Chapter- VII
CONCLUSION

Theoretically the present study found that there is correlation between the capitalist developed countries and third world developing countries like India regarding the problem of girl child labour. This is because, of the strong linkages in producing cheap commodities like beedi in the third world with the use of girl child labour and exporting it to the capitalist developing countries like the United States. Moreover the theoretical arguments put forth by the Marxists and the Feminists in analysing the work of the women have left certain vacuum which has to be filled. There has to be combination of Marxists and feminists ideas, when the real contribution of women in the economy is taken in terms of monetary and non-monetary household work, which indirectly contributes in the accumulation of capital formation.

Therefore the present situation of linking the household or homebased industry into this framework, which has so far been done in the case of garment and some other sectors of the economy have to expand to include the beedi sector also, because of the increasing exports. As a result of this, the problem of girl child labour and primary situation attains a significant importance. Of late since the trade linkages which is promoted in the third world countries like India constitute a major segment of girl labour, who are deprived of their schooling and are inducted into the labour force forcefully.

As far as finding solutions or to eradicate the evil of girl child labour, the
concentration of the theoretical level have to combine the travails faced by the young girls in the family who are unaware that labour both monetary and non-monetary is been exploited and linked globally. Like, Walby pointed out that globally the labour of the women is moving from the private to public patriarchy, it is wise to find out the causes that make the girl children becoming the part of the exploitation and curtail the practice as quickly as possible. Therefore the first hypothesis of “non-remunerative or partly paid work of girl child in the framework or capitalist and patriarchal exploitation leads to the worsening of their economic and social status in society” holds truth in the final analysis.

The effective strategy

Universalization of Primary Education for all children is the most effective strategy that is required at this present juncture since the other strategy of non-formal education or part time education in flexible hours will only result in delaying in tackling the problem of girl child labour. This is because one should not expect a young child that too girls to study or learn effectively after doing a monotonous and strenuous job like beedi work and domestic household chores together which make them more mechanical without any time of their own to enjoy their childhood or develop their faculties in a right direction. Therefore the viable alternative to tackle the problem of girl child labour in particular is to make the girl continue in school and thereby preventing them from entering into the unorganised work force. It is to be clear that the notion of compulsory primary education will not and cannot be enforced in a coercive way, which will affect the moral and economic fabric of the society. The main purpose of it should be to make the children learn and then work and not to
work and then learn. All other alternatives, devised to educate will be additional burden in having a false notion that working girls will also learn some kind of education, which is false, and this study proves this point. It is possible to chalk out a multi-pronged strategy catering to the particular type of girl child labour like street children, those involved in prostitution etc., can be tackled differently and later inducted into the formal school system. So the second hypothesis “Compulsory primary education will hasten the process of bringing social change and development in the life of girl child labourers” stands proved.

Change of attitude regarding girl child

The crux of the problem of the girl child in India, like most of the SAARC countries is that she is caught in a precarious situation which is predetermined, precast and pre-destined. Society has already defined her role, which is based on cultures, norms, values and viewed in male perspective. Unless she perceives that she can change the situation and play a positive role as a human being, nothing tangible can be achieved. Therefore, the primary thrust, of all strategies should be to change the self-perception of the girl child. The fourth hypothesis of “Gender bias in family, work and education is widely prevalent in home industry of Tamil Nadu and it is mirrored in the life of girl child labour” stands validated.

Need for social mobilisation

Therefore one of the immediate needs is Social mobilisation strategies need to address both legal and national policy issues, as well as cultural and behavioural issues at community and family levels. At the local level, campaigns or other mobilising efforts must be accompanied by measures that enable families to better protect and
provide for their children. For example, finding out from which social groups or geographical areas girl child labour come from and work with their families can prevent new children from being recruited for exploitative work. In this context also the fourth hypothesis "Mass awareness and community participation is the main viable solution to bring about a change in the lives of girl child labour which will pave way for the desired change in society" is proved.

State’s responsibility

State as such should be cautious in not aiding capitalist development, promoting anti-women policies through structural programmes. More focus on girl child labour situation, strong measures against dowry, wife-beating and quick initiatives try to implement the 33% reservation which is still pending are some of the pertinent issues. There is a immediate need to ask the following questions, which needs quick and prompt action: Is the Child Labour Act, 1986 amended in order to expand the coverage to informal and unorganised sector, household enterprises, and Government schools and training centres? Is the Factories Act & Beedi Act amended to make it more relevant to present liberalised scenario? . Finally the state is considered lacking in the above-mentioned points, which needs its undivided attention. Therefore the fifth hypothesis "Girl child labour problem is acute in household industries like beedi due to the poor implementation and paucity of state laws and legislation also stands validated".
Suggestion for Beedi Industry

1. Special jobs for beedi worker children who have studied and continuous support by the state to these children through scholarship schemes and other educational programmes.

2. Depot system is required separately for men and women, where no children should be permitted.

3. The gradual replacement of piece-rate system of wages by time-rate system is important to lower the exploitation.

4. Alternate employment schemes are urgent requirement for the beedi worker families.

5. Urgent need to curb the illegal sub-contracting system in the villages where the local agents exploit the innocence of the girl children in the villages.

6. Gradual but speedy steps to bring the whole industry into the factory form of system as soon as possible thereby are making the exploitation of girl child in their homes impossible since the raw materials and other items will be stopped in reaching the private domain of the homes.

7. There has to be a system devised to make sure that the respective beedi companies as such who has spread their tentacles in all parts of the district in which they operate should take the responsibility of periodically checking whether their product is on a whole are manufactured using the children. This should be linked to reviewing the license periodically and will assure the right feeling that the curbing of the girl child labour in the beedi industry does not lie with the state alone but also with the employers.
8. There is a dire necessity to create a mass awareness programmes and to spread the health problems associated beedi work. It should reach the places where the beedi works are done, especially the homes.

9. The state should immediately bring out the relationship between the beedi work and certain diseases like Tuber-culosis, Asthma etc for which the doctors still lack clarity and deny clear cut linkages.

10. The health hazards in beedi work will have to be a important deterrent to the parents for not indulging their girl children in beedi work.

11. The state should really reconsider whether the subsidy, which is provided towards the beedi industry, is worth the efforts since most of the workers are exploited economically, physically and psychologically which is not visible and go unaccounted.

12. Strict implementations of minimum wages and social security have to be provided to the workers particularly women.

13. Schools should provide crèches thereby there would be no girls forcibly made to take care of their younger siblings and there will also be fewer chances of girls growing up in crèches to be involved in beedi work since it will pave way for the pre-school conditioning which is necessary for the child.

Suggestion specifically to the villages taken

Karuvanda

1. The attitudes of the men have to be changed since it will lead to sharing the responsibility of the household chores both in monetary and non-monetary domestic work. This will reflect in not making the girls prey to the household beedi work and
domestic chores exclusively and provide the right atmosphere of sending their girl children to school.

2. The above point is important in another sense that it will slowly lessen the patriarchal attitude, which is deeply entrenched in the minds of the men which acts like a obstacle in categorising certain work as feminine and refusing to share the burden and even ready to remain unemployed sitting idly in homes.

3. For the above mentioned points the efforts of the state is vital because it has the required machinery and resources to gear up and wage a war against patriarchy through sustained campaigns, other programs and more importantly to provide the right kind of input to the village Panchayats in deciding the affairs of their village.

4. In Karuvanda majority of the household women and girl children are involved in beedi work with men having limited work, which is not constant and the state should provide alternate employment opportunities to wean away the adult men at least into it. This can be done only through strengthening the existing schemes like JRY, etc. in addition, small co-operatives of some kind can be started which will give employment to the men.

5. In the case of women in Karuvanda the situation of meekly accepting the fate of doing beedi work have to be changed, where they have to break the vicious cycle of involving their daughters. Channelling only the adult labour force into beedi work and not young girls who have to go school till the secondary level can do this. This will ensure that the young girls are not inducted into the workforce and have a healthy childhood spent in the schools.
6. It is to be noted that not all women beedi workers are registered with the company and have company pass books. Steps have to be taken in ensuring that beedi work has to be done only by registered beedi cardholders.

7. The problem of illicit liquor has been the bane of the village men who spent most of their meagre earnings on it and not for other households expenses. For this the State administration has to perform its duty properly by tracking down the brewing areas and taking severe action in curbing this evil practise.

8. Another main problem in the village is the membership in the Trade Unions which has to be strengthened in order to bring all the women beedi workers into its fold and thereby get them all the required rights and benefits in bargaining with the beedi companies.

9. One of the main reasons for the poor performance in the agriculture is lack of irrigation facility. Therefore the most essential solution is to link the river Karrupaa from the Erataikullam village and channelise it towards the village Karuvanda. This will increase the water supply to the fields and provide the required alternate type of employment, which at present is limited.

10. It is found out from the school administration that there is paucity of funds for providing noon-meals and dress materials for all the children enrolled in the school. Therefore the Government must make it a point to allocate adequate funds for the above said provisions for all regular students thereby encouraging the parents as well as the students to continue in school. This is very important since it is found out that some of the parents have stopped their children’s education since their children were not given these provisions.
Virudampattu

1. One of the main reasons found out in the study regarding the village is that the cultural barrier, which prevents the young girls from going out to study especially after they attain the puberty. A solution for this is do a sustain campaign to induct the right kind of attitude about the benefits of education to the girl in the family. This can make a change in the mind set of the elders in the family particularly the men in the family.

2. A corollary to the above is the responsibility of the state as a whole to provide meaningful education which can be useful in practical purpose to earn a living not directing the school children towards the beedi trade but find employment in other vocational employment like handicrafts etc.

3. As it is pointed by the Head master of the school surveyed, the State should provide scholarships to all the beedi workers families irrespective of the caste background. This is because almost all the beedi working families are economically poor and need constant support.

4. Most of the families in the village are oblivious of the health hazards to their children who indulged into the beedi work. Therefore steps have to be taken in this regard also to make the households that their children are slowly affected health wise.

5. Measures have to be strengthened to make the Governmental schemes more beneficial towards the people indulging in the beedi Work. Steps have to be taken in bringing the Muslim community, who are more into the petty trade having irregular income into systematising in making arrangements in getting steady income.
6. Although it is tough in the village which has a sizeable Muslim population to educate in the modern education system other than the usual madrasa kind of religious learning, which is felt inadequate, a constant advocation to combine these two system or to convince fully the beneficial of modern curriculum will enable the girl children particularly to come out of the confines of their subjugation.

7. The practice of bonded child labour and pledging continues in the village, which is serious, and very important in the village since the District Administration has been boasting that these evil practices have almost been abolished and eradicated in the District.

8. It is to be noted that some of the residents on anonymity had told that the owners of the beedi company situated in the village buy any property, which has to be sold. Therefore steps have to be taken by the authorities to verify the property dealing thereby preventing the monopoly of property in few hands even if they posses the required money power.

9. The illegal practice of getting the number card of the beedi company have to strictly be monitored to avoid its misuse since under the card normally the girl children are forced to work which is later counted as the work done by the adult.

10. Trade Union like AITUC has a monthly nomination fee of Rs.5 for its members, which is not regularly paid. Therefore the trade union has to be strict and devise ways to promote collective consciousness about the rights of the beedi workers in the village and also take serious steps of preventing the involvement of young girls in beedi works inside their homes.
11. The Government should take immediate measures to include all students deserving caste devoid of discrimination in the noon-meal and free dress for all the beedi worker families since they have no other source of steady income as they rely solely on the State funds. This is very important because at present the policy of the state has been giving first preference only to the scheduled caste students in regard to noon-meals and free dress. But in the field survey it is found that the beedi workers come from predominantly from the backward castes. Therefore by including other castes into the fold for the above mentioned provisions the enrolment as well as the retention rate of school going girl children from the beedi working families will increase.

12. The Beedi Students Scholarship Scheme in the school have to be increased. At present it is just for 11 students. Moreover the amount has also to be raised from the present 250 rupees per annum which is up to VI standard and 450 for VII and VIII standard. This will facilitate in making more judicious allocation for the welfare of the students concerned.

13. The government program of CLASS has to be expanded to all the villages or have to be combined along with two or three villages thereby making the situation of girl child labour in the villages virtually non-existent. For this a periodical assessment or survey of the girl child in the villages has to be taken and maintained.

Lessons to be learnt from the experience

The lesson to be followed and emulated in the unorganised sector particularly in the household industry like the beedi is the activities of the trade union and NGOs like the SEWA and MVF in particular. Like it was seen in the activities of the SEWA in
India has shown that the working women in the homebased industry like beedi can also be successfully mobilised into getting their rights and due share of benefits in the labour market through sustained intervention and activities. This has to be followed and steps have to be made that this kind of experiment is not limited to selective parts of the country but all over India as a whole to reduce the influx of girl child labour in the homebased industry but also to strengthen the bargaining power of the women workers in general.

Likewise the activities of the MVF in Andhra Pradesh needs special mention in this concluding notes of the study, since the stand by the organisation regarding the girl child labour problem along with the primary education is invaluable. The present study is also on the lines of the organisation where it is feel as that primary education is only the main solution in tackling the problem of girl child labour. This is because no amount of vocational education or nights schools can supplement the benefit of a girl child that is getting educated in the school which is not a centre for learning but a overall developmental process creating self esteem and confidence is laudable. More over the overall stress of the organisation in creating gender equality by breaking down the stereotypes is also a prerequisite for tackling the problem of girl child labour in a successful manner.

In both these kind of interventions, the girl child problem has brought out the invaluable role of the parents, community support, state machinery, in addition of involving the girl as such in solving the girl children’s labour, which even the
international agencies like the ILO and UNICEF are advocating in recent times through their sustained campaigns. By the involving the above actors in the problem of girl child labour one can induct the invaluable rights of the child particularly in the lines of the Child Rights Convention and other relevant international and national legislations. Therefore the concerned individuals or organisations whether it is Governmental or non-Governmental has to give a very serious thought towards the efforts of these organisations in tackling the problem of girl child labour and primary education.

It is worth to quote Carol Bellamy, Director of UNICEF, "child labour is an important cause of poverty, so we have to fight poverty. But to wait until poverty is eradicated is not good enough. We have to fight it in the fields of education, social mobilisation, etc. "we can't let the children down by 'leaving them alone' until poverty doesn't exist anymore. Then we might have to wait a long time."

**Globalisation and girl child labour**

Efforts are needed to regulate the powerful forces of globalisation, without which it will continue to serve the expansion needs of global markets (like in the beedi industry where it is exported to the developed countries) at the expense of equity between and within nations. As a result, the poor and vulnerable in the world will reap increasingly fewer benefits, leading to their further marginalisation and social exclusion.
In keeping with the intent of article 3 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, any attempts to regulate globalisation should address the best interests of children through a 'child impact analysis'. Such an assessment would review any proposals for their impact on children, taking into consideration, for example, whether changes in economic policies (like the subsidies for the production cost for beedi) protect the rights of children to education and health services or whether changes in labour policies (lack of laws and legislation regulating family labour) specifically address the issue of child workers.

Over the past decade, the issue of child labour has risen to prominence on the international agenda. Globalisation of the economy, and increasing competition for foreign investment has resulted in countries cutting down the cost of production and these factors has drawn child workers into the highly visible export sector in many countries.

The road towards freedom and right to decent livelihood

The future course of action, which is the need of the present hour, is vastly to sensitise the ill effects of indulging girl children into work and not sending them to school. This can be ensured if the state in particular involves the above mentioned actors in its endeavour and launch a massive nation-wide-media information campaign and action to eradicate child labour and the prevalent myths and to specifically focus on girl child labour by not merely taking short measures to regulate it but for total abolition. The objective has to be the total abolition of child labour in all walks of life.
and ensuring their freedom and the right for decent livelihood. This can only be attained through compulsory universalization of education and also by trying to mould the attitude of the society in considering and treating female gender equally with males.

It is to be noted that when the Herculean problem of child labour is taken into task a flat approach is not recommended since it involves children in different conditions and situation, which requires specific approach depending on the prevailing situations. This is because the present study since it dealt with the girl child labour in household beedi industry it has analysed accordingly and suggested measures for it. But on the other hand there are girl children in other hazardous and precarious conditions like in the platforms and streets, prostitution, domestic soldiers, domestic workers at homes etc., which needs also equal or more attention and proper strategies to bring them out of their misery and induct in schools or necessary vocation. For this extensive research is needed in knowing the exact causes that make them fall prey to these circumstances. Therefore the thrust should be given not only by the concerned actors like the state, non-governmental organisations, trade unions, parents, enforcement officials, religious leaders, employers, community, working children but also more importantly by the academic community in general which has to be encouraged and focussed in carrying research in this area and to not only know the situation but also to find practical solutions which the concerned body should take serious consideration.