
IN JAMMU & KASHMIR CHILDREN ARE ENGAGED IN A VARIETY OF OCCUPATIONS SUCH AS CARPET WEAVING, PAPIER-MACHE, SHAWL MANUFACTURING, HANDLOOM WEAVING, SMALL WORKSHOPS, REPAIR SHOPS, HOTELS AND DHABAS ETC. THE CARPET INDUSTRY OF KASHMIR EMPLOYS A LARGER NUMBER OF CHILDREN. THE PLEIT OF THESE WORKING CHILDREN IS ALL THE MORE DISTRESSING. THESE CHILDREN ARE
exploited in a variety of ways. They are paid low wages as compared to the adult workers for the same amount of work. Sometimes these child workers are forced to work overtime. Working hours in carpet industry are also long, child workers have to work at least 8-10 hours per day.

The working place conditions are not good in the carpet weaving units. The looms are situated in dirty rooms. Moreover, there is no proper ventilation system, sanitation conditions are also poor. So child workers have to work in dark and dingy work places in extreme unhygienic conditions which effects their health. Majority of the children working in the carpet industry has breathing problems, body aches, joint pains, finger aches and weakening of eye sight, feeling of general weakness in the body and the lack of appetite are common complaints. A higher number of complaints of this kind could be associated with the dark dingy conditions at the work site, lack of ventilation and long hours of work. Facilities at work site like medical, recreational, casual leave and paid holiday are not available in the carpet industry of Kashmir.

The present study is aimed at bringing to light plight of the children working in carpet industry in Kashmir. The Thesis comprises of Six Chapters.

The first chapters deals with introduction, history of the problem, it has underlines child abuse as a world wide problem. Meaning and definition of child labour, magnitude and nature of child labour in India. This chapter also highlights the views of the studies conducted by various scholars and the Govt. officials on the child labour in carpet industry in Kashmir and in other parts of the country.

The second chapter deals with the locale of the study and the methodology adopted in conducting the study. Moreover, limitations need and scope and objectives of the study have also been mentioned in this chapter.

Chapter third chapter deals with handicrafts sector of J&K- its role in economic development of J&K with special reference to carpet industry of Kashmir. Historical background of carpet industry, its structure and processes of carpet weaving has also been included in this chapter.
The fourth chapter deals with socio-economic background of child workers; child labour in various processes of the carpet industry; their working conditions; wage structure; nature of exploitation perceptions and aspiration child workers and parents opinion on child labour. Employers comments on child labour and health hazards of carpet weaving has also been mentioned in this chapter.

The fifth chapter describes the circumstances, which force children to work and discusses factors responsible for child labour. This chapter also deals with various steps taken by Government to curb child labour, child labour laws and their implementation, flaws in Government approach to curb this social evil.

The last but not least is the culmination of the long tiresome journey in its conclusive part with suggestions.