PREFACE AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

It is clear that the practice of child labour in the society would deprive the child of his basic human rights; his right to education and learning; his right to entertainment and interact with peers as also his right to enjoy the beauty of the world around him and to develop a rounded personality. The children drawn to the labour force are not themselves choosing to work at such an early age. They are rather compelled to join the labour force against their will by certain familial and social circumstances. The circumstances which bring the minor children to work in the labour force can be characterized as socioeconomic compulsion such as poverty, unemployment of the adult family members etc.

The present study has been conducted in the urban localities of Gujarat state. The study focuses mainly on the factors, which compel the children to adopt occupational roles at a tender age. This study is based on primary data collected from 400 working children in Diamond Industry of Gujarat state.
The study contains six chapters. The first chapter deals with the introduction, and the design of the study. The second chapter deals with child labour in India and Gujarat. The third chapter examines the profile of child labour in the Diamond industry in Surat, Bhavnagar, Amreli and Rajkot cities of Gujarat state. The fourth chapter analyses the socio-economic conditions and reasons for child labour in the Diamond industry in Surat, Bhavnagar, Amreli and Rajkot cities of Gujarat state. The fifth chapter analyses the opinions of child labour in the above mentioned cities of Gujarat state. While the sixth chapter presents the summary of findings and the suggestions.

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