CHAPTER-II

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

The present research concerned with the analysis of child-labour and its various dimensions. It aims at analysis of household child labourers who are working in construction, garage, rice puff, rag picking activities in urban informal sectors. Most of these children came from poor households, some of them are migrants. The study intends to analysis the conditions which force these children to work a tender age when these children are supposed to be in a school and there are number of causes such as; acute poverty, illiteracy, death of parents, unattractive of the education, etc., which push them into the labour market.

The present study also aims to know how far these children are happy with their life style or how far their work affects their personality and future. In light of these objectives a review of literature pertaining to the economic analysis of child labour as attempted. Many studies have been undertaken on the child labour issue. The new Economic policy implications i.e., Liberalization, Privatization, Globalization. Industrialization and urbanization have brought about a sea change in the attitude of the employers as well as the parents towards children.

Avtar Singh (2004) : Child labour problems and prospects ; Socio-legal measures. In this article, the author attempts to say in the wake of new economic policy that, child labour refers to the employment of children in gainful occupation who materially contribute to the income of
the family. It is complex but not a new one. The practice of child labour is more prevalent in poor countries of Asia and Africa. He touches up on a problem of the position of child labour in India. He was of the opinion that even people above the poverty line also send their children to work in order to maximize family earning, Ashok Narayan (1988:158). Parents are more than willing to send their children to school that functions regularly even if not paid a compensatory stipend for remaining the child for work.

Hence the study highlights that employers disliked labour inspectors visits and made the children run away as soon as they reached there. Employers justify that they saved children and their families from starvation by employing them (Helen L. Sekar, 1998).

He asserts that the maximum number of children were drop outs below primary level, because of occupational instability and insecurity. (Dixit K. 1985). Female child labour in unorganized sector of Baroda city findings revealed that majority of the families were migrants. The author touches upon causes of child labour is, it deep rooted not only economic poverty generates but also geographical, social cultural and political poverty also supports the incidence of child labour practice.

His opinion was that child labour is a family trade. However, the truth is that it is lack of political and administrative will which is responsible for the consistence of child labour and exploitation of child labour. His view was that, children are subject to exploitation by their own parents which evokes social outrage. He touches up on the constitutional provisions relating to employment of children and legal protection. Poor implementation of the child labour Act stands since
matters relating to children received low priority when it comes to implementation depends on its enforcement. His concern was apart from child labour laws and judicial approach problems would be taken care of to some extent by insisting compulsory education.

His opinion was that, it cannot disappear over night, it is a long period approach. Hence, a strategy for rehabilitation of child labour is necessary and at present complete eradication of child labour is not possible but child labourers can only be assured of their safety, healthy, working conditions, medical benefit, etc,. It is true that, legal measures are not sufficient but they are indispensable.

Antonyraj C. (2004) : Child Labour in India - Here the author refers with 'non workers not attending school : School attendance being a regular activity could be easily identified'. His argument is that 'non-workers not attending school' are actually not in school i.e, school less-ness is visible. His opinion was that these children are not “idle”. It is likely that a majority of them are engaged in “Economic activities” that contribute to the work. So probably their work is invisible. An attempt was made to identify the activities if those who are neither in school nor in the work force, appears to be extremely important.

Aparna Ravi (2001) : Combating Child-Labour with Labels, Care of Rugmark. Here, author witnessed an increase concern for child labour with human right groups, industry and consumer groups in the developed world launching several private initiatives to mitigate child labour in particular industries. Rugmark is the “labelling” initiative that seeks to provide to economic incentives for manufacturers to stop employing children in it carpet industry. The Rugmark labelling initiative
was founded in 1994 by humanitarian organizations in Germany and India with the support of carpet importers and the German government. It attempts to eliminate child labour in the Indian carpet industry by harnessing the drive of consumers in the two leading carpet importing countries Germany and the US for child labour freedom. The emergence of labelling programmes like Rugmark is an emblem of global trends. Prof. Richard Freeman (Harvard University) believes that these programmes are based are the free market principles of having to meet consumer preferences. This desire of consumers in advanced industrialized conditions can be fruitfully harnessed to improve the lives of workers in low income countries.

The author attempts that a two pronged approach to child labour is warranted. Elimination of hazardous and worst forms of child labour should be addressed with in a separate child labour programme, while elimination of non-hazardous and other worst forms of child labour should be mostly integrated into the regular work of an ongoing programmes. His concern was hazardous and other worst forms of child labour are not tolerable. They were discussed about programmes activities which would need to seriously address the economic costs and benefits of child labour. He suggested elimination of non-hazardous child labour should be approached with in a life course perspective and be at the centre of a poverty oriented approach to development in order to promote children best interest.

Saqib Jafarey and Sajal Hahari (2001): Child Labour - Theory, Policy and Evidence : (Dept.of Economics - University of Wales,
University of Essex). Here the author discusses the growing literature in an integrated fashion. As should be clear from the discussion, child labour i.e., a complex issue and it has no simple solution. Among the factors that have been identified as prime causes are poverty, poor quality of education, lack of credit opportunities, high inequality of income, high degree of uncertainty facing the poor and inequality between the sexes. He has also analyzed that what is more or less universally believed is that trade sanctions and unilateral consumer boycotts are likely to make things worse. Finally, author presents the emerging theoretical and empirical literature on the economies of child labour.

Rasannagalli [D.P. 128, (2001)]: The economic impact of child labour. University Lugano, Switzerland. Here author's approach is mainly the economic impact of child labour. The effects of child labour at the micro family level, particularly on family poverty both in the short-run and in the long-run are analyzed. The effects of child labour on long run growth and social development through a number of different transmission mechanisms and the international economic effects of child labour particularly a foreign direct investment are discussed.

Finally, he touches on the effects of child labour on adult labour market. His opinion was that, however most of the economic literature has focused on the determinates of child labour and their policy implications, generally neglecting the issue of the economic impact of child labour an effect was made to collect and organize the available empirical works regarding the economic consequences of child labour.
Abhinaya Ramesh (2001): UN Conventions on Rights of the Child (CRC). The framed by the UN to safeguard children's rights was considered a substantial and a path breaking improvement over the earlier UN instructions for its provisions to remain morally binding on nation states that ratify it. Some of its intrinsic weaknesses need to be urgently tackled. The author attempts the UN CRC 1989 which is an important break through in enhancing children and rights. It has evolved out of the earlier efforts such as the declaration of the rights of child adopted by the League of Nations in 1924 and the UN declaration of rights of the child of 1959 – indeed these initial efforts were important but compared to the CRC which is wide in its consideration of rights of child and binding they were limited in scope and non-binding. The CRC focus is expressed in terms of the “best interest of the child” and child's rights involved in provision, protection, prevention and also participation in influencing one's own situation and decision making (D.Fottell.179). CRC exhibits an innovative and integrationist approach to a child's rights as it combines economic and other aspects as well.

Lieten G.K. (2005): Child Labour and work. Numbers From the General to the Specific, Indian Journal of Labour Economics, Vol.48 No.1. In this paper, author attempts to measure the magnitude of child labour. His opinion is that, child labour often relies on official figures. Such figures usually have been slanted for various reasons. In this article, the author warns against using one comprehensive figure for a complex phenomenon. Here one serious issue stands out, the difficulty of separating child labour from child work. Here, the macro surveys that have been conducted usually do not separate economic and non-economic household activities that are beneficial to the child from activities that are harmful and that should be considered as child labour.
In order to get a better understanding of the child labour problem the author advances some methodologies like time use study and anthropological micro studies. In his view, the concept of child labour became the subject of public debate and public accounting. Being born into a world of inequality, hundreds and millions of them are condemned to exclusion. The author highlights that, a focus on children is also important if we want to devise practical solutions to the plight of the children of the labouring poor who are not in school and therefore working.

Here, the author provides some insights into the history of the child labour. The Indian factories Act, of 1881 and 19th century in England is that child labour are described as a wide spread and ghastly by product of capitalism and many testimonies of those days described the factories as "Hellish institution for the destruction of childhood". He was of the opinion was that, the occupancy of the statistics were not found. An exaggeration of numbers was helpful for various readers which are instrumental and of ideological nature and another are relates to the essence of child labour. The findings which are concerned welfare measures for destitute families and a much higher investment in the educational system particularly free education and tuition and bridge course, etc.

advisable. He has also highlighted that, Globalization, may experience greater demand for both adult and child labour. His suggestion was that, "Economic development" is the best over all cures for child labour. Providing financial incentives to proper families to send children to school.

He has observed that, most economically active childrens are in low-income countries in agriculture (FAO, 2004). He discussed the implications of a trade-off with schooling and domestic work and market work (Allad, Levision, Zibani – 2003). He has emphasized that, a relative return to schooling may discourage child labour, while increases in the child's wages may encourage the child labour. So his observation is that, child labour is determined by cultural norms as well.

He has expressed that, "Economic incentives" cause changes in the child's environment. Apart from poverty, the other facets of poverty particularly compel the child to join labour market. He says that, there is a strong evidence on the relationship between poverty and child labour (Edmonds, 2005). Foreign trade and globalization in general increase child labour and if credit market allowed households to borrow against future earnings, than the number of child labourers could be much reduced, (Bonand & Robinson, 2000, Rajan 2001).

The author observe that, schooling can also play a vital role in the child labourer's decision. Because of low perceived returns to attending school, parents might choose not to send children to school (Foster & Rosenzweig, 2004). He has observed that prohibitions on child labour is often framed as a multiple equilibrium problem (Basu & Van, 1998).
However, punitive measures like fining firms may increase the child labour (Basu – 2003). He supports the view that an effective long term solution is conditional cash transfers programs for households that send children to school, such as, food for education in Bangladesh and Progresa in Mexico.

Tarujyoti Buraghain (2005): India’s “Nowhere” children defy UEE, Margin, January, March, Vol.37, Nu-2, pp.31-56. Here the author attempts to review government programme and policy over the last three decades. An attempt is also made to assess from census data, the number out of school children and the percentage of children who are neither at work nor in school. He has presented data regarding UEE, since 1950-2001, and seeks to broadly examine the Central Government efforts towards fulfilling the goal of UPE by 2007 and UEE by 2010.

Pravin Dixit (2001): Road Map for NGO’s to reduce Child Labour: What lessons from Indian Inventions, Journal of Indian School of Political Economy, Apr./Sept., Vol.16, Nos.2&3, pp.233 to 256. The author highlighted NGOs role to reduce child labour. Here some NGOs are doing demonstrable work for effective solutions. The author mainly concentrates on female child labour for their rehabilitation and implementation of modern management techniques in organizational structures, pressing for flexibility in school curriculum and private corporations and he has stressed that NGOs should enhance their credibility and responsibility through self regulation. Finally, he is of the opinion that, government alone cannot accomplish this task all by itself nor can the NGOs. But a partnership is needed.
Sudha Deshpande (2004) : Child-labour in India in the 1990s. Magnitude, characteristics and co-relates, April./September, Vol.-16, Nos.2&3. In this article, author says that, in a predominantly agricultural economy like India, identification and emulation of children at work is a difficult task. Her main observation is that, incidence of child labour and its volume declined over the 1990s and the family is sole responsible for child labourers and decision to work is taken mostly by parents. It prevents them, from attending school and investing in human capital. She cites numerous facets of poverty which pushes many children into the labour market and temporary migration of male members of the family to near by town. Her opinion is that, child work and fertility seem to be closely related. Poor households view is that, child is an economic asset and looked upon it as an insurance against future hunger. Some scholars argue that children do have a high net economic value (Kumar 1989 p.13).

Author attempts to show that, health hazards of child labour are caused employing children (Cheap labour). She also adds that they not only exploited in many ways but were often a victims of sex abuse and prostitution (Gupta & Vol. 1999 pp.101-13).

Laxmi Dhar (2000) : Child Labour in India, Oxford University Press, New Delhi. It is a brilliant antedate to the legislative Mantra of the yester-years, for it shows how legislative provisions and the lack of other supplementary efforts such as, schooling for erstwhile child labour and compensatory measures to support the income of the families where child labour has been withdrawn do not work. Here author approaches new ground in the sense that it presents the problem as seen by an insider as a bureaucrat who has worked at several levels.
during his career before he finally decided to pen down his ideas and opinions. The author to deal with the problem of child labour in hazardous industries occupations and processes. His opinion is that the subject of child labour is massive and also may be because focused attention on all categories of child labour is not possible. Here the author deals with the problem of child labour in India and not on all problems of children as seen from their rights perspective.

However, the author does give a detailed exposition of the various constitutional provisions and those with the ambit of various legislations. His concern for the children working in the less hazardous or so called 'non-hazardous' also becomes evident. The author rightly points out that education and employment earning and learning cannot be combined. It can be done so only for the benefit of one at the cost of the other but in totality would be detrimental to the interests of the working children themselves. However, he goes on to say that, “in the ultimate analysis if children and parents have no viable alternative to non-formal education or combining work with education, we will just have to accept an arrangement that is decidedly the second best”.

The author gives a candid opinion, however, that there are infirmities in various laws and that the enforcement machinery is also not well equipped to tackle the problem of child labour.

The author further says that, “a direct link can be established between educational deprivation and child – labour in dispensation that authorizes payment of minimum wages wholly in kind”. He has expressed the role of trade unions and NGOs. The important item of thinking was that social partners are making efforts aimed at combating
the problem of child labour. This clearly shows that the solution to the problem does not lie with the labour department alone and that it cuts across all line departments. Here the media has been given an important place in the entire action plan for the prevention and elimination of child labour in the country.

The author strongly advocates the need for the various international instruments aimed at tackling the problem. As the author aptly puts, unless there is a movement towards momentous change, the dichotomies in the prevailing traditional values and the provisions of the modern law cannot be resolved. The need for a suitable social mobilization strategy is thus explicitly outlined. The law of the land alone and ratification of various international instruments would fail to make a significant element in the problems unless there is a mass movement to resolve the issue of child labour.

Dak T.M. (2002) : Child Labour in India (ed), Serial Publications, New Delhi. Here the author has addressed a broader concept of child labour. Where all those children doing work which interferes with education, growth and development of those children are said to be child labour. The author documents the detailed consequences of child labour, measures to combat the problem and the roles of different agencies like Trade Unions, ILO and NGO and their strategies. Further, the author expresses that the constitutional safeguards and legal provisions against child labour and different policies and programmes that related to child labour in India.

correlates. Here the author primarily focuses on various dimensions of household food security measures that determine the activity status of children. A strong association of child work with food, nutrition and income security has been observed. Their opinion was that, the incidence of child labour was high among wage earning households.

While food insecurity and malnutrition emerge as important determinates of low enrollment rates, high drop out ratios and child work, the complex inter relationships between other explanatory variables, such as, adult illiteracy, lack of awareness, high dependence on agriculture, family size, social constraints, etc., are significant.

The causes of child labour, the gender dimension of child and inter-regional variations in particular the contrast between rural north and rural south India have been explored. Here, the author has analyzed that child labour eradication efforts in the country reveals that a two pronged approach comprising an anti poverty strategy and universalisation of education underlie both government and international efforts. A critical part of both these strategies is food based interventions. They highlighted the positive effects of school feeding programmes – breakfast, mid day meals or cheap canteens not only in the country but also abroad.

Food credit programme was a potential supplementary strategy in combating child work as food insecurity of the poorest households is mostly seasonal and children are pushed into the labour force during distress periods or when there is a perceived threat of food insecurity. Hence, there is a need for food off-take on a credit basis for a short period during the lean agricultural season.
Sudha Deshpande: Girl child labour and food security in India. Here, the author analyzed that, the problem of female child labour is different in many ways. Female children work with the masters as farm helpers or casual wage employees in most unskilled jobs. Since the girls leave their parents homes after marriage, the parents do not want them to acquire skills or send them to schools. The neglect of girls reflects the low status of women in the Indian society.

Indira Hirway (2002): Understanding childrens work in India. The author apprehends and has addressed that, time spent on economic work or activities like the collection of fuel wood, water food, etc., and non economic activities such as taking care of young siblings and helping in other household activities so as to enable the parents to work. These children too are victims of deprivation and need to be included in the counting of child labour and in policies designed to cope up with it. The author has analyzed that the role of ICDS programmes and duplicatious in addressing household food security and child labour based on the NCAER – ICDS survey, 1999.

Nira Ramachandran and Lionel Masslin (ed). (2002): Coming to grips with rural child work. A food security approach, Institute for Rural Development, New Delhi. The Central theme is the role of food insecurity in the incidence of child labour. The authors have analyzed the importance of food assistance in eradicating child work and discussed different dimensions of food insecurity and suggested measures to eradicate it.
Daly Bhattacharya G. and Dash (2002) : Have discussed, the special spread of food insecurity and child work across the states. They explain the factors leading to child work in different regions and the linkages between food insecurity, school drop-out and child work.

Spitz P. (2002) : In his analysis, the seasonality factors which are evident in the income, expenditures and the related economic pattern in rural India and their impact on school attendance and drop out of rates of children. The Bolivian government treats evening schools as second class education. Besides, children attending schools work throughout the day, the arrangement further puts negative consequence on school performance. The author suggests that, a structural solution lies in changes in the government policies towards evening schools and more attention to solving the problem of child labour.

Carla Madrasian (2002) : "Not for Bread alone, Peanut vendors in Brazil", he has observed that, children work not just to earn bread. The consumption behaviour of the families and of the children indicate that the money serves not only for mere survival but also to obtain those gadgets that are common to main stream social life and allow poor people to distinguish themselves from other people in the neighbourhood. His opinion was that, children mainly work to earn respect.

Sudip Chakraborty and G.K. Lieten (2004) : In their essay, "What do child labourers do?" - A details of a rural district in north-east India Child Labour Problems are discussed. Here author makes a clear distinction between light work and strenuous work. He has cited several examples of school drop out.
Amma A. Asarita (2004) : Street children in Cochabamba. They focuses on the street children in Cochabamba town in Bolivia. She points out that the prevalence of children being in street rather than in school is widespread. She lists out factors responsible for bringing the children in the street. She has analyzed child abuse often in combination with alcoholism, disintegration of nuclear families and consequences of personal disasters as main reasons for children taking to streets.

Lieton G.K. (ed) (2006) : Working children around the world : Child Rights and Child Reality – Institute for Human Development. I.P. Estate, M.G. Marg, New Delhi. Here, author has analyzed that child labour is certainly bad for the child as its natural development is impaired. But it is also bad for the economy of the concerned nation. The process through which child labour adversely affects the economy is by way of lower human capital formation, because if children start working at an early age, they wouldn't be in a position to acquire human capital that is necessary for their own well being vis-à-vis the economy.


Sharon Detrick (2004) : Child-labour and the UN convention on the Rights of the Child. The author highlights, how the CRC is formed. It is a benchmark on the rights of the child.
Ingrid Stageman (2004) : Child labour in the context of globalization. – He was addressed that the role of growing inequality, growth of informal sector, commodification of goods and services and leave of consumerism as the major factors.

Preeti Lakwijk (2004) : NGO and child participation. The author stresses the importance of participation of children in the development process. She states that it is probably more logical and fruitful to have the children choose the topic or problem that they want to tackle and bring forward solutions. This requires full scale adult guidance and intervention.

Indira Hirway (2004) : The author reveals that the participation of children in economic activities is much more than what is revealed by contentional statistics. It shows that the major activities in which children are engaged include low skilled unpaid or subsistence activities or those of family enterprises.

Naila Kabeer and others eds. (2003) : Child labour and the right to education in South Asia. Needs versus Rights to end in South Asian families, New Delhi, C.A. & London Sage Publication. Here author examined child labour and education in the context of conflict between family’s economic needs and children’s rights. They argued that, children generally are anxious to receive an education and families will sacrifice their interests to provide them with one school.

Kaulhik Baru – Brings to attention the varying penalty systems for countries engaged in child labour that may bring disturbing local consequences which have global implications. The process of
minimizing hours of work for children and encouraging them and their families to send children to school would be a pragmatic approach. As per author’s opinion, following international labour standards blindly would be a dangerous steps to developing nations.

Geeta B. Nambillan explores the difficulties and impediments the humiliation of segregation and the alienation experienced on the path towards the attainment of education by the backward and deprived ‘adivasi’ and ‘Dalit’ people. She analyzed that meaningful and rightful education can be imparted to the marginalized sections when the right to education becomes a larger social concern.

H. Parimala Bhargava (2003) : The elimination of child labour : whose responsibility? A practical work book. C.A. & London Sage Publications. The author highlights and argues that if the focus is on education of children, special efforts of child labour may not be required. In Kerala, the State which systematically expanded the school system of education was accessible to all children. Hence Kerala did not have to work on the enforcement of labour legislation to reduce the means of child labour. Further, she gives an example of the Andra Pradesh project. She analyzed the different occupations in which children are involved and the excruciating hardships, trials, occupational hazards and exploitations borne by them.

The author’s opinion was that though poverty is the main reason for the induction of children into labour, the spreading of education has been identified as a strong deterrent. Provision of good teaching staff, setting up of bridge courses, residential camps and anganawadi cum crèches have witnessed the induction of several children to
education. Thus, the provision of quality infrastructure and fairly good standard of education has helped to motivate parents and children themselves to study inspite of the prevailing poverty. Mobilising the community to understand the benefit of education through self-help women groups and involving the unemployed youth in the advocacy for education was also a successful strategy.