CHAPTER - IV

ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF DATA AND REPRESENTATION OF CASE STUDIES
4.1 INTRODUCTION:

In the previous chapter 'Methodology' the scope and range of the study, description of the setting and samples, tools and techniques of the study, etc., has been presented. The present chapter covers the presentation and findings of the study, data, their interpretation and analysis. The present chapter has been divided into two parts - [a] Analysis and Interpretation of data and [b] Representation of case studies.

For the purpose of the study researcher presented the data picture of children of 9 to 14 years of age group working as restaurant boys, garage boys, bus handymen, domestic helpers and rag pickers. Their contribution to the five unorganised sectors also described in this chapter. Based on the responses on the questionnaire from working children, data on their working nature and conditions, such as wages, working places, holidays, leaves, working hours, etc., and also their opinions on job satisfaction, desire, demand, habit, health, family background, education, etc., are compiled and presented in this chapter with analysis and interpretation.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>Name of establishments of child employee</th>
<th>Type of activities of child workers</th>
<th>No. of child workers</th>
<th>Percentage (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Restaurant</td>
<td>Serving the customers in restaurants, cleaning the furnitures, dishes, utensils etc.</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Garage</td>
<td>To assist mechanics by giving tools etc., doing minor repairing, cleaning and polishing etc.</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Bus service</td>
<td>Calling the passengers, helping the driver by shouting the names of each bus-stop, looking the problem and difficulties of the passengers etc.</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Household</td>
<td>Sweeping and swabbing the floor, washing clothes and utensils, taking baby care, assisting housewife at the kitchen etc.</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Rag picking</td>
<td>Collecting plastics, iron materials, broken glass, paper and other things what they think valuable from garbages</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>200</strong></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4.2 ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

4.2.1 NATURE OF WORK:

Table 4.1 reveals the activities of child workers engaged in their respective field of works. These respondents were within the age group of 9 to 14 years. Activities mentioned in the table - 4.1 were not same and equal in the case of each respondent. For example, in case of some respondents when one had to perform every activities on daily basis, another had to perform only some of these activities as his / her daily routine. Except rag pickers, it was true to all other types of child employees. So, depending upon the wishes of the employer / owner the variation in type of activities and work load can be found. Sometimes age and strength of the physique also bring variations in these type of activities of children in these sectors. Rag pickers were found self-employed. They collected iron, used plastic, waste paper, broken glass and other things which are of some use in large quantities. Their amount of daily income depend on the amount of collected materials. It was also found that in all the five sectors children have to make themselves busy for almost all-day, which is totally against their physical and mental development.

4.2.2 WAGES AND OTHER BENEFITS:

Worldwide labour class and workers particularly child labourers are paid very low wages. It is important to know how the child labourers are paid by the employer. It is also important to know if they are provided other benefits such as meals, living accommodations, clothing, entertainment facilities, etc.

[a] Wages:

Regarding the wages of the working children in the five unorganised sector researcher recorded different replies against the questions on the amount of wages. Table 4.2 (a) shows the ranges of wage earned by them.
Table - 4.2 (a)

WORKING CHILDREN AND THEIR WAGES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wage range in Rupees per month</th>
<th>Restaurant boy</th>
<th>Garage boy</th>
<th>Bus handyman</th>
<th>Domestic helper</th>
<th>Rag picker</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. No. Wage</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Upto 200</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>17.5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. 200 - 300</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>42.5</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. 300 - 400</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>22.5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. 400 - 500</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>12.5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. 500 and above</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5.0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table - 4.2 (a) shows that wage range of children varied between 0 - 500 Rupees and only in few cases it was above 500 Rupees. Out of total 200 working children of five sectors 7% were not given any wages. Researchers found these 7% children from garage, bus service and household services who were not paid any wages. Among these 7% children some were provided only food and lodging facilities while some were provided only training instead of their remuneration. Again from the above table it was found that 34% were given wages upto 200 Rupees, 43.5% got wages between 200 to 300 Rupees, 9.5% were given 300 to 400 Rupees and the rest 6% earned wages above 500 Rupees. From these data it is very much clear that children were paid very low wages. Due to their poor financial condition mainly, they took what they got from their employer. In case of rag pickers, the mode of giving payment and the amount of payment was found totally different from rest of the workers.
Percentage wise distribution of Working Children according to monthly wage range

(Percentages are on total of 200 working children)
a self-employed, their income was fully dependent on their collection of materials and its supplies. And generally they were given payment daily. On asking about their daily income, maximum rag pickers reported that their income to be between Rs. 8/- to Rs. 10/- daily. The market prices of essential commodities decides whether wages are adequate or not. In the prevailing situation wages such as mentioned above are definitely low.

[b] Meals:

The respondents were asked whether or not they were provided with mid-day and evening or both meals by the employer. They were also asked to answer if they get tea and snacks during working hours.

Table 4.2 (b)

WORKING CHILDREN AND THEIR MEALS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Meals</th>
<th>Restaurant boy</th>
<th>Garage boy</th>
<th>Bus handy-man</th>
<th>Domestic helper</th>
<th>Rag-picker</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No.</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>No.</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>No.</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Both the meals (midday and evening)</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>87.5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>12.5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>15.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Only one meal (midday)</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>12.5</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>20.0</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>55.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Tea and snacks only</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>30.0</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>12.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. None</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>37.5</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>17.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Working Children and their meals according to table - 4.2 (b)

(Percentages are on total of 200 working children)
Table 4.2 (b) reveals 38.5% of the total child labourers were given both the major meals by the employers. Whereas 19.5% got only one meal (midday) and 9.5% were given only tea and snacks. Of the 200 working children 65 (32.5%) were provided with none. Of these 40 children were rag pickers who were self-employed.

Researcher also felt the need to study the above facts by taking income of the respondents as variables.

Table 4.2 (b-b)  
MEALS AND INCOME OF THE WORKING CHILDREN

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Meals</th>
<th>Monthly Wage</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No Wage</td>
<td>Upto Rs. 200</td>
<td>Rs. 300 - Rs. 400</td>
<td>Rs. 400 - Rs. 500</td>
<td>Rs. 500 - above</td>
<td>Total No.</td>
<td>Total %</td>
<td>Total No.</td>
<td>Total %</td>
<td>Total No.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Both the</td>
<td>14 100</td>
<td>33 48.5</td>
<td>28 32.2</td>
<td>2 10.5</td>
<td>0 0</td>
<td>0 0</td>
<td>77 88.6</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>87.5 100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>meals</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Only one</td>
<td>0 0</td>
<td>8 11.8</td>
<td>26 29.9</td>
<td>4 21.1</td>
<td>1 12.5</td>
<td>0 0</td>
<td>39 89.1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>39 89.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>meal</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Only snacks</td>
<td>0 0</td>
<td>3 4.4</td>
<td>13 14.9</td>
<td>3 15.8</td>
<td>0 0</td>
<td>0 0</td>
<td>19 89.1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>19 89.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. None</td>
<td>0 0</td>
<td>24 35.3</td>
<td>20 23.0</td>
<td>10 52.6</td>
<td>7 87.5</td>
<td>4 100</td>
<td>65 87.5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>65 87.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>14 100</td>
<td>68 100</td>
<td>87 100</td>
<td>19 100</td>
<td>8 100</td>
<td>4 100</td>
<td>200 100</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>200 100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 4.2 (b-b) reveals 58% of the total 200 child labourers were given at least one of the major meals by the employer. Barring few of these 58% children all were from the income group of upto Rs. 400. Though on the other hand children of the upper income group earns more in terms of wages in actual terms their condition were no better than the children who were given less or no wage. It is also evident from the table 4.2 (b) and 4.2 (b-b) that out of 65 children who were not given anything in kind, 40 children were rag pickers.
Figure - 4.2 (b-b)

Graphical representation of table - 4.2 (b-b)
who were self-employed and so there was no question of such facility be given by the employers of this category of children.

[c] **Residential Accommodation:**

Respondents were also asked whether they were provided with free accommodation or not by the employer.

Table - 4.2 (c)

**RESIDENTIAL ACCOMMODATION AND WORKING CHILDREN**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wage Range</th>
<th>Accommodation Provided</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a) No wage</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b) Upto Rs. 200</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>16.0</td>
<td>8.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c) Rs. 200 - Rs. 300</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>15.0</td>
<td>28.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d) Rs. 300 - Rs. 400</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>8.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e) Rs. 400 - Rs. 500</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f) Above Rs. 500</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>77</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>38.5</td>
<td>61.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table - 4.2 (c) reveals that 77 (38.5 %) out of 200 working children enjoyed residential accommodation. The table also reveals that out of these children 70 children were from income group upto Rs. 300.
Figure - 4.2 (c)

Residential accommodation and Working Children according to table - 4.2 (c)

(Percentages are on total 200 working children)
(d) **Other Facilities:**

Besides above facilities the respondents were also asked whether they were given clothes, medicines and entertainment facility by the employer. Table - 4.2 (d) gives the number of children to whom such facilities were provided.

**Table - 4.2 (d)**

**OTHER FACILITIES AND WORKING CHILDREN**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wage Range</th>
<th>Total no. of children</th>
<th>Clothing</th>
<th>Medicine</th>
<th>Entertainment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No.</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>No.</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1) No wage</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>85.7</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>64.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2) Upto Rs. 200</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>52.9</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>26.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3) Rs. 200 - Rs. 300</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>78.0</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>29.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4) Rs. 300 - Rs. 400</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>42.1</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>31.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5) Rs. 400 - Rs. 500</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>37.5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>12.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6) Above Rs. 500</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>25.0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>25.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>200</td>
<td>124</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>31.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table - 4.2 (d) reveals the same pattern as the table - 4.2 (b-b) and 4.2 (c), i.e., it was the lower income group who got benefits other than wage from employer. As far as clothing was concerned the respondents had confirmed that they were generally given old clothes by the employer. They had also confirmed that they were given medicines only for minor ailments. As far as entertainment was concerned respondent were asked whether they were given time and money for enjoying movies, games etc. Thus table - 4.2 (d) speaks that 62.0 % of the total 200 respondents were given clothes, 51.5 % of them got time and money for entertainment and only 31.0 % got medicines for minor ailments.
4.2.3 MODE OF PAYMENT:

Table - 4.3

MODE OF PAYMENT OF WORKING CHILDREN

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of establishments</th>
<th>No. of children</th>
<th>No Wage</th>
<th>Daily</th>
<th>Weekly</th>
<th>Monthly</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No.</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>No.</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>No.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Restaurant boy</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Garage boy</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>9 22.5</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Bus handyman</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>3 7.5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>12.5</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Domestic helper</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>2 5</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Rag picker</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>14 7.0</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>26.5</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table - 4.3 shows that all restaurant boys were paid their wages on monthly basis. Again out of 40 children working as garage boys 20% were paid daily and 5.75% were paid on monthly basis. In case of bus handyman 12.5% were paid their wages only daily basis and 80% on monthly basis. In case of domestic helper it has been found that all received their wages on monthly basis. On the other hand, rag pickers were self-employed so their mode of payment was totally different from other employees of other sectors. Rag pickers were daily collectors of their income. Whatever they collect they sell daily and due to this they are considered as daily earner. None from this category were found receiving their wages weekly.

4.2.4 UTILISATION OF WAGES:

The researcher also felt it necessary to explore as to how the child labour taken for study spent their earnings. The responses obtained from the respondents on questions of utilisations of their wages were broadly given in the line of the following three categories -
Figure - 4.3

Mode of payment of Working Children

(Percentages are on total of 200 working children)
A. Entirely spent or used on himself / herself.
B. Give to their parents.
C. Partly spent on himself / herself and rest to their parents.

Table - 4.4
UTILISATION OF WAGES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Establishments</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No.</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>No.</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1) Restaurant</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5.0</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>82.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2) Garage</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>9.7</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>77.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3) Bus service</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>86.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4) Household</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>94.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5) Rag picking</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>92.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>162</td>
<td>87.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Out of 200 samples 14 children who were not paid any wage were kept out from this table.

The Table - 4.4 indicates that overwhelming majority of the respondents (87.1 %) handed over their entire wages to their parents and 9.7 % of them handed over some portion of their earnings to their parents. It was only 3.2 % who spent or used their entire earnings on himself or herself. This is the conclusive point to the fact that children were generally in the job to augment the family income.
Utilisation of Wages by Working Children

(Percentages are on 186 children who were paid wages)
4.2.5 WORKING HOURS:

Table - 4.5
DETAILS OF WORKING HOUR OF CHILDREN

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Working Hours</th>
<th>Restaurant</th>
<th>Garage</th>
<th>Bus service</th>
<th>Household</th>
<th>Rag-picking</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No.</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>No.</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>No.</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. 0 - 8 Hrs</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5.0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. 8 - 12 Hrs</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>20.0</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>40.0</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>32.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. 12 - 14 Hrs</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>57.5</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>50.0</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>65.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Above 14 Hrs</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>22.5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5.0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The table - 4.5 reveals that maximum number of children had to work for 12 to 14 hours a day. Among the children of five unorganised sectors some workers from garages and restaurants and some domestic helpers were found working for maximum hours (above 14 hours in a day) and in this group most of the children are generally found to be in the age group of above 10 years. Some domestic helpers reported that due to the helpful attitude and affectionate behaviour of some masters their load of work was much less for which they had to work only for 6 to 8 hours in a day. Generally this was found in case of children with age below 10 years. However, majority of domestic helpers had reported that they worked as long as the activity of the household goes on. They generally started their works in the morning when all the members of the family were still in their bed and finished their works in the night when last of the family member went to bed. In case of rag pickers hours of work was depended on their own wishes as they were self employed.
Working hours of Working Children

(Percentages are on the total of 200 children)
4.2.6 LEISURE TIME:

After working hours the respondents were asked about the leisure time they enjoyed during their normal working hours. Here it was noted that leisure time enjoyed by the rag pickers were depended on the wishes of the children themselves because they were self employed. Hence they were not considered in this table. Again most domestic helpers were able to get leisure time in between various domestic activities; they reported that they had to be ready for work any time. Table - 4.6 is prepared on the basis of the responses given by the working children on the leisure time.

Table - 4.6

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>No leisure time</th>
<th>30 minutes leisure</th>
<th>1 hour leisure</th>
<th>Above 1 hour</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No.</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>No.</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>No.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Restaurant</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>30.0</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>57.5</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Garage</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>7.5</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>30.0</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Bus handyman</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>42.5</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Domestic helper</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>7.5</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>27.5</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>11.2</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>39.4</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

From the table it is seen that 18 children (11.2 %) felt that they did not get any proper leisure time during their normal working hours. Whereas 4 children (2.5 %), all of them domestic helpers reported that they got leisure time of more than one hour. The table - 4.6 also reveals that 39.4 % got 30 minutes and 46.9 % got 1 hour leisure time during their normal working hours.
Leisure time of Working Children

(Percentages are on the total of 160 working children)
Table - 4.6 (a)

LEISURE TIME AND WORKING HOURS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Working hours</th>
<th>No leisure</th>
<th>30 minutes</th>
<th>1 hour</th>
<th>Above 1 hour</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No. %</td>
<td>No. %</td>
<td>No. %</td>
<td>No. %</td>
<td>No. %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. 8 hours</td>
<td>7 70.0</td>
<td>2 20.0</td>
<td>1 10.0</td>
<td>0 0</td>
<td>10 100.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. 8 - 12 hours</td>
<td>9 19.6</td>
<td>24 52.2</td>
<td>12 26.1</td>
<td>1 2.2</td>
<td>46 100.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. 12 - 14 hours</td>
<td>1 1.1</td>
<td>28 31.8</td>
<td>58 65.9</td>
<td>1 1.1</td>
<td>88 100.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Above 14 hours</td>
<td>1 6.2</td>
<td>9 56.3</td>
<td>4 25.0</td>
<td>2 12.5</td>
<td>16 100.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>18 11.2</td>
<td>63 39.4</td>
<td>75 46.9</td>
<td>4 2.5</td>
<td>160 100.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

It is also felt necessary by the researcher to analyse the leisure time in relation with working hours of children. Because it will give idea about how much time the child workers were actually at work. The table - 4.6 (a) gives the leisure time of the respondents against their working hours. The table reveals that respondents get increasing leisure time as the working hours increases. It is also evident that whatever the leisure time they got, all were actually at work for long time.

4.2.7. LEAVE:

Along the leisure time during working hours, weekly rest days are necessary in promoting work. Absence of these rest have direct impact on physical and mental health of workers. Therefore, the researcher put questions on weekly leave granted by their employer. For the purpose of this study leave is the leave from work granted by the employer with pay. Here also rag pickers are kept out from table - 4.7, because they were self employed and question of granting leave to them did not arise. In case of domestic helpers none of them reported that they were not granted any weekly leave. However
was found that almost all of them were generally granted leave of about 15 to 30 days in a year to visit their homes during festivals or in other occasion. The category of child workers are shown in the table - 4.7 in the column "Less than 1 day."

Table - 4.7

WEEKLY LEAVE OF WORKING CHILDREN

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Establishment</th>
<th>No leave</th>
<th>One day</th>
<th>Less than one day</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No.</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>No.</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Restaurant</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>77.5</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>22.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Garage</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>30.0</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>70.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Bus handyman</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>67.5</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>32.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Household</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>70</td>
<td>43.8</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>31.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table - 4.7 tells us that 43.8% out of 160 child labourers did not get any weekly leave and 31.2% of them got one day weekly leave. The table also reveals that majority (70%) of the garage boys got weekly leave. The respondent from restaurant and bus handyman sectors who enjoyed such weekly leave was much less, i.e., 22.5% of garage boys and 32.5% of bus handymen.

4.2.8 CHILD LABOUR AND EDUCATION:

Many child labour activists and other intellectuals argue that child labour is undesirable because it pushes down a large number of working children into darkness of illiteracy barring few who combine education with work. This is also borne out by the literacy record of the sampled working children as shown in the table - 4.8 (a).
Weeky leave of Working Children

(Percentages are on the total of 160 working children)
Table - 4.8 (a)
EDUCATION OF WORKING CHILDREN

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Establishment</th>
<th>Illiterate</th>
<th>Literate</th>
<th>School going</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No.</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>No.</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Restaurant</td>
<td>23 57.5</td>
<td>17  42.5</td>
<td>0 0</td>
<td>40  100.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Garage</td>
<td>27 67.5</td>
<td>13  32.5</td>
<td>0 0</td>
<td>40  100.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Bus service</td>
<td>17 42.5</td>
<td>23  57.5</td>
<td>0 0</td>
<td>40  100.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Household</td>
<td>18 45.0</td>
<td>19  47.5</td>
<td>3 7.5</td>
<td>40  100.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Rag picking</td>
<td>36 90.0</td>
<td>4 10.0</td>
<td>0 0</td>
<td>40  100.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>121 60.5</td>
<td>76 38.0</td>
<td>3 1.5</td>
<td>200 100.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table - 4.8 (a) reveals that majority of the sampled child workers were illiterate. The table also shows us the important fact that out of total 79 literate children an overwhelming majority of them, i.e., 76 were school dropouts and only 3 were school going. It is also interesting to note that all of these 3 school going children were domestic helpers.

It will also be interesting to know whether literate working children were better paid than the illiterate or not. Therefore, the researcher prepared the table - 4.8 (b) to analyse the above matter.
Figure - 4.8 (a)

Education of Working Children

(Percentages are on the total of 200 working children)
The table - 4.8 (b) indicates that majority of the illiterate child labourers were (54.5 %) were paid less than Rs. 200.00 or no wage whereas majority of the child labourers in all the literate groups were paid above Rs. 200.00 per month. For example, 80.5 % of child labourers studied upto Primary level, 73.7 % of child labourers studied upto Middle level and 85.6 % of the child labourers studied above Middle level who were paid above Rs. 200.00 per month. However, it is noted that lower wage earners were given more in kind than the working children who earned higher wages as evident from table - 4 given earlier. Thus the researcher feels that though literate working children appeared to earn more wages as seen from table - 4.8 (b) their condition was no better than illiterate working children.
Figure - 4.8 (b)

Educational level and Wage

Graphical representation of table - 4.8 (b)
It will also be interesting to know whether there was any impact of literacy on the job satisfaction. The researcher asked all the sampled respondents whether they were satisfied with their job or not. The results are given in the table - 4.8 (c).

**Table - 4.8 (c)**  
**LITERACY AND JOB SATISFACTION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Literacy</th>
<th>Satisfied</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Not satisfied</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No.</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>No.</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Illiterate</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>51.2</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>48.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Primary</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>34.8</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>65.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Middle</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>15.8</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>84.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Above Middle</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>21.4</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>78.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>42.0</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>58.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table - 4.8 (c) tells us that majority of 58.0% of total respondents expressed dissatisfaction with their job. But the same table transpires that majority of the illiterate, i.e., 51.2% of total illiterate express satisfaction with their jobs. This illiterate group comes to about 73.8% of respondents who said that they were satisfied with their job. Perhaps they felt that was the end of the road they had to be satisfied what they had got.

Respondents were also asked to respond to the following suggestions if they were provided opportunity for free education :

- a) Will abandon the present job and join school
- b) Will join school as well as continue to work
- c) Neither join school nor abandon the present job
Figure - 4.8 (c)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Satisfied</th>
<th>Not satisfied</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a) Illiterate Children</td>
<td>48.8%</td>
<td>51.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b) Primary level</td>
<td>65.2%</td>
<td>34.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c) Middle level</td>
<td>84.2%</td>
<td>15.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d) Above Middle level</td>
<td>78.8%</td>
<td>21.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Literacy and Job satisfaction**

Representation of table - 4.8 (c)
Their responses on the above suggestions are given in table - 4.8 (d).

Table - 4.8 (d)
RESPONSES OF WORKING CHILDREN IN RESPECT OF CONTINUING WORKS OR JOINING SCHOOL

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Literacy level</th>
<th>Suggestion</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No.</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>No.</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>No.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------</td>
<td>------</td>
<td>------</td>
<td>------</td>
<td>------</td>
<td>------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Illiterate</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>13.2</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>18.2</td>
<td>83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Primary</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>23.9</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>19.6</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Middle</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>36.8</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>15.8</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Above Middle</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>28.6</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>35.7</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>19.0</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>19.5</td>
<td>124</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table - 4.8 (d) clearly indicate that majority of the respondents (62.0%) did not preferred suggestion (c), i.e., they would not abandon their job to join education. Only 19% and 19.5% of the respondents preferred suggestion (a) and (b) respectively. However, the table indicates that percentages of those showing interest on education increases as the literacy level increases and it is otherwise around for those who had no interest in education at all. It signifies that education had some positive impact in the minds of the working children.

4.2.9 ACCEPTANCE OF WORK:

During investigation, the researcher asked the sampled child labourers reason for accepting jobs. Reason cited by the respondents are given in the table - 4.9.
Figure - 4.8 (d)

a) Illiterate Children
- 68.8% Abandon the job & join school
- 13.2% Will join school as well as work
- 18.2% Neither join school nor abandon job

b) Primary level
- 56.5% Abandon the job & join school
- 23.9% Will join school as well as work
- 19.6% Neither join school nor abandon job

c) Middle level
- 47.4% Abandon the job & join school
- 36.8% Will join school as well as work
- 15.8% Neither join school nor abandon job

d) Above Middle level
- 35.7% Abandon the job & join school
- 28.6% Will join school as well as work
- 35.7% Neither join school nor abandon job

Representation of table - 4.8 (d)
Table - 4.9
RESPONDENT’S REASONS FOR ACCEPTANCE OF WORK

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reasons</th>
<th>No. of Children</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. No land to cultivate</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>5.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. No income earner in the family</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>7.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. No education</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>5.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Large family, low income</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. No interest for education</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>6.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Like to do something</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Poverty or no money</td>
<td>139</td>
<td>69.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>200</strong></td>
<td><strong>100.0</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table - 4.9 shows the reasons given by the respondents for taking jobs. The investigator found that 5.5% had accepted job as they had no land to cultivate. 7.5% said that there was no earner in the family, so they had chosen to work. On the other hand, 5.0% reported that as they had no education, they had no choice but to work something to earn. Again 3.0% reported that due to large number of family members and low income of the family, they had to work to augment family income. 6.5% reported that they had no interest in education and preferred to work. 3.0% said that they want to do something for which they had chosen jobs. But, majority of the sampled working children, i.e., 69.5% reported that they had no other option but to accept jobs due to poverty.

Thus, 69.5% of the children admitted that poverty was the cause of accepting jobs. But for other children who had given various reasons for accepting job, it was obvious that the root cause for joining the workforce was the poverty.
Reasons for accepting job as per table - 4.9

- No land to cultivate: 7.5%
- No education: 6.5%
- Poverty or no money: 5.5%
- No income earner in the family: 5%
- Large family no income: 3%
- No interest for education: 3%
- Like to do something: 3%
- Other: 69.5%
4.2.10 HEALTH:

The researcher also put some questions on health of sampled working children, because this may be a pointer to the working atmosphere of these children. Responses in this regard are given in table - 4.10.

Table - 4.10
RESPONSES REGARDING HEALTH OF WORKING CHILDREN

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Having health problem</th>
<th>Having no health problem</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No.</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>No.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>10.0</td>
<td>180</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4.2.11 HABITS OF THE WORKING CHILDREN:

After studying the economic life of the children, the researcher felt it necessary to look into private lives. At their tender age they were expected to be under careful eyes of their parents and elders and busy with their education under careful supervision of teachers and parents. Yet they were busy earning for themselves and family which made them exposed to social and urban evils. Therefore, researcher had asked the respondents if they had the habit of smoking or drinking or stealing. Their responses are placed in table 4.11.

Table 4.11
RESPONSES OF WORKING CHILDREN REGARDING HABIT OF SMOKING, DRINKING AND STEALING

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>categories of child worker</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No.</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>No.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Restaurant boy</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>47.5</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Garage boy</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>60.0</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Bus handyman</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>70.0</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Domestic helper</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>20.0</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Rag picker</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>42.5</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>48.0</td>
<td>104</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Figure - 4.10

Response regarding health of Working Children

- 90% Having no health problem
- 10% Having health problem

Legend:
- □ Having health problem
- ■ Having no health problem
Figure - 4.11

Response of Working Children regarding bad habit of smoking, drinking and stealing
Table 4.11 shows that 48.0% of the respondents had at least one of the habits of smoking, drinking and stealing. Habits of drinking and smoking was not found among the girl child. However, few of them admitted of having the habit of stealing.

4.3 REPRESENTATION OF CASE STUDIES:

4.3.1. It has already been mentioned that researcher has the intention of presenting some case studies to highlight the educational aspect of the working children. This section presents some case studies of samples drawn from each sector of employments chosen. The samples consist of two groups – one with education and other without education. Each group consists of ten (10) children, drawn from five sectors of employments chosen (two each from each sector).

Thus the samples for case studies consist of the following:

A. **With education** -

(a) Restaurant Boys -
   (i) Santosh Prasad, 10 years.
   (ii) Babu, 11 years.

(b) Garage Boys -
   (i) Golap Das, 12 years.
   (ii) Hitesh Deka, 13 years.

(c) Bus Handymen -
   (i) Bhaben Deka, 13 years.
   (ii) Yusuf, 11 years.

(d) Domestic Helpers -
   (i) Sabita Haloi, 12 years.
   (ii) Bijuli Kalita, 11 years.

(e) Rag Pickers -
   (i) Gutzar, 11 years.
   (ii) Mohammed Ali, 10 years.
B. **Without education -**

(a) **Restaurant Boys -**
   (i) Mukut Ali, 13 years.
   (ii) Jahid Ali, 14 years.

(b) **Garage Boys -**
   (i) Bhaiti Das, 11 years.
   (ii) Prakash Medhi, 10 years.

(c) **Bus Handymen -**
   (i) Rahim Ali, 10 years.
   (ii) Babul Das, 13 years.

(d) **Domestic Helpers -**
   (i) Gayatri Devi, 12 years.
   (ii) Anita Das, 11 years.

(e) **Rag Pickers -**
   (i) Kasim Ali, 10 years.
   (ii) Mohammed Rahim, 14 years.

The case studies are now presented below systematically.

### 4.3.2. WORKING CHILDREN WITH EDUCATION:

(a)(i) **Restaurant Boy :**

Name : Santosh Prasad.

Age : 10 years.

Qualification : Two (2) years school experience.

Santosh was born at a village in Bihar. He came to Guwahati about two years back to work with his father. He had a nuclear family. Now he lived with his father on the same roof while other members of his family still lived in Bihar.

He started to work in the same restaurant where his father was working. He had to go to work at about 7 a.m. and worked till about 8 p.m. at night. On asking about his daily routine he said that he had to do such chores such as picking up and washing of used utensils, cup-plates, cleaning cr...
furniture etc. Sometimes he had to carry tea and snacks to neighbouring shops also. For all these he was given Rs. 200.00 as wages per month. However, he was allowed to take food free of cost in the restaurant itself while he was at work.

On asking about his education he replied that he attended school for two years while he was in Bihar. He believed that he was encouraged to work by his parents as he was not good in studies. On questioned if he was interested to go to school again if such opportunity was provided to him, he expressed his unwillingness for education. However, he believed that higher educational qualification may provide good job opportunity.

(ii) Restaurant Boy:

Name : Babu  
Age : 11 years  
Qualification : Class IV passed.

Babu was a restaurant boy of 11 years of age. He was born at Guwahati city and came from a nuclear family. He was living with his parents. His father was a rickshaw puller and his mother was a maid servant. They were living in a rented house of Hengrabari area of Dispur.

As a restaurant boy he generally started his daily activities at 5 a.m. and worked upto 7:30 in the evening. His daily activities cover sweeping and mopping floor, washing used cup-plates, cleaning furniture etc. He was given Rs. 200.00 as his monthly wage. Alongwith his wage he was also given two meals and one time tea on daily basis. Sunday is the only off day as he reported.

On asking about education he said that he had school experience upto class IV. Due to poor financial condition he had to leave school. So he started to earn to assist his family. On being asked about his interest for education he said he will take the chance of education if he was given the opportunity of education again. He also believed that higher
educational qualification may provide good job opportunity. In future he wanted to start a business of his own.

(b) (i) **Garage Boy** -
  Name: Golap Das  
  Age: 12 years  
  Qualification: Class V passed.

Golap was a garage boy of 12 years. He was born in Nagaor District, and came from a nuclear family. He had his father and two sisters. At the age of five years his mother died. Due to poor economic condition he left his school after class V and came to Guwahati in search of employment. Ultimately he became a garage boy. He was staying in rented house with a senior boy of his native place, the living condition of which was not so good.

As a garage boy Golap had to do a lot of work. His main duty was working as a helper of the mechanic of that particular garage. As a helper, he had to assist the mechanic sometimes by joining and fitting some minor parts of vehicles. Moreover, loosening and tightening of bolts and nuts was also another one of the tasks that he had to do. Except Sunday he had no holidays as he reported. As he said his monthly wage was Rs. 220.00 and no other facilities were given to him.

Regarding education he said that he attended school up to class V only. Due to poor economic condition and as his parents had no interest in his education he decided to leave his school and tried to earn something for himself and his family. However, he stated that education is necessary to do something in life. He expressed his desire to re-start his education in future permitted by economic and other conditions. He also stated that he would permit him to go to school along with work. Otherwise he said he would like to carry on the present job of mechanic and be a good mechanic himself in future.
(ii) **Garage Boy -**

Name: Hitesh Deka  
Age: 13 years  
Qualification: Class V

Hitesh was born at a village of Nalbari District. He came from a nuclear family consisting of his parents, two brothers and one sister. He was 13 years old and worked as a garage boy in a garage of Maligaon area of Guwahati. As a vegetable seller his father contributed so small to his family that he had to work and leave his school in class V, he said.

For the last (18) eighteen months he had been working in the present job and lived with one of his relatives in a rented house. About his daily activities he told that he had to do different type of activities such as fitting of nuts and bolts, changing cables, cleaning vehicles, etc., according to the problem of different vehicles. He was given Rs. 250.00 as a monthly wage and nothing more was given to him. He had to work almost (12) twelve hours a day with (1) one hour lunch break. Still he said he had a good feeling for the job and like to continue the job.

About the discontinuation of education he told that poverty was the main cause of it, for which he became a dropout child at class V. He also expressed his willingness to go to school again, even if he was provided education free of cost. Earning is necessary for poor people, he said. He said in future he would like to be a good mechanic and to do something of his own.

(c)/(i) **Bus Handyman -**

Name: Bhaben Deka  
Age: 13 years  
Qualification: Class IV passed.

Bhaben, a bus handyman of 13 years was a paid worker who helped his family with his earnings. He was born at a village of Pathsala and came from a nuclear family. For poor financial conditions they had to come to
Guwahati and was now living together in a small rented room. His father worked as a casual labour and mother worked as a maid servant as he said.

About his present job he told that he generally started his work at 7 a.m. and worked up to 8:30 p.m. in the summer and 7:30 in the winter. Except Sunday he had no rest day. Now he got Rs. 300.00 per month. His main duty was to call out to the passengers and to assist them by shouting the name of each bus stop. Though at the beginning he could not remember all the names of the stops, gradually he could remember all the names as he had been in the job for the last one year. Apart from these activities he had to carry tea pan, cigarette, etc., for conductor and driver. Sometimes the absence of the conductor in the duty helped him to earn some extra money.

Regarding education he said that if their financial condition would have been good, definitely he would have continued his education. According to him with education one could get good job and could earn more money. On asking about his interest for attending school again he said that due to his present job he had no time to attend school. Despite having keen interest in studies he felt earning was more necessary than education. According to him young one should not be in the job rather they should attend school. About future he told that he wanted to earn more only in future.

(iii) Bus Handyman

Name : Yusuf
Age : 11 years
Qualification : Class III.

Yusuf was a boy of 11 (eleven) years. He was born in Bilasipara. He had a joint family with parents, uncle, grand father and grand mother. All were living in their native place. He came to Guwahati in search of employment and became a bus handyman. He was living in a rented house with one of his friends.

About his work he said he had to go daily at 7 a.m. and work for the whole day up to 7:00 in the evening with a one hour break at 12:00 noon. As
a bus handyman he had to call out the passengers in each and every bus stop, look after passenger's troubles and helping the conductor according to his demand. Sunday was the only holiday for him. For all these he got Rs. 250.00 as a monthly wage as he reported.

Regarding education he said he was in school upto class III. Due to poverty he had to leave his school and was compelled to earn. He had been working in this job from the last 14 months and now he would like to continue his job. On being asked whether he had interest in education he replied in the negative. He was of the view that for poor people like him education is a costly thing and so not important for their life. And he said that he would like to earn but he was not sure whether he would like to continue the present job or seek other ones in future.

(d) ii) Domestic Helper -
Name : Sabita Haloi
Age : 12 years
Qualification : Class IV

Sabita was a maid servant and was living in the Uzan Bazar area of Guwahati city. She was born in Nalbari district and was now 12 years old. She had a nuclear family consisting of her mother, one sister and one brother. Poor economic condition brought her to this city to work as a maid servant at the age of 9 years.

On asking about her living condition she said she was provided a small room by her master in the same house where she worked. As a maid servant she said that she had to perform her daily duties like sweeping, cleaning, cooking and sometimes gardening. For all these she was given Rs 150.00 per month. She also reported that beside monthly wage she was provided all meals and her other needs such as clothing, medicine, etc.

About education, she revealed that her master also provided expenditures relating to her education. She also did not see any possibility of leaving the present job as the present arrangement were to her liking. She was
of the view that good educational qualification helped to get a good job and earn more money and so she wanted to continue her education. On asking about future she said she was expecting a good job with her educational qualification for future.

(ii) Domestic Helper -
Name: Bijuli Kalita
Age: 11 years
Qualification: Three (3) years school experience.

Bijuli, a girl of 11 years was a domestic helper. She was born in a village of Goalpara District. She had a nuclear family, with her parents and two younger brothers. Due to poor financial condition, she had to take up some of the family burden and worked as a maid servant in Guwahati.

About living condition she said she was living in her master's house. Beside accommodation, she was provided the facility of clothing, medicine, bath, toilet and entertainment. As a maid servant she had to perform almost all the domestic chores of her employer. Her daily routine was to wash kitchen utensils, cloths, sweeping and mopping floors and cooking. Sometimes she had to escort the employer's daughter to her school also. With these activities she had to work from 6 a.m. to 10:00 or 11 p.m. with hardly an hour's rest in between. For all these she was given Rs. 150.00 per month.

About education she said she had three years school experience. But poor economic condition compelled her to leave school. On asking her opinion about education she said she had a very good feeling for education and said every child should go to school. On being asked about her desire for education she said she will avail the chance of education if it will be free of cost. Regarding her future she said she wanted to continue her job in future only.
(e) (i) Rag Picker -
   Name: Gulzar
   Age: 11 years
   Qualification: Class III passed.

   Gulzar, the rag picker boy had a joint family. He was born in a village of Dhubri District. He was 11 years old. He and his brother were now living in Dispur area with their parents. Before it he was with his grand father where he completed his education upto class III and after that he had never visited any school.

   As a rag picker he reported that he had to roam the whole day for collection of rags. Whatever collected he sold them daily to the nearest scrap dealer for which he got daily Rs. 8.00 to Rs. 10.00 and sometimes even more. His daily collection generally include things such as broken glass, iron paper, plastic, etc., which he thought valuable for selling. According to him this was one of the best job for poor people.

   About his discontinued education he told that poor condition compelled him to earn and leave the school. As he had a good feeling about education he said all should take education as it could help everyone to earn as well as to improve the condition of life. On asked if he wanted to go to school again he replied in the positive. About his future he had no idea but to do something for earning only, as he reported.

(ii) Rag Picker -
   Name: Mohammed Ali
   Age: 10 years
   Qualification: Two (2) years school experience.

   Mohammed Ali was 10 years old boy. He was born in Cachar District. He came from a nuclear family and was living with his mother in Guwahati. His mother was working as a maid servant in four houses. They were living in a small rented room.
Due to poor earning he became a rag picker. He had in this job for the last nine (9) months. For scrap collection he moved from one area to other and collected whatever he thought was valuable for selling. So with a sack in his back he collected used paper, plastic, broken glass, iron etc., and sold to his nearest dealer. Generally he got Rs. 9.00 to Rs. 10.00 daily form his collection.

Regarding education he said though he had two years school experience, after that he never visited school. On being asked whether he liked to go to school or work, he said that he liked to work only for his living. About his future he said he was in search of other job which would provide him more money.

### 4.3.3 WORKING CHILDREN WITHOUT EDUCATION:

(a) ii) Restaurant Boy -

Name : Mukut Ali
Age : 13 years
Qualification : Nil.

Mukut was a 13 years old restaurant boy. His original home was Baihata Chariali, a small place near Guwahati city. His family consisted of his parents and three brothers. His father was a casual labour and due to the financial condition he had to work to support his family.

He was working in a restaurant near Guwahati Commerce College since he left his home about two years back. He got this job with the help of a boy who was already working in the same restaurant. His working hours generally started at 7:00 a.m. in the morning and he had to work till about 9:00 p.m. His daily works generally included washing of used cup-plates and other utensils, cleaning furnitures and sometimes carrying tea-snacks, etc. to nearby shop, office, etc. Beside an amount of Rs. 150.00, he reported, he was provided his daily food by his employer. He was also allowed to stay in the
restaurant itself for the night. He also stated that he was also occasionally provided with other requirements such as clothing, medicine, entertainment, etc., by his employer.

About his education he said that his father could not send him to school due to poverty. He said that he had no interest to go to school but he wished that his two younger brothers who were still attending school could continue their studies. Thus, he decided to work so that his earning could be of some help to his family. Though, he reported, he could not send money to his father on regular basis, he was able to send some once in three or four months. He said his wishes was to continue earning in future and help to do something for his family and for himself.

(ii) Restaurant Boy -
     Name : Jahid Ali
     Age : 14 years
     Qualification : Nil.

Jahid was a 14 years old boy who worked as a restaurant boy. He had a nuclear family with parents, one brother and one sister. They were living in a village of Kokrajhar. In search of employment he came to Guwahati and started to work as a restaurant boy since the last two years.

About his daily activities he told that he started his daily routine at 7:00 a.m. and works upto 7:30 p.m. in the evening. His main duty was assisting the cook, cleaning the furniture and serving the customers. Now he was earning Rs. 200.00 per month. About his living condition he said that he was living with his employer. He was provided the facility of medicine, bath, toilet and sometimes entertainment also. According to him his employer was a well behaved man.

About education he said he had no school experience. He did not like to go to school even if he was provided the facility of schooling free of cost. Education need money, so work is more important and beneficial than education, he said. In future he would like to start a restaurant of his own.
(b) (i) **Garage Boy** -

Name: Bhaiti Das
Age: 11 years
Qualification: Nil.

Bhaiti, the garage boy of 11 years was born in Barpeta. He had a nuclear family consisting of his parents and one sister. His father was a mechanic in an automobile garage of Barpeta. Bhaiti said his father's earning was not sufficient even to meet their daily requirements of food. He said that was why other members of family also had to do some casual works to meet their requirements.

About one and a half years back he came to Guwahati with the help of some friends to earn on regular basis. He started to work in an automobile garage of Jalukbari area of Guwahati city. He was staying in a rented house near the garage with few of his friends who were also working with him. He started his daily work at 8:00 a.m. and worked till 7:00 p.m. in the evening. As a garage boy he said, he had to mostly assist his elder workers by giving the tools, cleaning the vehicles and sometimes removing and fitting small parts of scooter, etc. For all these he was paid Rs. 150.00 per month and he had to fulfill all his requirements of life depending solely on this income.

On being asked about the education he said that he had never visited a school in the past. He said that he had no interest in education. On the part of his parents there was no urge for his education. He said work is more important than education and wanted to work only and earn for himself. In future he would like to start a garage of his own.

(ii) **Garage Boy** -

Name: Prakash Medhi
Age: 10 years
Qualification: Nil.

Prakash was a 10 year old boy. He was born in a village of Jorhat District. He had no one except his mother. At the age of nine (9) he left his
place in search of employment and came to Guwahati. About his living condition he said he was staying at the garage with two other adult boys.

As a garage boy he started his work at 7:00 a.m. and worked up to 6:00 p.m. in the evening. Prakash worked there as a helper. His main task were to pass on the tools to the mechanic at work and cleaning the spare parts. Sometimes he had to remove some small parts of vehicles also. For all these he got Rs. 50.00 per month plus two meals and breakfast daily. Sunday was the only holiday for him. Before it he said he had no any previous experience of job.

On asking about his desire for education he said he did not want to go to school even if he was provided free of cost. He also said he had no educational experience. According to him education is a costly affair and so is not for poor people. In future, he said he would be a good mechanic.

(c) (i) Bus Handyman -

Name : Rahim Ali
Age : 10 years
Qualification : Nil.

Rahim was a boy of 10 years and was working as a bus handyman in Guwahati city. Though originally he was born at a village in Dhubri District of Assam his family had came to Guwahati some years back. Now he was staying with his mother, his only other family members. Though his mother was working as a casual labourer her income was never sufficient for them. So Rahim was also compelled to work at tender age.

Rahim was working as a bus handyman since about one year. He generally go to work about 7:00 a.m. and had to work till about 8:00 p.m. with a break about one hour in the noon. He used to go to work on everyday of the week. As a bus handyman his duty was to assist the passengers by shouting the name of each bus stop and helping the driver and the conductor in their duty. Now he was earning Rs. 180.00 per month.
On education he said that he had no education and could not read or write. He never visited a school in the past. He reported that he had no interest to go to school in future also. According to him work is more necessary than education. His future plan was to continue to earn somehow to meet his daily requirements.

(ii) **Bus Handyman -**
Name: Babul Das
Age: 13 years
Qualification: Nil.

Babul was a 13 year old boy. He was born in Barpeta. He was a member of a nuclear family. His father died when he was six (6) years old. Dire poverty compelled him to come to Guwahati in search of employment. Now he was working as a bus handyman. He was staying with one of his relatives who worked as a bus conductor on whose help he got the present job.

As a bus handyman he started his daily work at 6:00 a.m. and finished it at 8:00 p.m. in the evening and in between he got an hour's launcn break and sometimes half an hour short break for tea etc. His main duty was assisting the conductor and helping the passengers by shouting out at each and every bus stop. Now he was earning Rs. 200.00 per month.

Regarding education he said he never visited a school. It was because of poverty and now he said he did not like to go to school even if he was provided free education. He said children like him from poor family should work to live only. In future he said he would like to continue his work only for earning money.

(d) (i) **Domestic Helper -**
Name: Gayatri Devi
Age: 12 years
Qualification: Nil.
Gayatri was born near New Jalpaiguri. She was 12 years old and worked as a maid servant. She had a nuclear family consisting of her mother and a 10-year-old brother. Her mother was a maid servant only and so she could not go to school for financial hardship. Due to their poor economic condition she had to work in Guwahati.

In a residence of Dispur area she was working as a maid servant from last one year. On being asked about her work she replied that she liked her work very much and would like to continue it. As a maid servant she had to do all the household works including sweeping, cooking, washing utensils and clothes, etc. For all these she was given Rs. 100.00 per month and all requirements also provided by her employer.

About education she showed no interest and so she prefers to work and earn something. Thus, she said she had no interest at all to accept the chance of education if she got it free. She said work is more important than education. But giving family assistance was one of her aim in life. In future she wanted to earn only, as she reported.

(ii) Domestic Helper -

Name: Anita Das
Age: 11 years
Qualification: Nil.

Anita nearly 11 years old was a domestic helper. She was born at a village of Kamrup District and came from a nuclear family. She had no parents except a younger brother. She had been in this job from the last two months and was staying with her employer.

As a domestic helper beside cooking she had to do all the household activities of her employer. She cleaned utensils, washed clothes, sweep floor and took care of pots and flowers of garden. Sometimes she had to purchase the family ration also. She was given Rs. 150.00 as a monthly wage by her employer. On asking about the facilities provided to her she said she was provided all the necessary facilities like food, clothes, bath, toilet.
entertainment, etc., by her employer. So all these kept her happy as she reported.

Regarding education she said she had no schooling. For poor economic condition she could not learn anything and she had no desire for education as she said. According to her, work is more important than education. In future she would like to carry her job, she said.

(e) (i) Rag Picker -
   Name : Kasim Ali
   Age : 10 years
   Qualification : Nil.

Kasim was a 10 year old boy. He was born in Cachar District. He had nuclear family. Now he living in Ganeshguri area of Guwahati city and became rag picker for his poor economic condition. His father was a casual labour who was living with him. Both were living in a small room for which they had to pay Rs. 50.00 per month. The living condition as he reported was very poor.

On being asked about his job, he said through rag picking he was earning his daily living. For collecting rags he usually went with his friends and collected whatever he thought was valuable for selling. He collected used and broken plastic, tin, iron, paper, etc., and sell to the nearest dealer. He got Rs. 8.00 to Rs. 9.00 for one bura (bosta).

About education he said he had no schooling and did not like to go to school. He said, earning is more necessary than education. In future he wanted to earn more but had no future plan, he said.

(ii) Rag Picker -
   Name : Mohammed Rahim
   Age : 14 years
   Qualification : Nil.
Rahim was a rag picker of 14 years old. He was staying with his brother, mother and two sisters. They were living in Juparpati under the railway overbridge. His father died when he was just two years old and his mother brought him up with great difficulty.

He along with his brother and sisters started their work as rag pickers. At that time Rahim was just 6 years old. He started to work daily at 5:00 or 6:00 a.m. in the morning. Generally he collected rags or scraps from garbage dumping grounds. With bare feet and torn clothes he collected waste materials like paper rags, tin, iron, plastic, glass pieces and leftover foods. On being asked about his income he replied that for 1 bura (basta) he got Rs. 10.00. The amount of income was varying as it depended upon the amount of collected materials. All the day, he said, searched the dustbins and garbage for his materials, for which he had no fixed time. Sometimes with his friends sometimes alone, sometimes with his brothers and sisters he collected his daily rags for selling.

On asking about education he said he never visited any school. He also said he had no desire for education and so he refused to accept the chance of education even it was given free of cost. About his future he said he did not have any future plan, but to earn somehow for his family. About his profession he said it was a good work to earn and poor children like him should work to assist their families.

4.3.4 RESULT OF CASE STUDIES:

From the above case studies first that is evident is that whether they were literate or illiterate, all were from very poor families. Poverty was the only cause that compelled them to work. Poverty was also the only cause which came in way in providing school education or compelled them to leave school in case of almost all children.

It is also evident from the case studies that whether they were literate or illiterate, their working and living conditions were very miserable except for the domestic helpers. Condition of domestic helpers were appearec
to be little better off perhaps because they were living with their employers and they were provided their almost all basic needs by the employer beside some cash. In case of one domestic helper, she was even found to be provided with her education by her employer.

On the other hand though education or literacy level of educated children had no effect on their working or living conditions their mental attitude towards working lives and future were more positive than illiterate children. Most of the illiterate children were found adverse to education even if it was provided to them free of cost. On the other hand most of the literate children expressed their willingness to get educated if opportunity was there.

Again if the literate working children showed some definite goals in their mind for future, illiterate ones were found happy with the present arrangement and not sure of their future lives. They were seemed to be helpless as far as their future courses of action was concerned and surrendered to their destiny.
CASE STUDY PROFILE OF SANTOSH PRASAD

10 years old
Nothing said about future

High educational qualification may provide good job

Expressed unwillingness for education again, if provided free of cost

Born at village in Bihar in a nuclear family
Lived with father

2 years school experience

Daily activities - picking up and washing cup-plates, utensils, cleaning etc.

Earn Rs. 200/- per month and no other facilities provided

CASE STUDY PROFILE OF BABU

11 years old
Born at Guwahati in a nuclear family
Lived with father

High educational qualification may provide good job

Expressed eagerness for education again, if provided free of cost

Wanted to start a business of his own in future

Daily routine - sweeping, mapping, washing utensils, cleaning etc.

Earn Rs. 200/- per month with two meals and one time tea

Poverty compelled to leave school

Studied upto Class IV
CASE STUDY PROFILE OF GOLAP DAS

Wanted to be a good mechanic in future

12 years old

Born in Nagaon District in a nuclear family

Education is a necessary part of life

Expressed eagerness for education again, if provided free of cost

Poverty compelled to leave school

Studied upto Class V

Daily activities joining and fitting minor parts of vehicles, loosening and tightening nut bolts etc

Earn Rs. 220/- per month and no other facilities provided

CASE STUDY PROFILE OF HITESH DEKA

Wanted to be a good mechanic in future

13 years old

Born at village of Nalbari District in a nuclear family

Earning is necessary for poor people

Expressed willingness for education again, if provided free of cost

Poverty compelled to leave school

Studied upto Class V

Daily routine - joining and fitting nut-bolts, cleaning and changing cables etc

Earn Rs. 250/- per month and no other facilities provided
**BUS HANDYMAN - WITH EDUCATION**

**CASE STUDY PROFILE OF RHABEN DEKA**

- **13 years old**
- **Wanted to earn more in future**
- **Earning was more necessary than education**
- **Expressed eagerness for education again, if provided free of cost**
- **Born at village of Pathsala in a nuclear family**
- **Lived with parents**
- **Daily activities - call out and assisting passengers by shouting the name of each bus stop**
- **Earn Rs. 300/- per month and nothing more given**
- **Studied upto Class IV**

**CASE STUDY PROFILE OF YUSUF**

- **11 years old**
- **Wanted to continue his job in future**
- **Education is a costly thing for poor people**
- **Expressed eagerness for education again, if provided free of cost**
- **Born in Bilasipara in a joint family**
- **Lived with a friend**
- **Daily routine - call out and assisting passengers by shouting the name of each bus stop**
- **Earn Rs. 250/- per month and nothing more given**
- **Studied upto Class III**

Wanted to earn more in future. Earning was more necessary than education. Expressed eagerness for education again, if provided free of cost. Poverty compelled to leave school. Studied upto Class IV.

Wanted to continue his job in future. Education is a costly thing for poor people. Expressed eagerness for education again, if provided free of cost. Poverty compelled to leave school. Studied upto Class III.
DOMESTIC HELPER - WITH EDUCATION

CASE STUDY PROFILE OF SABITA HALOI

12 years old
Expected that she will be in a better job in future
High educational qualification may provide good job
Expressed eagerness for studying more
Cost of education borne by the employer

12 years old
Born in Nalbari District in a nuclear family
Lived with her employer
Daily activities - sweeping, mopping, cleaning, cooking etc.
Earn Rs. 150/- per month and almost all required needs provided

CASE STUDY PROFILE OF BIJULI KALITA

11 years old
Wanted to continue her job in future
All children should attend school
Expressed eagerness for education again, if provided free of cost
Poverty compelled to leave school

11 years old
Born at a village of Gaolpara District in a nuclear family
Lived with her employer
Daily routine - Sweeping, mopping, cleaning, cooking etc.
Earn Rs. 150/- per month and almost all required needs provided
CASE STUDY PROFILE OF GULZAR

11 years old
Wanted to earn more in future

Born at a village of Dhubri District in a nuclear family

Education may help to earn and improve the condition of life

Expressed eagerness for study again, if provided free of cost

Lived with parents and brother

Daily activities - collection of rags and selling

Studied upto Class III

Earn Rs. 8/- to Rs. 10/- per day

Poverty compelled to leave school

CASE STUDY PROFILE OF MOHAMMED ALI

10 years old
Wanted to earn more in future

Born in Cachar District in a nuclear family

Earning is more important for living

Expressed unwillingness for education

Lived with mother

Daily routine - collection of rags and selling

Earn Rs. 9/- to Rs. 10/- per day

Poverty compelled to leave school

2 years school experience
CASE STUDY PROFILE OF MUKUT ALI

Wanted to earn only in future

13 years old

Earning is necessary for his family and himself

Born at Baihata Charial of Kamrup District in a nuclear family

Expressed unwillingness for studies

Lived in the restaurant

Iliterate due to poverty

Daily activities - washing cup-plates, utensils, cleaning furniture etc.

Earn Rs. 150/- per month and occasionally provided clothing, medicine etc., facilities

CASE STUDY PROFILE OF JAHID ALI

Wanted to start a restaurant in future

14 years old

Work is more beneficial than education

Born at a village of Kokrajhar District in a nuclear family

Expressed unwillingness for studies

Lived with his employer

Iliterate due to poverty

Daily routine - cleaning, assisting cook and serving customers

Earn Rs. 200/- per month and almost all required needs provided
CASE STUDY PROFILE OF BHAITI DAS

11 years old

Wanted to start his own garage in future

Born in Barpeta District in a nuclear family

Work is important than education

Lived with his friends

Expressed unwillingness for studies

Daily activities - cleaning, joining and fitting oars etc.

Illiterate due to poverty

Earn Rs. 150/- per month and nothing more given

CASE STUDY PROFILE OF PRAKASH MEDHI

10 years old

Wanted to be a good mechanic in future

Born at a village of Jorhat District in a nuclear family

Education is a costly thing for poor people

Lived with two members

Expressed unwillingness for education again, if provided free of cost

Daily routine - cleaning, joining and fitting oars etc.

Earn Rs. 50/- per month with two meals and tea daily
BUS HANDYMAN - WITHOUT EDUCATION

CASE STUDY PROFILE OF RAHIM ALI

10 years old
Wanted to start his own business in future
Work is more necessary than education
Expressed unwillingness for education
Illiterate due to poverty

Born in Dhubri District in a nuclear family
Lived with his mother
Daily activities - assisting passengers by shouting the name of bus stop
Earn Rs. 180/- per month

CASE STUDY PROFILE OF BABUL DAS

13 years old
Wanted to continue the job in future
Poor children should work for earning
Expressed unwillingness for education
Illiterate due to poverty

Born in Barpeta District in a nuclear family
Lived with one of his relatives
Daily routine - assisting passengers by shouting the name of bus stop
Earn Rs. 200/- per month
DOMESTIC HELPER - WITHOUT EDUCATION

CASE STUDY PROFILE OF GAYATRI DEVI

- 12 years old
- Work is more important than education
- Expressed unwillingness for education
- Lived with her employer
- Daily activities - washing cloths, utensils, cooking, sweeping
- Earn Rs. 100/- per month and almost all required needs provided
- Born near Jalpaiguri in a nuclear family
- Illiterate due to poverty

CASE STUDY PROFILE OF ANITA DAS

- 11 years old
- Work is more important than education
- Expressed unwillingness for education
- Lived with her employer
- Daily routine - washing cloths, utensils, sweeping and mapping
- Earn Rs. 150/- per month and almost all required needs provided
- Born at a village of Kamrup District in a nuclear family
- Illiterate due to poverty
RAG PICKER - WITHOUT EDUCATION

CASE STUDY PROFILE OF KASIM ALI

10 years old
Wanted to earn only in future

Born in Cachar District in a nuclear family
Lived with his father

Daily activities - collection of rags and selling it
Earn Rs. 8/- to Rs. 9/- for one bura (basta)

Earning is more necessary than education
Expressed unwillingness for education
Illiterate due to poverty

CASE STUDY PROFILE OF MOHAMMED RAHIM

No any future plan 14 years old

Born at Guwahati in a nuclear family
Lived with his family members

Daily routine - collection of rags and selling it
Earn Rs. 10/- or more daily

Poor children should work to assist their families
Expressed unwillingness for education
Illiterate due to poverty

Illiterate

Illiterate