Chapter II

REVIEW OF LITERATURE
2.1 INTRODUCTION

The basic idea is to analyze and understand the level of work done in this subject from different aspects, so as to provide an outline to carry forward research in this area. This has given a platform to move towards and contribute constructively for the same. The phenomenon of child labour was ubiquitous all over the world, having an altogether different nature and magnitude. This problem is now largely different as the Indian economy has undergone a structural change in favour of the informal manufacturing sector and further this process of restructuring is still going on. But, the relative socio-economic status of various demographic groups, particularly of the “stigmatized” groups, has remained more or less unaltered. Due to this the existing socio-economic and political structure in Indian society and the relative family of children had not changed.

2.2. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

The review of literature has been presented on the lines of various reasons such as socioeconomic conditions, education and child labour, gender and child labour, working conditions and health status of child labour, poverty and child labour, effect of child labour on childhood, psychosocial effects of child labour and physical health problems.

2.2.1 Socioeconomic Conditions

The Institute of Economic and Market Research, New Delhi\textsuperscript{1} (1991) has made a study to analyse the characteristics of child labour in Solan district of Himachal Pradesh. Participation of children in workforce in the age group of 10 to 14 years is very high which works out to be 29 per cent of the total labour force. It is observed that among the working children, 7 per cent are below 10 years, 27 per cent belong to the age group of 11 to 12 years and 65 per cent belong to the age group of 13 to 14 years and almost all are boys (96 %). The survey reveals that 71 per cent works due to financial difficulties. It is also observed that 14 per cent of the children interviewed are drawing less than Rs.50, 22 per cent between Rs.50 and Rs.80 and only 43 per cent are getting more than Rs.200 per month.
Indira Hirway\(^2\) (1991) opined that the basic issues to eradicate the child labour are poverty, unemployment and attitudes of society towards the child labour, traditions and compulsions.

Kitchulu\(^3\) (1996) explained the different exploitations the child faced from employers, middleman, contractors, business men as well as parents. The national problem considered at present is the exploitation of children only.

Basu and Van\(^4\) (1998) study revealed that the phenomenon of child labour was a multidimensional and it occurred not only because of parental selfishness, but also because of poverty and their low wages. Since it was insufficient for their survival, parents would not send their children if their own wages were high or employment perspectives were better. Therefore, banning child labour will help in solving various problems at one time. Furthermore, these parents would then in turn send their children to school and help in improving the literacy rate of the country.

Marcus\(^5\) (1998) in his study viewed that the child labour as a product of market forces-supply and demand, taking in the behavior of employers, as well as of individual households. He further notes that wide scale poverty was among the most reasons why children work. The importance of poverty as a cause and effect of child labour has been explored by the World Bank and ILO. They demonstrate that early entry into the labour force reduces lifetime earnings by 13-20 per cent, increasing significantly the probability of being poor later in life (ILO, 2006), the same study, also observed that while poverty was almost always a context for the early entry of children into regular work and into child labour, poverty can also be a function of: a) access to labour markets and income-raising activities; b) family members of working age not had appropriate skills to match market needs in the area where they live; c) family members low educational levels; d) unemployment in the area where the family lives and e) conflict, illness or natural disaster having taken away the breadwinner of the family leaving a dependent household with no-one to depend on.

Richard Anker et al\(^6\) (1998) in their study observed that economic reasons were greatly influencing the employment of children, because the greediness of employers for getting more profits, by paying fewer wages. However, the cost increase in non-employment of child labour is marginal and it is only 5 to 6 percent.
Marcus (1999) noted that economic decline and/or austerity programs result in squeezed livelihoods for poor families and reduced public investment in education and its quality, thus reducing its attractiveness to children and increasing its cost. Economic decline also means stagnation or decline in average incomes. The impact was even more adverse when sectors that employ the poor were affected, in particular, agriculture and labour intensive industries.

According to ILO (1998) study 250 million children aged 5-14 throughout the world work and about half of these work most of the time. Sustainable development cannot be achieved in any society if it neglects the development of its human resources and if it wastes its most valuable resources, namely the potential capabilities embodied in its children. Qualitative assessments by the ILO in Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Ghana, the Philippines, South Africa and Turkey indicated that the level of parents' education had influence over children's involvement in hazardous form of labour. Most parents of exploited children had not completed formal education and many of them were illiterate. Other factors identified by the qualitative assessments in Lebanon were large family size and mothers' education. Low parental education was found to be a factor in this phenomenon.

Edmonds (2002) studied the effect of globalization and child labour. He had taken the Vietnam's case study, where child labour was primarily employed on paddy farms. Involvement of high child employment in paddy farms boosted up Vietnam's economy through exports of paddy production. It had a corresponding effect on the increase in the prices of rice which eventually resulted in the increase of all labour wages, both adult and child labour.

Lieten (2003) study revealed that the relationship between globalization and child labour is nominal, because, child labour has played a substitution effect among various industries. So, the child labour has decreased over the past two decades. Earlier, it was higher on the industrial side, but now it is high in the agricultural sector. So, the decline in child labour for India can primarily be due to strong government policies and their implementation but not due to globalization. He suggested that combined labour schools with residential facilities, introduction of CSO (Citizen Sector Organization) and government joint strategy would be helpful in not only reducing child labour but also eliminating poverty and other causes of child
labour. Earlier, many studies were conducted on the effect of globalization. Globalization had a positive effect on child labour.

Edmonds and Pavcnik (2004) reviewed contradictory to the above study by studying the other factors such as economy, GDP, per capita income, equitable distribution of wealth and openness of an economy, which in the study are taken care of and in which the earlier studies were not taken care of.

According to Grimsurd (2003), UNICEF and United Nation agencies, came up with certain strategies for the upliftment of humanity as a whole, particularly children. Thus, children were considered the future of nation so it was imperative that tackling the problem of child labour would help in achieving millennium development goals. The number of working children in the world below the age of 15 was estimated in the late 1970s to approximately 52 million. The bulk of working children (50.7 million) lives in under developed countries and 75 percent live in Asia (concentrated mainly in South and South East Asia).

A situation analysis of child domestic workers in Dhaka city, Bangladesh carried out by UNICEF in 2004 showed that nearly 70 per cent of the heads of households of child domestic workers (CDWs) were illiterates. Though about 25 per cent of the heads of households had 1 to 5 years of schooling, they were functionally illiterate. The study of parental health and its effect on child labour in Bangladesh stated that mother’s participation was very low if father’s illness was temporary or short term in nature. Mother’s participation only increased if father’s illness is chronic or irreversible, another factor in increasing mother’s employability was her education, and on the other hand for all cases son’s participation supersedes daughter’s work participation. This phenomenon was higher in underdeveloped countries and developing countries, because people were living edge to edge and faced poverty problem. In such cases children had to forgo education for supporting basic family needs. The probable solution was to introduce insurance schemes and sickness benefit programs in the payroll of all employees in Bangladesh and other areas.
2.2.2 Education and Child labour

The participation of children in labour force was found to be inversely associated with the spread of educational facilities. If one considers the level of literacy as an index of social development, the high labour force participation rate of children is also indicative of social backwardness. Likewise, the extent of child labour is observed to be higher in areas which are economically backward and which, therefore, have higher incidence of rural poverty.

A higher incidence of child labour appears to be untenable from the point of view of social and economic upliftment (Pandey, 1975). In India, the 1999-2000 National Sample Survey (NSS) data indicates that a high incidence of child labour, with 8.4 million children active in the labour, if the wider definition of child labour is accepted, which is that all the children who do not attend school should be counted as child labour, the incidence of child labour is enormous i.e., nearly 54 million children in the labour force, or 27 per cent of the child population between five to 14 years of age. The vicissitudes of rural agricultural and non-agricultural work and the schedule of schools do not necessarily preclude school-going children from or in family occupations. Hence the data on the precise numbers of child workers can at best be tentative. Schools, which could be a source to wean children away from the labour market and put them through a process of learning skill enhancing and, may be, just living a healthy childhood, cannot do so in vacuum.

Baskaran (1980) in his survey in Bombay and Delhi finds that 40 to 45 per cent of the slum children do not attend school and they were employed as rag pickers, tea shop assistants, shoe shine boys and they do not get any nourishing food. The children came from the families with an average monthly income of less than Rs.400 and they were forced to take up work to supplement the family income.

Ren (1998) viewed that the severity of child labour must be tackled not only by taking legislative measures but also by improving the economic and educational status of the below poverty level families. Generally, child poverty is associated with malnutrition, no schooling, neglected parental care etc.
Child education will reduce the child labour but feels that compulsory and free primary education is a costly activity. If the governments do not show sincere will to generate funds and allocate them for child education, further generations remain uneducated and provide a large chunk of disorganized labour and disabled adults (Sridhar, 1992)\textsuperscript{17}.

Ashim Mukhopadhaya\textsuperscript{18} (1994) conducted a survey in West Bengal, Bihar and East Uttar Pradesh. The study indicated that while education was essential for empowering the girl child, it is even more important to recognize the services she renders. The study further revealed that all girl children in rural households were in fact disguised child labourers, with the degree of exploitation varying with socio-economic backwardness.

An unspoken consensus exists among India’s political leaders that education should not be made compulsory, since parents should have the right to use or sell the labour of their children. This is a policy that is frequently suggested in order to end child labour in India. The Indian government falls behind most other Asian countries in terms of spending on primary education, having allocated a disproportionate share of educational resources on higher education, which has benefited the middle classes while leaving the rural and urban poor “educationally impoverished.” No country has successfully ended child labour without first making education compulsory. India has ninety million children outside of the educational system. A move towards universal education must originate in the Indian legal framework and official attitudes must change in order to overcome profound class divisions. This shift would be a means for achieving the government’s broad, free-market goals by building a human resource base capable of supporting a more open and competitive economy. The case for compulsory primary education, made prolifically by Myron Weiner, suggests that change must come from within the Indian legal framework, and must be supported by official attitudes, in order to overcome profound class divisions and to achieve the government’s broader free-market goals. Efforts to make primary education compulsory would require an interpretation of education as not only a constitutional principle, but also as a fundamental right enforced by the state. This perspective views the education as the main alternative to lifelong labour for all Indians, and as a building block in the construction of a diverse, educated human resource base capable of supporting a more open and competitive economy(Weiner Myron, 1996)\textsuperscript{19}. 

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Fyfe\textsuperscript{20} (1999) pointed out that child labour and education need not be mutually exclusive but a "host of defects in education played an important part in contributing to the child labour problem, and must therefore be part of any solution". Both the education status and achievement were far below prescribed levels among known child workers. Although many countries provide free compulsory education, it does not mean that education is totally free. Associated, fees for schooling, such as costs for uniforms, text books, transportation and sometimes teachers' own insistences, are a huge burden for people who are poor.

Prasad \textsuperscript{21}(2000) stated that the problem of child labour was multi-faceted. According to him, universal primary education, poverty alleviation strategies and rural development programmes could progressively eliminate the child labour.

Examining bonded child labour in India from the perspective of "human rights, capabilities and securities", the author provides an alternative framework to the common, economics-based approach to understanding child labour. The author nods to Amartya Sen's argument that human development is intricately linked to the protection and promotion of human capabilities and the ability of individuals to choose what they do with their lives. Child development—including emotional, cognitive, physical and moral growth—is threatened by the obligation to work. The article underscores the centrality of education reform, addressing the lack of state-sponsored educational opportunities caused by child labour. The correlation between poverty and child labour is not inevitable. The authors challenge the belief that sending children to work is a built-in economic necessity. Child labour as a consequence, as opposed to a cause, of a defective school system in India is also explored. Ensuring the rights and human security of the child is not only a parental but also a social responsibility (Majumdar and Manabi, 2001)\textsuperscript{22}.

Grimsurd\textsuperscript{23} (2003) studied that education and child labour are inversely related. All the developed countries made primary education compulsory up to the age of 15 and hence they had very low incidence of child labour. But the developing and underdeveloped countries do not have stringent policies regarding primary education and hence they suffered a very high incidence of child labour. The empirical evidence suggested that making primary education compulsory was helpful in removing child labour.
Allen et al. (2005) emphasizes on using technology for bridging educational gaps in our society. The prime focus is to bring down the incidence of child labour in the world. It has been assumed that parents send their children to school because they are poor and they cannot afford formal education system. Most of these parents were unaware of the hazards of the impact of child labour. Some of the measures in combating child labour were educating parents and communities about various ills and after effects of child labour. Moreover, parents should be given vocational training that will enable them for better employment prospects and help them in improving their economic conditions. In addition, this study suggested that education will help in reducing child labour and also removes the misconception on the child labour market i.e., children as a source of capital.

Many children had looked for work or were forced to drop out from school due to economic reasons, including the cost of schooling (Matsuno and Blagbrough, 2005). The prime importance of primary education to the children was studied by Majumdar (2006). He stated that although the government had come up with various programmes like Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), mid-day meal etc., but their implementation and success at the grass-root level was yet to be seen.

Das and Mukherjee (2006) analysed by using the household level data from NSSO of India that the school dropout rate and child labour incidence. The parental education played an important role in reducing this tendency. Thus establishing the linkage between social and human capital outcomes in the family, especially mother’s education was an immensely important factor in moulding the child as a good citizen and also in reducing the child labour.

Sinha (2007) focused on the extent of child labour in the agricultural sector. This study revealed that only 3.15 per cent of children working in agricultural sector reap the benefits of schooling system. In addition, most of these children were exposed to physical pestering as in the process, their skin gets fully peeled and their body is full of deadly scares. Hence even agricultural work took a serious toll on their health and was hazardous in nature. The world day against child labour on 12th June 2007 was primarily focused on children working in agricultural sector and the focus
was to bring out strategies against abolishing child labour in this sector. The prime focus was to make primary education compulsory for all, as this would compel children to opt out of work for education. The study also suggested certain amendments in child labour act of 1986, which prohibits child labour certain hazardous processes and occupations, which exclude agricultural sector. Exploitation of children working in dangerous conditions not only results in constraints on a child's health and development, but also solidifies his or her fate as an unskilled, low-paid worker. A greater focus on female education would precipitate a decline in both fertility seen as a self-reinforcing cause and effect of child labour and in children's work participation.

The debate amongst analysts of the economics of forced labour, particularly of bonded working children, revolves around whether work can be eradicated completely-or whether current labour conditions in India are acceptable given the economic demands of underdevelopment. The suggestion has also been posited that "learn and earn" policies, which combine work and school, may be feasible. For the most part, the government fails to enforce laws. Whether child labour should and can be completely outlawed and the ban enforced, or whether the economic system in India can realistically allow for all children to attend school, have remained at the crux of the debate for some time.

At present abolition of child sections of the society to resolve the problem labour is not possible in India in the near future and therefore improvement in condition of work should be seriously considered. In our Constitution, Article 23 and 24 under the 'Fundamental Rights' and Article 45 under the 'Director Principles of State Policy' are relevant for the rights of working children. Apart from these constitutional rights/provisions, the Government of India has passed a number of Acts including the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act in 1986. According to this act, no child under the age of 14 shall be permitted to be engaged in hazardous occupations or to be made to undertake heavy work. Further, National Policy on Child Labour was formulated in 1987. The Policy seeks to adopt a gradual and sequential approach with a focus on rehabilitation of children working in hazardous occupations and processes in the first instance. Along with these legal provisions, the National Anti-poverty Policies, the National Education Policy, National Policy on Health and
Nutrition are together expected to help in realizing the objectives of the National Policy on Child Labour. But, the question still remains—Will the Child Labour Acts, help in improving the existing material, physical and mental conditions of working children and abolishing child labour?. Due to non-universalisation of compulsory primary education the child labour prohibition laws are failure to implement strictly, but with the implementation the Right to Education Act, 2009 this drawback of the proper non-implementation of child labour laws shall hope to be overcome in India.

2.2.3 Gender and child labour

National Council of Educational Research and Training (2001) surveyed that school enrollment of children was very high in the presence of literate female in the households compared to male literate in rural Andhra Pradesh. Moreover, gender disparity disappeared in female literate households.

Save the Children Alliance (1997) also noted that other structural social inequalities based on gender, ethnicity, age, class and caste, influence which children work, the kinds of work they do, and their working conditions. Perceptions of what constitutes childhood vary widely between cultures and full-time work may be considered the most appropriate activity for a poor, low caste, or minority child. Likewise, girls may be expected to work while their brothers attend school. The inequalities in social and educational service provision and in economic opportunities between rural and urban areas can also create particular pressures on rural children to work and not attend school, as well as, sometimes, to migrate voluntarily or forcibly to urban areas to take up these legal and illegal opportunities. Urban children, too, take advantage of particular economic opportunities.

According to UNICEF (2004), “girls often start working at an earlier age than boys, especially in the rural areas where most working children are found”. As a result of adherence to traditional gender roles, many girls find themselves caught in a variety of child labour activities. Gender plays a significant role in determining the different types of work done. Girls predominate in domestic work, while boys were heavily represented in mining and quarrying. Often girls’ work remain hidden or unaccounted in some sectors such as planting, weeding or harvesting – where the vast majority of children’s work is concentrated - as they are perceived Boys are similarly hidden in prostitution which was often believed to be a girls’ domain alone. A careful
and gender sensitive assessment can lead the way for more in-depth studies and formulation of effective policies to tackle child labour. Child abuse and neglect was an issue that demands an urgent response from society and the state.

Dabir and Nigudkar\(^2\)\(^2\) (2007) observed that the incidence of abuse was higher among the vulnerable groups as compared to the general group of children in school. The victims of child abuse need special care and ardent attention. It exploits the child's physical and psychological health. Globalization, especially in the context of trafficking child labour has increased the number of children being exploited for commercial gains. He suggested to the abused and neglected children to take necessary actions or integrated services of counselling, medical treatment, legal help and rehabilitation need to be developed.

2.2.4 Working conditions and health status of child labour

Richard A. Lester\(^3\)\(^3\) (1942) studied the conditions of child workers of England during the last quarter of the 19\(^{th}\) century and they found that the normal working day for women and children as well as men was from 12 to 14 hours for six days a week and at seasons, factories sometimes ran day and night on one shift. Children, who, in seasons, worked 18 hours a day with only four hours for sleep, often fell asleep at meals, with the victuals in their mouths.

The National Commission on Labour\(^4\)\(^4\) (1969) reported on child labour that employment of children was almost non-existent in organized industries. It persists in varying degrees in the unorganized sector, such as small plantations, restaurants and hotels, cotton ginning and weaving, carpet weaving, stone breaking, brick-kiln, handicrafts and road building. Employment of child workers below the prescribed age was also reported to be continuing in far-off places and in rural areas where enforcement of statutory provisions was more difficult.

The study of Khandekar, Mandakini and Naik\(^5\)\(^5\) (1972) stated that in India, children had a restricted choice while getting a job in an organised sector because of enforcement of legislative measures; children who could be employed in certain areas, whereas, the unorganized sector of industry was outside the ambit of most of the labour laws concerning children.

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According to the Gandhi Peace Foundation and the National Labour Institute Survey (Maria Sarma, 1978) on the incidence of bonded labour in 1000 villages in ten major states in the country; fathers over 40 years of age tended to free themselves by deputing their sons into bondage. In many cases the farmer, who was interested in extracting the physical labour as intensively as he can, encouraged the ageing bonded labourer to free himself by mortgaging his son. By and large, the bonded labourer families were the constant sources of fresh supply of bonded labour to the farmers for generation. Often a man receives a patch of land for cultivation by mortgaging his son. About 21 per cent of bonded labourers in ten major states taken together were below 20 years of age. In Andhra Pradesh, 2.1 per cent of bonded labourers were under 16 years of age in Karnataka 10.3 per cent belonged to this age group, while in Tamil Nadu it was 8.7 percent. The case study material showed that at the time of mortgage entry a bonded labourer may be as young as 5 or 7 years old.

Nirmal Sawhney (1979) in her study on the pattern of child occupation in Uttar Pradesh concluded that, of the children who were engaged in some paid jobs, majority members were from joint families. Nearly 23 per cent of the working children were married. It may be pointed out that child marriage was one of the factors which have given rise to child employment in this area. Most of the children are illiterate. Moreover, the father's educational and economic status had played a significant role in determining the occupational status of the child. Some sort of reformatory action is, therefore, called for from the state as well as from the society.

Chandra Kanta Sharma and Raj Singh (1982) study of Haryana, revealed that the factors responsible for the child labour were acute poverty, caste, family size and literacy levels. The survey revealed that 50 per cent of child labourers interviewed had to work for 15 to 18 hours a day and the rest for 10 to 15 hours, that too most of them working as domestic servants as dish washers, floor and furniture cleaners and as bearers in hotels and tea stalls.

Motto (1982) concluded the health status of children employed as carpet-weavers and compared it with school children in Ganderbal Block in Jammu and Kashmir. He observed that height, weight mid-arm circumstance, and nutritional status were better in the school children. Almost nine per cent of carpet weaving children had defects of vision (due to poor illumination and constant eye strain), compared with only four per cent of school children.
According to medical survey conducted by the Department of Social Welfare (Prema Viswanathan, 1982) a hotel-owner makes a huge profit by underpaying the child-workers. Most often, they were also treated in an inhuman manner by their employers who exploit the children, for the children were unorganized.

The Workshop on Women and Child Workers in organized sector held at New Delhi concludes that there was direct exploitation of the child workers in terms of very low wages, long hours of work, unhygienic conditions and sexual exploitation. This affects the growth of the personality of child (K.D.Gangrade and J.A.Gathia, 1983).

Smith Kothari (1983) in his study on child labourers in Sivakasi observes that the children are employed in factories and shops far away from their homes. They were required to work beyond their physical capacity and are paid exploitative wages. They do not get enough rest and recreations and were exposed to various pollutions and chemicals.

In some cases, by the time children reach adulthood, their health has been debilitated that they cannot find gainful employment as adults. In Mehrauli near Delhi, children who were at the brick kilns were exposed to very serious health hazards. Almost all of them suffered from silicosis (Shan Lai Gaur, 1984).

Kamala Srinivasan (1985) conducted a study of child labour working as domestic servants and at small scale industries and construction work. This study showed that about 55 per cent of the sample children belong to scheduled castes/tribes and more than 30 per cent was migrant workers. About 25 per cent of the children attended school while the rest was either illiterate or drop outs from schools. The average monthly earnings of these children were Rs.151.90 per month for which they work for long hours.

According to a study conducted by Neera Burra (1986) on child labour in the glass industry at Ferozabad, there were almost, 50,000 children below the age of 14 years working in the glass industry at Firozabad. Child labour was so important for the glass industry that if factory owners did not employ children, their production would go down by 25 percent. The glass industry cannot function without children. They can run much faster than adults and therefore, production goes up. But children
sit in front of furnaces where the temperature was around 700°C. The distance between the opening of the furnace and the face of the child was within eight feet. It was also common myth in Ferozabad that glass bangle making and glass blowing were hereditary occupations and therefore, children should work so that this ancient craft if not lost,

Labour Bureau, Ministry of Labour, Government of India⁴⁶ (1986) has made a study on the working conditions of child labour in Indian industries. Out of the total 50 sample units in the manufacturing sector, 21 units were (41.18 %) related to chemical and allied products group. Of these 21 units, 16 (76.2 %) were match factories. Eighteen out of 21 units were situated in Tamil Nadu and the rest in Kerala. All the 18 sample units (14 match factories and four fireworks factories) in Tamil Nadu were located in Sivakasi. There were 573 child workers in the sample units. Of them 557 (97 %) were working on piece rate basis and the remaining were on time rated basis. The child workers were generally employed in the occupations of frame filling, box filling, band rolling and labelling. It was observed that in box filling the daily earnings of child workers ranged between Rs.5.41 per day. The daily earnings are between Rs.0.78 and Rs.6.95 in the case of frame filling. The daily spread over hours of work in respect of child workers is less than eight hours in six units, between eight and nine hours in 14 units and more nine hours in one unit. The duration of recess, relax and rest in all the 21 units was between one and a half and two hours. It means that the hours of work of child labourers were more than the time prescribed under the Factories Act, 1948. Further, no educational and recreational facilities were provided by most of the sample units.

National Renewal Fund⁴⁷ (1986) ensured that the cost of technical change and modernization of the production did not remove the labour force and this fund will provide a social safety and protect workers from the consequence of the technological transformation.

Neera Burra⁴⁸ (1987) has conducted a study on the lock industry of Aligarh. The study revealed that approximately 7,000 to 10,000 are children below the age of 14 years, but, the factory owners and government official's data showed that there were only 5,000 children working, out of 55,000 workers covering nine per cent of the total labour force. Children were engaged in electroplating, polishing, spray
painting assembling and packing of locks, which were most hazardous for the health of workers. There was no uniform wage structure. The method of payment was, by and large, the piece rate system. Children earned Rs.15 per day if they work for 12 to 15 hours in polishing and 5 to 10 per day in electroplating. Polishers inhale vast quantities of metal- dust. Almost all polishers suffered from chest disorders, particularly tuberculosis.

B.K.Sharma and Viswa Mittar\(^9\) (1989) in their study on working children in informal sector in Patiala pointed out that of the total of 110 respondents nearly one third of the respondents were migrants and the remaining two-thirds of them were natives. The working children were mostly regular and full time workers. However, these working on part time basis were mostly school-going children, explaining that the economic necessities compel their parents to send their children to work. Only nine per cent of the working children were working for less than eight hours. Twothird of the working children do not get any rest interval. The working children were governed by the rule 'no work no pay'.

Mahavir Jain\(^50\) (1990) had made a case study on the child workers working in the stone quarries at Khond Basi Village in Haryana. His study revealed that child labourers working in the stone quarries were vulnerable to accidents causing injury, death or disablement. It was also found that sometimes child labourers were totally disabled and terminated from the work. For the rest of their lives, they had to depend on others. Sometimes they had to indulge even in begging for survival. The researcher, therefore, termed this industry as 'killer industry'. Children were forced to work in the stone quarries under absolutely hazardous and inhuman conditions. They were suffering from several physical ailments, medical facilities and civic -amenities were beyond their reach. The children had no hope and aspiration about their future. The benefits of the rehabilitation were denied to them. The child labour was used for painting, cutting the rough edges, polishing of cast brass ware. The brass dust inhaled by the children, made them to lead a horrible future.

The National Labour Institute\(^51\) (1992) had made a study on the nature and extent of the problems of the street children in Calcutta. The study revealed that about 85 per cent of the fathers of street children do some kind of work, while the remaining 15 per cent of them was out of employment. Almost 75 per cent of the fathers earned
below Rs.300 per month. Over 55 per cent of the street children earned below Rs.75 per month. The study showed that 87 per cent of the working children was not given any rest time during their work. About 30 to 40 per cent of the total working children have complained of exploitation by their employers. Only six per cent of them had been found to be in good health.

The National Labour Institute52 (1992) had conducted study on child labour in the brass ware industry at Morabadad. The objective of the study was to examine the possibilities of minimizing the deployment of the children through technological change and to investigate the health hazards faced by the children in the process. The study has estimated that out of total 1, 50,000, there were about 40,000 to 45,000 child workers in this industry. The age range of the child workers is between 8 and 12 years. Contractors and workshop owners preferred children because of the easy control over the children. Parents were given an advance of Rs.100 to Rs.500 or the equivalent of a month wage which, in turn, induces them to send their children for work. It was found that none of the working children was educated. They work for a minimum of 10 hours a day and their parents are not in a position to pay for their education. The two most hazardous processes in the brassware industry mould and polishing and it is in these two processes that child labour was all pervasive. The work in the box mould furnace workshops was extremely dangerous where the child has to rotate the wheel to keep the furnace fire burning. The flames and gases from the furnace quite often cause tuberculosis and other respiratory track problems in the child labourers. Hence, it was clear that majority of the child workers in the brassware industry were engaged in intrinsically hazardous occupations. The study further suggested that child labour can be discouraged by increased mechanization.

Ajaz Ahmed Sheik53 (1993) had made a study on child labour in lock industry in Aligarh. This study showed that children were engaged in the most hazardous processes like polishing, electroplating and spray painting. The work of polishing was one of the most hazardous processes. In these processes, rusted pieces, rusted pieces of metal were polished on buffing machines and the face of child worker was within 10 inches from the rotating machine and as the worker is bent over the machine, he directly inhales the emery powder and metal dust. Electroplating is another extremely hazardous process in which more than 70 per cent of workers were children below 14
years of age. The child worker dips the product in the solution of chemicals, swirls it for about a minute and withdraws it. So, most of the time their hands were submerged in chemical solution. Over a period of time, their hands get bleached, dehydrated and calloused. These children look very tired. The eyes of these workers look dull, swollen and protrude slightly. During spray painting, the children inhale a large quantity of paint and paint thinners with grave consequence to their lungs. By working in these hazardous processes, these children assist their parents and in some cases they are sole bread earners for the family. The children were paid on piece rate basis. They work for 20 hours a day. Most of the children were found to be belonging to landless families. Nearly one-fourth of the total household income of native households comes from child labour. In some households it was found that child labour helps a few households to cross the poverty line. Further, if the income from child labour is excluded from the household income, percentage of households below the poverty line rose from 60 per cent to 83 per cent. Thus, nearly one-fourth of the households seemed to have crossed the poverty line by supplementing their income through the child labour.

Prabha and Kalyani 54(1994) have conducted a study on child labour in agricultural in two villages near Madurai. The objectives of the study were to find out the factors responsible for child labour in agriculture, the type of work, number of working hours, wage paid and the wage difference between the child and adult and to find out whether the child labourers' income is the main support for their families. Eighty per cent of the child labourers were in the age group of 11 to 14 years. Out of 60 child labourers, only 18 had been to school. Even among the 18, only five came up to the middle school level. According to the respondents, education was not important aspect of the life. Child labour exists because the children have to support their families and manage the debt problem and some children want to have money for their own expenses. The study had established that there was a strong relationship between the occupation of the head of the family and the number child labourers. The low income of these families was supplemented by the children. The study suggested that better educational facilities, loan facilities and employment opportunities for adult labourers can minimize the occurrence of child labour. The poor economic status of the family and lack of educational facilities were responsible for the problem.
Institute for Social and Economic Change\textsuperscript{55} (1995) had made a study on the working children in Belgaum district of Karnataka. The study revealed that in urban areas of Belgaum district, children are found in brick making, weaving, ginning, automobiles servicing, and hotels and to some extent in small scale industries. In Belgaum city alone, there are more than 6,000 power looms and each of them employs at least one child. Khanapur taluk is the major center for brick making. The child labour in brick making was counted while settling the account between the head of the family and the owner. The child in such circumstances was an asset to the parent in earning money. Cotton ginning mills and beedi making factories were found in Gokak town and in several villages. There were more than 500 children working in seven to eight ginning mills in Gokak. In Beedi making, the children or made to work by their parents at home since employing children in beedi making factories was prohibited by law. Another hidden source of child labour was the fish processing units dotting the coastline. Half of the workers are below 14 years of age. There are about 15 units and each of them employed around 75 children. One can estimate more than 8,000 children in agriculture alone in Bijapur. Around Bijapur eight ginning units were employing 50 to 100 workers each, out of which 10 to 15 workers were children. The owners of brick, beedi works and ginning factories have stated that they do not employ children at all, it is the parents of these children who made them work for fulfilling the obligation of the head or other adult members of the family.

Chandrasekhar\textsuperscript{56} (1996) had made a study on the match industry in Sivakasi, Tamil Nadu. He pointed out that total wage earnings of workers in the match factory may go roughly two and half times, if child labour is abolished.

Hanumantha Rao and Sambi Reddy\textsuperscript{57} (1998) in their study in Andhra Pradesh, came out with a profound conclusion that the incidence of child labour was inversely related to resource endowment of the households. To quote for the study, "The growth of child labour participation, even with the spread of irrigation input in the study area could be attributed to several factors. The major factor indicated (1) the number of landless households Increased with irrigation cover to the sample villages. This could have taken place owing to eviction of tenants and increased casualisation of labour. Such tendencies have been observed by many scholars in Andhra Pradesh and elsewhere. (2) in the study districts, the incidence and intensity of child labour
participation indicated that the areas with higher incidence were also the ones with higher intensity. This implies that living conditions of these child labour households have been miserable and warrant greater and immediate attention from government.

The children become unsuitable to lead peaceful future life and the child labour suffered with number of diseases of heart and lungs (National Labour Institute, 1999). The child labour was due to widespread poverty and institutional constraints, so, the immediate abolition of child labour was not possible. Hence, short term and long term measures were to be taken up. U.N.O declaration on rights of child stated that, the Indians belief was that both bonded labour and child labour are inevitable, and hence they cannot be changed by force.

According to Dattatreyulu (2000), the children employed in match factories in India and private mines in Meghalaya were working under the most inhumane and pathetic conditions. The report further mentioned that about 28,000 children were working in match factories in India for 16 hours a day from three in the morning.

A study by National Institute of Rural Development (2002) in five different child labour endemic districts in India, viz. Kurnool (A.P), Bellary (Karnataka), Kalahandi (Orissa), Jhabhua (M.P) and Murshidabad (West Bengal) revealed that development schemes had no specific focus on the issue of child labour and had made only a marginal impact on the lives of children of the poor. People mainly depended on rain fed backward agriculture in most of these places and lack of livelihood resources push children into work, but, in Murshidabad (West Bengal) dependency on beedi work is significant as people could not depend on agriculture for their livelihood owning to frequent inundation of fields and so,. Children’s involvement in beedi work is very high. In Kalahandi (Orissa) and Jhabhua (M.P) dependency on forest was very high. Collection of minor forest products and shifting cultivation involved the entire family labour including that of children. In Kurnool (A.P) and Jhabhua (M.P) a sizeable proportion of households migrate outside the state at least for about six months in a year of their survival. Older children were pulled out of school to join the parents who eventually become child workers. In spite of Education Guarantee Scheme in Orissa and M.P children do not have any real access to school owing to various socio-economic reasons, migration being one important factor.

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According to local NGO Survey\textsuperscript{61} (2002) in Kurnool district of Andhra Pradesh, in beedi industry, cotton and chilly farms there were 1.5 lakh child labourers. Almost 20-30 per cent of them were kept chained throughout the day to prevent them from running away. More alarming was the inhuman treatment meted out to the child labour employed by the big landlords of Kurnool district. Some of them were chained when they retired for the day, while the younger ones were chained throughout the day to prevent them from running away. According to police officials, child labour had been around for generations, but the incidents had shot up alarmingly in the last one decade due to paucity of a farm labour. Either fraction politics or poor wages had driven them away to neighboring district or states.

India Country Report\textsuperscript{62} (2003) opinioned that India was a country with multi-faceted cultures and varied socio economic and cultural backgrounds technological innovations and developments are rapidly taking place Globalization and Liberalization policies are benefited those persons in society who are socio-economic better off. In the wake of current hegemonic circumstance it was generally acknowledgement the social development needed to be directed at the marginalized segment of the population especially children as a highly vulnerable category. Because of armed conflicts and natural and man made disasters it was appropriated this country report be presented to make visible the magnitude of the problems of marginalized the children facing enforced institutionalization because environmental circumstance beyond their control. This report attempted to give an over view of residential care for children efforts made by government and non government organization. It merely gave glimpse of the Indian situation.

A new report \textsuperscript{63}(2004) estimated 12,375 children continued to work under terrible conditions on cotton seed farms in the southern Indian state of Andhra Pradesh, which supply their produce to multi-national corporations (MNCs) like Bayer and Monsanto. Further, the report indicates that more than 70,000 children were working for Indian seed companies under similar circumstances. The children work for long hours, did not go to school and were often bonded to the employers by loans. It alleges that a number of children had died or fallen seriously ill due to exposure to harmful pesticides. It regrets that companies had taken no concrete measures to curb child labour in the sector. A second report on child labour and
labour conditions cotton seed production in the states of Gujarat and Karnataka in western and southern India, testified that another 1,17,800 children under 15 were also working under execrable conditions for multinational and Indian companies. Many more young workers (15-18) and adults, often tribal migrant workers, were badly exploited as well both children and adults work 12 to 14 hours a day earned around 50 cents a day.

Mines, Minerals and People\textsuperscript{64} (2005) (a national alliance of mining struggle groups in India) conducted a survey to know the way exploitation of child labour in the iron ore and granite mines of Hospet and Bellary region of Karnataka. The study found that there was a serious violation of children's life and safety and requires urgent intervention.

\subsection*{2.2.5 Poverty and child labour}

Chronic poverty is the most important factor for the prevalence and perpetuation of child labour. Nearly half of the India's total population subsists below the poverty line. India stands 2\textsuperscript{nd} position in the employment of child labour while Africa stands in the first position. In this situation, the child, since its very appearance in the world, is endowed with an economic mission. Economic compulsions weigh so heavily on poor parents that they do not mind colluding with the child's employer in violating the laws and placing the child under risks of inhuman employment situation. Poverty and child labour always beget each other and tend to reinforce each other. Other reasons are disenchantment with and a lack of faith in the educational system as schooling does not guarantee a job. There is also a deeply ingrained Indian tradition that a girl child is to work in the house with the mother and the boy is to learn the father's trade. Though in the organized and the unorganized sectors there is no dearth of adult labour, employees prefer hiring children as they are more amenable to discipline, too young to organize themselves and do not fight for their rights, can be paid less and bullied to obedience. The lack of concern within the community indifference among the middle class adults to their social surroundings and the existence of exploitative elements result in the erosion of the natural rights of the poor children. The fact that the children cannot speak for themselves makes them easy targets for exploitative working conditions and wages. Analyzing the reasons which prompt the children to work, it was shown by experts that as many as 47.5 per cent of
child workers did so, not so much because of poverty but because of the fathers force them to leave school and join work while they themselves either sit idle or want the extra money to satisfy their various addictions. In some cases, it is reported that the children themselves compare the advantages of continuing education with joining the labour force and decide in favor of the latter because of the dignity, freedom and responsibility which they get as a contributing member of the family. On the other hand, some children admitted that they pushed into this and left to themselves they would like to pursue their education. The increasing number of child labourers also indicates the failure of family planning, especially in the poverty belt.

Through an examination of the child labour-based industry of match production in Tamil Nadu state, the author advances the uncommon argument that the abolition of child labour would result in higher earnings for adult workers. In developing countries, banning child labour is often viewed as practically infeasible because it would prevent economic activities that exist only because of access to such labour. Abolition would reduce the earnings of poor households, whose survival strategies in the context of adult unemployment depend on incomes derived from the practice. In contrast, the author asserts that any adverse impact that a ban on child labour may have on the viability of commercial production can be absorbed through a reorganization of the industry concerned. However, the abolition of child labour could have adverse consequences for those sustaining their households at near subsistence levels. State welfare expenditures to help raise employment and wages would be necessary to overcome these constraints on eradicating child labour (Chandrashekhar, C.P. 1997).

Examining features of child labour in an area of high economic growth in Gujarat state in western India, the author demonstrates that growth over a fifteen-year period was associated with an increase in the number of child workers. A detailed account of the activities and occupations showed that children worked at manual, gruelling, repetitive and low-skilled jobs. When economic expansion was accompanied by deregulation of the labour market, children were exploited. Income from child labour did not make a significant difference in the reduction of household poverty, and the skills children gained were not specialized or useful in the long term without a basic education. Legal definitions of hazardous labour practices fail to take
into account the damages to children’s development of all forms of work. For these reasons, the author concludes that economic growth alone is not sufficient to eradicate child labour (Swaminathan, 1998).66

Increasing incidences of bonded child labour demonstrates that efforts to eradicate it have been unsuccessful. The causes of child labour worldwide cannot be directly attributed to poverty and underdevelopment, but must be considered in light of other educational, cultural and economic factors. Cultural attitudes favor child labour over compulsory primary education. Furthermore, economic development will not result directly from a reduction of child labour. The international community has responded pragmatically to child labour, recognizing that eradication of the practice is a slow process. The international framework, while it recognizes the need for a multidimensional solution, centers on economic development. In turn, governments resist implementing real changes and they cite poverty and inequality as elements of a vicious circle preventing labour and other human rights violations from being uprooted (Cox Katherine, 1999).67

The author examines the relationship between bonded labour and economic growth in the agricultural sector, through case studies of bondage in northeastern and northwestern India, and in eastern Peru. The occurrence of unfree labour is much greater than generally estimated, and it may be increasing in specific contexts; in certain scenarios rural employers prefer a bonded workforce. The author focuses on how bonded labour contributes to workforce composition and addresses the implications for the kinds of political action undertaken by rural labourers. He does so by applying Marxist and neoclassical economic theories to the role of bonded labour, and by looking at unfree labour in the context of debates over capital, modes of production and class struggle (Brass Tom, 1999).68

Child labour constitutes “a facet of poverty.” The authors argue that by precluding children from obtaining an education, their human capital accumulation and future earnings potential are impaired, and their social and cognitive skills are diminished. The labour that is substituted for education also increases children’s health hazards. Child labour as an economic choice made by families is not “pareto efficient” (no individual can be made better off without another being made worse off) in two ways: when used by parents as a substitute for income, or as a substitute
for borrowing. Studies of policy implications show that an effective taboo on child labour may engender economic improvement because endogenous changes in wages may make parents and companies better off (Baland, Jean-Marie and James A. Robinson, 2000).

The author tracks the impact of rising and falling adult wages in poor and developing countries, where poverty and labour exploitation are the norms on child labour. One argument made is that if an increase in wages is achieved by means of a minimum wage law, it can cause some adults to be unemployed and compel them to send their children to work, which in turn displaces more adult labour and sends more children to work. The article serves as a helpful companion to analyses of child labour that seek to understand the underlying economic logic and policy options behind the practice of child labour in an economically developing state such as India (Basu, Kaushik. 2000).

Raj and Chauhan (2001) concludes that the phenomenon of child labour was multi-dimensional and child labour harms not only the present generation but also the future generations. He stated that the researchers mentioned why child labour was supplied and demanded in the labour market. Poverty and caste factors influence on the supply side. Poverty played a pivotal role in increasing the child labour to supplement their family income as a source. And children of upper caste families began their lives in school, according to their culture, where as lower castes started their lives in work based on their family culture, because in lower castes, the parents were very poor and illiterate. On the demand side, determinants of child labour were source of cheap labour and had less developed egos, and there were no labour unions for them. This was very useful to the employers for their works according their nature of employment. Other factors also that pushed children into the worst forms of child labour are dysfunctional families, female-headed household, personal problems, gender discrimination, traditional marriage practices or children’s desire to make quick money.

The informal economy, in which workers are not recognized or protected under the legal and regulatory frameworks of the labour market, is where most child labourers are found. The preponderance of child labour in the informal economy, beyond the reach of most formal institutions in countries at all levels of income,
represents one of the principal challenges to its effective abolition. Several causes have been attributed to the incidence of child labour and all of them need to be addressed. While poverty is a major factor, there are many other related causes such as economic and political instability, discrimination, migration, criminal exploitation, traditional cultural practices, lack of decent work for adults, inadequate social protection, lack of schools and the desire for consumer goods. On the demand side, factors include a lack of law enforcement, the desire on the part of some employers for a cheap and flexible workforce and the low profitability and productivity of small-scale, family enterprises that cannot afford adult paid labour (ILO, 2002).

Children’s own curiosity and pervasive consumerism often determine the ways in which boys and girls work, migrate or are trafficked. Research findings also suggest that boys tend to be more prone to peer pressure, while girls are driven by family and peer pressure (ILO, 2004).

In the context of an agrarian economy with overlapping generations engaged in debt bondage and child labour, the author examines the principal-agent interaction between landlords and tenants. Studies identify reasons why households put children to work to service outstanding debts, only to realize later that the children’s work has been exploited, and that the household has been made worse off as a result. Debt bondage is often inherited by subsequent generations, thereby contributing to the cycle of debt, bonded child labour, and poverty. Basic labour rights, such as freedom of association and the right to organize, complement efforts to eradicate forced labour. However, the use of standard disincentives to eliminate bonded child labour such as trade sanctions on countries that condone it, ultimately generate negative impacts on agrarian households (Basu, Arnab K. and Nancy H. Chau, 2004).

A study conducted in Tamil Nadu state’s brick kiln industry demonstrates that child labour is extremely common in this sector. In the interlinked credit-labour market, employers do not directly employ children, but they have implemented a system that compels parents to use their children in order to improve productivity. In such an environment, parents use child labour to improve their own bargaining power (Bhukuth Augendra, 2005).
In many cases children are pushed into labour due to context of crises and insecurity, conflicts and natural disasters, such as the tsunami of 2004 or the earthquake in Pakistan in 2005 and more HIV/AIDS affected communities (Marcus, 1999). Children were often the most affected by crises, which place them at increased risk of entering child labour (ILO, 2006).

According to ILO and Child Labour Report (2006), they mainly stress on making primary education compulsory and come up with poverty alleviation programs, as poverty and illiteracy are considered as the prime reasons for high child labour incidences. Conflict and economic crisis had led to a growing incidence of some of the unconditional worst forms of child labour, such as the use of children in armed conflict and trafficking of children to feed an expanding international sex industry.

Contracted slavery during the British colonial era in the Gujarat state acquired the characteristics of a patron-client regime that can be fairly described as "bondage" and not as a relationship based on "indebtedness." Halipratha, or bonded servitude, can be explained as a relationship between master (dhaniamo) and servant (hali) that is motivated primarily by economics—the master needs more labour, and the labourer needs to achieve some degree of economic security, and to a lesser degree, the establishment of social status. Colonial authorities viewed bonded labour as a natural social force. Despite later advances in the Gujarat economy towards a more capitalist system, an increase in migrant labour, and the monetization of economic exchange, a deeply embedded hierarchical culture of debt payment and domination governed the social and economic interactions of master and servant and ensured that those of low socioeconomic standing remained in that position (Breman, 2007).

2.2.6 Effect of child labour on childhood

Employing children for labour is an act that endangers a child's physical/emotional health and development without giving the child an opportunity for good education, food and shelter. Of the four major types of child abuses, physical, sexual, emotional and neglect, child labour falls under neglect exploitation and emotional abuse, child labour is the exploitation of children for commercial reasons.
Neglect is a different concept to exploitation and constitutes a failure to provide for a child's basic need. The forms of neglect include physical, educational and emotional. Physical neglect includes inadequate provision of food, housing and clothing, denial of medical care and inadequate hygiene. Educational neglect is the failure to enrol a child at a mandatory school age in school. Emotional neglect is the lack of emotional support such as the failure to provide psychological care, domestic violence and allowing a child to participate in drugs and alcohol abuse (A.S. Shenoy, 1986).

Child labour deprives a child of a proper childhood. He suffers physical and mental torture. He becomes mentally and emotionally mature too fast which is a dangerous sign. Child labour creates and perpetuates poverty. It condemns the child to a life of unskilled, badly paid work. Ultimately this leads to child labour with each generation of poor children undercutting wages (Syed Zuhair Medhi, 2006).

2.2.7 Psychosocial effects of child labour

Disorders were more common in the domestic child labourers than in the non-labourers and other categories of labourers. This might be explained by the degree of control exerted by their employers and the lack of personal freedom. Additionally, domestic child labourers work much longer hours than other groups of child labourers. They also encounter various types of abuse more frequently than the other groups.

Long hours of work on a regular basis can harm and retard the children's social and educational development. Many U.S. adolescents who work more than 20 hours per week have reported more problem behaviours (e.g., aggression, misconduct, substance use), and sleep deprivation and related problems (falling asleep in school). They are more likely to drop out of school and complete fewer months of higher education. The unconditional worst forms of child labour (e.g., slavery, soldiering, prostitution, drug trafficking) may have traumatic effects, including longer term health and socioeconomic effects (David Parker, 1995).

Child labour is harmful to children and dominates both academic studies and policy debates. The International Labour Organization, for example, believes that the returns to eliminating child labour are very large. Working children are the objects of
extreme exploitation in terms of toiling for long hours for minimal pay. Their working conditions are especially severe, often not providing the stimulation for proper physical and mental development (Siddiqi and Patrinos, 1995). Besides the opportunity for a child to grow up in a safe environment, the benefits of eliminating child labour are applied by the possible returns to human capital investment and its effect on future generational economic status. Many researchers examined child labour's detrimental effect to a child's education.

Akabayashi and Psacharopoulos (1999) show that in addition to school attainment, a child's reading competence (as assessed by parents) decreases with child labour hours. While child labour is not an issue in the United States (U.S.), the U.S. is also experiencing its share of issues with the current immigration debate. This debate resulted in a large number of Mexican migrants rallying for liberalizing migration policy. Opponents of immigration have been equally active as well.

Addis Ketema (2000) studied with sexual abuse, exclusively reported by this group. Private homes are closed environments that could expose domestic workers to be victims of exploitation as well as to physical, sexual and emotional abuse, all of which are well-known risk factors for emotional disorders. Considering the specific disorders identified, anxiety disorders and phobia in particular, were shown to be the commonest ones. This finding is consistent with previous studies where phobia was shown to be the commonest disorder followed by elimination disorders.

Worst forms (slavery, prostitution, armed conflict, drug trafficking, etc.) or in work that is unsafe, unhealthy or hazardous to mental, emotional and physical development. However, while consensus may have been established against the very visible forms of child labour targeted by Convention 182, these do not describe the work life for tens of millions of working children. The reality is quite complicated. The vast majority of child workers are involved in agricultural work, typically in family-run farms. In Africa, where the incidence of child labour is highest, rural children are at least twice as likely to be working as urban children (Myers, 2001).

Sexual exploitation, in which under-age young children are forced or cajoled into sex sometimes under the guise of marriage, is also on the increase. Most of these young children end up emotionally and physically damaged. Some of them develop
terrible conditions like Vesico Vaginal Fistula (VVF). Others end up being infected with diseases such as HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases. All around us, we continue to see children being abused, oppressed, exploited and denied their basic rights as human beings, as citizens and as children (Debbie Ariyo, 2001).

2.2.8 Physical health problems

Child labourers undergo severe physical health problems such as rapid skeletal growth, development of organs and tissues, greater risk of hearing loss, developing ability to assess risks, greater need for food and rest, higher chemical absorption rates, smaller size and lower heat tolerance (David Parker, 1993).

Guendelman and Samuels (2002) showed that disabled or working children in the poor families are not getting effective medical care which puts them in a dangerous position.

Guendelman, Wyn and Tsai (2002) examined the effects of health insurance on access and utilization of health care among children of working poor families. Based on a survey undertaken in California, they found that thirty-two per cent of children of working poor families were uninsured and were (i) far more likely than insured children to face access barriers and (ii) less likely to see a physician.
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