CHAPTER-I
INTRODUCTION

"We are guilty of many errors and many faults, but our worst crime is abandoning the children, neglecting the foundation of life. Many of the things we need can wait. The child cannot wait. Right now is the time his bones are being formed, his blood is being made, and his senses are being developed. To him we cannot answer 'Tomorrow' his name is 'Today'".

- Gabriela Mistal
Noble Prize winning poet from Chile

The right to childhood is a sacred entitlement of mankind. Children are not just tomorrow’s citizens but today’s as well. Children are universally recognized as the most important asset of any nation. The future of the nation depends directly on how they are brought up and cared for. Children are like today’s seeds for tomorrow’s societies. Children are the very soul of any nation. Therefore every society must, devote full attention to ensure that children are properly cared for and brought up in a proper atmosphere where they would receive adequate training, education and guidance in order that they may be able to have their rightful place in society when they grow up. It is aptly relevant to quote Justice Subba Rao, former Chief Justice of India, on Social Justice to Children, who remarked “Social Justice must begin with children, unless tender plant is properly nourished, it has little chance of growing into strong and useful tree. So the first priority in the scale of social justice should be given to the welfare of children”.1

But unfortunately millions of children are forced to work as child labourers due to various reasons and child labour continues to prevail, based on exploitation, abuse and deprivation.

Child labour is a universal problem, and is prevailing across the world whether it is developed, developing and under developed country. Child labour is a complex and controversial issue. The existence and perpetuation of child labour is a challenge to the human society. It is really a curse and stigma upon the society; disgrace for the world of the mankind, a malady which may destroy the economic backbone of the country. The practice of the child labour would be an impediment in the way of human development in almost all the third world countries including India. The issue of the child labour is one of the major human rights issues and is highly emotive one. The problem of child labour in underdeveloped and developing countries is quite high and abnormal. It is a global phenomenon which exists in almost all the countries of the world, but there is difference only in degree. It has been in existence, more or less in all periods of time though varies in its nature and dimension, depending on the existing socio economic structure of the society.\(^2\)

Children need to grow in an environment that enables them to lead a life of freedom and dignity where opportunities of education and training are provided to grow into a worthy citizen. Every child has the right to receive the best that the

society can offer. But unfortunately a large proportion of children are deprived of their basic rights and are found working in various sectors of economy.³

One of the great world leaders, Nelson Mandela had said: “All countries today need to apply affirmative action to ensure that the woman and the disabled are equal to all of us”. He also focused on the position of the children. Every nation, developed or developing, links its future with the status of a child. Childhood holds the potential and also sets the limit to the future development for the society. Children are the most sensitive gifts to humanity. The children signify external optimism in the human being and always provide the potential for human development. Kofi.A. Annan, in 1999 in his statement has stated that “To look into some aspects of the future, we do need projections by super computers. Much of the next millennium can be seen in how we care for our children today. Tomorrow’s world may be influenced by science and technology but more than anything, it is already taking shape in the bodies and minds of our children.⁴

Children are innocent, vulnerable and dependent. Children cannot and should not be treated as chattels or saleable commodities or playthings. They are in flesh and blood with life as much as we elders are and they are also capable of becoming as great, as good and as useful as we are and even more.⁵

⁴ Kofi A. Annan, Secretary General of the United Nations, 1999
⁵ Presidential address by Hon’ble Mr. Justice Shivaraj V. Patil at the 10th Justice Sunanda Bhandara Memorial Lecture on 8-11-2004.
Magnitude of Child labour

With regard to status of India as per the Census of 2001, the number of child labourers has been estimated at 12,591,661 (12.6 Million), which shows an increasing trend compared to earlier census.

According to Census of 2001, the phenomenon of child labour in Uttar Pradesh shows highest i.e. 19,27,997 (15.31%) followed by Andhra Pradesh, 1,36,339 (10.83%) and Kerala records lowest child labour i.e. 26,156 (0.21%)6

As per the above Census 2001, more than 41,86,743 children are out of school in the state of Karnataka-India. Out of which 14.34 lakhs are child labourers. According to the few noted NGOs more than 1.04 lakhs (CWC, 2003) children are working in Bangalore city.

Child labourers in India accounts for 5.2 percent of the total labour force. It is more rural than urban phenomenon as 80 percent of the working children are in rural areas, engaged in agricultural and allied activities.7 Only 6% of child workers engage in activities prohibited under the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act,1986. For the rest of the working child population, the law is not providing protection as either the work is not hazardous or child works within family economic enterprises.8

---

According to the Report of International Labour Organisation, in India children contribute about 20% of our country’s Gross National Product (G.N.P).  

According to Gurupadswamy Report of 1979, chronic poverty is the most important factor for prevalence and perpetuation of child labour. Nearly half of Indians population subsists below the poverty line. In this context the child since its very appearance in the world is endowed with an economic mission. Socio-economic factors and compulsion 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 of child labour always begets each other. International Labour Organisation is of the opinion that poverty is not only reason for the exploitation of children. Inadequate schooling also must be taken into account. Lack of political will and adequate machinery to monitor children further compounds the issue of the abolition of child labour.

According to the World Bank Report 2007, the child labour and child economic activity is defined as all paid work and certain forms of unpaid work (eg., Unpaid work in one’s own household enterprises).

Child Labour is keeping children out of school and contributing to the growth of illiteracy, especially among Girls. Child labourer is basically, a child who is deprived of the right to education and childhood.

---

10 Ibid.
In order to protect and secure human rights of the children, there are various international instruments regulating child labour. Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948 had proclaimed that childhood was entitled to special care and protection. The U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989 proclaims in Article 6, that every child has the inherent right to life and that the State parties shall ensure to the maximum extent possible the survival. Article 32 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child mandates that the State parties, “to recognise the right of the child to be protected from economic exploitation and from performing any work that is likely to be hazardous or to interfere with the child education, or to be harmful to the child’s health or physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development”. The Government of India has ratified United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child in December, 1992 and undertakes to initiate measures to progressively implement the provisions of Article 32.

The Convention on the Rights of the Child is really a ‘Magna Carta’ and it is a most important human rights document focusing and concentrating on children. The Convention on the Rights of the Child is the most complete statement of child rights ever made. It is indeed an innovative document in overall human rights theory and practice.

In India, there are various constitutional provisions in Part III and Part IV providing for fundamental rights and directive principles of State Policy, which are relevant for the elimination of child labour. Article 24 of the Constitution which prohibits the employment of children in factories, provides “no child below the age of
14 years shall be employed to work in any factory or mine or engaged in any other hazardous employment”. In the year 2002, the Indian Constitution, through its 86th Amendment Act, has made “Right to Education a Fundamental Right”. Article 21-A of the Constitution provides that “the State shall provide free and compulsory education to all children of age of 6 to 14 years in such manner as the State may, by law, determine”. Article 45, a directive principle, imposes an obligation on the state to endeavour to provide early childhood care and education for all children until they complete the age of six years. In pursuance of this the Parliament has enacted the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 which prohibits the employment of children in certain employment and to regulate the conditions of work of children in certain other employments. It prohibits the employment of any person who has not completed his fourteenth year of age, in occupation and processes set forth in Part A and Part B of the Schedule of the Act. The National Policy on Child Labour, 1987 focuses mainly on three welfare aspects of the child. Firstly, on the enforcement of child labour; secondly, on the families of the child labourers to avail the benefits of welfare and development programmes meant for this purpose; and thirdly, to take-up projects in areas of child labour concentration.\(^{14}\)

Recently, Government of India has amended the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 on 01.08.2006 banning the employment of children below the

\(^{13}\) CLPRA 1986, Section 3 “No Child shall be employed or permitted to work in any other occupations set forth in part A of the Schedule or in any workshop, any of the process set forth in Part B of the Schedule is carried on”.

age of 14 years as domestic servants and also in the hospitality industry with effect from 10th October 2006 and violation of ban shall be an offence with imprisonment which may extend to 3 months to one year or with fine from Rs.10,000/- to Rs.20,000/- or with both.

Government of India in 2002 amended the Constitution by 86th Amendment Act, 2002. In pursuance of this, in August 2009, Parliament has enacted, Children’s Right to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 which makes access to education a fundamental right from 1st April, 2010 and places the obligation of enrolment of every child in school on the Government. The Commission for Protection of Child Rights Act, 2005\textsuperscript{15} was enacted by the Parliament which provides for the constitution of a National Commission and State Commission for Protection of Child Rights and Children’s Courts for providing speedy trial of offences against children or of violation of child rights and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

Inspite of having various international instruments, constitutional provisions both as fundamental rights and directive principles of state policies, plethora of legislations, Government policies and programs, practice of child labour is perpetuating even after attaining independence for 62 years. The problem has become a harsh reality and cause of severe violation of human rights of children.

\textsuperscript{15} Received the Assent of the President on 20 Jan. 2006 and Published in the Official Gazette of India, Extra Part II, S-1 (Central Act. No. 4 of 2006) came into force w.e.f. 15-02-2007 vide No. 229 E, dated 15-02-2007.
Hence, in addition to doctrinal analysis of materials there is a need to make an empirical study in order to understand the actual hurdles in the war against child labour and find out solutions for their elimination.

1.1 Problem

The child labour is a serious and multi-dimensional problem across the world. Multiple causes are responsible for perpetuating problem of child labour.

There are various practical difficulties involved in the design and implementation of laws. There is also a problem of differences in perception about what constitutes a child or child work or child labour and child labour and exploitive child labour.\(^\text{16}\)

There is also a problem with regard to prohibition and regulation of child labour. There is a difficulty in understanding, the term child labour in hazardous and non-hazardous sectors. The Government policy has been to abolish child labour by immediately prohibiting it in hazardous sector of work and gradually eliminating from the non hazardous sectors of work. This is reflected in Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 and the National Policy on Child Labour, 1987. There is no clarity about the exact nature or content of the ‘gradual method’ of eliminating child labour, which presently exists in the regulated sphere. There has been little attempt to establish criteria for measuring the success of the “progressive elimination” of child labour. Although the Government of India, in its National Policy on Child Labour

\(^\text{16}\) Committee on Child Labour 1979 also called Gurupadswamy Committee; see Govt. of India Report 1981.
1987, attempts to lay down some components of the gradual method of eradicating child labour, there is no certainty that child labour would eventually be abolished, given their remedial nature and the absence of new concrete strategies to attack the roots of the problem.\textsuperscript{17}

There is a difficulty in understanding the problem in organised and unorganised sectors. The concept of child labour is classified in two types, legal and illegal child labour. Legal child labour is child labour who is above the minimum age, but is not an adult, i.e. 14 to 18 years. On the other hand illegal child labour is one which is below the specified age limit and working in the sector organised themselves. For example, hotels, garage, tea shops, house hold, industries, earlier not covered under the earlier child labour legislation but now by amendment to the child labour legislation 2006, same have been covered and recognised as illegal child labour.

Child labour in hazardous industries is another serious problem. Children's occupation is categorized as hazardous and non- hazardous on the basis of level of the risks involved in the occupations. Recent survey has shown that 91% children are working in hazardous sectors. Children working in agriculture sector in India is said to be the highest than rest of the sectors. Children working in agriculture throughout the world and often face hazards through exposure to biological and chemical agents. Children can be found mixing, loading, and applying pesticides, fertilizers or

herbicides, some of which are highly toxic and potentially carcinogenic which cause cancer.¹⁸

Early involvement of children in continuing family tradition work also causes child labour problem. Many Anthropological factors too contribute to this problem. The educational system adds yet another dimension to the prevalence of this problem. Defective education system, drawbacks in laws, low economic growth, breaking of joint families, urbanisation, migration, corporal punishments at the schools etc., are some of other factors responsible in perpetuating the child labour problem.

Poor implementation of child labour provisions is another problem and consequently children receive low priority in implementation system. The enforcement machinery very often does not have proper inclination to deal with the problem of child labour. The enforcement of the child labour law is vested in machinery controlled by both the Central and State Government is another problem perpetuating child labour.

Gender inequalities is one of the important factor not addressing child labour problem, since gender discrimination cut across religion, caste and class which is a direct bearing particularly upon girl child labour. There are several factors contributing towards low enrolment and high dropout in the education attainment system.

Thus, there is a need to make an objective assessment of the socio-legal framework to ascertain whether they are adequate to protect children from physical

¹⁸ Supra note 12, p.57.
and economical exploitation, in order to eliminate the problem of child labour and also to conduct empirical investigation at the grass roots level to understand the ground reality so that the problem can be tackled on the basis of actual knowledge of issues involved.

1.2 Objectives of the Study

The problem of child labour is studied with the following objectives. The primary objective of the study is to examine the problem of child labour and to evaluate measures adopted by the state with a view to determine their suitability and effectiveness in dealing with child labour. The other related objectives are:

1) To analyse the various forms of abuse of children;
2) To study the concept of child and child labour and factors leading to child labour;
3) To study the evolution of the child labour practice in different countries including India;
4) To study the various international instruments dealing with child labour;
5) To make a comparative analysis of the position of child labour in United States of America, England, Russia, China, South Africa, South Asia and Other countries;
6) To study the legal regulation of child labour in India and judicial response;
7) To make an empirical study of the status of Child labour in Gulbarga and the role of NGOs in the rehabilitation of child labour; and
Lastly, to present the general findings of the study and to offer suggestions for effectively tackling the problem of child labour in India.

1.3 Hypotheses

The primary hypothesis of the study is that the problem of child labour is quite rampant in India and the inadequacy of laws and their faulty enforcement has contributed to its prevalence. From the above primary hypothesis following sub-hypotheses have been formulated-

1) Large scale prevalence of the phenomenon of child labour is due to poverty, illiteracy and ignorance of people.

2) Child labour is prevalent predominantly among under-privileged, backward communities of the society.

3) Parental attitude is also responsible for the existence of child labour.

4) Administrative apathy is one of the factors responsible for the failure of laws in effectively controlling child labour.

5) NGOs play a vital role in the eradication of the practice of Child labour.

6) There is absence of proper rehabilitation programme for the rescued children.

7) Lured by the availability of cheap labour, the employer actively promotes child labour.

1.4 Methodology

The methodology adopted in the study is both doctrinal and empirical. Doctrinal study includes analysis of research articles, books, reports, treaties,
conventions, statutes, and cases decided by courts. The study also includes empirical study for which data is collected from the field. During the field study, the tools used for the collection of data are interview, schedules, questionnaires and sampling. The samples for the study have been drawn by random sampling method. Data for the study is collected from automobile/ workshops/ Garage; Hotels/ Restaurants; Brick-kiln industry and construction works to get the true picture of the problem. Since data is collected from uneducated child labourers schedules have been used for collecting data from them. The data collected has been analysed. The standard form of citation and references are used in the study.

1.5 Importance of the Study

The importance of the study lies in the fact that, it analyses the inherent socio-economic factors in the society which are responsible for the perpetuation of the problem of the child labour and offers valuable suggestions for its eradication. The study has provided excellent opportunity to understand complexity of child labour and various factors leading to child labour and to find out strategies to combat and elimination of child labour.

Further, the importance of the study lies in the fact that it analyses the inherent defects in present legislations and law enforcement mechanism and offers valuable suggestions for their improvement. It is believed that the study will be useful to the government in strengthening the legal machinery and will be highly useful for social activists, judges, advocates, legislators and prosecutors to device suitable means to
eradicate the problem of child labour. Lastly, the importance of the study lies in the fact that it makes original contribution in the field of child labour legislation and to protect best interest of children and to ensure justice and equality to child labourers.

1.6 Scheme of the Study

The Investigation in to the problem pertaining to eradication of child labour in India in general and Gulbarga city in particular is planned and spreads in Eleven Chapters.

Chapter-1: Introduction

The First Chapter deals with the general elucidation of the problem, hypothesis, objectives of the study, methodology, importance of the study and scheme of the study.

Chapter-2: Concept of Child: An Analysis

Second Chapter gives more emphasis on the concept of child. Age of the child provided under various legislations has been analysed. The study focused on, the legal definition of a child that required in order to avoid confusion and uncertainty in understanding and emphasized the need to provide one uniform definition of child for all purposes. It emphasized on the importance of childhood and growth of children.

The study focused on constitutional provisions and legal frame work meant to protect the best interests of children and their childhood.

The study analyses systematically various national policies plans and programmes relating to children introduced by the Government of India.
Lastly, this chapter deals critically with the Government policies and the laws to create a nexus and convergence which required for better protection of child and childhood and their rights.

Chapter-3: Various Forms of Abuse of Children

Children are subjected to different forms of abuses due to their vulnerability. In this Chapter various forms of abuse of children have been discussed. Protection of children from all forms of abuse and exploitation is the need of the hour. The analysis has shown the problem of child abuse as a clear case of human rights violation and is a worst form of child exploitation and abuse. Socio economic conditions prevailing in the society are strongly responsible for the abuse of child in different forms. The study has focussed on various causes and consequences of child abuse and practice of child labour, which is particularly one of the strong forms of child abuse. The study analyses high literacy and low literacy rate, which equally contribute to the problem of child abuse. Lastly, this chapter deals with capacity building in children especially during abusive situations. Perceptions and attitudes of parents and people towards children are analysed to understand the problem of child abuse.

Chapter-4: Concept of child labour and factors leading to child labour

In this Chapter concept of child labour and forms of child labour are analysed. It examines how child labour force is engaged and exploited in unorganised sector. This chapter also deals with factors leading to child labour. Since the child labour is a complex socio-economic and universal phenomenon, causative factors leading to child labour are investigated with scientific, rationalistic and pragmatic approach. A
special focus is given on the poverty and lack of education which are admittedly two primary reasons for the ever growing social malice of child labour.

Lastly, this chapter highlights the need to adopt comprehensive integrated approach to tackle and combat child labour. Providing free and compulsory education to all the children between the ages of 6 to 14 in reality is of special importance in this regard.

Chapter-5: Evolution of Practice of child labour

In this Chapter an attempt has been made to trace the origin and evolution of the problem of child labour in different periods. The study also focuses on socio-economic conditions of the society which perpetuated the problem of child labour in one or the other form and how the law plays a crucial and vital role in the elimination of child labour through social transformation. Lastly, this Chapter deals with the prevalence child labour after Independence and how the constitutional mandates provided under various provisions in respect of children particularly Article 24, Article 39 (e) and (f) and various Five Years Plans introduced by the Government of India to address this serious problem of child labour are helpful is analysed in a systematic manner. More so, a special focus is given to child labour at the threshold of the new millennium.

Chapter-6: International Instruments Regulating Child Labour

"Think globally and act locally" is aptly applicable and relevant to understand this chapter. The international community has shown its concern about the problem of human rights in general and child labour is particular by adopting a number of
instruments. In this chapter an attempt is made to trace the origin and development of various International Instruments dealing with the problem of child labour. Law in the form of International Conventions can contribute considerably to regulate the menace of child labour. International Instruments must be devised to encourage the core values like survival, protection, development and participation. Since the beginning of the twentieth century, the development of international law on the rights of the child has paralleled, in part, the development of the general body of International Human Rights Law. The International community has recognised that, all individuals, including children, are the objects of international law requiring legal protection. Further international instruments have granted specific substantative rights to individuals, including children. The Geneva Declaration, 1924 and following it, the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1959 have proclaimed the child to be the more privileged ward of humanity. It stated that the “Mankind owes to the child, the best it has to give.” The legal evolution brought substantial improvements in the area of children’s rights.

The study has given special focus upon the Convention on the Rights of the Child 1989. Article 32 of this Convention having a direct bearing on elimination of child labour says that “Every child has the right to be protected from economic exploitation and from performing any work that is likely to be hazardous or to interfere with the child’s health or physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development”. The study also deals with the procedure for the implementation of the Convention. The International Labour Organisation’s Worst Forms of Child Labour
Convention 1999 (No. 182) provides, scope for the prohibition and elimination of child labour, which also represents an important shift in the child labour movement, for it recognises the important prioritising efforts, in the International Instruments.

Chapter -7: Child Labour in United States of America, U.K., Russia, China, South Africa, South Asia and Other Countries: A Comparative Analysis

In this chapter a comparative analysis of the problem of Child labour is made with reference to situations prevailing in some leading countries like U.S.A., U.K., China etc. The study focuses on Child Labour in United States and an attempt is made to critically analyse the Child Labour Policy of United States of America. There are various Acts, like Fair Labour on Standard Act, 1938 (FLASA) and which was amended in 1966 and others, still the children work in dangerous industries in United States. Children work in horrible conditions as the United States has failed to protect its children from hazardous work. From the study it could be seen that there are many exemptions in United States, from labour laws which permit Child Labour. So, the law in USA is suffering with many short comings and there is no resistance to child labour. The study focused on plethora of legislations enacted by the Government of England which shows its serious concern about prohibiting the employment of children.

The study reveals that the problem of child labour exists in Russia. The state has shown its concern in curbing female child labour, working for more than 8 to 10
hours. Soviet State had taken various steps to protect its women and children by legislation.

The study has also considered the problem of child labour in China which exists in different forms and age groups. It has been found that the history of Child labour in China parallels the development of public education system. The study has examined the history of child labour in different phases. China has committed itself to evolve an education policy in order to combat child labour. Of course the study has made it clear that the problem of child labour cannot be eliminated in toto, but it could be reduced.

An attempt has been made to understand situation of child labour in South Africa in the context of societal values and cultural values. In South Africa child labour was dealt very comprehensively and it has become a form of socialization acculturation. In South Africa, child labour is distinguished between Economic and Non-economic work activities. It could be seen from the study that schools in South Africa are not fully supported by Government funds and families must pay a fee for their children to attend school. So the South Africa Government recognizes a need for comprehensive approach to combat child labour.

Further, this Chapter also focuses on the problem of labour in various countries of South Asia, namely Bangladesh, Thailand, Philippines, Nepal, Pakistan, Srilanka and Afghanistan. The study clearly establishes that despite prosperity in the western and other countries child labour practice prevails.
Chapter-8: Legal Regulation of Child Labour in India and Judicial Response: A critique

In this chapter, various statutory provisions and Judicial Decisions relating to the child labour have been discussed. The study focuses on the mandates of Indian Constitution and various legislative enactments relevant for fulfilment of International obligations towards eradication of child labour. There are 14 legislations to control and regulate Child Labour in India which existed since several decades. The study focuses on the legislations which address two broad concerns:

(1) Prescribing minimum age limit for employment of children and regulation of working hours for children; and

(2) Ensuring the health and safety of the child labourers by prohibiting the employment of children in hazardous work. The study has made special focus on the legislation, the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986.

It has been observed that, the Child Labour Act was enacted with the object of achieving two contradictory goals, viz; prohibition and regulation of Child Labour, which is not in conformity with Article 24 of the Constitution and the Act is in favour of regulation rather than abolition of Child Labour. It has been found that the definition of Child given under Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 is in contradiction with United Nations Convention on the Rights of Child, 1989 and Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Amendment Act, 2006. The study analyzes various judicial decisions rendered by the Supreme Court from time to time.
and an attempt has been made to evaluate the judicial contribution for eliminating the problem of child labour in India.

Chapter-9: The Role of Non Governmental Organisations in rehabilitation of child labour: An Analysis

Chapter nine deals with the role played by NGOs in the rescuing and rehabilitation of child labourers. The role of NGOs in rehabilitation of child labour is highly commendable. NGOs may initiate certain measures of creating awareness among the employers and parents regarding the evils of child labour. NGOs may add to the efforts of the Government in elimination of child labour. The child labour enforcement staff would get support of NGOs at all stages. They are aware of problems relating to child labour in their areas by observation and survey work. Their first task is to identify the child labourers working in hazardous and non-hazardous employments. Then they admit such child labourers with the help of parents and enforcing staff in their child labour schools and rehabilitate them.

Chapter-10: An Empirical Study of Child Labour Status in Gulbarga City

In this chapter empirical investigation has been undertaken at Gulbarga city to understand the actual reasons for the prevalence of the child labour. Data for the study, is collected from four fields-automobile shops and garages; hotels; brick-kiln industry; and construction works to get the true picture of the problem. A sample consisting of 41 child labourers, 41 employers and 6 NGOs was drawn. Out of 41 child labourers 10 child labourers are working in garages, 13 children are working in
hotels/restaurants, 13 are working in brick-kiln and 5 children are working in construction works. Data was collected through administering the questionnaires and schedules to the respondents. Thorough analysis and interpretation of data was undertaken and for this purpose data was tabulated and graphs were prepared for the presentation of the findings. From the analysis of the data, the findings are made and the same are presented in the next chapter.

Chapter-11: Conclusion and Suggestions

This chapter deals with the findings of the study. The study has led the investigator to conclude that large number of children is working as child labourers due to various socio-economic factors. Poverty is the root cause for the prevalence of child labour, as it is found that the child labourers most predominantly belong to under privileged backward communities.

The study has further revealed that though there are child labour laws they are not properly enforced due to apathy on the part of administrative authorities. The attitude of parents, who push their children to become child labourers, has been found to be one of the major causes for the evil practice.

It is true that law alone cannot eliminate the problem of child labour. The involvement of voluntary and Non Government Organisations, local bodies like panchayats will go a long way in protecting the interest of children and there by elimination of child labour can be ensured. The study has established that the NGOs can play a vital role in dealing with the problem.