INTRODUCTION

1.1 Statement of Problem

Children are future citizens of the Nation and their adequate development is utmost priority of the country. Unfortunately, child labour engulfs children across the world. Child labour is a global phenomenon. The world recognizes it as a burning problem warranting international attention. Undoubtedly, this increased attention is due to the fact that child labour has serious social, moral, economic and demographic implications for children, households, societies and the world that requires a long-term multi-pronged strategy to be carried out on a continuous basis. Therefore, the elimination or reduction of child labour has been the aim of democratic governments in different parts of the world (Naidu and Ramaiyah, 2006). The problem of child labour has also engaged the minds of jurists, social thinkers, economists, legislators, politicians and philanthropists from time immemorial. The problem has changed its venues and from public platforms, it has reached the inner circle of legislative, executive and judicial chambers.

Child labour has been a serious social and economic issue for several decades throughout the developing countries as it is damaging to a child’s health and his intellectual growth. It is closely associated with poverty and hunger of the families to which he holds. It is one of the most striking indicators of the vulnerability of children and reflects the shortcomings of the millennium development goals of poverty reduction, education for all, gender equality and creation of a global partnership for development. The notion of child labour is not easily defined. This is because, it does not only depend on the activity a child engages in, but also on the impact that activity has on the child. Perpetuation of child labour will also have adverse effects in the nation’s economy through various short term and long term effects on the labour market, growth and development through unproductive, unskilled labour force and also on social development through poor literacy rates (Subbaraman and Witzke, 2007).

Within the existing social framework, many times a child has to accept his family occupation and assist his parents, considering the fact that he has to accept his family tradition from a tender age not attending school irrespective of the degree of poverty. In some cases, parents wish their children to work to keep them occupied and off the streets so that they do not get into mischief or be tempted to drift into vagrancy. Children also work when they do not perform well at school and have no alternative available. In some instances, the home situation compels children to work and earn independently. When a family migrates
from rural area to town, it faces the unknown labour situations, which brings instability and insecurity for the family for which children are to work for survival of the family (Singh, 1980; Suman, 1998).

Child labour is a major cause of concern, not only because of its direct impact on the child, but because of the implications it has on society and culture as a whole (Tauson, n.d.). It causes not only loss of formal education and human capital but also the lack of social and cognitive skills and increased health hazards (Herath and Sharma, 2007). It is clearly detrimental to individual children, preventing them from enjoying their childhood, hampering their development and sometimes causing lifelong physical or psychological damage; it is also detrimental to families, to communities and to society as a whole. As both a result and a cause of poverty, child labour perpetuates disadvantage and social exclusion. It undermines national development by keeping children out of school, preventing them from gaining the education and skills that would enable them as adults to contribute to economic growth and prosperity (ILO, 2002).

Working children in general supports the family as the economic necessity for wage earning, that deprives the child of an opportunity for education, play and recreation, stunts his physical growth, interferes with the normal development of child’s personality and thwarts his preparation for responsibility. Child labourers are often denied a basic school education, normal social interaction, personal development and emotional support from their family. Beside these problems, children face many physical dangers and death. Growth deficiency is prevalent among working children, who tend to be shorter and lighter than other children; these deficiencies also impact on their adult life (“About Child Labour”, n.d., para 4). Children who work, instead of going to school, will remain illiterate which limit their ability to contribute to their own well being as well as to community they live in. Child labour also minimizes the chances for their vocational development. Child labour has long term adverse effects for India.

It is not only the children who are harmed due to their involvement in various kinds of work at the tender age but the society also has to suffer a great loss because of children being employed by employer who always make their best efforts to export minimum investment. The employment of children adversely affects not only the employment opportunities of adults forcing many to remain jobless in the present age but also considerably lowers the rate of their wages (Ahmad, 2004).

Society is impacted by child labour on many levels. For example, the more a child works the less education he/she receives. Low national education levels are negatively
correlated with infant mortality, poor health, high birth rate, and low life expectancy. If a child spends a significant amount of time outside of the community it can negatively impact culture solidarity, indigenous language, and family values. Labour outside of the community also encourages migration and a breakdown of the family, which can ultimately lead to increased levels of violence in the household (Tauson, n.d.). In addition to negative social and cultural repercussions, child labour can actually perpetuate economic problems within the state. An uneducated child will become an uneducated adult who will continue to earn at or below a subsistence level. Abundant child labour in any state limits human capital so that the economy will maintain low levels of productivity and technology, stagnating development in all areas. Due to high levels of child labour, any country places itself at a disadvantage in the global market.

Child labour is both cause and consequence of adult unemployment and underemployment. It at once supplements and depresses the family income. Child labour is not only a subsidy to industry but a direct inducement to the payment of low wages to adult workers. The entrance of the children into the labour market reduces the volume of employment for the adult and lowers the bargaining power of adult workers. Childhood employment results in a permanently weakened and damaged labour force (Ahmad, 2004). It glosses over the fact that child labour deprives children of educational opportunities minimizes their chances for vocational training, stunts their physical growth, hampers their intellectual development and, by forcing them into the army of unskilled labourers or blind alley jobs, condemns them to low wages all their lives (Mehta and Jaswal, 1996). As the child workers are paid extremely low wages it results in malnutrition on the one hand and hard physical labour on the other which subjects the child workers to constant detonation in the terms of health the shortens his life span in long run.

Out of school children comprise the workers and non-workers which together signify a measure of deprivation among children and can be considered as a potential labour pool always being at the risk of entering the labour force (NCEUS, 2008). Child labour is clearly an economic gain for the industries that employ child labour and families that make their children available to these industries, but at a social cost. The social cost does not come into consideration for them, though the vicious cycle of poverty, child labour, and low educational attainment continues to affect the health and economic productivity of the families that contribute to child labour. Thus, child labour reduces school attendance; increases morbidity and mortality; increases the perceived value of children and consequently birth rate as well as
income and sex inequalities in society; and consequently reduces human capital acquisition (Barge, et.al., 2004).

The existence of child labour is a slur on a modern welfare state which seeks to promote the all-round development of its citizens. Children are the future hope of the society. They are like buds which need to be properly nurses and well-taken care of so that they bloom fully and grow into able human-beings and contribute their worth to the future development of the society. On the contrary, instead of being sent to schools and properly educated, they are made to work, which amounts to squeezing the bud before it blooms. It not only thwarts the development of children, but of the society as well, since only able citizens can put the society on sound footing. Thus, child labour has become a chronic problem and has entered deep into the Indian social fabric (Nanjunda, 2008).

According to ILO (2012), there are about 168 million child labourers in the world, of whom more than two thirds (120 million) are in the age group 5 to 14 years old. Asia-Pacific region has the largest number of children in employment (77.7 million) followed by Sub-Saharan Africa (59.0 million), Latin America and the Caribbean (12.5 million), Middle East and North Africa (9.2 million) (ILO/IPEC, 2013). UNICEF estimates that India with its larger population has the highest number of labourers in the world below 14 years of age. Child labor is a colossal problem and a serious blot on efforts to project India as a dynamic country on the move. Though in recent years, India has been experiencing a higher economic growth yet child labour is prevalent not only in poorer states of the country but also in states with higher growth rates. As per census of India, the total number of working children in the country has declined from 1.26 crores in 2001 to 43.53 lakh in 2011 which shows 65 per cent reduction. However, according to the estimates of various non-governmental sources, the actual number of working children in the country ranges from 44 million to 100 million (Das, 2014).

Children in India are employed in almost all the activities of the non-formal sector. Children do all kinds activities, from household work to brick making, from stone breaking to selling in shops and on streets, from bike repairing to garbage collecting and rag-picking. There is hardly any product and area of economic and industrial activity in India that has no child labour behind it. Child labour is more concentrated in traditional professions involving low technology viz. lock making, carpet weaving, bidi rolling, bangle, brick, match box and fire work industry, stone quarries, mining etc. and has the invisible stamp of the tail put in by children caught in the web of poverty and an exploitative social system. Indeed child labour in India comes cheap and easy (Krishna, 1983).
Uttar Pradesh has the maximum number of child workers with nearly 9 lakh (Census 2011). Children are working in many sectors such as hotels, restaurants, and transport establishment and even in homes, but maximum concentration of child employment is found mainly in the carpet industries of Varanasi, Bhadoi, Mirzapur and Allahabad districts, glass and bangle industry of Firozabad, lock industry of Aligarh and brassware industry of Muradabad. Besides, their employment in pottery and ceramic industries at Khurja (Bulandshahr), bidi manufacturing units at Rampur, Amroha, Muradabad, Fatehgarh Tanneries and leather goods manufacturing units, footwear industry in Agra and chikan and zari work at Lucknow, to some extent cannot be denied (Shukla and Ali, 2006).

Child labour begins with poverty and high degree of insecurity regarding food in poor households. It is poverty that compels poor people to send their children to work at early stages of their life. FAO’s most recent estimates indicate that, globally, 842 million people (12% of the global population) are unable to meet their dietary energy requirements in 2011–13. The vast majority of hungry people (827 million of them) are living in developing regions, where the prevalence of undernourishment is now estimated at 14.3 percent (FAO, IFAD and WFP, 2013, p. 08). Nearly, a quarter of the world’s hungry, or 210 million, is in India alone. The Global hunger index, prepared by IFPRI (International Food Policy Institute), has rated 120 countries. India has been ranked 63rd, below Sri Lanka and Bangladesh (2013). India has moved from 65 to 63 in Global Hunger Index, making a marginal improvement since 2012, but continues to languish far behind than that of other emerging economies. As has been the trend, within SAARC countries too, India continued to trail behind Pakistan and Bangladesh on the index (“India’s ranking”, 2013). India, in particular, remains one of the most undernourished countries in the world despite its economic gains. In the year 2009, because of poor nutritional intake about 44 per cent of Indian children below the age of 5 years were underweight, while 48 per cent were stunted and 20 per cent were wasted.

Since the dependence, the country has made considerable progress in the production of food grains and provision of food security to the growing population. India is a food surplus economy and it is at present a leading nation in the production of wheat, rice, milk, vegetables, fruits, fish and milk. But, what a tragedy in a country which is one of the largest producers of food in the world at the same time nearly 300 million people in the country go without two square meals a day (Kumar, 2010). Still food insecurity has remained as one of the major concerns of India. Though the country has achieved self sufficiency in food production, enhanced the nutritional level of the people and enough food is available at
national level, still hunger and malnutrition persist at regional, household and even at individual level. More than 45 years after the Green revolution, India provides a unique spectrum of overflowing godowns and rotting grains on the one hand while millions go to hungry. About 35 per cent of India’s population over 350 million is food insecure, consuming less than 80 per cent of the minimum energy requirement (Baby, 2012). The country has about 213 million undernourished people (FAO, IFAD and WFP, 2013, p. 44), a large percentage among these are children and women.

It is disconcerting that not a single state in India falls in the “low hunger” or “moderate hunger” category defined by the GHI 2008. Four states namely, Punjab, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, and Assam fall in the “serious” category with one state Madhya Pradesh falling in the “extremely alarming” category. Besides, most of the states for which the hunger index was estimated are in the “alarming” category such as Orissa, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal etc. Likewise, with more than 200 million people, Uttar Pradesh is India’s most populous state and tops the list as the state with highest number of child labour cases in the age group of 10-14 years and third in terms of worst record between 10-18 years (Singh, 2013). Almost one-third of the state’s population lives below the poverty line and the state has the highest number of children who leave school to work. The main cause of forcing children to work are the poverty, high rate of population growth, lopsided economic development of different regions, unequal recourse ownership, large scale unemployment, increasing disparity in wealth, cut backs in governmental social and educational budgets, etc (UNICEF, 1999). In addition, a close review of the factors responsible for child work reveals that indicators of malnourishment like underweight, wasting and stunting, etc. highly affect the capability of the children to concentrate on their studies. However, household food insecurity is considered to be the major deterrent to enrolment of children at the primary and secondary level. As a result, the majority of the children in these categories drop-out at an early age. Children in this age group (5-14) who are out of school either become child worker or vulnerable to become child worker (called potential child labour) (Daly et.al., 2002) and together signify a measure of deprivation among children and can be considered as a potential labour pool always being at the risk of entering the labour force. Potential child labour who neither work nor study generally stay at home to help their parents with household chores including looking after younger siblings or engaging in nonwage physical activities. As a result, they prematurely lead adult lives, working long hours for low wages under conditions detrimental to their health and mental development.
Aligarh a town is famous for its renowned university (Aligarh Muslim University) and lock industry, however, there is something which is neglected for quite a long time, which is the prevalence of child labour. Children constitute 24 per cent of the total workforce in the lock industry. According to NGO Bharat Soshit Samaj and labour welfare ministry, around 27,000 children have been found employed at Aligarh lock industry (Saxena, P., 2011). Studies reveal that more than 60 percent of the workers in this sector are children under 14 years of age ("On Child Labour", n.d., para 32). Children are required in the work of polishing, electroplating, spray painting and working on hand presses. They cut different components of locks for nearly 12-14 hours a day with hand presses. Exhaustion causes children accidents leading to loss of their finger tips, which get caught in the machines. Child labourer caused driven by circumstances to work and their homes are indeed the worst neglected class of city of the society.

1.2. Research Hypotheses
Following hypotheses have been formulated for the present study:
1. Food insecurity exists in the poor and vulnerable section of the society.
2. There is a gender disparity in terms of food and nutrition security.
3. Parental illiteracy and poverty persuade child labour.
4. Food insecurity and child labour are positively correlated.

1.3. Objectives of the Study
The main thrust of the present study is to explore that how poverty and food insecurity are determinants of child labour in vulnerable households of Aligarh city. The specific objectives of the study are as follows:
1. To find out the food insecure and secure households among sampled wards of Aligarh city.
2. To examine different dimensions of food insecurity in the city.
3. To make a comparative assessment of the socio-economic characteristics of food insecure and secure households.
4. To analyse the incidence and extent of child labour in the study area.
5. To assess the socio-economic background of households belonging to child labourers.
6. To ascertain the correlation between household food insecurity and incidence of child labour in the sampled wards.
1.4 Data Base and Methodology
The study is mainly based on the primary sources of data, generated through the comprehensive survey carried out during 2012 which comprised of 1179 households from 17 wards of Aligarh city. Household has been selected as the smallest unit of enquiry. Besides, secondary data have also been collected from various sources which are as follows:

- Aligarh Nagar Nigam (Aligarh Municipal Corporation), Sewa Bhavan, Aligarh city.
- Aligarh Development Authority (ADA), Vikas Bhawan, Aligarh city.
- Seminar library of the Department of Geography and Maulana Azad library of Aligarh Muslim University
- Master Plan

1.4 (a) Selection of Wards:
There are 70 wards in Aligarh city as per Municipal Corporation wards. Initially, it was decided to select sampled for each ward, but, it’s a herculean task to take samples from all wards of the city. In order to test the fusibility of questionnaire, two pilot surveys were conducted in the months of March and October during 2011. The pilot study is a mini-version of a full-scale study or a trial run done in preparation of the complete study. From the pilot survey, the vulnerable wards of child labour were identified. The actual survey was conducted during 2012. Out of the total 70 wards, only 25 per cent vulnerable wards (17) which provide a classic case to assess the current status of food insecurity and child labour in Aligarh city have been purposively selected based on the criterions’ such as location, high illiteracy rate, low income, existence of child labour, poor housing and sanitation conditions by taken into considerations that these factors directly or indirectly influences the food insecurity and magnitude of child labour in the study area.

1.4 (b) Selection of Household:
Thus, out of these 17 sampled wards, 3 per cent (1179) households were systematic randomly selected for the survey. However, the pilot survey carried out in 2011 revealed that the number of households has sufficiently increased in the peripheral areas. It was also noticed during survey that the vulnerability of wards in terms of high illiteracy, low income, poor housing, sanitation conditions and existence of child labour was much higher in the
peripheral areas and in the south-western parts of the older city. Therefore, number of
enumeration wards of outer parts of the city selected for the survey is more than the inner
parts. Table 2.10 and Figure 2.2 give an account of the number of selected wards and
sampled households in the city.

1.4 (c) Contents of the Interview Schedule
In the present study an attempt has been made to take up the task of collecting requisite and
relevant data through field survey and direct interrogation from respondents, on the basis of a
well-structured questionnaire, which is divided into various modules covering many
dimensions of food insecurity and child labour. The details of the questions set in the
questionnaire are given in Appendix 1. The variety and nature of information obtained about
the various facets of food insecure and child labour households in the questionnaire may be
summarized as follows:

(i) Data related to Socio-Economic and Demographic Structure: Age and Sex
Composition, Religion and Caste, Educational Level, Occupational status and
Income Status

(ii) Information regarding household food insecurity status: Calorie Intake at
Household Level, Consumption of different Food Items, Anthropometric
Measure, Housing and Sanitation Condition, Nutritional Status

(iii) Information about Child Labour and their Households: Activity Status of
children, Occupational Status of Child Labour, Mode of Payment, Income Status
of Child Labour, Literacy Status of Child Labour, Reasons of Child Labour and
Household Characteristics of Child Labour.

1.5 Problems Faced in Survey and Limitation of Data
In spite, some respondents reluctant to give the answers of questions who considered that
this survey is purposeless and irrelevant because many of them complained that such types of
surveys usually have been carried out and conducted several times before but nothing has
come out of it up to now, and they have never led to any remedial measures for the
betterment of their life. Sometimes, head of the households behaved very rudely and claimed
that the survey investigators like you, used to consume the allocated money secretly which
were sanctioned by the government to poor population, by showing these filled-in
questionnaires in a fake manner. Sometimes, this survey has led to the confusion among the
households to expect in return some kind of financial help by providing the information.
Several people were not ready to provide accurate information about their socio-economic conditions and dietary food habits. It is also very difficult to assess the amount of daily calorie intake taken by the household members in the form of different food items due to incorrect information being provided by them. No doubt, researcher has tried to overcome this problem by the calculation of body mass index after measuring the heights and weights of all the members of the sampled households with the help of inch-tape and weighing machine, but, many of the family members’ especially male members were not available at the time of survey.

At the time of cross questioning & examining, researcher faced numerous problems in obtaining true information from the sampled households who were illiterate and thus unable to understand what was asked? What is the purpose of this survey? What and why they are giving the information, etc. Besides, many of the households or industry owners have tried to conceal the information pertaining to child labour and on several occasion, some miscreant like local boys, drunkards were abusing and doing wrong things and have created several problems in the survey. In spite of all these problems, no effort has been spared to make this survey more comprehensive to draw the most pertinent relevant information about the respondents of the study area.

1.6. Tools and Techniques of Collection data

The data for the present study have been collected through the direct personal interview method through the respondents by the researcher. A well-structured questionnaire has been used for the purpose of data collection. The researcher visited the sampled households and only adult member of households has been informed about the purpose of the study and survey in an unequivocal manner. Most of the interviewed respondents were women because they have correct and relevant information and as majority of the men have been found staying away from their homes for their works. The data collected through the questionnaire were scrutinized once again on daily basis during the field operation to ensure accuracy. The data collected were entered in spreadsheets and then tabulated. Later analysis was done.

The obtained data through the questionnaire has been coded and entered in computer accurately for further calculation and analysis. In course of data processing, great attention has been given to accuracy and completeness of data. After feeding of data, it has been calculated and tabulated through computer aided techniques. In the process of classification and tabulation, some statistical methods were used to study and describe precisely the average differences and relationships. It is generally assumed that smaller the unit of analysis,
the greater degree of reality/objectivity of the research problem. Thus, the present study is a micro level study, wherein, the boundary of the ward in Aligarh city is the smallest administrative unit and household has been taken as the smallest unit of data collection while the collected data were spatially presented ward wise in the city for easy understanding facts and figures. The collected data have been analyzed quantitatively as well as qualitatively for the sound research work. Finally, the collected data were organized into relevant chapters.

1.7 Statistical Techniques Applied
For the analysis of data various statistical methods have been used i.e. simple percentage method, Index, Composite Index, Karl Pearson’s Correlation Co-efficient, simple linear regression technique etc. Moreover, simple cartographic methods such as Bar Diagrams, Line Graphs, Bar of Pie, Choropleth and Scatter Diagram have been used. For analyzing data and making maps, ArcView-3.2 and SPSS-18 were used.

1.8 Organization of the Study
The entire research work is divided into eight chapters excluding introduction and conclusions. The introductory part deals with nature and the problem of food insecurity and child labour, aims and objectives of the study, research methodology and organization of thesis. The first Chapter presents the conceptual framework of food insecurity, its types, dimensions, concept of child labour and review literature. The second chapter describes the geographical setting of the study area.

The third chapter focuses on spatial dimensions of household Food Insecurity. In this chapter, data regarding food and caloric availability, food and livelihood accessibility, food absorption and nutritional status have been taken into account for analysis. The fourth chapter deals with the consumption status of food among sampled households.

The objective of chapter five is to examine the socio-economic status of food insecure and secure households in sampled Households. Socioeconomic status like religion and caste composition, age composition, educational status, household size, occupation structure, income, housing and sanitation conditions etc have been considered.

The sixth chapter depicts the distributional patterns of child labour in Aligarh city. It also examines the ward wise spatial distribution of child labour, their age and sex composition, literacy and dropout status, occupational structure, work duration, paid and unpaid status, income and reason of child labour among food insecure and secure households.
Seventh chapter deals with socio-economic background of child labour households in Aligarh city.

Lastly, the eighth chapter presents an analysis of interrelationships between food insecurity and child labour for which indexing of household food insecurity, correlation and associational pattern of household food insecurity and child labour have been done.
References


