Chapter Six

Policy Intervention and NGOs Efforts in Eradication of Child Labour
6.1 Introduction

The preceding chapter discussed the complexities of child labour and health, direct and negative effects on their health while working in hazardous conditions. A detailed study described the same outcome on child labourers working in brick kiln. But, there is not effective policy by the government to control this inhuman act. Although, a lot of NGOs have come up but they are engaged in pocketing the financial aid provided by government and international donors.

The present chapter will look into the major policy intervention and efforts of NGOs in eradication of child labour. Firstly, historicity of child labour problem will be described then legal measures for protection of child labour in India and in other countries. Broadly, the major initiatives taken by international organizations (UN, ILO, UNICEF, UNESCO), NGOs (international & national) will be discussed. And, an emphasis will be given to see the nature and sphere of activities of governmental, inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations.

Today child labour is a global phenomenon and a harsh reality. Though the magnitude differs, the problem exists not only in under-developed and developing countries, but also in developed countries. More than 10 per cent of the world’s 2.2 billion children are engaged in child labour, the majority of them working in agriculture, often with hazardous chemicals or machinery. About 10 million are trapped in slavery, trafficking, prostitution, and armed conflict\(^1\). According to the census 2001, there are 12.5 million working children in the age group of 5-14 years as compared to the total child population of 252 million i.e. 4.96 percent of total children are child labour in India.

The problem of child labour can be traced to the industrial revolution which emerged in the middle of 18\(^{th}\) century in England and 19\(^{th}\) century in India. It was around this time that the exploitation of labour began in order to maximize the profits. Viewing child labour as a social problem and the need to protect them came to fore front when exploitation of children became very common during this era. Overtime consciousness regarding labour rights evolved and legal measures were introduced both in developed and developing countries to curb this problem mainly to protect the employment and wages of adult workers.

\(^1\) http://uk.oneworld.net/guides/childlabour
Throughout the centuries, the attitude of law towards children has been a fluctuating one. Prior to the 19th century children were not given separate legal recognition though the jurisprudential emphasis was on the child as property. Parents were not expected to maintain their children as a legal duty. The 19th century witnessed a series of developments which transformed the legal status of the child. This transformation was mainly due to the realization that the society cannot disown the responsibility of child-care and under the doctrine of “state protection” child came to occupy the centre of the legal stage. The introduction of prevention of child labour laws and compulsory education were two important changes which affected the legal status of the child.

Now, there is a better understanding of the factors that give rise to child labour and of its consequences. Child labour 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.

This chapter tries to take a stock of policy intervention for elimination of child labour in India. India has been very proactive in formulating policies and programmes to tackle child labour problem. Our constitution itself has provisions for welfare and rights of children. Even the Common Minimum Programmes of the present government also speak about the concern of the government towards the problem of child labour. It states that the government will strive for the elimination of child labour. However, as stated in previous chapter the reduction in number of child labour has not been very encouraging especially, in case of girls child labour whose number has increased drastically over last decade. Therefore, this chapter aims to critically look in to policy measures by government and international organizations.

The chapter also looks in to initiatives by international organizations & NGOs and aims to look in to the nature and sphere of activities of various agencies,
intergovernmental, governmental as well as non governmental Organizations (NGO’s). An effort to understand the working of these agencies has been made. The analysis of dynamics (interlinkages and coordination among them) of these agencies at international, national and local level has been made. A special emphasis has been given to study the role of NGOs in eradication of child labour. In the end some measures to improve the working and coordination among these agencies to make them more effective has been suggested.

6.2 Legal Measures for protection of child labour in India

The legal history on the protection of child and his working condition in India begin with the Indian Factories Act, 1881, providing minimum age of employment to seven years and restricting working hour to 9 hours. It also provided at least four holidays in a month and prohibited successive employment of child worker. The act was revised every 10 years; The Factories Act was revised in 1891\(^2\) with the following changes-

- The minimum age was increased to 9.
- Hours of work reduced to seven hours from nine hours per day.
- Prohibited of work at night during 8 p.m. to 5 a.m.

In 1901, this act was further revised and now known as the mines act-1901. Minimum age was increased to 12 from 9 years. Children’s are prohibited to work in hazardous mines.

In 1911, Factory Act was revised again with following changes-

- Prohibition of children to work between 7 p.m.-5.30 a.m.
- Prohibition of children to work in certain dangerous processes.
- It required a certificate of age and fitness.

In 1922, the Factories act was amended to implement the ILO convention, 1919, with following changes-

- Minimum age limit was increased to 15 years.
- Reduced working hours to six hours and also an interval of half an hour.
- Was provided if child was employed for more than 5 & half hours.

It also prohibited employment of children below the age of 18 and women in certain processes.

- Strengthened the provision for medical certificate.

In 1923, The Indian Mines Act prescribed a higher minimum age for employment in mines for 12 to 13 years.

In 1926, the Factories Act strengthened to impose certain penalties on the Parents and guardian for allowing their children to work in two separate factories on the same day. In 1929 a royal commission on labour was set up under the chairmanship of John Henry Whitley. The commission recommended the legal prohibition of children below the age of ten from work and to enter the name of all working children in wage books. The commission also prohibited the pledging of children. The main aim of the commission was to restrict the children from working. In 1931, the Indian Ports Act amended and prohibited the children below the age of 12 in employment in ports. In 1932, the Tea Districts Emigrants Labour Act was passed to check the migration of labourers. It also provided that no child should be employed or allowed to migrate unless the child was accompanied by his parent or an adult on whom the child is dependent. In 1933, the Children (pledging of labour) Act prohibited taking of advances by parents and guardians in return for bonds. Pledging the labour of their children, a system similar to that of the present day bonded labour system. The Act recommends that any bonded labour contract would be void if the labour was under 15 years of age. In 1934, the Factories Act was again amended and elaborated certain provisions for regulating the employment of children of various age groups with regard to factories such as:

- Prohibition of employment for the children under 12 years.
- For the Children between 12 and 15 years; employment restricted to 5 hours a day.
- Children between 15 and 17 years certain restrictions on employment were imposed.

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In 1935, the Mines Act was amended for introduction of division of children according to age-groups. It raised the minimum age to 15 and required a certificate of physical fitness from a qualified medical practitioner for those in between 15 and 17 years of age. It also restricted working time to a maximum of 10 hours a day and 54 hours a week for work above the ground and 9 hours a day for work underground.

In 1938, the Employment of children Act was passed to implement the convention adopted by the 23rd session of the ILO, 1937 which provided a special article for India, which state that "children under age of 13 years shall not be employed or work in the transport of passengers, or goods or mail, by rails, or in the handling of goods at docks, quays on wharves but excluding transport by land. Children under the age of 15 years shall not be employed or work in occupations to which this article applies which are scheduled as dangerous on health ground by the competent authority." So it:

- Prohibited the employment of children less than 15 years in occupation relating to transport of goods, passengers mails, on railways.
- Minimum age for handling goods on docks was raised to 14 from 12 years.
- Requirement of certificate of age.

In 1944, the Labour Investigation Committee popularly known as the Rege Committee observed that child labour increased during war time. The report specially referred to the prevalence of child labour in the match industry in South India, cement industries in Rajasthan, carpet industries in Kashmir, glass industries of UP, etc. The Committee recommended that prohibition of employment of children was not enough, but also essential to adopt positive measures to wean them away from industrial employment.

The first post-independence legislation on child labour in the country was the Minimum Wage Act passed in 1948. This also provided normal working for a child to be 4 and half hours. In 1948, the Factories Act raised the minimum age for employment in factories to 14 years.

The Constitution of India has several provisions for the protection of children against various forms of abuse. This prohibits employment of children up to 14 years of age and guarantees them protection against exploitation and makes provision for free and

compulsory education to children. Article 15 of the Constitution tells about equality and prohibitions of discrimination on the basis of sex, religion and caste. It mentions: “nothing in this article shall prevent the state from making any special provision for women and children.” The article 23 of the constitution tells about personal liberty. It provides certain provision to prevent exploitation of weaker sections of the society by unscrupulous individual or even by the state. It prohibits trafficking of human being and forced labour. Article 24 is the most important article regarding child, provide that “no child below the age of 14 years, shall be employed to work in any factory or mine or engaged in any hazardous employment.” Article 39 says, “Children are given opportunities and facilities to develop in a healthy manner and in conditions of freedom and dignity and childhood and youth are protected against exploitation and against moral and material abandonment.” Article 45 says “the state shall endeavour to provide free and compulsory education for children until they complete the age of 14 years.”

After the constitution came into force many amendments had been made in various Acts. As well as various legislations related to child labour were passed. In 1948, the Factory Act replaced all the previous enactments on factories and the minimum age for employment in factories raised to 14 years. In 1949, Employment of Children (Amendment) Act raised the minimum age to 14 years for employment. In 1951, the Act regarding employment of children had been amended and prohibited the employment of children between 15 and 17 years at night in railways and ports and also provided for requirement of register of children below 17 years of age.

In 1952, the Mines Act prohibited the employment of children less than 15 years in mines. The Act defines two conditions for underground work:

- A person should have completed 16 years of age, and
- Person should submit a certificate of physical fitness from a surgeon.

In 1954, the Factories Act was again amended including a prohibition of employment of person below the age of 17 years at night. The ‘night’ was defined as a period of 12 consecutive hours and which included hours between 10 p.m. and 7 a.m.

Ibid.
Ibid.
Ibid.
In 1958, the Merchant Shipping Act prohibited the employment of children below the age of 15 years in any ship except in schoolship. In 1961, the Motor Transport Workers Act prohibited the employment of children below the age of 15 years in motor transport undertakings. The Apprentice Act was also passed in 1961 which prohibited the apprenticeship of training of children less than 14 years of age.

In 1966, the Bidi Cigar Workers Act was passed which prohibited the employment of children below 14 years of age in any industrial premises manufacturing bidi and cigars. It also prohibited the employment of children between 14 years of age to work at night between 7 p.m. to 6 a.m.

In 1978, the Employment of Children Act was amended; it prohibited the employment of children below 15 years of age in occupation in railway premises, like under picking or cleaning of ash pit or building operation, in catering establishments and any other work which was carried on or in close proximity to or between the railway lines.

In 1979, a committee on child labour was set up under the chairmanship of Gurupadaswamy. By analyzing various factors, organizations, institutions, persons related to child labour, the committee recommended that the existing law regarding the prohibition and regulation of the employment of children be consolidated into a single comprehensive one, adopting uniform definitions of the child and adolescents while prescribing the hours of work, conditions of work etc.

A major breakthrough regarding child labour was made in 1986. A concrete law had been enacted in 1986 which was commonly known as the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986. The policy of the government is to ban employment of children below the age of 14 years factories, mines and hazardous employment and to regulate the working conditions of children in other employments. It prohibits employment of children in 13 occupations and 57 processes.

The Act also regulates the working conditions of children in all other employment, which are not prohibited under the child labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986. Section 14 of the Act provides for penalties for contravention of the various provisions under the Act. The Act stipulates punishment of a prison term ranging from three months to two years, with or without a fine of Rs10,000-20,000 for violators. The State Governments and Union Territory Administrations furnish information to the
central government on implementation of the provisions of the Act in the form of periodical reports.

In 1992, Child Labour Deterrence Act was passed prohibiting the import of any product made by children below the 15 years of age. In a significant step, Ministry of Labour through a notification, issued on August 1, 2006, which came into effect on October 10, banned the employment of children under the age of 14 as domestic help or in the hospitality industry, as such employment is hazardous to their well-being. From October 2006, children cannot be legally employed in homes, teashops, dhabas (eating joints along highways), roadside snack kiosks and eateries, restaurants, hotels, spas or any other similar and violators would be liable to prosecution and other penal action under the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986.

6.3 The National Policy on Child Labour

The National Policy for Children Resolution adopted in August 1974, provides for free and compulsory education for all children, up to the age of 14, provisions of health and nutritional programmes and services, providing alternative forms of education for children unable to take full advantage of formal school education and to protect children against neglect, cruelty and exploitation and engagement in hazardous occupation with heavy work. The National Child Labour Policy is set out under the following three heads:

1. The legislative action plan.
2. The focusing of general development programmes for benefiting child labour wherever possible.

6.4 Legislative action plan

Under the Legislative Action Plan, emphasis is on strict and effective enforcement of the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986, the Factories Act 1948, the Mines Act 1952, the Plantation Labour Act, 1951, and other Acts containing provisions relating to the employment of children.
A child Labour Technical Advisory Committee has been set up to advice the central government on addition of occupations and processes to the schedule contained in Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986.

6.5 **Focusing of general development programmes for benefiting child labour:**

Various national development programmes exist with very wide coverage in areas of education, health, nutrition, integrated child development and the anti poverty group of programmes.

**Education:** The National Policy on Education, 1986 set the target for all children who attain the age of 11 years by 1990 having had five years of schooling or its equivalent, through a non–formal system of education.

**Health:** The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare Directed the state governments to extend the coverage of the school health service programme for an intensive medical inspection of children in the areas where child labour is prevalent.

**Nutrition:** Department of Women and Child Development has an ongoing programmes for women and children i.e. integrated child development services, approved on the basis of the proposals by state governments, NGOs and voluntary agencies for welfare measures for child labour also.

**Anti–Poverty programmes coverage:** IRDP / NREP / RLEGP, etc. where funds are meant for poverty alleviation programmes included in their coverage the entire gamut of anti–poverty programme, along with the families affected by child labour.

6.6 **Project based plan of action:**

The child workers working in hazardous sectors in some specific sectors deserve prior attention because the employment processes in which they work were prohibited under the Factories Act of Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986. Hence action oriented projects have been drawn up for implementation on pilot basis. It was envisaged that the project would have greater impact due to concerted efforts on many fronts.
6.7 National Child Labour Projects/Scheme (NCLPS)

In pursuance of this policy, government has adopted two schemes, namely, National Child Labour Project Scheme (NCLPS) and Granting-Aid to voluntary organizations for taking up action-oriented programs in the field of rehabilitation of child labour. The Ministry of Labour has been implementing, since 1988 the NCLPS for the rehabilitation of child labour. The major activity undertaken under the NCLPS is the establishment of special schools, which provide a package of welfare measures, including non-formal education, skill/craft training, supplementary nutrition, stipend, health care, etc, to children withdrawn from employment. Seven child labour projects were set up in the year 1988 after the announcement of the National Child Labour Policy, 1987. According to Economic Survey 2004-05, there are 100 National Child Labour Projects in 13 child labour endemic States9 for rehabilitation of approximately 2.11 lakh working children withdrawn from hazardous occupations. The government has decided to sanction additional 150 NCLPS during the Tenth Plan.

According to a recent government press release, the number of National Child Labour Projects has been increased from existing 100 to 250 in districts in child labour endemic states for mainstreaming of children into formal schooling system during the current plan. Fifty districts have already been identified and project launched on January 14, 2004 during the visit of Director General, International Labour Organisation in India. The process for the identification of rest of 100 districts on the basis of 2001 census data on child labour has also been completed and NCLPs in these districts are likely to be launched very soon.

The children who have been identified as child labourers and who are between the ages of 5-8 would be put directly into the formal schooling system. The child labourers in 9-14 age groups would be put through a special schooling mechanism before mainstreaming them into the formal schooling system. It is expected that these steps will lead to mainstreaming into formal schooling system of all children in 5-14 age groups who are found working in hazardous occupations and processes by the end of the 10th

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9These states are Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chattisgarh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Punjab.
The Budgetary allocation for the Ninth Five-Year Plan was Rs.2496 million. It has been substantially stepped up during the Tenth Plan to Rs.6675 million.

National Child Labour projects are currently undergoing in 11 districts of Uttar Pradesh. These districts are, Aligarh, Firozabad, Moradabad, Varanasi, Mirzapur, Bhadohi, Bulandshahar(Khurja), Allahabad, Kanpur (Nagar), Saharanpur and Azamgarh. In these 11 districts, the sanction for 26500 children in 514 schools was given but actual coverage was for 365 schools covering 21574 children. A total of Rs.76699134 was released for the state in during 2001-02 for the projects.

One of the primary objectives of the special schools is to mainstream as many children as possible into the formal school system. According to Labour Ministry, of the 12,19,470 children employed in hazardous industries, around 3.74 lakh were rehabilitated and put in schools under NCLP.

A November 13, 2006 press release of Labour Ministry says that the government plans to extend the NCLP, now operational in 250 districts in the country, to all districts with a sizeable number of child workers employed in hazardous occupations. The ministry has urged the Planning Commission to double its funding during the upcoming 11th Five-Year Plan (2007-2012). In the Ninth Plan, the NCLP was allocated Rs 250 crore to make the project operational in 100 districts. In the Tenth Plan, Rs 604 crore was allocated towards implementing the project in 250 districts. The government hoped that with more money the NCLP project can be extended to all districts in the country.

Government has also launched the INDO-US Child Labour Project on February 16, 2004. The INDUS Project would be supportive of government initiative towards complete elimination of child labour and helped to achieve the targets set for the Tenth Plan period. In the Tenth Five Year Plan the Planning Commission has outlined India’s human development goals and targets for the next five to 10 years. All children in school by 2003; all children to complete 5 years of schooling by 2007 which if achieved will lead substantial drop in number of child labours in the country. The INDUS Project aims at providing support for elimination of child labour from identified 10 hazardous occupations in 5 states namely Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh

10 http://pib.nic.in/release/rel_print_page1.asp?relid=5448
11 http://labour.nic.in/cwfl/welcome.html
12 The Hindu, November 15, 2006
and National Capital Territory of Delhi. The basic objective of this project is withdrawing, rehabilitating, preventing and progressively eliminating child labour in the 10 hazardous occupations in 21 identified districts in 5 states. This project has been developed based on the model of the NCLP scheme already being implemented by the Ministry of Labour since 1988.\(^\text{13}\)

### 6.8 Role of National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)

The NHRC has been also concerned about the employment of child labour in the country as it leads to denial of the basic human rights of children guaranteed by the constitution and the international covenants. The Commission on ‘child labour has observed that – “No economic or social issue has been of such compelling concern to the Commission as the persistence, fifty years after Independence, of widespread child labour in our country. It prevails, despite articles 23, 24, 39(e) & (f), 41, 45 and 47 of the Constitution and despite the passing of various legislations on the subject between 1948 and 1986. It has defied the terms of six conventions of the International Labour Organization to which India is a party and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, in addition. Despite the announcement of a National Child Labour Policy in 1987, the subsequent constitution of a National Authority for the Elimination of Child Labour (NAECL) and the undertaking of National Child Labour Projects (NCLP) in an increasing number of areas of our country, the goal of ending child labour remains elusive, even in respect of the estimated two million children working in hazardous industries who were to be freed from such tyranny by the year 2000”.

The Commission focusing its attention on the following industries from where rampant reports of child labour were received. These industries include:

- Bangle/glass industry,
- Silk industry,
- Lock industry,
- Stone-Quarries,
- Brick Kiln,
- Diamond cutting,
- Ship-breaking,
- Construction-work
- Carpet-weaving.

The Commission monitors the child labour situation in the country through its special rapporteurs, visits by members, sensitization programmes and workshops, launching projects, interaction with the industry associations and other concerned agencies, coordination with the state governments and NGOs to ensure that adequate steps are

\(^\text{13}\) http://pib.nic.in/releaserep_print_page1.asp?reId=5448
taken to eradicate child labour. The Commission has involved the NGO sector in the non-
formal education of child labourers and a number of such schools/training centres are
functioning in the districts of the carpet belt.

6.9 Initiative by international Organisations & NGOs
In recent decades, there has been growing international concern about child labour
problem. The work done by various international organizations, public opinion and
initiatives are indicative of such concern. A worldwide effort, involving various
international agencies, national governments, state and local governments along with
NGO’s and employers’ and workers’ organizations, etc has now started to abolish the
child labour. There is greater acceptance from governments to acknowledge child labour
as a serious problem and they are ready to cooperate with international organizations and
NGOs to eradicate child labour. In recent year, several NGOs have started to question the
government’s failure to implement its child labour elimination policies. For instance,
hearing a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) filed jointly by a group of three NGOs which
claimed that the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986, which disallows
the employment of children only in hazardous jobs, inadvertently legalises other forms of
child labour, the Supreme Court of India has issued notices to the Indian government and
the chief secretaries of all Indian states and union territories on a petition by child rights
groups seeking a ban on all forms of child labour in the country. Referring to Article 21A
of the Constitution of India, which guarantees the right to education to all children
between 6 and 14 years, on January 31, the Supreme Court said: “After the amendment,
there is no scope for child labour. There can’t be any place for children other than school.
If there is no school, the state has to provide that.14”

6.10 The International Agencies’ Work against Child Labour
Child labour is part of a wider social reality at local, national and international levels.
Only through understanding and action at all these levels, in mutually reinforcing ways,
can its effective abolition be achieved. This chapter examines some of the most important

14 The Telegraph, February 2, 2006
developments at the international level that are helping to build an environment in which child labour can be abolished in the national contexts in which it occurs.

6.11 Key milestones in the fight against child labour

A number of key milestones and actions against child labour have been achieved with concerted effort at international and national level:

— the impetus given by the adoption of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) in 1989;

— the long tradition of ILO standard setting and supervision in the field of child labour, dating from the very first session of the International Labour Conference in 1919 and leading up to the adoption of the umbrella Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138);

— the experience gained by national governments working with IPEC;

— increased activism on child labour by employers’ and workers’ organizations and non-governmental organizations (NGOs);

— the unanimous adoption of the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182), and the subsequent campaign for its universal ratification and implementation;

— the designation of Conventions Nos. 138 and 182 as fundamental Conventions;

— research and action that have provided new insights into the causes, dimensions and means of reducing both poverty and child labour.

Along with wider recognition of the problem of child labour has come better knowledge and understanding of how to tackle it, and the determination to work together towards the common goal of its elimination.

6.12 Mainstreaming child labour in poverty reduction strategies

The ILO Report\textsuperscript{15} clearly point out, poverty and social exclusion produce fertile breeding grounds for child labour. Unfortunately, neither economic reforms nor conventional development models have yielded the promised outcomes for large sections of the

\textsuperscript{15}A Future Without Child Labour, May,2002, ILO.
population in the developing world. The average income today in the richest 20 countries is 37 times that in the poorest 20 – a gap that has doubled in the past 40 years.\textsuperscript{16} 

It has been realized that the worldwide effort should be to attack poverty. The United Nations Millennium Summit, held in New York in September 2000, put in place the Millennium Development Goals (MDG)\textsuperscript{17}. Progress towards achievement of each one of these goals, and, in particular, the goals to have, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people living in extreme poverty and to ensure universal primary education by 2015, will provide a backdrop against which the effective abolition of child labour can itself be realized.

\textbf{6.13 International action for children’s rights United Nations General Assembly’s special session on children} 

Awareness of children’s rights and commitment to their implementation grew during the 1990s, in parallel with the swelling concern for poverty reduction. The World Summit for children in 1990 resulted in the development of national plans of action targeting nine out of ten of the world’s children. Many of the summit’s goals, particularly those on health, education and gender equality, prefigured the Millennium Development Goals. For the follow-up United Nations General Assembly Special Session on Children in May 2002, the ILO, with the support of the social partners, is seeking to ensure that the outcome document clearly reflects the global commitment to the elimination of all child labour, with the use of the minimum age for employment or work as the yardstick.

\textbf{6.14 UN Commission on Human Rights} 

The UN Commission on Human Rights in 1993 adopted a "Programme of Action for the Elimination of the Exploitation of Child Labour". Activity under this programme is in an early stage. So far, the main outcome has been the provision of information by a number


\textsuperscript{17} The MDGs are: (1) Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger; (2) Achieve universal primary education; (3) Promote gender equality and empower women; (4) Reduce child mortality; (5) Improve maternal health; (6) Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases; (7) Ensure environmental sustainability; and (8) Develop a global partnership for development.
of governments on the situation of child labour in their countries. Child labour has also received attention by the "expert-level" Sub-Commission on the Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, a subordinate body to the commission on Human Rights, as well as by the Sub-Commission working Group on Contemporary forms of slavery. Finally, the UN Commission on Human Rights has established a special rapporteur to consider matters relating to the sale of children, child prostitution and pornography. The special rapporteur reports each year to the Commission.

6.15 Convention on the Rights of the Child

The human rights of children and the standards to which all governments must aspire in realizing these rights for all children, are most concisely and fully articulated in one international human rights treaty: the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The Convention is the most universally accepted human rights instrument in history – it has been ratified by every country in the world except two – and therefore uniquely places children centre-stage in the quest for the universal application of human rights. By ratifying this instrument, national governments have committed themselves to protecting and ensuring children's rights and they have agreed to hold themselves accountable for this commitment before the international community.

Built on varied legal systems and cultural traditions, the Convention on the Rights of the Child is a universally agreed set of non-negotiable standards and obligations. It spells out the basic human rights that children everywhere – without discrimination – have: the right to survival; to develop to the fullest; to protection from harmful influences, abuse and exploitation; and to participate fully in family, cultural and social life. Every right spelled out in the Convention is inherent to the human dignity and harmonious development of every child. The Convention protects children's rights by setting standards in health care, education and legal, civil and social services. These standards are benchmarks against which progress can be assessed. States that are party to the Convention are obliged to develop and undertake all actions and policies in the light of the best interests of the child.
The Convention on the Rights of the Child is the first legally binding international instrument to incorporate the full range of human rights – civil and political rights as well as economic, social and cultural rights.

6.16 United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child\textsuperscript{18}

The Committee on the Rights of the Child is the body that monitors how well States are meeting their obligations under the Convention on the Rights of the Child. When a country ratifies the Convention, it assumes a legal obligation to implement the rights recognized in the treaty. But signing up is only the first step, because recognition of rights on paper is not sufficient to guarantee that they will be enjoyed in practice. So the country incurs an additional obligation to submit regular reports to the Committee on how the rights are being implemented. This system of human rights monitoring is common to all UN human rights treaties.

To meet their reporting obligation, states must report initially two years after joining and then every five years. In addition to the government report, the Committee receives information on a country’s human rights situation from other sources, including non-governmental organizations, UN agencies, other inter-governmental organizations, academic institutions and the press. In the light of all the information available, the Committee examines the report together with government representatives. Based on this dialogue, the Committee publishes its concerns and recommendations, referred to as “concluding observations”.

The Committee also publishes its interpretation of the content of human rights provisions, known as General Comments, and General Recommendations on thematic issues or its methods of work. It also holds public discussions, or days of general discussion, on particular issues such as "Violence against children".

6.17 The NGO Group for the Convention on the Rights of the Child (NGO Group)

The NGO Group for the Convention on the Rights of the Child (NGO Group) is a coalition of international non-governmental organizations, which work together to facilitate the implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the

\textsuperscript{18}For detail visit http://www.unhchr.ch/html/menu2/6/crc/
Child. It was originally formed in 1983 as the Informal Ad Hoc NGO Group for the Drafting of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. From 1983 until 1988, members of the NGO Group were actively involved in the drafting of the Convention. In addition to participating in the meetings of the United Nations Working Group, the NGO Group also held regular consultations, twice yearly, to analyze the text of articles of the Convention which had been proposed or adopted and to draft suggested textual amendments or to recommend the inclusion of new articles. The NGO Group has been credited with having a constructive influence on the Convention's final text.

Once the Convention on the Rights of the Child had been adopted by the United Nations General Assembly, the NGO Group felt it was desirable to reorganize in order to assist in the monitoring and implementation of the Convention.

Structure

The NGO Group is presently composed of forty-one international non-governmental organizations, enjoying consultative status with ECOSOC, directly involved, by virtue of their aims and activities, in the implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. While children's rights and child welfare are the primary organisational focus of some members of the NGO Group, there are other members for whom the rights of the child is one aspect of a wider mandate. These organizations include jurists, religious groups, women's rights advocates and educational associations, among others. Participation in the NGO Group allows them to engage in discussions on children's rights issues without having to devote the necessary resources to follow these issues on a full time basis. The NGO Group normally meets twice a year in Geneva in order to coordinate its action and develop joint strategies. UNICEF participates as an observer, and has provided support to the NGO Group since its inception.

The NGO Group has a Liaison Unit in order to enhance its role in promoting and supporting coordination and continuous dialogue with the Committee on the Rights of the Child. The purpose of the post of Liaison Unit is to enhance cooperation and interaction between the global NGO community and the Committee. Defence for Children International performs the role of Secretariat of the NGO Group, a position which it has held since 1983. Within the NGO Group, a number of sub-groups have been formed to
work on themes related to specific articles of the Convention. The Conveners of some of
the sub-groups comprise a Coordinating Committee which coordinates the activities of
the NGO Group and provides advice and support to the Liaison Unit and the Secretariat
of the NGO Group.

The NGO Group has the following aims:

- to raise awareness about the Convention and make its implications known;
- to promote full implementation of the Convention;
- to be an active source of information for the Committee on the Rights of the Child,
  concerned United Nations bodies and interested NGOs;
- to contribute to drawing up recommendations, policies and strategies in the fields of
  work of its sub-groups
- to make available to the NGO community information, decisions and recommendations
  made by the Committee on the Rights of the Child and other concerned UN bodies;
- to facilitate the creation of NGO groupings for undertaking joint activities.

6.18 Priorities and Objectives

To carry out its mandate, the NGO Group has undertaken a number of projects. First and
foremost among them is to facilitate contact between the non-governmental community
and the Committee on the Rights of the Child with particular emphasis on securing all
relevant information for the state reporting process. This means that the NGO Group
closely follows the activities of the Committee and acts as an information resource
whenever needed. Members of the NGO Group are able to provide expertise on a wide
range of topics and are able, through their network of national affiliates, to act as a
resource for information regarding state party compliance with the standards of the
Convention. The NGO Group, similarly, keeps its members and their affiliates informed
of the work of the Committee.

Second, in order to expand and consolidate their children's rights expertise, members of the NGO Group have created subgroups to follow the activities of the United
Nations relating to the rights of the child. Sub-groups have been formed to follow such
topics as child labor, sexual exploitation, refugee children and children in armed conflict,
children in conflict with the law, education and the media, adoption and family
placement, and leisure and play. In their respective fields of action, sub-groups meet regularly to promote international conventions, facilitate information flow between non-governmental organizations and between non-governmental organizations and United Nations bodies, enhance national and international campaigning and draw up recommendations, policies and strategies to raise awareness.

Third, to facilitate the monitoring and implementation of the Convention at the national level, the NGO Group is working to encourage the creation and development of national coalitions of non-governmental organizations working with children. The NGO Group offers support and assistance to national coalitions as they carry out their children’s rights monitoring tasks. A task force on national coalitions has been established within the NGO Group in order to explore the potential to support national coalitions.

Finally, the NGO Group has published a number of documents and booklets aimed at providing information about the content and implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. These publications include brochures on combating the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography; eliminating the exploitation of child labor; education on the Convention on the Rights of the Child; and a Guide for NGOs reporting to the Committee on the Rights of the Child. All publications are available from the Secretariat of the NGO Group in English, French, and Spanish for a nominal fee.

6.19 Members of the NGO Group for the Convention on the Rights of the Child

Anti-Slavery International
Associated Country Women of the World
Baha’i International Community
Christian Children's Fund, Inc.
Defence for Children International
Friends World Committee for Consultation (Quakers)
Human Rights Watch
Inter-African Committee on Traditional Practices affecting the Health of Women & Children
International Abolitionist Federation
International Association for the Child's Right to Play
International Association of Juvenile and Family Court Magistrates
International Catholic Child Bureau
International Commission of Jurists
International Council of Jewish Women
International Council of Women
International Federation of Business and Professional Women
International Federation of Social Workers
International Federation of Women in Legal Careers
International Federation "Terre des Hommes"
International Inner Wheel
International Movement Against All Forms of Discrimination and Racism
International Movement "ATD Fourth World"
International Save the Children Alliance
International School Psychology Association
International Social Service
Jubilee Campaign
Lutheran World Federation
Plan International
Rädda Barnen Soroptimist International
World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts
World Federation of Methodist Women
World Federation of United Nations Associations
World Jewish Congress
World Organization against Torture/SOS-Torture
World Organization for Early Childhood Education
World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations
World Vision International
Women's World Summit Foundation
Zonta International
6.20 United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)\textsuperscript{19}

Created by the United Nations General Assembly in 1946 to help children after World War II in Europe, UNICEF was first known as the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund. In 1953, UNICEF became a permanent part of the United Nations system, its task being to help children living in poverty in developing countries. Its name was shortened to the United Nations Children's Fund, but it retained the acronym "UNICEF," by which it is known to this day.

UNICEF helps children get the care and stimulation they need in the early years of life and encourages families to educate girls as well as boys. It strives to reduce childhood death and illness and to protect children in the midst of war and natural disaster. UNICEF supports young people, wherever they are, in making informed decisions about their own lives, and strives to build a world in which all children live in dignity and security.

Working with national governments, NGOs (non-governmental organizations), other United Nations agencies and private-sector partners, UNICEF protects children and their rights by providing services and supplies and by helping shape policy agendas and budgets in the best interests of children.

UNICEF's governing body of 36 nations, representing all regions of the world, establishes policies, reviews programs and approves budgets for the organization. Headquartered in New York, UNICEF carries out its work through seven regional offices and 126 country offices covering more than 160 countries, territories and areas.

The 37 National Committees for UNICEF are private, not-for-profit organizations, primarily in industrialized countries, that support UNICEF programs. Extensive networks of volunteers help the Committees raise funds, sell the well-known UNICEF greeting cards and carry out other activities, such as the "Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF" program. These efforts help generate a deeper understanding of the rights and needs of children everywhere and provide ways for young people as well as adults to change the world for children.

\textsuperscript{19} For detail visit http://www.unicef.org
UNICEF Mission

- UNICEF is mandated by the United Nations General Assembly to advocate for the protection of children's rights, to help meet their basic needs and to expand their opportunities to reach their full potential.
- UNICEF is guided by the Convention on the Rights of the Child and strives to establish children's rights as enduring ethical principles and international standards of behaviour towards children.
- UNICEF insists that the survival, protection and development of children are universal development imperatives that are integral to human progress.
- UNICEF mobilizes political will and material resources to help countries, particularly developing countries, ensure a "first call for children" and to build their capacity to form appropriate policies and deliver services for children and their families.
- UNICEF is committed to ensuring special protection for the most disadvantaged children - victims of war, disasters, extreme poverty, all forms of violence and exploitation and those with disabilities.
- UNICEF responds in emergencies to protect the rights of children. In coordination with United Nations partners and humanitarian agencies, UNICEF makes its unique facilities for rapid response available to its partners to relieve the suffering of children and those who provide their care.
- UNICEF is non-partisan and its cooperation is free of discrimination. In everything it does, the most disadvantaged children and the countries in greatest need have priority.
- UNICEF aims, through its country programmes, to promote the equal rights of women and girls and to support their full participation in the political, social, and economic development of their communities.

UNICEF works with all its partners towards the attainment of the sustainable human development goals adopted by the world community and the realization of the vision of peace and social progress enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations.
UNICEF is doing commendable job in the child labour field thorough its field offices in: New Delhi, Bhopal, Bhubaneswar, Chennai, Gandhinagar, Hyderabad, Jaipur, Kolkata, Lucknow, Mumbai, and Patna. It also have large presence in UP.

UNICEF works with NGO activists to end child labour
According to UNICEF liberating children from formal employment has proved easier than reaching street and slum children in India’s vast and unorganized informal labor sector. In the early eighties, several NGOs, including the Global March Against Child Labour and the London-based Anti Slavery International, highlighted the practice of employing children as young as six to weave carpets for export.

This led to one of the successful initiative of UNICEF in the UP to stop child labor. Known as ‘Rugmark’ it consists of inspecting carpet factories and certifying that the carpets were not made with child labour. A consumer education program was also launched in North America and Europe, and importers were pressed to join the scheme. However this is very delicate issue which needs careful handling. It should not tarnish the image of “Made in India brand” thus hampering the interest of even those manufacturers and exporters which do not use child labour. After carpets, UNICEF focused on other industries like sports, glass, matchstick and firecrackers industries.

One of the most successful campaigns launched by the Global March Against Child Labour has been to prevent the use of children in the manufacture of firecrackers, which are popular during religious celebrations such as the Hindu festival of lights (Diwali). The campaign was initiated in 1995. It was quickly taken up by more than ten thousand schools and eventually resulted in a widespread public boycott of firecrackers during this festive holiday.

Another campaign by the Global March targeted the recently held World Cup soccer tournament, in Korea. The Global March pressurized FIFA, the world soccer governing body, to ensure that soccer balls and other sports equipment are not made with child labour.

This activism has certainly resulted in sharp decreases in child labour in these industries. But the news isn’t overwhelmingly positive, UP is home to the country’s "carpet belt," a section of the country known for producing carpets for export. Children
around 1.74 million do not go to school in UP and of those enrolled in school, only 48% of the boys and 35% of the girls complete their education. According to Johan Fagerskjold of UNICEF’s state office in Uttar Pradesh, problem of child labour in factories persists despite the activism of NGOs and even the Rugmark label, is almost impossible to authenticate.

As a result, UNICEF is working with a local organization to gain the trust of communities, and provide alternative forms of employment for families. Mothers are told that if they work, they can send their children to school who can, in turn, earn a higher salary in the future. The NGO helps local people, especially women, to initiate microcredit projects by establishing a savings group that acts as a loan agency for the village. This eliminates the role and profits of a middleman and eases the burden on local people who might otherwise feel pressured to make their children work just to pay off the interest from the loans they have taken out to keep their shops and businesses running.

The solution to child labour in the carpet belt has to be community-based. Therefore, the role of NGOs and local media becomes very important. A big part of the challenge from child labour comes from the fact that much of it takes place at home. Activists are only just starting to penetrate home-based industries such as beedi (cigarette) making, zardosi (weaving gold and silk beads onto saris).

In Uttar Pradesh, UNICEF partnered with an NGO called Laxmi to provide non-formal education to children who work in the zardosi industry. Some employers are paying children who are as young as four. Their work day can start at 8 a.m. and end at 9 p.m. Laxmi representatives lobby zardosi employers to send the children to school for at least a few hours a day. They also organize non-formal education for girls who work at home doing embroidery. The NGO has even enlisted some community members to contribute five rupees for the establishment of a local school so that people will feel they have a stake in its success.

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20 http://www.unicef.org
The UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre

The UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre is based in Florence and is the main research arm of UNICEF, the United Nations Children's Fund, helping to shape the organization's human rights agenda for children.

Since its creation in 1988, the Centre has provided solid data on the changing needs of children in both developing and industrialized countries. Its strong focus on children's rights has helped UNICEF and its partners promote a new global ethic for children based on their fundamental human rights.

One of the Centre's main aims is to encourage the effective implementation of the 1989 United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) in every country - rich or poor. The Centre gives particular priority to problems of equity, economic affordability and the financing of social programmes to benefit children.

No single organization can address every aspect of children's rights. The UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre works in partnership with a large number of other organizations to maximize its impact share its expertise and enhance its outreach with one overall aim - to promote the rights of all children. The flow and exchange of information is central to this goal.

6.21 The International Labour Organization (ILO)\(^2^1\) and child labour

The International Labour Organization, from its inception, has made child labour one of its central concerns\(^2^2\). The ILO works on child labour over the decades has mainly taken its cue from the phrase "protection of children" in the preamble to its Constitution. The ILO's prime tool in pursuing the abolition of child labour has always been, and remains to this day, the labour standards that embody the concept of a minimum age to enter into employment.

This approach responds to two concerns: to protect children from work that interferes with their full development and to pursue economic efficiency through well-

\(^2^1\) For detail visit http://www.ilo.org/

\(^2^2\) Two child labour instruments were among the six adopted at the First Session of the International Labour Conference in 1919: the Minimum Age (Industry) Convention, 1919 (No. 5), and the Night Work of Young Persons (Industry) Convention, 1919 (No. 6).
functioning adult labour markets. Early minimum age standards were linked to schooling\textsuperscript{23}.

The Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138), which built on the ten instruments adopted before the second world war, expresses this tradition by stating that the minimum age for entry into employment should not be less than the age of completion of compulsory schooling. By establishing such a link, the aim is to ensure that children's human capital is developed to its fullest potential, benefiting children themselves, their families and communities and society as a whole by the increased contribution they can, when grown, make to economic growth and social development.

Soon after the World Summit for Social Development, held in Copenhagen in March 1995, had squarely identified the elimination of child labour as a key to sustainable social development and poverty reduction. The ILO governing Body approved, in 1996, the development of a new ILO instrument on the subject. The aim of such an instrument was to consolidate the growing consensus, fuelled in part by the ILO's own increasing work under its International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC)\textsuperscript{24}, that certain forms of child labour demanded urgent, immediate action for their prohibition and elimination. Preparatory work began in earnest for a new Convention and Recommendation\textsuperscript{25}; and ideas for such instruments were subsequently discussed within the ILO and at other international meetings in Amsterdam and Oslo in the following year.

In 1998, the adoption by the 86th Session of the International Labour Conference of the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and its Follow-up reconfirmed the effective abolition of child labour as one of the principles concerning the

\textsuperscript{23} For example, the Minimum Age (Sea) Convention, 1920 (No. 7), the Minimum Age (Agriculture) Convention, 1921 (No. 10), and the Minimum Age (Non-Industrial Employment) Convention, 1932 (No. 33).

\textsuperscript{24} IPEC was established in 1992 with an initial grant from the Government of Germany. It built on work undertaken by an earlier interdepartmental project of the ILO.

fundamental rights to be respected by all ILO member states, even if they had not ratified the fundamental Conventions.26

At that same session of the conference, debate began on the proposed new child labour instruments and, as witnessed by the Global March Against Child Labour, children themselves decried their treatment at work. The unanimous adoption of the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182), and its accompanying recommendation (No. 190), marked yet another milestone in the movement against child labour.

International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC) was established in 1992 with an initial grant from the government of Germany. It built on work undertaken by an earlier inter-departmental project of the ILO.

The IPEC has expanded over the years, and now represents a coalition of almost 100 countries, including 26 donor governments and organizations and more than 70 countries with active programmes to combat child labour. It has, over its ten years of existence, become the largest single technical cooperation programme of the ILO and includes government agencies, employers’ and workers’ organizations, private businesses, community-based organizations, NGOs, the media, parliamentarians, the judiciary, religious groups and, of course, children and their families. Almost 150 NGOs across the world have been working with IPEC through action programmes.

The IPEC’s aim is to work towards the progressive elimination of child labour by strengthening national capacities to address child labour problems, and by creating a worldwide movement to combat it. IPEC’s priority target groups are bonded child labourers, children in hazardous working conditions and occupations and children who are particularly vulnerable, i.e. very young working children (below 12 years of age), and working girls.

The political will and commitment of individual governments to address child labour in cooperation with employers’ and workers’ organizations, other NGOs and relevant parties in society – such as universities and the media – is the starting point for all IPEC action. Sustainability is built in from the start through an emphasis on in-country

26 After the Copenhagen World Summit for Social Development in 1995, the ILO reclassified the Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138), which only a few years previously had been seen as a technical ILO standard, as a basic human rights instrument (one of the fundamental Conventions).
"ownership". Support is given to partner organizations to develop and implement measures which aim at preventing child labour, withdrawing children from hazardous work and providing alternatives, and improving the working conditions as a transitional measure towards the elimination of child labour. A phased and multi-sectoral strategy is applied consisting of the following steps:

- Motivating a broad alliance of partners to acknowledge and act against child labour.
- Carrying out a situational analysis to find out about child labour problems in a country.
- Assisting with developing and implementing national policies on child labour problems.
- Strengthening existing organizations and setting up institutional mechanisms.
- Creating awareness on the problem nationwide, in communities and workplaces.
- Promoting the development and application of protective legislation.
- Supporting direct action with (potential) child workers for demonstration purposes.
- Replicating and expanding successful projects into the programmes of partners.
- Mainstreaming child labour issues into socio-economic policies, programmes and budgets.

The 89th Session of the International Labour Conference in 2001 saw the launch of the latest development in IPEC – the first three time-bound programmes on the worst forms of child labour.

The prohibition of child time-bound programmes were launched in El Salvador, Nepal and the United Republic of Tanzania, with financial assistance from the Government of the United States. Similar programmes are being prepared in 15 additional countries.
A comprehensive state-based approach to the elimination of child labour is underway in Andhra Pradesh and this aims to generate a replicable model for other Indian states to take up.

**Child labour in other ILO programmes**

Child labour is increasingly being taken up as an issue in other ILO programmes that have the expertise to bring to bear on the problem. These include, for example, the In focus Programmes on Boosting Employment through small enterprise development, crisis response and reconstruction, safety and health at work and the environment and skills, knowledge and employability, the ILO Programme on HIV/AIDS and the World of Work and the Gender Promotion Programme. The ILO Bureau for Employers’ Activities and the ILO Bureau for Workers’ Activities conduct and support activities against child labour by the ILO social partners.

The ILO declaration provides a framework under which child labour can be addressed as part of broader initiatives that encompass all four fundamental principles and rights at work.

**6.22 United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)**

UNESCO, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, was established on 16th of November 1945. It has its headquarters in Paris, France and field offices and units in different parts of the world. It has currently 189 member states.

The main objective of UNESCO is to contribute to peace and security in the world by promoting collaboration among nations through education, science, culture and communication in order to further universal respect for justice, for the rule of law and for the human rights and fundamental freedoms which are affirmed for the peoples of the world, without distinction of race, sex, language or religion, by the Charter of the United Nations.
6.23 Programme for the Education of Children in Difficult Circumstances

Street and Working Children

As a follow-up to the World Conference on Education for All (Jomtien, Thailand, 1990) UNESCO launched a World Programme for the Education of Street and Working Children, the main objective of which is to facilitate access to basic education and vocational training for these children and young people by addressing their survival and educational needs.

6.24 Programme activities set up since 1990 are:

- Awareness-raising and advocacy work among decision-makers and the general public with special emphasis on the promotion of the political will of governments to act against the social exclusion of children and young people.
- Financial support to grassroot-level projects and programmes and technical co-operation with grassroot professionals (e.g. training of street children educators and social workers; enhancement of professional capacities of the police and children’s lawyers).
- Networking of projects and promotion of partnerships in Member States of the Organization to meet the priority needs of street and working children, their educators and programme managers.
- Launching special projects jointly with governments and NGOs for sustainable provision of education for street and working children.

6.25 Early Childhood and Family Education

UNESCO's Early Childhood and Family Education section co-ordinates research, activities and initiatives undertaken by UNESCO in early childhood care and education, and parent and family education. With the help of its specialized services, its roster of consultants, its partnerships with United Nations agencies, major institutes and NGOs, UNESCO provides various services to its member states, United Nations agencies, foundations, organizations and individuals working in favour of children and families;
participates in United Nations or other international initiatives in favour of children and families, in the context of the *Convention on the Rights of the Child*;

- encourages governments to integrate early childhood and family education programmes in their long-term social and economic planning;

- serves as a networking centre and clearing house for information on early childhood issues, policies, programmes and organizations, and as the lead agency for an Inter-Agency Early Childhood Communication Strategy.

In this context, the following are UNESCO's main programme goals guiding the planning and implementation of various activities:

- Supporting early childhood policy development
- Strengthening family support policies
- Promoting early childhood networking and partnerships
- Reinforcing early childhood communication and information

The Early Childhood and Family Education section is a member of the Consultative Group on Early Childhood Care and Development, the World Forum on Early Childhood Care and Education Alliance, the Inter-Agency Children's House Internet initiative, and the worldwide Child Rights Information Network (CRIN). Around 2,160 international civil servants, professionals and general staff, are members of the secretariat. Nearly 645 work outside headquarters in one of 73 UNESCO field offices and units around the world.

- Almost 190 of these countries have set up a National Commission constituted of representatives of national educational, scientific and cultural communities.

- Around 344 non-governmental organizations (NGOs) maintain "official" relations with UNESCO and many others co-operate on an occasional basis with the sectors.

- Approximately 6,668 associated school help young people to form attitudes of tolerance and international understanding.
6.26 Child Protection Initiatives by the World Bank

The World Bank has acknowledged that child labour is one of the most devastating consequences of persistent poverty and trying to help reduce harmful child labour through its ongoing poverty reduction efforts and new initiatives. Housed in the Human Development Network's Social Protection Unit, the Global Child Labor Program was established to develop knowledge and identify strategies to enhance the effectiveness and impact of the World Bank's work on children through its ongoing poverty reduction efforts.

The Program functions as the Bank's focal point for child labor activities, training and capacity building. World Bank has partnership with various international organizations and NGOs to eradicate this evil.

6.27 Inter-Agency cooperation

The cooperation between the various international organizations concerned with children, poverty and development has intensified in recent years. The structural causes of child labour, such as poverty, inequality, and deficient education, health and child protection systems, fall within the mandates of different agencies. Thus, the core mandate of the ILO in this field is complemented by those of UNICEF, the World Bank, WHO, UNDP, UNESCO and others, each of which has expertise and programme experience to bring to bear on solving the problem.

6.28 International agencies working together

By working together, synergies between agencies can be exploited. The ILO and UNICEF drew up an agreement in 1996 to strengthen existing co-operation, confirming the complementary and mutually supportive roles of the two agencies in the progressive elimination of child labour and protection of working children. This agreement provides a framework for cooperative action to ensure coherent positions on policy and practice in child labour, to convene joint regional and sub regional workshops on research for purposes of disseminating and exchanging experiences and to continue with technical cooperation and follow-up activities. In operational terms, the ILO and UNICEF
implement joint programmes in Bangladesh, Brazil, Nepal, Pakistan, the United Republic of Tanzania, and collaborate in many other countries.

Developing New Strategies for Understanding Children's Work and its impact is an important new interagency project coordinated from the UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre in Florence, Italy. Launched in December 2000, this joint initiative of the ILO, UNICEF and the World Bank aims to improve child labour research, data collection and analysis, to enhance local and national capacity for research and to improve the evaluation of interventions. It is assessing existing information so as to identify major gaps and ways of filling them. Indicators are being developed to chart the dimensions of child labour and to relate them to income, gender, health condition and education.

Another example is the cooperation between the ILO, UNICEF, UNESCO and Education International in a project to mobilize teachers, educators and their organizations to combat child labour. This collaboration produced two outputs: an information kit for teachers, and a report, which assembled country experiences and assessed the extent to which education systems respond to the challenge of child labour, the obstacles faced and successful strategies to overcome them.

The ILO collaborates closely with United Nations organizations concerned with human rights and children’s rights, such as the Commission on Human Rights, the Working Group on Slavery of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities and the CRC. The CRC has expressed its intention to reinforce its cooperation with the ILO on child labour, especially with respect to the trafficking of children.

6.29 The Non–Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and Child Labour
The Non–Governmental Organizations (NGOs) who have been successful in making people’s participation in education and training by the use of their skills, overcoming behaviour and cultural resistance of communities may be preferably involved in tackling the problem of child labour. This is suggested because, paradoxically, although the Government adopts the techniques used by the NGOs, the process often tends to get

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bureaucratized leading to ineffective implementation. Many NGOs have the reputation of being able to get closer to communities. They also have the experience in running special schools with certain advantages over governmental agencies like having a more committed workforce, flexibility in operation, thorough knowledge and expertise and the preparedness to work with target groups in far-flung locations. Greater social awareness with the involvement of NGOs, better low cost job-orientated education and encouraging more women joining the work force besides empowerment of women would go a long way in elimination of child labour. Mass literacy programmes should be evolved to campaign against the social segment called child labour.

NGOs and community organizations have wide-ranging experience working with social needs and developing community resources. Governments and businesses want to benefit from their expertise and experience, to help ensure that their own social investments are sound and effective. By working in partnership NGOs and communities, organizations can influence ways of working and gain access to greater resources to deliver their mission.

6.30 International NGOs
There are several international NGOs involved in diverse activities and programmes of child welfare and development. Most of these NGOs are partners to various inter-governmental organizations like ILO, UNICEF, UNDP, World Bank etc. in the child labour eradication programme.

6.31 Global March against Child Labour

Global March movement began with a worldwide march when thousands of people marched together to jointly put forth the message against child labour. The march, which started on January 17, 1998, touched every corner of the globe, built immense awareness and led to high level of participation from the masses. This march finally culminated at the ILO Conference in Geneva. The voice of the marchers was heard and reflected in the draft of the ILO Convention against the worst forms of child labour.

28http://www.globalmarch.org
Global March movement is involved in assessing and lobbying for the ratification and implementation of the Convention. The dedicated partners\textsuperscript{29} like South Asian Coalition on Child Servitude India, Education International Belgium, Christian Aid UK, International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU) Denmark, and Child Workers in Nepal (CWIN) Nepal, of the Global March movement form an effective network around the world. Acting as vigilant observers and lobbying with governments in their region, they form the backbone of the movement. The Global March international Secretariat is located in New Delhi, India. It is in the process of compiling data on the worst forms of child labour from all countries. In accordance with the recent UN Convention on the ‘worst forms of child labour’, the sub-categories that have been included in are: Child slavery or servitude, Child trafficking, Children forced to join armed conflicts, Child prostitution or pornography, Children used for crimes, Children used for drug trafficking and Work which harms health, safety or morals of child.

Global March movement has now begun a crusade to make education available for all. The “Global Campaign for Education” is a worldwide movement aimed at providing education for all, at the earliest. Global March has joined hands with partner associations like Education International, Oxfam International and Action Aid. The campaign soon received impetus with more partners joining in the cause. The new partners are World Vision, Social Alert, World Confederation of Teachers, Save the Children Fund UK and Public Services International (PSI).

Under this programme “Shiksha Yatra” did a whirlwind mobilisation in Buxar, Balia, Ghazipur, Mirzapur, Varanasi, Allahabad, Kanpur, Lucknow, Shahjahanpur, Saharanpur, Moradabad and Bijnore. The yatra in Saharanpur was organised by DISHA, All India Society for World Development and Mahila Pragati Sansthan and Rotary club also participated in it.

\textsuperscript{29} For full list and details about partners visit http://www.globalmarch.org/whos_involve/
6.32 The World Confederation of Teachers (WCT)

The World Confederation of Teachers (WCT) is an ILO partner, active worldwide in the field of education and, more specifically, in the role of education against child labour. The WCT and the Asian Confederation of Teachers (ACT) consider that there is a great need for non-governmental programmes which involve teachers in South Asia, where the incidence of children working in hazardous conditions is high. The Objectives of the WCT are to:

- examine and analyse the child labour situation in the region.
- formulate, develop, and implement policies on the elimination of child labour.
- formulate and implement action plans emphasizing teachers' participation.
- develop awareness raising campaigns for teachers about the ills of child labour.
- develop information and campaigning materials.

6.33 Global Partnership for Youth Development

The GPYD is co-convened by the Kellogg Company, the World Bank Group (WBG), and the International Youth Foundation (IYF). The IYF provides a coordinating and leadership role in realizing successful outcomes for GPYD goals and objectives. The GPYD is working on different projects primarily focusing on youths' capacity building and overall development in various parts of the world. It also works for enhancing economic and social opportunities for out-of-school youth in India, it is working on the project to foster entrepreneurship and employment generation for underprivileged youth by providing business mentors and loans.

6.34 Free the Children International

The Free the Children is an international network of children helping children at a local, national and international level through representation, leadership and action. The

30 http://www.bpdweb.org/gpyd/
31 For detail visit http://www.freethechildren.org/
primary goal of the organization is not only to free children from poverty and exploitation, but to also free children and young people from the idea that they are powerless to bring about positive social change and to improve the lives of their peers.

The free the Children is unlike any other children's charity in the world, as it is an organization by, of and for children that fully embodies the notion that children and young people themselves can be leaders of today in creating a more just, equitable and sustainable world.

It recognizes that education is key for breaking the cycle of poverty in India. The FTC has built and outfitted new schools in the following remote and poor regions: Calcutta, TamilNadu, Andhra Pradesh and Banglore etc.

6.35 Child Rights Information Network

The Child Rights Information Network (CRIN)\(^{32}\) is a global network that disseminates information about the Convention on the Rights of the Child and child rights amongst non-governmental organisations (NGOs), United Nations agencies, inter-governmental organisation (IGOs), educational institutions, and other child rights experts. The Coordinating Unit is based in London, UK. The network is supported, and receives funding from, UNICEF, Rädda Barnen, Save the Children UK and the International Save the Children Alliance.

The CRIN has a membership of more than 1,100 organisations in over 100 countries. About 84 percent of our members are NGOs; and 55 percent are in the South (including 22 percent in Africa and 18 percent in Asia). In addition to working with member organisations, CRIN services the information needs of about 1,600 organisations and 60 individuals who have joined our mailing list.

The CRIN's objectives are:

- to meet the information needs of organisations and individuals working for children's rights;
- to support and promote the implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child;

\(^{32}\)For detail visit: http://www.crin.org/
to support organisations in gathering, handling, producing and disseminating child rights information through training, capacity building and the development of electronic and non-electronic networking tools.

6.36 International Labor Rights Fund (ILRF)33
The ILRF is an advocacy organization dedicated to achieving just and humane treatment for workers worldwide. The ILRF serves a unique role among human rights organizations as advocates for and with working poor around the world. We believe that all workers have the right to a safe working environment where they are treated with dignity and respect, and where they can organize freely to defend and promote their rights and interests. We are committed to overcoming the problems of child labour, forced labour, and other abusive labour practices. We promote enforcement of labour rights internationally through public education and mobilization, research, litigation, legislation, and collaboration with labour, government and business groups.

6.37 The International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU)
The International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU) was set up in 1949 and has 231 affiliated organisations in 150 countries and territories on all five continents, with a membership of 158 million. It has three major regional organisations, APRO for Asia and the Pacific, AFRO for Africa, and ORIT for the Americas. It also maintains close links with the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) (which includes all ICFTU European affiliates) and Global Union Federations, which link together national unions from a particular trade or industry at international level. It is working for the eradication of forced and child labour worldwide.

6.38 Anti-Slavery International's work on child labour
The Anti-Slavery International is not a funding body, but works with organisations around the world which work specifically in the field of child labour. Anti-Slavery International has worked on child labour since the early 1900s. It has been systematically

33 http://www.laborrights.org/
working on child labour issues since the 1970s, mainly in research and international advocacy. Relevant ILO and UN standards underpin all Anti-Slavery International's work on child labour. It works collaboratively with other NGOs, inter-governmental bodies and trade unions, and, focus on the worst forms of child labour and slavery-like practices.

The Anti-Slavery International currently works in three main areas. Firstly, it was strong supporter of efforts to develop Convention 182, and continue to promote the involvement of civil society organisations in taking action against the worst forms of child labour. At an advocacy level we work extensively with a variety of networks and coalitions to increase awareness about exploitative child labour and the mechanisms available to combat it. Secondly, it has developed specific expertise on the subject of children in domestic service. This has involved: publishing hard evidence about the situation of child domestic workers in several countries; developing (with local partners) good practice tools on research and advocacy for use by NGOs and others at national and local levels; consolidating and building an international network of NGOs sharing information and expertise about child domestic work issues. Thirdly, the Anti-Slavery International continues to play a significant role in efforts to combat child labour in West Africa. It is currently coordinating work aimed at developing the capacity of NGOs in six West African countries to end the abuse of children trafficked for domestic service, and further activities relating to the trafficking of children in other regions are planned. The Anti-Slavery International is also the convener of a Geneva based sub-group on Child Labour of the NGO Group for the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

6.39 Christian Aid

The organization strives to be prophetic, challenging the systems and processes that work against the interests of those who are poor or marginalised. The dream is to pave a better future for the impoverished section of the society.

Christian Aid is a UK and Ireland based charity that funds projects to some of the poorest countries in the world. With around 600,000 supporters, it had been a major strengthening force for the poorer lot, by helping them to improve their lives. It supports local organisations, which are best placed to understand local needs, as well as giving

34 For more details, please visit the website: http://www.christian-aid.org.uk/
help on the ground through 16 overseas offices. The Christian Aid is the Global March Treasurer.

The Christian Aid was one of the first international development non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to campaign against child labour. It supported the South Asia Coalition Against Child Servitude (SACCS) who have led a campaign to rescue children from bonded labour in India. More recently they have also supported a number of initiatives against child labour, including the Global March Against Child Labour, the Rugmark initiative which sought to eliminate child labour from the carpet industry in South Asia, and the campaign against the use of children in the manufacture of footballs in India. Another SACCS initiative supported by Christian Aid is Mukti Ashram, responsible for providing rehabilitation to many children rescued from the carpet industry.

6.40 Save the Children

Save the Children is working to end exploitative child labour. But it does not believe that a ban is the answer. Most children, who work, do so to survive. If children were banned from mainstream jobs, many would turn to illegal, dangerous work.

Save the Children supports projects that raise family income so that children are not forced to work. Where children do work, it tries to protect them from exploitation and find ways they can combine work with education. It is also involved in improving local education so it provides children with relevant skills to break out of poverty.

6.41 Child Workers in Asia (CWA)\(^{35}\)

The CWA was established in 1985 as a support group for child workers in Asia, and the NGO are working with them. From a small group of five organizations, it now brings together over 50 groups/organizations working on child labour in 14 countries. It facilitates sharing of expertise and experiences between NGOs and strengthens their collaboration to jointly respond to the exploitation of working children in the region for the last fifteen years. The CWA has been a venue for interaction between big and small

\(^{35}\) http://www.cwa.tnet.co.th/
NGOs. The network has strived to contribute to the development of the understanding of the situation of children who work and are exploited. It has tried its best to support the emergence of local actions for working children and for the promotion of children's rights.

Its objective is to ensure children's participation in the formulation of programs and policies to pursue actions for the identified priority groups of children: child domestic workers, bonded child labourers, trafficked children, and other groups of children in the worst forms of child labour. Followings are Indian partner of the CWA working on child domestic workers. The Arunodhaya Centre for Street and Working Children, Chennai works towards the goal to create a society that will uphold the rights of children with specific reference to child domestic workers and work towards elimination of child domestic work and promote and protect their rights as children. The Peace Trust India, works for domestic child workers employed by bureaucrats families, in districts head quarters of Tamil Nadu. The PTI covering 19 districts worked with 15 NGO’s sensitizing and empowering CDWs release of Child Domestic Workers.

National Domestic Workers Movement started in 1985 through the process of domestic workers coming together and organizing themselves into a collective group. The movement, based in India and covering the five states (Tamil Nadu, Andha Pradesh, Goa, Maharstra and Bihar) empowers domestic workers and stands for their dignity. It works towards recognition and justice for the domestic workers through public awareness and legislation campaigns to ensure their dignity and protect their rights.

South Asian Coalition on Child Servitude (SACCS), Volunteers for Social Justice, Jalandher, Punjab, Mahita, Centre of Concern for Child Labour, Jeevika, The Concerned for Working Children (CWC) and Volunteers for Social Justice are local NGOs working in collaboration with CWA.

6.42 The South Asian Coalition on Child Servitude (SACCS), New Delhi
The SACCS’s main objective are the identification of the children, conducting raids, rescue operations, filing cases in courts, awareness building among parents and society, rehabilitation and follow ups. After release immediate shelter is provided, approaching the concerning department for the necessary action for Legal Aid, Education, Restoration
of childhood, Psychological help and bringing the child to the mainstream of life. It is working in Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Tamilnadu, Punjab, Haryana and Delhi in following industries: Carpet, Brick kiln, Glass Industry, Sports, Saree, Beedi, Stone Quarries, Domestic Child Labour and Firecrackers.

The South Asian Coalition on Child Servitude (SACCS), in association with other NGOs working on the issue of child labour in India, designated 1995 as "Save the Childhood Year." More than 200 NGOs from throughout India joined in the year-long Save the Childhood campaign, which is calling for the total abolition of child labour and child servitude. The campaign aimed at compulsory education for all children below 14 years of age and for the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

To launch Save the Childhood Year 1995, a march was organised under the auspices of “Bachpan Bachao Andolan (BBA)” - Save The Childhood Movement. During January 19-25, 1995 the march covered a distance of 150 kms through the main child labour areas of Delhi.

6.43 Rugmark

In India, the Rugmark Foundation is made up of carpet manufacturers, the South Asian Coalition on Child Servitude (SACCS), UNICEF and IGEP, an export promotion agency backed up by the Indian and German governments. Since the Foundation's formation in October 1994, 100 carpet manufacturers - the largest with up to 2000 looms - have applied for licenses to use the trademark. The Foundation inspects these companies before they are licensed, and periodically thereafter. Carpet importers in Germany can also support Rugmark by paying one per cent of the carpet's import price into a fund for the education and rehabilitation of former child workers in India. Several major retailing chains and carpet importers have joined the scheme, together representing about 15 per cent of Indian carpet imports into Germany.

As evident from the above description, there is large number of international NGOs working for the eradication of child labour. Many of these NGOs are active in India and UP too. Many of them are working in collaboration with local NGOs
6.44 Local NGOs

The local NGOs can play more significant and effective role in combating child labour problem because of their proximity to the victims and better understanding of the social milieu in which child labour exist. Moreover there is better acceptance of local social workers in the local community which can have apprehension regarding outsiders.

There has been a flood of NGOs in recent years. All sort of NGOs have mushroomed in every nook and corner of the country. Therefore it has become very difficult to sort out genuine from spurious ones. Nevertheless, the role played by various good NGOs can not be undermined because of this reason. The service being rendered by these NGOs should be appreciated and their activities relating to child labour relief and rehabilitation must be actively supported both by the central and state government through financial assistance in the form of projects.

A brief review of various NGOs working in the field of child labour eradication, children education and welfare has been attempted with an aim of providing the glimpse of wide reach of NGOs which are present in most of the districts of the state. Therefore with proper support and monitoring, NGOs can become a powerful tool in elimination of child labour problem. NGOs work and live with the people at the grass-root level. They have flexibility in organizational structure and operations. They have a team of committed and dedicated activists who are intimately involved with the working and living conditions of people at the ground level. This flexibility and presence of a hardcore team is the greatest strength of the NGOs.

This list of NGO is although not exhaustive but it is prepared by reviewing the activities area of about 1000 NGOs working in different districts of UP. Due to large number of NGOs, even brief description of their mission and work can not given. However, the some of NGOs has been enlisted with their core area in order to have some understanding about their spread and work.

The Akhil Bhartiya Anath Ashram is running and maintaining an orphanage for the less privileged children in Mathura. It runs schools for children of emigrant labourer and workers employed in brick kilns in Kanpur. It mobilizes support for grass roots literacy movements and assist individuals at grass roots level. It also runs health programs to assist and improve hygienic conditions in slums and in localities where emigrant

Many NGOs, like, Bhartiya Gramin Chetana Gramodyog Vikash Samiti, Farukhabad, Cosmic Society for Human Resource Development and Research, Pratapgarh, Dharmartha Sewa Prabandh Evam Samaj Kalyan Samiti, Hardoi, Gramothan Jan Seva Sansthan, Allahabad, Madarsa Bakraya Junior High School Samiti Mission, Moradabad, Manav Shiksha Prasar Samiti, Allahabad, Lucknow, are working for the rehabilitation of children of sex workers by providing better educational facilities for them. Where as some are giving special emphasis on the education of girl child labourers for example, Akhil Bhartiya Bal Mahila Ghar of Hardoi, Bal Avam Mahila Kalyan Samiti, Fatehpur, Hashmi Human Resources Developemenmt Society, Amroha Jagdish Kalyan Samiti, Faizabad.

A large number of NGOs prominently Chitragupta Shikshan Sansthan Varanasi, Akkai Polycraft Association, Lucknow, Anand Welfare Institution Kanpur, Gramin Praudh Siksha Prasar Samiti, Gorakhpur, Kapil Bal Avam Mahila Sansthan, Basti, Jagriti Bal Vikas Samiti, Kanpur, Lokmitra, Raibareilly, are involved in education of destitute, street children and child labour engaged in different sectors. They also run residential schools for them and impart training with the aim of providing better employment opportunities in future.

Dr Shambunath Singh Research Foundation of Varanasi addresses issues like women empowerment and child rights. It organises self help groups for the child labourers. The Foundation for Legal Aid, Environment and Social Action, Ghaziabad works for the cause of protection of rights of women, children, prisoners and persons with disabilities. It provides legal aid and advice to these people.

The International Budha Education Institute, Ghaziabad, Smt Chandra Kumari Shiksha Samiti, Bharatiya Shikshan Seva Sansthan, Dr Ambedkar Samaj Seva Mandal of Allahabad and Nagrik Seva Samiti, Sultanpur provide training for self employment to the children of the minority community. Jan Kalyan Gramodhyog Seva Aashram, Robertgunj, Jan Sewa Prasikchan Sansthan, Gazipur, Janjivika Sewa Sansthan, Raibarreilly, Sahyog Samajik Sansthan, Sajuji Maharaj, Samaj Sewa Sansthan, Lucknow, Shishma, Fatehpur, Subhash Children Society, Kanpur, Abushish Gramin Sewa Sansthan,
Hapur, Action for Women and Rural Development, Kanpur, Adarsh Khadi Gramudyog Vikas Samiti, Amroha, Azad Seva Samiti, Muzaffarnagar, Centre For Rural Entrepreneurship And Technical Education, Lucknow, Ganesh Gram Udyog Seva Sansthan, Gaziabad, Gram Vikas Samiti, Barabanki Gramin Sudhar Evam Shramik Seva Sansthan Rudra Prayag, Jan Kalyan Gramodhyog Seva Aashram, Robertgunj, Jagdish Kalyan Samiti Faizabad, Lokmitra, Raibareilly, work for the overall rural development with special emphasis on children education and rehabilitation and eradication of child labour. They promote employment generation and rural entrepreneurship through technical skill upgradation, training and development and formation of self-help groups. Mahila Chetna Samiti of Varanasi works for the welfare of street children with the aim of making them more productive and law abiding citizens. It also runs de-addiction centres for alcoholics and drug addicts.

There are several other NGOs working in UP for the children welfare and development. They also work more or less with similar objectives. However the NGOs have primarily concentrated on providing of basic amenities to the deprived children while functioning at the grassroot level. Several NGOs have made effective use of the available resources and with appropriate methods generated resources on their own. However, besides service delivery, there is also a need for education of the community, particularly at the grassroot level regarding its responsibilities towards children in need of help. Not many NGOs have taken up education of people at grassroot level in an intensive manner. As a result, care and protection of children living in exceptionally difficult circumstances is perceived as the responsibilities of the NGOs and government whereas the primary responsibility lies with the family and the community. There seems to be overdependence on NGOs for identification, care, protection and development of deprived children. The NGOs in turn find it difficult to cope up with the ever increasing clientele, given the inadequate resources at their disposal. Awareness at grassroot level will bring about increased sensitivity on the part of the society to understand the problems of deprived child and would also help NGOs share its responsibilities with community.

There is need of better co-ordination among NGOs and various government agencies at local and regional level. In several districts, there is number of NGOs
working in same area providing similar service to same children whereas other needy are left. Hence, there is need of local networking among NGOs through promotion of joint forums.

Apart from this, NGOs will have to be prepared for increased participation in regional/local planning bodies as well as policy formulation with regard to the children. The NGOs besides being supportive, can also take up advocacy and lobbying for children's rights. Not many NGOs have taken up this as one of the key functional areas. If NGOs are able to pose a united front, they would emerge as a potent force for several initiatives in the areas of child welfare and development.

6.45 Conclusion

Since 1881, a lot of legal measures have been taken for protection of child labour in India. According to Indian Factories Act, 1881 minimum age of employment was seven years and restricted working hour to 9 hours. The beginning of process of industrialization demanded more numbers of child labour. The labour law gave some relaxation of age in the year 1891, 1901, 1911, 1922, 1934, 1938, 1944, 1949, 1954, 1978, 1986 and 1992. The National Policy for Children Resolution 1974, advocates for free and compulsory education for all children, up to the age of 14 and provisions of health and nutritional programmes and services providing alternative forms of education for children unable to take full advantage of formal school education and to protect children against cruelty and exploitation. Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 of the government ban employment of children below the age of 14 years in factories, mines and hazardous employment. The Act stipulates punishment of a prison term ranging from three months to two years, with or without a fine of Rs10,000-20,000 for violators. In 1992, Child Labour Deterrence Act was passed prohibiting the import of any product made by children below the 15 years of age.

The government is running various national development programmes with very wide coverage in areas of education, health, nutrition, integrated child development. In pursuance of this policy, government has adopted two schemes, namely, National Child Labour Project Scheme (NCLPS) and Granting-Aid to voluntary organizations for taking up action-oriented programs in the field of rehabilitation of child labour. The NHRC
 monitors the child labour situation in the country through its special reporters, visits by members, sensitization programmes and workshops, launching projects, interaction with the industry associations and other concerned agencies. A worldwide effort, involving various international agencies, national governments, state and local governments along with NGO’s and employers’ and workers’ organizations, etc has now started to take steps to abolish the child labour. The governments acknowledged child labour as a serious problem and they are ready to cooperate with international organizations and NGOs to eradicate child labour. A number of key milestones and actions against child labour have been achieved with concerted effort at international and national level by collective action of governments, International agencies, NGOs and other groups.

The UN Commission on Human Rights in 1993 adopted a “Programme of Action for the Elimination of the Exploitation of Child Labour”. In May 2002, United Nations General Assembly Special Session on Children, the ILO, with the support of the social partners, seek to ensure that the outcome document clearly reflects the global commitment to the elimination of all child labour, with the use of the minimum age for employment or work as the yardstick. The United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child is the body that monitors how well States are meeting their obligations under the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The NGO Group for the Convention on the Rights of the Child (NGO Group) formed in 1983 as the Informal Ad Hoc NGO Group for the Drafting of the Convention on the Rights of the Child is a coalition of international non-governmental organizations, which work together to facilitate the implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. The UNICEF helps children to get the care and stimulation they need in the early years of life and encourages families to educate girls as well as boys. UNICEF works with NGO activists to end child labour.

The International Labour Organization is very sincerely concerned about child labour from its inception. The ILO has quoted “protection of children” in the preamble to its Constitution. The ILO has taken a lot of initiatives to save the childhood of children. UNESCO launched a World Programme for the Education of Street and Working Children, the main objective of which is to facilitate access to basic education and vocational training for these children and young people by addressing their survival and educational needs. The World Bank has acknowledged that child labour is one of the most devastating consequences of persistent poverty and trying to help by Global Child
Labor Program to reduce harmful child labour through its ongoing poverty reduction efforts and new initiatives. Beside this, other organizations like Global March Against Child Labour, World Confederation of Teachers, Free the Children International, Christian Aid, many NGOs and International Agencies are working together for this global concern of humanity.

There is a lack of uniformity in the various legislations on child labour both on national as well as international level. The laws have no consensus on a single agreed minimum age of employment; age differs from country to country as well as industry to industry. In addition, there are other in-built loopholes in various provisions of the child labour legislations. For example Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act 1986 exempts child labour in family enterprises from the ban. That is why looms for Carpet Weaving and Beedi manufacturing are largely run in children’s homes. Moreover the Act believes that child labour should be prohibited only in hazardous processes. The classification of industries is wrong. The Glass industry is not included in hazardous industry though there are evidences to prove that it is dangerous for children to work in it. The slate, pencil industry where workers succumb to silicosis and other respiratory ailments is also excluded from the purview of the Act. Even prosecution of the employers in the Act is possible only if the age of the child is established. In poor illiterate families, to which most child labourers belong hardly have any proof of age. There is need to find ways to rectify these loopholes. The recent notification by Labour Ministry which extended the scope of Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act 1986, and from October 10, 2006 banned the employment of children under the age of 14 as domestic help and as workers in hotels, eateries, spas, etc, after declaring these occupations hazardous. However, given the government’s failure to stop child labour in industry, the recent ban on child labour in the hospitality sector and as domestic help is likely to prove as ineffective.

The enactment of laws is only a first step. What is really important is their effective enforcement. The proper implementation of child labour elimination policies and programmes and an effective rehabilitation mechanism is needed. In addition, enactment and enforcement of child labour laws have to be accompanied by simultaneous enactment and enforcement of other social policy laws and implementation of social and economic measures.
Being a socio-economic issue, the problem of child labour must be tackled by promoting the growth opportunities for children. The public awareness against this social evil is very important. And the coordinated efforts of government NGOs, employers, trade unions and parents can be helpful for gradual elimination of child labour.

Child labour is very complex issue. It can be eradicated only by sustained efforts at all level. Fortunately, now there is increasing awareness about child labour problem worldwide as evident by efforts done by various international and national agencies reviewed briefly in this chapter.

NGOs can be viewed as important partners and collaborators of government. Such a partnership should flow naturally and spontaneously from both sides. In the context of eliminating child labour, the government should invite NGOs for an open dialogue to plan a joint strategy instead of expecting NGOs to approach the government for a partnership role. There are a number of good, reliable and committed NGOs which are largely non-political or apolitical and are based in remote, interior and inaccessible areas, and which have been working unremittingly to establish the much needed outreach to the deprived and neglected cross sections of society (such as the child labourers), carrying hope, faith and conviction to them.

However, a large number of fake NGOs have come up mainly with aim of pocketing the financial aid provided by government and international donors. Therefore, the Government should provide assistance to only such NGOs that have good track record and which are willing to work in the direction of the elimination of child labour. The help of NGOs of repute and standing at the national and state level should be taken into account in the selection of such NGOs.

The NGOs can also play the role of watchdogs. The ratifications of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and other child related conventions by the government have given the NGOs a powerful tool to monitor the status of children in the country. Public Interest Litigation (PIL) another very potent tool to fix the accountability of government agencies through judicial intervention. Not only this, they can also bring about awareness among people, motivate the parents not to allow their children to work, rather put them in school. They must be made literate and trained to be able to look after their needs later in life. This can be done through print, electronic and through folk-cultural media. It can also be done through songs, slogans, nukkad nataks (street theatres), skits, posters, role play and simulation exercises.