate because they have been working and not attending school. A cycle of poverty is formed and the need for child labour is reborn after every generation. India needs to address the situation by tackling the underlying causes of child labour through governmental policies and the enforcement of these policies. Only then will India succeed in the fight against child labour. Feedback from some States indicates active involvement of NGOs in awareness raising, training on CRC, and campaigning against child labour, foeticide and infanticide, sexual abuse and exploitation.
A child labour vigilance committee should be formed at Panchayat level, comprising local NGOs, Panchayat members and child representatives.

The community, law enforcement officials, teachers and personnel involved in the child labour elimination programme need to be sensitised on child rights and protection.

Child labour laws need to be reviewed to bring domestic child labour within their ambit.

It is necessary to carry out community and civil society sensitisation and mobilisation for the prevention and elimination of child labour.

There is a need to do a comprehensive review of the implementation of the Supreme Court judgment of 1996. Comprehensive and clear guidelines for the implementation of the judgement are required.

In child labour-intensive districts, employment opportunities for adults have to be stepped up. Families living below the poverty line should be attached to self help groups or other income-generating schemes so that they can improve their economic situation.
➢ There should be a separate policy for providing social security and services of education, and health to the children of families below the poverty line. Existing poverty alleviation programmes and adult employment schemes have to be coordinated and linked to efforts for the elimination of child labour.

➢ Good parenting and child care and protection education must be given to parents, teachers and staff of childcare institutions.

➢ Families are the primary care providers for children and the capacity of families for care and protection of children has to be strengthened, especially of families in the most marginalised groups.

➢ Mechanisms for complaints from child victims must be set up to prevent child abuse,

➢ protect children and to ensure proper action against the culprits.
CONCLUSION

Present work was carried out in Jhansi District of Uttar Pradesh which also falls under Bundelkhand Region to investigate some of the socio-demographic characteristics, socio-economic, psychological factors, various issues related to child labour, forms of exploitation and Knowledge and perception of respondents about legislations related to prevention of child labour.

Out of 650 (approximately) child labours (According to Labour Office, Jhansi District, 2002) in Jharisi, 300 respondents were selected by Simple Random Sampling, Respondents were selected on availability basis from different areas of child labour like from beedi makers, shops and establishments, road side vendors and hawkers. Every respondent having similar socio-economic characteristics. Due to constraints of time, money and other resources it was not possible for the investigator to study a large sample.

This study was formulated to investigate "Problem of Child Labour in Urban Area of Jhansi, U.P." Child Labour is of important Social Concern, Children start working at a very young age. These children are exposed to various forms of exploitation. They are exposed to risk at work. Involving children in work at an early age affects their health and also prevents
them from pursuing their studies. This has an adverse effect on their growth and earning at a later stage of life. The past and present situation of problem of child labour depends on individual, family, community and society. Socio-economic and psychological factors leads to problem of child labour.

Child workers are particularly vulnerable to exploitation because they have very little to say in choosing their occupations or deciding their working conditions. They have no rights as workers, nor can they join labour unions. Consequently they work for petty wages in deplorable conditions.

The main focus of the study is to examine the socio-economic background of families in terms of family size, literacy level, occupational pattern, income levels. The background of child labour, the characteristics of working children, i.e. age, education, training, working condition, wage rate, health condition and attitude and perception of working children towards work and various legislations about child welfare and rights have been analysed.

**Major findings of the study are given as under :-**

(I)  **Socio-demographic features of respondents**

Majority of 197 respondents (65.7%) were in the age group of 11-14 years whereas 34.3% were in the age group of 5-10 years. In total study of 300 child labours, (67.0%) were male and (33.0%) were female child labours.
Majority of 251 respondents (83.7%) were Hindus, (16.3%) were Muslims.

The study has found the literacy level of sample population very low. Majority (50.4%) of respondents were literate, (36.3%) of respondents were illiterate. (13.3%) of respondents were upto primary level.

Majority of 211 respondents (70.3%) have 5-8 members in the family, (17.0%) of respondents have 1-4 members followed by (12.7%) have 9 and above members in the family

(48.3%) of the child labour were residing in rented house,  (43.0%) of respondent have their own house (i.e. owned by their parents). Their houses were kuccha pucca type, their was no separate facility of kitchen and bathroom (8.7%) of respondents were unaware of the residential status.

Majority of 202 (67.3%) of respondents reside in the room tenament followed followed by (28.7% lived in two room house and (4.0%) in more than 2 rooms house. Housing condition was poor from the points of health and hygiene.

(63.3%) of respondent's family members were working as servant at different shops, houses. (27.7%) of respondents parents were self-employed like they were painters, carpenters, puncture makers, vendors etc. (7.0%) were unaware of the family occupation and (2.0%) of respondent's family was involved in agricultural activities.

Majority (36.7%) of respondents father and mother both were working. (35.7%) of respondent's father was the working
member. (16.6%) respondent's all family members work, (8.7) respondent mother was the working member and (2.3%) respondents revealed that nobody in family worked except himself/herself.

Majority of 149 respondents (49.7%) don't knew the family income. (41.7%) monthly income was between Rs. 1001- Rs. 3000 per month. (5.3%) were from income group between Rs. 3001-Rs. 5000 per month. Rest (3.3%) monthly income were less than Rs. 1000/- per month or below poverty line. This low level of income has forced many children to discontinue their education. (54.3%) of respondents go market for purchasing of household items, these mainly include male children (25.3%) wash clothes at home (15.3%) clean utensils (10.7%) of child labours sweep house and look after siblings respectively and (9.7%) cook food, which mainly performed by female children.

(94.0%) child labours primary needs were fulfilled by the family i.e. shelter, clothing and food. (82.7%) receives health facility and (8.7%) of respondents need of education is fulfilled.

(II) Issues Regarding Child Labour

Majority 194 respondents (64.7%) have attended the school, not necessarily completed primary education (35.3%) respondents have never attended the school nor seen the school in their life.

Out of 194 respondents, (9.28%) still go to school majority 176 respondents (90.72%) were school drop outs.
Out of 176 respondents who were school drop-out have many reasons. Majority 59 respondents (33.52%) parents were not willing to send them to school, (23.9%) of respondents dislike studies (20.45%) have other reasons (18.8%) have interest in work and (3.4%) unable to pay fee.

Majority 230 respondents (76.7%) played with their friends and siblings and (23.3%) have no time to play (71.7%) of respondents get pocket money to spend on themselves and (28.3%) do not receive any pocket money.

Out of 215 respondent i.e. (71.7%) who get pocket money (63.7%) get money between Rs.1-Rs. 5/-, (32.6%) between Rs. 6-10 and (3.7%) between Rs. 11-15.

The majority of respondents (72.7%) started working between 5-10 years of age due to various reasons/ factors. Majority of child labours (33.3%) were engaged in Bidi making, this is a traditional employment where all family members are involved, including child labour. This trade is being carried out from homes. Raw material is given by the employer for home, bidi workers make the final product and deliver it to their employers. (24.6%) child labours were engaged in electrical/mechanical work like auto repairing, truck repairing, electrical appliances repairing, etc. (14%) respondents were engaged in different works like sweeping, rag picking, shoe-shining, They were cobblers, engaged in shops of clothes, shoes, confectionary, tailors etc. (12.7%) respondents worked at tea stalls and sweet
shops (8.7%), respondents were vendors and (6.7%) were engaged in domestic work.

Majority (92.7%) of respondents gave their earnings to their family or parents. Most of the employers give wages of child labour directly to their parents.

Before starting the work (74.7%) of respondents were trained by the employer, trainers and family members depending upon the type of work. Their training was on-the-job training. They were not sent especially for training.

Majority 167 respondents (55.7%) take meals three times a day. (17.2%) respondents get food/eatables sometimes from their employer at work place.

(55.3%) respondents feel normal while working, (27.7%) respondents enjoy working because they dislike studies (13.3%) respondents dislike working but due to circumstances they have to work.

(36%) respondents opined that both education and work is important because they live below poverty line. For (31.7%) respondents work is only important because they contribute major share in family income.

Majority (80%) respondents believes that starting work at small age provides experience for future.

Most of the respondents (66.7%) felt that they were satisfied and (15%) respondents were highly satisfied with their job. These respondents were unaware of their right and working
conditions, Majority (57.1%) were satisfied due to the kind of work they were engaged in. (7.7%) were dissatisfied and (6%) respondents were highly dissatisfied. Majority (39%) respondents were dissatisfied due to poor working environment i.e. improper lightening improper cleanliness, no place for sitting or resting, and lack of toilet facilities

Majority 181 respondents (60.3%) wish to continue their present job, due to various reasons. Majority (55.2%) like to continue because their family income is low i.e. due to poverty.

(19%) respondents wish to leave the present job due to various reasons. Majority (45.6%) respondents want to leave the job because they have interest in studies, present job is of very tedious nature, long working hours make them tired like to change the job.

(III)  **Factor Responsible for Child Labour**

There are three factors responsible for child labour i.e. Social factors, Economical factors and Psychological factors.

**Social Factors**- (52%) respondents believes that lack of education/illiteracy is a factor which give birth to child labour. (39.3%) respondents opined that due to orphanage they have to indulge in child labour (37%) respondents think that indebtedness of parents compelled them to work at small age.

**Economical Factors**- Poverty is the biggest cause which supplies child labour to the society. Majority 240 respondents (80%) gave the cause poverty due to which they have to work
being a child (76.7%) respondents opined that due to family occupation they were working (67.3%) respondents have to work due to large family size. Monthly income of the family is low so they can't fulfill their primary needs i.e. food, clothing and shelter. Such families involved their children in work.

**Psychological Factors**-Majority (73%) respondents were working because of compulsion of parents due to various reasons (8.3%) respondents have some sense of responsibilities which they have to fulfill being in the family. (8.3%) respondents engaged themselves in child labour because of the effect of substance abuse in the family. Basic requirements of the family was fulfilled by the child labour.

**(IV) Forms Of Exploitation**

Majority of child labours (54.7%) work for 5-7 hours a day and (37.3%) of respondents work for 8 to 10 hours daily while (8%) respondents work for 1-4 hours only. They work as part time workers in evening.

Another fact which emerges from the study is that most of the children are made to work long hours.

(84%) child labour monthly wages are between Rs. 401- Rs. 600 (11%) respondents wages are between Rs. 201 Rs. 400 while (5%) respondents monthly wages are below Rs. 200.

(74.3%) respondents never take rest between working hours Majority (65.3%) respondents sleeping habits are normal. They were adhered to the working culture so they have adapted the sleeping habits accordingly.
Majority 244 respondents (81.3%) have no expectations from the employer as they are unaware about their rights, and some know that there is no need to expect anything because it will never be fulfilled, they work with feeling of job insecurity. Child labour are not demanding, they cannot form any union.

Job insecurity is the biggest problem faced by the majority of (90.7%) respondents (53.3%) respondents work for long hours without interval of rest get exhausted and face the problem of exertion/ fatigue. (42%) respondents face the problem of irregular payments and sometimes their wages are also deducted on making mistakes (any damage which include cost) or taking leaves (27.3%) respondents were physically tortured on making mistakes.

(51.3%) respondents get a day as weekly holiday (48.7%) respondents get no weekly holiday, they cannot demand for leaves because of kind of work they perform.

Only (7.7%) respondents faced accident during the job at work place. Majority (43.5%) respondents fingers/toes were affected and (34.8%) respondents hands were affected. (95.7%) respondents got the treatment in the form of first aid from the employer.

Majority 155 respondents (51.7%) employers were strict towards child labour. They punish the respondents on making mistakes. On the other hand (40.3%) respondents employers were caring/supportive.
(V) Perception Of The Respondents Regarding Child Labour Legislations

(49.7%) respondents were aware of compulsory primary education till the age of 14 years. But most of them were dropouts and were engaged in economic activities (38.3%) respondents have no idea about compulsory education.

Majority (82.6%) respondents cant say anything regarding the existing Acts/ Regulations for prevention of child labour (14.7%) respondents were unaware of such legislation while (2.7%) respondents have little knowledge that children below 14 years should not work other details concerning child labour in these Act. was out of their knowledge.

Majority 260 respondents (86.7%) were unaware regarding the different organisations (NGOs) working for prevention of child labour. As such there are no NGOs working specifically in this area of social problem.
1- The Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 must be strictly implemented. The conditions of work including hours of work and wages need to be strictly monitored whether at home or outside home.

2- Anti-Poverty programme like, Jawahar Rozgar Yojna, etc. should be implemented in the area and families "at-risk" should receive top priority in the allotment of funds under such programmes. These programmes should have families of child labour as special target groups and special allotment of funds should be made for these groups. So employment among child labour can be minimised.

3(a) A system of constant monitoring of health and education of working children needs to be developed by the government for the benefit of working children.

(b) In order to improve the health care and medical facilities for the child labour and their families, efforts should be made to integrate health services run by different departments like the state health machinery, District health machinery at the field level.

4- State Government or local bodies should formulate projects or make proposals for abolition of Child Labour in Jhansi District, as no such projects are being implemented in this area.
5- For overall monitoring of programmes of child labour, a committee should be constituted at the District level with participation of Education Department, NGOs, Research and Academic Institutions, ICDS and Social workers.

6- There should be Evening Schools for those who have to work due to unavoidable circumstances, so that they do not keep themselves refrained from seeking education.

7- If we cannot fully abolish the practice of child labour we can reduce the incidence of child labour. To improve the lot of working children, children should be subjected to less hours of work than at presents. Schools should also take up part-time teaching programmes for working children so that, with reduced hours of work and part-time study, they could be educated while at work.

8- Special vocational schools should be opened for providing training in both general education and a vocation where the child may enroll himself herself from the age of 7 to 14 years.

9- Additional nutrition like mid-day meals should be provided at the work-site either by the employers or by the state of schools could undertake programme for providing children nutritious diets, it may attract them to the schools all the more.
10- The role of voluntary agencies in the upliftment programme for child workers cannot be undermined. A part from voluntary health service and non-formal education facilities, they can create general awareness among the public on the evils of child labours through discussions, lectures, audio-visual aids, street plays etc.

11- A massive awareness campaign should be launched through the public media, social activities and other related agencies to create awareness amongst all sections of society about the evils of child labour. The main target for communications should be existing prejudices, taboos, traditions and beliefs which perpetuate child labour.

12- NGOs should be entrusted with identification of the child labour concentration areas. Better co-ordination between Government and non-Government agencies for anti-poverty and education programmes can give good results in the eradication of the child labour problems.

13- Periodical evaluation of the programmes and NGOs must be undertaken. A regular monitoring of implementation and expenditure on these programme should be undertaken.

14- All NGOs working for child labour should be utilized in doing special studies on child labour and they must be
entrusted with the programmes for child labour and their families.

Efforts should be to curtail the practice of child labour because this is the age when child needs care and affection, education for proper development and growth of his/her personality.