Chapter: VI

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

VI.1. Summary
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"The principle of ‘all children, all rights’ is still much too far from being reality”.

----------------- Kofi Annan

VI.1. Summary:

Household Industries have an important place in India’s industrial development. Household industries are generally associated with agriculture and allied with rural social and economic perspective. Prior to the beginning of the colonial rule i.e. 1757, rural based household industries enjoyed an important position in India’s rural economy. At that time India was a leading nation exporting silk fabrics, ivory works, handicrafts etc. to different parts of the world. During 1857 to 1925 the rural industries mostly declined because of the unfavourable policy of the British rule. From 1925 to 1947, efforts for the revival of rural industries were made under the guidance and leadership of Mahatma Gandhi. The “Swadeshi” movement had helped much. After independence new era of development of rural industrialization has emerged in which planned efforts are being made for their rapid development in the context of an all round economic development with active Government support and involvement.

The term "industry" refers mainly to manufacturing activity. Agriculture, mining, and most other services are excluded from it. “Household Industry” was defined as an industry ran by the head of the household himself/herself and/or by the members of the household at home or within the village in rural areas, and only within the premises of the house where the household lived in urban areas. The larger proportion of workers in a household industry should consist of members of the household including the head of the family. The main criterion of a household industry is the participation of one or more members of a household. This criterion is applied in urban areas too. As per the definition of Census of India 1991 “A person who is engaged in production, servicing, repairing or making and selling of articles or goods such as handloom, weaving, dyeing, carpentry, beedi rolling, pottery manufacturing, cycle repairing, blacksmiths, tailoring etc. in any unit which is conducted by the head of the household himself/ herself and/ or by the members of the household at home within the village in the rural areas and only within the precincts of home in case of urban areas”.

Murshidabad district has a historical significance in case of household industry. During ancient period, rural based household industries and crafts were admired by the Hindu emperors as well as the Nababs. Murshidabad was famous for ivory and sandal wood craft, Shola pith, Silk sari, Jute, Sankha, Bell-metal and brass utensils. The silk was famous in the name of ‘Murshidabad Silk’. But now, the district has lost its glory. Ivory work has been completely abolished and other renowned household and cottage industries are in dying stage. But now, beedi industry is flourishing during last three decades and the centre is Jangipur Sub-Division of this district. Loss of agricultural land due to the Ganga erosion and Farakha barrage feeder canal, easy availability of labour and minimum requirement of skill have made the industry more popularized.

According to 2001 Census 7.30% people are engaged in Household Industry in West Bengal, where in case of Murshidabad district the percentage is 20.42% (out of 20.42% workers 7.23% are male and 64.66% are female). The district has been placed first position in West Bengal in case of workforce engaged in the Household Industry. At the beginning of the last decade, a substantial amount of agricultural land of the study area had been smashed as a result of the Ganga (river) erosion. Then people became land-less and dropped their interest in agriculture. As a result, these people caught beedi rolling for means of subsistence. The census statistics also reveals that the percentage of agricultural labourer had decreased by 14.52% during 1991 – 2001, whereas the percentage of household workers had increased by 6.73% during that period. Beedi is a labour intensive household industry which requires minimum skill and there is abundant of labour, so beedi rolling became popularized and recognized as major livelihood option. So, the present study concentrates on beedi industry only.

Beedi, deemed to be the “poor man's cigarette” or the “poor man’s smoke” in India, is made by rolling about 0.2 grams of tobacco flakes pouring to a tendu leaf. In India, about 34 per cent of tobacco consumption is in the form of beedi. Smokers, mainly in the low-income categories, consume beedi. The size of the market for beedi is much bigger than the market for cigarette. Beedi primarily caters for the domestic market although it is also exported in small quantities. The manufacturing of beedi is a highly labour intensive process. Apart from earning revenue for the State, this industry generates substantial employment. In the beedi industry, a large number of
unregistered and home-based enterprises exist with factory-based manufacturing enterprises.

The beedi industry has long back history of shifting from factory based production to home based production and the total production system in the study area is the only home based industry. The factory owner (the principal employer) is able to use the labour of whole family as workers by using this system, and in the meantime, he can evade the strictures passed on the establishments by the Factories Act. In this way, he is free from any obligation towards his labour, while exploiting them to the maximum. In general, the principal employer operates through a number of middlemen called ‘Munshi’. In this system, workers are being supplied raw-materials through Munshi and all the family members including children contribute their labour to roll maximum number of beedis. This ensures more income; it is two times more than their natural production ability only because division of labour. And children gradually become efficient worker as they are also involved in the process with their elder family members most of the time. The female members of a house take a vital role in the home based process of production. Normally a worker requires 4 to 5 hours time for production of 800 beedis, but it totally depends on efficiency of the worker.

Child Labour has become one of the main issues of political and academic discourse in last two decades. This has led to critical debates on the approach to the issue. During the 90’s there has been a debate on the definition of child labour that spans the range from all work done by a child being considered as child labour to a narrow concept, which takes in to account only exploitative, hazardous employment of children. This debate on the definition of child labour has led to the difference between ‘Child Work’ and ‘Child Labour’. The term Child Labour is more common than the Child Work. Children are engaged in varying forms of activities ranging from helping to the domestic work; work in the household enterprise or farm, to wage work. All these works are not necessarily fall under hazardous categories. The Ministry of Labour, Government of India has employed the term ‘child labour’ only in the context of children doing ‘hazardous’ work. By implication, children who are not doing ‘hazardous’ work are not considered to be the child labourers and are said to be child worker. The Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 can only protect the children with age group 5 – 14 engaged in hazardous industries. However this problem can be solved from the Child Rights perspective. Though there is a
debate between the two term Child Labour and Child Work but now this is well established that children engaged either in hazardous job or not, or they may be paid any wages/incentives or not, or they may be engaged either on casual basis or regular basis if their work challenge the basic rights of the children that must be Child Labour or Child Work – which may be the term. The present study is only concerned about the ‘child workers’ irrespective of their nature of work i.e. hazardous or not; mode of engagement i.e. regular or casual and status of wages i.e. payee or unpaid.

The Census and the National Sample Survey are the two major official sources of data on child employment. According to Census of India, 2001, there were 12.26 million working children in the age group of 5-14 years as compared to 11.3 million in 1991 revealing an increasing trend in absolute numbers though the work participation rates of children (5-14) has come down from 5.4 percent during 1991 to 5 percent during 2001. 36.43 lakh children in the age group of 5-14 years are working in non-agricultural sector in the country, out of which 12.19 lakh children are working in hazardous occupations. More than 2.5 lakh children are associated with Pan (Beetle leaf), Beedi and Cigarette industries. A survey conducted by the Murshidabad Authority for Elimination of Child Labour (1996 and 1999) has estimated that there are 88,000 child workers in beedi industry alone. As per the study of Jasodhara Bagchi and Ashim Mukhopadhyay, there were more than 3 lakhs beedi workers in Murshidabad district of which 2.5 lakhs in Jangipur Sub-Division. Of these total 3 lakhs beedi workers 65% were women, 20% male and 15% were children.

The centre’s income as cess in 1988-89 was Rs.1.17 crores, which increased to Rs.1.26 crores in 1989-90 and Rs.1.38 crores in 1990-91. In 1999, the Indian beedi industry generated Rs.165 million as excise and Rs.200 million as foreign exchange revenue for the Indian Government, Rs.50 – Rs.55 crores had been collected as excise duty in the last financial year only in Murshidabad district. This collection was made mainly from 25 big beedi companies of Jangipur Sub-Division of Murshidabad district.

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1 Child labour in beedi industry, Murshidabad district in W. Bengal by Jasodhara Bagchi, Ashim Mukhopadhyay, Jadavpur University, School of Women Studies, 1996.

2 Raj RD.Beady-eyed giants take aim at India’s beedi industry. Asia Times online (Hong Kong), India Pakistan; 2000.
The present study entitled ‘Child Workers in Household Industry: A Study of Beedi Industry in Murshidabad District of West Bengal’ has some unique features. The characteristics as well as dimensions of the problem are different from the ‘child labour’; as emerged in various studies. It is beyond the periphery of the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986. The existing Laws, Legislation and Government Policies are not able to specifically target these types of child workers. The problems of beedi rolling child workers are multi dimensional. These types of child workers are not fully involved in the economic processes as other labourer neglecting all kinds of child rights. These child workers are not paid any wages directly, though their services contribute a lot to their family income. They are not necessarily out of schools or school dropouts. These child workers are going to school and they roll beedi simultaneously; when they grow up, work load increases, the regularity in school attendance decreases. Work load compels them to bunk schools and resulting in dropouts from schools. Some of these working children are also admitted in the Child Labour Schools under National Child Labour Projects (NCLP), but they also continue their existing work (beedi rolling). The picture is very distinct in case of girl children. These child workers are involved in the activity at their home and side by side trying to continue their schooling, play and leisure. So, without having gross negligence to all kind of child rights, laws and legislation, these children are carrying their work. The magnitude of exploitation is also different from other types of child labours. Economic exploitation is very much predominated, but it has no direct impact on child workers, rather it affects the family as a whole. But other exploitation in terms of social and sexual harassment in the working environment as well in the households are also been noticed. Besides this, health, education and social security are also neglected. Girl children are the worst sufferer. The study has been conducted to know the nature and extent of beedi industry and its impact on socio-economic condition of the study area. The main focus is to enumerate the effect of beedi rolling as well as magnitude of exploitation of the working children engaged in beedi rolling. It also tries to put some feasible recommendation in order to minimize the problem of working children through this study.
Each research study has its own specific purpose, so every research study has its objectives. The objectives of this study are furnished below:

I. To study the nature and extent of beedi industry in the district of Murshidabad and its impact on the Socio-economic condition of the study area.

II. To enumerate the effects of beedi rolling on health and education of working children in particular and family in general.

III. To reckon the magnitude of exploitation of the children engaged in beedi industry.

IV. To suggest some feasible Policy Measures and Action Plan to minimise the problem of working children in beedi industry.

The present study was unveiled through six chapters. Chapter I consists of Introduction; includes various concepts, about the study in the perspective of the country and the district, relevance and objective of the study. Chapter II consists of Review of Literature; includes summary of the same type of research study already conducted. Chapter III consists of Research Methodology; includes research design, techniques and tools applied in the study. Chapter IV consists of demographic features of the District and Study area; includes history, geography and other important features of the district as well as the study area. Chapter V consists of Results and Discussion; includes analysis and interpretation of the primary data collected from the field. Chapter VI consists of Summary and Conclusion; includes summary of the study and suggests some feasible Policy measures and action plan in order to minimize the problem of working children. Chapter VII consists of Bibliography.

To conduct the study, Murshidabad district of the State of West Bengal had been selected purposively. Two blocks namely, Suti-II and Samserganj under Jangipur Sub-Division of the district had been chosen on the basis of highest concentration of the beedi industry and data has been collected from four villages, two villages from each block through some structured questionnaire during the year 2003 – 2004. Out of these four villages two villages from each block, namely, Arajinapara, and Kishorpur are marked as Least Developed with low literacy rate, poor health status and poor accessibility of basic amenities and Devipur and Jaladipur are marked
as Most Developed villages having comparatively a better status. As per research design, one Muslim dominated village has come from both the category i.e. most developed and least developed village. Similarly, one Hindu dominated village has also come from the said two categories. It is very interesting to observe that the socio-economic conditions as well education status of the villages of least developed categories are more or less same irrespective of religion. So, it may be resolved that underdevelopment does not necessarily depend on religion. But the magnitude of child workers in beedi industry is prevalent irrespective of religion as well as categories of villages also.

From various studies it is revealed that poverty is the root cause of child work. It appears from the present study that all the households including the sample households in the study area are engaged in the beedi rolling activity and children of these households are also directly or indirectly involved in the process to support their family economically. So, there is no debate with the content of the present study. But, it is also noticed that the beedi rolling processes are carried out in all the households irrespective of the economic status of the households; even in the households of teacher and people representative. Now, beedi rolling activity in this area becomes a social phenomenon than an economic consequence and this social scenario stimulates children to be adopted within the process. So, considering the role of poverty towards child workers, the role of social customs cannot be ignored also.

Murshidabad is a backward district. The district placed 15th among 18 districts in West Bengal as per HDI list. The district is dominated by Muslim community with 63.67%, highest among 18 districts in W.B. The population density is maximum (1101 as per 2001 Census) and highest in Samserganj block. Literacy rate is 55.5% (female literacy rate is 48.33%), poor in comparison to National (65.38%) and State (69.22%) levels. Sex ratio is 952, better than National (933) and State (934) as per 2001 census.

The sample villagers are economically deprived of average income ranging from Rs.1000/- to Rs.2000/-, whereas average expenditure is higher than income, so a gap has been observed and to meet up this gap, people have no other opportunity to borrow money from the local money lenders including Munshi. 90% of surveyed households are landless and wage labour (51%) is the main livelihood option, beedi
rolling stands second. In 45% cases beedi rolling is the main income source of sample households. Half (51%) of the sample households earn less than Rs.500/- per head per month from beedi rolling. Flood, Ganga erosion, illiteracy, underdevelopment, migration, poor health and sanitation and uncontrolled birth rate are some of the adversely affected factors in the study area. Actually these are part of a vicious circle. But, the tragedy is only 15% household has been earmarked as BPL by the Government. Overall health status of the study area is unsatisfactory with average 78% people suffering in cold, cough and influenza followed by joint and back pain, stomach problem and breathing problem. Working children are easily infected by various health problems as well as have mental pressures and behave like an adult at their early childhood. Children are mainly suffering from stomach disorder and ENT problems. Poor sanitation (71% households have no sanitary latrine), unhygienic living and working conditions, early marriage, high growth rate and poor family planning (only 16% taken up family planning initiatives) make the situation more horrible. It is resulted that only 70% boys and 73% girls are enrolled in Schools, among them 28% boys and 54% girls are also engaged in beedi rolling simultaneously. It is revealed that Children from 32% households are out of schools of which 21% are dropouts and 11% never enrolled. Among dropouts, girls (45%) are in comparatively better position than boys (55%). On the other hand, among enrolled children, a commendable number of children are irregular in schools due to beedi rolling and the practice is continuing with the silent support from their parent’s end. Children those are enrolled in the Child Labour School under NCLP (2000 children in 40 schools), are also engaged in beedi rolling. Unexpectedly, more than 30% parents still think that beedi rolling does not hamper the education of children. Out of total children, 23% children are engaged in beedi rolling and the figure rises up to 40% (26% girls and 14% boys), if below 6 years’ children are not taken into consideration. It is derived from the study that 92% girls in the age group 10 - 14 years are involved in beedi rolling and the figure is almost doubled for boys (56%) in the same age group. More than 60% child workers are rolling beedi for 4 – 6 hours per day. The main factor behind the children engaged in beedi rolling is the poor economic status (78%) of their homes, but other factors e.g. less possibility of getting other alternative work, needs minimum requirement of education and skill etc. cannot be ignored at all. Girl children especially teenagers are engaged in beedi rolling to collect money for their marriage purpose, whereas boys for their pocket money. It is also coming out
that children have come into beedi rolling profession to maintain his / her own education expenditures.

In the question of harassment and exploitation, child workers are the worst sufferer. They are suffering both physically and mentally from the Munshi as well as from their family. Normally, child workers are not paid for their work as their parents who are enlisted in the register of Munshi. So, their work is fully devoted for their family against the cost of their childhood. They have been deprived from education, play and other child rights. On the other hand, they are also deprived from all kinds of labour facilities. These working children (especially boys) are easily addicted with beedi smoking. Above all, girl child harassment including sexual harassment has also been reported (Anandabazar Patrika, a Bengali Daily dated 22.08.2011.). The unhygienic environment at home and working condition make the situation most unfavourable for the children. There are various Acts, Policies and Programmes to protect the interest of children, but the condition remains unchanged and it will be continued till the problem to be considered as a social problem in general and the family in particular.

Observations:

- Beedi is mainly household industry and totally handmade. There is no such technology and machine for beedi rolling. Kendu leaf, Tobacco and Label (Packet) are the main raw-materials for beedi. Kendu leaf mainly available from UP, Chhattisgarh, AP, Maharashtra and Orissa. Whereas tobacco comes from Gujarat and Maharashtra. Label (Packet) comes from Kolkata (W.B.).

- As per 2001 Census, 55 Beedi Companies are running in the Murshidabad district and 300000 household workers are engaged in beedi rolling. Out of which more than 33 companies are situated in the Jangipur Sub-Division, of which owner of 21 companies are local. The average turnover of a beddi company varies from Rs.20 to 40 crores per year except ‘Pataka Beedi’, the annual turnover of Pataka Beedi Company is Rs.400 crores.

- About 1500 crores and 3 lakh households are directly or indirectly involved in the beedi industry alone in Jangipur Sub-Division. There is no mechanism yet to be developed to change the present situation. Government has no other alternative as supplementary of beedi rolling. SGSY and MNREGA programmes are not successful in order to change the present rural livelihood pattern.
Big family size and unhygienic living condition is the common phenomena in the study area. High rate of fertility invites big family size, leads to excess worker.

The characteristics of child workers in beedi industry are totally different from other sectors. The problems of these child workers cannot be recognized separately from their household. All children are involved in the beedi rolling process with other normal activities to support their family economically and family members also accept it without any hesitation. No child worker earns separately, their service is fully contributed to their family income.

Beedi rolling is now basically a social phenomenon rather than an economic process. Households irrespective of religion, economic, education and social status are involved in the beedi rolling activity in the study area. If beedi rolling is stopped, then unemployment will increase which may invite social disorder as well.

There is a myth that beedi rolling causes tuberculosis (TB), but it has no medical base. TB is caused by droplet infection due to crowding and lack of hygiene. The survey data also supports the fact and not a single case of TB had been found from sample households due to beedi rolling. Cases are found due to their unhygienic nature and other low calorie foods.

Beedi rolling is considered as a special skill in the market of marriage and teenage girls with this skill have a special demand. It is said that the worth of a girl is evaluated according to the number of beedis she can roll. ‘The more she rolls, the better husband she gets’. So, more and more children especially girl children are involved in the process.

Girls are actively associated with beedi rolling. They collect raw-materials, deposit finished products and also collect hapta (wages) from Munshi at the place of Munshi. On the other hand, Muslim women are conservative and unwilling to go outside their homes. But, the different picture has been noticed during present study. It occurs often that women, specially young girls, are bound to do so for receiving some extra wages and Munshi exploits them through providing such advantages. But, the incidents see the light in rare cases; the victims also do not disclose the incident due to social barriers. Though there are enough circumstantial evidences.
VI.2. Conclusion:

Children are economic assets in developing countries, particularly among rural families. Parents in rural societies are less concerned with the child rearing costs. Rather, if the net economic value of children (economic contribution of children less their consumption costs) is increasing, the demand for children could potentially be increased. It is well accepted that poverty is the root cause of children’s work. According to UN declaration that resulted from the World Summit on Social Development in Copenhagen in 1995, absolute poverty is "a condition characterized by severe deprivation of basic human needs, including food, safe drinking water, sanitation facilities, health, shelter, education and information. It depends not only on income but also on access to services." Poverty is a multidimensional phenomenon. In the Indian context it is extremely complex, as the caste system is entrenched with patriarchy and there are sharp differences in class within each caste. Low incomes mean low education, leading to again low income, thus completing the vicious circle of poverty. A study conducted by the ILO Bureau of Statistics found that “children’s work was considered essential to maintaining the economic level of households, either in the form of work for wages, or as a help in household enterprises or for household chores in order to free adult household members for economic activity elsewhere”.

There are various Acts in order to prevent child labour but gaps are also there. On the other hand, existing Laws are not enough to address the problem of working children engaged in household industries. Most of the provisions apply only to ‘industrial premises’ and not to a private dwelling house (that is, a house where the workers engaged in the manufacturing process of beedis or cigars). Apparently it will include a place not only where such persons live but also the manufacturing process is been carried out. This is a lacuna in the Factories Act, 1948 and needs to be rectified. In response to this law, the contractor system came into practice, giving employers a way out of obligations such as provident fund and bonus. After it was made mandatory in 1976 for manufacturers to issue identity cards to all workers so that they could utilize the gratuity and provident fund, the system of sale – purchase was invented where employer-employee relationship is converted into buyer-seller on paper. Secondly, The Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 is a legislation to address hazardous industrial child labour in a limited dimension under
the purview of the organized sectors of production. Thus this Act excludes a vast section of toiling children in the unorganized sectors, when 90% or more of the labour force in India is accounted to the unorganized sectors of production. Thirdly, Minimum age of Employment has been reckoned at the age of fifteen years, as established in ILO Convention No. 138; whereas Article 24 of the Indian constitution clearly states "No child below the age of fourteen years shall be employed to work in any factory or mine or employed in any hazardous employment". So, there is an imperative need to integrate all child labour laws together and create a comprehensive child labour code of India so that the dream of eradication of Child Labour can be accomplished on uniform basis throughout the country. The coverage of various labour welfare schemes under Beedi Workers Welfare Fund Act, 1976 also needs to be ensured.

Education plays a vital role to manage child workers. Kerela has paid more attention on primary education, led to a dropout rate close to 0% and literacy rate 87.72%, highest in the country. Simultaneously child work participation rate in Kerela was 0.47 as per the Census, 2001, lowest in the country. As Weiner (1991)\(^3\) pointed out that “the Kerela Government has made no special effort to spend child labour. It is the expansion of school system rather than the enforcement of labour legislation that has reduced the amount of child labour”. Expansion of school system is not enough; the primary education system should be more flexible according to the demand of children as well as local environment in order to manage the child workers and supports from Non-Government Organizations are also necessary along with the Government initiatives.

There is no suitable alternative as supplementary of beedi rolling in connection with number of people engaged and total fund involved. Various employment generating Rural Development programmes e.g. SGSY and MGNREGA are not so successful in order to change the present rural livelihood pattern. For instance, in MGNREGA in case of Suti-II block total man days created 69485 of which women participation was 2265 (3.26%) and in case of Samserganj block total man days created 88379 of which women participation was 1940 (2.20%) during 2009–10. The figure in case of Murshidabad district was 10752000 and 1028000

Woman participation in MGNREGA programme is negligible because of (i) social customs; Muslim women are not ready to work outside the home (ii) uncertainty in creation and availability of work (iii) engagement in household industry i.e. beedi rolling. So, there is no sufficient employment opportunity and people have no other alternative except beedi rolling.

Regarding elimination of child labour, the Government of India takes serious initiative as a part of global mission. The NCLP is the single largest programme in this Ministry’s activities. Apart from a major increase in the number of districts covered under the scheme, the priority of the Government in this direction is evident in the quantum jump of budgetary allocation during the 10th Plan. Government has allocated Rs. 602 crores for the Scheme during the 10th Plan, as against an expenditure of Rs.178 crores in the 9th Plan. In spite of all these, the situation has remained stagnant in terms of solutions because of the present loopholes in the legal provisioning for distinctions in types of labour and the lack of political will in State Governments to increase the age of children till 18 years for mandatory education and for abolition of child labour.

Making abolition of child labour will be a major cornerstone for India’s human development to achieve inclusive growth and ensure social justice. Free and compulsory education, food security, health care, adult employment opportunities and community based social movement with a special attention to the girl child can only manage the present problem of household based child activities. Thus there is a need of strong political will and clear idea about child rights.

VI.3. Recommendations:

Child labour is a symptom of curse in the economic and social development in India. As such, it cannot be eliminated by isolated interventions whether through law or compulsory primary education. Most of the studies on child labour thrive on the seedbed of poverty. Children work because their income is essential to the survival of the family or for themselves as they lack means of survival. Thus the protection of the child in the poor households can become a reality only by means of protecting the
entire household. Free and compulsory education, food security, health care, adult employment opportunities to poor families and community based social movement with a special attention to the girl child can only minimize the present problem of household based child activities. The present study also reveals that the problem of working children is not to be isolated from their socio-economic milieu. Child worker will not vanish overnight, employment of children is a universal phenomenon and magnitude of the problem can only be minimized through a continuous aggregative effort.

Considering the experience of the present study, it is very difficult to introduce any alternative livelihood in place of beedi rolling. Considering the present socio-economic condition of the study area, the following simple recommendations may be considered in order to mainstreaming the working children in the household based beedi rolling activities in the Murshidabad district of West Bengal.

1. All the efforts should be made to attack the problem of poverty from all sides by sincerely implementing all developmental programmes. The rural employment generation programme specially SGSY and MGNREGA to be focused and more people to be covered for providing subsidiary employment in order to manage poverty. Better convergence among various Govt. Programme is also needed in this direction.

2. Rural Infrastructure especially sanitation and communication (for backward villages) needs to be developed. The separate low cost workshed for beedi rolling may be built through infrastructure support as a component of SGSY and as a component of Corporate Social Responsibility of the Beedi Companies. All these will ensure better and hygienic living and working conditions and also protects various diseases.

3. Government programme and policy needs to be simplified in accordance with the demand and skill (education and physical) of the stakeholders. This will ensure better participation and ownership from the end of stakeholders.
4. Diversification in the current livelihood patterns to be integrated through mobilizing the local resources, application of new techniques and ensuring minimum wages for agricultural and other labourers in the rural areas.

5. The provision of family planning must be implemented strictly so that earning of the adult wage earners would suffice the needs of the family.

6. All the children should be covered under the education system. Girl children are to be focused more. Mid-day–Meal programme needs to be more regularized and this will also help to decrease dropout rates.

7. National Child Labour Projects has to be more strengthened through (i) introducing residential nature school (ii) separate infrastructure for schools and (iii) more emphasis on skill/technical training.

8. The condition of beedi workers will not be improved unless the beedi worker would not be treated as “Labourer” as per the Law.

9. Child labour elimination requires co-operation from parents, children, private agencies, voluntary agencies, industries, administrators, etc. NGOs can be more effective in the areas like advocacy, compulsory education, family planning, early marriage etc. social issues as well as implementation of Rural Development programmes. The study also reveals that the role of Trade Union is not sufficient in order to elimination of child work. Hence, the attitude of Trade Unions require adequate changes.

Diagram (No. VI.3A) showing management of elimination of child workers through three major steps e.g. compulsory education to the child workers, creates sustainable employments for the household of the child worker to tackle poverty and social awareness (Information, Education and Communication), which will also percolate to other layers and strengthen the said three steps.
Diagram No.VI.3A: Management of Child Workers through Government Programmes

Village/Society

Households of Child Worker

Child Worker

Education

Employment Generation

IEC

Elimination of Child Workers

Initiative from Govt. and Non-Govt. Organizations
Diagram No.VI.3B: Child Worker – Human Deprivation – Linkages

- Deprivation
  - Distance of School
  - Irregular in School and dropout
  - Poor quality of education
  - Irregularity in Mid-Day-Meal

- Poverty and Social Issues
  - Loopholes in various Acts and poor implementation of Laws and Legislation
  - Child Worker
    - Poor Governance
      - Lack of Political Will
      - Lack of Convergence
      - Corruption
      - Poor Monitoring
    - Minimum livelihood option
    - Food Security
    - Economic, emotional and social Exploitation
    - Poor Sanitation
  - Social and Cultural barriers
  - Low Wages and Adult unemployment
  - Lack of Social Security

- Economic and Social Exploitation
- Minimum livelihood option
These are the part from the Government, where the role of community is passive to mitigate the problem. As researcher, I realized that it is simply impossible to stop beedi rolling activity in the present context. So, my recommendation is to minimize the economic exploitation without changing the current livelihood i.e. beedi rolling in order to earn sustainable level of income, so the involvement of children to be controlled in the household based beedi rolling activity. This can be ensured by forming association of beedi rollers, called ‘Activity Cluster’, which would be developed without any support from the Government. The Activity Cluster takes the role of Munshi and this will definitely ensure maximum wages and minimize economic exploitation. In this way, economic contribution of children in the household’s income to be restricted. It is explained through the following diagram.

Another best practice is that the beedi rolling activity has to be carried out in open air space instead of closed door, which will ensure better working environment leads to better health.

Diagram No.VI.3C: Management of Child Workers through Activity Cluster of Beedi Rollers
VI.4. Future Scope of the Study:

The present study has mainly highlighted the effects of beedi rolling on health and education of working children and also trying to reckon the magnitude of exploitation of the children engaged in beedi industry. Apart from these, there are wide future scopes to address the problem of the child workers in household based beedi industry in the Murshidabad district. It appears from the present study that the problem may also be addressed from different angles e.g.

- Scope of alternative livelihoods and its effect on management of working children in beedi industry;

- To find out the loopholes in various Acts and poor implementation of Laws and Legislation in order to control the problem of child workers in beedi industry in particular and beedi workers in general;

- To understand the various social exploitations including the sexual abuse with the child workers as well as other beedi workers.