CHAPTER VI

FINDINGS AND SUGGESTIONS

(1) The number of working boys in the families employed in garage is the greatest (57%) as compared to boys in other occupations. There is a very narrow difference among the boys working in construction, rice puff and rag pickers occupations. Another striking feature of the working girls is the conspicuous absence of girl labourers in the garage occupation which confirms the common observation about all the garages in Karnataka. There is negligible variation among the number of girls employed in different occupations.

(2) The ratio of elders to working children differs from one occupation to another. The comparatively high ratio of working children to elders in the families belonging to construction and rice puff occupation indicates greater dependence of elders / parents on their children for survival as compared to the families of children belonging to garage and rag pickers occupations.

(3) There is concentration of Muslim children in the garage occupation followed by construction, but only the construction occupation employs both boys and girls. A majority of the Muslim children is working in garage which is followed by rice puff occupation. A comparatively little more Muslim girls have chosen rag picking as their occupation. In the case of OBC, there are more boys and girls in the rag picking profession followed by rice
puff occupation as compared to other occupations. The children belonging to SC/ST caste have preferred construction and rag picking in preference to garage and rice puff occupations. But the SC/ST girls have opted more for rag picking than other competing occupations.

(4) Seen from the occupation point of view, the boys and girls of the SC/ST caste are in preponderance in the construction occupation (38.77%) followed by children of the Hindu caste. The rice puff and garage sectors accommodate more Muslim children that is, 38.08% and 40% respectively. The rag pickers occupation accounts for 53.70% of the OBC children followed by children of the SC/ST caste (37.03%). For the entire cluster of hazardous occupations under study taken together, it is observed that OBC and SC/ST castes each account for nearly 29% of the total child labour force engaged, whereas, only 10% of the Hindus and 4.28 percent of the Christians are absorbed. The foregoing analysis presumes that the neglected section of society, the SC/ST and OBC caste heavily depend upon the hazardous occupations for their family survival.

(5) In the construction occupation category, a majority of the child labourers have opined that famine and drought and more of job opportunities and avenues for self employment are the prime reasons for their migration. Lack of job opportunities in the rural areas is given second rating.

(6) The very survival of the members of the family depends on the adequate earnings of the elders in the family to ensure minimum provision of food, clothing and shelter. The increase in the
number of elders who are unable to earn sufficient income for the family due to old age, physical deformity and unemployment threatens the very survival of the family and even forces the children to take to some jobs to fill the gap in the income to a certain extent and try to support the family.

(7) In respect of households whose children are engaged in different categories of work, the average earnings per month of adult males is almost double that of adult females.

(8) Adult females in the families do not own any landed property and hence do not get any income through assets.

(9) Speaking of all the enterprises under study, it is found that a majority of adults nearly more than 60% of the males and more than 70% of the females were of the opinion that their earnings were not sufficient to meet their minimum family expenditures.

(10) Around 80% of households of children belonging to all categories, without an exception, have expressed their necessity to depend upon their children for financial support. The elders income is very insufficient and that the financial support is inevitable.

(11) The boys in all the categories of work contribute half and even more of the total earnings of their parents to the household expenditure. The girls contribute varying proportion of their total income to their families.

(12) Borrowing for households of child labourers belonging to different occupations differs from occupations to occupation and with regard to the amount of debt incurred for various range of incomes. It is the male members of the households who have
incurred debt. Almost 25 percent of the total inflow of money to the households is procured through loans.

(13) All respondents agree that all the factor listed are responsible for incurring debt. It is very clear that there are factors which have became a part of life of the respondents. The fact that they are impelled to incur debt and unable to get out it proves beyond doubt their poverty.

(14) The educational attainment of male parents vary greatly from those of female parents. Female parents have not gone in for higher education. Strangely enough, there is a total absence of educational attainments among the parents of rag pickers. However, there is a close association between the educational attainments of the parents and employment of their children as child labourers. As the educational status of the parents improves the number of child labourers goes down. It is also obvious that there is a direct relation between illiteracy of parents and the increase in the number of child labourers. There is an inverse relationship between the educational attainment of the parents and number of their children joining the labour market for earning an income.

(15) A number of factors responsible for the occurrence and continuation of child labour have been observed by the present researcher and cataloged in a Table-4.14. The table lists many non-economic factors that have compelled children to join the work force. There are many social factors that actuate children to give priority to work outside than take to education. More than 90 percent of the child labourers agree that factors like need to earn
their own income, better than doing nothing, not interested to going to school, disability of parents, family disputes, death of father, absence of workers at home and interested to learn mechanical skills are also relevant to create a need for children to join the labour market in construction, garage, rice puff and rag pickers occupations.

The urge of the families to procure additional or marginal incomes for meeting conspicuous consumption like drinking alcohol, buying expensive gadgets, observing social and religious ceremonies etc., is also responsible to a certain extent for the families to send their children to join the labour market. In fact, some studies show that families above the poverty level also send their children to work in order to maximize family earnings and not as a matter of survival. Another similar observation made is, “in most cases, the money earned by children, far from sustaining the family, is used for conspicuous consumption (mostly alcohol) of the male members of the family.

(16) Child labourers in all the sectors have unanimously expressed that tuition fees, expenses on books and note books, uniforms, donations, etc., are prohibitive to the poor families to afford schooling to their children. Therefore, high cost of education is one of the reasons for parents to choose outside work other than schooling for their children.

(17) The income obtained by households through wages / salaries and assets is so low that, it is not sufficient and adequate to meet their minimum requirements even for survival. This finding does not require further evidence and proof.
(18) Therefore, the households are forced and pressed to send their children to work and to earn an income and support the family expenditures. This does not mean that the employed children support fully and meet all the requirements of their households. Many times, the households are obliged to incur loans to fill, to a certain extent, the gap in their expenditures.

(19) Poverty is one of the main and basic reasons for the households to send their children to the labour market. This move is inevitable for the poor families. This finding has policy implications as to whether it is advisable or possible to root out child labour completely in the coming years.

(20) Besides poverty of the households, there are other factors that influence sending or not sending children to the labour market. Education of the parents go a long way in reducing the number of children taking to work. High cost of education comprises tuition fees, expenses on books and note books, uniforms and donations. These elements are sufficient deterrents to dissuade parents from sending their children to school but forcing them into the labour market.

(21) Socio-cultural practices like observing marriage, ceremonies and festivals, conspicuous consumption habits of the elders such as, consuming alcohol, indulging in betting and gambling deprive the households of monetary resources compelling the children to work as labourers.

(22) It was also observed by the present researcher that many parents saw bleak prospects for their children getting job opportunities in the future by sending them to schools. Therefore, the children
are persuaded to join work force rather than face uncertainty of job opportunities in the future. Such a pessimistic assessment of the parents is one of the strong reasons that explains the existence and continuation of child labour. Even though poverty is one of the main causes, it is not the only reason for child labour. Hence, the hypothesis, “there is a positive relation between child labour and household poverty”, is proved to a very large extent and accepted with very minor reservations.

(23) The present researcher has also adopted the stand that children out of school are child labourers. Hence, there is no category of children as ‘idle’ children or ‘nowhere’ children. Children out of school either join family work or became just labourers.

(24) A careful perusal of the data reveals that school enrollment of both sexes belonging to all categories is not satisfactory and there is urgent need to step up educational facilities to the children so as to reduce the impact of child labourers in the stated categories in Hubli-Dharwad city.

(25) The non-enrolled boys and girls belonging to all categories of work have an average age higher than those enrolled in schools and varies between 9-13 years.

(26) There is considerable variations of enrollment from standard to standard and also in respect of the enrollment of boys and girls engaged in different occupations.

(27) Generally speaking, there is comparatively higher enrollment for both boys and girls for the 1st standard in respect of all the categories of employment. This situation indicates a strong
policy measure to step up enrollment for boys and girls in higher standards.

(28) The fact that children from many poor families are driven to work does not preclude boys and girls from venturing into schools for education. There are schools in Hubli-Dharwad city which tailor their classes to suit the needs of the working children.

(29) The enrolled children either continue their education or drop out from the school. The total drop out children from school is composed of two elements (a) enrolled children stop going to school on their own and (b) children not attending school because their enrollment is cancelled. Both these account for the children leaving school and taking to work as child labourers.

i) For all the categories put together boys out number girls for both age groups in the matter of non-attendance as well as for cancellation of enrollment. But the boys and the girls put together for the two age groups equal each other in the matter of both non-attendance and cancellation of attendance.

ii) The drop out children due to non-attendance and cancellation of enrollment is alarmingly high for the both age groups. The drop out rate being comparatively higher for higher age groups.

iii) Speaking of the total effect, the drop out due to non-attendance and enrollment cancellation together account for 108 students out of 181 enrolled students with boys exceeding girls.
(30) Table-4.21 presents crucial data to analyse the connection between drop out children from school and child labourers and test the validity of the 2\textsuperscript{nd} hypothesis of the present research.

i) For the entire sector, total of 108 drop outs add to the class of child labourers. Since a very high percentage of the child labourers is made up of the school drop out children. There is a very urgent policy measure is indicated to reduce the incidence of school drop outs particularly from the higher age groups.

(31) The issue of drop out of school children is a socio-economic one and strikes against the state objective of making primary education compulsory. Getting children to schools is a problem by itself but retaining them in the school to further their education is another massive problem confronting social worker and administrators. The present regional study throws some light on the factors that have led to the serious problem of school drop out of children so that adequate and appropriate policy measures may be evolved to reduce the incidence of drop out and promote presence of children in the schools at all the stages of educational standards.

(32) It has already been established that poverty is one of the main reasons for households to send their children to the labour market. The above table-4.22 records the reactions of the child labourers working in different occupations regarding the strength of poverty as a causative factor for school drop outs. More than 40 percent of the boys and the girls have supported the view that poverty is the cause of school drop out of children.
(33) Parents of children in the construction occupation have agreed that the non-availability of drinking water, beating, scolding and shabby treatment of boys in the school are the prime reasons followed by other factors (listed in the Table-4.24) dissuading children to discontinue their education. However, lack of toilet facilities score the least among the responsible factors.

(34) In the case of the parents of children of the garage category, there is unanimity of opinion that indifferent teaching is the single most important factor in causing school drop out of children. The other important factors according to them are school beyond reach, school at a big distance and lack of good buildings and the least important ones are the non-availability of drinking water facilities, scolding and shabby treatment of children in the school. No opinion is expressed as regards the role of the lack of facilities in causing school drop outs. The parents of the children working in rice puff occupation have placed lack of toilet facilities, non-availability of drinking water, beating, scolding and treatment of school children as the most important causative factors responsible for drop outs. They have, however, attached negligible importance to other factors to cause drop outs. Strangely enough, the rag pickers have not expressed any opinion regarding the strength or weakness of factors affecting drop outs.

(35) The parents of children of all categories of work have overwhelmingly opined that the cost of education to meet the tuition fees, expenses on books and uniforms etc., are responsible to cause children to drop out from school. Similarly, all parents of all child labourers have given equal and higher
weightage to the factor, that is, the need for involving the children in their traditional crafts for learning as the reason for drop outs.

(36) In addition to accounting for various reasons based on empherical data, the present researcher has also found on personal observation many attitudinal aspects of children, parents and teachers that are also responsible in a good measure to cause school drop outs.

i) There are personal reasons why students are unable to continue their schooling. Basically, many children are not interested in education because they consider that learning is a very dry and boring experience but the parents force them into learning in the schools. The ultimate result is drop out from school sooner or later. Since many students find studying unattractive, they are not interested in furthering their education. There are some other students who are unable to cope up with studies. This may be due to the fact that many students do not understand the lessons taught to them or they do not devote enough effort to learn properly. The result in either case is that they are unable to withstand tests held at annual examinations and failure to pass through the examination is the result. The students are retained in the same class to acquire atleast minimum educational proficiency to be promoted to the higher class, a year or some years later. Continuing in the same class with promoted students from a lower class creates in them a feeling of insult and frustration noticing every day their
friends studying in a higher class and the drudgery of repeatedly reading and learning the same lessons ultimately may encourage the students to leave the schools once for all.

ii) Many times, parents do not even receive rudimentary education; they are totally illiterate. Such people are not aware of the benefits of education. There are still others who, because of illiteracy, are unable to consider the cost benefit aspect of education. They are moved by the immediate consideration of their children bringing income. Such people withdraw their children from the schools studying at lower standards. Some parents entertain the fear that the present education system does not have any future prospects of jobs for their children and that the present employment develops some skills which may help them to engage themselves in some self employment in the future.

iii) In many primary schools, teachers adopt questionable methods to force children to adhere to and follow their self-styled moral standards. The teachers believe in the old adage “spare the rod and spoil the child” and children are liberally canned and thrashed for coming late to the class, not doing the home work as required and so called misbehaviour in the class room. Scolding children in the presence of their classmates and even subjecting them to corporal punishments out of class rooms are quite common. Such treatment and rude behaviour of the teachers instills fear complex among the young children.
and often discourages them from continuing education. Education is not attractive to them. The end result is drop out from school.

iv) Gender roles for boys and girls are socially conditioned in any society. In many poor families boys are withdrawn from schools to look after cattle, assist the parents in their traditional occupations and crafts. Girls have the role to look after young siblings, wash clothes, fetch water, clean the house, wash dishes and assist their mothers in cooking. In many poor households, such activities are given preference to continuing education. The result being withdrawal of their children from schools and from pursuing further studies.

(37) Basically there are two aspects of drop outs of enrolled children in schools. Children stop attending school on their own or their enrollment is cancelled by the school authorities. The fact that, school drop out children join the army of child labourers and not remain idle has been thoroughly examined. This fact has also been corroborated by many empirical studies. So the hypothesis “Drop out school children enter into the labour market as child labourers” is entirely proved in the case of all categories of child employment under the present research study, and hence, the hypothesis is accepted.

(38) In the case of construction occupation, more boys than girls are absorbed on a regular as well as seasonal basis. The garages have offered more jobs on a regular basis than on the seasonal basis. No girls are employed in the garages. The rice puff
occupation offers more jobs for boys than girls in respect of both regular and seasonal employment. There are more girl rag pickers than the boy rag pickers who work regularly to earn an income, while more number of boys than girls are working seasonally as a rag pickers.

(39) In all the categories of work, it is the boys who work for longer hours than expected hours (11 to 13) in the day than girls (10 to 12). In the case of rag pickers boys and girls work for the highest number of hours of work per day as compared to their counterparts in other occupations.

(40) In the construction category more number of boys than girls work for piece rate wage while more girls than boys get daily wages. However, more number of boys work for a piece rate than for daily wage payment. The rice puff occupation offers jobs for girls than boys and both for piece rate as well as daily wage payment. The rag pickers are self employed. Their earnings are neither on piece rate nor on daily wage basis. Their daily income, however, depends on the materials they gather and also the longer hours of work they put in a day.

(41) The money wages paid to boys are comparatively more in the construction occupation than in others, the least being in the case of garages. The total earnings from all sources (cash, kind and concessions) are the highest in the case of children working in the construction occupation as compared to payment received by the child workers in other occupations. Baring construction occupation, the girls in other employments receive payment in kind and concession but not in cash. For all the four
occupations taken together, the cash payments received by both boys and girls exceeds those in kind and concessions.

(42) Since some of the boys and girls serving in the four categories of occupations are employed on a seasonal and temporary basis, the average wages are low.

(43) The lower wages are also due to the fact that the child workers are not skilled labourers. They are absorbed to do very ordinary and monotonous tasks.

(44) Moreover, low wages for the child labourers are the result of the operation of the supply and demand factors. Household poverty influences the supply of child labourer very much (luxury hypothesis). More intense the poverty of the household, greater would be its need for extra income to sustain itself. Hence, poverty driven households send their children to work. Because of over supply of child labour, child wages are depressed. The employers demand child labour in preference to adults as they can be procured at lower wages which cuts cost and enhances their competitive strength and sales.

(45) The foregoing analysis of data and discussion positively support the hypothesis “wages paid to the child labourers are very low”. Hence, the hypothesis is accepted.

(46) All the child labourers who are employed are unskilled. Child workers in the rice puff occupation and rag picking find that their activities are repetitive in character and, hence, there is no value addition to their skill or knowledge even though they have been employed for 3 to 4 years in a concern.
(47) But the child labourers are unable to make any use of acquired skills because the so called acquired skills do not in any way augment their learning capacities as most of the jobs done by them are highly monotonous, low skilled and tedious jobs that condemn them for ever in low paying jobs. Another reason for failure to make use of the skills learnt is that, setting up of a new venture calls for financial help, necessary financial resources to purchase the required equipments, pay for hiring labourers and rent for the shop. Since the child labourers are living from hand to mouth and are unable to achieve adequate savings difficult, it is not impossible for them to set up a new venture and earn more. Moreover, it takes some years to establish one's self in a new set up and overcome established competition. Further more, they are seriously handicapped by the fact that no certificates are issued by the employers to testify to their (child labourers') skills. Thus, the poor child labourers are at a total disadvantage to prove their merits to customers and enhance their credibility in the new set up.

(48) The payment received as wages by the child labourers are too low and is not commensurate with the effort put in by the child labourers. The low wages paid to the children are in fact, due to the supply factors (situations). The child labourers are not considered for higher payment by the employers even though they have laboured for 2 to 3 years to develop in themselves the necessary skills in the trade to deserve higher emoluments. The money wages paid to the child labourers do not reveal the actual or real wages received by child. The child is made to work for more hours than the money wages paid to him/her warrants. In
addition, the child labourers encounter many accidents and diseases due to environmental factors present in the production unit. This actually reduces the value of the real payment. Accidents and ill-health which affect children while the work is in progress are not compensated at all! On the contrary, some money is deducted from wage payment for abstaining from work due to ill-health and accidents. All these point out to the exploitation of the child labourers by the employer. The actual or real wage received by the poor child labourers is a less than what is revealed by money wages. The money wages paid, therefore, actually hide the negative effects and the actual outcome is more than what is seen on the surface.

(49) But the greatest challenge comes through the deprivation of education to the young kids. The case studies (already discussed) reveal that all the children left school early in their lives and joined work as child labourers. Once they join work, they have no motive nor money and time to pursue schooling and higher education thereafter, however, much they desire. The boys and girls are destined to remain uneducated.

(50) The foregoing analysis of case studies and discussion do not support the hypothesis “employment of child labourers improves children’s prospects of jobs”. Hence, the hypothesis is rejected.
SUGGESTIONS

The level and extent of child labour and in particular, the level and extent of hazardous and other worst forms of child labour be defined and determined\textsuperscript{1}. Hazardous child labour must be clearly demarkated from other child labour. Since banning child labour completely and immediately affects the financial position of child labour families, adversely and threatens their survival a time bound programme be drawn to eliminate child labour by stages over a period of time\textsuperscript{2}. A separate child labour programme to eliminate hazardous and other worst forms of child labour should be formulated and implemented. While attempts are made to eliminate child labour due account should be taken of the need of the poor children and their families. Otherwise, mere attempts to eliminate child labour would be counter-productive to children. As an anti-poverty programme, the poor communities are identified through the use of household surveys and other data programme activities should provide for income transferred to poor households to replace part of the income lost from the child's eliminated work. They are given cash payments amounting to 22 per cent of family's income on the average. The money is given on the condition that children regularly attend school. Comprehensive poverty reduction is likely to result in reducing child labour and increase school attendance.

Since non-hazardous child labour has assigned a very huge dimension its elimination should become a part of a comprehensive anti-poverty programmes in poor families. Since poverty is not the only determinant of child labour, attempts should be made to identify "non-poverty" determinants of child labour, so that it may be possible to
device policies and programmes to reduce child labour without waiting decades for economic development and reduction in poverty. Policies and programmes to eliminate child labour should include: providing income transfers to poor families with children attending school, introducing income generating opportunities for poor women and families, school subsidies and stipends for poor children; allowing children to engage in non-hazardous work as long as it does not interfere with school performance. Elimination of child labour should be advanced financially assisting poor families so that they can better "afford" to forgo income from child labour. The incentive programme should consist of (1) cash payments to low income families (2) school vouchers (3) school based programmes (4) subsidies for school transportation (5) subsidy payment of fee, note books, text books, uniform, etc. The incentive programmes should also be helpful in reducing reversal of school attendance.

Availability and quality of schools should stressed besides being children's best alternative to work, school attendance is necessary if hazardous and other worst forms of child labour are to be eliminated over the long run. Schooling for the children between the age of 6 and 14 must be made compulsory. Compulsory school age should be devotional with minimum working age to avoid idle period for children. Quality schools should be established to ensure greater attendance of children to the schools so that establishment of such schools would work as a viable option to non-hazardous work for children. Sarva Shikshana Abhiyana programme i.e., Free Universal Educational Programme (UEP) be popularized more to provide an opportunity to working children to pursue education.
In view of the fact that, poor families find it difficult to bear both the direct cost of school plus the indirect cost of forgone income from child labour, government policies and child labour programmes should encourage improving the quality and alternativeness of school increasing the availability and reducing the cost of school and providing economic support and incentives for poor families with children in school.

Increased priority be given to education (especially to women) which helps in increasing knowledge of rights which would reduce hazardous and other worst forms of work.

Substitution of capital for labour should be encouraged since the availability of cheap unskilled child labour discourages capital investment. Substitution of to capital for labour would favour reduction of child labour. Micro-credit\(^7\) which has been very successfully implemented in Bangladesh to help the poor families to send their children to school instead of join the labour class should be followed in India as well as to combat poverty and encourage schooling of children.

The child labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 which is a landmark development should be suitably amended to confine the other hazardous and other worst forms of child labour not mentioned in the said Act. Since the present penalty of Rs.20,000/- imposed for violating the provisions of the child labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 is not a sufficient deterrent, the penalty be suitably be raised to check employment of child labour in hazardous and worst forms of occupations. A cell should be set up in each state to monitor transfer of child labour in hazardous occupations to domestic spheres and fraudulent manipulation of birth certificates of child labourers to escape
meager of law. The village officers and NGOs are also a good source of material for identification of child labour and their assistance should be sought wherever and whenever required. The preventive measures include creation of awareness about the evils of child labour, massive publicity, altering the NGOs to keep on the eye on possibilities of ever raising the head of this evil. Parents and society have to be educated to maintain what is achieved and to permanently present future child labour. A strong political will, the resources and the right policy choices can definitely put an end to the problem of child labour engaged in hazardous and other worst kinds of jobs.

Penalties be imposed on parents who fail to send their school going age children to school by withdrawing concessions. An understanding of the reasons why children are employed (demand for child labour) and its effects, structure and profits can be helpful in devising policies for eliminating child labour and especially hazardous child labour. The existing legislation be strictly implemented to catch hold of erring employers who employ children of the age group of 6 to 14 under some excuse and float the operation of the legal system. Effective implementation of the remedial programmes, bridge courses of action is essential.

Since communities play an important role in determining the level and extent of hazardous and other worst forms of child labour, awareness activities should focus on the reasons for the traditional beliefs in different communities. The third world employees and employers association should work together with international agencies and local NGOs to eliminate child labour in a particular occupation.
The demand for hazardous and other worst forms of child labour can be reduced by involving employers, employer organizations and community leaders in the programme to eliminate hazardous working conditions.

Since child labour is a concurrent subject, the Centre and State Governments should make adequate budgetary provisions to financially provide for the implementation of the programmes and schemes for child labour elimination. The sanctioned sum of money through the budgets should be spent in a phased manner throughout the year and not rushed towards the end of the financial year to ensure proper utilization of the sanctioned and avoid accumulation of unutilized funds. In addition to the budgetary allocated funds, the necessary funds from the public, corporates, charitable, trusts, etc., be mobilized with the permission of the government.

Prevention of fresh entry of children to the labour market be checked by undertaking mass enrollment of children into schools. Project based plan of action be taken up by setting up of special schools for child workers with provision for education, vocational training, supplementary nutrition, health care and stipend to compensate their loss in earnings. Tent school programme should be extended to Hubli-Dharwad city wherever and whenever necessary. Needed multi-sectoral approach and multi-pronged strategies in addressing the child labour. Rehabilitation measures are necessary and non-formal education centre, started residential and skill training schemes are required.

To assign greater responsibility to the parents, parental attitudes and perception about girls need to be urgently addressed. The media and other channels can play a tremendously significant role in effecting
these process. There is need for radical measure to convince parents and employers alike about the disastrous implications of employing girl children. Effective partnership needs to be fostered with NGO as a synergy will be complementary for the government which has the resources, authority to implement various programmes to reduce the incidence of child labour, while the NGOs enjoy the people's trust at the gross roots level. Tent-school programme should be extended to Hubli-Dharwad city wherever necessity.

The most enduring steps towards eradicating child labour would be to improve the economic conditions of the families from where the child labourers are drawn into the work force. The provisions of assistance in the form of income generating assets under different rural development and poverty eradication programme needs to be provided to such families. An improvement in the economic condition of the family also brings about significant change in the attitude with an inclination towards sending the children to schools. Apart from legislative measures, there is an urgent need to give importance to the supportive measures to child labour.

Economic development is another variable which is supposed to reduce child labour with better opportunities for adult labour and increasing education for children. A multi-pronged strategy is needed for the eradication of child labour, it depends on improvements in quality of schooling, economic growth, adult wages, poverty reduction, etc. Child labour is a complex issue and therefore, requires complementary strategies and the involvement of all sections of civil societies i.e., NGOs, Human Rights Activities, lawyers, media, trade unions, employers organizations, academicians and so on.
CONCLUSION:

The incidence of child labour in India is comparatively very high. It is a socio-economic problem. Childhood is a formative period in one's life. Because of the pressure of economic circumstances the children are forced to join the labour market, earn and support their parental families. The engagement of children as child labourers quite early in their life robs them of their legitimate right to education and permanently development. The entry of children into work force condemns them into state of perpetual poverty. The object of such an endeavour is to eliviate poverty but the remedy defeats its own purpose. The present research study has shown that children are made to work under conditions which spell health and safety hazardous. Long hours of (over) work and low wages often induces them into unsocial habits and practices which are injuries to their health and purse. Working in hazardous occupations and in most uncongenial and unwholesome environment exposes the young child to a number of serious deceases and accidents.

Child labour is encouraged and perpetuated by vested interests. Parents of children send their children to the labour market even though they know that child labour is a necessary evil. Stricken by poverty, there is no alternative for the poor families but to force their children into the work force at a tender age. Child labour household poverty and school drop outs of children are closely connected. They act and react upon each other. An increase in the army of child labourer co-exists with a massive growth of school drop outs, especially, during the early phase of their education. The present research has also proved
abundantly that children once in the grip of labour cannot hope to improve their financial status nor see any hopeful prospects for their future.

After perusing the vast and ever growing research literature, especially in recent years, both institution and individual – on issues and problems of child labour are cannot escape the conclusion that child labour needs urgent attention for its early redumption. But the problem of child labour is a hydra with monostranous proportions which defies easy solution. The sudden ending of child labour does not only deprive the poor households of the adequate means of survival but also may force the children into more dangerous and clandestine forms of child labour. Therefore, it is not advisable to eradicate child labour suddenly, the process of dissolving the problem of child labour should be attempted in stage, spread over a period of times. Experience has shown that mere passing of legislation is not helpful, since the employers devise ways and means of circumventing the provisions of law to their advantage. It is therefore, the advantage of cutting down costs by employing low paid child labourers can be more effectively achieved into the long by introducing the economic means of production by employer releasing vast masses of child labourers and solving the problem to a very greater extent. While it is necessary recommend and make adequate budgetary provisions to meet the requirements of the emancipated children, it is also equally or more important to see that, the funds made available are properly and fully utilized to achieve the stated targets.

Unless the root cause of poverty of the households is properly addressed through proper planning, policies and programmes and the economic status of the ailing households is improved, all other
programmes are meaningless. In other words, all the programmes become effective only when poverty of the households is eliviated. Mere economic growth of the country by itself offers no solution.

Even though the present research is a micro study, it carried macro-economic policy implications. The research framework developed for the analysis of the problems of child labour and the solutions offered for its eradication in small units are equally applicable to the child labourers working in large scale units catering even to foreign markets.

In the end, it is necessary to add that a multi-pronged strategy is needed for the eradication of child labour. Apart from all the curative suggestions proposed the willing co-operation of all the civil sections of society i.e., NGOs, Human Rights Activities, Lawyers, Media, Trade Unions, Employers, Organisations, Academicians and so on is the need of the hour to put an effective to the complex problem facing society.

Note-I : The problem of child labour is like a "hydra" in Greek mythology. The hydra is a great sea serpent with many heads that grew again of cut off. In Kannada literature, the problem of child-labour is like "Raktabeeja Mahishasura" as its equivalent to hydra concept.
NOTES

1) Tradition and traditional values are especially important in determining the extent of hazardous child labour since what is considered to be hazardous work as well as what is considered to be acceptable work for children varies across communities. Work opportunities for children and their hazardousness are mainly determined by local labour market working conditions and traditions.

2) The goal of eliminating the worst forms of child labour in the next ten years (2016) is feasible than 30 members (of the ILO) have already adopted the time bound targets with a similar or even earlier target. Child labour was one of the first and important issues to be addressed by the international community. The ILO adopted an international standard aimed at elimination of child labour at its first conference in 1919 and has continued to do so.

3) Economic growth though essential is not a necessary condition for reduction of child labour and promoting compulsory education. Neither widespread poverty nor low per capita income could be posted as insuperable barriers to the adoption of compulsory education. Kerala is cited as a concrete and contemporaneous proof of this. A comparatively poor state, Kerala has consistently spent between 36-38 percent of its budget on providing a universally accessible education system, which is well above the state average for India of 25 per cent. Not waiting for poverty levels to decline, it has achieved successes on the education front which appear spectacular; it boards the highest school retention rate at about 100 percent of pupils through grade one to five; by far the lowest gender disparity and close to double the national figure for literacy at 90.
percent in 1991. The following observations are offered, but with the caveat that “braod-brush” statistics do mask complexities and are not always comparable between States. On the surface, two correlations are detectable –

i) Based on the figures for Kerala, there does appear to be a relationship between commitment to education, high literacy, and the low level of child labour, irrespective of state wealth.

ii) Based on the figures for Punjab, there does appear to be a relationship between per capita State wealth – over twice that of Kerala’s and the even lower level of child labour, irrespective of poor literacy.

Thus, just as Kerala is used as evidence for the abolitionist case, so Punjab might be used as evidence for the alleviation case. There is possibly a third correlation too. The poorer states (like Madhya Pradesh), which spend the least on education, exhibit a lower literacy rate, and experience a high percentage of child labour.

4) The State Government has come out with a draft bill to ensure compulsory free primary education to all children up to the age of 14. The highlights of the bill are –

i) No school can deny admission to children;

ii) All children in 6-14 age group should be sent to school

iii) Parents who do not send their children to school will lose their ration cards, house allotment and employment guarantee.
iv) Elected representatives face disqualification if they do not ensure zero drop out rate. (Hindu October, 7, 2005, p. 4).

5) In India, the quality of education to a very great extent affects the decision on participation in education. UNICEF (1997) cited low quality of schooling as a reason for high drop out rates among primary school students in developing countries an average of 30 percent rising in some countries to 60 per cent.

Lower child labour means higher schooling which is not at all automatic. Schools must be available, accessible and affordable to the poor families.

6) It is common today in poor countries like India. Compulsory school age and legally specified working age do not coincide, giving rise to a period of idleness.

7) Micro-credit: Bangladesh Mohammed Yunus, dubbed the “Banker to the Poor” and his Grameena Bank won the “Noble Peace Prize” for helping millions to escape the poverty trap through a system of small scale loans i.e., micro-credit. Micro-credit is one such ‘means’ to break-out of poverty in Bangladesh. Now, the Micro-credit concept has been copies in more than 40 countries. He developed micro-credit into an instrument in the struggle against poverty. Poor families often experience fluctuation in income in the rural areas. In such situations, households are likely use children’s work as a ‘buffer’ against uncertainty. In good, children may be sent to school, but in bad ones, they may suspend their study and supplement the family’s income through their own labour. Availability credit could help the households to even out their income.
and children's attendance would not be subject to the vagaries of parental income.

8) When the officials find the child workers on their sudden announced visits to the units, the owners and other workers join hands in misleading.

9) National Child Labour Project 1992 (India): Child Labour is a concurrent subject on which both the Central and State governments have joint responsibility. Child Labour elimination programme is, therefore, a national programme which is required to be supported by the State Government. The government of India is, complementing a scheme called the N.C.L.P. project throughout the country in about 200 selected districts. In Karnataka, the N.C.L.P. is implemented in seven districts, they are in Dharwad, Haveri, Gadag, Bijapur, Raichur, Bangalore (Urban) and Bangalore (Rural). In order to eliminate Child Labour in the State of Karnataka, the Central government have approved an Action Plan was the first to launch to end the Child Labour for implementation and executing in May, 2001. But N.C.L.P. targets only the children working in hazardous occupations and industrial process, whereas, the Action Plan of the State government aims to eliminate Child Labour irrespective of the nature of employment. The N.C.P.L. does not permit the residential facilities, whereas the Action Plan provides for residential facility including boarding to the rescued children. Under the N.C.P.L. during the 10th Plan has been decided to increase the number and coverage up to 250 districts in various States where child labour is in existence. Even 11th plan also proposes to increase budgetary allocation in this regard.

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