Chapter 7

Conclusions
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CONCLUSION

According to Justice P.N. Bhagvati and Justice R.N. Pathak of Supreme Court, today’s child is the foundation of the pillar on which tomorrow’s nation is to be built, if the foundation is weak, the national structure is likely to collapse. So it is the obligation of every generation to bring up children who will be citizens of tomorrow in a proper way. Today’s children will be leaders of tomorrow, who will hold the country’s banner high and maintain the prestige of the nation. If child goes wrong for want of proper attention, training and guidance, it will indeed be a deficiency of the society and of the government of the day. The problem of child labour is indeed a negative factor. Every society, therefore must devote full attention to ensure that children are properly cared for and brought up in a proper atmosphere, where they can receive adequate training, education and guidance in order to see them achieving their rightful place in the society when they grow up.

Child labour is a multi-dimensional problem. With the study of surveyed literature it became obvious that child labour is not the only result of poverty. Causes vary across regions with respect to industries. It can be broadly said that child labour is the result of poverty, poor education system, prevalence of myths about child, labour, traditional use of child labour and so on.

Being an unorganized sector in nature, the workers of this industry suffer on the whole. In dari (cotton carpet) making industry two types of units
are found. One is house based unit and the second is factory based unit. A large number of employees fall into this second category, which is completely unorganized. Middle/supplier like the workers who mount thread on wheels, weavers and child labour for knotting and clipping.

The *dari (cotton carpet)* industry is organized in such a way that first of all the factory owners arrange the yarn from the yarn agents of Panipat, Kanpur, Maharashtra and Delhi. In export quality orders, factory owners use yarns from Maharashtra and Delhi, because the yarns from these two places is very fine. Not a single *dari (cotton carpet)* making industry has direct relations with the yarn mills. All of the yarn is purchased through the yarn agent. After purchasing of the yarn then the dyeing work starts. Yarn are dyed in the required colours; most of the dyeing of yarn done manually. Rafeeq Ansari’s given Sitapur dyed their yarn with the machines is the only firm which uses advanced technology for dyes. All employers claim that they use Ozole free chemical dyes which are very light and do not harm the skin. They are compelled by their parties to use this chemical because skin of children or adult are in a direct contact with the *dari (cotton carpet)*s, which may result in skin diseases. So they are strictly instructed to use harmful chemicals and if they find that they have out used izole free chemical from the orders are cancelled. If this situation is repeated then exporters cancel the deal of such factory owners who cheat them forever.

After dyeing, the yarn is left to dry in shade and then distributed to weaver for weaving with prescribed size and design. The wages are already
fixed between them. A weaver normally weaves two-three *dari (cotton carpet)*s of normal size in a day. Middlemen come to the villages with the dyed yarn.

Weaving, knotting and clipping are done in home based units. Some people install their own looms, while some of them do weaving on rented rooms in the outer portion of the house. The houses are made of mud walls with thatched roofs. Above seventeen years of age, adult are involved in weaving. No evidence has been found that child labour is engaged in weaving; the main reason behind the non-involvement of children in weaving is that their legs are not long enough to reach the length, necessary for loom operation. Some suppliers install 10-15 rooms in a big hall, and they employ the weavers on a piece rate wages. After weaving the *dari (cotton carpet)*, the weavers return it to the supplier/middlemen. The middlemen/suppliers then distribute the woven *dari (cotton carpet)*s to the child labours for knotting and clipping.

For knotting and clipping 7-14 years aged children are engaged. Some children do knotting and clipping at home while most of them do it at the work place. Children usually tie the knots of about 15-20 rugs daily and earn between 10-14/Rs. in a day. After knotting children do clipping (finishing) of the *dari (cotton carpet)*s and get separate wages for it.

After weaving, knotting and clipping the suppliers/middlemen collect the *dari (cotton carpet)*s and return it to the factory. The employees of factory pack the *dari (cotton carpet)* according to the order. After packing the *dari (cotton carpet)*, the factory owners send it to the required destination either by bus, train, courier or even by air. The prepared rugs are sold in Durrie mandi (rug market) situated in the heart of the proper Sitapur. Saturday and Thursday
are the market days when the businessmen of Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Gujrat, Kashmir, Delhi and also from Uttar Pradesh have come to purchase the *dari (cotton carpet)*. Sometimes rugs are also sold from the factory premises.

The socio-economic status of the factory owners are usually sound. Most of factory owners have annual turnovers of more than one crore. Some factory owners who supply their *dari (cotton carpet)*s in India as well as abroad had annual turnover above 5 crore.

**Sitapur dari (cotton carpet) industry** started in the year 1886. Initially, this industry started in Chilwara followed by Rasulpur, Kharabad and Laharpur. Earlier people used to buy the yarn either from Sitapur or other places. They themselves dyed the yarn with the help of family members then they put the yarn on bicycles and searched for weavers because in those days the business of rug making was not established like today. The weaver were a *dari (cotton carpet)* in more than a day. They knotted and clip the *dari (cotton carpet)*s themselves. After completing the rugs they used to sell the *dari (cotton carpet)*s on bicycles door to door.

After a long interval of time, some factory owners took loans from the bank, some mortgaged their property to establish their business then to establish their business. First of all they made contacts with parties from outside the district. They started receiving orders and when they completed the orders before time, they increased their manpower. Gradually, they got success and their economic status improved with the improvement in their economic status their lifestyle also changed, they started living in lavish homes, they become aware of education, because being illiterates they had faced lots of
problems in business dealing. So they started educating their children. At present their social and economic status has improved very much. Now, the dari (cotton carpet) making industry is established and the overall annual turnover of the dari (cotton carpet) making industry of the district is more than one hundred crore.

Children are engaged in this profession because social, economic, cultural and many more factors responsible for child labour. Majority of their parents are illiterate. Due to illiteracy parents are not aware about the merits of education and demerits of work. Education is very important to built the personality of an individual. It teaches the person to live according to social norms and values. Female education is quite low in comparison to male education. No female was found who had completed education upto primary level, few of them had recited only Quran. No male respondent were found who had completed their education upto primary level.

It is surprising that parents did not consider child labour bad, they don’t think that child labour has any severe consequence on the health of their child. They used the additional income of their children to maintain their subsistence level. So their children must do some work to earn their livelihood, they say that to enter their children into labour force, they have trained their children to earn their livelihood.

Improper implementation of compulsory primary education encourages child labour although government makes a lot of effort to provide education to all, but it still is not properly implemented. The primary school doesn’t provide such type of education which prepares children for brighter
future. Poor education system is very much responsible for child labour. Accessibility of schools, irrelevant and non-attractive school curriculum, poor infrastructure of the schools, lack of skilled teachers are some of the chief reasons which turn children away from joining the school. Also there is lots of appointment of untrained teachers, who are not capable of teaching the student in the light ways.

The schools don’t have seating arrangements and the students sit on floors. Teachers hardly use blackboards for teaching, blackboard is to be used when any inspection occurs. The enrolment rate has increased due to annual distribution of Rs. 300/- and 3 kg of wheat every third month. To avail this facility, student must have 75 per cent attendance, but the fact is that neither students or teachers are interested in joining school, they only join the school at the time of distribution. Teachers cut the scholarship as well as wheat from the share of the student, but they did not raise any objection and they are not in a position to object. An 8-9 member family is a common phenomenon in rural areas, parents consider their children to be economic assets rather their responsibilities which they may use wherever they require; the reason being that resources are less than the minimum requirements of people. Economic status of the child labourers families are not good. Mixed profession is followed by the respondents of the district and they work on daily wages. The reason behind the existence of mixed profession is that, a few years back dari (cotton carpet) making was not done in remote areas of the district, but due to continuous raids of district magistrate, factory owners suffers a lot financially in the form of compensation, so they shifted their work form tehsils to blocks. Not all, but some of the people know the skill of weaving and knotting, and
have trained other people And now the *dari* (cotton carpet) making industry completely established in remote areas as well. The adults of the remote areas do a variety of jobs like farming, mechanical work, rickshaw pulling, daily wager labourer and general merchant schools and so on.

Low income throws the family into greater hardship, because low income families are deprived of the essential requirements of the family. A family with one earning member earns between 2300-2400/Rs. in a month and families with two earning members earn between 2400-2700/Rs. in a month. More than two earning members earn almost 3000/- Rs. in a month. Women are not found to work outside their homes, but some women do engage themselves in children embroidery. The head of the families are not engaged in any fixed job, where they can get salary so in this situation families are in need of their children’s income. Adult unemployment causes child labour and this has replaced adult labour because it is cheap and children are easy to control. Since, adult members of the family are not able to earn more to meet the family expenditures, they are bound to engage their children into labour force to increase their income.

Cultural factor is also responsible for the prevalence of child labour to some extent. The children of those men who are engaged in weaving within their father’s profession, but because of mixed profession majority of child labours are those whose father’s are not in this profession. Prevalence of some myths also causes child labour like for eg. They have to work, because they are poor, the family need additional income for their survival; children are necessary to preserve the traditional art and craft and so on. It is a common
myth that children tie knots efficiently because of their nimble fingers, but the fact is that no evidence is to be found, that only children can tie the knots fast. It is said that child labour can’t be abolished because of poverty but if the social organization, political leaders and every member of society gets determined and believe that it is their responsibility to implement legal provisions made for safeguarding their children to protect them from this social evil, then child labour can be abolished to a great extent. But it is seen that neither parents nor the state are willing to abolish child labour, parents justify child labour on the grounds that they need their children’s income. Inspite of telling them that they are doing the wrong thing by engaging their children in labour force, and it will have severe consequences on their children’s health and future they don’t believe that they are doing any wrong thing, which may cause any problem on their children health and future.

Children are mainly engaged in the unorganized sector. A bulk of child labour is found in this sector. Employees have no unions and because of this they are exploited by their employer in terms of wages and working hours. The people living in rural areas have no employment opportunities except to join this workforce. There is a lot of constitutional provision to prohibit children from work but they are not properly implemented labour official don’t go to places for inspection where child labour concentration is high. Legal provision are enough to protect children from work if they are properly implemented.

It is imperative that every child should receive education, it being the basic right of every human being, despite the financial constraints involved in it. Though the constitution has made a provision for mandatory free primary
education, yet this gets neglected and children enter into the labour market. The Government of India has also been instrumentalised to give proper and due attention to the expansion of primary education, because the long term solution of this problem of child labour lies in education alone. Also, India has one of the largest programmes of primary education of child in the world.

Mid-day meals and scholarships, though attractive schemes, do not do much to enhance the literacy rate. A quota of 3 kg of wheat distributed to the students every third month in place of the mid-day meals is not a feasible solution for addressing the plan of child education. To avail this facility, and all such facilities meant to benefit these children, an attendance of 80 per cent is required through attendance records are met by the students, they do not help increase literacy rates, because many a times, these records are structured to meet the benefit of the students as well as the teachers. Hence, such schemes, though appealing in nature, do actually for very badly in practical terms.

Poor infrastructure of the school is very much responsible for the prevalence of child labour; though quite contractstingly, it has been fund in some studies that despite financial constraints, a number of parents send their children to schools. Generally, schools are situated very far from residential areas. The structure is normally a one room/one verandah, or two room/one veranda, without toilets and drinking of water facilities. Students who asked leave to avail these facilities, hardly ever came back to attend the remaining time in school, for the day. For the lack of the drinking water and toilet facilities, a number of parents especially hold back their girls from school.
Most of the schools don’t even have proper seating arrangements, with bare furniture, and children bring their jute mats to sit on. In the research study area, it was also found that there is a shortage of teachers. If a school has only one teacher, he/she teaches all the levels present in the school. When there are two teachers, the task is divided, but since the classes are taken at the same time, there is lack of general discipline in the school premises. Most of the time, the children receive no substantial education, because of firstly, the lack of interest and discipline among the students and secondly, the lack of interest among the teacher or teachers.

Several schools have untrained teachers, who lack the skills to teach students. Communication between the teacher and student is not managed by these unskilled teachers, and hence no improvement is made in the literacy rate. All these result in a loss of interest for education by the parent as well as the child.

Although the central and state government, social as well as non-governmental organizations have made various efforts to educate children upto the primary level, yet these efforts remain largely futile. Various legislative measures have also been taken to address the problem, but, it is evident from this research study that mere legal provisions cannot solve the problem of child labour and child illiteracy in so big a country as India. The ideal way would be to bring about social changes and emphasize the role that education can play in the creation of a better nation.

According to 1991 census Andhra Pradesh had the highest percentage (i.e. 14.3 per cent) of child labours. 90 per cent of child labour were employed
in rural areas. Pramila H. Bhargava a civil servant of 1988 batch visits the child labour prove areas of the state. She found that the condition of these child labours families was very miserable children do variety of job over there, like quarrying and mining, cotton cultivation, groundnut cultivation, cattle grazing, sericulture, silk weaving and livestock management. Children were exploited in terms of wages and working hours, because the average daily income of such families was less than 50/- Rs. They hardly afford a single meal per day. Because of economic constraints children were compel to work in treacherous condition. She found after her visit that the child labours were illiterate or semi-literate.

She know one thing that the abolition of child labour is possible only through education. She had started bridge courses, in which a student can pass two classes in a year, residential camps and the introduction of vocational training alongwith education. She convinced the parents to put their children into residential camps. Most of the children were malnourished, so routine check-ups of children were made by the doctors and nutritious diet provided to them to improve their health. After the school hours, vocational teachers gives them vocational training, the aim of the vocational training is to become the children self-sufficient. Parents easily convinced to send their children into residential camp because of the idea of ‘earn while you learn’.

Children learns craft according to their eligibility, the things are successfully sold in the market made by children. Parents got some amount from that money, so the parents who are least interested to send their children in residential camps were easily send their children to join the camps.
So Pramila H. Bhargava successfully achieved her goal to eradicate child labour from Andhra Pradesh, inspite of facing a lot of problems like lack of funds and space, convincing the parents that what they had lost to join their children's childhood into labour force, obstacles created by the employers. Firstly she mobilized the community she brings the literate young ones of the area with them.

So, when child labour is eradicated to a large extent from Andhra Pradesh, then it could be eradicated from everywhere. Sitapur have also a large number of child labours, there is also a project run by National Child labour project, but this project is not working so effectively, timely inspection is made by the labour inspector, but no improvement were seen in the use of child labour.

People should be sensitized and mobilized about the ill effects of child labour, like Andhra Pradesh. Even parents did not consider child labour bad. There is a need of more study about the conditions of child labour because no sociological study have been made earlier, because of this the research area is not highlighted so much about the use of child labour. Non-governmental organization and social organization should come forward to abolish child labour, removes children from workplace and get admitted the children into school and also trained the children with vocational skills.