PREFACE

There have been a spate of interventions in the recent past to counter the challenge posed by the problem of child labour in India. It has evoked significant responses among all concerned social partners ranging from Government initiatives, action programme by International agencies, Trade Unions, NGOs and other stakeholders. The problem in itself is so gigantic and multi-facted that only a holistic understanding of its complexities would enable us to formulate policies and design action programmes. Though the problem of child labour has been well researched, the academicians, policy makers as well as social activists have always expressed the need for a document, which may provide an overview of the problem and initiatives to tackle the same.

Children continue to work in occupations and processes that are plainly dangerous and hazardous. They are generally dispersed, isolated and powerless and are very often excluded in the counting and accounting process. This presents a situation where existing child labour face invisibility. The incidence of child labour has, thus, not reduced in reality, but more and more working children are now going into oblivion.

In all the civilized societies all over the world system of child labour is condemned as a social evil but the fact in the system is prevalent on a large scale in a country like India. It is noticed that in
recent times our society is showing some signs of awareness about this social evil.

The common understanding among labour class is more working hands means more income for a family. But this calls still could not decide, whose hands these should be? They are not understanding that small hands are depriving of big hands from employment. It made us realised that there is a need of structural changes in the society.

Sending children to work means depriving them the opportunity to go to school. If a child will not go to school, he/she will grow as illiterate person. Vulnerable for all sorts of exploitation. If children will go to school then automatically number of child labour will be reduced which will result in generating some employment for Adults.

The practice of child labour is now being considered as an example of most inhuman form of violation of human rights. Both international and national agencies have been expressing their concern in many forms- from generating awareness to devising strategic intervention to eradicate the practice.

Every individual is the part of this society and Sociology is the study of Society, behaviours of individuals in the society, their needs, expectations pertaining to the society which can be family, work place to which he/she interacts. Thus this study was of Sociological in nature, as it covered socio-economic background of individual respondents. The study covered the different areas of
problem of child labour in terms of factors responsible, different issues related to child labour and the perceptions of the respondents regarding legislative measures.

In this study 300 child labours were selected on the basis of availability in different economic activities. These respondents were interviewed to find out information on various social, economic dimensions related to the problem. The schedule was pre-tested before actual survey conducted for the purpose of consistency of information. The schedule was modified accordingly to the inconsistency seen and difficulties faced during its pre-tests.

Besides collecting data through interview schedule the relevant information were supplemented by consulting literature on the topic and related internet sites. The available data were grouped into simple table to elicit findings of the study and standard classification were made to draw the significant conclusions. The data was analyzed in term of percentage.

The whole study was divided into Eight chapters, which are given below:

1- First chapter focuses on the Introduction of the topic, Objectives of the Study and Research Methodology.

2- In the second chapter review of pertinent studies relevant to the topic undertaken in India and abroad has been done which have got bearing to the present study.

3- Third chapter deals with the socio-demographic profile of Respondents.
4. Fourth chapter identifies social, economical and psychological factors responsible for child labour.

5. Chapter fifth highlighted the various issues related to child labour.

6. Chapter sixth deals with different form of exploitation of child labour.

7. Seventh chapter deals with opinion- perception of the respondents regarding various legislation and convention for prevention of child labour.

8. Chapter eight deals with Conclusions and Suggestions.

   We hope that this effort will help researchers and students to understand the extent of the problem of child labour.

   It is also hoped that this work will be of some use to the Sociologists, Demographers, Policy makers and Stakeholders. It gives wealthy of information for anybody who attempts to undertake similar kind of the field investigation in future days to come. The results observed in the study would possibly help the planners and policy makers in organising different programmes, implementing schemes and legislations in the urban area. As valuable information of this type is hardly available for this region of the state where there is requirement of formulating alternatives approaches for different programmes for prevention of child labour.

**Date:** 11, August 05  
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**(Payal Sahu)**