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INTRODUCTION

Socio-economic backwardness followed by poverty, illiteracy, unemployment, large family size, family break-ups and above all the Government policies are commonly considered as the most prominent causative factors for large-scale employment of children. Former president of India and a well known scientist ‘Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam’ said, “All of us should feel proud on all literate, intellectuals, entrepreneurs and affluent citizens of the country but it should not be forgotten that such categories of persons are almost surrounded from all corners by large number of people who are poor, illiterate and malnutrition. They make our life comfortable and worth living by hard work of day and night and it may be dangerous to neglect them ....”

The problem of child labour exploitation is a major challenge to the progress of developing countries, especially in Asia where 61 per cent live, because countries future is going to rest on their shoulder. They have to lead the nation forward as industrialist, leaders, educationalist etc. India has the maximum number of such population. Children are compelled work at the cost of their ‘right of education’ which leaves them permanently trapped in the poverty cycle, sadly without the education and literacy required for better paying jobs. This is particularly serious in India, where highest number of child labourers is found. According to the official estimates of Census 2001, there were 12.7 million economically active children in the age group of 5-14 years. The number used to be 11.3 million during 1991, out of which about a million is engaged in hazardous job. According to an estimate there are 60 million child labour population in the country, as many are “hidden workers” working in homes or in the underground economy.

Most of the child labourers belong to social groups of scheduled tribes (STs), scheduled castes (SCs) and other backward classes (OBCs) and minorities, particularly Muslims. Works that needs dexterity is often done by them. Labour recruiters often get child labour from poverty stricken areas and those areas that have undergone droughts and floods or where agriculture has failed. They are recruited for reducing costs of production and because of their inherent weakness to unionize for bargaining better wages, improve work conditions and related labour rights. That is why we have the paradox of having a large pool of child labour amidst high level of adult unemployment (ILO, 1996). In the long run, this phenomenon evolves as both a
social and economic problem, and as economic disparities widen between the poor and educationally backward classes and that of the faster growing states. Child labour is considered as the denial of human dignity and freedom. Child labour and its problems are intimately related to the extreme poverty. They belong to the families of total have-nots who do not have any other means to raise their income except the human asset to invest a bid to supplement it. Here children are used as a token to improve family economy for some years at least and as such contribute to the pool income of the family to fulfil their needs. This is the story of child labour by and large in all the poor developing and underdeveloped countries (ILO, 2002).

The population policies of the country are not effective, because large segment of population banks on their work force, whose neither survival nor clothing, shelter, nourishment, health care or schooling is assured. That is why number of children is more; they think that half of them will survive at least. This approach, according to British thinker Malthus, exerts pressure on agricultural land, causing environmental degradation and forcing the cultivation of land of poorer and poorer quality. This ultimately reduces yield and food availability causing famines, diseases and death. But the Government’s economic policies are also responsible for this as the policies are not oriented to fulfil the aspirations of these people and provide them with the basic needs to survive. The plight of child labour has been extremely miserable due to exploitation by the vested interests in domestic, industrial and agricultural sectors. Their condition may improve with a positive approach of the Government agencies as well as NGO’s and if any such steps are taken this will not only help in reducing population but also if utilized properly by educating, offer them professional courses and training, prepare them to meet the challenges and demand of the day. In turn these children will prove to be an asset for the country instead of being curse or liability. No other country in the world has such a large number of young population to engage in gainful economic activities. They may also count significantly in country’s economic development.

In most developing countries, majority of working children are engaged in agricultural sector and this is predominantly on farms owned or operated by their families (ILO, 1996). Since land is the most important store of wealth in agrarian societies and a substantial fraction of households do not own land, this casts doubt on the commonly held presumption that child labour emerges from the poorest households (Basu and Van, 1998; US Department of Labor, 2000).
Child labour is a complex phenomenon. Not all work done by children can be regarded as child labour in the way the term is used in this study. Distinction must be made between child labour, on the one hand, and activities considered part of a natural socialization process on the other hand. Child labourers are those, who enter the labour market or takes on too much work and too many duties at too early an age. Definition of “too much work at too early an age” is subject to both individual and cultural differences. Basically, however, one may say: “Child labour means work performed by children who are too young for the task in the sense that by performing it they unduly reduce their present welfare or their future income earning capabilities, either by shrinking their future external choice sets or by reducing their own future individual productive capabilities” (Andvig, 2001).

Labour force is used as a synonym for the working population or economically active population. According to the Multilingual Demographic Dictionary “the working population consists of those individual, who take part in production of economic goods and services, including unpaid family workers in an economic enterprise as well as persons who work for pay or profit” (United Nation, 1958). The Census of India defines work as “participation in any economically productive activities, such participation may be physical or mental in nature, that involves not only active work but also effective supervision and direction of work” (Census of India, 1981). Thus, the term child labour not only applies to the children below the age of 15 working in organised sectors but also to the children working in all forms of non-industrial and unorganised occupations, which are injurious to their normal physical, mental and social development. Child labour thus, assumes the character of a social problem in as much as it hinders, arrests or distorts the natural growth processes and prevents the child from attaining his full blown manhood. It has been said that the child labour is “economically unsound, psychologically disastrous and physically as well as morally dangerous and harmful (Singh, Kaur, and Khan, 1980). All forms of the work by children cannot be considered deleterious. In fact it plays an important role in the development of the child if it involves purpose, plan and freedom. The function of work in childhood should be primarily developmental and not economical, and children’s work as a social good is the direct anti-thesis of child labour as a social evil (Kulshreshtha, 1978). Children play an important role for the development of society as well as for the development of the whole nation, it is our duty to protect and provide the better care for their physical, social and psychological
growth. It also becomes the duty of Administration and policy makers to promote children welfare through different schemes and policies so that they will not be exposed to any sort of hazards which may damage their growth which ultimately damages the social, cultural, economical as well as political growth of the nation. But numbers of working children are increasing day by day.

The key processes which can affect the future of the world, in particular, are elimination of child labour, education for all and poverty alleviation. A multidimensional approach consist of awareness building measures and consciousness raising, community participation, alternative and viable social and economic rehabilitation, enforcement of national and international legal instruments in relation to children and other similar plans, is needed for linking the elimination of child labour with overall poverty alleviation and education strategies. Thus, it is imperative to have a synergy in policy planning and programmes that address these three vital issues that affect the lives of millions of children for sustainable development.

![Child Labour-Human Deprivation-Linkage](image)

Sources: ILO, 2003
Human Development Report, 2005

The issue of child labour cuts across policy boundaries and is a cause and consequence of poverty, displacements, illiteracy and adult unemployment. Extreme forms of poverty play a crucial role in encouraging child labour. This implies that
child labour cannot be addressed in isolation. Among factors contributing to child labour are rapid population growth, adult unemployment, bad working conditions, lack of minimum wages, exploitation of workers, low standard of living, low quality of education, lack of legal provisions and enforcement, low capacity of institutions, gender discrimination, conceptual thinking about childhood, etc. One or more of the above contribute to the large numbers of children working under exploitative or hazardous conditions. Several studies have recognized child labour connected with human deprivation- illiteracy, food insecurity, distress displacements, gender inequity, social and human underdevelopment, conflict situation and insecurity and poor Governance (Bangladesh Country Report, 2006) (Fig. 1).

There are many reasons why children are not in schools but in the workplace. Basic education in most countries is not free and in most developing countries schooling is not available for all children. Where schools are available, the quality of education is often poor and the content is not relevant, in situations, where education is not affordable or parents see no value in education, families send children to work, rather than to school. This particularly affects children in poverty and those belonging to the culturally and socially disadvantageous and excluded groups. As a result, they easily become victims of child labour exploitation.

Children are involved in various economic activities like domestic help, family ventures or in farmlands. These children work with or without wages. It is essential to draw a line between child labour and the work done by them which they perform during the process of socialization. Children may co-ordinate their childhood activities with their allotted work around this time of demarcation. When children are assigned such works, social and educational background is ignored, these works become liability and possess grave danger for them. Work becomes prime concern in these cases and impact serious stress on child. This looms danger on the healthy development of children as well as on their future. In such cases the work performed turns into exploitation and malady. In other words, if any child indulges in work, either within the family or outside the family, that impedes his or her studies, playing activities, comfort, and also hamper their physical, psychological, spiritual and social development termed as child labour.

In almost all cities in India children below the age of 15 years are found to be working in all form of activities of economic, non-economic and household duties. In India most of the children work in rural areas where they are engaged in agricultural
allied activities cultivation, livestock, forestry, fisheries and household chores. In urban areas child labour is found in small-scale cottage industries, in tea stalls, general stores, restaurants, road side eateries (dhabas), mechanical shops, as construction workers, as domestic workers, as vendors, and as hawker on the streets.

There are following important industrial areas in India, where children are engaged for work.

(1) Carpet industry in different parts of the country eg. in Mirzapur - Bhadhoji belt of Uttar Pradesh
(2) Diamond cutting industries in Surat
(3) Match Box, Bedi and fireworks industry in Sivakasi, Tamil Nadu
(4) Pottery industry in Khurja
(5) Glass industry in Firozabad
(6) Brassware industry in Moradabad
(7) Lock industry in Aligarh
(8) Sport goods industry in Meerut and Jalandhar
(9) Zari work in Kashmir, Bareilly and Lucknow
(10) Tea plantation in Assam and West Bengal
(11) Silk weaving industry in Varanasi-Mobarakpur belt and
(12) Brick kiln units in various states of the country

**Conceptual Framework**

Child labour in their varied dimensions are closely linked with population growth and food insecurity since very beginning of the civilization, though it has been acquiring district element from time to time, but never lost its significance despite technological advancement. That is why it has attracted various researchers to take this problem with number of aspects. The approaches explain the problems and causes behind child labour, depicting their relationships between socio-economic conditions of child labour. That’s why all parents can not afford to pay indirect costs for their school children due to unfavourable home environment and often lack the basic needs i.e. shelter, food, medicine, etc. consequently such families push their children as a child labour. Child labour is one of the obstacles to the education for all as well as achieving development goals. Hence, it is imperative to understand child labour, their types, problems, their number and their historic perspective.
Aligarh is famous for its renowned university (Aligarh Muslim University), numaish (exhibition) and the lock industry, there is something which is neglected for quite a long time and that is the problem of child labour. Child labourers driven by circumstances to make work place their home are indeed the worst neglected among the elite class of Aligarh as well as the entire population of the country. These children work for wages at places traditionally establishment which also provided food and lodging such as lock industry, hotels and dhabas, shop keepers, repair workers or as vender, construction labour, rickshaw puller, shoe shine boy, hawkers, domestic servant, rag pickers etc. the reason they find themselves on work stems from poverty and bad environment at home, with little or no money for their upkeep, they are forced to work. Today in Aligarh we witness a large number of children who can be seen working or living in lock making units running in their homes or other areas, hotels and dhabas, on streets, roads and bus and railway station. They are seen with dirty cloths, their faces black with tension and work loads, hand rough from hard labour and feet bare, reflect a premature adulthood and awakening in the sense of the world. Despite the hardships, these children seem to be bearing a sense of pride on their faces and regard themselves as active earning member in their family. Beside this, these children work as unorganised labourers within their houses or outside houses, where every one know it’s wrong and unlawful but still forced children to go to work and pay them low wages.

Aligarh city is an educational centre as well as a trading centre/lock industry; therefore, attracting students from across the country and abroad as well. There are all types of hotels, restaurants, tea hotels (dhabas), mechanical shops, general stores, hair dressers etc to cater the needs of the student and the staff associated with, hence attracting children who work at low wages. Where as lock industry attract large number of rural people to seek employment in the city. The low income groups and landless labourers from surrounding areas as well as from far flung areas from down trodden societies in search of employment. They are forced to work to increase their family income, beside this they are often seen begging. Aligarh being close to NCR(National Capital Region)attracting lot of migrants/ child labour and it will be interesting and important to look into the conditions of these children who are deprived of their fundamental rights at such an early stage and heading towards a bleak future. The study will highlight their plight and try to find out possibilities to improve their condition. Other wise a vicious circle will continue in their coming
generation also, which is not only dangerous for Aligarh but also nation as a whole. Government should tackle this problem at grass root level to eradicate/minimize this curse, framing of the law only will not help as it is not applicable in the present deep rooted, deep seated and extreme poverty.

**Review of Literature**

The relationship between child labour and socio-economic structure is complex phenomena. Even the relationship between poverty and child labour, on which attention is usually concentrated has several distinct aspects. Child labour is a multi-dimensional problem, and its range varies from rural to urban, from occupation to occupation to problems related to social aspects i.e. family planning, health, education, community health care and protection etc. Therefore, no single approach can be helpful to sort-out this problem alone. Hence various scholars, planners, researchers and technocrats have analysed this social phenomenon from their angle and with different view point. A lot of work has been done on child labour in various institutions in India and abroad. There are many researchers who have given general information considering three realms of the world namely, industrialized, developing and underdeveloped countries. Since the last few decades tremendous work dealing with various aspects of child labour have been published in most of the countries. Literature consulted on the problem has been taken up on the basis of aspects influencing child labour i.e. poverty, education, unemployment, family size, health hazards and Government policies.

Kulshreshtha (1978) concluded that the poverty is the main cause of child labour in most of the families in less developed countries. The average working class families have no means to carry out their daily necessities of life. It is, therefore, very difficult to bear the burden of the education of their children. The best way for them is to send their children to do some work to add something to their family income. Memon (1986) demonstrated that child labourers hale from very poor families, they are migrated children belonging from neighbour villages are recruited through contractor. These tender age children are preferred because of their quickness and cheapness. Juyal (1987) traces poverty as the main force pushing children into economic occupation and children have been found as bounded labourers. Singh and Verma (1987) studied child labour in agricultural sector explained the nature of child
labour, working conditions and attitudes of guardians towards child labour. They found that poverty is the main reason by which children are forced to work in agricultural sector as they are mostly the offspring’s of bounded labourers who send them when they took leave. Children work at younger age became habitual of bidi smoking, tobacco chewing and ganja smoking suffered with anaemia and tuberculosis. Hamid (1994) focuses on the estimation of urban child labour. He suggested that poverty is the most possible pervasive factor effecting child labour and child schooling. Household income, gender, occupation status and education level of the head, are all linked to child labour and child enrolment. Sancho-Liao (1994) differentiates within child labour market in Philippine between the formal sector, (agriculture, factories, etc.) and informal sector (street vending, begging, prostitution, etc.) and outlines the exploitative and perilous working conditions of children in both sectors. Benquela and Myers (1995) explains the levels of intervention which could be mobilized and the importance of establishing child labour legislation and enforcement through both national policy and international agreements in countries like Brazil, India, Japan, Philippine, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Thailand and Zimbabwe. Horrell and Humshrier (1995) say that the number of working children in factories increased in the early stages of industrialisation. The age at which children start work decreases a phenomena which is a reflection of folder children gaining independence earlier thus leaving younger children to supplement family income. Laskar (2000) revealed that household economic pressures compels children to enter into low-wage, hazardous work environment that proves detrimental to their educational and health prospects. It is found that child labour is a phenomenon of poor socio-economic status of a section of society. In Aligarh, poor section of Muslims who are not able to manage job or livelihood elsewhere join degrading, sub-human task in hazardous and low paying processes of lock making. Chaudhary and Khan (2002) focused on pointing out the major determinants of child labour in the Dera Ismail Khan City of Pakistan. Efforts were made to identify relationships between child labour and variables such as poverty, family size, adult literacy, schooling system and traditional factors in order to learn about the main causes of child labour in the city. The analysis shows that poverty is the main cause of child labour in the city but there are other factors contributing to it such as family size, schooling system and illiteracy of parents. It shows that at certain levels of poverty, child labour plays an instrumental role in the economic survival of the family. The child has economic value at present
so parents maximise their utility by making the best use of their economic assets at present for the satisfaction of basic needs. Khan (2002) found that the ratio of children in auto workshop is 30 per cent to the total workers and the percentage of child labour increase with increases in age. He found that the child work in this sector is hazardous due to factors like age of child labour, the working hours and conditions of work, and the physical and psychological strain of the activities. Fatigue is a major cause of accidents and can impair intellectual development. The majority of the children left school due to poverty, lack of interest in education and harsh attitude of the teachers. Shandilya and Khan (2003) gave details in their case study of Barh town of Bihar which reveals that maximum number of child labour engaged in various services of tea-stalls, sweat shops and line hotels belongs to schedule caste and backward class of the region due to low family income. Amin et al. (2004) examine the poverty and other determinants of child labour in Bangladesh. They define income quintiles a means of measuring family poverty and have added child and family characteristics to their model. They also estimated the likelihood that a child will work, using separate models for younger and older boys and girls in urban and rural areas. The results support the notion that a family’s poverty affects the probability that a child will work. Tandan and Tandan (2004) discuss that the major factor of child labour are poverty, increasing landlessness and illiteracy. The other factors responsible for increasing the demand for child labour are: low profitability and productivity of small-scale family enterprises that cannot afford adult paid labour. Lack of law enforcement and poor functioning of schools run by Government or local bodies child labour is, thus, an outcome of economic, social and school related factors. Cigro and Rosati (2005) provide a blend of theory, empirical analysis and policy discussion. The authors develop a comprehensive theory of child labour and related variables such as fertility, and infant mortality. The effects of trade are considered country studies are included to illustrate and test different aspects of the theory in different geographical contexts. Various statistical techniques have been used to find out the overall status of the child labour and compare it with the children working only, studying only, doing both and doing neither. It is found that child labour increases with poverty, with the cost of access to education, with opportunity cost of a child’s time and with the number of children. Mahmood et al. (2005) identify the socio-economic factors responsible for child labour in automobile and engineering workshops in tehsil Samundri district Faisalabad. The study reveals that a huge majority of respondents
were not willing to do the work but they had to do. It is concluded from the results that poverty is the major factor responsible for child labour followed by other reasons like lack of interest in education, large family size and compulsive social behaviour. UNISEF (2005) discuss the three key threats poverty, arm conflict and HIV/AIDS and highlighted the issues of children living in poverty, children’s rights to survival, health and education through the provision of essential goods and services, and a growing recognition of the need to create a protective environment to shield children from exploitation, abuse and violence. It also pointed out the swift and decisive action is required to reduce the poverty that children experience, protect them from armed conflict and support those orphaned or made vulnerable by HIV/AIDS. Ghosh (2006) argued that child labour can actually lead to more poverty, by depressing wages in general and by forcing all family members to work at below subsistence wages to meet household survival needs. Other factors such as inadequate employment opportunities for adult members of the household and lack of access to credit markets and social welfare schemes to guard against hunger or illness, all clearly play a role. Togunde and Carter (2006) examine the causes of child labour with relation to parental socio-economic status. Study of this relationship is important for a deeper understanding of the varying patterns of child labour, as well as for clarifying the cultural and economic socialization of children. Child labour is caused mostly by household poverty, and the need to prepare children for future occupations. Working children come from predominately nuclear and monogamous households where parents have low levels of education and income, and low occupational statuses. About four out of five children assist their parents in their businesses and about the same proportion give their earnings to their parents to help augment the household expenses. Findings show that the higher the socio-economic status of the parents, the more likely a child is to keep and spend his or her work earnings and to own a business rather than assist parents with their work. The results also offer strong support of the poverty hypothesis and the socialization theory, which are often used to explain child labour in developing societies. It is found that while child labour is pervasive, a child’s hours of work, ownership of business, and control of earnings vary by parental socio-economic status. Specifically, we have found that given higher levels of parental education and income, children tend to work fewer hours. Osiruemu (2007) study the poverty of parents and child labour in Benin city of Nigeria. It found that poverty, a major problem of rapid urbanization in developing nations, is a major
contributory factor in the growth and exacerbation of child labour. Child labour in Benin City reflects prevalent urban poverty which compels parents to send children of school age to work to boost family income. For many hours a day, children of poor parents are engaged in economic ventures such as street hawking, cart/wheel barrow pushing, bus conducting, plaiting of hair as well as being apprenticed to artisans. Osotimehin, Tijani and Ajayi (2007) in their study revealed that most of the participants were involved into the business due to such factors as poverty, family and psycho-social problems. The child-workers used head porterage, wheel barrow and two-wheeled wooden carts to transport cassava tubers from the markets to the various processing points of their employers. They also found that that poverty, family and psycho-social factors such as neglect by busy parents, broken homes and family size were probably responsible for the involvement of the sampled youths in the porterage business. The result also indicated that these youth learnt about this business through friends which indicated that peer group influence is one of the causal factors. The study therefore recommends that youths should be discouraged from further participation in such activities, since it is injurious to their health, as well as their physical and personality development by evoking the relevant child labour laws and conventions in Nigeria. Zaidi (2008) highlighted the socio-economic condition of migrant child labourers of Bihar in Aligarh. She finds out that the incidence of child labour is partly linked to the level of socio-economic development of an area and partly to the attitude and approach of parents of child labourers as a result of socio-economic compulsion. Poverty is one of the main reasons of child labour almost 70 per cent of children work to supplement their family income. Patra and Nayak (2009) conducted with the objectives to assess the problem of child labour, its causes and consequences in a tribal dominated district of Orissa. The study reveals that most of the active child workers are coming from poverty stricken socio-economic backward families. Results are obtained from this empirical investigation that most of the child labourers are girls belong to the age group of 12 - 14 years. This is mainly due to less importance on female child education and preference of employer for the older children as the younger in the age group of 6 - 11 years are not physically strong enough to do the work properly. In response to the size of the family most respondents said that they have a large size family. The respondents further add that they have been brought up in a family suffering from abject poverty. All the families live one’s below poverty line.
Crootaert and Kanbur (1995) examines the supply factors at household level including education, family size, wages and risk of income loss and factors affecting demand including technology. Economic incentives and legislation are the two pillars as which efforts to help working children should be based. Sajjad (1998) in his study reveals that the child labour is primarily found among the socially and economically weaker section of society. Employment of the children may be due to illiteracy and occasionally shifting towards lack of development of child’s personality which continues beyond his childhood. Economic problems compel children to work to supplement the family needs even in spite of free education facilities offered to children. Living in abject poverty, the children have never enough to eat and lack clothing and medical care. They are forced in the labour market to have minimal subsistence. Another cause of child labour is absence of schemes for family allowances. The parents of child labourer are uneducated, they only think about the present time which is their sole concern and worry. They never think of future, they are fully satisfied with what they gain by the earning of children. Ali and Hamid (1999) has made an attempt to analyse the major causes of female child labour in the city of Multan and certain measures and policies have been suggested which could help in bringing an end to this inhumane practice. Education is the best antidote against child labour. But both parents and children must be convinced that education can solve their problems and is to their advantage. The important determinants of female child labour in Multan are family’s poor economic conditions, low educational status and large household size. Wahab (2001) in his study attempted to analyse the socio-economic condition of child labour in lock industry of Aligarh city. The problem of child labour in this sector is highly rooted in the poor socio-economic conditions of the households of the working children. Compelled by these conditions, a large number of parents, despite their unwillingness, send their children to work rather than in school. The lock industry of Aligarh is mostly dominated by Muslims and size of household is much higher than the national average. The level of literacy according to gender indicated that the status of female is poorer relatively male. This study represents a small step towards providing this kind of perspective. The study assumes added significance in view of the ongoing discussion on the relationship between international trade and labour standard. Khalid and Shahnaz (2004) tried to describe the socio economic conditions of child labour in Pakistan and to highlight differences between households with working children and those households without
any child workers. They found that the socio-economic status of the household of non working children is much better than working children household. The problem of child labour cannot be eliminated merely by the implementation of child labour laws. There must be an easy access to education; it would not only increase the literacy rate but also decrease the incidence of child labour as a large number of children work due to low economic status of their families. Arbour (2006) laments a lack of knowledge and understanding of the root causes of violence against children. Das and Deb (2006) analysis that the perceived return to a child’s education is a key determinant of the extent of child labour. Thus policies such as improvement of school education infrastructure, enrolment subsidy and adult-wage increase are effective in reducing child labour. Ramachandran (2007) pointed out that if there is no education and health care and no means of earning livelihood for the parents, children are fore to work. Khanam, and Rehman, (2008) examines the role of education, poverty and birth order with regard to child labour in developing countries. The higher the cost of education is, compared to benefit, the higher is the likelihood of a child being sent to work. Poor school facilities and poor quality of education ensure higher incidence of child labour. The link between poverty and child labour is inconclusive, though a positive relationship between these two variables is prevalent. The evidence also notes that older children are more likely to be sent to work than their younger siblings. Girls’ work participation is higher than the boys’ work participation, and girls are more likely to participate in housework, while boys are more likely to participate in market work. Chattoraj and Bhukta (2009) argued that poverty is not, the only major determinant of child labour participation, but other factors also responsible that pushes the children towards the participation. Lack of schooling facilities, especially in rural India, in some cases expense in education, uninteresting education system are some other cause of drop-outs and child labour participation. Many parents feel that children should develop their skill in some work field for entering the job market from their early age instead of taking a formal education that consumes a portion of the family income but gives no job; therefore, the attitude of the parents is also an important factor. Okunola and Ikuomola (2010) attempt to examine the existence of child labour in fostering practices in Nigeria through a combination of quantitative and qualitative research methods. It found that child fostering was attributed to so many factors, that some of the reasons a child may be places in foster home are schooling, especially in places where no school or higher education and finances
crises. The findings from the study showed that the need for house help, economic crisis and the need for schooling are major reasons sustaining fostering practises. Directly and indirectly the helpless nature of children was also observed as the major reason the many children are being used for economic activities by their foster parents.

Subhadra (1988) has given an overview that the child labourers engaged in Mirzapur carpet industry belongs to the poor families having no land and job. For six month they work treated as trainer and no amount were paid to them. Due to poor ventilation and hazardous conditions, children faces many diseases like weak eye sight, chest problem, cough, T. B. and receive cuts on their fingers. Raju (1989) assesses the relationship between literacy and labour rates among the adults and the child. He found that the states with the best overall adult literacy, also recorded the highest child literary rate, and the lowest child employment rate. The states with high adult literacy also tended to have high child literacy (spearman’s coefficient of rank correlation, Rho=0.95, P<0.01) and low child labour (Rho=0.56, P<0.02). Child labour rate did not correlate with adult labour rates. Tripathi (1989) presented an analytical picture of socio-economic conditions of children who are deprived of the normal facilities to develop physically, mentally and morally. Child labour persists in inverse relation to the degree of economic advancement of a society, country or region. He concluded that children are far more readily controlled than adults and easier to be exploited. They are neither aware of their rights nor able to assert themselves sufficiently to protect those rights. High incidence of child labour is associated with high levels of adult unemployment and under-employment with extreme inequality of income. It also showed that in Indian condition, the traditional attitude of the people, illiteracy and ignorance and above all poverty do not permit prohibition of child labour totally from the country. Nazir (1992) has studied the carpet workers engaged in the unorganised sector in the Kashmir valley. The various occupations included in the study are carpet weaving, repair machine, hotels and dhabas and household servants. Nazir found that poverty and absence of adults wage earner as the main causes of child labour whereas the other reasons like family tension, ignorance of parents etc. are also responsible. Their working conditions are very poor and hazardous. The parents of these children as depicted by study take advances from employers and mortgage their children. Most of the children are school
drop-outs. The work has very bad effect on the health and physique of the children. These children are prone to various diseases like weak eyesight, pain in legs, vitamin deficiency leads to anaemia resulting in the poor physical as well as mental growth. The work of Amin (1994) illustrated that the current economic crises in Cameroon has caused a drastic reduction in economic activities and increased the number of the unemployed. The informal sector has become very important in absorbing people particularly women and children into performing marginal activities, particularly in the urban areas are left unprotected and faced with extreme risk. Gulrajani (1994) says that the recent development in the world capitalist system have increased the socio-economic motivation for the use of the cheapest sources of labour in third world countries. Arrangements like GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) provide for free trade of goods and capital. They push third world countries to export commodities in which comparative cost advantage rests solely on extremely low labour cost. She tries to establish this with the help of case study of the hand-woven knitted woollen carpet industry in India which provides almost exclusively for the export market and is helps the biggest employer of child labour in the manufacturing sector. Mittal (1994) explained that child labour adversely affects the society in two ways. It denies the employment opportunities to the young population of the society, forcing many of them to go out of work in the present age of wide-spread employment and under-employment. It also considerable lowers down the rates of wages in the society. In fact, child labour is as much the cause as the consequence of adult unemployment and under-employment. Burra (1995) found that children engaged in work that is unsafe and unhealthy, most of the children working in industrial units running by their own family. She also pointed out that employers prefer children because it is cheaper than adult labour, their wage in any industry is a third to half that of an adult for the same output. Wahra and Farhan (1995) examine the current crises in female employment in the Bangladeshi garment industry. Girls aged fewer than 15 are being made redundant, in line with new requirements from northern importers. Vol. (1999) concluded that caste, father’s occupation and economic status of the family are all inversely related to child labour participation. In poor families children are valued economically. They contribute to the family exchequer and are considered a kind of insurance in old age or at the time of sickness. Hence, since children are perceived as economic assets, they supply and demand for child labour continues to exist. The health conditions of child workers have shown the
close relationship between malnutrition, lack of sleep and hence fatigue, which leads to reduce working capacity. The working environment is generally harmful to the physical health and mental well-being of the children. Excessive heat, damp and dusty working conditions are the breeding grounds for diseases such as asthma, tuberculosis, bronchitis, etc. Singh and Sharma (2003) provide a detail account of the evolution of the glass industry in general and the bangle industry in particular in Firozabad. Child labour represent one-forth of the total labour population in the industry. They examine the different supply and demand side factors which have contributed to the increase of child labour in the industry. Sawhney (2006) reveals that children help their families in terms of employment because the adults do not have appropriate employment and adequate income, they also work because there is a demand for cheap labour in the market. Singh (2007) presents socio-economic conditions of the domestic workers. The study also relates to the everyday struggles faced by these workers and ways in which the employers and the workers relate to and interact with each other. She found that the relationship between the domestic workers and their employer is basically a women-to-women relationship. It is clear that the domestic workers and the employer both attempt to exchange something in the contractual relationship that exists between the two of them. The quality of life of the domestic workers is not at all satisfactory.

Roy (1998) raises some important policy and ethical issues on child labour. No sane person (parents included) wants children to miss their childhood. But society is full of wicked elements and children are made to pay for their comforts, their profits and their pleasures. He has raised basically the following issues: the ethical bases for deciding the rights of child labourers. Ethics like truth is very easy to understand but difficult to follow. The trouble with children under difficult situations as in working, prostitution, abuse, victimisation etc. is that they are harassed not just by parents but by the state as well. Mahta and Jaswal (1994) in their study reveal that the evil of child labour in India has been in existence from the time immemorial. The study shows that even in the ancient India child labour was found in the form of child slavery. And in recent phase the fragmentation of land holdings increases the pressure on population of household that a new class of landless labourers came into existence. These labourers used their children to help in their economic activities. The study also disclosed that first protective legislation for child labour was enacted in 1881. The act
prohibits the employment of children below the age of seven years and limits their working hours to nine hours a day. It is clear from the study that various legislations were enacted even before independence to improve the working conditions of the child. Lieten (2000) argues that advocacy of schooling and of family planning are restrained by the limited choice rather than by cultural (de)formations, in the tradition of mamdani, it still often is assumed that children are an economic asset, and that the high fertility, leading to child labour income is actually a conscious household strategy of rural families. Mishra (2004) deeply concentrates on children working in all categories throughout Delhi city and peculiar categories of children working in particular areas of Delhi city. The study focuses on providing the perspective on child labourers, locating the various categories of work, examining the socio-economic profile of the child workers and role of organisation. It is found out that poverty due to large family size and illiteracy are the main causes for child labour in Delhi. Kousar et al. (2005) conducted a study to investigate the causes and consequences of child labour in carpet weaving industry of Pakistan. Poor economic conditions, large families and social deterioration are the reasons emerged for child labour. Though children are not well paid, they still serve as major contributors to family income. Child weavers pay the cost in terms of more frequent illness, stunted physical growth, premature aging and health. A higher incidence of health related problems like headache, cold cough, fatigue, conjunctivitis, cuts and bruises, knock knees, bow-legs and muscular-skeletal disorders as carpet tunnel syndrome and backache were the common diseases. Iqbal (2006) in his study explores the nature and extent of bonded labour in the brick kiln sector and analyzes its repercussions on children and women of the bonded families. Bonded labour is a dominant feature of the brick kiln industry of Pakistan. The bondage forfeits the workers’ right to move freely and sell their labour. The clutches of bondage involve physical, economic and psychological exploitation of the bonded families.

Hussain (1997) through his work made first systematic attempt to understand the nature and extent of hazards faced by child workers in the construction and related industries. The study indicates that child workers in the construction and related industries are facing at least 16 different hazards to their health and safety with approximately 12 casualties per work place during the last year. Steel windows manufacture, tiles and construction industries are the most dangerous in terms of risk
to health and safety of the child workers. Insufficient light at workplace, badly insulated wires, lack of protective devices for workers using dangerous equipment and materials and poor ventilation are amongst the most lethal hazards in the industries. O’Donnel, Doorslaer and Rosali (2002) view the current knowledge of the health consequences of child labour and to identify methodologies that have the potential to enrich the information base available for the effective targeting of health damaging child work activities. It bears emphasis that there is not a single effect of child labour on health but a multitude of effects that vary with the nature of the work undertaken. Regression of health is an indicator of childhood participation in work. Poonam (2004) has given a detailed scenario on street children. She concluded that the children on street were living in different circumstances, working under hazardous conditions and deprived of their rights to optimal development, education and protection from abuse. Schmitz et al. (2004) presents a comprehensive and engaging approach for the study of international social conditions and problems. The goal is to provide a convenient framework to examine specific social problem. Burra (1987) highlights the exploitation of children in lock industry of Aligarh where children work for more than 12 hours and earn 5 - 10 rupees per day. Their work as polishing, electroplating, spray painting and working on hard press which are injurious to their health and causes the disease like pneumoconiosis, tuberculoses, bronchitis, etc.

Jain (2006) presented both perspective development and initiatives undertaken by Government of India, international organisations, Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and V. V. Giri National Labour Institute covering a period between 1990 and 2006. This volume emphasizes the need for elimination of child labour and provides experiences on elimination of child labour with suggested measures. In addition, it also enhances understanding of problems and issues that are pertinent to the incidence and practice of child labour. It gives better result of all the stakeholders working on the issues of child labour, child rights, child education, child resource development and human rights. Zutshi et al. (2006) critically examined the current programmes, action plans and interventions of Government of India, United Nations and other international donor agencies, NGOs and Civil Society Organisations towards child labour elimination and achieving education for all goals in India. Kumar (2008) suggests five essentials that are needed to establish the linkages and ensure tangible outcomes for children. First, issues of child rights need to be more politicized for
them to receive appropriate policy attention. Second, the state must recognize the multi-dimensional nature of human poverty and initiate interventions that simultaneously address the many concerns of the poor including livelihoods, health, basic education, food security and children’s nutrition. Third, the state needs to pay much greater attention to inclusive programming. Forth, society must pay more attention to improved accountability. Lastly, the state must set up new institutions that specifically promote child rights at different levels. Satyarthi (2008) said that all agencies, Government, and ministries need a better understanding of the push-pull factors that link child labour, education and poverty. There is need a systematic approaches to addressing all three issues together through a range of models and schemes.

**Objectives**

The focus of the study entitled, ‘Socio-economic and Structural Analysis of Child Labour Population in Aligarh City’ is to conduct in-depth surveys to identify child labour and their place of working and map their spatial distribution. The objectives of the present research study are:

1. To assess the various economic activities of child labour households (their location, population and number of households) and also socio-economic background of child labour households (religion and caste, age, educational status, family type / size, migratory status, monthly income, per capita income, expenditures and indebtedness).
2. To find out the causes of child labour.
3. To classified the different type of child labour in Aligarh city.
4. To assess the socio-economic condition of child labourers (their working age, working hours, place of work, monthly income and diseases found in child labourers).
5. To find out the pattern of income distribution of child labour households in Aligarh city, dependency ratio and contribution level of child labourers to their families.
6. To highlight the vulnerable zones of child labour households in Aligarh city.
7. To find out ways and means to eradicate/minimize the child labour.
Hypotheses

The basic hypotheses are
1. The higher the population growth and magnitude of poverty, the greater will be the degree of food insecurity and will result in child labour.
2. Child labourers are physical and spatial manifestation of urban poverty and intra-city inequality.
3. The family background of the child labourers is poor with regard to income, family size, education of parents and health of the family members.
4. Level of literacy among child labourers and child labour households is very low and they are exploited physically, socially and economically.
5. Religion/caste is an important factor in child labour.

Database

As mentioned earlier, the present study aims at analyzing socio-economic and structural analysis of child labour population in Aligarh city. An attempt has been made to see the problem in totality with ground realities. Hence, efforts have been made substantiate the above hypotheses by data and information collected from various sources. The present study is based largely on primary data supplemented by secondary sources of data too.

(i) The primary sources of data which have been collected through;
1. City survey to identify child labour households.
2. In-depth survey of selected child labour households.
3. Child labour household survey to gather information regarding the child labour with the help of questionnaire interviews (appendix I).
4. Discussion with child labourers belonging to different occupational group, local residents, municipal workers and Government officials.

The field work was done during the years 2009 and 2010. Condition of the house is the main indicator for the selection of the child labour households. From every sampled child labour household, in most of the cases mainly men head of the household were selected as respondents because they know more about their household conditions. For getting accurate information of the child labour households were visited frequently.
(ii) Secondary data have been collected from the following sources;
1. Aligarh Nagar Nigam (Aligarh Municipal Corporation), Sewa Bhawan, Aligarh city.
2. Aligarh Development Authority (ADA), Vikas Bhawan, Aligarh City.
3. National Information Centre (NIC), District Collectorate, Aligarh.
4. District Urban Development Authority (DUDA), Sewa Bhawan, Aligarh city.
7. Seminar library of the Department of Geography and Maulana Azad library of Aligarh Muslim University; library of Jawahar Lal Nehru University, Delhi University, New Delhi; Allahabad University, Allahabad; Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi.

Methodology

To achieve the objectives, the following methodology has been adopted.

1. Sampling procedure of child labour households
   - To accomplish the objectives, a household survey is taken up and purposive sampling method is used covering the entire municipal area of Aligarh city as a unit, which is divided into 70 wards. Child labour is by and large the product of poverty, therefore, all lower and very lower income group were selected, but an overall view taken to rule out exceptions.
   - 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 respondents on the basis of purposive sampling method. Out of which 2306 households of child labour selects on the basis of random sampling (appendix III).
   - Different percentage of the household is used from different wards of Aligarh city (Table 1).
The ward-wise concentration of these sampled child labour households in Aligarh city were mapped with the help of GIS, Arc-view 3.1 software (Fig. 2).

Ward-wise concentration of sampled child labour households in Aligarh city

Source: Based on Field Survey, 2009-10

Fig. 2
Table: 1 Sampled child labour households

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S. No.</th>
<th>Sampled Percentage</th>
<th>Total Child Labour Households in a Ward</th>
<th>Total Sampled Households</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>Less than 50</td>
<td>327</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>50-99</td>
<td>153</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>100-199</td>
<td>762</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>200-299</td>
<td>537</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>300-499</td>
<td>221</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>More than 500</td>
<td>306</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>2306</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Based on Field Survey, 2009-10

2. Interview schedule

The sampled wards were visited by the researcher and selected households were asked to reply the questions given in a questionnaire to collect data at different intervals to ascertain the reliability of the information earlier given and to see if there are changes. Questionnaire is prepared to keep objectives of the present study in mind. The first part focused on general observation of the child labour households in Aligarh city as well as their socio-economic background particularly level of literacy, income, migration status, infrastructural facilities available in the house, health condition, indebtedness, etc. and the second part sought information about the child labour characteristics, includes educational level among children, types of work, hour of work, income, wage structure, health hazards etc. The questionnaires are the only means of gathering first hand information which play vital role in any research studies and the best way to cover wide range of population.

The questionnaire is designed to get the complete picture and the data for statistical analysis. Table 2 illustrates the different activities undertaken by the researcher to understand and analyse the condition. To get more reliable comprehensive picture, author visited the working places, discussed with the focus group to test the reliability of the secondary data and the information collected during the household survey.
Table: 2 Interview procedures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S.NO.</th>
<th>ACTIVITIES</th>
<th>FOCUSED AREAS</th>
<th>TOOLS</th>
<th>SAMPLING</th>
<th>SAMPLE SIZE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Household surveys</td>
<td>Household level</td>
<td>Questionnaire</td>
<td>Random Sampling</td>
<td>2306</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Focused Group Discussions</td>
<td>Slum areas, residential areas, elected representatives, and other potential areas</td>
<td>Check list</td>
<td>Random Sampling</td>
<td>12 – 15 FGDs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Working places</td>
<td>Child labour potential areas</td>
<td>Questionnaire check</td>
<td>Random Sampling</td>
<td>90-100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Secondary Data</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Check list</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. Collection of data

Data was collected through personal interviews with the help of the questionnaire (Appendix III). The child labour households were visited at least twice to check the information provided. First the respondents were put at ease and then they gradually opened up and gave all the relevant information about their livelihood and health conditions. The child labour / respondents were not willing to give information about their activities and behaviour. Nearly one year time was spent on data collection. The data collected were then tabulated and analyzed for the purpose.

4. Statistical techniques applied

- Simple percentages were used for calculation and easy understanding of data
- Gini-coefficient used for the pattern of income distribution in child labour households of Aligarh city.

\[ G = 1 - \sum_{i=1}^{N} \left( \sigma X_{i-1} - \sigma X_i \right) \left( \sigma Y_{i-1} + \sigma Y_i \right) \]
Where $\sigma_X$ and $\sigma_Y$ are cumulative percentage of Xs and Ys (in fractions) and N is the number of elements (observation). The Gini coefficient is a measure of inequality of a distribution. It is defined as a ratio with values between 0 and 1: the numerator is the area between the Lorenz curve of the distribution and the uniform distribution line; the denominator is the area under the uniform distribution line. Gini-coefficient of inequality: this is the most commonly used measure of inequality. The coefficient varies between 0, which reflects complete equality and 1, which indicates complete inequality (one person has all the income or consumption, all others have none). Graphically, the Gini coefficient can be easily represented by the area between the Lorenz curve and the line of equality (Kuznets, 1955; Shalit, 1985; Kerbo, 2000; Gerber, 2007).

- Karl Pearson’s correlation co-efficient (r) method was used to examine the relationship between the concentration of child labour with the socio-economic status of their households.

$$r = \frac{\Sigma xy - \frac{\Sigma x \Sigma y}{N}}{\sqrt{\Sigma x^2 - \left(\frac{\Sigma x^2}{N}\right)} \sqrt{\Sigma y^2 - \left(\frac{\Sigma y^2}{N}\right)}}$$

Where,

- $r$ = coefficient of correlation
- $x, y$ = the two given variables
- $n$ = number of observation

To find out the computed ‘t’ value in the test of significance

$$t = \sqrt{\frac{n - 2}{n}}$$

Where,

- $t$ = calculated value of ‘t’ in the test of significance
- $n$ = number of observations
- $r$ = computed value of coefficient correlation

- Standard Score Additive Model was used to identify and mapping of child labour vulnerable zones in Aligarh city.

For a more comprehensive study on a number of variables, the Standard Score Additive Model has been used to arrive at a Composite Standard Index. The Standard
Index Method has been used to transform raw data for each variable into standard scores or in other word, it is the linear transformation of the original data (Smith, 1973; Bishnoi and Aneja, 2008). Standard score have been used to develop a composite score for the availability of social indicators, economic indicators and availability of infrastructural facilities in the households of child labour in the zone of Aligarh city. The standard scores measures the departure of individual observation from the maximum and minimum values of all observation in a comparable form.

\[ Si = \frac{(Xi – Min)}{(Max – Min)} \]

Where, \( Si \) = standard index of ith variable
\( Xi \) = original value of the individual observation
\( Min \) = minimum value of the variable
\( Max \) = maximum value of the variable

This function has two parameters: the lowest and highest score use as criterion, i.e. minimum and maximum. The effect scores of this particular criterion are then transformed according to their relative position on the interval between the lowest and highest score \((\text{min, max})\).

The values of standard scores are added and their average is taken to obtain the Composite Mean Standard Index and algebraically expressed as

\[ CMSI = \frac{\sum Si}{N} \]

Where, \( CMSI \) = Composite Mean Standard Index
\( \sum Si \) = sum of the standard index of variable j in observation i
\( N \) = number of variable

The transformation of the set of variables results in the equalization of two important parameters of distribution and units of measurement are eliminated. Thus, enabling the scores on different variables to be combined simply by addition and dividing by number.

5. Assessment of vulnerability

Identification the vulnerability assessment of child labour households in Aligarh city (2009-10)
For the assessment of zone-wise vulnerable child labour households / households, vulnerability criteria was developed on the basis of ward wise households survey of child labourers. A total of 21 variables under 3 subhead - social conditions (6 variables), economic conditions (5 variables) and infrastructure conditions (10 variables) were selected and considered.

For the assessment of vulnerable child labour households areas, child labour households zones were demarcated on the basis of combined factors of density, concentration and economic diversity of child labour households. Eight child labour 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 were selected and considered for assessment of vulnerability of child labour households 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 child labour households zones.

Limitations of Data

It is very difficult task to collect the exact information on child labourers. Before conducting the survey of wards, a member of the ward and a responsible member of a sampled household were consulted and convinced that it is a socio-economic survey for the purpose of research and the data will not be used for any other purpose. The main aim and objective of the research were also explained to them. There were number of problems faced during survey particularly in the Upper Kot, Shahjamal and Jamalpur areas due to general illiteracy and rural background of the habitants. The survey becomes easy and accurate in some economic activities, where the respondents answer the questions with ease and comfort. The following problems were faced in the collection of the data regarding the socio-economic condition of child labour population in Aligarh city.
Some owners of industries were hesitated to talk about child labour because they thought that I am from Government office but when I produced my identity card that I am a research student and this work is part of my study. After that they reluctantly gave answer of my questions.

At the time when I questioned to child labour in various economic sectors in the absence of their owners they gave me a positive response but when the owners of the industries appeared they got scared and ran away.

In the industries running within households child labourers were interested to take up the question but the incharge was not interested in giving information about their social and economic life.

At most of the places respondents were busy in their work, so it took a lot of time to collect the information.

In some household respondents were found busy in their customers at working places, where I pretended to be a customer to collect information from them.

Street children were not in position to tell their exact age because they are illiterate and too young to say anything.

At the time when owner of unit comes to distribute wages, children rushed away to their jobs, other wise playing.

The survey of child labour households, living in the area of abandoned railway lines and in other unoccupied land of municipal board of Aligarh city; proved to be rather a different task because they hesitate in providing accurate information about their income and children’s work.

Some respondent were reluctant to give the answer of questions pertaining to their annual income, sources of income and durable goods used in the household, facilities available by them fearing that new types of taxes might be imposed upon them.

Sometimes respondent totally ignore me to give any kind of information due to the successive surveys conducted by different organization for different purpose in every year. In every survey respondent convinced the people to solve their problems but nobody solve their problems. So, they got angry and reluctant to give the information.

At the time of cross-questioning I faced great problem to take information because they were illiterate and not able to understand what I asked.
This study does not deal with personal (individual) problem of child labour because it is difficult to collect the relative information from the people. Moreover, to generalize the conclusion, I have tried to concentrate on questions of common interest only.

Uncertainty of life routine and jobs of respondents, and child labourers forced them to give irresolute answers.

**Study Area: Aligarh City**

Aligarh city is located between 27°29'N latitude and 78°36'E longitude, at a distance of 130 km. to the south-east of Delhi along Delhi-Kolkata railway line and Grand Trunk Road; Aligarh is an important town of Uttar Pradesh. The Aligarh city spread over 6000 hectares of land but the area under municipal limit is only 4985 hectares of which only 67.48 per cent is developed. Out of which 77.89 per cent is used for residential purposes, 8.55 for educational institutions, 3.60 per cent for transport, 3.18 per cent for industrial and commercial purposes, 0.06 per cent under parks and open spaces and a little 0.08 per cent is used for recreation purposes.

The city has a total population of 669087 of which 3, 56,725 are males 3, 12,362 females. The literacy rate is 65.38 per cent; male literacy rate is 75.85 per cent and females 54.16 per cent (Census of India, 2001). Population increases at 6 per cent growth rate of population (2 per cent is probably due to natural growth while the rest 4 per cent is made up of migrants). The city is divided into two parts by the Delhi-Kolkata railway line, the southern part is referred as city or old part, while northern part is referred as civil lines or newer part, where university occupies large area. The city is divided into 70 municipal wards (Fig. 3) and spread over 427 *mohallas* and comprises 102004 households (Census of India, 2001). The old part comprises of 43 wards while the newly developed part of the city comprises of 27 wards. This area is relatively clean as compared to the older one. But now, new residential colonies, apartments and innumerable shopping centres have engaged utilizing the open spacing, wherever available, making the city congested. Gradually the outskirts of the city are expanding into the rural areas and slums are developing at a rapid rate.
Aligarh city is one of the most important educational hub as well as a trading centre of North India therefore, attracting all sorts of economic activities like hotels, restaurants, tea hotels (*dhabas*), mechanical shops, general stores, hair dressers, so there is large population of children who work at low wages. The low income groups and landless labourers from surrounding areas also migrated in the city, they work on daily wages and as a rickshaw puller, domestic service, street trading, shops and
commercial establishment, buildings and construction works, manufacturing units, they force their children to work to increase their family income. Therefore, there are large numbers of streets children they work as shoeshine boys, rag pickers, newspaper-vendors, beggars, etc.

Chapter Scheme

The entire work is laid out in five chapters apart from introduction and conclusion to represent the study in detailed and systematic manner. In the present study the researcher has tried his best to present an analytical picture of socio-economic background of children who are deprived of the normal facilities to develop physically, socially and mentally. Introduction illustrates general meaning of child labour, conceptual frame work, literature review, objectives of the study, hypothesis, data base, methodology, problems faced during the field survey and study area respectively.

Chapter first deals the problem of child labour, definitions of child labour, historical perspectives of child labour in world at large and India in particular, general causes of child labour, types of child labour, magnitude of the problem and the current scenario. Chapter second describes the geographical setting of study area. It includes general background of the study area, physical setting, and socio-economic, cultural and demographic setting of Aligarh city. Chapter third analyse the sampled background of child labour household in Aligarh city particularly level of literacy, income, migration status, infrastructural facilities available in the house, health condition, indebtedness, etc. Chapter fourth takes into account the characteristics of child labour, general background of child labour in Aligarh city, includes educational level among children, types of work, hour of work, income, wage structure, health hazards etc. Chapter fifth is devoted to the cause and consequences of child labour in Aligarh city, percentage share of the income of the child labour to the total family, correlation between child labour and socio-economic status of their households and identifying and mapping the vulnerable zones of child labour households needed for planning purpose. Lastly, conclusion and suggestions are given by highlighting the findings and remedial measures to curb the practice of child labour. Engagement of the NGO’s, Government agencies etc., to formulate comprehensive programmes of education for weaker sections of the society and to change the attitude of people towards child labour.
References


Sawhney, A. (2006), … But For Others, It’s All Work, _The Times of India_, New Delhi, August 13, p. 18.


