Review of Literature
An extensive survey of literature was undertaken to familiarize with the work related to present study. This exercise proved to be fruitful in systematically planning and executing the study. The literature so collected has been compiled objective-wise as below:

1. To study the socio-economic profile of respondents of selected slums in Kanpur district.

2. To study the prevalence and causes of child labour in selected slums in Kanpur district.

3. To study the working conditions and terms of employment of child labour in selected slums in Kanpur district.

4. To suggest the measures policy for alleviation of child labour.

**Socio-economic profile of respondents**

Behura and Behra (1991) stated that the problem of child labour in deeply rooted in the economic and social set up of India. Poor economic condition is the main reason for the prevalence of child labour. Social conditions like parental education, their attitude towards socialization of child, size of the family, living conditions and many other strong factors are also responsible for an increasing number of child labourers.

Child labour is a heinous socio-economic problem, illiteracy, ignorance, low family income, low standard of living, lack of education, lack of self-confidence, unequal social structure are all at the root of the vicious problem of child labour.
Mishra (1991), occupation of parents reveals the economic condition of a family. Due to unemployment or inadequate income parents fail to fulfill the minimum requirements of children which results in children entering the job market.

As unemployment creates havoc in our country and there is no adequate provision for maintenance allowance to the unemployed children of unemployed parents, children inevitably turn to the job market.

Deo (1991) said that literate parents are sensitive to the need of child-care and education. They can better understand the needs of health, growth and development of children. But, unfortunately, the rate of literacy, according to the 1981 census is 36 per cent. Due to a low educational level of parents, children are forced to work and earn money.

Our education system perpetuates the domination of the privileged few over the entire society while the children of poor people continue to remain uneducated. It is commonly found that the level of parents education and aspiration is closely associated with child labour. Class membership, which can be considered a proxy for the socio-economic status, has an important bearing on the work and schooling of children. Children from the highest class usually have a higher school attendance while those from the lower economic strata, have lowest schooling.

Srinivasan (1993) revealed that if a family is large and the comparative income is less, it is not possible for parents to satisfy even the basic needs of children. In such conditions, the economic value of children increases and parents receive benefits in the form of regular or irregular cash payments, and help in household work, in the business or on the farm. Large family size is an asset to peasants. Children's contribution to the family income is positive,
because the amount of money or labour they contribute exceeds that which is spent on them. As such, those who have few resources respond to adversity not by decreasing their family size but by increasing it.

Srinivasan (1993), when people do not find jobs they migrate to the areas where jobs are available. Not only adults, but children also leave their places for better earning opportunities elsewhere. In some cases, families are compelled to send their children temporarily to nearest cities, urban areas or adjoining states to earn their livelihood and to improve their standard of living. With the progressive mechanization of agriculture, a large number of farm hands are forced to migrate to cities. The migration has a disturbing influence on children.

Saxena (1993) in a study carried out in village Miya Matar of district Bharuch in Gujarat gives a religion-wise distribution of the respondents. It shows that 60 per cent of working children were Hindus while 40 per cent were Muslims and have no significant co-relation with the socio-economic status of village community. Caste wise distribution revealed that 20 per cent of the total working children belonged to lower caste group and 40 per cent each to scheduled castes and Muslims. According to the study traditionally these groups of people never came within the reach of development and therefore remained backward both economically and socially. Out of total samples, 86 per cent of the child labourers had their own residential houses whereas 12 per cent were provided this facility by they employers and were found to be carrying out multiple jobs like collecting various items in the fields, cleaning, transporting, processing of food grains and tending of livestock. It was revealed that out of total child labourers 78 per cent owned semi-pakka houses and had water tap facilities, 27 per cent owned private toilets whereas only 16 per cent had electricity facility. Agriculture labour was the main source of income for 88 per cent of the child labourers' families. It was supplemented by milking cattle by 20
per cent and 18 per cent had agricultural land as secondary source of income. Agricultural land was the main source of income in case of 6 per cent of respondents families, service and agriculture labour, being supplementary source of income for them. Only 40 per cent of the families were dependent on the income earned through labour work. An analysis of income distribution of families of child labourers showed that 50 per cent had income between Rs. 500 and 750 per month followed by 34 per cent between Rs. 250 and Rs. 500 whereas 8 per cent had an income below Rs. 200 and above Rs. 750 per month. The average per month total family income worked out of Rs. 539.6 which comes to Rs. 17.32 as an average per day per family income with an average family size of 6.7 members and per capita per day to Rs. 2.62 only. This analysis clearly gives a fair idea of the economic condition of these families and the level of income, which is much below the poverty line of the country and therefore needs immediate intervention of the Government.

Sharma (1994) undertook a survey of the socio-economic status of working children in rural areas of Baroda district. She found that family income of the respondents ranged from Rs. 1000.00 to Rs. 2500.00 per month. The working children's contribution to the family income ranged from Rs. 150.00 to Rs. 300.00 per month. Almost all working children emphasized the need for addition to the family income, as most of the parents (90 %) were agricultural labourers having large families to support (74 %), where the family income without working children's wages range between Rs. 800-2000 in most of the families (70 %). Poverty of the family had pressed the children into taking up hard jobs at a very young age. Other reason given by the respondents were self interest and family tradition. Though majority of children (90 %) had some schooling, they were school drop-outs and had taken up jobs.
Dawar (1994) reported the socio-economic status of child workers in Faridkot and Ludhiana districts of Punjab. Finding reveal that majority of the parents of working children belonged to the age groups of 30-49 years and 40-49 in district Faridkot and Ludhiana, respectively. A large number of parents both fathers and mothers, were literate and worked as permanent as well as casual agricultural labourers. Majority of the child labourers’ families from both the districts belonged to nuclear type of family having an average family size of 6-9 members. The income of these families ranged from Rs. 10,000 and Rs. 15,000-Rs. 20,000 in district Faridkot and Ludhiana, respectively. As regards the contribution made by child workers to the family income, it was observed that those from Faridkot district contributed more to the family income than that of the Ludhiana district. The children from Faridkot district contributed only Rs. 800 to 1600 per annum. Further the male children from both the district contributed double the amount contributed by female children.

ILO (1996) children of poor families in low income countries are required to work to a greater extent than those belong to more rich families which we can say that child labour is a means of marginally improving the income of the poor families. Child employment associated with greater inequality of income, wealth and material standards of living.

Pattanaik (1996) illiteracy and low levels of education among the parents were found to be major contributory factor for child employment. The poor education of the parents gets them only poorly paid jobs, which keeps them along with their parents in perpetual poverty. The survey point out that about two-third of the parents were either illiterate or dropout and had been forced to work in their childhood, and when the children also join the workforce due to parental influence, this becomes inter-generational and there is no hope of
freedom for these children to come out of this oppressive socio-economic exploitative structure.

Sinha (2000) reported a large number of programmes are implemented through NGOs. These programmes essentially involve providing education facilities, health care and skill development for children. Night shelters, marketing assistance and the training for developing alternate skills through vocational education form the core of programme meant for street children and rag pickers. Some organizations specially in urban areas. Several NGO group have concentrated on developing innovative teaching methods in schools, both formal and informal and in making the curriculum more relevant to the needs of working children.

**Prevalence and causes of child labour**

National Labour Institute (1991) described that 67.92 per cent child labour belonged to Hindu, 31.43 per cent to Muslim, and 0.65 per cent to others and no response. The Muslim child labourers are concentrated in household industry, mainly silk textile and allied activity like Zardosi and to lesser extent in “repair services”. There is a sizeable number in “construction” as well and they are exclusively from families of migrant labour from families of migrant labour from Bihar. The data shows a stronger tradition of skilled craftsmen or artisans among the Muslim population.

Sekar (1993) in her study of the match factories of Sivakasi found that out of 155 girl child labourers, 40 per cent never went to school and 56 per cent were school dropouts. Among the dropouts, 46 per cent had not studies beyond the third standard while 10 per cent had studied up to the six standard.

National Labour Institute (1993) conducted a study in city Indore, a famous city of Madhya Pradesh. For the purpose of collecting information about
physical growth of working children data was collected about their weight and height. In case of boys, the data revealed that as the children grow in age their proportion of being below normal in weight and height increases. Among the boys the lowest percentage in the present data being of the age-group 4-6 and highest in the age-group 14-16, almost maintaining a steady increase in proportion after a height size in the age-group 8-10 years. In the age group of 4-6, 6-8, 10-12, 12-14 and 14-16 the percentages of male children whose weight and height were below normal 50.00, 52.30, 75.00, 87.90, 9.30 and 96.6 respectively. Among female these percentages were 100.00, 64.3, 60.00, 92.00 and 100.00 respectively. The trend was almost similar among girls except that in age group, 4-6, the lone case was below normal with respect to both height and weight. The lowest being 60.00 per cent in the age group of 8-10 years. Among boys 86.90 per cent children were below normal and among the boys. Obviously this was because of rampant sickness, under nutrition and malnutrition. He reported that 98.30 per cent of the sample do not suffer from any type of handicap and they belong to normal category, while some (0-.70 %) were lame and (0.10 %) belong to the category of mentally handicap.

Kanungo (1995) collected information from young girls working as domestic labourers at Bhubneshwar, the capital city of Orissa. He found that of the 50 domestic workers, 8.6 per cent girls had no mothers, 25.7 per cent had no father while the remaining 66.7 per cent had both the parents. In the 50 families, the total number of offsprings was 185. Out of them 57 were boys and 127 girls. Of the girls below 15 years, 60 worked while 5 went to school. Among the boys below 15 years, 25 went to school and 12 worked as labourers. The average family members were six. The family income varied from Rs. 700 to 1000 per month, depending on the number of working persons in the family. The average number of living children per couple were 3.7 or 4. The educational
status of the parents of working girls was very low, only 5 per cent of them had formal schooling for 2 to 5 years, 20 per cent could write their names and read but had no formal education and 75 per cent were illiterates. All the mothers were illiterates. Regarding the occupation of the parents, 44 per cent mothers either worked as part time domestic labourers or daily wage-labourers. Among the mothers, 42.3 per cent worked as daily wage labourers, 15.4 per cent were rickshaw-pullers, 18.0 per cent had small business and 19.2 per cent worked in Government or private organizations as class fourth employees. A few families (10 out of 50) had small agricultural holding in their villages. The girls, working as full-timers had staying in the employers’ houses, were form different parts of Orissa. Among those working as part-times, 6 were from Bhubneshwar, 4 had migrated from outside the state with their parents, and the remaining 25 families were immigrants from different districts of Orissa. Thus, the whole 82.86 per cent of the part timers were migrants to this city and 100 per cent of ill-timers were from outside Bhubneshwar. The caste structure of the families showed that 5.7 per cent were Brahmin, 11.4 per cent Karans, 42.9 per cent Khandyats and 40.0 per cent belonged to other lower castes.

Grootaert and Kanbur (1995) India’s state of education lack effectiveness in yielding basic literacy in the population. It has been observed that “the overall condition of the education system can be a powerful influence on the supply of child labour”.

Ananthapadmanaban (1996) in recent years, there has been a decline in the proportion of child labour in organized sector, but it has spread its tentacles in the unorganized and service sector such as road construction restaurants, loading and unloading works. Shoe polishing, rag picking, hawking goods and as domestic servant, besides concentrating in the primary sector. In fact, the worst form of child exploitation is child prostitution. We can say that there is no
activity without the employment of child labour. These children are exploited, exposed to hazardous work conditions and paid a pittance for their long hours of work. Forced to forgo education, shouldering responsibilities for beyond their age, they never know what childhood is.

Hindwar (1997) child labourers seen everywhere, in the business and trading centers of the city. On railway stations and bus terminals, working in dhabas or sleeping on pavements. The living conditions in these areas are very hard, but the children prefer to work and live hire because of the wide range of employment available to them. A recent study estimates that 40,000 children work as labourers, 30,000 assist in shops, 30,000 in dhabas and restaurants and 20,000 children work in auto-repair shops. Many of the children are self-employed as porters, vendors, rag pickers, shoeshine boys, newspaper sellers and beggars. Shoeshine boys earn between Rs. 20 and Rs. 25 a day, vendors, Rs. 10 and Rs. 15 and newspaper sellers, Rs. 6 and Rs. 8 per day. About one lakh children are estimated to be working as domestic help in the middle and upper class residential areas. A smaller, but, significant number of children work in the industrial areas of Delhi. Girl children of poor families take on the responsibilities for domestic task and become surrogate mothers to their younger siblings at as young as seven to eight years. In addition, they may take on wage labour. Many girls help their mothers in domestic or piece-rate work, some are employed in small industries, while others are engaged in vending rag picking and, at times, begging.

Editor (1997) says that work is essential for normal growth of child. But many of the jobs done by children were found to affect their physical growth adversely. Growing children suffer from the effects of fatigue, over exertion and poor hygienic condition. Heavy loads and unnatural body postures arrest the growth of bones in children. An experiment in Japan showed that until 12 years
of age these was no difference in height between children of two groups of working and non-working children. However working children were subsequently found to be on an average 4 cms. Shorter than non working counterparts at the age of 18 years.

Badiwala (1998) the state of education in India also needs to be improved. High illiteracy and dropout rates are reflective of the inadequacy of the educational system. Poverty plays a role in the ineffectiveness of the educational system. Dropout rates are high because children are forced to work in order to support their families. The attitudes of the people also contribute to the lack of enrollment parents feel that work develops skills that can be used to earn an income, while education does not help in this matter. Compulsory education may help in regard to these attitudes.

Dwarkanath (1999) child workers can be seen in almost all parts of the country performing a variety of jobs. They work in the match stick and fire works industries of Sivakasi in Tamil Nadu, Diamond polishing industry of Surat in Gujarat, precious stone polishing industry in Jaipur, glass industry of Ferozabad, brassware industry of Moradabad, carpet industry of Mirzapur and Bhadohi, lock making industry of Aligarh, State industry of Mandsaur, Madhya Pradesh and Markapur, Andhra Pradesh. Besides the prevalence of child labour is noticed in the unorganized, informal and unregulated sectors of economy.

The unorganized sectors accounts for a whole army of child labour working as domestic servants, helpers or assistants in restaurants, hotels, wayside shops, dhabas, canteen, hawkers, paper vendors, porters, shoeshine boys, sweepers, scavengers, assistants in small shops, repair shops and helpers at construction sites, engaged in breaking stones, unloading goods etc.
Sinha (2000) have revealed that in the Indian context, girl children are largely engaged in running the household from a very early age, even before they are capable of wage earning activities. This includes collection of water, fuel and looking after the younger siblings. It is argued that although these activities engage the girl child for a large part of each day, and ultimately of her life, they very rarely enter into the calculation of child labour. Even when the girls reach the older age-group of nine and above, a significant of their time remains unaccounted for since it is consumed by these activities.

ILO (2003) domestic work is the largest employment category for girls under sixteen worldwide, according to the International Labour Organization. But child domestics throughout the world are frequently “invisible because each child is separately employed and works in the seclusion of a private house, unlike in a factory or on the street”, the UNICEF International Child Development Centre notes. They do not exist as a group and are difficult to reach and count. Their jobs are invisible too: domestic work belongs in the informal labour market is unregistered and does not show up clearly in employment statistic.

CWA (2003) employing children for household chores is one of the oldest practices in all societies. But it is more widespread in the so-called developing and transitioning ones, and Asia is one of them. The work is ubiquitous yet invisible as the work place is a private home inaccessible to a public eye. Away from their families, child domestics are not only forced to sell their childhood at the cost of care, nurture and developmental supports but are also subjected to physical, emotional and sometimes, sexual abuses.

Verma and Singh (2004) children engaged in domestic work, that is cleaning, cooking, child care and other chores in the households in almost all
types of societies. Another major form of child activity is in subsistence activities which are non-domestic but non-monetary. In agrarian economies, children are engaged on farms and fuel and water collection. Another activity is bounded labour. This is the most exploitative form of child labour. Then comes wage employment where children are engaged in employment either as part of a family group or individually in agricultural work sites, domestic services, manufacturing and services. Child labour is also involved in marginal work such as work of a short term or irregular nature like selling newspapers, shoe polishing, looking after cars, garbage collection and sorting objects from garbage. Then, there is another category which lacks access to school or is a dropout from school. Such children, having no employment, wander into idleness or irregular and sometimes anti-social activities. There are children engaged in theft, prostitution and other socially undesirable or illegal activities.

Verma and Singh (2004) reported that participation of children in labour activities reduces the potential for children's participation in schools and educational system. Children from poor families do not have access to education compared to those from well to-do families. Sometimes, in spite of available infrastructure for education, children are not able to avail of such facilities due to the direct and indirect costs of schooling. Lack of schooling results in denial of qualifications for skilled jobs and other opportunities.

Tandon (2004) surveys in developing countries indicate that the vast majority of children who work are engaged in primary sectors such as agriculture, fishing, hunting and forestry. Eight per cent are involved in manufacturing, wholesale and retail trades, restaurants, and hotels; seven per cent in domestic work and services; four per cent in transport, storage and communication; and three per cent in construction, mining and quarrying. Child
labour often assumes serious proportions in commercial agriculture that is associated with global markets for cocoa, coffee, cotton, rubber, sisal, tea etc.

Human Right Watch (2004) many children who out cane do not attend school at all, and those who do attempt to balance work and school may find that their work interferes with their education. The IPEC study found, for example, that one of every three child sugarcane workers interviewed was not in school. Among those interviewed for the study, the principal reason for leaving school was that economic necessity forced them to work. And of those who attended school, 45 per cent reported having difficulties with their studies because they had missed days of class and found it hard to catch up or be cause they were tired after working in the cane fields in the morning.

Verma and Singh (2004) in their study reported that 58.15 per cent child labourers were from 12-15 year4s of age group; whereas 29.15 per cent child labourers who belonged to 6 years or below, 6-9 years and 15 years or more, were 1.14 per cent, 5.86 per cent and 5.70 per cent respectively. These authors further reported that 5.54 per cent child labourers entered the child labour force in the age range of 4-6 years; 30.17 per cent in the age range of 6-9 years, 45.12 per cent in the age of 9-12 years; and 19.22 per cent in the age of 12-15 years. The two most important activities, which draw smaller children, are the Varanasi Textile Industry, in which silk handloom is most prominent business and trade.

Bureau of International Labour Affairs (2006), "Child labour is simply the style most important source of child exploitation and child abuse in the world today. But there are grounds for optimism. The world we now know is radically different from what it was some 15 years ago. It offers new opportunities and possibilities and there is an emerging consensus that the world community has the duty and the obligation to combat especially those intolerable forms of child
labour that still persist in much of industry, agriculture and services and in conditions of bondage and serfdom.

**Working conditions and terms of employment of child labour**

Sekar (1993) focused on the poor working conditions of girl child labourers in match manufacturing units of Sivakasi. During an interview 90 per cent children said that their work place were very congested, 56 per cent said that their work place was not properly illuminated, and 50 per cent complained of the noxious odour of chemicals from the chemical dipping section and poor ventilation. According to 46 per cent of children there was no drinking water on the factory premises while non-availability of toilet facilities was reported by 26 per cent. Nearly 60 per cent of the children interviewed worked for 6 days a week and 40 per cent for all the seven days without a break for months together. Children took only short breaks for lunch ranging from 20 to 40 minutes. There were no paid holidays for them. It was found that children had to work even on national holidays like Republic day.

Dwivedi and Srinivasan (1993) child labourers may be forced to work in awkward positions in badly lit and ill ventilated noisy or unhygienic premises in terms of gases dust and dampness, crammed together with other workers, exposed to vagaries of weather without adequate clothing or footwear, without adequate means of security. These children are often devoid of medical facilities, proper place for rest and toilet facilities, educational or training facilities. They are often victims of ill treatment by employers or adult co-workers.

Srinivasan (1993) in a research survey it was found that 23 per cent children have no rest interval while the remaining 56 per cent had one hour rest interval in a day. Holiday were given only for religious festivals, casual and sick
leave were frowned upon and in most cases not granted. In any case holiday was allowed without wages.

Burra (1995) all the statutes relating to child labour restrict employment of children at night because it is strenuous to the health of children. But night work is very common especially in small workshops, service establishments such as eating places and street trades. In the glass industries at Firozabad night work continues and children as young as 7-8 years work in the night shift.

Menon (1995) in her study observed that Dahanu is a place where over 30 balloon factories are situated. About 15 to 20 adults and children work in each of these factories. This work includes mixing rubber with chemicals, coloration of balloons and testing each balloon with gas. The chemicals they have to handle include ammonia and acetic acid which are hazardous. The rooms are small, cramped and ill-ventilated. A thick pall of dust and chemicals pervades the rooms with a sharp and noxious smell assailing the nose. Most of the workers get covered with a thick coat of powder on their faces and heads. In these unhealthy and noxious conditions the children work for nine hours a day. No safety precautions nor medical facilities exist. The children are not given nose and eye mask nor respirators.

Joseph (1995) reviewed the working conditions of child labourers in Sivakasi match factories. The cramped unhygienic and unsafe surroundings of factories where children are forced to work, comprise a world of horror. Some 45,000 children comprising half of the number employed, laterally play with fire every minute of their lives. They get little sleep and remain busy in their tasks, their eyes itch burn and water from the effort of keeping awake for long house. The children also inhale toxic fumes, suffer from intense heat and run the risk of being injured in fire accidents. Some have to heave heavy boxes and hence
suffer from severe neck and back pain others sit filling sticks into frames with a frenzy for they are under pressure to produce more to be able to earn more and the production process must be sustained.

Gupta (1995) estimated that out of 30,000 workers employed in carpet industry of Rajasthan, 40 per cent would be children below the age of 15 years. In organized units the exploitation of children is much more their day begins at 8 0’ Clock. They were not almost to be late. The children were scolded and threatened if they become slack in any way. They work non-stop till 5 pm or 5.30 pm with a break of 45 minutes or 1 hour for lunch. Running water is available because the carpets have to be washed but there are no toilet facilities. In case of accidents or ill health the Seth takes no responsibility. There are no first aid box to be seen. The shades are dark and poorly ventilated. The floors are usually mud floors. The looms or surface looms and the child sits crouched on the plate form which is barely 1 - ½ fit. wide with his eyes fixed on the loom for hours at a stretch. They work at least 8 hours a day. There are no windows for fresh air and the few tube lights hanging above are usually not switched on.

Nath and Majumdar (1996) found in their study regarding working hours and holidays for child labourers in Greater Calcutta the period of daily rest within work was insufficient. Most of these workers worked seven days in a week. About 14.9 per cent workers got one full day holiday in a week whereas another 3.4 per cent receive only one half day holiday in a week. The average duration of work in a week was 6.8 days. Therefore, the weekly rest was not allowed in most cases.

Sharma and Mittar (1996) reported the rest interval of the working children that 66.31 per cent did not get any rest time and 20.65 per cent got up to half hour rest interval and the remaining 13.04 per cent workers got half to one
hour rest. In manufacturing, 57.69 per cent of the workers were given rest intervals. Next important category in which children had rest time was service. In trade, only a negligible percentage (6.9 %) were given rest intervals.

Singh (1996) In his study on carpet weaving industries of district Varanasi found that period of rest for child labourers in carpet industry varied from season to season. During summer they were given rest of two hours a day. While in the rainy season as well as in winter season, it was for one and a half hours as lunch break. On enquiry from child workers and their employers, it was found that there was no provision for paid holidays and leave of any kind. Leave without pay, too, was refused to them if there was more pressure of work and 85.4 per cent child labourers expressed that they had to work at night whereas 13.6 per cent did not work at night and rest i.e. 1.6 per cent did not disclose anything. Approximately 28.8 per cent child labourers accepted that they worked daily during nights. In addition, 42 per cent worked for two hours, 28 per cent for 3 hours whereas 1.1 per cent worked for four hours daily during night. In industry 35.8 per cent children mentioned that they received threats from their employers. Similarly 27.7 per cent workers received beating. There were 4.3 per cent cases where employers terminated the services of the child workers. As many as 44.5 per cent respondents were dissatisfied because of the payment of low wages, 19.20 per cent were unhappy because of temporary nature of jobs, 49.0 per cent because of unhealthy work environment, 9.3 per cent because of long hours of work, 5.3 per cent due to bad behaviour of employers and rest 4.3 per cent did not give any reason for their dissatisfaction with their jobs.

Brase (1996) in her study reported that thousands of boys between the ages of 6 to 16 literally play with fire every minute in milticore glass industry of firozabad of Uttar Pradesh. During the night hours, the presence of chowkidar, one supervisor and one or two clerical staff ensure that the workers do not relax
even for half a minute. They do not even get lunch or dinner breaks. Children in
the age group of 7 to 12 handle blazing glass and work close to the numerous
furnaces even during the summer when the temperature outside the factory is
$40^\circ - 45^\circ$ Celsius.

Behura and Behera (1997) studied the child labourers of Bhubneshwar
city and the sample belonged to unorganized sectors. They revealed that there is
no legislation for regulating child labour in unorganized sectors. Their services
were terminable at the pleasure of their employers. They were not provided with
any service benefit and most of them were not even granted the privilege of
weekly holidays. Occasionally they solicit for grant of leave from their
employers for visiting their respective native villages. Some employers grant
such leave to their domestic servant with salary and some others do not pay for
the period of leave. Thus payment of salary to the child labourers during their
absence depends on the mercy of their employers. Hotel boys and shop assistants
get regularly one day off in a week. Apart from this they were not granted any
other leave. They lost salary for all those days they remain absent from work.

Phillips (1997) in his study found that no facilities were provided to 86.7
per cent child labourers by their respective employers. Only 10.7 per cent
reported that they get food from their employers, 2.30 per cent received clothing
and 0.30 per cent entertainment facilities from their employer.

Singh and Kaura (1997) reported provision for rest intervals is essential
during working time so that the harmful effects of continuous work on health
and fatigue can be reduced and labourers efficiency may be recollected. As the
rest period of the working children is concerned, it was found that it varied form
one job to another. In most for the industries it was found that there is no
provision for paid holidays and leave of any kind. Leave and holidays are based
on the principle that the wages would be paid according the number of days they had really worked.

Dwarakanath (1999) the practice of child labour is economically unsound, psychologically disastrous and physically as well as morally degrading and harmful for any society. A large number of children working in different industries and factories are suffering from malnutrition, which lowers their resistance and makes them all the more vulnerable to diseases. Carrying heavy load and working in cramped spaces in factories causes deformity particularly of the bones and hinders general growth.

Nagia (1999) all working children are not earning children. Most of the children in villages and small towns working in agriculture and allied primary sector activities, family enterprise and household chores are unpaid. Only in the organized sector, informal sector and self-employment activities in the cities, they are paid in cash and kind.

Rane (1999) studied that work conditions vary from one area and activity to another, there are some remarkable common situation in terms of long hour of work without rest, low and exploitative wages, lack of safeguards health and security, lack of basic amenities like toilet and drinking water etc.

Rane (1999) children are often forced to work for long hours due to economic necessity. They become a part of badly exploited labour force and are deprived of the right to play, leisure and learning.

Economic Time (1999) all the male child labourers employed in beedi factories and workshops and also the female child labourers employed in garment factories were paid in cash only while in the case of domestic servant, 18 were paid in cash while two were paid in kind. Majority of the domestic
servants were given three meals a day, clothes and used up cosmetics and costume jewellery (90 %, 82 % and 60 %) respectively.

Economic Time (1999) most of those males who were paid in cash are paid monthly, followed by weekly and daily except for 5 male workers who are paid in kind. Other than 8 who are paid in cash or in kind the remaining are paid in cash and monthly basis. Five males are paid in cash and kind also.

Economic Time (1999) 75 per cent of the male and 52.5 per cent of the female child labourers reported that they were paid only for those days they worked. Only in the case of domestic servants, they were paid for all the days irrespective of their absence from the work spot.

Ramaalvi (1999) 60 per cent of the child labourers had rest period while 17 per cent of them had no rest period. Rest periods are given during afternoons. Except domestic workers, all of them have weekly holiday. Only three domestic servants have holidays and that too only during festivals while the rest of them have no holidays at all.

Ramaalvi (1999) with regard to other benefits, 37.79 per cent of the male and 47.62 per cent of the female child labourers had sickness benefits in the form of free medical check-ups and medicines. 33 per cent of the male labourers had daily allowance, 20 per cent of them had leave facilities, 33 per cent and 15.87 per cent of the female child labourers reported leave facilities and incentives. Only 3-17 per cent of the female subjects reported to be getting daily allowance. Domestic servants and workshop boys did not have incentives and other benefits. Beedi workers (60 %), workshop boys (65 %) and domestic servant (50 %) do not have sickness benefits.

Ramaalvi (1999) majority of the child labourers (85 % males and 84.62 % females) gave their wages totally to their parents/guardians. Only a small
percentage of them gave partial wages to their parents/guardians. Major portion of their wages is spent on food (48.53 % male and 38.16 % female) and (48.53 % male and 28.95 % female). Equal percentage (42.80 %) of the male child labourers save through Chitfund and hundis. Only 14.29 per cent invest in post office. 85.71 per cent of the female child labourers saved through hundis. Majority of them saved below Rs. 50.00, 36 male and 18 female child labourers wish to start some business on their own. Only 5 female child labourers expressed that they would like to continue their studies with their earning. Majority of the domestic servants had no future plans.

Ramalvi (1999) indicates that children in almost all work settings both in agricultural and non-agricultural sectors, are found working for long hours. Children in construction sites in Varahi were found to work from 8 am to 7 pm (i.e. 11 hours) and then spent another two hours fetching water and doing household chores. Children in workshops worked not less than 10 hours and in some cases even 12 hours. Beedi rolling was done during almost all the working hours not devoted to house work.

Anantha (1999) reported that the work places were congested improperly ventilated, ill lit, chemical odour nauseating, complaints about non-availability of toilet facilities and drinking water are always there. It was seen that children had to carry heavy wooden frames with wooden scales and iron bar of four kg each to be exposed to the sun o to the chemical dipping room.

Though the normal working hours in the match factory is between 8 am and 6 pm, children work for 12 hours on an average, daily for six to seven days a week, without a break for months together. It is further disturbing to see that many of these children start their days as early as 4 am. Instances of children working even as late as 10 pm were also observed. At times, children were kept
at work for more than 14 hours a day for only an additional Rs. Five. The loudness of Tamil film music/songs played acts as a catalyst in the whole working process. Generally children take short lunch break of 20 to 40 minutes. It was also seen that children as well as adults were working on national holidays.

Prasad (1999) also reported on the pitiable conditions of child labour working under different occupations, young children especially boys were found working round the clock in dhabas or carrying load too heavy for their young bodies, begging on road side etc. These children are employed on low wages because their labour is cheap, often these children are subjected to harsh punishment with poor nourishment.

Gangrade (1999) reported that the payment of child workers is better especially in carpet industries, however, covering the find of this study concerning 309 child workers indicate that 51.5 per cent were paid less than Rs. 150 to Rs. 300 per month and 5.8 per cent did not get in cash but in kind such as meals, clothes or sometimes small amount and pocket money.

Singh (1999) conducted a study in the unorganized sectors by center of social research, revealed that about 5.4 per cent of child worker had been working for more than 2 years. They worked for longer hours, i.e. more than 10 hours per day even in ill ventilated places without basic amenities and rest which effect their health and retarded their physical and mental growth and development in early age.

Nair (1999) said that the working children are engaged in different organized and unorganized sectors in India. About two lakhs children are working in bidi rolling industries. These children work under the most unhygienic conditions. They roll bidies and assist the adult workers in cleaning
and cutting the leaves and closing the ends. Force into the world of work too early in life and working for long hours in overcrowded rooms. These children have already developed symptoms of chronic bronchitis, anemia, and tuberculosis. In other words poor children are pledged to bidi contractors.

Chandra (1999) reported that the about two lakhs children are working in the carpet industries of Mirzapur and Srinagar. They get 5 to 7 rupees after working for 16 to 17 hours a day. This study reveals that 10 per cent of the child labourers are provided only two meals a day and no wages. In case wages are paid it is one fourth of one half of the statutory minimum wage, even though their working hours are longer.

Chandra (1999) observed that Sivakasi Safety Match Industry and cracker industrial units of Tamil Nadu are exploiting child labourer very much. These working conditions are very risky and dangerous. Out of total labour force, 35 per cent were child labourers. The child labours work with chemical and burning materials but they get below minimum wages. Most of the working areas are full of bad smell and humidity which is quite harmful for the health of the children.

Centre for Operations Research and Training (1999), a research study conducted by the centre for operation research and training in 1999 has recommended that to improve existing unhealthy working conditions in the industry, it is necessary to improve its production technology and work environment besides training and equipping the workers with higher skills.

Chandra (1999) reported home based working fall within a gray area between the employed workers and self-employed workers. There are self-employed workers as well as employed workers amongst the home-based workers. There is no system of social security on which the domestic workers can fall back. They worked for long hours and do variety of work and sometimes
get few hours of undisturbed sleep. In many cases they are not provided with safe and clean places where they can rest or sleep. Since many domestic servants are women and children they run the risk of sexual harassment and exploitation in many houses. There is violation of laws on minimum wages, equal wages, child labour, contract labour and interstate migrant workers. Construction workers remain invisible, vulnerable, voiceless and un-unionized.

Chandra (1999) reported that the working conditions of the workers working in underground mines are full of hazard and the workers are at the risk of loosing limbs or lives due to flooding, fire, collapse of roof, emission of gases, failure of ventilation or collapse of sides. There is high incidence of long diseases like TB and pneumoconiosis in mines.

Mamoria (2000) indicates that no fire prevention measures exist in match box factory. The provision of Factories Act regarding health hygiene, safety and welfare measures are flouted. In the name of First Aid Kit only a tube of Burnol is kept. Building designs and layout are not planned scientifically. In addition to suffocation due to planned scientifically. In addition to suffocation due to smoke several processes of match making are carried out under one roof, thus, exposing them to five hazards, heat discomfort and sweat. Day in and out children exposed to such risks do inefficient work, face increased chances of minor accidents and suffer emotional damage.

Jain (2002) the policy of “no work, no wage” in uniformly followed by all employers. However, in case of any health problems, family function and religious, the children are permitted to take leave for a few days but on loss of a wage. If a child is absent for a long period or irregular in attending to the work of his or her father or mother has to compensate the work of their child. Otherwise the employers ask the parents to clear off the loan. Because of this the
parents force their children to resume the work. If they fail, the parents would again pledge the child to another agent to clear of the loan obtained from the previous employer.

Jain (2002) mentioned that scolding is common to all categories of industries/trades. Naturally, the more violent from will be accompanied by scolding. It might also be added that generally the attitude expressed by the responding child workers who reported occasional scolding, was to accept this as normal and that the main purpose of this method was "to make them understand and learn". It involves many subjective elements both on the part of the employers and the child workers. As such harsher forms like "scolding and beating" and "abuses, threat" be treated as the negative effective factor on the personality and physical development of the children. The proprietors of the "repair services and engineering industry" behaved very harshly with their child workers. Both of trades involve formation of a certain type of technical skill and handling of tools and implements. Hotel and restaurants ‘and’ domestic service’ were the other sectors in which the problem of abuses and violence on the child workers is markedly prevalent.

El Diario de Hoy (2003) domestic workers regularly perform a wide variety of household tasks, including cleaning, cooking, washing dishes and laundry, caring for children and shopping.

ILO (2004), working children are the objects of extreme exploitation in terms of toilin for long hours. Their work conditions are especially severe, often not providing the stimulation for proper mental development. Many of these children endure lives of pure deprivation. However, problems with the intuitive solution of immediately abolishing child labour to prevent so there is no
international agreement defining child labour, making it hard to isolate cases abolish them.

Tandon (2004) reported that children are exploited by not only having to put in long hours of work in deplorable working conditions but payments due to them are cut adopting dubious ways of computing wage and making deductions on account of wastage or lower than required daily work output. Deductions are made if accommodation is provided even though the children are made to sleep in shed or work premises. Pledging of child labour is also found in the domestic sector. Middle and upper class families needing domestic help pay in advance to poor parents and bring the child from the village to do the household work for which live in facilities and meals are provided and the advance is adjusted against the monthly wage.

Tandon (2004) said that children also work as apprentices in production processes that require skills for example, in hand knotted carpet weaving, silk sari weaving, embroidery, gem polishing, repair workshops etc. These skills they acquire through working and learning under the supervision of a master craftsman. During the apprenticeship period the child is normally paid out of pocket expenses. Regular salary is paid only when the child has acquired the skill and is able to work without guidance and enhance the productive capacity. The employer often exploits the child by prolonging the apprenticeship period as it provides cheap labour by having skilled hand at modest payment.

Verma and Singh (2004) reported poor and unsafe conditions of working children have a direct adverse effect on our society. In agriculture, child labour is exposed to difficult and dangerous tasks. Constant physical effort and exposure to chemical products, for example, fertilizers and pesticides, cause health hazards. In construction work also, children are prone to accidents and
injuries. Similar is the case with children employed in fireworks factories. In machine shops and mechanical jobs, these are various factors like lack of training and experience in handling tools, use of unorganized machinery, unsafe use of electricity, shortage of gloves, goggles and other protective equipment, poor-lighting and inadequate ventilation which lead to accidents and disease.

**Causes of child labour**

Kanbargi (1991) studied that a final factor in the issue of Indian child labour rests in the inefficiency of protective legislation for working children. Although the government has made attempts to eradicate child labour, these provisions are greatly ignored and the industry continues.

Laura (1992) states that the general Indian attitude toward child labour presents a third another factor in the continuance of this social problem. Found in this culture’s view of the social order and the hierarchical caste system, this attitude consist of feelings of indifference and helplessness toward child labour. The irrelevant and often inaccessible education system in India has led to an increase in child labour.

Syed (1993) reported that children work for a variety of reasons. The most important is poverty children work to ensure the survival of their family and themselves. Though children are not will paid, they still serve as major contributors to family income in developing countries. Children are often prompted to work by their parents. According to one study, parents represent 62 per cent of the course of induction into employment. Children make their own decisions to work only 8 per cent of the time. In fact, a possible reason parents in developing countries have children is because they can be profitable.

ILO (1993) reported that even though poverty is cited as the major cause of child labour, it is not the only determinant. Inadequate schools, a lack of
schools or even the expense of schooling leaves some children with little else to do but work. The attitudes of parents also contribute to child labour some parents feel that children should work in order to develop skills useful in the job market, instead of taking advantage of a formal education. Poverty and the inadequacy of the school system play significant roles in causing child labour, but also affect each other. Poverty forces high dropout rates, and thus no matter how good school are, school survival rates and literacy rates will still remain low.

Syed and Mirza (1993) poverty is at the root of the problem of child labour. Widespread poverty in developing countries like India, compel children to work in unprotective and exploitative conditions. Poverty and inequity are major cause of child labour and the development is inversely related to the incidence of child labour. To put it in single words, the countries, states and districts with high illiteracy rates, backwardness in economic development, combined with other factors like low rates of school enrolment, malnutrition among children and high proportion of children out of schools have greater incidence of child labour problems.

Economic factors play most powerful role in perpetuating child labour. Parents often perceive children as an important contribution to their family income. A birth of a child is viewed by poor parents as a means of adding to the household labour force. For them, the child comes into the world with one month to eat, but two hands to work. Among other reasons, economic value of children is very important consideration for having many children.

Badiwala (1995) reported that the major determinant of child labour is poverty. Even though children are paid less than adults, whatever income they earn is of benefits to poor families. In addition to poverty, the lack of adequate and accessible sources of credit forces poor parents to engage their children in
the harsher form of child labour – bonded child labour. Some parents also feel that a formal education is not beneficial, and that children learn work skills through labour at a young age. Another determinant is access to education. In some areas, education is not affordable, or is found to be inadequate. With no other alternatives, children spend their time working.

Weiner (1995) studied that poverty reflects social and cultural marginalization. This is indicated by studies of many of the industries where there is a substantial presence of child labour, like the carpet industry, the match industry, brass ware, glass, bangle and lock making, slate, gem polishing industries and the tea plantations. These show that the overwhelming majority of children working in these industries come from scheduled castes, schedule tribes, other backward caste and Muslim communities. These communities also constitute the bulk of small and marginal peasantry, landless and agricultural labourers and artisan group. These communities are the victims of a social system characterized by unequal access to the principal productive resources and assets. These communities often migrate to the cities to join the burgeoning informal sector.

Weiner (1995) reported that starvation persists even when families and their children are working. Starvation is the result of combination of factors, include price policy, low income, low purchasing power, income disparity, unequal food distribution, poor availability of food, lack of access to food production and unequal land ownership pattern.

Mehra (1996) a study conducted by the ILO Bureau of statistic found that children's work was considered essential to maintaining the economic level of households, either in the form of work for wages of help in household enterprises or of household chores in order to free adult household members for
economic activity elsewhere. In some cases, the study found that a child's income accounted for between 34 and 37 per cent of the total household income. This study concludes that a child labourers' income is important to the livelihood of a poor family. 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 Right Watch (1996) reported that the combination of poverty and the lack of a social security network from 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 Indian living in poverty qualify. Here enters the local money lenders; for an average of two thousand rupees, parents exchange their child's labour to local moneylenders.

Mustafa and Sharma (1996) studied that poverty is one of the most widespread reasons for the child labour system in India. Indian children are often forced to work out of necessity. Most employed children come from poor families and generally from rural communities. Family poverty forces children into the workplace. Child labour problem rests upon the burdens caused by the large family, which is in itself an underlying cause of poverty.

CRY (1997) organization states, a second factor contributing to the labour situation is family debt. Often family debts will be passed on to the next generation forcing young children into bonded labour. A study in Sivakasi match factories found that even ....... the child in the womb in pledged to the factory, and consumption and maternity loans are obtained on the undertaking that the child born, girl or boy, would work for the factory. Bonded children have no
way of ending the cycle of debt created by their parents, their labour seems only to incur more debt as their master controls their fate.

UNICEF (1997) report observed that in India about 20 million children work in hazardous industries and 15 million work as bonded labourers. However, a large portion of India’s population lives in object poverty and the benefits of immunization and education do not reach their children.

Jha (1997) poverty unemployment or underemployment the household may rely heavily on the income generating activities of children. Children may not only to contribute to the household economy, but may also provide support for their parents in old age.

UNICEF (1997) many poor families need to keep as many family members working as possible to ensure income security and survival of the family. This makes it very difficult for poor families to invest in their children's education. In fact educating a child can be a significant financial burden. In many instances, ‘free’ public education is in fact very costly to a poor family, when they are expected to purchase books, school supplies, and uniforms, and sometimes even pay teachers’ wages. Many poor families weigh the cost sending their children to work.

Badiwala (1998) the major determinant of child labour is poverty. Even though children are paid less than adults, whatever income they earn is of benefit to poor families. In addition to poverty, the of adequate and accessible sources of credit forces poor parents to engaged their children in the harsher form of child labour bonded child labour. Some parents also feel that a formal education is not beneficial and that children learn work skills through labour at a young age. These views are narrow and do not take the long term developmental benefits of education into account. Another determinant is access to education. In some
areas, education is not affordable, or is found to be inadequate. With no other alternatives, children spend their time working.

Dwarkanath (1999) reported that there is many socio-economic factors, responsible for the increase in child labour in India. The symptoms of poverty, unemployment, underemployment, low paid wages, illiteracy are some of the strong reasons for the existence of child labour.

**Poverty**: The most important factor favouring child labour is widespread and absolute poverty which forces the parents to send their children to seek employment, easily accessible to earn money. Poverty is often cited for employing child labour in agriculture. Many children work as farm labourers because child labour has become are accepted norm within the social structure.

**Growing illiteracy**: In India lower socio-economic groups like schedule caste and scheduled tribes are illiterate. They are ignorant of their future and of the importance of modern education. They ignore the fact that child labour deprives the children of all the educational opportunities and neutralizes their chances of vocational training.

**Big family a curse**: In most of the rural areas of India large families with comparatively less income cannot have happy notions in their mind. As a result they cannot protect their children from this curse. If a family is limited and well planned children can be carefully educated. If the family is small they can provide all facilities to their children, which are necessary for their mental, physical and social growth.

**Cheap child labour**: Due to industrialization and modern scientific technology the tendency among the employers is to have quicker and greater profits at low costs. In every developing country there was enrolment of children in a large number of factories who are paid very low wages and subjects to
excessive hours of work. The preference for child labour by many employers mainly due to the fact that, it is cheap, safe and without any problem.

**Absence of family allowance scheme:** In India, unlike other developing countries, there is a conspicuous absence of scheme for family allowances, so that people may have an adequate standard of living and may not be forced to send their children to the labour market. These schemes come under the social security measures, which are in practice in many developed countries, but not in our country.

Bhandari (2000) revealed that casteism, poverty, family size and income, level of education, etc are some of the major factors that have intensified the problem of child labour in India. The Gurupadswami Committee has revealed in its report that the child labour problem is the result of poverty, and the elimination of poverty in itself is a good problem.

Giri (2001) reported that child labour is a problem with several dimensions. There is no single deterring cause for its prevalence. Some of the causes commonly attributed for the continuation of child labour are:

(a) Poverty, unemployment unequal distribution of assets and inadequate wage levels of adults workers with more than 30 per cent of them below the poverty line;

(b) Low literacy levels of adults in which female literacy is abysmally low, absence of compulsory education low access to schools along with high dropout rates and discrimination against female education.

(c) Social and cultural factors which force the continuity of trade and skill in a particular caste community at an early age, community exploitation resulting in child and bonded labour,
social acceptance of child labour and society showing no
general disapproval towards child labour;

(d) Children constituting cheap labour and unable to organize
themselves against exploitation; and

(e) Low health care among poor children preventing them from
attending school and forcing them into child labour.

Giri (2001) education is the key to breaking the cycles of illiteracy and
poverty, which are the main contributory factors for child labour – children with
education grow into adults empowered to avail of better option in life and to
value education for their children. The reasons for this are lack of awareness
about the importance of awareness about the importance of education, problems
of access to schools and the quality and relevance of schools. Parents of poor
children are willing to send their children by doing extra work or by forgoing the
income generated through their children if they are made aware of the benefits of
education as well as are able to access it.

Poor families are prepared to make major sacrifices for their children's
education if it is available and demonstrably relevant. It is also the case that
some families are unable to afford to send their children to school. Furthermore,
even if a family could afford the loss of income entailed in withdrawing the child
form work, it may not be able to meet the 'hidden' costs of such things as fees,
books, suitable clothing, travel and so on.

Singh (2003) suggested that extreme poverty, lack of opportunity for
gainful employment and intermittency of income and low standards of living are
the main reasons for the wide prevalence of child labour. Though it is possible to
identify the child labour in the organized sector, which form a minuscule of the
total child labour, the problem relates mainly to the unorganized sector where
utmost attention needs to be paid. The problem is universal but in our case it is more crucial.

Tandon (2004) reported that the other factors responsible for increasing the demand for child labour are – low profitability and productivity of small scale family enterprises that cannot afford adult paid labour; lack of low enforcement; and poor functioning of schools run by government or local bodies. Child labour is, thus, an outcome of economic, social and school related factors.

Anandharaja Kumar (2004) studied that children are sent to work due to sheer necessity in the family. Wherever, literacy levels are low the size of the family is large and a family is compelled to send its children to work. Poverty forces the parents to send their children to seek employment because augmentation of their income is essential for the survival of the families that are invariably large. However, the burgeoning population, increasing rural migration family disintegration, inadequate measures of social security, lack of avenues for education, social choices, social policies and short comings in institutional arrangements and an ineffective law enforcement machinery are some of the contributory factors for the increase in the number of child workers in India.

The wage structure of the adult workmen has a direct bearing on the occurrence of child labour. If the adult workmen could get a real living wage, they are likely to desist from sending their children to work. The tradition of family occupation often motivates the child to become a bread winner. The educational system adds get another dimension to the prevalence of the child labour problem. In many places, the school presents a drab and dismal picture and holds little attraction for the child. More ever, the increasing volume of unemployment among educated youth undermines the faith of the poor in the efficacy and benefits of education.
Verma and Singh (2004) suggested that child labour is a socio-economic problem. Some of the factors responsible for this problem are poverty, illiteracy, ignorance, low income, unemployment, low standard of living and social backwardness. However, the most important cause is acute poverty prevailing in our society. Poverty forces parents to send children to seek employment to supplement low family incomes. The problem is also related to wage rate and working hours of adult workers; inadequate wages of adult workers force such workers to employ their children for wages.

Tandon (2004) on the demand side, factors responsible for increasing child labour are: desire on the part of employers for cheap and flexible workforce – child labour is cheap, docile, non-unionized, easy to displin, requires less space to work, produce virtually the same output as adults are less space to work, produce virtually the same output as adults are less troublesome and can be easily thrown out. Some employers state that children work better in certain types of operations e.g. making match boxes, tying carpet knots, sari weaving etc. Moreover, the employers are of the view that they are helping the family in dire economic straits and are also helping the child in becoming a disciplined worker who otherwise would have loitered or got involved in delinquent acts. They, therefore, do not consider employing the children as morally wrong.

Tandon (2004) poverty is major factor, there are many other related causes, such as, economic and political instability; discrimination; migration; criminal exploitation; traditional cultural practices; lack of decent work for adults; increasing landlessness that had led to dependence on wage and contractual employment, most o it being in the unorganized sector that is neither protected nor does it safeguard the well being of the workers, as it is unregulated and outside the orbit of labour legislation; inadequate social protection that
forces children to move from work in a protected home environment to harsh exploitative work situation outside the home; illiteracy; lack of schools; and the desire for quick money and consumer goods. Some commentators, however, are of the view that the economic contribution of the children is exaggerated. They argue that the entry of children in the labour market depresses wage levels of adults and reduces adult employment. If children do not work, more adults would get employment and better wages resulting in higher family income.

Verma (2004) Of the nearly 350 million people in India below the poverty line about 120 million are children about 100 million in rural areas and about 20 million in urban areas. Poverty makes the parents send their children to seek employment at an early age as their earning are essential for the survival of the family. Parents do not have the means to support and educate them; they want them to start earning as soon as possible. In this context, the states of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar have the maximum number of working children; they form 6 to 9 per cent of the total workforce in these regions.

The low wage structure of the labour force in India is such that a male gets more than a female worker and a child gets the least. Low wages have a direct bearing on the prevalence of child labour in India. The International Labour Organization (ILO) suggested in its report that child labour is no problem in itself; it is a problem of maintenance of the child that is directly connected with the question of ensuring a living wage to the adult wage earners so that they are able to maintain their families on their own.

Singh (2004) with large scale unemployment and underemployment among the adult labour force, there is no option except to depend on children's wages. In the United States of America, say Lumpkin and Douglas, two fifths of
the children seek employment due to unemployment among adults, two third due to underemployment of the adults and one-third because of cuts in the pay of adults. In India, due to the unemployment and underemployment among adults on a massive scale in Bulandshahr district of Uttar Pradesh, child labour is high in Khurja potteries. In Sivakasi, where there is little rain, factories are set up where children are prepared in the manufacture of fire crackers and adults are unemployed.

Child labour is preferred on account of low wages and also because children are obedient, submissive, trouble free and are prepared to do all types of work without demanding overtime, medical benefits, etc. They are more needy and more active, they have less developed egos and status consciousness. Moreover, children can be easily punished as has been revealed recently by many such cases coming to light where child workers have been branded or tortured or sexually exploited for minor mistakes.

Verma and Singh (2004) the child workers are illiterate and ignorant because their parents are not educated, for example, 80 per cent of the parents of the child workers engaged in Aligarh lock industries were illiterate and ignorant. There is lack of appreciation for the role education plays in the proper development and improvement in the quality of life.

Large families with low incomes send out their children to work at an early age. This is done at the cost of deprived childhood. The potential of child works is stunted and their growth retarded. Unfavourable conditions at house constant tension, separation of parents, continued illness, etc. are some factors that lead to the rising incidence of child labour in the country. Often, it is the head of the family that sends out children to work.
Amrit (2005) reported that an impressive figure of 4,360 child labourers entered school in the academic year 2005-2006. This feat was achieved by the Bachpan Bachao Andolan (Save our childhood campaign) under the banner of the School Chalo Abhiyan (school enrollment campaign) in July-September 2005. By establishing the linkage between poverty, education and child labour, the action effectively addresses the Millennium Development Goal for poverty and education of boys and girls in an integrated manner.

Bharadwaj (2005) suggested the activists met the parents of the children. They informed them about the need for education and convinced them to send their wards to school. Awareness was also generated through rallies and local meeting to get the children enrolled in the nearest government school. Regular interaction with the teachers is maintained to ensure that children do not drop out of school.

**Problems related to child labourers**

Kanbargi (1991) working for long hours, even at night, with the least protection from a polluted environment, under constant mental and physical strain, the child’s growth becomes stunted. Children work in dangerously polluted factories whose brick walls are scarred with soot and there is always an oppressive smell in the air. They handle dangerous chemicals like arsenic and potassium. They work in glass bowing units where they have to exert their lungs, which creates diseases like tuberculosis. A large number of child workers are virtually confined in small rooms under inhuman conditions and in the most unhygienic surroundings. The hazardous conditions take their toll and the children suffer from lung diseases like asthma and bronchitis, eye problems and backaches, while some are injured in burn accidents.
Gupta (1998) said that majority of the child labourers get cordial/kind treatment by their respective employers on a mistake committed by them (48.44 % of the male, 48.65 % of the female); 28.13 per cent of the male child labourers were beaten while 20.31 per cent were scolded for committing mistakes. 44.59 per cent of the female child labourers reported scolding by their employers when mistakes, 44.59 per cent of the female child labourers reported scolding by their employers when mistakes were committed.

54.55 per cent of the male and 84.85 per cent of the female child labourers reported that their adult co-workers were helpful to them. Make adult co-workers send the boys the boys for doing various errands for them. Only 6.6 per cent and 3.09 per cent of the female child labourers were ill-treated and demanded more work by their adult co-workers.

Gupta (1998) reported that missing childhood, especially play and school was the major hardship faced by all the child labourers (87 % of the male and 73 % of the female). The other hardship were no job and financial security (42 %), too much exertion (30 %), no rest time nor holidays (27.2 %) and no recognition (15.2 %). Both beedi workers and domestic servants had these hardships to a greater extent than the other two groups.

Francoise (1998) said that sexual abuse is not often identified through physical indicators alone. Frequently, a child confides in a trusted person mother, friend, neighbours, kin........) that she or he has been sexually assaulted or molested by a family member or the employer or the caretaker or a family acquaintance. The activities involved in child sexual abuse include, besides actual sex action, inappropriate touching, exposure to indecency, and forcing to participate in sexually stimulating acts. The sexually abused child may appear withdrawn or retarded, may have poor peer relationship, may be unwilling to
participate in activities, may indulge in delinquent behaviour, may run away, or may display bizarre or unusual sexual knowledge.

Francoise (1998) said that emotional maltreatment does occur alone, it often accompanies physical abuse and in rare cases sexual abuse. Emotionally maltreated children are not always physically abused, but physically abused children are almost always emotionally maltreated as well. Emotional maltreatment of the child includes blaming, belittling, rejecting constantly treating siblings unequally, and persistent lack of concern by the parent/caretaker for the child's welfare. Emotional maltreatment is rarely manifest in physical signs. A few physical indicators of emotional maltreatment are speech disorders, lag in physical development and failure to thrive syndrome.

Mull (1998) domestic service is possibly the single largest employr of young girls worldwide, and one of the most hidden. It is estimated that 20.80 per cent of all working children are girls in domestic service. Because these girls work out of sight within private households they are extremely vulnerable to physical, mental and sexual abuse.

Vikas Adhuyayan Kendra (1998) employers are only concerned about profit, and child labour can be exploited at no cost to them. Many sectors rely heavily on child labour because children are willing to work for little or no wage and for long hours, without complaining.

Every child labour is a priority, regardless of the nature of work they do. Child labourers in so called "non hazardous" employment, such as the service sector’s tea stalls and restaurants, and domestic sectors like household work, are vulnerable to physical, mental and sexual abuse.

Human Right Watch (1998) street children throughout the world are subjected to physical abuse by police or have been murdered out sight as
government treat them as a blight to be eradicated rather than as children to be nurtured and protected. They are frequently detained arbitrarily by police simply because they are homeless, or originally charged the vague offenses such as loitering, vagrancy, or petty theft. They are tortured or beaten by police and often held for long periods in poor conditions. Girls are sometimes sexually abused, coerced into sexual acts, or papped by police.

Dwarkanath (1999) reported that the problem of child labour is interrelated to the problem of living wage of an adult worker. The very inadequacy in the wage of adults compels them to send their children to do some work. The International Labour Organization also indicated that this problem of child labour is not a problem by itself, but is a problem related to the maintenance of the child and the living wage of adult wage earner so that they can maintain their families at an adequate standard.

Swaroop (1999) in his study “Problem and Prospects of Working Children” recommended that adult employment should be ensured that will negatively influence the process of entering the young children in employment for the sake of supporting the family economically.

Kulkarni (1999) reported that Sivakasi’s children suffer mostly from TB, malnutrition, gastrointestinal disorder, skin disorders, over exhaustion, burn injuries, water bone diseases and eye strain, physical and verbal abuse of girls are not uncommon. Children take analgin, metacin, asprin and crocin regularly after work to get rid of general body ache and tiredness due to long working hours. One of the reasons for the concentration of child labour in Sivakasi is the weak enforcement of child labour laws. Enforcement becomes difficult because of varied perceptions of child labour by parents, employers, enforcement authorities, government officials and the public.
Kulkarni (1999) reported that the health problem of the children varies from mild cough to acute tuberculosis. Nearly half of the children have respiratory disease such as cold cough and TB. One fifth of them suffer from headache and over 15 per cent of them report of backache and anemia. Less than five per cent of the them have skin disease. However, it is clear that there is an association between the beedi works and respiratory problem.

Of 500 pledged children, one third (33.2 %) of them complain of punishment by the employers. The punishment range from oral abuse to harsh physical assault. However, the boys and girls often refer to the latter actions thus, the boys and girls are more or less similar in reporting about the types of punishment they undergo. One-third of the pledged children are punished by their employers. Especially, the children below 10 years of age are more prone to punishment than those above 10 years. They are punished because of their coming late in the morning, gossiping with others or sleeping, slowness in work, reluctance to work, incomplete work and so on.

Tripathi (1999) explained that although there are legal restrictions everywhere for child hours of work, almost everywhere in the world children work for more than 40 hrs a week. Many children are to work in night hours in service establishments. In domestic sectors they working for more than 12 hours per day which is quite embarrassing. They even work without rest hours and holidays.

In many factories and sweet shops even the minimum safety standards are not observed. As observed, in welding works they are to work without the protecting glasses and hand gloves. In most cases, children are working with machineries and tools meant for adult workers without any safety appliances.
Bajaj (2000) brought out some facts of brassware industry of Moradabad. The workers had to work some times through the night. The boys who rotate the wheat and the boys who remove the crucible that helps to grind the hot back mixture into a fine powder with their bare hands in order to remove the hot molded metal from the moulds. Children do this work continuously for ten hours a day in this industry. The adults usually wear protective glasses during welding while the children watching him carefully would not be using anything at all. The workshops where welding was carried out were small and there was not enough space to sit. The children would be sitting inside often on the top of these cylinder. If the cylinder exploded, as has sometimes happened the children would be injured.

Nagia (2000) in a survey conducted at Delhi, found that early employment retarded the development of a child. According to this survey report, only 7 per cent of the working children could be put in the category of normal children. More than half were mildly malnourished and about one-third were moderately malnourished. Nearly 4 per cent of working children were severely malnourished, whose weight was below 60 per cent of the standard weights for their ages. These children needed hospitalization and well calculated nutritious diet, but unfortunately, they had to work hard to earn their livelihood.

Working children get economic freedom at an early age and they develop bad habits like smoking, drinking gambling and to avail themselves of other cheap sources of urban entertainment. All these bad habits affect their health as well as all round development and growth. Working children spend a good amount of their earnings for their own expenses. Since they work with illiterate and ignorant coworkers, they pick up many unhealthy habits like smoking, drinking, gambling and so on. They do not learn social behaviour essential for
good citizens. The work life affects their physical, mental, intellectual growth and development adversely (Nagia).

ILO (2000) many children work under exploitative conditions that, apart from totally precluding schooling, have harmful affects on their physical condition and mental health. The working conditions of child garbage pickers in the Philippines clearly increase the risk of diseases and disability through exposure to lead and mercury, heavy lifting, and the presence of parasites. Children in agriculture are more likely to be adversely affected than adults by climatic exposure, heavy work, toxic chemicals and accidents from sharpened tools and motorized equipment.

Domestic service is primarily undertaken by girls and is one of the occupations that can cause serious psychological and social adjustment problems. Such child workers typically live away from home and may routinely work long hours, often in almost total isolation from family and friends. ILO reports that psychological stress, premature aging depression, and low self esteem are common symptoms among young household helpers.

Lakshapathi (2002) indicated that the exploitation of child workers in terms of remuneration is prevalent all over the states in India and the third world. The committee reported that children in many cases received no pay. Such is the case of many so called apprenticeship schemes found in small enterprises and informal sectors such as automobile workshops and repair shops, tailoring, carpentry etc. where they are paid, they almost invariably receive low wages. This appears to be one of the reasons for the wide spread use of child labour, specially in small enterprises, the informal sector and agriculture. Children are also subjected to methods of remuneration, such as piece rates, that place undue
strains upon them and are vulnerable to abuse, such an unjustified deduction or third party payment, relating to the protection of their wages.

Lakshapathi (2002) reported that working children are also more susceptible to infectious diseases, including tuberculosis if they suffer from malnutrition, anaemia, fatigue and inadequate sleep the other physical health hazards, include bone lesions and postural deformity, attributable to work such as carpet weaving, embroidery and lifting heavy weights.

Lakshapathi (2002) reported that occupational hazards and risks can be enormous. Long hours often lead to accident, especially when children are working with poorly maintained and dangerous machineries. When overloaded, young growing bodies can suffer form strain since the bone structure especially the spine, is soft. In addition, in small workshops and mines, there are increased dangers of tripping, resulting in broken bones, or head injuries. Child workers in city street are also under constant thread of injury from traffic accidents and street violence.

Lakshapathi (2002) said that the work environments of exploitative workshops often have especially pernicious effects on children's health. Excessive noise can lead to hearing loss, and hot, damp and dusty conditions to the transmission of communicable diseases. Since many work places have neither running water nor toilets, gastrointestinal disease also flourish.

Exposure to toxic substances used in manufacturing is extremely dangerous to working children. Some of the documented consequences have included lead poisoning and paralysis caused by the use of toxic glues and chemicals in the absence of adequate ventilation. In addition the extreme air pollution in more and more cities is damaging to the health of children working and living in the streets.
Burra (2003) reported that no security and safety measures are available in this industry to the workers, specially in household and unregistered factories. In each household, the traditional furnaces may be seen with large number of children working on them. Piece rate system of payment is rampant in the unorganized sector. Many among the home based workers, contract workers, earth diggers, brick workers, etc. fall in this category. Though the Minimum Wages Act has provisions for time rate and piece rates, the mechanism for fixing piece rates is not clearly spell out.

Street vending is looked upon as a nuisance or frowned upon by law and gives a lever to municipal authorities and police to extort money from vendors. Municipalities should seriously think of alternative solution. Legalizing, vending and providing licenses may solve many problems. Bribery and corruption will decrease and it will provide municipalities with extra earning through license fee.

San Salvador (2003) reported that domestic workers, especially those who live in the premises where they work, are particularly vulnerable to sexual harassment and sexual violence in the workplace. Of those surveyed for the IPEC study who had held more than one position as a domestic worker, 15.5 per cent reported that they left their previous position because of sexual harassment or sexual abuse, making such abuse the second leading cause for leaving a position. Any work that “exposes children to physical, psychological or sexual abuse” falls under the international prohibition on harmful or hazardous child labour.

Singh (2003) reported that on the lives of working children, especially in highly exploitative and hazardous occupations such as match factories lock and brassware industry, diamond cutting jobs, gem polishing works, carpet weaving and beedi making job. It recognize the need to protect child labour from being
forced to work in hazardous conditions that endanger their physical and mental
development. It addressed the need to ensure the health and safety of children at
the workplace recognizing that they must be protected from excessively long
working hours. All working children should be provided with sufficient weekly
rest period and holidays.

Singh (2003) observed that health risks are there to which most of the
working children are exposed at their work places. Their vulnerability is
increased by the high incidence of malnutrition and under nourishment. Many
children work with appalling conditions with poor lighting and ventilation,
fumes and dust work places which facilitate the transmission of communicable
diseases. Sometimes, they are to work with toxic substances, or on
manufacturing processes which cause the eventual loss of sight, hearing or bone
deformity. Small children are working in hotels and restaurants with fumes and
dirty water which brings them to invite skin diseases.

Singh (2003) reported that 48.00 per cent child labourers of studied
population were indulged in different type of addictions. Maximum percentage
of children were addicted to smoking which comes to 20.00 per cent and 17.70
per cent were addicted to tobacco chewing, 4.30 per cent were addicted to
alcohol, 1.70 per cent were to bhang, 1.70 per cent were opium addicts, 1.00 per
cent to heroin and other drugs and 0.7 per cent were addicted to ganja.
Remaining 52.00 per cent fall into the category of not applicable or those who
were not addicted to any of the drugs. Regarding the education and age there
were 6 categories of the age-group. Below the age-group of 6 years the
percentage of cases was 1 which denotes they were not addicted to any of the
drugs. Second category was of 6-8 years of age-group, 31.50 per cent children
were addicts in this category. Next category was of the age-group of 8-10 years,
39.50 per cent in the fourth category of the age group of 10-12 years, 40.50 per
cent in the fifth category of age-group of 12-14 years, 15.20 per cent and in the sixth category of age group of 14-16 years 60.20 per cent were addicts. It signifies that in 32.00 per cent cases friends were responsible for addiction.

Tandon (2004) said that child labour activist however, disagree with the employers point of view because these units largely follow labour intensive non mechanized operations, use outdated technology, have low capital investment, provide low cost working environment and engaged unskilled or semi-skilled manpower at the first point of entry hence employers save money on labour and capital by employing children and defer the introduction of non technology or production systems and such situation neither protects the interest of the industrial development and growth nor the interest of the manpower employed.

In the live in domestic employment the children are totally unprotected and are soft targets of violence since they function with the confines of four walls under the control of their employer round the clock. There are instances of children in the self employed category also e.g. rag pickers, shoeshine boys, vendors of articles of daily use, load carriers at market places, railway station etc. The most vulnerable among this category are the rag pickers who collect scrap from street, markets, market places, garbage bins with bare hands and often bare feet and are constantly exposed to danger of accidents, injuries and disease through contact with sharp material, and poisonous substance. There is ample evidence to indicate that child workers face all kinds of deprivations and exploitative situations irrespective of whether they are in hazardous or non hazardous work situation. Effective interventions are, therefore, urgently required.

Flower (2004) reported that the child workers who are employed in homes where having servants are a sign of social status are sometime sexually
abused. Some even forget their own name after being called simply “girl” or “boy” for years, the study found.

Tandon (2004) interviewed both parents and children to find out the effect of labour on the health of children. According to parents, only 8 per cent children feel sick, after they had joined the labour force, due to ordinary fever and 36 per cent of these noted changes in health. Out of these 44.44 per cent accepted that they became healthy, 55.55 per cent felt that they became weak, while 66.66 per cent of the respondents complained about body aches. Two children met with accident at their place of work. One was the case of a minor finger burn and in case of the other child's stomach got burnt and the family was compensated with medical aid from the employers. An analysis of children's responses revealed that 52 per cent children found their jobs “tiring”. Further probe in the data showed 62.5 per cent of them were employed in catering lari working for more than 10 hours per day, while 9 per cent children employed in production work complained their neck and back ached due to continuous bending and pasting work. Only 5.38 per cent found the work hazardous. About 35 per cent felt the job was “monotonous” and as many as 53.85 per cent were disgusted with the employers’ behaviour. As for the effect of job on them, 64 per cent children felt “tired and fatigued”. About 24 per cent said they did not keep well.

Tandon (2004) reported that wage earners in production units, children are employed along with the adult workers but are given independent tasks that they can perform on their own. For instance, in the match making units in Sivakasi children, particularly girls are extensively engaged in filling frames, making boxes, counting and pasting labels, while in the firework industry they are engaged in dyeing paper, making small crackers, rolling gun powder, and packing the final product.
Tandon (2004) reported that throughout the world as it is seen children work for a low payment than their adult counterparts. Sometimes, they are to be satisfied with the rations provided to them instead of any monetary payment.

Verma and Singh (2004) reported child labour is a socio-economic problem. Some of the factors responsible for this problem are poverty, illiteracy, ignorance, low income, unemployment, low standard of living and social backwardness. However, the most important cause is acute pr availing in our society. Poverty forces parents to send children to seek employment to supplement low family incomes. The problems are also related to wage rate and working hours of adult workers; inadequate wages of adult workers force such workers to employ their children for wages.