CONCLUSION

AND

SUGGESTIONS
Rapid population growth in India is by and large responsible for poor socio-economic condition, low per capita income, poverty and food insecurity. Ultimately, it gave rise to child labour, particularly among the down trodden societies/families. Child labour is one of the most challenging problems facing by the developing world at the beginning of the 21st century. Poverty, lack of education, unemployment, family break-ups, loss of bread earner, poor health, and gender inequalities highlight the need for broad-based social and economic problems that are closely linked to child labour. In Aligarh city children are engaged in all kind of activities, from household work to lock manufacturing, from construction to selling in shops and in the streets, from repairing to garbage collecting and rag-picking, besides food preparation, dish washing and serving in hotels as helper on road side eateries (Dhabas), from vendors to rickshaw pulling etc. It is concluded that in most cases they are forced to enter the labour market due to poverty and irresponsible attitude of the parents. The desire of parents to have supplementary family income to run the show, coupled with Government’s apathy and improper planning towards their education and educational facilities are also responsible for child labour in some cases. The poor statuses of households are reflected in their meagre earnings, type of houses they live, their standard of living and household environment. The households having no other source of income like land and any side business; hence have no option but to send their children to work. Household characteristics indicates that the poor economic conditions are responsible for child labour, whether for survival or to support the siblings or to willingness to get more money in hand quickly to full fill his aspirations and in some cases to meet his education fee etc.

As a result, poverty and hunger has pushed the children to work in various sectors of economy. Their parents are unable to meet the daily needs of the family from their own earnings and therefore need to have a supplementary income which comes from their children by using them as child labour. Since parents are illiterate, they do not understand the value of education and are themselves engaged in various economic activities for their livelihood, children follow the suit. It is true that if they, any how, send their child to school, not only some extra expenses will occur but the supplementary income will also stop. Therefore, until and unless a viable solution to
this crisis is found, it is the scenario of child labour not going to change because every mouth needs food at least which does not come free. Child labour, education, and poverty have been referred to as a “triangular circle,” meaning that poor children are more likely to work in developing nations and, if children have to work, then they are less likely to attend primary or secondary school, resulting in a pervasive cycle of poverty that spans generations.

Child labour results in urban unemployment as they pick up jobs meant for adults, as children are cheaper and easier to command. It may be true that child labour in a way helping their poor parents to come out of financial distress by contributing in paying rent, food, clothes, fees and books. As regards to the condition at working places, a fairly high percentage of the child labourers are engaged in job that is generally considered to be hazardous and also long duration of works on comparatively low wages without considering the stress on their.

Contrary to the general belief that, the economically weaker sections are still maintaining the long held Indian tradition of joint family system, it has been observed during the survey that most of households were living in nuclear families, may be because of the fact that they are largely uprooted people, migrated in search of livelihood from near and far flung eastern parts of the country. There homes and Juggies in prevailing slum conditions are deprived of necessities of life. Their living places are generally congested with small partitioned rooms occupied by a number of families related to one another. They share common areas for living purpose but have separate kitchens. Although, some of them do prefer to live in the joint family, which mean having a common kitchen, as they desire more free time and security. The fact that children in this study belongs to the nuclear families vindicates the idea that the economic necessity of the poor families compels the children to undertake work at early age. Wards having a larger population living below poverty line have high incidence of child labour accompanied by high drop-out ratio in school. After the detailed analysis on child labour households, it has been concluded that employees prefer children over adults in some sectors i.e. lock industry, Dhabas, domestic service etc. because they are paid less and exploited more. Low wages paid to the children give them a competitive advantage not only in the national market but also in
the international market. The children continue to work in appalling conditions and are more exploited in a number of ways. Some children are ill-treated, humiliated and even beaten, while others are looked after with parental care, which acts as incentive and motivates these young children to undertake arduous and hard work beyond their capacity for a long duration. From the above accounts it is concluded that most of the economic activities are dominated by male child workers and participation of female child workers is very low except as rag pickers and domestic workers, and majority of the workers are illiterate. A reasonable number of children have been found working in night shifts also and are not getting the weekends, being a daily wager. Long working hours may result in excessive fatigue, which stunts their growth, leading not only to injuries but also diseases, and exerts undesirable pressure on their nervous system.

The main aim of the study is to focus on the ‘Socio-economic and Structural Analysis of Child Labour Population in Aligarh city’. The problem of child labour households, however, is not just limited to larger cities. It has also seeped into medium, small cities and villages. These cities also have several spots of small and large size of child labour households located on hazardous, fragile, dangerous or polluted lands left unattended. These lands are recipients of city’s nuisances including noxious waste / garbage, waste water and industrial effluents. Aligarh city has more than 5,000 industrial units involved in the manufacturing of locks, brass-ware, brass-fittings, brass-sculptures, plastic and iron toy pistols, handicrafts, art ware, iron-bronze-zinc products, thermometer, glass etc., in which children can work more efficiently. The city has also developed as commercial center for an agricultural region – flour milling, processing of raw cotton, food products, butter etc is also carried on. There is also a boom in construction business – many multi-storied buildings, malls, apartments, shopping complexes etc are being constructed. All this is an attraction for migrants to keep moving in this city from nearby areas. The industry provides employment to many people. Different types of locks are produced and they are sent to different cities and also exported to many countries. Besides lock manufacturing, other industries are rolling mills, engineering industries, building fitting, electrical goods industries and chemical industries. For identification of child labour households
in Aligarh city the purposive sampling is used and covers whole municipal area (70 wards) of Aligarh city as the universe. Child labour is mainly because of poverty, therefore, all lower and very lower income group were selected. The quality of the family house is one of the best indicators of household poverty. City surveys were conducted during 2009-10 and on the basis of developed criteria about 25678 families who fall in the category of low and very low income were identified. The study found 16367 child labour households on the basis of purposive sampling method. Out of this 2306 child labour households are selected for the study on the basis of random sampling, taken from different wards, on the basis of concentration. All sampled households of child labour are divided into eight economic activities. The maximum numbers of child labour households during survey were engaged in lock manufacturing industries, with the percentage share of 41.28 that consist of 952 households out of 2306, followed by hotel/dhabas, rag pickers, repair workers, shopkeepers accounted for 20.16 per cent, 13.83 per cent, 8.07 per cent and 6.29 per cent respectively. The minimum percentage of households (1 per cent) engaged in domestic work, followed by rickshaw pullers 3.56 per cent and other workers (vendors, hawkers, tailors, construction workers, washer-men, painters, barbers, etc.) constitute together 5.81 per cent.

The analysis of the present study concludes that majority of respondents in Aligarh city belongs to the Muslim community (62.06 per cent). Caste-wise they largely come from other backward classes (55.07 per cent). The educational status of child labour households in all professions is very low. But it varies within economic categories in which domestic workers have lowest literacy rate and shopkeepers have highest literacy rate (49.82 per cent). About one fourth of the households are migrants, majority of them coming from rural areas of the district and have been staying here for more than 15 years and the others from outside and are relatively new. The level of standards of living of the child labour’s family is very low, due to their low income, illiteracy and large family size, among all the categories the family size of the households is larger than national average. The average family size was 6.68, in which the rag pickers have the largest family size (7.05) and domestic workers have smallest family size (5.78). Sex ratio in child labour households is 884,
which is much lower than the national average. Category wise domestic workers have highest sex ratio of 1217 female per thousand males because this category is dominated by females and the rag pickers having the sex ratio of 922 per thousand males. In the study it has been found that 60 per cent households have two working members and about 34 per cent household have more than two earning members. The highest percentage of more than two earning hands was found among rickshaw pullers (46.51 per cent) followed by other workers (41.79 per cent), workers in hotels/dhaba (38.60 per cent) and repair workers (37.64 per cent). On an average there were 2.62 workers per households in the study area. Repair workers and other workers have maximum percentage of workers per households (2.74), followed by workers in lock industries (2.71). The monthly income of the households of child labour depends upon various factors like, nature of job-skilled, semi-skilled or unskilled, duration of working hours, risk involved in the work, nature of employment - daily wage, contract or regular; etc. The average earning of the households was about Rs. 4728 from all sources and maximum monthly income (Rs. 5161) was earned by lock industries workers. Highest percentage of shop keepers are living in their own houses which were mostly pacca houses. However, maximum percentage of rag pickers (72.81) was living in slums. Largest share of personal hand pumps was found in case of shop keepers while the maximum numbers of rag pickers get their drinking water from the government hand pump. The accessibility to drinking water was found to be between 50 to 100 metres for maximum (45.71 per cent) households. For the toilet facilities the maximum households (51.99 per cent) were found to use flush followed by defecation on field (26.24 per cent) and public toilets (7.85 per cent). The share of households using service toilets and others was found to be 6.29 per cent and 7.63 per cent respectively. The maximum share of flush was found among shopkeepers (79.31 per cent) followed by other workers (64.93 per cent) and lock industries workers (58.61 per cent). The maximum percentage of LPG as a source of fuel have been observed for shopkeepers (68.97 per cent) and they are using least amount of kerosene, other fuel and wood is 3.45 per cent, 6.89 per cent and 20.69 per cent respectively. Rickshaw pullers have maximum addiction rate of smoking (87.81 per cent), chewing (90.24 per cent), drinking (43.90 per cent) and taking drugs
The rickshaw pullers have the maximum percentage of bad habits and at the same time they have the maximum percentage of almost all the diseases. More than 60 per cent of the households are suffering from malaria, 92 per cent from respiratory problem, 62 per cent from diarrhoea, 30 per cent from typhoid and 58 households are suffering from other diseases like jaundice, eye infections, cholera, chickenpox, heart pain. Nearly 50 per cent of households among all economic groups are in debt. All of them borrow the money either from money lender, their employee, relatives, friends, banks and others.

A general notion was that very poor conditions of the households contribute to the high incidence of child labour. However, the extent of responsibility shouldered by the parents towards the family wellbeing also has a role in the incidence of child labour. The responsibilities of the parents were measured in terms of the way they spend their earnings, their punctuality in the work place, sensitiveness to the family requirements, commitment and hardworking etc. The study shows that most of the children were forced to get into employment as their fathers were not the main earners due to ill health, unemployment, irregular nature of employment and their irresponsible attitude towards family. Some of the child labourers working as rickshaw pullers, repair workers, hotels and dhabas, lock manufacturers, vendors, construction workers were reportedly spending their earning on themselves, for gambling, addiction and unhygienic beverage.

Child labourers in Aligarh city are working in informal sector as causal workers. These workers belong to the most disadvantaged category and their jobs are basically on temporary basis. The primary survey of 2306 child labour households revealed that 3230 children are working in various economic activities, which are computed into eight categories and different activities show different pattern of ward-wise distribution. The study also finds a shift in the concentration of child labour from lock industries activities to other economic activities. Although the proportion of children in lock industries has declined but they still constitute the largest proportion of child labour. The socio-economically backward states show high proportion of child labour in agricultural activities. The maximum number of child labourers are engaged in lock industries which constitutes 1254 (38.82 percent) out of the total sampled child
labourers. The analysis pertaining to the gender-based distribution of population in sampled households of various economic activities found that the majority of the child labourers are males (69.38 per cent). Males were found to dominate in most of the economic activities like repair work and rickshaw pullers but females were dominating in the categories of domestic helpers and rag pickers. Most of the children in the age group of 5-14 years were engaged in unorganised sectors. Children join work force at an early age, the average age when they started work was 10 years. The average working age of the children is 11 year, but among rag pickers the average working age are less than 10 year and the average working age of rickshaw pullers are 13 years. The maximum child labourers (31.18 per cent) belong to the age of 13-14 years followed by 11-12 years (29.14 per cent). The literacy rate among the respondents is very poor, it was found only 24.41 per cent. The maximum literates were found to be involved in shop keeping (51.96), illiteracy was highest among Rag pickers (88.01 per cent) and rickshaw pullers (83.72 per cent). In these unorganised and informal sectors, the hours of work and time schedule of work vary considerably depending on the nature of establishment or activity; mostly children are working more than 8 hours a day. Working hours of children is very high in hotels/dhabas, children open the hotel at morning and close at night. The average monthly income of all the child labour respondents was found to be only Rs. 1509.00 and 47.49 per cent children received their payments on weekly basis, 28.14 per cent receive on daily basis and 24.37 per cent receive on monthly basis. The health and physical development of these working children in Aligarh city is directly affected due to the harmful condition in which they are forced to work. The study found that children working in various economic activities suffer from various health problems. They are also habitual of the addiction that causes various diseases. About half of the children were involved in chewing (gutka and panmasala) and 37 per cent children were addicted smoking. Most of the child labourers complained of the serious health problems like lungs problem, skin infection, and cough / cold / fever. Child labour in lock industries mostly reported respiratory diseases / Tuberculosis and skin allergy due to in-proper ventilation and hazardous chemical fumes followed by cut/burn which account about 56 per cent due to inexperienced handling of machinery.
The study attempted to find the causes of child labour and it is found that about two third of children were directly or indirectly involve in labour market due to poverty. About 60 per cent children forced to work due to their low family income and 12.45 per cent due to loss of bread earner. The household income is so less that they have to do something for meagre survival needs. About 6 per cent of children were going to work for other causes like family size, breakdown of the family, non availability of school and so on. Children are making a substantial contribution to the household’s economy; this is all in the informal sector of the city. The degree to which the informal sector is crucial to the survival of people and the relationship with the children’s income could not be neglected. It is revealed that about one fourth of the children contribute 20-30 per cent income to their family. At various conditions children are the important source or some time the only source of income, because about 5 per cent children also contribute more than 50 per cent income to their family and it varies from nature of work. The pattern of distribution of income was calculated from Gini-coefficient. The Gini-coefficient of child labour households in Aligarh city is 0.237, the lower value of Gini-coefficient indicates less unequal distribution among the low income groups. In other words, it indicates relatively more equal distribution of poverty in child labour household. The first hypothesis has been proved that higher the magnitude of poverty, the greater the incidents of child labour.

There is a significant relationship between poverty of parents and child labour. It is found that a significant relationship exist between child labour and measure of socio-economic status. The strong negative correlation between child labour and family income is found (r = -0.964, p< 0.01), the negative sign indicate that higher the incomes lower the concentration of child labour. It is also correlated with the literary rate of the parents (r = -0.761, p< 0.01). The parents’ literacy rate is inversely proportion to the incidence of child labour. Households having low literacy rate among parents generally have acute number of child labour. The significant correlation also found between concentration of child labour and other socio-economic variables of their households like disease (r = 0.726, p < 0.01), household size (r = 0.588, p< 0.05) and indebtedness (r = 0.456). The researcher clearly analyse
that the poverty is the main cause of child labour. Therefore, it is need of financial support to the poor families, so that they send their children to school instead of work.

For the assessment of zone-wise vulnerability of households, vulnerability criteria were developed on the basis of ward wise household’s survey of child labourers. A total of 21 variables were considered under 3 subheads - social conditions (6 variables), economic conditions (5 variables) and infrastructure conditions (10 variables). Each variable was assigned a maximum and minimum value. On the basis of this the child labour households were categorized in three groups – highly vulnerable, moderately vulnerable and less vulnerable. While, for the assessment of vulnerable areas of households, child labour households zones were demarcated on the basis of combined factors of density, concentration and economic diversity of child labour households. Eight households zones (four from each part of the city i.e. old part and new part) were taken. Four zones from old part of the city (zone 1 – Exhibition ground, zone 2 – Sasni Gate, zone 3 – Shahjamal and zone 4 – Upper Kot) and four zone from new part of the city are (zone 5 – Jamalpur, zone 6 – Jiwangarh, zone 7 – Ramghat Road and zone 8 – University area) were identified. All 21 variables selected and considered for assessment of vulnerability of zones, a value of maximum and minimum was given to each criterion and value of standard index was calculated. Higher value of standard score indicates less vulnerable conditions, medium value is moderate vulnerability and lower value of standard score indicates higher vulnerable conditions. The total cumulative scores were distributed in the three categories highly, moderately and less vulnerable zones.

Six variables / indicators of social development/services in the city were analysed and Composite Mean Standard Index (CMSI) were calculated. High social development and less vulnerability zones (> 0.562) were found in the Ramghat Road area (1.000) and University area (0.782) located in the new part of the city. Moderate social development and moderate vulnerability zones (0.562 – 0.217) were found in Exhibition ground area (0.484), Upper Kot area (0.286) and Sasni Gate area (0.283) located in the old part of the city. Low social development and high vulnerability zones (< 0.217) were observed in Jamalpur area (0.155), Jiwangarh area (0.128)
located in new part of the city and Shahjamal area (0.000) located in the old part of the city.

Five variables / indicators of economic development/services of child labour households were analysed and calculated by Composite Mean Standard Index (CMSI). High economic development and less vulnerability zones (> 0.656) were found in the Ramghat Road area (0.980) and University area (0.710) located in the new part of the city and Exhibition ground area (0.681) located in the old part of the city. Moderate economic development and moderate vulnerability zones (0.656 – 0.346) were found in Jiwanagarh (0.576) Jamalpur (0.391) located in new part of the city and Sasni Gate area (0.505) located in the old part of the city. Low economic development and high vulnerability zones (< 0.346) were observed in Upper Kot area (0.118), and Shahjamal area (0.050) located in the old part of the city.

Ten variables / indicators of infrastructural development/services in the city were analysed and Composite Mean Standard Index (CMSI) were calculated. High infrastructural development and less vulnerability zones (> 0.598) were found in the Ramghat Road area (0.841), University area (0.758) located in the new part of the city and Exhibition ground area (0.630) located in the old part of the city. Moderate infrastructural development and moderate vulnerability zones (0.598 – 0.343) were found in Upper Kot area (0.438) and Sasni Gate area (0.432) located in the old part of the city. Less infrastructural development and high vulnerability (< 0.343) were observed in Jiwanagarh area (0.311), Jamalpur area (0.240) located in new part of the city and Shahjamal area (0.112) located in the old part of the city.

Zone-wise availability of overall development/services of child labour households was calculated by Composite Mean Standard Index (CMSI). High overall development and less vulnerability zones (> 0.599) were found in the Ramghat Road area (0.940) and University area (0.750) located in the new part of the city. Moderate overall development and moderate vulnerability zones (0.599 – 0.309) were found in Exhibition Ground area (0.598) and Sasni Gate area (0.432) located in the old part of the city and Jiwanagarh area (0.338) located in new part of the city. Low overall development and high vulnerability zones (< 0.309) were observed in Upper Kot area (0.281) and Shahjamal area (0.054) located in the old part of the city, Jamalpur area (0.262) located in new part of the city.
Suggestions

To control child labour, a comprehensive policy package that can simultaneously increase employment and earning opportunities for adult household members, and ensure rural based industry and other facilities to discourage rural to urban population shift be introduced in general. In particular education should be free up to higher secondary level. There should be recreational facilities available in schools. So that children are attracted to go to schools. Teacher should behave in friendly manner with children so that they may not leave school because of fear of teacher’s punishment. Immediate action should be taken against those employers who employee under 14 years aged children. The government should take some remedial measures towards the issue. The problems of child labour are ingrained in the socio-cultural and economic structure of society. Government should facilitate both policy reforms and a change in attitudes within countries, among those directly concerned with the problem – children, parents, employers and others – and in society as a whole. To solve the problem, planning should be practical, such as economic help, social recognition and human help.

Planning should be based on the following guide lines:

1. Increase the income of the family, so that they have adequate income to bear the burden of the education of their children.

2. Give more opportunities of employment to the bread earners of the child labour family.

3. The guarantee employment programme should be effectively worked out in the city for poverty alleviation through self employment, being financed by the government. Selection of the families who have child labourers in them should be kept in view.

4. Technically skilled education should be provided to child labour because they can contribute income to their family in short span of time.

5. Government should provide free education up to 10th standard compulsory.
6. Lack of proper educational facilities also forces parents to send their children to work, rather than keeping them at home and giving them a home-based education.

7. There is a need to set a creative environment with in the school system, that attracts children and they should enjoy the learning process.

8. Recreation facilities should be compulsory in every school.

9. Upliftment of their standards above poverty line along with non-formal education in backward wards and slum areas will go a long way for rehabilitation of children being put to work due to poverty.

10. An extra scholarship should be provided to all those children who have get above 75 per cent attendance, this step can be reduced the drop-out rate.

11. The phenomenon of child labour is considered to be the most important problem facing children today. Strong family ties and an informal system of social protection upheld in rural areas usually keeps children off the streets, although many street children in the cities have migrated from rural areas to the cities individually or along with their families.

12. There are many departments like Child Welfare Department (CWD), and Ministry of Women and Child Development to protect the life of a child, they should be more serious to help needy children.

13. There should be awareness of government projects like distribution of free books, free uniforms, free food, and education facilities be given to the child, so that children may not turn to crime or become criminals in later years.

14. Children in the age group of 0 to 18 should be protected and awareness should be created among them regarding their rights. Besides, measures should be taken during the tender process itself to make it mandatory on the part of the concerned people to ban children from turning labourers.

The eradication of child labour in Aligarh city depends on the commitment of the government to two imperatives; enforcement of the existing legislation, and the creation of meaningful alternatives for the present population of children in the workforce. Besides, it requires a combination concerted government action and extensive community involvement. To begin with, the city has to review its attitude
towards child labour to restructure its policies and programmes to effect the desired changes. Since certain wards have been found to have a greater concentration of child labour, ward wise specific studies need to be conduct to ascertain the demand and supply side factors that contribute to child labour. The state needs to priorities child labour as a social issue impeding overall development and therefore has to initiate various public awareness mechanisms using diverse media.

Some of the training and scheme should be introduced in vulnerable zones of Aligarh city to eliminate child labour on priority.

**Micro-credit Scheme**

Micro-credit scheme refers to programs that involve providing micro-credit to participants. The interest rate, the repayment cycle, and other conditions should be easy and at low rate. But in general, providing credits is aimed to help participants to start and/or expand their micro-enterprises and income-generating activities. In Aligarh city the poor and illiterate peoples are not aware how to hatch the benefits of the government schemes. And local governing bodies could not even initiate the programme to educate them. Therefore, it is the duty of government to make the process easy and simple for providing loan to the households of more vulnerable areas of Aligarh city so that they start a small-scale business.

**Free Compulsory Universal Basic Education**

Accessibility and quality of education and its relevance to the labour market are factors that influence parents’ decision to send their children to school instead of work. Provision of providing free textbook, school uniform and free education is strong on Government’s paper but it is far away from the reality. Government should provide all necessary facilities to the poor children in all vulnerable wards/ zones and officers should also visit the school and check this system. In Aligarh city, there are lacks of basic amenities and facilities in the government schools that not attract the parents to enrol their children. To eradicate child labour from the society, government should take the measures of rehabilitation, education with scholarship, technical and skilled education and provision of meals.
Vocational Training

Vocational training should be implemented in conjunction with other services in the areas of high and moderate vulnerable zones like Shahjamal, Jiwangarh, Upper Kot, Jamalpur, Exhibition ground and Sasnigate, where the people are living below poverty line, so as to provide opportunities that attract participants to use newly learned skills and knowledge. Training should production-oriented (focuses on technical skills needed to produce goods and services), service-oriented (focuses on skills needed to provide specific services such as those needed in the hospitality business), entrepreneurship development (targets potential entrepreneurs, encouraging them to start up a business by developing the personal, organizational, and administrative skills needed) and management-oriented (transfers financial and administrative skills, and can include marketing techniques as well).

Awareness campaign and workshops

Awareness campaign, regular workshops and programmes should be organized to discuss the drawbacks of child labour for the society and the nation and some of the items also distributed in the camps to the needy children like school uniforms, shoes, bags, books, medicines, etc. Every citizen should come forward and take the responsibilities, because there is many problems which humanity can solve.