PREFACE

In this thesis, an attempt has been made to understand the problem of child labour in general. But, in this study after a field survey the researcher has tried to describe the overall situation of child labourers in brick kiln. It was observed that child labour in brick kiln is a hidden and generational phenomenon because they are not registered in the muster roll. Some scholars believe that poverty is main cause of child labour while, migration is also considered a factor because children do not get chance to attend a school. This trend is more common in lower strata of Indian society i.e. scheduled caste and most backward castes due to their socio-economic conditions and lack of education. The female of these families have hard task of working in brick kiln and also perform the duties of housewife.

The study attempts to address a number of questions. Some of them are:

- What are the spatial trends of child labour across the districts in Uttar Pradesh? Whether child labour has increased or decreased in the districts over the period and what are the causes for decrease or increase.
- Does age, sex, caste, education and other social economic characteristics of child labour vary across selected Brick kilns in Kanpur Nagar district of U.P.?
- Does the incidence of child labour vary among the various caste and community groups and with the level of literacy?
- Does family size and income together have any affect on the incidence of child labour and contrarily does child labour affect the standard of living of the family?
- Do the working children attend any school or literacy programme?
- Does the nature of work, work environment and wages vary in the selected Brick kilns?
- Can the push and pull factors and their relative importance resulting in child labour be identified?
• What is the nature and causes of morbidity health conditions and health hazards among the working children in the selected Brick kilns?

• By studying and analyzing government policy and various legislation, critically examine the effect of these policies and legislations in eradication of child labour?

• Considering the role of various international organizations and NGOs in eradication of child labour, suggest how their strategy will be more effective?

• Can the government institutions, international organizations, NGOs and other welfare groups work together in coordination for eradication of child labour?

All the above said questions have been answered in this thesis by discussing and analyzing various variables in case of child labour in the Brick kiln. After a comprehensive Introduction, the thesis deals with the spatial patterns and trends of child labour in Uttar Pradesh, differentiating the rural and urban dimensions of child labour and decadal changes of period 1981-2001. In the chapter three, the organization, structure, operation and ownership of brick kilns have been described which shows the pattern of child labour in brick kiln. An attempt has also been made to summarize whole process of brick making in brick kiln. Chapter four tries to find out factors responsible for the incidence of child labour. An emphasis has been given on how socio-economic and demographic factors are influencing child labourers to work in brick kiln. The chapter five titled 'Implications of Child Labour on Morbidity and Health' describes the relations of child labourers and their health. What are the direct and indirect consequences of working in hazardous conditions? With the description of several hazardous industries and their working conditions, the study has focused more specifically on working in hazardous conditions in brick kiln. The sixth chapter discusses the major policy intervention of the governments and efforts of international organizations, NGOs in eradication of child labour.