CHAPTER – II

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE
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Review of related literature always plays a key role in any kind of research work. It fulfills the need of analysis, localization, observation and evaluation of the proposed research work. The present research work has been undertaken to study the impact of Child Labour Act on the promotion of Universal Primary Education with special reference to Kamrup District. Therefore, in this chapter an attempt has been made to review some of the existing literature related to this area of study. It is important because it helps the research worker to acquaint with the available knowledge in this particular area of study and find out what is already known, what others attempted to find out, what methods and techniques have been promising or disappointing and what are the problems that remain to be solved.

After going through a number of related literatures from different research journals, books, theses and other study materials, the researcher finds that there is dearth of literary contribution on the phenomena of child labour. The character of child labour also makes their enumeration a difficult task. The phenomena of child labour being a global one, some studies have done both nationally and internationally in this direction. The researcher has collected a number of related studies that were conducted in abroad and in
our country and arranged them systematically in this review section of the thesis.

2.1 WESTERN STUDIES:

David, Pinto (1994) has done a study on child labour. The title of the study was "Child Labour- an Universal Phenomena". He feels that many countries have yet to see the situation of child labourers as a challenge. He emphasizes that the very deep problem within the family and the community must be solved before life become worthwhile enough for these children not to seek drugs or other similar addictions to relieve the burden of the horrible reality of their lives.

He therefore suggested that there is a need to create awareness in the Government and public so that these child labourers are seen and their problems understood and responses developed.

Hagman and Karim (1994) find many reasons for large number of abandoned children in India. The children have to be taken care of one way or the other.

A, Simmons William (1997) has made a study on the living standard of child labourers. He observes that Child labour laws around the world are often not enforced or include exemptions that allow for child labour to persist in certain sectors, such as agriculture or domestic work. Even in countries where strong child labour laws exist, Labour Departments and Labour Inspection Offices are often under-funded and under-staffed, or courts may fail to enforce the laws.
The objectives of the study were:

1. To study the family background of the child labourers.
2. To study the educational status of their parents.
3. To find out the reasons of joining work by the child labourers.

The major findings of the study were:

1. It was found that most of the child labourers are from very poor family background.
2. Illiteracy of the parents encourages the problem of child labour to a large extent.
3. 85% of the child labourers joined work because of the economic hardship of their family.

Sabhlok, Smita and Banu, Nasim (1998) had undertaken a study on “Child Labour in Bangladesh”. They observed that Child labour has become more visible and controversial in recent years as structural reforms and macro-economic stabilisation policies have stressed exports. The resulting intense global competition in carpets, textiles, apparel, shoe and leather items has promoted the employment of thousands of children who often work under quite inhumane conditions.

The main objectives of the study were:

1. To determine the extent of child labour in Bangladesh.
2. To find out the causes of child labour.
3. To find out the educational status of the child labourers.
The major findings of the study were:

1. There are about 5.7 million working children in the age group 10-14 years.
2. Poverty, illiteracy and migration are the main causes of child labour.
3. There are about 31.7 million children between the ages 5 and 14 in Bangladesh, of whom about 13.7 million receive education. The remaining 18 million do not go to school.

Tesfay, Nardos Kebreab (2003) has made a study on Child Labour and Economic Growth. They describe that children remain economically active in virtually all economic sectors: in industry, agriculture, the informal sector and in the household. The term ‘economic activity’ refers to the broad nature of children’s work. It includes all productive activities, household or market-oriented, undertaken by a child in a paid or unpaid capacity. In this study, these general forms of economic activity are referred to as child labour, to be distinguished from the unconditional worst forms for abolition defined as slavery, trafficking, bondage, forced recruitment in armed conflict, other forms of forced labour as well as various illicit activities.

The objectives of the study were:

1. To estimate the effect of economic growth and development, as measured by per capita gross domestic product, on the incidence of child labour.
2. To explain how, at a low level of development, the initial phase of economic development may result in a decline or a rise in the incidence of child labour.

The Findings of the study were:

1. By reducing income variability, policies that raise the wage of adults relative to children are more likely to reduce the supply of child workers.

2. There is the positive correlation between fertility and child labour. Higher Education for mothers is associated with fewer and healthier children.

Roy A. Young (2003) conducted a study titled “Child Labour in Belize: A Qualitative Study”. He describes that throughout the world, child labour is a widespread, complex and multi-faceted phenomenon. The main objective of the study was to collect information on the social, economic, educational, cultural and labour situation of working children in Belize.

The findings of the study were:

1. Child labour is not a part of the national discourse on ‘child’ issues. There are no articles or news stories on child labour in the newspapers, on television, radio and in any other forum. Awareness of child labour is now being introduced in Belize despite its long-standing manifestation.
2. Child labourers are found throughout the country with higher concentrations in rural agricultural communities and some urban centres. Child labour is however, not identified as a major problem in Belize. Most children work in commercial and subsistence agriculture, tourism, and do domestic work; and some are even forced into prostitution/sex tourism. There are children who are involved in the worst forms of child labour including hazardous work in commercial agriculture, sexual exploitation, working street children, trafficked children and child domestic workers. Child prostitution exists throughout the country with higher concentration in Orange Walk Town, Stann Creek District and Belize City.

3. Child labour primarily occurs in large families, single parent families, and families whose heads have less than primary school education. The main cause is poverty. Working children are bound to perpetuate a cycle of poverty because they too will not be able to adequately provide for their own families as adults because of low education levels.

4. Children who are street vendors are mainly from Guatemala who came to Belize to work.

5. There are several issues within the educational system that contribute to children working. First there are limited spaces in primary and secondary schools, especially at the secondary level. Many students in urban primary schools are not allowed to repeat courses after they
have failed. There is not enough space in secondary schools to accommodate students leaving primary schools, so some children are forced to enter the labour market instead of continuing their education.

Secondly, the school curriculum is unattractive to some children.

Thirdly, school is an unwelcome challenge because instruction is in English and children’s first and in some cases second language, is not English.

6. International and national laws exist against child labour but they are not enforced.

7. The worst forms of child labour are not reflected in any circulated document or the laws of Belize.

8. The penalties for violating the minimum age to work and other laws related to child labour are lenient.

Kadriu, Florie and Bylbashi, Shpetim (2004) made a study on “Child Labour in Kosovo – A Study on Working Children”. The purpose of the study was to investigate the habits and activities of working children between the ages of 6-15 (the ages of compulsory education in Kosovo) using qualitative and quantitative research methods. In addition to attempting to identify: a) the type of work activities most common among working children, b) children’s working conditions, c) the link between child labour and education, and d) the relationship between a child’s work and his/her financial situation, the report also sought to analyze and discuss the causes and consequences of child labour. The study does not represent the total
magnitude of child labour in Kosovo, and only provides information based on the 354 working children interviewed. The research tried to capture the general perception and public opinion regarding the relationship between child labour and education as well as to discuss potential solutions with main stakeholders including parents, teachers, representatives of government organisations and non-governmental organisations (NGO’s). Finally, based upon the findings and suggestions for interventions from interview participants, the study proposed strategies for the prevention and elimination of child labour and development of public policies that support the full enjoyment of children’s rights.

The objectives of the study were:

1. To investigate the habits and activities of working children between the ages of 6-15 (the ages of compulsory education in Kosovo).
2. To analyze and discuss the causes and consequences of child labour.
3. To capture the general perception and public opinion regarding the relationship between child labour and education.
4. To discuss potential solutions with main stakeholders including parents, teachers, representatives of government organisations and non-governmental organisations.
5. To propose strategies for the prevention and elimination of child labour and development of public policies that support the full enjoyment of children’s rights.
The findings of the study were:

1. Although child workers in Kosovo are engaged in a wide variety of work activities, the bulk of child labourers concentrates in these three core categories: selling products in streets and markets, housework, and agriculture. The most common work places for child workers are homes, shops and markets, streets, and agricultural fields.

2. The age of the child and the number of hours that children spend working per day are key factors to determining the intensity of work. On average, working children in Kosovo start working at the age of 10 years old and some children engage in work activities as early as four years old.

3. The survey revealed strong seasonal changes in child labour activities with the majority of working children intensifying their work during the summer holidays and only about three quarters of interviewed children reported working all year long. On average children work about 6.5 hours per day during the summer and four hours during the school year, six days a week.

4. About 15 percent of the working children who were interviewed reported health problems, especially those performing harsh physical work like carrying of goods. About 35 percent of these children stated time for play and leisure is limited due to their work and school commitments. Also, many working children
reported the need to commute to and from their workplace due to the greater earning potential in urban centers. Additionally, some of the children surveyed articulated that they often work late at night and are at increased risk to be victims of criminal attacks.

5. Although the majority of working children do not receive any remuneration for their work, those who do get paid earn in average approximately one Euro per working hour. In most cases the interviewed children reported that they give their earnings to their families to supplement the overall family income.

6. Almost all working children in Kosovo count on existing family units. These rather large families with an average of 7 family members do not necessarily belong to the lowest social segments of society. Almost 45 percent of head of households of surveyed children have completed secondary education and 40 percent of these head of households have a paid job. According to the working children interviewed, the vast majorities of families do not get social assistance and seem to use the earnings of their children to stay slightly above poverty and extreme poverty levels.

7. School attendance in Kosovo is relatively high and about 87 percent of the working children surveyed go regularly to school.
and like school. However, the survey revealed great differences among the ethnic communities and identified the Roma/Askahlia/Egyptian (RAE) population as the most affected by non-attendance.

8. The main reasons cited by children for non-attendance are discrimination, high education costs, and child labour. Additionally, the low value placed on education of girls' plays a significant role when looking at gender specific issues.

9. The data also reveals a correlation between the education levels of the heads of households and lower family incomes, which supports the common belief that a lack of educational opportunity can lead to entrenched poverty.

10. Generally speaking, child labourers enjoy their work and confirm they like to work and to support their families. The small numbers of children who do not like to work stated that they perceived themselves as too young to have to work.

11. From a gender perspective, some notable characteristics have been observed. While boys predominantly work in the selling and trading of items in public places, girls mostly work at home performing housework chores. Boys on average start work at an earlier age and work more hours per day than girls. This leads to an overall perception of female child labourers being both less frequent and less severe. On the other hand, the survey
shows that girls get less frequent remuneration for their work but are more likely not to attend school. At the same time, a significant number of girls are engaged in more visible and harsher forms of child labour such as late night work or work on the street. Any form of sexual exploitation or child’s trafficking has not been included in this survey.

P. Obua (2004) has made a study on “Child labour in commercial agriculture in Uganda”. He observes that Child labour in commercial agriculture has become a major concern globally, and in Uganda in particular, especially in consequence of economic transformation and agricultural modernization, which has brought the utilization of agrochemicals and machinery.

The main objectives of the study were:

1. To determine the nature and extent of child labour in commercial agriculture in Uganda.

2. To suggest terms and conditions of work for child workers in the eleven districts.

3. To assess the impact of child labour on the children’s health and safety.

4. To ascertain the socioeconomic characteristics and distribution of child workers employed in tea, tobacco, rice, coffee, and cocoa enterprises.
The findings of the study were:

1. The average age at which a child begins to work is 15 years in tea, 11 years in rice and coffee and 9 years in tobacco enterprises.

2. The main reason of children taking up employment is the cost of education.

3. The average working time was found to be 5 hours in coffee, tobacco, and rice enterprises and 9 hours in the tea enterprises.

4. Work-related ailments and complaints, including backaches, dermatitis, eye infections, pneumonia, diarrhoea, anaemia, bilharzia, abdominal pains, chest pain, athletes’ foot, oedema, fever and stiff necks, were noted among 55% of the child workers in tea enterprises and 44% of the child workers in rice enterprises. 17% of working children were exposed to chemical hazards, especially in tobacco enterprises.

5. Child labour has mostly negative effects on the children involved. Among the negative effects that have been noted are stunted growth, pale skin and dermatitis, exhaustion and lost interest in school.

Omokhodion, Kate (2005) in his study on “Perceptions of Child Labour among Working Children in Ibadan, Nigeria” describes that Child labour has been the subject of public health discourse especially in countries with poor economies. He recommends that school education for children should be a priority even when the harsh economic realities in their families force parents to send them to work outside the home. The main objective of
the study was to determine working children’s attitude to child labour, their perceptions of themselves and their future aspirations.

The findings of the study were:

1. The majority of children in this study were working to earn some money for their parents or to supplement their parent’s financial input to their education.

2. Low per capita income is the main reason for child labour.

3. The majority of younger children (8–12 years old) wished to continue with their education rather than learn a trade.

4. The cost of education was one of the factors that created the need for them to work.

5. A greater proportion of children thought that child labour was for those who are deprived.

Sakurai, Riho (2006) has made a study on “Child Labour and Education”. He describes that almost all out-of-school children are in developing countries, especially in South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa where child labour is a serious problem. While the number of child labourers decreased somewhat from 2000-2004, a huge number of out-of-school children are child labourers, most of whom work out of poverty. Recent studies have shown that child labour depresses school enrollment rates, negatively affects school achievement and decreases graduation rates. Given these realities, recent cash transfer programmes have a comprehensive social protection approaches that encourage schooling by providing beneficiary
compliance with requirement of schooling, vaccine or other health-related conditions. These cash-transfer programmes have tried to dismantle the intergenerational poverty cycle and thus, have improved school attendance while reducing the number of child labourers. These programmes will contribute not only to achieve one of the most desired goals, universal primary education but also as a long-term educational investment for children.

**Eric V. Edmonds (2007)** describes in his study that popular discontent in developed economies about child labour in developing countries have lead to numerous calls for harmonized labour standards, trade sanctions against countries with high levels of child labour and consumer boycotts of products made with child labour.

**The objective of the study was:**

1. To assess what we currently know about child labour and to highlight what important questions still require attention.

**Wairire, Philip (2007)** conducted a study on the effectiveness of Kenyan law in curbing child labour in Kenya. The title of the study was “Making the law work for children: A Case Study of Child Labour in Kenya”. The main aim of the study is to examine the gap between the present legislative environment and the reality. The study has highlighted the challenges pertaining to the interpretation of what constitutes child labour both locally and internationally. That there is no universally acceptable definition on this area. However, what are usually considered in the
discourses of child labour are dimensions such as hazard, work effects and degree of involvement. The work involved therefore should not be harmful to the physical, emotional and mental development or one that denies children of their basic rights, the enjoyment of their childhood, potential and dignity. The study sheds light on the international and local legal instruments available to protect children against labour exploitation.

Some of the most important findings of the study were:

1. Kenya does not have up to date statistics on the extent of child labour in the country. The statistics available are those of 2002 by the ILO’s International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC) and the government survey of 2005/6. It is important that data is created so as it may be possible to understand the scale and scope of the problem in order to encourage effective interventions.

2. The domestic legislation has gone to a great extent to safeguard the welfare of the children. However, according to the reality, child labour is still very rampant in Kenya. Hence, bringing about the need to bridge the law and the reality.

3. Both international documents and local documents have no single accepted definition of child labour. In Kenya while the Children Act of 2001 sets the minimum age at 16, the Employment Act sets it at 13. Hence, bringing about the need for the Kenyan courts to harmonize the two instruments.
4. The introduction of universal free primary education in Kenya was an important intervention against child labour. However, indirect costs such as providing food to retain the children in the schools have a bearing on the success of this intervention. This calls for a multi-stakeholder involvement to meet this indirect cost to make this intervention a success.

5. Policy reforms to tackle inequality and poverty such as the Community Development Fund (CDF), Local Authority Transfer Fund (LATF) and the Street Family Rehabilitation Trust Fund (SFRTF) are also positive measures introduced that will definitely help in suppressing child labour. It is important that these resources target those who need them and that the data of their impact be made available.

6. The government formed a multi-sectoral committee at districts and provincial levels to oversee the extents of child labour. However, the study found that no such committee exists in Thika. Hence, they call for a need to start such a committee.

**The findings of the study were:**

1. Work is not the residual claimant on child time outside of school and the incidence of children who neither work nor attend school appears highest where schooling is the lowest.

2. The child works when the utility from working today is greater than the utility associated with not working.

3. Child labour prevalence owes less to its efficiency but more to the family's need for the child's contribution to the household.
4. Declining poverty is associated with rapid declines in the fraction of children who are working, especially in market work.

Kantor, Paula (2008) undertook a study to explore the processes through which poor households make decisions about whether or not to put children into work. The title of the study was “Factors Influencing Decisions to Use Child Labour: A Case Study of Poor Households in Kabul”. The study aims to draw out the range of influencing factors that seem to differentiate poor households, which do use child labour from those which do not, to inform ongoing efforts in the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Martyrs and Disabled (MoLSAMD) to mitigate the factors leading households to depend on child labourers, as well as to inform the work of the social protection consultative group within the Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS) process, which has not had significant focus on child protection and child rights issues.

Key findings of the study include:

1. Irregularity of work for adults, low earnings and high expenditures on basic needs, particularly housing and fuel, are key contextual factors which characterize the lives and livelihoods of all the study households — both those using and not using child labour. They tend to be necessary but not sufficient conditions for deciding to put children into work.
2. Debt is also common across the case households, again contributing to considerations of using child labour but alone not a determining factor.

3. The absence or lack of a male earner leads households to seek alternative ways to access income. In two separate cases, where the male head of the household died, both families tended to rely on other relatives for some or all financial support, as well as in one case on children's earnings. Other households had an aged or ill male household head who did not work; they relied on adult female income and child labour. However, in other households with adult male earners, children still worked for income, signaling that both lack of male adult workers and the low and variable earnings obtainable by adults in informal employment can influence decisions about using child labour.

4. Gender norms constrain choices about how to allocate the labour available to the household; they effectively close down certain options for creating a livelihood, particularly the options open to adult females, meaning more earning burden may fall on children, particularly boys, to support the household.

5. Assessments of the possible moral or behavioural benefits of work differ across child labour and non-child labour households. The former see work as something to keep children out of trouble and out of crowded home environments, as well as a medium through which
children will learn responsibility and skills. Non-child labour households expressed more strongly the possible threats associated with work, particularly work outside the home for boys, such as interacting with bad friends who lead children astray or being pressured to earn and hence engaging in illegal or immoral acts to bring home the money. Worry about children is evident in all the households, but the non-child labour households were stronger in their sentiments about the moral risks involved in working.

6. Non-child labour households were more likely to have had direct experiences or knowledge of others whose educated children had been successful in achieving a secure livelihood (i.e. role models). This informed their drive to keep children in school.

7. Personal education experiences of parents are another factor influencing assessments of the benefits and costs of having children work, study or do both. Some educated parents wanted to provide their children the same opportunity they had, while other parents who had not benefited from their education expressed more interest in their children learning a skill to give them better options. Uneducated parents were motivated by their own “blindness” to educate their children and not have them work. Others sought to diversify their children’s experiences by having them work and study.

8. Decisions about having children work can be conflictual; in some cases economic need was the factor convincing a reluctant parent to
have children work. Seclusion norms for women and older girls also led to conflicting interests, with some women expressing an interest in working out of the home, but husbands or male children not agreeing.

9. In many cases children do have a voice in the decision to work, themselves, expressing their choice to work due to interest, seeing other children working or boredom at home. However, they also understand the economic needs facing the household, so there is some measure of compulsion behind this “choice”, reflecting feelings of responsibility. This is also evident in eldest boys in non-child labour households expressing desires to work to help the household, but not being allowed.

10. Mental stress related to feelings of responsibility are also evident among child labourers, manifested by lack of sleep, bedwetting, expressed wish that the work did not exist or recognition of the need to give up schooling for work and the disappointment associated with that.

11. Households with child labourers assessed carefully the type of work children would do. For females this related more often to where they work (at home or not), with pressures for girls to stop outside work (i.e. scavenging) upon puberty due to risks to the household’s reputation. For boys it was often about whether an apprenticeship was desirable; learning a skill was valued (over vending work), but whether an apprenticeship would lead to skill building was also
questioned. Much depended on the shop owner and his willingness to teach and treat his apprentices well.

12. Most of the child labourers in the study did not work under conditions meeting with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child or the Afghanistan labour code. Hours of work were long, pay is low and a range of risks and hazards are present in workplaces, whether they are at or around home (household work, carpet weaving), in workshops or on the streets. These include: harassment and fighting while vending, exposure to the weather, traffic risks when crossing roads, gossip, physical punishment from shop owners, physical injury in workshops, injury from carrying heavy weights, dust and splinters from wool and mental stress.

13. While many households expressed interest in educating their children and give up a lot to do so, there is also considerable concern over the quality of government schools, as well as experiences of harassment and beatings, leading some children to withdraw. Families also expressed problems with meeting the costs associated with schooling.

14. Children and their parents expressed happiness over their participation in NGO run accelerated education courses, which are free and provide material aid. This is in part due to the aid provided, but also due to better quality teaching and more attention given to students.
15. Child labour households expressed an appreciation for the economic, moral and learning outcomes of work. Parents place value on the learning outcomes of work associated with the skills their children would gain in the work setting. Moral outcomes link back to the expectations expressed by some parents that work would keep children busy and out of the street and minimise worry about where children are or with whom, for both girls and boys. Economic outcomes refer to financial contributions to household basic needs, children’s income being saved for their own needs (school items, clothes) or being spent independently (less common). Most working children contributed all of their income to the household budget, hence it was important to household survival.

16. Parents face great struggles in deciding both how best to provide for their families and to prepare their children for the future. Despair and depression were not uncommon in response to debt levels, joblessness of spouses, rent demands or just the day-to-day struggle to feed the family. Fears for children’s safety in moving about the city were also widely expressed in light of increasing insecurity from car bombs and kidnap threats. Thus, the endemic economic, social and human insecurity characterising the lives of the respondent households calls for a concerted and coordinated state response.
Lange, Albertine de (2009) conducted a study on Gender dimensions of rural child labour in Africa. The main objective of the study was to find out the differences in participation in agriculture between boys and girls and to highlight some gender-specific tasks and sub-sectors.

The major findings of the study were:

1. The largest part of child work in Africa consists of unpaid family work. For rural areas, most estimates indicate that over 90% of children’s work is in their parents’ farm, fishing enterprise or household.
2. It appears that there is no or hardly any difference in payments received by boys and girls.
3. The category of children who work for money, food or on farms also covers children who have migrated from other areas or countries, in search of work.
4. Girls end up in different work settings, probably less frequently in farm work.
5. Boys appear to spend more time on agricultural activities but rural girls spend more time working than boys.
6. Apart from working without adequate basic protective equipment, boys engage more than girls in all other hazardous activities.
7. Work affects education of girls more than of boys, in terms of non-enrolment and drop-out.
8. Children from the poorest households are more likely to be engaged in the labour force without attending school than children from households with higher per capita expenditure. Differences are somewhat more pronounced among boys (20.3% versus 2.2%) than among girls (17.8% versus 4.3%).

Olive, Park (2009) made a study to investigate child labour, their problems and coping strategies from an international comparative perspective. The study focuses on the specific problems of the child labourers in Greece and Germany. Due to diversity of the phenomena of child labour, different pilot projects were carried out in each country using their own methodology and tools, such as reviews, interviews and questionnaires.

**Major objectives of the study were:**

1. To review and explore the multidimensional factors which compels the children to engage themselves in work.

2. To investigate by means of small scale pilot projects their problems on their personal, social, legal and state policy.

3. Wherever possible, to compare findings from one country with the other.

**Major findings of the study were:**

1. The economic and social life crises create situations particularly among under privileged and disadvantaged social groups.
2. Children, as members of such groups, undergo the consequences of these situations by becoming victims while working as child labourers.

3. A variety of situational factors are responsible for the appearance of child labour.

4. Government did not do enough either to help child labourers in a practical supportive way or to confirm the causes that lead to child labour.

5. Investigation revealed that there is no agency exclusively devoted to child labour, however there are many services devoted to the protection of children and juveniles in general and specifically juvenile delinquents.

2.2 INDIAN STUDIES:

Vemuri, Muralidhar (1986) conducted a study titled “Child Labour in India: A Multivariate Analysis”. The main objective of the study was to study the magnitude of child labour in India and the factors which are forcing the children to participate in economic activities. It was also tried to analyze the child labour by its components such as age and sex.

Rao. B.V.R. and Malik B. (1992) from V.V. Giri National Labour Institute, National Child Labour Cell carried out a study on “Children of Slum Population in Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh”. In the state the slum population had grown from 100,000 in 1962 to 900,000 in 1988, an increase
from 9% to 30%, there has been a corresponding increase in the number of child labourers.

The study was undertaken with the following objectives:

1. To assess the psychological, social and basic needs of child labourers.
2. To suggest modifications of existing services and programmes.
3. To formulate a data base on them to facilitate programme interventions for them by the State Government, City Corporations and NGO’s.

The major findings of the study were:

1. About 41.8% of the child labourers belonged to the age group 6-10 years, 24.5% were 11-15 years old, 18.5% were 0-5 years old and 15.2% of the child labourers were above 15 years of age.
2. The highest percentage of parents (57%) was in the very low income group and 42.6% in the low income group.
3. Most of the child labourers (93%) were observed to be in moderately good health. The study showed that most of the children did not get any medical facilities.
4. Poverty was the main cause of child labour. Most of them (89%) were migrants. Poverty and employment were the main causes of migration.
5. More than half of the children were self employed and 37.2% of the children were employed in shops or establishments. About 54.9% of the children worked for 7 to 9 hours, while 37.7% worked for 10 to 12
hours a day. About 92.2% of the child labourers earned more than 1000 rupees per month.

**Gupta, M (1996)** made a study on “Child Labour in Andhra Pradesh: A Profile of Child Workers in Four Cities”.

**The main aims of the study were:**

1. To study the socio-economic background and living conditions of working children and their families.
2. To identify various which prompt children to work or take up employment.
3. To study the attitude of the child worker towards himself, his family and employers.

**The major findings of the study were:**

1. Most of the child workers were form socio-economically poor families.
2. Most of the child workers took up jobs to supplement the family income.
3. Only a few number of children were unhappy about their status and preferred to go to school. Almost double the number wanted to continue with their jobs.

**Khan, S.A. and Kumar Ashok (1996)** made a case study of Rage Pickers in Kanpur City. It was estimated that in Kanpur there were about 737 rag picker children as 1991 census and in this study incidental sampling
technique was used. The children were contacted through industrial scrap dealers, visits to slums and information obtained through NGO's and the Municipality. Information was collected through interview and questionnaire schedules.

The objectives of the study were:

1. To study the life situation of rag picker children aged 5-14 years in Kanpur city.
2. To help policy makers and NGO's to launch developmental programmes for their welfare.

The findings of the study were:

1. The majority of the families was from deprived classes and was illiterate. Incomes ranged from less than Rs. 25 per day to Rs.70 above per day and 62.5% earned between Rs. 26 - Rs.55 per day.
2. About 77% rag pickers were boys and 23% were girls. All the children felt that basic needs were not being fulfilled. The children listed food, education, night shelter and clothing as their basic requirements. Medical treatment however, was given very low priority.
3. Only 9.5% were attending school at the time of the survey. Financial constraints were cited as the main reason for not sending the children to school.
4. Most of the children were interested in receiving free education and preferred it in the evening hours.
5. These children earned between Rs. 11-15 per day to Rs. 16-20 per day. The total family income was not less than Rs. 40 per day.

6. Most rag picker's households were indebted to scrap dealers who had initially lent them Rs. 200-300 when they migrated. Now they were bound to sell the rags to these scrap dealers. In other words, they were bonded labourers.

7. Children generally resided in slums, 'Jhuggi Jhopri' colonies and rehabilitation colonies and sometimes spent the night in an open field. Migrants were from rural, urban and tribal areas. Children were exposed to dirt, smoke, rain, sun etc., had no bath and toilet facilities and were harassed by police, municipal authorities and local people.

8. There were no facilities for sports and games or social gatherings and as such they utilized leisure time in playing cards, taking drugs etc.

9. It was noticed that children were anxious, aggressive and unsocial.

Jain, Chirag and Gupta, Priya (1998) had made a study on "Child Labour in Indian Circuses". The study clearly established the presence of child labour in Indian circuses, the number of circuses, the movement of circuses, mode of entry of the Nepalese children in the Indian circuses, the intricacies involved in the organization and running of a circus, the politics amongst circuses etc.
The major findings of the study were:

1. Child Labour is prevalent in the Indian Circuses. 252 children under the age of 14, employed in the Indian circuses were interviewed by the researchers.

2. 47.8% were Nepalese. (Siliguri in India and Hetauda in Nepal was the hub from where a majority of children were brought).

3. A group of circuses comprised of a body called the Indian Circus Federation, primarily to protect their common interests against animal right’s activists.

4. Living and Working Conditions of Children:
   a. Insufficient space- crammed tents, lack of personal space and privacy.
   b. Poor meal- insufficient to satisfy the appetite of young growing children and the food quality is appalling.
   c. Sleep deprivation- children do not go to bed before midnight after the last show is over and are up early morning at dawn for practice.
   d. Poor Sanitation- In the living conditions, sanitation is the most pathetic issue, with no proper toilets and bathrooms. Make shift toilets are created on the circus ground near the tents, common for the Company Girls, and the stench around them is unbearable.
e. No Health Care Personnel- lack of health care personnel to look into their day-to-day health care needs as well as the accidents. There have been cases where children have fallen from great heights and met with serious accidents and were left unattended.

f. Hazardous tasks with High Risk Factor and no safety precautions - the lives of the children was endangered due to the risk factor involved in the circuses, especially those who were involved in items like ring of death, well of death, sword items, rope dance etc.

g. Remuneration- Salary accounts are often manipulated and the loss due to accidents or mishaps is not compensated. In some circuses, they are not paid any salary, or even when they are, the figure depends on the mood of the owner, and does not exceed Rs. 50 a month.

5. They are bound and indebted to the circus management for a period ranging from 3 to 10 years, and are unable to break away from the circus, even if they are discontented with their lives in the circus. Some owners do not even let them meet their parents, leading them to lose touch with their family members. All contracts seen by the researchers were found to be illegal.
Kumar, Bimal (2000) has conducted a study on “Problems of Working Children”.

The major objectives of this study were:

1. To study the socio-economic background of the child labour households.
2. To investigate parents’ attitude towards child education and child labour.
3. To investigate the impact of work on the educational status of working children.

The findings of study were:

1. Children from both Hindu and Muslim communities were found to be working.
2. The parents in general were in favour of sending their children to school.
3. The study also revealed that 67.8% children left school to attend their work places.

Michele, Jankanish (2000) made a study on “Legislation and the Fight against Child Labour”. The study shows that Child Labour Laws can play a catalytic and supportive role in efforts to establish a more humane order and in prodding society to give the child the best it has to offer.

Kulshustha, J. C. (2001) conducted a study on “Child Labour in India” to find out the extent of child labour in India and also the main causes responsible for the practice of child labour. The study revealed that children
in India are working on a large scale in the household, in family enterprises or in income-earning activities outside the home. It is however not so well-established how many children are working, how much time they spend on that work and how much is the income thus earned or saved (by allowing parents to earn income). Estimations of the number of working children vary from 11 million to at least 90 million children.

Ahmed, Ashhad (2004) has undertaken a study on Child Labour in India: A Politico-Legal Study. The study has revealed that the problem of child labour manifests itself on two different forms. Firstly, the child labour is used without any remuneration and secondly, it is paid mere subsistence wage. As the child workers are paid extremely low wages it results in malnutrition on the one hand and hard physical labour on the other which subjects the child workers to constant detonation in the terms of health.

Goyal, P.K. (2005) conducted a study on “Street Children and the Child Labour”. The main objective of this study was to find out the major causes of child labour. The study successfully found out the various causes of child labour, such as, poverty, inadequate school facilities, large family size, unscrupulous employers etc.

Kurosaki, Takashi (2006) made a study on “Child Labour and School Enrolment in India”. He describes that a high incidence of child labour and a very low school enrolment of children continue to pose serious problems for India. The main objective of the study was to analyze the
determinants of child labour and school enrollment in rural Andhra Pradesh, India.

The findings of the study were:

1. Child who is older and female is more likely to work and less likely to be enrolled in school.

2. More educated parents send their children less to work and more to school.

3. The effect of education is much stronger for the mother's education than for the father's.

4. The effect of the father's education is favourable on boys (negative on child labour and positive on enrollment), but the favourable effect is mostly cancelled out on girls.

5. Parents' education is significantly associated with child labour and schooling while the household head and his/her spouse's education is not.

Pradhan, Nityananda (2006) made a study titled "Perspective of Child labour in Koraput District and related Issues in Education at Primary Stage". He observes that Child labour is a global phenomenon. Its magnitude and dimensions, however, vary widely from country to country. India possesses the largest child labour force in the world despite various measures undertaken by the government and non-governmental agencies to tackle this issue.
The objectives of the study were:

1. To study the incidence of child labour in the study area.
2. To study the factors responsible for child labour amongst vulnerable groups such as girls, and children belonging to SC and ST categories.
3. To make an indepth study of each factor responsible for child labour through case study and to suggest measure to motivate children and their parents against child labour.
4. To study the provisions, particularly educational provisions under National Child Labour Project (NCLP) for the elimination of Child labour and
5. To study the issues associated with implementation of NCLP in the study

The findings of the study were:

1. The district bears 13,558 child labourers both in hazardous (234) and non hazardous (13,324) occupations, out of which 6,440 are girls.
2. Poverty is the main factor which forces a child to be labourer and deprives him from most of the basic human rights, including right to basic education.
3. The vocational education being imparted in Special Schools for Child Labour seems to be weak. There are vocational teachers, but without any infrastructure. The need of the beneficiary learners have not been taken into account in implementing courses in different schools.
4. The Special Schools for Child Labour are not provided with adequate teaching-learning materials and furniture.

5. The special school programme lack sustainability. It is seen that most of the children, after completion of their education in special schools, do not continue their formal education and thereby revert back to work situations.

6. The Syllabus prescribed for Special Schools for Child Labour includes almost all the learning competencies prescribed for formal primary school under Government of Orissa in the Department of Schools and Mass Education. But the duration of course in respect of special schools is three years, whereas it is five years in case of formal primary schools.

7. NCLP, Koraput follows an integrated approach to education and rehabilitation of child labour in the district. The project envisages convergences of services, mainly from the departments like Panchyati Raj, the Department of School and Mass Education, the Department of Health, and the Department of Sports and Culture etc.

8. The programme of education for child labour under National Child Labour Project (NCLP), Koraput is managed in a mission mode, i.e. under a registered society. There is a decentralized structure of management with District Project Society headed by the district collector at the top and the village school monitoring committee at the bottom.
Bhat, Ahmad Bilal (2007) conducted a study titled “Child Labour Practices in Kargil (Ladakh)”. He describes that the problem of child labour is not a concomitant feature of modern society only. In fact, the problem has been there since the very dawn of human civilization. The reasons for this phenomenon are varied and have been changing as the time passes by. Avenues of child labour over the years have broadened. As a matter of fact, the problem is vexed and wide spread and is not a characteristic of any particular type of economy.

The objectives of the study were:

1. To make a detailed study of child labour in the handicraft sector with special reference to their life conditions in Kargil.
2. To access the nature of exploitation faced by the children involved in labour activities.
3. To explore the causes of child labour in the handicraft sector in Kargil.
4. To examine the social implications of life conditions of child labour in the handicraft sector.
5. To suggest the measures for amelioration of the child labour.

The major findings of the study were:

1. Most of the female child labourers belonged to illiterate or very little educated families. The societal preference for male children result in girls being valued less, fed less, educated less but worked harder and deprived of every opportunity to broaden their personal, social and
intellectual horizons. In most economically disadvantaged families, greater the poverty, the more aggravated is the situation of the female child. In certain families, the rules of permission and restriction on women and female children are much more stringent which allows for greater exploitation and discrimination.

2. Children usually enter the field of handicrafts work around eleven years of age.

3. Out of sixty five child labourers interviewed, only 3 (4.61 percent) were still attending school and the majority 62 (95.38 percent) had left the school for good at primary and upper primary levels.

4. The children, who belonged to the small family category, work either because there was no earning member in the family or just to enjoy with friends at the handicraft centre and at the same time learn some skill. Most of the children of this category added that they have to work because their father had died and being the eldest child, it was their duty to look after the family.

5. The distribution of the monthly income of the child labourers brings out the fact that a large proportion of them 37 (56.92 percent) earn between rupees hundred to five hundred per month and 27 (41.53 percent) earn between rupees five hundred to one thousand per month. There was only 1 (1.53 percent) child who earned more than one thousand rupees per month.
6. Problems due to long working hours, hard and hazardous jobs, poor diet, etc. puts stress due to which the children complained of backache, headache, eye irritation and joints pain, although space for work was sufficient.

7. 80% eighty percent female child workers said yes, that they are very prone to be sexually exploited. Entry of children into work was not a matter of choice but a matter of economic compulsion, largely to supplement the family’s income. Majority of the child labourers said that it is mostly the employer of the centre and people of his relation who are always in search of opportunity for sexual harassment/exploitation.

8. A dominant majority (97 percent) of children under work were having no awareness of the child labour laws and their existence in Kargil. There is no awareness amongst the masses about child labour laws although both parents and employers favour the abolition of child labour for various reasons including the effect of work on child’s future. Lack of quality education as well as lack of concern on the part of government and civil society is the primary reason for lack of awareness about child labour laws and the damaging consequences of child labour.

9. About twenty five percent employers favoured the implementation of legislations strictly with same code of conduct everywhere and compulsory schooling up to fourteen years of age for the elimination
of child labour. Around ninety percent employers supported to provide some training to the child labourers so that they can earn partly to meet their personal as well as family requirements.

10. There is dire need to impart education to the child workers. Though child workers cannot attend normal school during the usual school hours, the only alternative is to provide them some agency of education at the time when they are free. There should be special schemes for development of socially and educationally disadvantaged groups of the society.

**Bijal. M. Iqbal (2007)** conducted a study on “Child Domestic Work - A Study Report on the lives of Child Domestic Workers in Leh and Kargil”. The study is primarily an empirical one and based on an extensive sociological investigation in the field. It specifically concentrated on child labourers in Tehsil Kargil. A sample of 100 respondents (comprising of 65 child labourers, 17 heads of the households, 9 employers, 6 social workers (notables) and 3 concerned government officers) was selected to give representation to all areas, fields, sexes, ethnicity and income-occupational-educational groups and sub-groups while a detailed interview schedule was used for child workers, heads of the households and employers. In-depth interviews with social workers, notables and Government officers were carried out within the limits of interview guide. Moreover, observation method was also used to get the real and relevant information. The field of handicrafts covered in this study was carpet-weaving, wool-work, copper
and brass, wood-work, wicker work and willow basketry, stone work and sculpture, jewellery, *shawl-bawfi*, etc.

**The major objectives of the study:**

1. To understand the issue of Child Domestic Work and its prevalence in Leh and Kargil.
2. To understand the socio-economic and cultural factors responsible for leading children into domestic work.
3. To understand the community's perception and trend of employing children in the Ladakh region.
4. To initiate a process of community sensitization on Child Domestic Work.
5. To design and develop an intervention plan to address the issue based on the study.

**The main findings of the study were:**

1. 53.4% CDWs are girls as compared to 46.6% boys, 88.35% are tribal and 56.31% of them are Muslims working in the Muslim households. Buddhists are preferred in Buddhist households.
2. Almost 73% lack economic self-sufficiency and are below the poverty line (BPL) population. However, it is also interesting to see that the rest 33% (APL) also prefer to send their children to pursue work outside of towns and indicates the poor attitude of parents towards child rights.
3. In 80% of cases, the head of the CDW family is illiterate.
4. 51% of the CDWs manage to go to schools with employer's permission.

5. Child domestic workers come from large families, 46% families of more than eight members.

6. 67.9% fathers and 88.3% mothers earn their living from small business and as agricultural labourers respectively. Almost all families have some amount of cultivable land with a majority (56%) with at least 1-2 days cultivable land.

7. 20% children have no idea about their wages and 33% CDWs don't get any wages or receive less than Rs 200 per month. Only 11% children get Rs 1,000 or more in a month.

8. In the case of ailments, 67% children only manage to get health care support when they fall sick, 5% get treatment facility only in case of serious sickness and 9% never get any such support.

Devi, K (2007) conducted a study on “Child Labour among School Children in Urban and Rural Areas of Pondicherry”. The study was carried out in the schools situated in the service areas of Jawaharlal Institute Rural Health Center (JIRHC) and Jawaharlal Institute Urban Health Center (JIUHC). The JIRHC and JIUHC are the rural and urban field practice areas of Jawaharlal Institute Postgraduate Medical Education and Research Center (JIPMER), Pondicherry. It was decided to conduct the study among students in classes VI to X. For the purpose of the study, child labour was defined as any kind of work done by a school-going child for remuneration in cash or
The main objectives of the study were:

1. To determine the prevalence of child labour among school children in the rural and urban areas of Pondicherry.

2. To study the factors related to child labour - like the reasons for working, problems faced by the child, workplace conditions, etc.

The major findings of the study were:

1. The overall prevalence of child labour in the study was 32.5%. The number of students who worked in the rural and urban area was 131 (42.8%) and 103 (24.9%) respectively.

2. Irrespective of the area, educational level of the mother, crowding in the family, families being in debt, presence of a handicapped or alcoholic member in the family, gender and religion were significantly associated with the working child.

3. Ninety percent (90%) of the children in the rural area and 80.8% in the urban area said low income was the main reason for them to go to work.

4. 78.6% visited a health facility like a health center or hospital in the past 1 (one) year for any health complaints.

5. About 75.9% of the rural working children reported that their employer scolded them at the workplace. The proportion of working children who were scolded by their employer at the workplace in
urban area was 87.2%. In the rural area, 65.1% of the working children were beaten or scolded by their employer for working slowly. Similarly in the urban area, 62.8% of the working children were beaten or scolded for slow work.

Ramakrishna, S and Moid, Mohammed (2007) have done a study on “Child Labour in Carpet Industry in India: Recent Developments”. They describe that though the use of child labour is prevalent in many industries in India no other industry has received such widespread attention as the carpet industry. The use of child labour in the production of hand knotted carpets in India has been widely reported and documented.

The objectives of the study were:

1. To understand the current situation of the child labour problem in India’s carpet industry, specifically located in the core carpet belt, in and around the Mirzapur-Bhodohi region in the state of Uttar Pradesh.

2. To map out supply chain linkages between Indian carpet producers who use child labour and US importers who import carpets from these producers.

The findings of the study were:

1. Out of the total 1584 weavers working on 240 loom enterprises studied there are 45 ‘definitely children’ of whom 37 (82.3%) are boys and 8 (17.7%) are girls. The figures for ‘probably children’ working on the looms is 136 of whom 123 (90.4%) are boys and 13 (9.6%) are girls. If 50% of probably child labourers is included to the
of children working on the looms the majority (58%) of them belong to the family labour category. Hired labour, both local and migrant, account for 42% (33.19% are local and 8.85% are migrants). The proportion of family labour is higher in the new area (73.7%). It is 56.7% in core and 56.2% in extension area. In the hired labour category, local labour is more than the migrant labour. Local hired labour accounts for 79% of the total hired labour.

4. The employment of children tends to increase as the size of the enterprise increases. Of the total 240 enterprises studied, 128 (53.3%) are single loom enterprises, 58 (24.2%) enterprises have two looms and 54 (22.5%) enterprises have three or more looms. Of the total enterprises 38% of them have one or more children working on the looms. Eighteen percent fall into the single loom category while 47% fall into the two looms category. In the category of three or more looms, 76% employ children. With regard to the proportion of child
labour to the total workforce, it is observed that larger enterprises have a higher proportion of children in their workforce versus smaller enterprises. While enterprises with three or more looms have 7.57% of their workforce employed as children, the single loom and two loom enterprises have 6.21% and 6.92% respectively.

5. Out of 240 enterprises surveyed 143 enterprises (60%) did not have sufficient ventilation, 159 (66.25%) did not have sufficient lighting and 167 (70%) were lacking proper seating arrangements. Enterprises with sufficient lighting, ventilation and proper seating arrangement were less than 20. The majority of the structures were thatched houses (46%), 27% each of the enterprises were katchas and pucca structures.

6. The major importers of India’s hand knotted carpets are the US, Germany, the UK, Switzerland, and Italy. Germany used to be the largest importer of Indian carpets but in recent years US has surpassed Germany. While Germany’s share declined from 38.2% to 22.1%, the share of the US increased from 30.4% to 53% during 1995-96 to 2004-05.

Chandra, Anjuli (2009) made a study on “Child Labour- a Study from Anthropological Perspective with Special Reference to Glass Industry, Firozabad”. The area of study was the Firozabad district, situated in North-Central India in Western Uttar Pradesh. The focus of the study was the bangle and glass industry of Firozabad, where according to the local
observers; about 50,000 child workers are still engaged in this hazardous industry.

The main objectives of the study were:

1. To define the concept of child labour and showing its Indian and International scenario.
2. How and why children got engaged in this vicious cycle of bangle making and ultimately become a child labour.
3. To explore the structural roots of the phenomenon and the problems faced by the child labour and their families.
4. To describe how child labour is intimately associated with the social, cultural, traditional and economic background of the people.

The main findings of the study were:

1. Children are engaged into various processes of glass works as early as from the age of 5-6 years. Maximum number of child labourers was found in the age group of 8-12 followed by 13-16.
2. The socio-cultural background is the main factor for the cause of this social evil as people are deprived of basic education, the working conditions results into a number of health hazards and physical disabilities.
3. The basic and main reason behind the problem is poverty, while the reason behind poverty is indebtedness.
4. 93.5% of the bangle and glass worker households has taken loans during past 15 years; out of this, 50.2% had taken loans with
exorbitantly high rate of annual interest varying between 40-120%; about 62.4% took loans simply for consumption purposes; main source for taking loans in case of 61.2% households was local money lenders.

5. The factors like illiteracy of the parents, adult unemployment, and loss of head of the family and indifferent social attitude towards child work also push children to work.

6. Due to working as child labourers they could not attend their schools regularly as several times they had to quit their schools because of heavy workload on the family which deprives them of their basic education.

7. The parents prefer to share the workload than to attend schools, for their children because they believed that in the later case the result will be nothing while in the former case they get something and something is always better than nothing.

8. Most of the households interviewed, were practicing this bangle and glass work since generations unknown and as such this whole occupation is deeply embedded in their tradition and culture.

Gooren, H.C. (2009) has done his research work titled “Speaking of Child Labour and Education - Linking the rights-based approach to local NGO’s and former girl child labourers in Tamil Nadu”. This study looks at child labour in the South Indian rural context, to be specific – in the Sivagangai District of Tamil Nadu. It focuses on girl child labour in the
agriculture sector, but from a retrospective angle. Former girl child labourers speak of child labour and of education in relation to child labour in this study. Their experiences, views, valuations, and desires are analyzed in order to find out whether and how these relate to universalistic rights-based approaches to child labour often used by local NGO’s.

The objectives of the study were:

1. To come to more insights concerning girl child labour and its dynamics.
2. To get to know more about how former girl child labourers (in agriculture) experienced child labour and education. This education in the sense of both formal and a vocational skills training programme.
3. To get to know more about the views, valuations, and desires they hold towards both, especially in retrospect.
4. To listen to what former girl child labourers have to say about child labour and education.
5. To find out more about what the motivation is for local NGO’s to use a rights-based approach and how they apply such an approach to tackle child labour.

The findings of the study were:

1. The experiences of former girl child labourers with regard to child labour in the agriculture sector are not at all positive. The work is often described as having been painful; both physically as well as mentally in the sense of missing out on education.
2. Respondents felt their work was necessary to keep the family standing, something not uncommon for children of the rural poor. The respondents felt they had to contribute, many wanted to contribute in order to relieve some of the financial burdens of the family.

3. The context for child labour was one of poverty or income deficiency of the household in combination with other factors.

4. Education in the sense of a vocational skills training programme has been very positively experienced by the former girl child labourers of this study.

5. Child labour is - by the large majority of respondents - valued as something negative.

6. The local Tamil Nadu NGO’s of this study operate their child labour activities from a rights-based perspective or approach.

Rathod, Gova (2010) undertook his research work on “Child Labour in Production of Cotton Seeds on Monsanto Plots in District Sabarkantha of Gujarat”. The study indicates that the production machinery has become very sensitive to entry of outsiders to cottonseed farms. At the slightest suspicion, the outsiders can be obstructed and harassed. The vigilance machinery employed by Monsanto to detect and remove child labour is ineffective. The local inspectors have clear understanding that they must not be too enthusiastic about their task. The incentive offered by the Company has not proved effective to prevent child labour.
The main objectives of the study were:

1. To know the number of plots and villages where seed production is being directly undertaken by Monsanto.

2. To prepare a profile (age, caste, sex) of child labourers working on seed farms of Monsanto.

3. To capture through audio visual means the spread and depth of child labour on Monsanto seed plots.

The findings of the study were:

1. Monsanto has given a total of 1339 plots in 191 villages of Sabarkantha district.

2. There is extensive child labour on cottonseed plots of Monsanto.

3. Child labour comprises of 52 percent of the total labour force. Of these, 28 percent are in the age group of less than 14 years while 24 percent are in the age group of 15-18 years.

4. Majority of the children working on seed farms were tribal. Only two farms had non tribal children working on them.

5. Of the total child labour force, 36 percent workers were female.

6. The children employed on the farms were mostly locals. Migrant tribal children were detected on only one farm. The local children belonged to two categories – household children and also wage labour recruited from the same or neighbouring village.

7. Children working on the farms were enrolled in schools. However they were found working on seed farms during school hours. The
working hours at seed farms overlap the school hours (8 AM to 12.30 PM for morning shift and 12.30 PM to 5 PM for afternoon shift).

2.3 REGIONAL STUDIES:

Baruah, Babi (1999) has done her research work titled "A Study of Child Labourers in the Greater Guwahati area of Kamrup District with special reference to Education". She describes that Guwahati being the capital city of Assam and the biggest commercial and industrial centre of the entire North Eastern Region houses a large workforce including child labour. They are found in both organized and unorganized sectors of employment in the city. Of course, the unorganized sectors seem to provide ample scope to these poor children in the city. They can be easily spotted working in numerous number of restaurants and hotels, road side tea stalls, dhabas, small automobile repairing shops and garages dotting all over the city. One also can not avoid them on the streets, picking re-usable from city garbages. They are also often seen in the city's large fleet of public transport vehicles working as bus handyman or helpers. Presence of them in city households where they work as domestic helpers are also well known. However, very little is known about the working and living condition etc. of these children working in the unorganized sectors of the city. Thus, this study aims to investigate into whole aspects of their working and living conditions, their economic and private lives, family backgrounds, their education etc.
The main objectives of the study were:

1. To study the present condition of working children (9 to 14 years) in the Greater Guwahati area.

2. To study the causes and factors responsible for children working in different unorganized sectors in Greater Guwahati area.

3. To study the nature of children working in different sectors in the Greater Guwahati area.

4. To study the impact of education on working children in the Greater Guwahati area.

The major findings of the study were:

1. Though the sample of the study was taken on random basis they were from the age group of 9 to 14 years. Of these 22.0 percent were between 9 to 10 years, 43.0 percent were in the group of 10 to 12 years and rest 35.0 percent were from the age group of 12 to 14 years. According to their original birth places 51.5 percent of the respondent were from rural areas and rest 48.5 were from urban areas. Sex wise only 25.0 percent of the 200 samples drawn were girls and the rest 75.0 percent were boys. It was also found that all girls in sample were from domestic helper and rag picker groups and not a single girl was there from other groups, i.e. restaurant, bus service and garage.

2. If we go through the reason given by the children opting for works, there is no difficulty to conclude that basic reason was only poverty, it
was also reflected in the replies given by the children regarding their family income. All the children were from very poor families.

3. One of the major points of this study was education of these children. On the basis of the responses of the children it was found that a majority of them, i.e., 60.5 percent were illiterate. The rest 39.5 percent of the children were found to have education up to various levels. But it is interesting to note that of the literate children only 3 (i.e. 1.5 percent of the total children) were found attending school and rest were all school dropouts.

4. To know the working and living conditions of the working children the first thing that comes to mind is how much they were earning. The study revealed that 73.5 percent were earning up to Rs. 300.00 percent month and 7 percent of them were paid nothing in cash. 13.5 percent were found earning between Rs. 300.00 to Rs. 500.00 per month and earnings of only 2.0 percent were found to be above Rs. 500.00 per month. Respondents were also asked to answer whether other benefits such as food, lodging, clothing etc. were provided or not. After analyzing their responses, the general trend found was that incident of such benefits being offered were fewer as the monthly income get higher. The above facts indicates only the pitiable working and living standards of working children,

5. The other factors that affect the working condition of working children are working hours, leisure time and leave. It was also found
that an overwhelming majority of them (97%) were found working for above 8 hours a day. However, almost all of them did get breaks between working hours. But they were actually found working for hours which were not conducive to their mental and physical health. Majority of the domestic helpers reported that they had to work as long as the activity of the household goes on. They generally started their work in the morning when all the members of the family were still in their bed and finished their work in the night when last of the family members went to bed.

6. As education was taken as one of the important point of the present study, certain parameters of working children were studied against their educational status. As already mentioned, of the 200 samples taken 60.5 percent were illiterate, 35.0 percent were literate but school dropout and only 1.5 percent were found school going. To know the affect of the educational status on the earnings of these children, their earnings were analyzed against their educational status. Analysis as presented in chapter- IV reveals that though most of the literate children were seemed to be earning more in cash than the illiterate children, their conditions were no better because high wage earners were given fewer in kinds.

7. The study also reveals that 84 out of total 200 children who expressed satisfaction over the present job and 62 of them were from illiterate group alone. On the other hand of the total 79 literate children 57
children were not satisfied with their present jobs. They had in their minds a better job and other plans for future. The above facts perhaps reflected the mental preparedness of the children to face the future. Barring some, educated children were seemed to be in positive frame of mind and on the other hand almost all illiterate ones were in helpless frame of mind and had to accept what their fate had to offer.

Bora, Manshi (2010) has conducted a study on “Migrant Child Labourers of Assam with special reference to Guwahati City”. In this study she has traced the origin, the migration pattern, the educational status and faith practiced by these labourers who inevitably take shelter in any one of the poverty pockets in the city. The city is strewn with poverty pockets which epitomizes the squalor that is part of civilization.

Based on an analysis of hundreds of samples, the study has concluded that almost 91 per cent of the migrant labourers in the city are from Assam and 9 per cent of them are from Bihar, West Bengal and other states of India.

Among the districts of Assam, Dhubri district has the highest percentage of daily wage labour in the city comprising 14.33 per cent, followed by Goalpara at 13.67 per cent, Barpeta at 13 per cent, Kamrup at 12.67 per cent and Nalbari at 11.67 per cent. The break up also says that lower Assam has the highest percentage of poor labourers.

The gender breakup of labour shows that almost 60 per cent are adult male, 28 per cent are adult women 7 per cent are boy child labour and 5 per cent are girl child labour. The study which has also touched on the
distribution of labour by religion says that almost 50 per cent are Hindu and remaining are from Islam and other religion. However this distribution pattern fluctuates at certain labour markets. At the Hatigaon labour market, 20 per cent labour is from the Hindu faith and 80 per cent from Islam.

On the other hand, an analysis of 328 samples from 10 labour markets in the city says that more than 53 per cent of labourers are illiterate. The labourers who attained primary and middle school standard constitute 28 and 10 per cent respectively. Interestingly, the percentage of HS and BA standards also constitutes around 2 per cent each, which is an indicator of high rate of educated unemployment.

Goswami, K.L. (2003) Deputy Director, NIPCCD’s Regional Centre, Guwahati conducted a study on “Child Abuse: A Study of Working Children of Guwahati”. In this study areas of high concentration of child workers were identified in the city of Guwahati and an attempt was made to enumerate children living in low income slum clusters. Of the 800 children enumerated, 654 were identified as working children. The study is based on interviews carried out with 300 randomly sampled respondents out of the universe of 654 working children and their families and employers. The study uses 8 case studies to describe in richer details the situation of working children that statistics can not reveal.

Considering the nature and extent of the problem prevailing in the North Eastern Region in general and Guwahati city in particular the study was undertaken with the following objectives:
1. To study the extent and forms of child abuse.

2. To find out different psychological factors as well as physically hazardous working conditions which are responsible for abuse of children directly or indirectly.

3. To suggest remedial measures to alleviate the problem of child abuse.

The findings of the study were:

1. Child workers tend to belong to families who have recently migrated to the city. 82% of the working children interviewed were from migrant families. The majority were from rural Assam, a sizable number (30%) were from Bihar and some (5%) from West Bengal.

2. Most (75%) working children live with their parents. Parents are, therefore, conscious of and responsible for the child’s occupation.

3. A significant number (28%) of working children had only one parent alive, perhaps denoting that the loss of the earning parent might be a trigger for children seeking work and assuming adult responsibilities.

4. Many (65%) working children contribute their earnings to the family. 74% of parents of working children admit that they sent their children to work to supplement their family income.

5. Many (67%) of the parents of working children are illiterate. Among the sample children, parents of only 6% were educated up to High School.

6. Child work, on average, 10-12 hours a day and do not devote much time for study, recreation or leisure activities.
7. 44% of the working children never went to school and the rest are drop outs. The primary reason for drop out was cited as financial considerations. Sending the children to school was beyond the means of the parents but rather the income that would have to be foregone if the children were to go to school in place of remunerative work would affect the family’s financial circumstances.

8. Children realize that they should study or at least acquire skills. 54% of the children said they would like to go back to school. But taking into consideration the other findings of the study, it seems that this is mere wishful thinking on the part of the children, as their incomes are apparently crucial to the survival of the family. However, 71% children wanted opportunities for learning during their free time and this seems to be a pointer to the intervention that would work with working children.

9. Children do not enjoy job mobility. Most were in their first job and almost all were in their first or second job. This may be explained by their lack of skills and vulnerability.

10. Most (86%) working children were found to be in the age group of 10 to 14 years. It appears that majority of the children being working at the age of 12 years.

Kakoty, Chiranjeeb and Kakoty, Swapna (2006) conducted a study titled “A Study on Child Labourers with Reference to Domestic Helps in Guwahati City”. They describe that Child labour can be defined as “any
work by children that interferes with their full physical development, opportunity for a desirable minimum of education and of their needed recreation”. India has the highest number of child labourers in the world where more than 10% of the labour force is made up by children. In a country where 32% of the population is below the poverty line, child labour will continue to persist for quite some time in the future. While some attention, in the form of policy or legislation, has been paid to children working in manufacturing and factory job, little attention has been paid to those engaged in household related jobs. The widespread use of children as domestic servants is one of the most hidden forms of child labour. The study was conducted in the Guwahati Municipal Corporation Area. Guwahati is the capital of Assam and also the district headquarter of Kamrup district. There were 60 wards in the corporation area and as per the 2001 census the total population was 809,895. There were 64,558 households in these 60 wards. Assuming a prevalence of domestic help in 50% of household (since actual prevalence is not known), an allowable error of 6% and a non-response rate of 8%, the required sample size was 300 domestic helps.

The Main objectives of the Study were:

1. To find the magnitude of the domestic help population in Guwahati city.

2. To understand some socio economic dimensions of the domestic child labourers.

3. To assess the gross physical status of the domestic child labourers.
The main findings of the study were:

1. 22% of domestic help are below 14 yrs, 16% in age group between 15 – 18 years and 61% above 19 years age group. 75% of the domestic helps upto 14 years of age are females.
2. Religion of domestic helps shows 73% to be Hindus, 26% Muslims and the rest Christian.
3. 88% of the domestic helps are female.
4. Majority (85%) of domestic helps are from various districts of Assam. The rest are from the states of Bihar, West Bengal and Meghalaya.
5. 78% of the domestic help are illiterate, 11% have some form of primary education, 7% attended middle school and 3% attended high school.
6. 42% are full time and residential domestic helps. A majority (59%) work part time. Among those less than 14 yrs of age, 85% are full time residential and of those in the 15 – 18 yrs age group, 63% are full time residential help. Of the full time residential help, majority (77%) are female. UNICEF observes that children in domestic service become a 24 hour job, with the child perpetually on call and subject to the whims of family members.
7. 73% of domestic help receive a salary of Rs 100/- to 300/- per month for their services. Few (5%) receive a monthly salary of Rs 500/- or more.
8. Salary could not be ascertained in case of 8 full time domestic help. There was a possibility that in these cases, salary was not paid. In some of these, the employers said that the domestic helps are distant relatives and were staying in the household because they were not well off in their own houses.

9. For measuring physical health in domestic help below 19 yrs of age, Body Mass Index was calculated by using Quetelet’s Index. BMI could be obtained in 85% and 75% of study subjects in < 14 yrs and 15 – 18 yrs age group respectively. 46% of respondents in both age groups had low BMI. There was no significant difference across the sex.

**Duarah, Kabita (2010)** revealed in her study on “Domestic Child Labour” that despite the numerous legislations passed by the government, they are languishing within the confines of high rises, sprawling mansions and in other middle to low end residences. Engaged as domestic help, they are within the age group of 6 to 14 and suffer the same kind of emotional dilemma- separation form their families which they have to accept because of economic conditions.

**sSTEP, (2010)** a Guwahati based NGO conducted a study on the educational status of child labourers of Guwahati city. The study found that 49.57% of domestic child labourers are illiterate and 43.27% children has left school and joined work. The study also revealed that 67.01% of child labourers are girls while 32.98% are boys of 11-14 years of age.
2.4 RESUME OF THE REVIEWED LITERATURE:

From the above studies, it is clear that the problem of child labour is indeed a grave one. It is not limited to any particular country, in fact, it is a worldwide social reality. Child labour is a significant problem in India. The prevalence of it is shown by the child work participation rates which are higher in Indian than in other developing countries.

The major determinant of child labour is poverty. Even though children are paid less than adults, whatever income they earn is of benefit to poor families. In addition to poverty, the lack of adequate and accessible sources of credit forces poor parents to engage their children in the harsher form of child labour -- bonded child labour. Some parents also feel that a formal education is not beneficial, and that children learn work skills through labour at a young age. These views are narrow and do not take the long term developmental benefits of education into account. Another determinant is access to education. In some areas, education is not affordable, or is found to be inadequate. With no other alternatives, children spend their time working.

Child labour cannot be eliminated by focusing on one determinant, for example education, or by brute enforcement of child labour laws. The government of India must ensure that the needs of the poor are filled before attacking child labour. If poverty is addressed, the need for child labour will automatically diminish. No matter how hard India tries, child labour always will exist until the need for it is removed. The development of India as a nation is being hampered by child labour. Children are growing up illiterate
because they have been working and not attending school. A cycle of poverty is formed and the need for child labour is reborn after every generation. India needs to address the situation by tackling the underlying causes of child labour through governmental policies and the enforcement of these policies. Only then will India succeed in the fight against child labour.