CHAPTER 2
REVIEW OF LITERATURE

2.1 INTRODUCTION TO REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Review of Literature constitutes one of the most important aspects of research. A review of literature is a critical summary and an assessment of the current state of knowledge or current state of the art in a particular field. It is the process of reading, analyzing, evaluating, and summarizing scholarly materials about a specific topic. It entails the basic groundwork before conducting any research.

The review helps in grasping the concerned issue and knowing the requirements for further investigation. It also enables the researcher to build a logical framework and to conceptualize varied dimensions of the issue under study. A review of relevant documents provides a critical insight into the theoretical and conceptual dimensions of the present study. Additionally, a review also provides an insight about the methodological concerns thus, setting ground to identify the limitations and applications of the available studies. In doing so, it allows the researcher to find the unexpected areas and dimensions of his/her field besides helping in bridging the gap between the present and past researches. It actually guides the researcher throughout the research process. Finally, review of literature is an important source of secondary data. Studies conducted at different levels are of immense help for the researcher at every step of the study, beginning from the conceptualization to the conclusion.

A comprehensive and intensive literature review was undertaken by the researcher both prior to and over the entire course of the doctoral study. It entailed a review of empirical studies, reports, books and articles. A summation of the review is provided in the following section. Besides, an overview of the literature review is also presented. This has enabled the researcher to identify the gaps that exist in research work on the theme identified by him and in defining the scope of the present study.

Various studies on the broad theme of child labour have been conducted at different levels including the national, regional or industry wise levels. These came up in different periods of time as many educational institutions, government and non-
governmental institutions started assuming research projects/studies on child labour. Child labour being a multidimensional issue, various scholars, planners and researchers has analyzed it from different perspectives. Many of these studies have been reviewed by the researcher. As far as the purview of this study is concerned, the focus has been on the studies undertaken after 1986 in India. This is due to the fact that the Child Labour Prohibition Act was passed in India in 1986 which is a significant legislation for preventing the occurrence of child labour in the country. For review purposes, the studies have been depicted and analyzed chronologically and not thematically, because the scholar observed that most of the studies have covered multiple dimensions and issues pertaining to child labour. On account of this, it was felt that a chronological depiction would be more appropriate as it would highlight the trends pertaining to the significant aspects of child labour in different periods of time.

2.2 STUDIES CONDUCTED DURING THE LATE 1980’S

NIPCCD (1986) had conducted a study on rag picking children. The study mainly discussed the socio-economic background of the children. It covered 1000 male rag pickers in Delhi. The study revealed that every three out of four children lived in katcha houses with minimum civic facilities. The study also revealed that rag pickers migrated from various states of Haryana, Rajasthan, Tamilnadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal and about 41 percent of the rag pickers had dropped out before completing their primary education. The sample rag pickers contributed to the extent of 31.24 percent of the total monthly income of the families.

Madhu et.al (1989) made a survey on the children working in restaurants, garages and domestic sector of the Bombay city on a selected sample of 508 children, 50 parents and employers for the purpose of the study done on random basis. The chief objectives of the study were: to find out the socio-economic conditions, factors responsible for the child labour and the working conditions of the children. The investigators used the field sources as well as documentary sources within their methodology. The study recommended that care should be taken particularly by the head of the family for health, education and welfare conditions of the children. The
study also highlighted that protection from exploitation as also from under pay and over work must be ensured for the child labourers.

Singh (1990) conducted a study on carpet industries of Varanasi of Uttar Pradesh. The analysis was based on the sample study of 309 child labourers. These working children aged 11-15 years were mainly from lower economic background and were mostly illiterate. They belonged generally to backward and scheduled castes. In spite of working for more than 11 hours per day, they earned an average of Rs 145 p.m. The study found that abolition of child labour was not favoured either by parents or employers because of economic reasons. Even some of these children were happy in working because it gave them economic independence to certain extent. Singh highlighted that the practice of child labour was predominately found among weaker sections of the society and that the working conditions were grossly detrimental to the growth and development of the child workers.

The studies conducted during the late 1980’s revealed that the focus of these studies has been on traditional occupations like beedi industry and carpet industry. The studies were based on large samples and relied on quantitative information. The studies have mainly discussed the incidence of child labour, the related problems particularly the harsh working conditions, possible causes and remedies.

2.3 STUDIES CONDUCTED DURING 1990’S

Karunanithi (1990) had conducted a study on the child labourers working in the beedi factory of Melapalayam of Tamil Nadu. The study was based on 112 respondents selected from every alternative households on a systematic sample based method. The study revealed that the child workers were forced by their parents to make 500 beedies and earn Rs.5 a day. These children were put to work for nearly 10 to 12 hours, from dawn to desk.

Srivasthsava and Bhanumathi (1990) took up their research study on the child labour working in domestic, agriculture and hotel sectors of the Madras city. A sample of 300 child labourers in the age group of 7-14 years was taken for the survey and to study the choice of recreational activities, reasons for school dropouts, income and
other aspects. The study found that for a majority of the child labourers the preferred choice of recreation was watching movies and listening to radio. The study also found that the child labourers were given left over food by their employers. The study also revealed that the child labourers suffered from fatigue, lack of rest break and weekly holidays.

Singh (1992) selected 200 children, aged 8 to 14 years working in hotels, truck garages, and doing household chores of Ahmedabad city. It aimed at studying the causes of child labour; size of the families and earnings of child labour. The study disclosed that most of the child labourers belonged to large families and worked due to socio economic compulsions. Children working in hotels and garages were earning very low wages between Rs 1 to 12 per day. The study recommended opening special schools, with non formal education at ten centers in the city.

Shukla and Shukla (1993) pointed out that, there were certain factors which enabled children to seek employment in the informal sector in comparison to the formal sector due to certain reasons viz- absence of any statutory minimum age requirement, easy entry, less competition among job seekers, absence of any minimum requirement of education or training, easy nature of work, provision of food, shelter and clothing in the city by the employer and absence of any minimum wage requirement as well as easy exit. He had also mentioned that four types of children were found engaged in the informal sector: children belonging to poor families who undertook jobs to supplement their parent’s income; children who had none to support them; children who were sent to urban areas by their parents in rural areas for earning a living; and children who ran away from their families.

Kumar (1993) had conducted a study on child labour and education. His study had covered fourteen major states of India and had relied on secondary information. The study revealed that high fertility rate resulted in heavy population structure and abundant availability of children. Low level of literacy, in general and failure of educational institutions and institutional infrastructures to attract children to schools for education and higher drop out rate added to this problem. He had also pointed out that due to poverty, sometimes there was high economic value attributed to children in
our traditional society and this left no other space for the poor parents but to send their children to the labour market.

IAMR (Institute of Applied Man Power Research) study on ‘Child Labour in Informal Sector’ in 1993 covered 644 child labourers of 492 households. The study reported that out of school children were the main reservoir for the supply of child labour. Most of the children were encouraged by their parents to be engaged as either self employed, wage paid or unpaid family workers. The study also reported that nearly 25% child labourers worked for more than seven hours in a day and most of the child labourers were semi-skilled. The various schemes initiated by government for controlling and banning the child labour practices did not have any impact in that area. The study viewed that child labour was not an economic problem alone; it had social and cultural dimensions too.

Kulshreshtha in ‘Indian Child Labour’ (1994) considered the child labour problem of India as an enigmatic problem. He attributed the causes of child labour, inter alia, to low wages of the adults, unemployment of the adult workers, lack of social security schemes for poor families, bigger family size, rural-urban migration, high rate of illiteracy, traditions and absence of compulsory education. He appraised the roles of voluntary organisations in creating awareness about the evils of child labour and securing social justice for them.

The study of Burra (1995) ‘Born to Work’ focused on the working children in some specific industries of glass making, brass ware, gem polishing and lock making. The study had focused on the socio economic conditions of the child labourers and the hazardous processes involved in their work. The study brought to light the fact that a large number of children, as young as five or six years worked through the night under great health and safety hazards, resulting in the stunting of the growth of these children, both psychological and physical. Even the state policies aimed at protecting children were poorly conceived and badly enforced.

Tripathi (1996) studied child labour in Agra city and found that maximum of them were residents of the same region and belonged to large nuclear families with meager family income. These children worked under pathetic working and employment
conditions. Most of these children were of the age group of 10-14 years, living in poor socio-economic conditions, earning low wages and worked for long hours with no rest in between. No facilities and benefits like provident fund, medical compensation were provided to the child labourers.

“Working Children in Urban India” by Patil (1997) is a comprehensive survey which attempted to analyse the problem of child labour at the macro level and also highlighted the reasons which compelled children to become wage labourers. The study revealed that among the selected 600 child workers in Bangalore, 79.67% were boys and 65.33% of the child labourers were in the age group of 15 and 17 years and around 10 percent were below the age of 10 years. The percentage of girls within each group varied and about 41.27% were in the age of below 10 years and 22.67 percent in the age group of 10-12 years. This study found that girls started working at an early age than do boys. It also brought out the harsh realities of child employment with regard to their wages and monthly earnings/income and revealed that the meager wages the children earned was the means of survival for their families. Finally it outlined some policy measures to tackle the problem of child labour in the short term and its elimination in the long term.

Tripathy’s study (1997) revealed that migrant child labourers were mainly from the drought prone poverty stricken scheduled caste and scheduled tribe families. The contributions of child labour to the family income were substantial as they contributed at par with adult members. Work environment of the migrant child labour was poor and they were usually victimized by health hazards of tuberculosis, eye, and hand injuries. The study also revealed that the migrant child labourers toiled hard and usually walked a distance not less than 16 km per day. About 50 percent of the migrant child labourers families were having a family size of 5 to 8 members. About 80 percent of child labourers migrated to Surat were in the age group of 11-14 years. An in-depth study of the living conditions of migrant child labourers revealed that the absence of employment in rural areas, failure of crops, poverty and indebtedness were some of the vital factors of migrant child labourers of Ganjam district in Orissa. Tripathy’s study also revealed that migrant child labour originated from the flow of labourers or labour mobility towards districts or states or outside where industry and
employment were expanding. Though migrant steams were varied in dimensions, but the principal current of modern migration all over the world was towards urban areas.

Gaur (1999) had conducted a study on ‘Child Labour in College Canteens in Jaipur city. The study revealed that about 80 percent of child labourers were living in kachi bastis with their parents. The bastis were located 10 to 15 kms from their work place and they commuted from their villages daily. The study also found that the child labourers were between the age group of 6 to 13 years and about 80 percent of the child labourers were illiterate. It also revealed that employment of child labour in college canteens was believed to have an economic basis that fitted into a demand supply frame work. Child labourers were source of income for their poor families and were easily available at the lowest wage rates. They were also easily controlled by employers through various methods such as physical torture, wage deduction and abusive language. The study also found that the children in college canteens did various types of work, such as supply of goods (tea, coffee, snack, cigarettes, cold drinks etc.) not only in canteen but also in the entire college campus.

The review of the studies conducted during the designated period 1900’s had also emphasized more on traditional occupations viz. gem polishing, lock making, carpet industry. Besides that, some of the studies were also conducted in the domain of the domestic, agriculture and hotel sectors. These studies highlighted the working conditions, terms of employment, causes of child labour as well as the physical and psychological problems faced by the children.

2.4 STUDIES CONDUCTED DURING THE YEAR 2000 AND BEYOND

Srivastava and Raj (2000) had conducted a study on child labour employed in the carpet industry of Mirzapur, Uttar Pradesh. The study revealed that about 62% of the children were illiterate and only 35 percent reported to have completed primary education. The study reported that more than 90 percent of the child labourers were earning a monthly income of less than Rs. 600/-. The study also indicated that the modal age of entry into the carpet industry was 10 years. While entry was reported even at the age 6-8 years, the entry acquired momentum by the time children were
eight years old. The study also showed that poverty was most important reason for non-enrolment of students, as well as drop out of the students. Their parents were not conscious of and interested in the education of their children. This study found that the organization of the carpet industry was fairly informal and most of the carpets were produced at the house hold level. A break-up of the workers in the carpet industry revealed that adults comprised only 42.29 percent against the children who constituted 57.71 percent. The study also reported that about 42.26 percent of the children were between 6-14 years. It also bought out the fact that female children constituted nearly 30 percent of all children working and belonging to households with child labour in the carpet industry. It also found that the children from child labour households were generally from the poorer economic backgrounds, and most of them were drawn from either backward classes or scheduled caste communities.

Mathur and Bhargava (2000) conducted a study based on the problems of child labour, particularly in the gem-polishing industry, in Jaipur and other areas of Rajasthan. The study revealed that the main cause for the existence of the problem of child labour was the concerned people’s ignorance. Most of the parents whose young children worked in these industries were simply unaware of the welfare measures that were being implemented for their benefit and that of their children. Secondly, most of the parents also did not consider anything wrong in making their children work from an early age. They were more concerned about the children’s ability to be able to earn wages by becoming skilled, nor about their education. So, schooling of the child was not considered important for these parents. They also felt that if a child is gainfully occupied, it would keep him or her out of mischief.

Desai and Raj (2001) had conducted a study on child labour in the diamond industry of Surat. The study found that the working hours of the child labourers was flexible and varied from one unit to another and their wages were calculated on a piece rate basis. An average worker polished around 7-8 diamonds a day and earned about Rs. 1000 per month. The wage structure was almost similar for adults and children after a training period. All workers including children were initially given on-the-job training for a period. Children were not given the job of polishing diamonds right from the time they were inducted. During the initial one or two months, they were given jobs
like cleaning the units, running errands etc. The study showed that child workers in
the age group of 13-14 years constituted almost 96 percent of the total child labour in
the sample. The study also found that about 94 percent of the child labours were
found to be migrants mainly from the Bhumihar community of Bihar, Rajasthan,
Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and Uttar Pradesh. It also revealed that over 80 percent of
child labourers were reported to have joined the work in the age group of 11 to 12
years and an insignificant proportion below the age of 10. The working conditions in
the diamond industry were not different from other informal sector activities. Benefits
like permanent status, provident fund, gratuity, earned leave, sick leave, and casual
leave were not given to workers even though they were entitled to them.

Mathur and Singh (2001) had conducted a study on child labour in the gem-polishing
industry of Jaipur. The study found that the industry was deemed suitable for child
labour as it required no knowledge-based skills at least in some processes. Several
reasons were cited in the study for the continued presence of children in the industry
including the inability of the child labour legislation to pull the children out from
work. The increasing number of workshops was also a major reason for the increasing
number of employment of children in these industries. The parents also felt that, the
earlier a child learns the skill, the better it is since, by the time he is 15 or 16 year old,
he would be able to earn Rs. 60 or more per day. The study also found that children
contributed 10 percent of the family income. The study also found that as the work in
the gem polishing process was divided into different segments with only some
requiring skill and special equipment, the child labour was easily accommodated in all
those processes that required no or few skills. Since no special equipment was needed
for operations like Kandi Lagana, boring holes in the beads and stringing, such
activities were shifted from the workshop to the homes of the labourers. This
facilitated the involvement of women and children in their homes. The study also
revealed that parents of the child labour were more cynical about the benefits of
education and felt that there were better prospectus for their children in the gem
industry. The parents viewed that instead of being failure at school, the child could be
groomed to be successful in an occupation that he liked to join. The study also
revealed that most of the parents, children and even workshop owners were unaware of the various legislations.

Raj and Chauhan (2001) stated that child labour was a multidimensional problem. The study reported both the supply and demand side factors that contributed for the growth of child labour. From the supply side, they specifically focussed on poverty and caste factors. Social, cultural and traditional factors were also responsible for the plight of children in India. On the demand side, determinants of child labour were: as source of cheap labour, less developed egos of children and absence of child labour unions. The study concluded that various circumstances like poverty, low family income, illiteracy, caste and traditions, lack of interest in studies or loss of parents lead to work in early stages. The study also pointed out that it was not enough to have a plethora of laws enacted to provide legal protection to child workers, regulate their working conditions but there was need to install effective administrative machinery to enforce the law.

Sekar and Mohammed (2001) had conducted a study on child labour in the lock industry of Aligarh. The study was based on primary data. The study reported the large scale existence of lock making in Aligarh because it was considered as traditional craft of the Muslims. It revealed that most of the child labourers belonged to poor economic conditions and their households were confined in the income bracket of Rs. 500-2000 per month. It also pointed out that, financial problems of the households were the main cause for the non-enrollment of children as parents preferred to send their children to earn rather than learn at school.

Jeyaranjan (2001) had conducted a study on child labour in the knitwear industry of Thiruppur in Coimbatore. The study revealed that a substantial number of children about 60 percent were from the age group of 15-18 years. The remaining child labourers were from the youngest age group of 6-11. The study also found that the sample contained a substantial number of backward caste and scheduled caste households. The study also reported that, the parents felt that instead of entering the market at a later date and struggling to learn the work, it is better that the children learn the work now, and earn some wages while learning skills, to emerge as full-
fledged workers in a couple of years. These working children were very much happy by the weekly wages that they got. A substantial part of their income was shared at home but their pocket money was enough to go to a movie during the weekends. The study reported that most of the children could afford to go to the cinema- which would be impossible if they had to get the money from their parents. Similarly they could eat out as and when they felt like with the little money that they got for themselves. Many children also pooled their money to hire a vehicle and go for excursions during the weekly holidays. But unfortunately, because of their access to cash, many of them had started drinking at a very early age. Since most of the child labour households had a television at home with a cable connection, many children spent their late evenings before these television sets.

Vidyasagar and Kumarababu (2002) conducted a study on ‘Child Labour in the home based match industries of Sivakasi’. The study reported that, the concentration of match industries in Sivakasi was because of pioneering entrepreneurship, close caste cooperation among entrepreneurs, availability of timber from nearby Kerala, drought in the area leading to supply of cheap labour, arid climate facilitating natural drying of match sticks and boxes and low levels of literacy. This heavy concentration had been facilitated by availability of skilled labour, especially child labour in that area. The study also pointed out that female children and adults were employed equally in most of the operations in the match industry, like frame filling, box filling, box making, labeling and so on. The adults (men) were employed as chemical dippers, accountants and supervisors. Women and children constituted nearly 90 percent of the workforce in the match industry. The study also reported that child labour in Sivakasi’s match industry was primarily a demand side creation and the structure of the industry was conducive for garnering such cheap labour. The study revealed that given the nature of organization of production in the hand made match industry and the comparative cost advantage of labour, demand side factors played a primary role for persistence of child labour. However, the supply side factors also provided a fertile ground for the demand for cheap labour to grow and the industry to grow and get agglomerated. The study also found that children’s contribution was significant to the families and if children were withdrawn from work, many families would suffer economically.
Singh and Sharma (2002) had conducted a study on child labour in the bangle units of Firozabad. The study found that children were employed only at the household level of bangle production. They were engaged mainly for jhalai, judai, katai and hill chadhana. After the initial making of the glass spirals in the factory, the entire work was transferred to small home based level units. The amount of payment and work done was measured in terms of the tora (312 bangles) and for every tora; payment of Rs. 1.65 was made for Jhalai, Rs. 2.75 for judai and Rs. 1.40 for chaklai. The children earned Rs. 43 per day. The study also showed that 38% of the children belonged to the 6-14 age group and these children entered the job market at the very early age of five and six years old. However, the maximum entry was around the age of 10. The study also found that children contributed about 20% of the family income. It was also found that almost one third of the children were dropped out as their parents could not afford the cost of education.

The study of NIPCCD (2003) conducted in Guwahati reported hazardous working conditions of children and also suggested some measures to prevent child abuse. A sample of 300 child workers upto 14 years were taken from 3 different categories of occupations, namely (i) employed (hotel workers, domestic servants, shop workers, sweepers,); (ii) self-employed (rag pickers, vendors); and (iii) others (helpers). Door to door enumeration, field interviews and observations technique was used to collect data. It was revealed that a majority of the child labourers (79%) were males and only 21% were females. The study also reported that a majority of the respondents belonged to Hindus and Muslims and a very few were Christians. The study also reported that the payment of wages was done both through cash and kind. The working hours of the children varied from 8-12 hours per day. Some of the child labourers were getting free food and first aid facility at the time of need. The study also highlighted the recreational patterns of the children. It reported that, children spent their leisure time playing with friends, watching movies and television. The study also revealed that the employers preferred children as they were trust worthy and could do small jobs. Regarding the future plans of children, a majority of the parents wanted their children to get jobs with a better salary after learning the trade, and some of the parents wanted their children to start a business and become self-
employed. The study also reported that a significant number of parents (78%) were satisfied with the child’s income.

John and Ghosh (2003) conducted a study of Child Labour in the Zardari and Hathari Units of Varanasi’. The study found that poverty was the main reason behind child labour. In this industry, most of the children were uneducated. Working hours of the children were long and the rooms in which they worked lacked proper ventilation and sufficient light which was harmful to the physical health and well being of the children. As the children were involved in the work from an early age, they neither had time for any physical activity necessary at their age nor were they able to take up any alternative employment, once they grow up. Since most work was piece rated, the pressure to produce more forced children to work for longer hours. This increased fatigue and other psychological problems. It ultimately reduced their working capacity in adult hood. The study also pointed out that television was the most popular household item which was a major source of entertainment. This was perhaps the only medium through which they related to the outside world.

Mishra and Pradhan (2003) conducted a study on ‘Child Labour in Transport Sector’ in the Ganjam district of Orissa. The study found that due to lack of adequate income of parents, they had to come forward in search of employment and joined in this hazardous sector. These children had no bargaining power, they worked as per the desire of the owner with ‘no work no pay’ condition. The working hours of these children were not fixed, they resumed their work early in the morning and got relieve till the work is finished which could be midnight. These children were not given any other benefits except the salary. Even when, these children were seriously injured, the owner never took care of them. The study found that economic backwardness was one of the main reasons that forced the parents to send their children to work.

Sekar (2004) had conducted a study titled on ‘Child Labour in Urban Informal Sector: A Study of Rag Pickers’ in Noida’. The study reiterated the fact that the perpetuation of child labour was inextricably linked to the slow pace of poverty reduction. Intersection of poverty with other forms of disadvantages such as caste and gender complicated its effects on the incidence of child labour. The findings were based on
the data elicited from 836 households constituting 4315 members. Children below 14 years in the sample population comprised of 2345 with 1393 males and 952 females and of these 925 children in the age group of 5-14 years were working as rag pickers in various sectors of Noida. The study revealed that 97% of the households with rag picking children were migrants. Almost all the households migrated after 1980s when the city was being constructed. Poverty and unemployment was reported as the most common reason for migration. The study revealed that the living conditions of the rag pickers were extremely poor which hardly had any basic amenities. The study also revealed that a majority of the households were residing in their own houses. These houses were made by using cheap building material and were having only the temporary ceilings which were highly vulnerable to vagaries of weather.

Ghosh (2004) had conducted a study on migration, labour process and employment of brick kiln workers in Noida. The study revealed that most of the workers were migrants from Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan. The study reported that child labourers were working 11-15 hours per day. These children were contributing 10-20% of their family income. The study also reported that some of the children entered the work force between 5-8 years.

Mishra and Mishra (2004) had conducted a study entitled ‘Tiny Hands in Unorganized Sector’ in Delhi. The study reported that a majority of children started working at a very young age because of several factors like broken families, alcoholic parents, aversion towards education, a desire to supplement family income and other problems. These children were engaged in various occupations viz, rag picking, dhaba/road side café workers, domestic help, shoe shine boys, hawkers, cycle/scooter mechanics. Their area of operation was not confined rather spread through out Delhi. Most of the work done by them was monotonous, repetitive and dull in nature. Their wages depended entirely on the work they did. The child was paid much less that what an adult earned for the same work. These children were deprived of health security benefits, and were exposed to extreme weather conditions, traffic hazards, and police beating besides becoming victims of unhealthy habits like smoking, drinking and chewing gutka etc. These children had very little contact with their parents and even those who stayed with their parents had no time to care for them.
The study also revealed that a majority of the children were school drop outs. The study reported that these children had aversion towards education because there was no one to guide them.

The Impulse Net Work (2004) had conducted a study on child labour in Shillong. This study was conducted to understand the psychosocial environment, nature, extent and magnitude of the problem; health and support systems for child labour; and their expectations from the Government and other agencies. A sample of 501 boys, belonging to school going age was taken up for the study. Data was collected through interviews. It was found that these children worked mostly in commercial areas like Bara Bazaar and Police Bazaar, and a majority of them were 11-14 years. Both parents and children were ignorant about the value of education or about the ill effects of child labour. These children were engaged in different types of work, like rag picking, cleaning automobiles, selling betel nuts, shoe polishing, tea boy, domestic help, coolie work, etc. These children worked 8-12 hours a day and on an average earned Rs.10-50 per day. Most of these children had attended school at one time or the other and a majority of them wanted to go back to school if given an opportunity. Children gave up their studies due to family problems in order to provide financial support to their families. The study also reported that some of the children also did not have interest in studies. Most of the children were found to be weak and undernourished. They were found to be suffering from health problems like cough, tuberculosis, skin disease, anemia, symptoms of deficiencies, physical growth retardation, etc. They lived in unhygienic conditions and slept only 5 hours a day. These children played with friends during leisure, watched movies, and some of the children (20%) took part in gambling. The study reported that a majority of these children ate food from wayside shops or hotels. The study also reported that 6% children were arrested once or twice or more and had a harsh experience with the police. The study also revealed that most of the parents and children were unaware of the existing laws relating to child labour.

Tiwari (2005) in his study “Child Labour in Footwear Industry: Possible Occupational Health Hazards” reported that children between 10 and 15 years old were mainly employed in assembling shoes. Children worked on soling (fixing upper portions of
shoes to leather or rubber soles) with glue. The children working in the footwear industry were exposed to physical hazards like poor illumination, noise and poor ventilation, and chemicals like leather dust, benzene that was used as a solvent in glues and p-tert butyl phenols, which was used in neoprene adhesives. Thus, most children suffer from respiratory problems, lung diseases and skin infections through constant exposure to glue and fumes. They were also exposed to risk of nasal cancer, neurotoxicity and adverse physical factors.

Hussain and Sarwar (2005) conducted a study on child labour in Kashmir. The study reported that poverty, population explosion, illiteracy, unemployment, under employment and poor governance were the major causes for child labour. This study reported that most of these children were forced into child labour with a meagre wage of 10-20 rupees and they had to do this because there were no other earning members in their families. They do these activities to take care of siblings and to fulfil the addiction needs of their parents. The study also emphasized for the implementation of policies relating to child labour, introduction of poverty alleviation programmes and joint effort of government and other institutions would be helpful in eliminating child labour.

Singh (2006) had conducted a study on the ‘problems of child labour and their working conditions in Agra City’. The study found that majority of child labourers engaged in dhaba and tea stalls, auto workshops; weather and furniture industry had attained ten years of age. Most of the child labourers had come from large families. The study reported that, in most of the cases wages were paid in cash directly to the child labourers and in some cases middle men receive payment. In most of the cases, monthly wages were paid to the children, however daily and weekly payment system was also prevalent in auto workshops and furniture industry. Besides wages, they also got festival gifts. These children did not get statutory benefits like provident fund, pension, bonus etc. The study found that majority of the children worked under miserable conditions amidst lots of smoke, dust and odour.

Shandilya, Kumar and Kumar (2006) conducted a study on 184 child labourers engaged in hotel, restaurants, tea stalls, and dhabas of the Patna town. Their study
reported that almost all their sample respondents were male because they had the freedom to enter into this occupation. Almost three out of four children (78.1%) could not even read or write and these children reported that financial constraint of the family prevented them from attending school. Thirty two percent of the children reported that they disliked studies and hence they did not go to any school. The other reasons given by the children for not studying were the fear of punishment given by class teachers, ill treatment by classmates, failure in studies and frequent shifts in the place of stay. The study also reported that various factors like low education level of the parents, big family size, low income of the parents were the major reasons which played an important role in determining child labour. The study also found that these children worked for more than 13 hours a day with a meagre average wage of Rs. 309/- per month. These children were not provided medical facilities in case of their illness. Most of their employers were indifferent to them or they were provided nominal help. These children had experienced multiple health problems, like fever, headache, cold/cough and even open wounds either on their hands or legs. They were not allowed any rest during the whole course of their work in a day and week. Almost all the children (90.2%) stated that there was no specific period/day given to them for leave. These children were not receiving adequate quantity of food required for their age and labour. These children also did not enjoy sound sleep, as almost two out of three children were sleeping at the wok place only, that is, in the hotel where they were sleeping in a group along with others.

The study of Sakamoto (2006) on "Parental Attitudes toward Children and Child Labour: Evidence from Rural India," empirically investigated the determinants of child labour in rural India using household survey data. The study reported that parent’s attitude was the crucial determinant of child labour. The study used probit model, controlling for individual, household, and community characteristics, and found that children were more likely to work if their parents showed less concern for them. The study also showed that children were more likely to work if their father had greater bargaining power in the household than their mother. Moreover, the study also indicated that the incidence of child labour was positively associated with household poverty. The study suggested that in order to reduce or eliminate child labour, the
government should implement policies to address the various factors causing child labor, such as parents' lack of concern for their children, imbalances in the power structure within households, and household poverty.

Mustafa and Sharma (2008) in their study, ‘Child Labour in India-A Bitter Truth’ highlighted the working conditions of child labourers in Delhi working in six vocations - tea stalls/dhabas, automobile workshops, domestic child workers and other three of self employed in occupations as shoe shining, rag picking, evening newspaper hawkers. The study reported that, poverty, low educational and occupational status of the parents, inadequacy of legislative system and its enforcements were the important reasons for the persistence of child labour. The study also reported that employers preferred to employ children over adults for their greater benefits and the parents felt that job disciplines the child and protects him against vagrancy and delinquency. Apart from suffering health hazards, the children suffered from the incidence of malnutrition and undernourishment. They were also easy victim to anti social activities, like black marketing, smuggling, theft, drugs de-addiction etc. The study reported that most of the child worked upto 12 hours in a day for a meager wage of Rs.150 to Rs.200 per month and about 1/3rd of the children did not receive their earnings themselves, rather the money was sent to their parents or guardians. Despite their hard labour for prolonged hours and minimal wages, these children were not provided with even the basic amenities. These children who got food from their employers were given the left overs of the previous day and were hardly provided with fruits, salads or sweets. The study also reported that some of the children were not treated properly by their employers and/or co-workers. They were neglected, abused and punished over trivial mistakes. More than one third of the children were staying in hutments and a substantial proportion being houseless, were forced to spend the nights either in the night shelters or on the foot paths and did not have private drinking water and sanitation facilities. More than half of the children (56.7%) did not get time to play due to excessive hours of work, fatigue and responsibility towards household chores.

Bhat and Rather (2009) conducted a study on ‘Child Labour in the Handicrafts Home Industry in Kashmir: A Sociological Study’. It revealed that the problem of child labour in Kashmiri society had wider ramifications and the situation reflected an extremely cruel social situation which engulfed socially, economically and
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educationally backward communities. The problem of child labour as existing in Kashmiri society had given rise to multidimensional problems having adverse implications on one’s physical, social, emotional, moral and educational development. It was not only social apathy towards child labour but the government in this regard had also shown lack of interest; thereby the problem had become more complex and dangerous. Moreover, the problem of social control, crime and social conflict emanated from the situation without proper care and response, on the part of government and the society at large. The research findings revealed that the problem of child labour was rooted deeply in Kashmiri society, tremendous growth in population accompanied by poverty, illiteracy and ignorance, lack of quality education were the major causes responsible for child labour. It adversely affected one’s personality in terms of its physical, social, emotional, moral and educational development. The study showed that no one was showing concern towards the problem of child labour. Their insecure childhood made them more vulnerable to exploitation. They children suffered at the hands of their employers. They worked in very dirty environments. Though there were various laws to abolish child labour but they always remained confined to papers as reflected by the action of the government. The study also indicated that the total abolition of child labour was neither possible nor desirable so long as there was wide spread poverty, illiteracy and ignorance and unemployment.

Mohapatra and Dash conducted a study in 2011 titled “Child Labour- A Product of Socio-Economic Problem for India, Findings and Preventives- A Case of Bhubabaneswar”. The study reported that many appalling realities like poverty, illiteracy, unemployment, low wages, ignorance, social prejudices, regressive traditions, poor standard of living, backwardness, superstition, low status of women were responsible for the terrible practice of child labour. In many cases, child labour was mainly necessitated by economic compulsions of the parents. The main reason which gave rise to child labour was widespread unemployment and underemployment among the adult poor strata of the population, inter alia, due to sharp growth of population. Large families with low income and often lack of educational facilities, illiteracy and ignorance of parents about the importance of education as well as about
the impact of labour on the health of their children were some of the reasons which breed child labour.

Lalsuresh (2011) had conducted a study on rag pickers in the Warangal city of Andhra Pradesh. This paper focussed on the health aspects, spending and earning pattern of child rag pickers in Warangal city of Andhra Pradesh, India. The finding showed that majority of rag pickers were suffering from ill health and were having bad habits such as tobacco-chewing and consumption of alcohol. Nearly all the rag pickers were earnings below Rs.1200 per month and their entire major spending was on unproductive items. Illiteracy, poverty, indebtedness of their family was the main causes for the poor children opting for rag picking activity.

Dhar and Joshi (2008) conducted a study on “Child Labour in the Restaurants and Eateries: A Case Study of Pune City.” The different aspects of the working conditions that were outlined in this study clearly indicated that the worst forms of child labour prevailed in Pune. Child labourers were exploited by the restaurant and eatery owners, dictated their payments and working conditions. Children below the age of eighteen years were involved in different work activities related to the eatery sector. They were not only given false promises by the employers, but were also deprived of their basic rights. The study also reported that children worked for long hours with little time to rest or play, that caused great amount of strain. They worked in hazardous conditions predisposing them to a number of health problems including exposure to various chemicals which was used for washing plates and sweeping floors. The study reported that the most prominent reasons for child labour were the poor economic status of the family and the inability of parents to provide basic needs for their children. Children had to mostly drop out of school due to lack of funds to support their education and had to work in this industry. It was noted that children who either dropped out of school or had completed their primary education were now mostly engaged in this industry. It was further noted that children received payments, mostly in cash, mostly at the whims of the owners. They were forced to use their incomes to either support their families or to support themselves for their survival.
Chapter 2:  

Review of Literature

The review of the above studies revealed that, most of the studies conducted during this period emphasized on traditional occupations viz. carpet industry, gem polishing, diamond industry, match industry, bangle units, transport sectors, brick kiln work, foot wear industry and rag picking. Only a few studies were conducted on hotel/restaurants/tea stalls/dhabas, garage during this period. These studies had also focussed on working conditions of child labourers, the terms of employment and had also identified the factors leading to child labour.

2.5 OVERVIEW OF THE REVIEW

The literature review undertaken by the researcher revealed the following insights:

- The review of literature revealed that most of the studies conducted during the designated chronological period revealed that a majority of studies focused on single and traditional occupations and were conducted in the context of the carpet industry, beedi industry, glass making, lock industry, gem polishing, knit wear industry, match industry and foot wear industry. These empirical studies mainly covered the following aspects: the background characteristics of child labourers; their working conditions with an emphasis on problems arising out of their occupations; the determinants of child labour; educational status; recreational activities; and the adverse consequences of child labour.

- It also revealed that only four studies were conducted on hotels/ restaurants/ dhabas/tea stalls and garages during the period 2000 and beyond. So, it can be said that service sector informal occupations like tea stalls/dhabas, shops, garages and vegetable markets (subzi mandis) have been given less importance. Few studies focusing on children working in subzi mandis, shops, dhabas & restaurants and garages have not focused on the changing patterns of jobs assumed by the children and the reasons thereof; the nature of their aspirations; their health seeking behavior, their consumption patterns and several other significant aspects pertaining to their life. These studies also did not highlight the coping mechanisms adopted by children as well as their families to cope with the rigours of the hard lives they face.
• Most of the studies focused on a quantitative analysis. There were only few studies that assumed a qualitative stance in data collection and analysis. Narrative analysis of children engaged in work was not undertaken in any study.

• Most of the studies were based on the views of a single stakeholder i.e. child labour. Few studies have incorporated the view points of parents. There were few studies which incorporated employers also as respondents in the study.

• The review of literature also revealed that there were many studies on child labour in general, but specific studies pertaining to child labour in vegetable markets, dhabas, shops and garages were limited. Moreover, no such studies have been conducted after the employment of children was banned in dhabas (road side eateries), restaurants, hotels, motels, tea shops, resorts, spas or other recreational centers in the year 2006.