CHAPTER VI

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS AND SUGGESTIONS

6.1 Findings

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6.1 FINDINGS

The term child labour signifies employment of children in gainful occupations with a view to earn an income for the family. Children are employed in more than 300 kinds of jobs such as household work, brick-making, stone breaking, selling in shops and in streets, bike repairing, garbage collecting and rag picking. Many children work on farms, plantations or in houses. The most disadvantaged sections of the society supply the vast majority of child labour.

Children are employed in developed, developing and underdeveloped countries. The highest incidence of child labour is found in the poorest countries of the world, and in the poorest regions of these countries. The picture varies across households and across regions and countries.

Child labour has been in practice in India from time immemorial. Children were helping their parents in the household and family occupation. Child labour has been necessitated by economic compulsions.

In India, the highest concentration of child labour is found in Andhra Pradesh followed by Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.
Children work for a variety of reasons. The most important is poverty. Children work to ensure the survival of their family and themselves. Though children are not well paid, they still serve as major contributors to family income in developing countries.

Asia has nearly three-fourths of the child labour in the world. According to the International Labour Organization, the minimum age of employment is 14 years. In the case of developing countries children can be employed even at a lower age.

In India, a child who does not attend a formal school is a working child. There are 11 crore children employed in India.

In India, children are employed for activities such as collection of water and fuel, household chores like taking care of younger siblings and the like.

There are broadly four kinds of child labour: (a) those who work in factories, workshops and mines, (b) Children who are under bondage to their employers, (c) street children and (d) Children who work as part of family labour in agriculture, industry, home-based work and the like.

The various causes for child labour include poverty, migration, gender discrimination and criminality.
Children are exploited in India in industries such as textiles, match manufacturing, building construction, hotels and the like. Children are not employed in organized industries. They are employed in unorganized sectors.

Children employed in hazardous occupations such as match manufacturing, stone crushing, building constructions, hotels and restaurants, handlooms, diamond polishing and like are exposed to bad effects on their personality development and normal activities.

Among the industries employing children in India, carpet-weaving industry tops the list with the largest contingent of child labour followed by silk and cotton hosiery industries.

In India, the Factories Act, 1948, prohibits employment of children below the age of 14 years.

According to the Mines Act, 1952, children up to 15 years should not be employed in mines.

The Plantation Labour Act, 1951, prohibits the employment of children below the age of 12 years in plantations. No adolescent person between the age of 15 and 18 can be allowed to work in any plantation, unless he is certified fit to work by a qualified surgeon.

The Merchant Shipping Act, 1958, prohibits the employment of young persons below the age of 18 years in shipping.
The Motor Transport Workers Act, 1961, prohibits the employment of children below the age of 15 years in any motor transport undertaking.

Bidi and Cigar Workers (Conditions and Employment) Act, 1966, prohibits the employment of children below the age of 14 years in bidi and cigar industry.

According to Article 24 of the Indian Constitution, a child below the age of 14 years should not be employed in any work in any factory or mine in any hazardous employment.

Children in India are legally permitted to work in small scale industries though there are supposed to be restrictions on their employment in hazardous work.

The Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act came into force towards the latter half of 1986. It listed particular processes in cotton industries as being banned for children below the age of fourteen years and with the provision that such a ban would not apply to those children working as part of family or to those working in any state-funded or state-supported institutions.

From the analysis of the Census Report on child labour in India, it is found that the child labour has been declining every decade by 2,98,801.
According to The Supreme Court of India, Employers of child labour shall have to pay a compensation of Rs. 20,000 as per the provisions of the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986, for every child employed.

According to estimated population data of NSS Report No. 515, year 2001, The total child labour in Gujarat State were 3,99,820 out of which 86,130 lived in urban area and 3,13,700 lived in rural area.

In order to study the problems of child labour in the diamond industry in selected cities of Gujarat, a survey were conducted among 400 child labourers in Surat, Bhavnagar, Amreli and Rajkot cities of Gujarat State where there is a concentration of Diamond Industry. The random sampling technique was adopted for the collection of the 400 samples.

Among the child labour in the diamond industry of Gujarat, a majority (69.25 %) are above 12 yeas.

All the respondents’ child labour of the diamond industry of Gujarat are male.

Almost all the child labour in the diamond industry of Gujarat (99.75 %) are Hindus.

Nearly 60 percent of the child labour in the diamond industry (59.50 %) belongs to forward communities.
50 percents of the child labour in the diamond industry have studied up to fifth standard only.

A majority of the child labour in the diamond industry (84.50%) gets less than Rs.2000/- as monthly income.

Nearly 50 per cent of the child labourers in the diamond industry (49.25%) have 4 to 6 members in their family.

A majority of the households in the diamond industry (48 percents) have monthly income between Rs. 3001 to Rs. 6000.

A majority of the child labour in the diamond industry (81.50%) have gone to work before 12 years of age.

Among the various reasons for dropping out of schools by the child labour in the diamond industry, poverty tops the list with 39.25 per cent followed by the indebtedness of the family and other compulsions.

Two-thirds of the child labourers (68.50%) have worked in the diamond industry for less than 2 years.

Almost all the child labour (98 %) in the diamond industry are appointed on temporary basis only.

Nearly three-fourth of the child labour in the diamond industry of Gujarat (73.25 %) work for 8 hours only a day.

All most all the child labour in the diamond industry (99 %) are paid on the piece rate basis.
Nearly, two-third of the child labour in the diamond industry (61.25%) earned up to Rs.300/- per month when they entered the job.

49 percent of the Parents of the child Labour in the Diamond Industry are skilled workers.

Nearly, two-third of child labour in the diamond industry (62 %) lives in rented house.

Three-fourth of the household of child labour in the diamond industry (75.40 %) pays more than Rs.301/- as monthly rent.

64.50 per cent of the households of child labour in the diamond industry have two rooms in their houses.

95.50 per cent of the households in the diamond industry have electricity facility in their houses.

More than one half of the households in the diamond industry (55.75 %) do not have protected water supply tap connection in their houses.

Socio-economic conditions have been analyzed by taking various social and economic factors. There is a significant relationship between income of the household and education of the children.

There is a significant relationship between the community of the child labour and the education of the child labour.

There is a no significant relationship between the size of the family and the community of child labour.
There is no significant relationship between the age of the child labour and the income earned by them.

There is a significant relationship between the experience of the child labour and the income earned by the child labour.

There is a significant relationship between the income of the family of the child labour and the income earned by the child labour.

Regarding the analysis of opinion of child labour, there is a significant relationship between the age of the child labour and the level of their opinion on child labour.

All respondents are male in the diamond industry of Gujarat, so it is concluded that there is no significant relationship between the sex of the respondents and their level of opinion on child labour.

Almost all the respondents (99.75 %) are Hindus in the diamond industry of Gujarat so, it is concluded that there is no significant relationship between the religion of the respondents and their level of opinion on child labour in diamond industry of Gujarat.

There is a significant relationship between the community of the respondents and their level of opinion on child labour in diamond industry of Gujarat.

There is a significant relationship between the educational qualification of the respondents and their level of opinion on child labour in diamond industry of Gujarat.
There is a significant relationship between the monthly income of the respondents and their level of opinion on child labour in diamond industry of Gujarat.

There is no significant relationship between the numbers of members in the family of child labour and their level of opinion on child labour in diamond industry of Gujarat.

There is no significant relationship between the households’ monthly income and their level of opinion on child labour in the diamond industry of Gujarat.

There is a significant relationship between the age of entry as child labour and their level of opinion on child labour in the diamond industry of Gujarat.

There is a significant relationship between the experience of respondents and their level of opinion on child labour in the diamond industry of Gujarat.

There is a significant relationship between the level of opinion and the methods of wage payment to child labour in the diamond industry of Gujarat.
6.2 SUGGESTIONS

1. Child labour is a crime that should be totally eliminated. However, it is necessary to realize that it cannot be eradicated overnight. It is true that child labourers help their families to get an additional income through their hard work. This does not mean that they should be allowed to work always. Hence, the parents are to be compelled to send their children to schools. Compulsory primary education with good quality should also be provided to solve this social evil.

2. The major cause for the existence of child labour is poverty. Therefore, the abolition of child labour is not favored by the parents of child labourers. Abolition of child labour will reduce family income. The Government spends thousands of crores in 'poverty alleviation', but only a meager amount reaches the targeted groups. Hence, effective measures are to be taken to see that the child labourers' families get the benefits of poverty alleviation programmes due to them.

3. The researcher observed that the large families are one of the reasons for the poor economic condition of the families. Hence, necessary steps should be taken by the Government to educate the parents regarding the small family norm. When the family is small, the needs of the family will be reduced. Consequently the children can be sent to school.
4. Since the unskilled and uneducated parents are more in number, the children are sent to work instead of to learn. The researcher strongly feels that unless primary education is made compulsory, it is not possible to eradicate child labour. Further, a committee comprising of headmasters and village leaders should be constituted to confirm that the children are not allowed to drop out of the schools till they attain 14 years of age. Vocational education will help to sustain the interest in learning and reduce the need for dropping out of schools. Further, the Government should adopt the norm "bringing schools to children rather than bringing children to schools".

5. A majority of the working children had been to school but dropped out before they completed the fifth standard. This is because of the unemployment of educated youth. These children are frustrated when they observe educated young people elder to them remaining jobless. The Government should take necessary steps to teach the parents regarding self employment and entrepreneurship. This will make the children continue their studies.

6. The researcher has observed that the children's income is very much needed for the households to supplement their economic needs. Hence, the Government should have an idea of employment for at least one member in every family.
7. The basic objective of the legal and constitutional provisions is to completely prevent child labour in hazardous employment and regulate it in non-hazardous employments. For that inspectors from the local labour office should go for regular inspection and the Government must take legal action against those who employed child.

6.3 TOPICS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

1. A comparative study of problems child labour in Diamond and other industries in Gujarat.

2. Impact of child labour on the psychology of children.

3. A study on the health hazards of child labour.