CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

If one desires to know a nation, he should look for it into its children. Children are the blooming flowers of the garden of the society. It is therefore, a duty on the part of the member of society to protect these flowers from the damaging effects of excessive exposure to heat, cold and rains and also not to pluck them to satisfy their momentary whims.

Child is not only the future of a nation and its aspirations but also, and mainly its strength in reserve. The future of nation is best insured if its children are healthy and active, educated and informed disciplined and trained, as well as free from social prejudices, having a scientific outlook. It is, therefore a duty cast on the, society at large to protect this crop of nation from the damaging effects of excessive exposure to vagaries of climate, as well as, from social oppression and injustice.

Taking all the aspects as a whole the childhood is the most significant period of one’s life. It is considered, and rightly so, to be the very foundation of life on which depends the entire structure the whole personality as such. Child - the father of man is the natural future leader of the nation in every walk of life, may it be industry, education, politics, social services, administration, defence, civil services or anything else. It is during this formative period of moulding that the life begins to acquire shape and substance, and the attitudes, behaviours, manners and emotions do get developed.
The practice of child labour is more prevalent in poor countries of Asia and Africa. This is due to poverty, unemployment, educational, backwardness, high rate of population growth, etc. In many parts of the world child labour is preferred as it is cheaper, and unorganized child labour is an economic practice and a social evil with serious consequences and implications for children, their parents and families. It is problematic because it interferes, obstructs and clashes with the fulfilment of the basic needs of working children, both material and cultural and the development of their basic skills and capabilities which are so vital for being productive and efficient. Child labour denies educational opportunities, reduces chances for vocational training, stuns or retards physical and mental growth and hampers intellectual development. The child workers generally remain unskilled, under-paid and under-privileged throughout life, restricts physical and social mobility and strengthens the vicious and cumulative cycle of poverty, ill health and under employment and unemployment.

The problem of child labour apparently may seen to be a product of such factors as custom, traditional attitude, urbanization, industrialization, migration, lack of schooling facilities, etc. But it is the poverty of the parents which compels the children to enter some vocations. The poverty may be due to prolonged illness, physical incapacity, under-employment, bad-habits - like drinking and gambling of the adults bread earner. The untimely death of the father also drives children to take up work. Due to ignorance and traditional outlook the parents often fail to appreciate the importance and usefulness of education for their children.
Most of the labour in large towns hails, basically, from village. The workers flocked to the cities from distant village in search of livelihood. Many of them have now become a permanent residents of the city, having no ties with their native village, while a large population of the migrant labour still has their tie with their villages where they often go during harvest season, festival or in family function. These families often carry load of economic subsistence to their village home, while the cost of living in the cities was still high. This led the woman of workers family to open hands and come forward to become a wage earners. Later, came the role of children to further contribute to the family income and this gave birth to the child labour in the cities.

The reason for engagement of child labour is that it is cheap and readily available in the predominantly agricultural economy like India. In plantations it takes the form of work as part of a family group. The parents do the main field work and children assist them in plucking of the leaves, coffee barries or collecting latex or they do secondary jobs such as weading, spreading fertilizers, etc.

Large proportions of child labour are actively working in different areas of the economy-primary, secondary, and tertiary sector both in rural and urban areas. In rural areas they work in various agricultural operations, household duties, performing domestic work and cattle tending. In urban areas they are concentrated in hotel, industry, transport, trade, commerce, household work and other areas. Since the publication of the report of the Royal Commission on labour in 1931 which exposed the shocking conditions of child workers much improvement has been reported in this regard.
However, there is still an extensive use of child workers in small industries such as carpet making, match and fire work, glass industry, sports industry, scissor industries, slate making, etc.

Though it was mainly in this context that the problem of child labour and its exploitation had long been the subject of sporadic concern, it has been only recently that the probable extent and incidence of this long standing phenomena could be brought to the full view of the general public.

In recent time, the phenomenon of child labour draws the attention of social scientists at the international level as it is considered to be a serious social problem in the third world countries. It also exist in developed countries but in a lesser extent. It may be, therefore, viewed as a universal problem challenging the human rights. It may be stated that the chances of child worker to become fulfledge citizens seems to be bleak. They have every likelihood to become physically or mentally depressed in the year to come. Hence, in the present social context, it is important to understand the nature, intensity, types and consequences of child labour in India. So, an empirical study in this area is the need of the hour.

**MEANING OF CHILD LABOUR:**

Work experience has a direct bearing on a child’s learning and his capability to cope with diverse situations. Work is a part of socialisation, however work that is repetitive, mechanical, physically arduous and done for long hours is termed labour and is often injurious to a child’s development and in extreme circumstance is exploitative and enslaving. This child labour is recognised by the sociologists, development workers and medical professionals as
hazardous and injurious to the child both physically and mentally. Since all work is not considered bad for children, the definition of child labour becomes crucial.

The two major indicators considered are exploitation and age. Exploitation as a means of identifying child labour is a problematic concept. In general however, exploitation refers to economic exploitation (low wages) and physical exploitation such as long hours of work, hazardous working conditions, denial of schooling and recreation facilities, etc. Keeping these criteria in mind, it becomes clear why a single definition of child labour is not easy to obtain.

The Operation Research Group of India defines a working child as “......... a child falling within the 5-15 age bracket and who is at remunerative work, may be paid or unpaid and busy at any hour of the day within or outside the family ......” (Rehman, 1992:297).

Homer Folks, the chairman of the United States National Child Labour Committee defines child labour as “any work of children that interferes with their physical development, their opportunity for a desirable minimum of education a their needed recreation.”

V.V.Giri has distinguished two sense of the term “Child Labour’s”:

“The term ‘child labour’ is commonly interpreted in two different ways”: first as an economic practice and secondly, as a social evil. In the first context it signifies employment of children in gainful occupations with a view to adding to the labour income of the family. It is in the second context that the term
child labour is now more generally used. In assessing the nature and extent of the social evil, it is necessary to take into account the character of the jobs on which the children are engaged, the dangers to which they are exposed and the opportunities of development which they have been denied.”

The Encyclopaedia of Social Science (1959) defines child labour as:

“When the business of wage earning or of participation in self or family support conflicts directly or indirectly with the business of growth and education the result is child labour.”

Fyfe (1989) states that “child labour is work which impairs health and development of child”.

Fracis Blanchand, the Director General of the International labour organization, defines child labour as follows”

“Child-labour can be conceived to include children under the age of 15 years in work or employment with the aim of earning and livelihood for themselves and for their families”.

The Committee on child labour has, therefore, concluded in its report that “child labour can broadly be defined as that segment of the ‘child population’ which participates in work, either paid or unpaid”.

In a nutshell, therefore, the definition of child labour is any work within or outside the family that involves a time and energy commitment which affects children’s ability to participate in leisure, play and educational activities. It is work which impairs the health and development of children.
It would be pertinent to add that in case of a child, the labour is specially harmful to him because the energy that should have been expended on the development of his latent powers gets consumed for purposes of bare survival. Child labour, therefore assumes the character of a social problem in as much as it hinders arrests or distorts the natural growth processes and prevents the child from attaining his full bloom manhood.

Thus child labour in a restricted sense, means the engagement of children in gainful occupations which are often hazardous to their health, and deny them the opportunities of development. However, it must be noted that children do not always work for monetary gain. A section of them are unpaid workers in household industries and other activities. They contribute substantively to their family labour and income. Therefore, there arises a need for a broader definition to work to include not only directly productive paid activities, but also unpaid family labour. Accordingly, “child labour” may be defined as that segment of child population, which participate in paid or unpaid work.

The children are, even at the age of five or six engaged in hazardous jobs. They forget their studies, playing and other enjoyment in their childhood and work under pressure from their parents or employers. The right to enjoy their childhood is denied to them. In addition to this, total injustice is done to them in terms of extra work for a low wages. Thus child labour is an evil which is hateful and exploitative. This term is used to refer to situations when a child is required to work beyond his physical capacities, when hours of employment interfere with his recreation and rest, when wages are not
commensurate with work done and when the occupation endangers the child’s health and safety.

The term “child labour” applies to children engaged in all types of activities, whether these be industrial or non-industrial, but which are detrimental to their physical, mental, moral and social well being and development.

In India, unfortunately, there is no such statutory provision which defines the term ‘child labour’ in precise terms. The minimum age for entrance into the labour market has not precisely fixed by law or convention, either at the national or the international level. Hence, child labour should be understood in the context of given circumstances and the nature of occupation. According to generally prevalent conceptions, the child labour normally constitutes children between the age group of 14 to 17 years. But, in fact, children of even much younger age are also coerced or forced by the family circumstances, to undertake various jobs for hire or reward, or without any economic gain whatsoever.

MAGNITUDE OF THE PROBLEM

The history of child labour is not new. it is as old as the civilization itself. In the primitive age too, child labour existed as well, but their area was limited to home or in the fields. The practice gradually took a shape of an evil, certainly after industrial revolution took place. Child labour may be seen everywhere in the world, be it USA, UK, Italy or Germany. The accurate and precise estimate of the overall magnitude of child labour, either from a qualitative or quantative point of view, is virtually not possible due to the
predominance of informal and unorganized nature of the labour market. The problem of estimating the child labour force becomes all the more complicated and complex on account of the multiplicity of concepts, modes of measurement, methods of research and the sources of information for data collection.

A report published by the Director General of International Labour Organization in 1960 says:

“Children and youth make up a fifth, or a fourth or even a third of the total labour force in many of the industrializing countries. Young people between 15 to 19 make up 20% of the labour force of the egyptian Region of the United Arab Republic and a higher percentage in many of the less developed Asian and African countries; and it should be noted that in most of the less developed areas the great bulk of children seek to enter the labour force by the time they are 12, 13 or 14, if they have not begun to work, at a much earlier age.”

The statistical Division of the I.L.O. recently took a major initiative in specially collecting information on child labour which is reported in the 1993 issue of the ILO’s Bulletin of Labour Statistics. According to the estimates based on this brief report, there were about 88 million child workers in the world in 1980 of which 68 million, i.e. 78 percent were working in Asia. Almost 60 percent of the child workers in Asia were working in countries of East Asia. While South-Asia’s share was about 30 percent. In South Asia magnitude of child labour increased from 22.2 million in 1980 to 27.6 million in 1990. This
amounts to an increase of 37 percent or 7.4 million children within a decade. India’s share in this increase is evident.

The report IV (1) of the 57th session of the International labour conference, Geneva, 1972, indicates that 90% or more of the child population was engaged in the employment market in the developing regions of the world. The report has also indicated that 4,11,25,000 children of these regions, making 5.1% of the whole of 0-14 age group, were engaged in 1960; and in 1970 the number was reduced to 3,99,75,000 whih formed 4% of all children. In the industrialized areas the number of child workers in the year 1960 was 40, 85,000 which formed 1.4% of all children and in 1970 the number was 33,43,000 constituting 1.1% of the total number of children.

According to the recent experimental survey carried out by the ILO’s Bureau of Statistics, there are at least 120 million children between the age of 5 and 14 who are fully at work, and more than twice as many (or about 250 million) of those for whom work is a secondary activity. Of these, 61% are found in Asia, 32% in Africa and 7% in Latin America.

Varying estimates about the magnitude of child labour in India are available. India has the largest number of child labour in the world. However, the estimates of the number of child workers vary in India because of the difference in the methodology that is used to estimate child labour and also because of the conceptual differences regarding the definition of “child”, “child labour” and “work” itself.

Table 1.1: Magnitude of child labour in India
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number in Millions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Census of India</td>
<td>1971</td>
<td>10.74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1981</td>
<td>13.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1991</td>
<td>11.29*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ILO</td>
<td>1975</td>
<td>15.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1996</td>
<td>23.17**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Sample Survey</td>
<td>1987-88</td>
<td>17.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organization (N.S.S.O.), India</td>
<td>1993-95</td>
<td>13.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Planning Commission</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government of India</td>
<td>1983</td>
<td>17.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operation Research Group, Baroda, India</td>
<td>1983</td>
<td>44.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* 9.8 (full time) + 2.21 (marginal)
** 12.67 (full time) + 10.50 (marginal)

The UNICEF has estimated that the number of child labour in India is about 14.5 million in 1984. As per the estimates of the Planning Commission the number of the working children in India in 1985 was about 17.58 million. The estimated number of child labour in the age group of 5.14 years in the country in 1986 on the basis of the National Sample Survey (38th round) and
the population figure as projected by the expert committee on population was 16.7 million.

According to the WHO’s office of the occupational health, Geneva, there are 150 million of child workers throughout the world, of which one of every four children workers is in India, Thailand and Turkey. According to the study conducted by the ILO, child labour forms 11 to 20 percent of the work force in the third world countries. The most typical feature has been found that the percentage of child workers employed is the Industrial Sector has increased over the decade. Similarly the Sex wise profile of child workers reveals that the employment of females child workers has increased over the period while the incidence of male child workers has shown declining trend.

According to a recent International Labour Organization study on the exploitation of young children in hazardous industries in the developing world, as many as 200 million children, under the age of 15, are workers, excluding those who help on family farms and small holidays.

The data available from the International Labour Organization’s year Book of Labour Statistics, 1988, indicated that in absolute terms the number of child labour is the highest in India but percentage-wise it is not so.

In respect of India, a general idea can be had from the census of 1971, which shows that 10.7 million children were engaged in employment. Out of them only 0.7 million, constituting 7% were working in urban areas, the remaining 10 million, that is 93% were employed in rural areas. 36.1% of the child labour was employed as cultivators and 42.7% as agricultural labourers. The remaining 8.2% were employed in animal husbandry, forestry, fishing,
hunting, plantation and horticulture, etc., 6.1% in household and industries, 2.4% in trade, commerce, transport, storage and communication, and the rest in construction work mining and other types of services.

The Indian States and the Union Territories with proportions higher than the national average of child workers are Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Orissa, Rajasthan, Arunachal Pradesh and Dadra and Nagar Haveli.

The number of child workers had swelled up to 14.5 million in 1981 as compared to 10.74 million in 1971. According to the planning commission, this number had further increased till March, 1983 to 17.36 million as shown in Table.

**Number of Child Workers in India**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Rural</th>
<th>Urban</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Source</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1971</td>
<td>10.00</td>
<td>0.7</td>
<td>10.7</td>
<td>census, 1971</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1978</td>
<td>14.68</td>
<td>1.57</td>
<td>16.26</td>
<td>NSS Projections</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1983</td>
<td>14.03</td>
<td>1.67</td>
<td>15.70</td>
<td>Estimated by Planning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(15.57)</td>
<td>(1.79)</td>
<td>(17.36)</td>
<td>Planning</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SOURCE: PLANNING COMMISSION**

A non-government organization named as, concerned for working children (CWC), claims that 1000 million children are at work in India, but the
Operations Research Group (ORG, Baroda, puts the figure at 44 million only. However, the findings of the ORG have gained more credibility in the welfare circles since they are based on a national-wide survey.

The Labour and Welfare Minister, Mr. Ram Vilas Paswan, informed the Rajya Sabha on March 30, 1990 that India has 1.7 crore of child labour according to the National Sample Survey of 1987-88.

During the last decade and a half, child labour and its elimination has emerged as a major social issue at the international levels. This has been reflected by a growing pressure by the World Trade Organization (WTO) to introduce the social clause in international trade which gives legitimacy to a country to ban the import of goods that have been produced by violating the international labour standards. The Uruguay round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) proposal to include the social clause in the WTO has generated considerable debate the world over and sharp conflicts between the camps of the developed and developing countries. In the debate and controversies, the developed countries, along with most of the trade unions there, have emerged as strong advocates of the social clause, while the developing countries; their government, employers and trade unions have ranged themselves in stout opposition against the social clause. In the Delhi Consultation, C.T Kurien expressed the view that, “the Social Clause as part of the WTO is motivated by protectionist intentions” and that “its provisions are designed to act as non-tariff barriers in trade, in favour of developed countries”. 
The global movement against child labour has made world-renowned manufacturers to look into the conditions under which their products are being manufactured. The world’s football governing body, the Federation International the Football Association (FIFA) for example has agreed upon the content of a code of labour practices for the production of goods licensed by FIFA. The code contains a specific provision prohibiting the use of child labour in producing FIFA-licensed goods. Only workers above the age of 15 years are allowed in accordance with ILO convention No.138.9.

In this context, it is argued by many that the proposal to use international pressure and trade sanctions on the grounds that child labour can be eradicated without poverty being addressed, does not hold any relevance. It has to be remembered that the causes of child labour are multifaceted and largely confined to sectors which cater to domestic demand with just 8% of the entire child labour population engaged in the total export sector.

In recent years, there have been allegations that the Indian sports goods industry utilises child labour. A 1997 study by the Christian Aid Society has estimated that, out of the total 3,00,000 persons working in the sports goods industry, about 10 percent of the workforce, or 25000 to 30000 workers, are children. Following the report, the Indian sports good industry has come into the mainstream of attack. World-renowned manufacturers like Levi Strauss and Reebok of the US, Adidas of Germany, Pentland of the UK and other members of the World Federation of Sporting Goods Industries (WFSGI) have joined hands to eradicate the exploitation of child labour within the industry. It was, therefore, pertinent to conduct a study of the sports
goods industry in order to look into the actual situation and highlight the realities.

**CAUSES OF CHILD LABOUR IN INDIA**

Child labour is a socio-economic phenomenon. It is generally conceded that illiteracy ignorance, low wages, unemployment, poor standard of living, stark poverty, deep social prejudices and appalings backwardness of the country side are all, severally and collectively, the root cause of child labour.

Mr. Madan, Deputy Director, Ministry of Labour, is of the view that “the children are required to seek employment either to augment the income of their families or to have a gainful occupation in the absence of availability of school going facilities at various places”.

It has been officially stated that, “child labour is no longer, a medium of economic exploitation but is necessilated by economic necessity of the parents and in many cases that of the child himself”.

Prof. Grangrade believes that child labour is a product of factors such as customs, traditional attitude, lack of school or reluctance of parents to send their children to school, urbanization, industrialization migration and so on.

Among the various causes of child-labour in India, the following are most important:

**(A) Poverty** - Widespread poverty is one of the major causes of child labour. In India, which is a developing country, poverty forces the parents to send their children to seek employment because augmentation of their income is essential for the survival of the family, including the children themselves.
Illness and other contingencies demand extra money in hand and the employment of children is resorted to as a quick and easily accessible way to get it.

According to the annual report of the Ministry of Programme Implementation for 1988-89, the poverty percentage got reduced from 48% in 1977-78 to 37% in 1984-85. Out of 316 million people who fall below the poverty line, 118 million are children. Out of these children, 99 million are in rural areas and 19 million in urban areas.

The Institute of Public Opinion conducted a survey in 1969, which showed that 41.2% of the Indian population was below the poverty line. Half of these belong to the scheduled castes and tribes. In villages a vast majority of agricultural labour belongs to these communities.

A Pilot study in Madras, Madurai and Coimbatore, found that about three-fourth of the children were at work to supplement their family income and 23% were working because of the death of their father or guardian. In cities, a large number of migrant child labour is seen, who, because they do not get job in their native areas come to home.

A Report of ILO indicates that child labour is not a problem by itself, but is the problem of maintenance of child and the living wage of the adult earners so that they should maintain their family at adequate standard.
The Bombay study of working children found that low economic status of the family was the single largest factor for non-schooling of the children and their coming into the labour market.

A study on child labour in Khurja potteries revealed that most of the parents of working had less than five bighas o land. These families owned one or two milch animals which the parents tended and the children.

A study on child labour in Aligarh lok industries also indicated that 74.5% of the children working in those industries belonged to the families whose total monthly income was Rs.500 or less. 13.25% families of child labour had an average monthly income of Rs.500 to Rs.800, while 7.25% of the families of child labour in Aligarh Lock industries had a monthly income upto Rs.1000 and only 5% of these families had an income of more than one thousand rupees per month.

Thus due to extreme poverty, the parents are not only incapable of investing in their children’s development, they are even relcutant to support them and want them to become a source of income to the family as early as possible.

The committee on child labour say in its report that economic poverty is the factor responsible for the prevalence and prepetuation of child labour. It reports, “Nearly half of India’s population subsists below poverty line. In the countryside, the distribution of land is most iniquitous. The lower 50% household own only 4% of the land. As many as 27.2% of the rural household are agricultural tenants and 30.4% agricultural labourers. Nearly one-third of the metropolitan population lives in slums and improvised tenomant. In
Madras 90.8% of the families of the working children have an income below Rs.500 per month. In Bombay, 78% and in Delhi, 88% of such families have a monthly income of Rs.500 and below. In these families, the child, since his very appearance in this world, is endowed with an economic mission. The child is compelled to shed sweat of brow to keep the wolf away from the door. In some families, when disease or other forms of disability upset the delicate balance of the family budget, there may not be any alternative but to send the child to work. These families cannot sacrifice the smaller gains of the present for the larger gains of the future, as they do not have any surplus to sustain them. The income accruing from child labour may be pittance but it plays a crucial role in saving the family from a shipwreck. Economic compulsions weighed heavily on the consciousness of poor parents that they would not mind colluding with the child’s employer in violating the law and putting the child under risks of inhuman exploitation. Poverty and child-labour thus always beget each other and tend to reinforce themselves in families and communities”.

(B) UNEMPLOYMENT OF ADULTS

The state of the unemployed is even worse than that of the poor. Low wages make a man poorer but unemployment makes him absolutely poor. It turns the weak into a cripple. Poverty dampens his spirit but unemployment kills it mercilessly. So, can one muster sufficient courage to suggest the poverty-stricken unemployed not to send his child to work?

Lumpkin and Douglas in “child workers in America” have rightly pointed out the fact by saying that two-fifth of the children seek their work because of
their adults wage earners were unemployed and nearly two-third of children were at work because of their adult worker had no employment or had some part-time jobs and one-third children went to work due to the serious cuts in the pay of their adult.

In Khurja potteries, the incidence of child labour is high due to the unemployment of adult members of the families. Ms. Burra feels that, “Bulandshahar district, although agriculturally properous, has little work on its mechanised forms for the bulk of the rural poor who face unemployment on a massive scale. The only work available is in the potteries of Khurja.

Sivakasi and neighbouring areas of the newly created Kamraj district get scanty rains. As a result, little agricultural operations are being carried out over there. This has forced the people to look for non-agricultural jobs. The Sivakasi stretch has a number of match and fir work factories where most of the operations are manual, in comparison to man these factories prefer children because they are very hard working and cheap. This has resulted into widespread unemployment among adults.

(C) LARGE FAMILY

Large families with comparatively low income, cannot afford to nourish high ideals and notions about family ties. Resultingly, such types of families fail to provide a protected childhood to their children. If the family of small and well planned, there will hardly by any need of sending their children to work in order to earn what so ever they may. The children of small and planned families can be carefully looked after and educated. But unfortunately, the improverished and illiterate parents think otherwise. They think that when
God has given the body, he will feed it also. They also consider three or four children better than having just one or two. For them, more children means more income. They argue that whereas every human body has just one mouth to eat, it has got two hands to feed it.

One talented and intelligent son is far better than a hundred illiterate fools. Even million of stars cannot dispel the darkness which just one moon can. And, so is the case with sons.

Thus, if one has just one or two children, he will be better placed to provide for them all such facilities that are necessary for their mental, physical and social growth.

Reverting to the lock industry of Aligarh, it would be worth pointing out that the children working in them mostly belonged to the families encumbered with large number of members. Some of the families of the working children had even more than eight members. It has found that 20.25% of the families of child labour engaged in lock industry had up to three members, 50.75% families had more than four but less than six members, 16.75% families had seven to eight members and 12.25% families had more than eight members. One child labour was found to have fourteen brothers and sisters.

**D) ABSENCE OF COMPULSORY EDUCATION OF CHILDREN**

In India large number of people in the lower socio-economic group are illiterate. They never think of the future. They never think of the consequences that may follow their ignorance in the field of education. Large
majority of the parents and guardians are desirous of having money in place of intelligence.

Absence of provision of compulsory education is to be considered here. If the compulsory education upto prescribed age in the school is implemented, then the questions of entering into employment will vanish.

Non-existence of provision for compulsory education in our country is an important cause of child labour. The child labour and non-schooling of children have a vital linkage among the poorer section of the population. The provision of compulsory education upto prescribed age would compel th children to attend school.

As a result of inadequacy in schooling facilities and lack of opportunities for education, in aligarh lock industry 41% of the child labour were illiterate, 31% had left the school before passing the fifth class and only 28% had studied upto middle class.

Further, many of the parents, especially that of the rural and slum areas, cannot afford the prescribed minimum of uniforms, books and stationery et. even though education is free upto primary level. Apart from the consideration of expenses, the allurement of the child’s income also plays a major role in their decision against schooling of their children. They are also not sure that schooling will really brighten up their children’s future prospects. They dread uncertainty and prefer to follow the saying that one bird in hand is better than two in bush.
The main obstacle in the way of making education compulsory for all children up to prescribed age has been rightly indicated by the report of the National Commission of Labour, 1969, in the following words: “An artisan cannot afford to educate his wards though education is free. For him an uneducated child is an asset; desire to be educated becomes a double liability because of (a) loss of earnings, if the child does not work, and (b) expenditure on education, howsoever small”.

No doubt, the role of education cannot be underestimated for proper development of children. Each and every parent wants his child to become a reputed “A” class person but the unfortunate children have neither the means for education nor they have time to spare for it. They just cannot afford to wait for a bright future tomorrow, rather than having the bread crumbs right now.

(E) LOW CHILD WAGES

Employers like to get more production with cheaper labourer cost which they get easily by employing the child labour than the adults, to ensure more margin of profit over less investment. The poverty is a blessing to these employers as they get the poor children more easily in the labours market.

As Jerome Davis states “child-labour exists not because children are more able workers but because they can be had for less money.” This encourages the fact of bonded labour too. Their sincerity in work, their innocence and their devotion in work all make employers to exploit the child labour.
In this country children of very young age do domestic work because these children are very cheap. The middle class families which have lower income especially keep little boys and girls as domestic servants from 8 to 14 age group which is the age of eating and playing. They get little pocket money and food from their Masters.

(F) ABSENCE OF SOCIAL SECURITY MEASURES

This compels some children to work consequent upon the death of their parents. About 4% children in Bhubaneshwar work, because they had lost their parents. Another 3% have lost their fathers. And also there is a portion of working children, who have left their homes due ill treatment of their relations and join the labour market.

(G) ABSENCE OF UNIONISATION

Child labour is not only very cheap, it is also trouble free since children cannot organise agitations by themselves and, being minors, the membership of trade-unions is not open to them. Because under the trade union act only workers above the age of 18 can form a union. Neither can they demand any overtime, nor the medical and other benefits.

(H) POOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CHILD LABOUR ACT

Though various regulations and legislations were passed on behalf of government to protect children from their exploitation by way of employing them in hazardous occupations, yet child labour remains prevalent in many sectors of Indian economy. The laws are deficient from the International standard as laid down by then ILO.
The process of protective labour legislation is slow which could not even cover the agriculture and small scale industries. Inspecting machinery which is provided by the State Government, is inadequate to check up the child labour. The factories Act itself is also defective in various respects. Thus it does not apply to craftsmanship merely because it needed little strength and skill. The labour investigation committee in 1946 and seminar on the subject in November 1975 reported that existing machinery is inadequate and ineffective.

In addition to the above mentioned factors responsible for child labour, there are several other causes too. Sociological factors, too, have their share of this scourge. For example, a gold smith’s son taken to gold smithery, or a carpenter’s child prefers carpentary. It is worth-nothing that 15.75% of the child labour had joined the Aligarh lock industries because of their family traditions.

Besides this, illiteracy and ignorance of parents is responsible for increasing magnitude of child labour.

**MEANING AND CONCEPT OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES**

Economic emancipation has followed political freedom everywhere in the world. As such, all developing countries after achieving their political freedom have resorted to planned industrial development for the attainment of certain social and economic ends for the betterment of the lots of their people. The pattern of industrialization has, however, differed according to a number of environmental factors, available resources, aesthetic feelings and specific needs of the people.
Small scale and cottage industries have been accorded special importance in the country for various social, economic and political reasons. They form an important and growing segment of the Indian industrial structure today. Their contribution to the country’s domestic production and employment is also substantial. Much is unknown about the operations, progress problem and prospects of most of cottage and small scale enterprises in our country. Some information could, no doubt be culled out from the data available in the Annual Survey Industries but this neither comprehensive nor up-to-date. Inspite of so many years of active promotion of small industries in the country and a plethora of agencies involved in the matter, even the number of small industrial unit actively in operation in the country is not precisely known. hence a systematic and detailed study of the operation of the small scale and cottage industry is seriously needed. Sports good industry and scissor industry are one of the small scale and cottage industry.

The term “small scale industries” as such has a recent origin. Earlier literature preferred to call this area of industry to be only rural and cottage industries and lately it gained the recognition of being the “smale scale industries”. The term “cottage and small scale industries”, in fact, was used in juxtaposition to the large scale industries established in India under the influence of European ideas. But still today the term has much confusion inherent in it.

The concept of small scale industry differs from country to country depending upon the economic, political and social structure of the country. The National Planning Commission set up by the Indian National Congress in
1938 under the chairmanship of the architect of modern India. Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru made the first attempt to study the problem and prospects, and the actual position of village and small scale industries at national level. Thereafter, in India, in fact many attempts were made by various committee and eminent scholars to clarify the concept of S.S.I. Now we have a plethora of definition of S.S.I. Many of them have lost the relevance in the present day context of economic structure of the country. Even then, it would not be irrelevant if we look at a glance, the real picture of the evolution and development of the concept of S.S.I. in Indian reference.

Prof. K.T. Shan (General Secretary of NPC, 1940) suggest definition of S.S.I. as - “A small scale or cottage industry may be defined to be an enterprise or series of operations carried on by a workman skilled in the craft on his own responsibility, the finished product of which he markets himself. He works on his own home with his own tools and material and provide his own labour or at most the labour of such members of his family as are able to assist. These workers work mostly by hand labour and personal skill with little or no aid from modern power driven machinery and in accordance with traditional technique. Such supplementary energy as is provided by animal power may add to the economy and efficiency of the industry. He works, finally for a market in the immediate neighborhood that is in response to known demand with reference to quality as well as quantity”. (NPC series, Rural and Cottage Industry, pp. 24-25).

Pt. Nehru, in a note submitted to the subcommittee of NPC on 11 May 1940, suggested that small scale industry may be those which have -
1. No mechanical power but hired labour of over 10 persons

2. Mechanical power under 10 B.H.P. but no hired labour

3. Mechanical power under 10 B.H.P. and hired labour

Industrial Policy Resolution dated 6th April, 1948 defined S.S.I. as - “All industries in handloom, handicraft, coil, silk and khadi and Village industries are grouped into small scale sector”.

Industrial Development and Regulation Act, 1951 defined a small scale industry to be the one employing 50 persons with power or 100 persons without the use of power.

The Karve Committee (1956) slight changed the definition of S.S.I. and recommended that small scale industries should comprise those units which have overall capital investment of not more than Rs. 5 lakh and employ not more than 100 person without the use of power. [India (Planning Commission) Committee on village and small scale, Govt. of India].

In September, 1957, SSI Board modified the definition of S.S.I. The initial capital investment in plant and machinery should not exceed Rs. 5 lakh and the number of person employed “per shift” had been changed to “multiple shift”. (R.V.Rao; Small Industries and Developing Economy in India, 1979, Concept Publication Company, Delhi).

The Central Government felt that a separate legislation should be drafted for S.S.I. A committee was constituted by central, classified into 3 categories:
1. **Tiny Industry** - Those unit in which the capital investment in fixed asset is less than Rs.1.00 Lakh or Rs.4000 per worker and the turnover does not exceed Rs.5.00 lakh per annum are included in Tiny Sector.

2. **Small Industry** - Where the capital investment in fixed asset does not exceed Rs.7.5 lakh irrespective of number of persons employed.

3. **Ancillary Industry** - Means the unit which rendering services and supplying or in proposing to supply or render 50% of its product or the total service, as the case may be, to the other units per production of other articles. Moreover, such a unit should not be a subdiary, or should not be owned or controlled by any other undertaking. The capital investment in fixed asset in such unit was fixed upto the limit of Rs.10 lakh (R.R. Khan - Mgt. of S.S.I. (1979) S. Chand and Co. Ltd., New Delhi).

**SIGNIFICANCE OF S.S.I.**

In a nation like India where the labour is in abundance and the capital is scarce, S.S.I. have a very significant role to play towards the attainment of the twin economic objective of the nation is growth and economic justice. S.S.I. are considered as “harbingers of economic progress for transformation of traditional economy into industrial” (B.K.Dixit - SSI IIs Remedies Yojna, March 1-15, 1988, pp. 5-6).

Developing economy like our aim at rapid industrialization to overcome the problem of low income, low productivity, technological backwardness and vast population. S.S.I. play a pivotal role in the industrialization of developing economy. In Indian context, it has been fairly stated in a report that “key role
in the country’s economic development with the advantage of low investment, high potential for employment generation, decentralization of industrial base and dispersal of industries to rural and semi-urban areas (Report of the Department of Industrial Development for and dispersal of industrial development for 1986-87, Ministry of Industries, Government of India, pp.45) Acc. to Ist Industrial Policy Resolution, 1948, declared on 6th April of that year, “Cottage and SSI have a very important role in the national economy, offering as they scope for individual, cottage or cooperative enterprises and means for the rehabilitation of displaced person (Government of India, Industrial Policy Resolution 1948, New Delhi).

The Government emphasized the need of S.S.I. in generation of employment and higher per capita income in rural area of our country.

The Indian Government is determined to promote such form of industrial in the country as can generate economic viability to the villages, promotion of suitable industries in rural areas will be accelerated to generate the higher employment and higher per capita income for villages in the country without disturbing the eological balance, handloom, handicraft, khadi and other village industries will receive greater attention to achieve faster rate of growth in the village. (Government of India, Statement of Industrial Policy, July 23, 1980).

Prof.R.V. Rao stressing on the need of eradication of unemployment and under employment through promotion of small scale and cottage industries in developing countries like India. “Small sale and cottage industry are labour employing and are capable of creating more employment and
distribute it more widely”. (R.V. Rao, Small Industries and Developing Economy in India, 1979, Concept Publication Company, New Delhi).

S.S.I. have been accorded an important place in the framework of Indian economic planning for both ideological and economic reason. India is one of the few developing countries that has consistently supported S.S.I. and has protected them from the unequal competition of large industries by implementing protected of a number of discriminatory measures.

This sector has been imbued with a number of objectives, important among which are the generation of immediate employment opportunity with relatively low investment, the promotion of more equitable national income and effective mobilization of untapped capital and human skill.

The paramount significance of S.S.I. has attracted the attention of economic planners and also of individual institution and organization of divergent interest, to study and analyze the various aspects of S.S.I. sector from different angle. In this study also, the S.S.I. has been given importance, especially those engaged in sports goods.