Chapter II

REVIEW OF LITERATURE
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A few studies regarding child labour have been conducted to know under what circumstances, working conditions and environment, the children have had to work. Many research studies have been done on the Child Labour India and abroad. But no study has been conducted in Jhansi on the Problems of Child Labour in Jhansi city. In this Chapter, an attempt has been made to present, in brief, a review of selected studies which, I feel have direct or indirect relevance to present investigation. This is likely to provide a glimpse of the problems faced by the Child Labourers in different occupations and processes.

Labour list

The following table lists estimates that have been made for child labour in the nations with the largest under-16 populations.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Source Description</th>
<th>Number of Child Labourers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>No data</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>Ministry of Labour, 1987-1988 (2)</td>
<td>17.5 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Baroda Operations Research Group, 1983 (2)</td>
<td>44.0 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bangalore Center for Concern for Working children, 1994*, Based on children out of school (2)</td>
<td>100.0 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indonesia</td>
<td>ILO, 1992. Ages 10-14 (1)</td>
<td>2.3 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ages 10-14 (2)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>UNCHR, 1994*. Ages 10-14 (3)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ILO, 1993*, Bonded child labour (4)</td>
<td>7.5 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pakistan Institute of Development Economics, 1994.</td>
<td>19.0 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>National Safe Workplace Institute, 1993*. Ages 12-17 (5)</td>
<td>5.5 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>Brazilian Institute for Geography and Statistics, 1994. Ages 10-13 (2)</td>
<td>2.0 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Country</td>
<td>Source</td>
<td>Estimated Number</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNCHR, 1994* (3)</td>
<td>7.0 million</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nigeria</td>
<td>UNCHR, 1994* (3)</td>
<td>12.0 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bangladesh</td>
<td>Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, 1990. Ages 10-14 (2)</td>
<td>5.7 million</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>ICFTU, 1993 (2)</td>
<td>15.0 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td>ILO, 1993*, Ages 12-14</td>
<td>1.3 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russian Federation</td>
<td>No data</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iran</td>
<td>No data</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Viet Nam</td>
<td>No data</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philippines</td>
<td>Philippine Department of Labor and Employment, 1991. Ages 10-17 (2)</td>
<td>2.2 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Philippine Department of Labor and Employment, 1994 (2)</td>
<td>5.0 million</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Homer Folks (1946)**, Chairman of the United States National Child Labour Commission, defined child labour as 'any work by children that reveals that Child Labour interferes in children full physical development and their opportunities for a desirable minimum level of education or their needed recreation'
Qureshy (1979) reported that children who were engaged in the labour force had to work from 10-15 hours a day under unhealthy conditions. These children were of 7-14 years of age.

Kumar (1983) pointed out that India cannot afford to neglect its children who are the important wealth of a nation. It is, therefore, the duty of the Government of chalk out programmes to ensure that the country's children do not face such environment which interfere with their physical, moral and mental development.

Murthy and Rai (1983) pointed out that the labour policy of government was to protect children below 14 years from exploitation. These children seek jobs due to poverty, lure of the city life and payment of loans their parents have taken.

Social Welfare (1983), in their study regarding child labour has estimated highest percentage of child labour, where children are mainly engaged in carpet weaving industries.

Kaur (1984) illustrated that large proportion of working children belonged to age group of 12-14 years who were mainly employed in unskilled activities as domestic workers and agricultural labourers. The main reason for employment were low family income, large family size and hereditary of parents occupation.

Jasbir & Nath (1984) conducted a study on factors responsible for the child labour in the rural Haryana and
concluded, that almost all the children worked due to poverty, large family size, death of elder earning family member, etc.

Burra (1986) had found that most of the children working in match factories belonged to the weaker sections of the society. Their parents were the small land-holders who were unable to cultivate land because of lack of irrigational facilities.

Menon (1986) investigated that hunger and indebtedness of the parents forced the children into adult occupation. Landless families living in villages, were relatively poor and they had a large number of children. Consequently, per capita earnings of such families was low. So they were compelled to send out their children for labour job in order to meet the basic requirements of life like food, shelter and clothing.

Nangia (1987) observes that, Poverty itself has underlying determinants, one such determinant being caste. When analyzing the caste composition of child labourers "if these figures are compared with the caste structure of the country, it would be realised that a comparatively higher proportion of scheduled caste children work at a younger age for their own and their families' economic support" (p. 116). Scheduled caste (lower caste) children tend to be pushed into child labour because of their family's poverty. Nangia (1987) goes on to state that in his study 63.74% of child labourers said that poverty was the reason they worked (p. 174).
Natrajan (1987) observed that steps have to been taken to protect the Child Labour from being exploited by restricting the working hours and fixing a minimum wage. Government must take steps to educate the workers in the safety matches about the various provisions of acts and laws which pertain to the protection of working children.

Kanbari (1988) conducted the study to understand the linkages between Child Labour and fertility. The study reported that the age and sex of child seemed to play an important role in determining the child activities. The children put in an increasing amount of time or more productive activities as they grew. The number of children working for wages was significantly large among 12-14 years age group. On an average, boys in the 5-7 age group put in about 2 hours per day in various productive activities while the figure go up to 5 hours and more for 12 to 14 years old boys. Girls on the other hand worked for longer hours in all the age groups compared to boys, though the nature of work differed. Boys worked on farms, tending cattle for wages while girls spent more time on looking after siblings, on the preparation and selling of food, washing, cleaning, sweeping and the household chores.

Khan (1988) observed that the problem of Child Labour was both large and wide-spread is India. It is, therefore, suggested that education should be made free and compulsory.
This would be a major step towards the elimination of this, so called necessary evil and thereby save these children from a social drudgery, thus, giving them a chance to grow up in the cradle of love, care and education, the birth right of every child.

**Tripathy (1989)**: illustrated that main factors for Child Labour included large family size, poverty, indebtedness and illiteracy. These children worked under conditions detrimental to their health, welfare and development. The employment of children at an early age hampered their efficiency as well as their mental, physical and psychological growth.

**Nayar (1989)** The Government of India has taken the view that Child Labour was a result of poverty and since poverty cannot immediately eradicated, it would be appropriate, in the short run to prohibit children from taking to hazardous occupations and processes and to regulate their working conditions in the non-hazardous ones, through legislation.

**Benjamin (1990)** conducted a case study on the problems of child workers of canteen in educational institution. It was found that mostly the child workers were from V.P. and almost no one had gone to school. Only five of them have studied upto third standard and they have had to work in canteen for 10-13 hours daily and they got half hour for lunch break. They were getting Rs. 100 to 200 per month and they had to work under unfavourable conditions.
Srivastva and Ehanurnati (1990) conducted a study in three unorganised sectors (domestic, agriculture and hotel services). Three hundred Child Labourers in the age group of 7-14 yrs were interviewed. It was found that majority of domestic child workers were engaged in sweeping the house (82%), cleaning vessels (61%), washing clothes (52%), and cooking (43%). The agricultural Child Labourers helped in weeding, plucking, chillies (86%), helping in harvesting (82%) and breaking groundnuts (70%). The hotel Child Labourers cleaned the tables (94%), floors (84%) and vessels (61%).

Nayar (1991) illustrated that girls were being pushed to employment for full time more than boys, which reduced and developmental opportunities for girls. By age of 10-12 years girls were engaged in domestic work for about 8 hours a day. Beside this they were working as agricultural labourers and were also employed in small scale industries. Most of the working girls were illiterate. Employment at tender age lead to malnutrition, occupational and psycho-social hazards resulting into diseases of various nature.

Carpet a world, 1991 Another study concludes that the law is considered as totally impractical in an occupation where people along with their children work in their residence and get paid for the work done. The study also examined the extent of exploitation of children. Working at home, their opportunities
for education, deprivation of a normal physical and mental growth and the role of legal provisions.

Weiner (1991) observed, The Sri Lankan government decided to enforce compulsory education in the 1920's and 1930's (Weiner 1991,173). With this compulsory education policy, school participation rates rose from 58 percent in 1946 to 74 percent in 1963 (Weiner 1991,173). The literacy rate also increased from 58 percent in 1946 to 86 percent in 1984 (Weiner 1991,172). The corresponding result has been that the employment rate of children in the ten to fourteen age group has shown a substantial decline from 13 percent in 1946 to 6.2 percent in 1963 (Weiner 1991, 174), and currently stands at 5.3% for males and 4.6% for females (International Labour Organization 1995, 113). These trends lead Weiner (1991) to the conclusion that "Sri Lanka has achieved a remarkably high enrollment rate, high retention rate, and a corresponding decline in child labor" (p.175).

Weiner 1991, reported that, the Indian state of Kerala distinguishes itself from the rest of India with its educational system. The government of Kerala allocates more funds to education than any other state, with a per capita expenditure of 11.5 rupees compared to the Indian average of 7.8 rupees (Weiner 1991,175). It is not only the expenditure of more funds, but where the funds are used that make the difference. Kerala
spends more money on "mass education than colleges and universities" (Weiner 1991, 176). No correlation exists between expenditure on education and literacy when comparing different countries because some countries, such as India, spend more funds on higher education than primary education (Weiner 1991, 160). Kerala's emphasis on primary education has lead to a dropout rate of close to 0%, a literacy rate of 94% for males and 86% for females (The World Bank 1995, 113), and a low child work participation rate of 1.9% (in 1971) compared to the Indian average of 7.1% in 1971 (Weiner 1991, 175). Weiner (1991) points out that "The Kerala government has made no special effort to end child labor. It is the expansion of the School system rather than the enforcement of labor legislation that has reduced the amount of child labor" (p. 177).

Fernandes (1992) studied the working condition of children. He analyzed the process of entry of children into the work force and the exploitation they faced. He found that low wages and efforts to keep children illiterate showed that the interest of employers were vested. According to him, it was necessary to impose a ban on hazardous industries. Also the constitutional directive making free education compulsory till the age of 14 years needed to be implemented with vigour.

Chandra (1992), observed contribution of child labour in his study found that about 20% of Indian Gross Net Production
(G.N.P.) child labour work 12 hours at an average everyday.

**Juyal, 1993** A study conducted by 120 report that child labour were were employed in carpet industries because of the industry's desire to prevent juvenile vagrancy ad to lesson the economic burden of poor families. The study has tried to explain if the pressure from the industry had forced the government to enact a law, which excluded children working as a part of family labour from its purview. It has also looked into the extent of compliance of the common minimum programme's Mandate of eliminating all forms of child labour, both in hazardous and non-hazardous occupations.

**Sharma (1993)** stated that a substantial number of children below 14 years worked as domestic servants. Working couples prefer employing young girls for household chores. The main factors responsible for the high proportion of child labour in Jammu and Kashmir were economic backwardness, low literacy among parents, high school dropouts and a bleak employment outlook. Common complaints made by children included low wages, long working hours and over-crowded poorly lit, badly ventilated and insanitary premises.

**Street Girls of Delhi (1993),** it was estimated in its study that 13 girls out of 20 were of such families whose monthly income was less than Rs.100. 14 girls were child labours and beggars. Most of them started working in the age group of 8.
years. 18 out of 20 were illiterate and only two have passed class third.

**Manvi (1993)** in its pilot survey on wandering child labours estimated that 34% of child labours were below 10 years and 66% were between 10-14 years. If we see the social status of these children it was 56.86 % SC, 36.28% OBC, 3.17% GEN & 3.69% of Muslim Community. It is clear that more than half below to SC and about 1/3 rd belong to OBC. Out of 758 Child Labours 504 were suffering with different diseases, out of which 213 were suffering with Tuberculoses, 146 with Asthma and rest with other diseases.

**Arimpoor (1994)** remarked that this struggle for the elimination of Child Labour is not going to be complete overnight. It's a long drawn out battle, maybe of decades. The liberation of Child Labour cannot be achieved without adequate institutions. It's not just, a choice, not an optional luxury but it's a necessity and the basic foundation - the hibernation of man, particularly of children who are deprived of basic human rights.

**Saini (1994)** said that the problem of Child Labour in India is very acute. The National sample survey in 1983 estimated that there were 17.36 million Child Worker in India in the age group of 5 to 15 years. It had been estimated by the Planning Commission that by the year 2000.
India will have around 20 million Child Workers (UNICEF, 1994). Most of the children belonged to families that were extremely poor, they work in highly stressful and exploitative conditions included bonded situations.

**Sundaram (1994)** remarked that so far as Child Labour was concerned, the Government had to take bold decisions. One way of tackling the problem was to make primary education compulsory. The more will achieve the laudable objective of universalizing elementary education, besides, reducing the incidence of Child Labour.

**Saur (1994)** conducted study on girl children in India and concluded that they work in over-crowded, poorly lit, badly ventilated and worst hygienic conditions, without any recreation, leisure and health facilities. They suffered from malnutrition. They worked for longer period, more prone to diseases, hard physical labour leading to premature death.

**Venkateshwaran (1994)** said that estimated number of working children revealed that India had the largest number of working children in the world and accounts for more than 33 per cent of the Child Labour force throughout the world. Within India, more than 20 per cent of the Gross National Product (GNP) of the country was estimated to be contributed by Child Labour.

**Dhillon et al (1995)** conducted a study on 180 children who were working in skilled and unskilled activities. The study
revealed that female children started working at the age of 6 years. The majority of them were in the age of 12-14 years. They were employed on daily, monthly and yearly basis and were paid according to the amount of work done by them and had to work at least for 10 hours a day and were contributing Rs.800-1600 annually towards the family income. Main reasons for employment of girl child were unsound economic conditions of the family, rising price of consumable goods, irregular income of the family, too large family to support, chronic illness in the family, untimely death of the bread winner and children not having interest in studies.

Mehra Kerpeiman 1996, 8 in his study said, "Poverty has an obvious relationship with child labour, and studies have "revealed a positive correlation - in some instances a strong one - between child labour and such factors as poverty"

Human Rights Watch 1996, 17. The combination of poverty and the lack of a social security network form the basis of the even harsher type of child labour - bonded child labour. For the poor, there are few sources of bank loans, governmental loans or other credit sources, and even if there are sources available, few Indians living in poverty qualify. Here enters the local moneylender; for an average of two thousand rupees, parents exchange their child's labour to local moneylenders. Since the earnings of bonded child labourers are less than the
interest on the loans, these bonded children are forced to work, while interest on their loans accumulates. A bonded child can only be released after his/her parents makes a lump sum payment, which is extremely difficult for the poor.

Bhatty (1996) remarked that Child Labour is a less phenomenon of poverty than of social attitudes and responsibilities. Learning skill through education is a sure way to break the cycle of Child Labour and low income. So far Child Labour has been accepted in India because it is believed to have an economic basis that fits into a demand supply framework.

Paniker (1996) analysed no simple formula exists to remove the incidence of Child Labour. And in finding solutions, two factors need to be asserted - Child Labour is a source for and contribution to the subsistence of the family and Child Labour as an apprenticeship to learning skills and upward mobility in the 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 initiative ranging from better monitoring of implementation of legal restriction to emphasis on poverty alleviation measures and overall development programme are called to families of children already in employment will not tackle the cast reservoir of Child Labour power that could continue to be available if the socia-
economic profile of the catchment areas was not addressed.

Tiwari (1996) pointed out that it is necessary the Government should work in collaboration with International Labour Organisation (ILO) and other relevant non-government organisations and come out with more effective and successful non-formal education programme tailored to the needs of particular groups of child workers. There should be national policy for this. Now, as the years are passing by, we must redouble our efforts on behalf of all the children, who continue to be deprived of their most basic rights in many spheres.

At the Exeter International Conference on Children's Rights in 1992, Aracelli Brizzio de la Hoz presented a paper on research in Mexico City interviewing children who lived or worked on the street (de la Hoz and Martinez Morales 1997). A census indicated that, in the area under investigation, over 11,000 boys and girls between the ages of 5 and 17 worked on the street, over a thousand of whom had no family connections at all. A selected sample from this population was interviewed. For over half of this population, poverty had impelled them to work, limiting their education. The interviews gave some insight into the experiences of these children and what they felt was important in life as the saw it.

Mohanti (1997) concluded that children enter the labour market to help poverty affected families, to repay long standing
family debts, due to sudden death of the bread winner of the family or sometimes when they run away from the families due to personal or caste exploitation. The situation of girl child is made worse by economic disadvantages. The process of socialisation isolated the girl child from education, health care and adequate nutrition and she is denied even those rights which are available to her brothers. Children of ethnic minorities especially girls were exploited unmercifully in many industries. Sometimes sexual abuse is also inflicted on girl children.

Joshi (1997) observed that UNICEF report on Child Labour in 1997 proposed six key steps that must be taken to address the situation - the immediate elimination of hazardous Child Labour, free and compulsory education for all children stringent anti Child Labour laws and their vigorous enforcement, registration of all children at birth, data collection and monitoring and lastly codes of conduct and procurement policies.

Sawhney (1997) analysed that additional fund to the tune of Rs. 200 crore was required for complying with the supreme court judgment on the elimination of Child Labour according to a tentative estimate prepared by the labour ministry. About Rs. 500 crore was required just to meet one directive of the supreme court under which either the State Government would have to provide the job for the adult members of the family of the child
withdrawn from work or alternatively it would have contribute Rs.5000 to the district level Child Labour Welfare-cum-Rehabilitation Fund. Funds are also required immediately for survey and identifying of working children as according to the Supreme Court directive it was to be completed by June 10, 1997.

Qualitative research was undertaken by Save the Children in 1998 in four areas of the UK with young people between the ages of 11 and 16. Although this was a heterogeneous group there were great similarities across gender and ethnicity in their reasons for working and attitudes towards it and the jobs they do. Work played an important part in their lives, The motivation went beyond just money to the social aspects of the work, getting away from home, alleviating boredom and for some gaining experience, confidence and self-esteem, while it was a way of increasing their personal powers there were disadvantages: often they did not feel the had been treated fairly as compared to adults and some of them had been exposed to dangerous and unpleasant situations. They made various suggestions, the strongest of which was for an official complaints procedure (Save the Children 1998).

Out of sight... out of mind... out of reach- A Study of Child Domestic workers in Chennai-India, Arunadhaya, Centre for Street and Working Children, 1999 aimed at bringing the
problem of child domestic workers into focus and identifying the factors which contributed to the problem, so that appropriate programmes of intervention could be initiated.

Functionaries of NGOs working in the field of child development and a cross-section of the public, including professionals, parents, employers, advocates and trade union leaders were interviewed to elicit opinions the issue of child domestic work and their participation to charter future course of action.

The study found that children were set to work by compulsion and not by choice. They were found to have started working at a very young age. Parents did play a prime role in introducing children to the world of work. But among the residential child workers, the hand of outsiders engaged as 'recruiters' was evident. The study also showed that the literacy level of the parents has a direct influence on the education of the child.

Regarding terms of employment in the majority of instances (87 percent), there was no contract or agreement of any kind. Everything was informally negotiated, leaving it to the employer's discretion to the hire or fire the child worker.

By and Large, the child domestic workers appeared to have been well adjusted to the reality of their employment situation. The concept of child rights was unknown to 90 percent of the
children. The 10 percent who said that they have some knowledge of child rights said that children have the right to study, write, speak and play.

In Nepal, a multisector Nepalese team has been conducting child-centred participatory research since 1999 (Sharma, Nepal and Pandey 2001). Adverse publicity on child labour issues in the carpet industries resulted in the formation of the National Society for the Protection of Environment and Children (NASPEC), aiming to 'return' children from hazardous conditions to a 'normal' way of life and undertake the necessary rehabilitative activities.

V.V. Giri National labour Institute, 2000, some of the studies conducted by the VVGNLI. On child labour show that child labour is not necessarily linked only to poverty is illiteracy, but also to absence of alternate source of income, opportunities arises and related infrastructure facilities.

Amartya Sen's lecture at ILO Geneva, says, "It is often claimed that the abolition of child labour will harm the interest of the children themselves, since they may end up starving because of lack of family income and also because of increased neglect. It is certainly right that the fact of family poverty must be considered in dealing with the issue. There is no escape from that. But it is not at all clear why it must be presumed that the abolition of child labour will lead only to a reduction of family
income and further neglect of children, without any other economic or social or educational adjustment. The case of a broader and more inclusive economic analysis and ethical examination is very strong in all these cases"

Different studies conducted on child labour, the facts discovered were that these children were truant, orphans, or destitute, poor and suffered with malnutrition and illiteracy. They are also physically, sexually and emotionally exploited and work unskillfully in unorganized sector. Some of them are indulged in gambling, smuggling drugs, alcohol and prostitution.

The brief review of literature on the subject has brought out many studies on Child Labour have been conducted throughout in India in various occupations and process like match and fireworks, carpet weaving, diamond industry, street hawking, cycle repairing, shoe-making etc. quite few studies dealing with various aspects of Child Labour have been conducted in Uttar Pradesh. But no study was ever conducted Jhansi on Problem of Child Labour in particular. Touching this sensitive issue, therefore, the present study has been designed to examine the various aspects of the burning and one of the most important problems on the current national agenda in district of Uttar Pradesh.