Chapter 2

Research Methodology
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GLOBAL VIEW-INCLUDES DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Children are the wealth of the nations. Too often this priceless resource is squandered. At a time when they should be acquiring the skills, knowledge, values and a sense of personal worth that produce good citizens; children are being exploited as mere commodities and cheap labour. Their physical, intellectual and emotional health is threatened sometimes permanently crippled by substandard working conditions and long hours of work with little compensation.

Worldwide it has been estimated that at least 120 million children between the ages of 5-14 years works full time. The number is 250 million or more than twice as many if we include those for whom work is a secondary activity.¹

The ILO² estimates that 352 million or 23% of all children between 5 to 17 years of age were economically active in the year 2000. About half of these children are estimated to do work that is likely to harm their health, safety or moral development. A large majority of working children close to 94% live in developing countries, mostly in South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa. Million of children work to help families in ways that are neither harmful or exploitative but millions are put to work in ways that drains childhood of all joy and crush their right to a normal physical and mental development.

¹ Ibid
Across Asia, children are found working in a wide variety of hazardous industries and occupations including those where there is a regular exposure to chemical and biological hazards. A recent ILO study in Bangladesh found that more than 40 types of economic activity conducted by children were hazardous. In South Asia, generally children are still to be found working in hazardous industries and occupations such as brassware and glass factories, slate making and carpet weaving, where conditions of work are often medieval. In Southeast Asia, children toil in extremely dangerous occupations such as underwater fishing, pearl diving and scavenging. A national survey on working children in Philippines revealed that about 2.2 million or 60% of the total 3.7 million working children were regularly exposed to chemical and biological hazards and that about 30,000 children suffered serious work-related injury or illness.3

Child labour situation in South Asia, is based on official available statistics, it is estimated that there are 21.6 million children aged between 5-14 years working in South Asia. The Table 2.1 below indicates the working children between the age group 5-14 years and the total number of children (5-14 years).4

Table 2.1: Working children– Age wise distribution in Asian Region

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Working children (5-14 years)</th>
<th>Total no. of children (5-14 years)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bangladesh</td>
<td>5.05 million</td>
<td>35.06 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>11.2 million</td>
<td>210 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nepal</td>
<td>1.660 million</td>
<td>6.225 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pakistan</td>
<td>3.3 million</td>
<td>40 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sri Lanka</td>
<td>0.475 million</td>
<td>3.18 million</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4 Basic Indicators, UNICEF-2004
As estimated 20 millions and perhaps as many as 40 million girls and boys in South Asia toil in this debt servitude, hunched over looms, making bricks, or rolling cigarettes by hand, countless other spend their childhood and adolescence in domestic servitude, sweeping floors and scrubbing pots and pans. Most of the child labours of the world are between 10-15 years but children below the 10 years are also employed. Major proportion of the child workers of the world are from the developing countries. However child labour is not particular to India alone – it is a global phenomena. Recent estimates (1998) by ILO points out that developing country alone accounts for about 120 million working children (between 5-14 years of age).\(^5\) The proportion of child labour to the total labour force is much lower in Indian as compared to many developing countries such as shown in the figure below (Fig 2.1)

**Figure 2.1: A Global Phenomenon**

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\(^5\) Child Labour: Challenges and Responses; National Resource Centre on Child Labour. V.V. Giri National Labour Institute, 1998.
INDIAN SCENARIO

Child labour is stated to be much more in Asia and among the Asian countries; India has taken the pride of putting children to work in different sectors of economy.

Child labour is a colossal problem in India. It has been revealed that India has the largest number of child labourers in the world. India contributes to about a third of Asia's, child labour force and a fourth of the world working children. Children under fourteen constitute around 3.6% of the total labour force in India. Of these children, nine out of every ten work in their own rural family settings. Nearly 85% engaged in traditional agricultural activities, less than 9% work in manufacturing services and repairs, only about 0.8% work in factories. Although India has the largest child labour population in the world in terms of absolute numbers, the proportion of working children to the total labour force is lower in India than in many developing countries. Child labour constitutes 14.37% of the total labour force in India.

Another aspect of child labour in India is that it is much more of a rural phenomenon than urban. More than 90% of the working children are in the rural areas and employed in agriculture and allied activities. Cultivation, agricultural labour, livestock, forestry and fisheries account for 85% of child labour. While dividing the child labour in rural-urban continuum 90.87% constitutes from the rural population and urban population constitutes 9.13%.

According to 1991 census, the total child population of India in the age group 0-14 years is 297 million out of total population of 846 million. Of this 11.28 million are reported to be working children and of this (297 million) 203 millions are in the age group of 5-14, the school going age. The state wise
distribution of child labour in various states, according to 1971, 1981, 1991 and 2001 census in the age group 5-14 years is presented in the Table 2.8. Thus we see that there has been a decline in the overall population of working children during 1981-91. The number of working children according to the 1971 census was 10.7 million, which increased to 13.64 million (1981 census) representing an increase of 26.88%. As per the 1991 census the working children population decreased to 11.28 million, which means that the number has fallen by 17.3% during 1981-91. But according to the 2001 census again there is a rise in the child labour up to 12.66 percent.

CHILD LABOUR IN UTTAR PRADESH

The state of Uttar Pradesh is not only the most populous state in the country but with some 530 lac people below the poverty line, also holds the distinction of accommodating the world, largest number of poor.

There has been a substantiate increase in child labour in Uttar Pradesh from 14.1 lac including Uttaranchal to 19.2 lac. According to 2001 census the total population of Uttar Pradesh is 166.05 millions, out of which the working children under the age group of 5-14 years is 1927997.

Child labour is widespread in home based manufacturing activities in the informal sector in most developing countries. Home based work in manufacturing can easily lead to the employment of child labour especially when the head of the household procures the raw materials from a contractor and performs the work at his home with family labour. In Uttar Pradesh the child workers work both in hazardous and non hazardous occupation in the informal sector. The incidence of child labour in U.P has no doubt had been increasing day by day since the shift from formal sector to informal sector or rather at home based level. Many districts of U.P. such as Firozabad that is famous for its bangle and glassware industry employs tender aged children for numerous work which is both harmful and hazardous to their development. In
the same way the carpet industry of Bhadohi and Mirzapur has gained some notoriety for the use of child labour, this region accounts for about 85% of Indian carpet exports. Children are employed extensively in the production of hand knotted carpets. The reason often given by employers for hiring children is that their ‘nimble fingers’ enable them to weave better carpets than the adults. The same goes for the lock industry in Aligarh. As we all know that Aligarh is famous for its lock manufacturing, but the number of children employed in such industries is extremely high in percentage. The shift from formal sector to informal sector or at home based makes it easier for the family to include their children in the process of lock manufacturing. Apart from these, Moradabad is equally famous for its brassware where the incidence of child labour is also quite noticeable. Most of the children involved in such industry usually fall into four categories namely, migrant bonded child labourers, local bonded child labourers, wage earners and children who works as part of family labour, though migration of child labourer from the neighbouring states do play a minor role in the category of child workers. Thus children are engaged in a wide variety of hazardous and non hazardous work throughout the state. However the incidence of child labour in the state of Uttar Pradesh is relatively high as compared to the other states of India.

The Table 2.2 reveals the widespread incidence of child labour in the various regions of Uttar Pradesh as against the total workers, total child workers and percentage of child workers to total workers. Through the study of the table it is quiet evident that the percentage of child labourers or rather the industry in which the children are involved are more in carpet belt, glass ware and bangles (Table 2.2).
Table 2.2: Some sectors of child worker in U.P

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Industry</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Total Worker</th>
<th>Child worker</th>
<th>Percent of child worker to total values</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Carpet weaving</td>
<td>Mirzapur-Badohi</td>
<td>200,000</td>
<td>150,000</td>
<td>75.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lock Making</td>
<td>Aligarh</td>
<td>80,000</td>
<td>7,000</td>
<td>8.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pottery</td>
<td>Khurja</td>
<td>20,000</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>25.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brass work</td>
<td>Moradabad</td>
<td>150,000</td>
<td>40,000</td>
<td>26.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glass/Bangle</td>
<td>Firozabad</td>
<td>200,000</td>
<td>50,000</td>
<td>25.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silk &amp; silk products</td>
<td>Varanasi</td>
<td>11,900</td>
<td>4,409</td>
<td>37.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Textile</td>
<td>Varanasi</td>
<td>3,512</td>
<td>1,108</td>
<td>31.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knives</td>
<td>Rampur</td>
<td>Not-known</td>
<td>3,000</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brocade &amp; Zari</td>
<td>Varanasi &amp; other centers</td>
<td>Not known</td>
<td>300,000</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chikan work</td>
<td>Lucknow</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>6,000</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PURPOSE AND OUTCOME OF THE STUDY

The glass bangle industry of Firozabad has primarily emerged as an home based sector, since the law did not laid down any provision regarding the abolishment of child labour in the home based industries. Thus the employers tactfully and cleverly employed children and thereby a pragmatic shift took place from formal sectors to informal sectors.

The employers of these bangle units are often of the opinion that it is more convenient and cheap to employ and engage children in such units, as in any case children are idle owing to lack of educational facilities.

The purpose of this study “Child Labour and The New Legislation: A Study of Home Based Bangle Industries of Firozabad U.P.” is however done to
depict and assess the plight of these child workers and to bring to light the manifold types of exploitation and abuses which they face in their everyday life. Although the glass bangles industry of Firozabad is under the hazardous employment, but still children are employed in the wake of new legislation and laws because the laws itself does not lay down the strict code of guidelines regarding its eradication at domestic level, giving an advantage to the employers to shift their work from organized sector to home based units. Very few studies had been conducted in the area of bangle industry and those that had been done were only restricted to the formal sectors without taking into account the children who work at the household level. A complete comprehensive picture of the problem still seems to be eluding the researcher thus there is a need to carry out a more analytical and deeper study in this area. The proposed study is an attempt in this direction.

THUS THE PRESENT STUDY IS AIMED AT ACHIEVING THE FOLLOWING OBJECTIVES.

- To study and investigate the geographical and social profile of the district.
- To study and investigate the socio-economic profile of the sample households.
- To investigate/study the relationship between the incidence of child labour and educational background of their parents enrolment ratio and drop out rates of working and non working children.
- To investigate the consequences of hazardous work on the health of children working in the industry.
- To study the cause for the dependence of the children on this hazardous work and the interest level and aspirations of children employed in these industries.

In the wake of various legislation, policies and government enactments, the incidence of child labour has been increasing in the informal sector and there has been a pragmatic shift from organized sector to home based level
which has given employers the opportunity to exploit children on their own terms and condition. The child labour law ignores the working of children in the home based enterprises thus involving children in the workforce. Despite the varying estimates, one cannot deny the presence of child labour in the glass bangle industry in large numbers. The issue of legislation to eradicate child labour, which has been considered as an important tool to eliminate child labour, however is not functioning effectively as it sidelines the informal sector. The study has attempted to evaluate the impact of the legislation both in terms of direct and indirect indicators.

The expected outcome of this study indicates two basic criteria, firstly it aims at effecting and bringing about viable changes in the various policies, programs and governmental initiatives taken in context of child labour and secondly it will tend to benefit the future researchers. The following study analyzed and presented will be an extension in the field of child workers through proper and effective legislation and implementation of governmental policies.

**HYPOTHESIS OF THE STUDY:**

The following hypotheses will be tested

- The geographical and social profile of the district correlates with the employment and involvement of children in the bangle industry.
- Within the framework of socio-economic profile, the various factors such as migration, education, indebtedness, caste system, occupational mobility etc do have direct bearing in the emergence of child labour.
- The educational level of the sample household is a determining factor in the rise of child labour.
- Lack of participation in education and the schooling status of the child workers has decreased due to the increased ratio of child labours
Child labour in the unorganized sector are bereft of any medical facilities thereby suffering from various contagious diseases.

Children employed at home based level compromises with the congested and confined working area thus resulting to a series of serious health issues.

Poverty, parental pressure and educational handicaps corroborate the entry of children in this high-risk industry.

Children working in the bangle industry seem to be impassive, lacking interest in their personal pursuits and expressing low level of aspirations and attitudes.

The basic purpose of the study is to evaluate the impact of legislation and socio-economic status of the child workers. The study undertaken depicts the horrifying situations and conditions under which a child works and also it tries and focuses on the ineffectiveness of the existing laws, policies and programs pertaining to child labour.

The crux of the study is that a major chunk of children are still being engaged and involved in the glass and bangle industries. The law formulated prohibits the working of children in the formal sector but it totally ignores the working children at the home based level. The law makers are aware about the involvement of child workers at the home based level but since the law does not lay down strict rules and regulations for home based industries, to abolish child labour from the informal sector, they have to ignore this grim reality thus paving the way for rampant child labour in the district.

This study also highlights the socio-economic profile of the respondents (child workers) and their educational status, the wage structure, working conditions and health hazards. Infact the study draws its attention towards the plight of the child workers and the negligence of the law makers towards the betterment of child workers. It also focuses on the child’s perception, attitude and aspiration. This study will in a way serve as an eye opener for the other researchers, government officials, policy makers etc. This study will further
work in the direction of making stringent rules and regulations and also to take punitive action against the employers and parents who deliberately curtail the childhood of their child.

RESEARCH DESIGN:

Research is an essential as well as a powerful tool leading towards progress. Research is a scientific investigation that expands the limits of knowledge. A well-projected research helps to discover answers to questions through the application of scientific procedures. The research design adopted by the researcher for this study is "Descriptive cum Diagnostic". The Descriptive analysis of child labour envisaged a plethora of problems, situations and consequences pertaining to the existence of this social evil. The fact-finding enquiries and the field surveys are main contents of Descriptive research. The major purpose of Descriptive research is the description of the state of affairs, as it exists at present. Through a descriptive research a researcher is well informed about the pre-existing conditions and situations along with a detailed account of the research area. The main characteristics of this method are that the researcher has no control over the variables, he can only report when and what has happened or what is happening. The methods of research utilized in descriptive research are survey methods including comparative and co relational methods. Through descriptive method the researcher is able to explore all areas of his research. It tends to give an enriching insight in the life of child labour. It indicates the probability of enhancing overall development of child workers at the same time aiming to eliminate the probabilities of child workers. It is also diagnostic in nature as it focuses on the various problems pertaining to the overall development of children. It will help to identify the major issues and areas and thus accordingly formulate and implement a plan of action to curb the existence of the child labour.
The merits of Descriptive method,

- It gives an open and wider view to the researcher to explore all the areas of concern.
- The independent, dependent and interdependent variables are not controlled by the researcher, thus giving the essence of research work.
- Through descriptive research the researcher is able to gather a detailed account of the situation. The fact findings from the research are authentic and reliable.
- The researcher can successfully intervene in the personal life of the variables without harming or causing trouble to the variables.
- The Descriptive method helps the researcher to investigate analyze and conclude in a more objective manner.
- There is a scope of extensive literature survey as well as fact finding in queries and field surveys are important aspects of this method. The researcher’s work area is enlarged and enhanced.

In the light of the present study the Descriptive cum Diagnostic method adopted was more feasible and appropriate because it gives an opportunity to the researcher to explore and gather a detailed knowledge base regarding the research area. The present study is an extensive elaborate piece of work giving a detailed account of the socio-economic profile and life of the child workers in the district of Firozabad. Thus with this method the researcher was able to accumulate facts and develop a strong insight into the problem. The results obtained were authentic and objective. There is no element of subjectivity or biasness. Through the Descriptive cum Diagnostic method the researcher is able to investigate all probable areas to conclude the facts in systematic and organized way.

UNIVERSE:

The glass bangle industry of Firozabad which is quiet famous for its glass ware and bangle manufacturing is notorious for the use and abuse of child
labour. However the work of making bangle is widespread throughout the district with major concentration on the urban areas. Several estimates of child labour in the glass industry have been made from time to time. The industry reportedly employs about 50,000 children of age below 14 years. The employment of children is dominant in small households units to which the work is contracted out by factories. It has been said that before the bangles comes to the market, it undergoes a wide variety of operations passing under 30 to 40 tender hands that sacrifices their childhood for the process of bangles. The glass industry of Firozabad is clearly divided into glass factories and households units, where glass factories manufacture glass articles and raw bangles which are then finished by household units. The main stages of the glass bangle manufacture are mixing of raw materials, preparation of glass looms, bangle coil preparation, jhalai (aligning), judai (joining), pakai (unreeling), katai (cutting) and rangai (painting).

With regard to the current data on the labour force of the child workers in Firozabad, it has been found that according to 1996 –2006, the number of child labour identified were 10,853 under the age of 8 –14 years employed in the hazardous sector. Child workers identified in 2003 were around 9956. Thus the concentration of child labour in Firozabad has been increased due to the shift from formal sector to informal sector.

The methodology of the study is broad based is both qualitative and quantitative information has been collected and analysed. Discussions were held with the labour department of Firozabad and other government officials, NGO’s and other persons associated with the industry in order to identify the areas where glass bangle work is done. It was revealed that nearly 80% of the work is carried out within the urban limits. Based on the discussions it was found that the whole of Firozabad is indulged in bangle manufacturing, thus 25 urban areas and 10 rural areas were identified. But the selected areas for the purpose of study were, 8 urban areas namely Bheemnagar, Ghalibnagar, Hajipura, Kotla Mohalla, Jatavpuri, Ramgarh, Nagla Vishu, Malviya Nagar and
the selected rural areas were Selai and Humayunpura. The bangle work is concentrated in these areas and hence taken for the purpose of the study randomly.

The areas selected for the proposed study had a mixed population of both Hindus and Muslims, in fact few areas such on Galibnagar, Jatavpuri and Ramgarh are entirely dominated by Muslim population while the rest of the selected areas had a major portion of Hindu population. The sample of the study areas was restricted to 500 households. The number of sample household in each of the study area was drawn in proportion to the total number of households in each of the areas and the total number of households that had children comes as.

Table 2.3: Proportionately households selected from each locality and number of Children drawn from there.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S.No.</th>
<th>Locality</th>
<th>Household</th>
<th>Children</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Urban</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Bheem Nagar, Firozabad</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Ghalib Nagar, Firozabad</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Hajipura, Firozabad</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Kotla Mohall, Firozabad</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Jatavpuri, Firozabad</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Ramgarh, Firozabad</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Nagla Vishnu, Firozabad</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Malviya Nagar, Firozabad</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Seali, Firozabad</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Humayunpura, Firozabad</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SAMPLE DESIGN:

A sample of 500 households was drawn proportionately as discussed above. To explicit the complete information from the sampled respondents a set of questions was formulated, various variables were taken into consideration while contriving the questionnaire and to delve deeply into the proposed study. The basic criteria selected for questions were as follows:

- Fact finding—age, sex, religion etc.
- Socio-economic status of the respondents
- Health and Education status/facilities
- Wage structure and Working conditions
- Occupational mobility

Comprising of the above variables the questions proposed were pre-tested and with certain modification a final set of questions were prepared for the research purpose which is attached to the appendix for a ready reference. The information was gathered through interview schedule. Besides obtaining quantitative information through questionnaire the researcher also sought qualitative information through focused group discussions and case studies.

Both primary and secondary sources of information have been used in this study. Primary data for all categories of child workers were collected through personal interview using interview schedule. Besides relevant information were also collected from published documents, policy notes, reports etc. The secondary sources of data were collected from books, periodicals, journals and news paper available in the libraries. The data and information so collected have been tabulated, analyzed and presented in a report form.
LIMITATIONS:

While conducting the present study, the researcher has undergone few obstacles and thus it poses certain limitations like

- The study is restricted only to the bangle manufacturing units
- The study is confined only to the home based level/ unorganized sector
- The variables kept on changing as the study is limited to the home based level