CHAPTER IX

SUGGESTIONS AND CONCLUSIONS
The Prevalence of child labour in any form is a curse and at the same time it is a socio-economic evil. The practice of child labour is as old as the history of mankind itself. The definition of child labour varies from one act to another depending upon the seriousness of the problems of children working in a particular employment. Demand for child labour is rampant due to vast demand for manpower and capitalistic mode of production.

Child labour can be frequently be found in the unorganized sectors which are widely located and can easily ignore legal restrictions. The empirical research on child labour shows their condition of work at the place of their employment specially in unorganized sector. they work for long hours with low wages. The parents who are poverty stricken generally send their children for work.

A study of some of the districts of U.P. has been brought to light the plight of migrant child labour in U.P. is grave and serious. The incidence in the districts also varies from one district to another district. It is highest in Allahabad, Moradabad, Bareilly, Mathura and Kanpur.
Child labour are mostly found in unorganized sectors in various types of occupations. According to survey conducted by D.P.E.P. and S.S.A. the literacy rate in U.P. increased as in year 2006-07 amounted to 7.86 lakhs, 2007-08, 4.56 lakhs and 2008-09, 3.02 lakhs. (Acc. To figures it has decreased.)

The problem of child labour is global phenomenon. Even today it is not confined to the third world countries. It is more or less prevalent everywhere in the world. It is saddening to rate that India is the largest employer of child labour in the world. In most of districts of U.P. the figures indicate that female child are not being sent to school, their reduction in the number is higher than the children enrolled in schools.

Child labour is a cause and consequence of exploitative system. Mass poverty and illiteracy are the breeding grounds for child labour system. Besides it, child labour is also linked with socio-economic, political apathy and ineffective or non-enforcement of legislation etc.

In chapter no. 6 we examined the family milieu of the working children in unorganized sector in Kanpur. The meager income earned by their parents is not sufficient to meet both ends in such hard days as these. The main occupations of the working children in unorganized sector are
as helper, agent, domestic work, rag picking, service etc. they do the unstable casual work for which they get poor wages. They work under harsh conditions that become dangerous. Female child labour can easily seen as domestic servants or they are working along with people running their business from home. In Kanpur, there are services for children rendered by voluntary agencies and government. But this is not sufficient to handle the problem. Still much more is to be done in this regard.

International agencies like ILO, WTO, UNICEF, UNESCO are making every possible effort to eradicate this problem. The ILO has adopted 18 conventions and 16 recommendations with regard to child labour so far. Even though India has ratified almost all the ILO conventions on child labour, no concrete measures and machinery has been adopted to curb this problem. Voluntary agencies are doing better in this field but lack of funds and other difficulties always hamper their functioning.

Our constitution embodies certain provisions for children’s welfare. Articles 15, 23, 24, 39, 43, 45 and 47 all are related to children’s rights. The first legislation to it was passed in 1881. Before independence the acts were passed by the then government such as the child labour act 1933, employment of child act 1938 and many more Acts after
independence were passed by our government such as the factories act, 1948. The mines Act 1952, Plantation Labour Act 1951, the Merchant Shipping Act 1958, Motor Transport Workers Act 1951, Bidi Cigar Workers Act 1966 and the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act 1986. Due to loop-holes in the Act, corruption, and weak government machinery it resulted in poor enforcement of these acts. At the same time it is also a reality that even with the strongest of legislation and most efficient implementation machinery, child labour cannot be eradicated over night.

In our country, the service for children in distress has emanated from religious, revolutionary and legal efforts. But not much has been done looking at the severity of the problem.

In Kanpur, there are services for children rendered by voluntary agencies and government. Some of them are as follows-

(1) In the voluntary agencies, category the orphanages, children's home and balwadis are run on public and private financial assistance. The government gives grants – in – aid to such institutions and public gives donations.
(2) Since August 1975, integrated child development services (ICDS) scheme has been launched which has opened anganwadis for the needy children of the slums, Harijan and poor localities.

(3) Harijan Samaj Kalyan Kendra of the government of Uttar Pradesh runs Balwadis for Harijan Children.

(4) Municipal corporation has its own Balwadis under its child development scheme.

These services are mainly meant for the children below 6. Working children in unorganized sector are deprived of all such services. So special attention is required for growing children. Some suggestions are as follows:

The convention on the rights of the child negotiated by a human rights commission working group for ten years was adopted by the United States General Assembly on November 22, 1989. The convention consists of fifty-four articles covering civil, political, economic, social, cultural and survival rights.

**Civil Rights**

Under the convention include the right to a name and nationality, protection from torture and maltreatment.
**Economic Rights**

It consists of the right to benefit from social security, the right to a standard of living which are adequate enough to ensure proper development and protection from exploitation at work.

**Social Rights**

It comprises the right to be highest attainable standard of health and access to medical services, the right to special care of handicapped children, protection from abduction and sexual exploitation and the regulation of adoption.

**Cultural Rights**

These are made up of the right to education, access to appropriate information, recreation and leisure, and participation in artistic and cultural activities.

**Survival Rights**

The fundamental rights to survival, protection and development must be guaranteed by providing them with certain good or services, by shielding them from certain acts and practices, and by granting them the opportunity to express themselves.

Despite these solemn goals accomplished by United Nations Human Rights Commission and the specialized
agencies concerned, progress in translating these principles into practical reality is proving slow and uneven.

Keeping this in view some policy suggestions have been framed out. The condition of children working in unorganized sector is precarious in all dimensions of life – civic, economic, social and cultural. In order to improve the conditions of these children there is need for integrated approach to understand the needs and problems of the children working in unorganized sector. Any plan of action must keep this fact in mind that the working children in unorganized sector should be involved more and more in number –

(1) **Education and Training**

It is not only a basic human right, it is also a key factor for social progress. More over illiteracy resulting in lack of education and training is also one of the major cause for the poor condition of working children. The government can take following steps –

(a) Government should provide equal opportunity for working children of both sex at all levels of education and training and on a formal and informal basis.
(b) Education training and employment strategies should be coordinated such as to ensure present and future needs of working children.

(c) Government school buildings, libraries, etc. can be utilized to hold evening and holiday schools.

(d) Extending the educational services of Anganwadi, Balwadi or such other schools to cover these children.

(e) With parallel to the efforts of the government, all social institutions such as cooperatives, voluntary organizations and enterprises should be fully utilized to overcome illiteracy.

(f) Young people could be staffed to teach working children.

(g) Free education should be provided and efforts should be made to provide text books and other essentials free of charge.

(h) Vocational programmes should be accessible for working children in unorganized sector that can enable them to have a wide choice of employment opportunities. So, that they can choose a carrier according to their attitudes and abilities.
(i) Formal and non-formal educational programmes should be launched to change the perception of working children of the general public, parents, teachers and others and make them aware of the needs to provide to the working children.

(j) The employers can also combinedly setup non-formal schools under their supervision in the building of any of the employers where the child workers serving under them can study.

(k) NGO's with potential resources to be contacted and induced to take up programmes for working children like setting up holiday schools, part time training, sponsoring talented children, holding recreational meets, arranging excursion camps etc.

(l) Providing morning or evening part time training.

(2) **Protection**

To protect the child from undue exploitation and treatment, the government has come out with a new child labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act 1987 and a National Policy on child labour envisaging a legal action plan.

(3) **Employment Opportunities**

Special efforts should be made to create a variety of economic roles encourage and support self employment and
self help activities Government should seek new sources of self help activities.

(4) **Health Care**

Adequate nutrition is of fundamental importance for the physical and mental development of the individual. Working children often experience a greater degree of malnutrition because they lack resources to get nutritive diet. In order to improve their health, nutrition and other social services essential to a general improvement in the quality of life. Some of the measures are as follows which can improve health of working child-

(a) Simple community health services could be developed in which the community identifies its own health needs and develops primary health care services that are easily accessible to every member of the community, with special provisions for working children.

(b) Separate wings can be opened at the public hospitals exclusively for the working children.

(c) The existing schools and health care units of the corporation and municipal bodies are to be used to introduce educational and health care services for these children.
(d) The employers can be made to introduce health services programmes for these working children who work at their organizations.

(e) Mobile clinics and medical teams should make periodic visits to working children and their working places.

(f) Programme should be formulated for improved nutrition, sanitation and child health care.

(g) Improved, easily accessible, safe water supplies, sewage disposal and other sanitation measures should be provided to the families living in urban slums.

(h) Free health camps should be organized by NGO’s.

(5) **Safety**

Due to the lack of countervailing power, children are often exploited by their employers with unduly long hours of work, hazardous working conditions and other undesirable practices. The govt. therefore, rightly recognizes the use of child labour as dangerous and harmful physically—socially and psychologically.

(6) **Wages**

(a) Small children are easily exploited by employers on ground of wages. By paying them abysmally low
wages. At least they can be paid equally as an adult worker are paid for their work.

(b) Provisions for weekly leave with wages should be regulated and implemented by the employers.

(c) The government should regulate provisions for provident fund and other social security benefits.

(d) Provision for some saving schemes be made compulsory.

(7) Poverty Alleviation

(1) The problem of child labour is directly connected with the poverty and illiteracy of Indian masses. There should be every possible effort on the part of government and NGO’s to eliminate this problem.

(2) For this poverty alleviation and developmental programmes such as NREP, IRDP, DPAT, RLGEP, TRYSEM, EAS, JRY etc. should be effectively worked out and the beneficiaries of these programmes must be those poor families who have child labourer. There should be a close understanding among the planners bureaucrats and political leaders. There activities should be coordinated not at the planning level but also upto evolution stage.
(3) Government should implement such action plans in the areas where child labour concentration is much higher.

(8) **Counseling**

Competent personnel should do counseling in order to identify the unique problem of each individual. The ultimate aim of counseling is to prepare the children psychologically to lead a worthy and meaningful life in future.

The services of retired teachers, lureaucrats, social workers can be had on voluntary basis for the purpose.

(9) **Orientation**

The orientation of children is to be done on new lines of possible vocation. The purpose of orientation is to equip them for choices of vocation in future.

(10) **Alternative Employment for Parents**

The process of rehabilitation is not only pursued among child labourers at the individual level but also at the level of family which involves children at work and to create employment for elders.

(11) **Good Working Condition**

Employers should ensure proper and good working conditions for children working in their sectors. Such as –
proper light, water, leuatroces sanitation and proper rest place during working hours.

OTHER MEASURES

(12) Industrialists, business houses, philanthropic bodies, missionaries, organizations trust bodies and the like are to be approached with different programmes for the children working in unorganized sector.

(13) Students and teachers of colleges and universities can be recruited to render services in their free time.

(14) Retired persons and housewives have been found to be eager to render voluntary services for the welfare of working children.

(15) The group insurance scheme as run in the organized sectors for adult workers can be introduced for children working in unorganized sectors.

(16) Mass media can be utilized to create awareness among the public about the problem of children working in unorganized sector.

(17) Service clubs, like rotary club, lion’s club and the welfare bodies like Ram Krishna Mission, Bharat Sevasram are to be contacted and encouraged to take up programmes for the children working in unorganized sector.