Economic development of any society is dependent not only on the material sources but on the development and utilisation of its human resources; especially in a country like India, which is caught between the twin problems of growing population and increasing unemployment, promoting child development have become an inevitable role on the part of the Government.

Children are the assets and pillars of the nation and they are our most precious resources and literally key to the future of our planet. They form part and parcel of human capital formation. But child labour is an antithesis of childhood. It is essentially a socio-economic problem. It is prevalent in all the developing countries. But in India its nature and magnitude are alarming.

Today, it is evident that there are millions of children in the country out of schools—a vast and endless cheap source of child labour which is exploited by the unscrupulous employers. Poverty of the parents is said to be the prime reason which forced the children to work in various works.

This modest piece of research work is attempted to bring out the actual situation of working children engaged in automobile servicing sector in reality and the objectives to be achieved by the policies and programmes. The emphasis in the study has been in the context of the tender aged children who are deprived of education and bright future and to suggest a set of policy measures to eliminate the problem of child labour effectively.

On one hand the study is based on the primary data obtained through a sample survey by canvassing a pre-tested schedule among the sample respondents in the Anantapur district and on the other, an
analysis of secondary data on the magnitude of child labour both at national and local levels.

The work has been divided and arranged in eight chapters. The chapter I formulates Research Design. The chapter II reviews the problem of child labour at macro level. The chapter III is focussed on the magnitude of child labour in India, Andhra Pradesh and in Anantapur district.

The socio-economic profile of sample working children is examined in chapter IV along with the determinants of child labour in chapter V. Working conditions of children are examined in chapter VI. It covers the nature, length of service, earnings, punishment etc. The chapter VII discusses the attitudes and perceptions of child labour. Chapter VIII deals with findings and conclusions along with the formulation of a set of policy implications.

ANANTAPUR
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