CHAPTER - V

FINDINGS, DISCUSSION, SUGGESTIONS AND CONCLUSION
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On the basis of analysis and interpretation of data the following findings of the study were drawn:

5.1 MAJOR FINDINGS:

1. A large percentage of respondents (67%) belong to the age group 11 – 14 years and 33% respondents belong to 5 – 10 years of age.

2. A large percentage of respondents (64.67%) were male and 35.33% respondents were female.

3. Of the 106 (35.33%) female child labourers 91 (85.85%) were employed as Domestic Helpers, 7 (6.60%) were working in Hotels and 4 (3.77%) female child labourers were working each in Factory and Shops. There were girls working as Bus Handymen and Garage Workers. Except for Domestic Helpers, in all other categories, male child labourers were in a majority.

4. Of the 194 (64.67%) male child labourers 69 (35.57%) were working in Hotels, 43 (22.16%) were employed as Bus Handymen, 32 (16.16.49%) were working as Garage Workers, 20 (10.31%) male child labourers were employed as Shop Workers, 17 (8.76%) were
employed as Factory Workers and only 13 (6.70%) boys were employed as Domestic Helpers.

5. Most of the respondents (68%) belonged to Muslim religion, 31% respondents belong to Hindu religion and only 1% respondents were Christian.

6. A large percentage of respondents (63%) were illiterate. 25.33% respondents had studied upto primary level and only 11.67% respondents attended secondary level.

7. The impact of Child labour Act on the promotion of Universal Primary Education is not effective. A high percentage of respondents (63%) had never attended school, 33% respondents had attended school but discontinued and only 4% respondents had attended school and were also continuing their schooling.

8. A larger percentage of respondents (44.44%) had never attended school due to their financial constraints, 40.74% respondents could not attend school as their parents did not think it necessary, 9% respondents could not attend school as there was no school nearby and only 5.82% had not attended as the children themselves did not consider it necessary.

9. A high percentage of respondents (38.38%) had dropped out of school due to financial constraints, 31.31% respondents had dropped out as their parents did not think the education of their child necessary, 16.16% child labourers had dropped out of school as they did not think
education necessary for them and 14.14% respondents dropped out because they did not liken the school/teachers.

10. Majority of the respondents (59%) were living with their parents, 33.67% respondents were living with their employers and only 7.33% were living with their guardians.

11. A large percentage of respondents (53.06%) were migrated to Kamrup district from various districts of Assam, 36.73% respondents migrated from Bihar, 6.12% migrated from West Bengal, 2.04% respondents migrated from Uttar Pradesh, 0.82% migrated from Andhra Pradesh and only 0.41% respondents migrated each from Tamil Nadu, Tripura and Gujrat.

12. Of the 130 (53.06%) child labourers who were from Assam 52.31% were migrated from Dhubri district. 17.69% child labourers were from Barpeta district, 9.23% were from Goalpara district, 4.62% each from Nalbari and Nagaon district, 3.85% were from Sonitpur district, 2.30% each from Kokrajhar and Darrang districts and 1.54% each from Tinsukia and Cachar districts.

13. A high percentage of respondents (70.33%) had both parents alive, 27.67% respondents had only one parent alive and only 2% respondents had no parents alive.

14. Majority of respondents (50%) had 5-7 members in their family, 38.67% had 3-5 members in the family, 8% had 7-9 members, 3% had.
1-3 members and only 0.33% respondents had above 9 members in their family.

15. Of the 199 child labourers living with parents and guardians family, family income of 28.14% respondents was between Rs.1500 – Rs.2000 per month, family income of 26.62% respondents was between Rs.500- Rs.1000 per month, families of 19.61% respondents earned between Rs.1000-Rs.1500 per month, families of 9.55% respondents earned between Rs.2500-Rs.3000 per month, monthly family income of 6.53% respondents was less than Rs.500, families of 6.03% respondents earned between Rs.2000-Rs.2500 per month and family income of 5.53% respondents was Rs.3500-Rs.4000 per month.

16. A high percentage of respondents (36.67%) started working at the age of 10-12 years, 30.33% respondents started working at the age of 12-14 years, 18.67% respondents started at the age of 8-10 years and 14.33% started working at the age of 6-8 years.

17. Poverty of the parents is the main cause of child labour. Poor economic condition of parents of the children often compels them to start working. In the present study it was found that 49.33% children joined work to financially help their family, 30% joined work due to pressure from parents and guardians, 13.67% joined to earn money whereas only 7% children joined work as they themselves wanted to work.
18. A high percentage of child labourers (34.67%) were working as Domestic Helpers, 25.33% were working as Hotel Workers, 14.33% were employed as Bus Handymen, 10.67% respondents were working in Garages, 8% respondents were employed as Shop Workers and only 7% were working as Factory Workers.

19. A high percentage of child labourers (40.33%) earned between Rs.600-Rs.900 per month, 24.67% earned between Rs.900-Rs.1200 per month, monthly income of 18% child labourers was Rs.300-Rs.600, 10.33% earned between Rs.1200-Rs.1500 per month, 4.33% earned between Rs.1500-Rs.1800 and only 2.33% child labourers earned less than Rs.300 per month.

20. Majority of the respondents (56.33%) gave all of their income to the family, 25.67% gave a part of their monthly income to family, 12.33% respondents themselves spent all of their monthly income whereas only 5.67% respondents saved a part of their monthly income.

21. A high percentage of respondents (41.67%) worked between 10-12 hours per day, 24.67% worked above 12 hours a day, 15.33% worked between 8-10 hours a day, 6.67% worked less than 4 hours a day, 6.33% worked between 6-8 hours a day and only 5.33% respondents worked between 4-6 hours per day.

22. A high percentage of respondents (34%) utilized their leisure time by sleeping and taking rest, 32% spent their leisure time for watching movies and T.V., 18% used leisure time for playing with friends,
7.33% spent their leisure time for personal work, 4.67% did nothing in particular during their leisure time while only 4% respondents used leisure time for study.

23. Most of the parents (61.81%) of the child labourers were illiterate, 27.14% parents studied up to primary level and only 11.05% parents studied up to secondary level.

24. Out of 199 parents of the child labourers a large percentage of parents (61.81%) had sent their children to work to supplement family income, 28.14% parents sent their children to work to learn a trade, 6.03% sent because their children wanted to work while only 4.02% parents had spent their children to work to reduce burden of the family.

25. A high percentage of the parents (69.85%) said that their children contributed to family income and 30.15% parents said that their children did not contribute to family income.

26. A large percentage of parents (57.79%) said that their children had gone to school but dropped out and 42.21% parents said that their children had never gone to school.

27. Children of 60.87% parents were dropped out of school due to financial constraints, children of 9.05% parents were dropped out because their parents did not think it necessary, children of 8.04% parents were dropped out because their children did not think it necessary, 3.52% were dropped out as the child did not show any inclination towards education, 1.51% were dropped out as the children
did not like the school and children of only 0.50% parent was dropped out of school because he/she did not like classmates/teachers.

28. Out of 84 (42.21%) parents whose children had never gone to school, children of 63.10% parents had never attended school due to financial constraints, children of 32.14% parents had not gone to school because the parents did not consider education of their children necessary, children of 3.57% had not attended as they did not like the school and children of only 1.19% parents had not attended school as the children did not show any inclination.

29. The educational facilities provided by the NGO's and Government Organizations were not adequate.

30. A high percentage of parents (68.84%) were satisfied with their children's workplace and 38.16% parents were not satisfied their children's workplace.

31. Out of 38.16% parents who were not satisfied with children's work situation 58.6% were not satisfied due to low wage payment, 20.97% due to children's abuse by the employers, 11.29% were not satisfied because the work done by the children was hard and tiring, 6.45% due to dirty workplace and only 3.23% parents were not satisfied due to irregular employment of the children.

32. Most of the parents (56.78%) were aware about the provision of free and compulsory primary education while 43.22% parents were not aware about the provision of free and compulsory primary education.
33. Majority of parents of child labourers (71.86%) were not aware about the existing Child Labour Prohibition Act while only 28.14% parents were aware about the Act.

34. Of the 172 employers of the child labourers 41.86% employers preferred child labourers because child labour was cheap, 25% preferred because children were trustworthy, amenable to discipline and quick learners, 11.05% preferred as adult worker was not available, 7.56% preferred as the parents requested them, 5.23% preferred as the child was unemployed and only 2.91% employers preferred child labourers as the children were experienced and trained.

35. A large percentage of employers (58.72%) had met the parents/guardians of the child labourers while 41.28% had not met the parents/guardians.

36. 42.44% employers discussed about the child labourers salary with their parents, 26.74% discussed about children’s health, 18.02% discussed about children’s work load and only 12.80% employers discussed about children’s visit to home.

37. 36.62% employers had recruited child labourers because the parents approached for the employment of their children, 27.33% recruited as the children themselves approached for work, 19.19% recruited because other child labourers approached to the employers, 11.63% employers themselves had approached the child labourers to work and only 5.23% employers recruited child labourers because
neighbour/family friend approached the employers to recruit the children.

38. The services of the Labour Department and the Social Welfare Department were not satisfactory. Business establishments of 72.09% employers were not visited by Labour Inspectors whereas establishments of only 27.91% employers were visited by Labour Inspectors.

39. Out of 48 establishments which were visited by Labour Inspectors, 36 establishments were visited once a year by the Inspectors and only 12 establishments were visited once in six months.

40. Most of the employers of the child labourers (80.81%) were aware about the free and compulsory primary education whereas 19.19% employers were not aware about the provision of the free and compulsory primary education for the children of the age group of 6-14 years.

41. Majority of the employers (71.51%) were not aware about the existing Child Labour Prohibition Act while only 28.49% employers were aware about the Act.

42. The services provided by the Government Organizations and Non-Governmental Organizations were not adequate.
5.2 DISCUSSION:

The collected data were analyzed and interpreted in the context of the formulated objectives. Discussion of the above findings was made on the basis of the analysis and interpretation in the sequence of objectives presented in the previous chapter.

Age:

All children belonged to the middle and late childhood age groups. In this study it was observed that most of the child labourers (67%) were in the age group of 11-14 years and 33% child labourers were in the age group of 5-10 years.

Sex:

The study revealed that there are more boys than girls working in various six different sectors of employment. Out of the total sample 64.67% were male and 35.33% child labourers were female. The proportion of female child labourers is relatively smaller than their male counter parts. It may be due to the invisibility of girls working in the business establishments. Child marriage is one of the causes of invisibility of girls in work. Some of the girls even work in the same area as their parents or in their homes or neighbourhood. The advantage was that they could always be kept under surveillance.

Religion:

Regarding religion of the child labourers, it was observed that vast majority (68%) of child labourers belonged to Muslim religion whereas 31%
and 1% child labourers belonged to Hindu and Christian religions. The number of child labourers belonging to Christian religion is relatively smaller than Muslim and Hindu religions. No children were found belonging to other religion.

**Occupation:**

Out of the total sample of 300 child labourers, 104 (34.67%) child labourers were working as Domestic Helpers, 76 were working in Hotels, 43 were employed as Bus Handymen, 32 were working as Garage Workers, 24 child labourers were working in Shops and only 21 were working in Factories. Except for Domestic Helpers, in all other five categories male child labourers were in a majority. Among the 104 Domestic Helpers 91 are female and 13 are male. There are 20 male and 4 female child labourers in Shops and there are only 4 female and 17 male child labourers who work in Factories and there were 69 male and 7 female child labourers in Hotels while there were no female child in Garages and Buses.

**Education:**

Majority of child labourers were deprived of their educational rights which indicates the ineffective impact of Child Labour Act on the promotion of Universal Primary Education. It was found that 63% children were illiterate, 25.33% children had studied upto primary level and 11.67% had studied upto secondary level. Out of the total sample only 4% were continuing their education, 33% had attended school but discontinued and majority of children (63%) had never attended school. Of the 189 children
who had never attended 44.44% had not attended school due to financial constraints, 40.74% had not attended as their parents did not think it necessary, 9% could not go to school as they had no school nearby and 5.82% children did not education necessary. Out of the 99 child labourers who had dropped out of the school, 38.38% had dropped out due to financial constraints, 31.31% dropped out because their parents didn’t consider it necessary to continue school, 16.16% had dropped out as they themselves didn’t think it necessary while 14.14% dropped out due to their dislike for teacher or school.

**Migration:**

Majority of the child labourers 245 (81.67%) were migrated to Kamrup district. Of these 245 migrated child labourers 53.06% were migrated from different districts of Assam, 36.73% were from Bihar, 6.12% were from West Bengal, 2.04% from Uttar Pradesh, 0.82% from Andhra Pradesh and 0.41% children were migrated each from Tamil Nadu, Tripura and Gujrat.

Out of 130 child labourers who were migrated from different parts of Assam, 52.31% children were migrated to Kamrup district from Dhubri district, 17.69% were from Barpeta, 9.23% from Goalpara, 4.62% each from Nalbari and Nagaon districts, 3.85% from Sonitpur, 2.30% each from Kokrajhar and Darrang districts and only 1.54% child labourers were migrated each from Tinsukia and Cachar districts of Assam.
Residence of the Child:

It was found that 177 (59%) child labourers lived with parents, 101 (33.67%) children lived with their employers and only 22 (7.33%) children lived with guardians like elder brother, sister, uncle, aunt and other such persons related to the child.

Family Members:

150 (50%) child labourers had 5-7 members in their family, 116 (38.67%) had 3-5 family members, 24 (8%) children had 7-9 family members, 9 (3%) children had 1-3 members in the family and only 1 (0.33%) child labourers had above members in the family.

Family Income:

The study reveals that out of the 199 families of child labourers living with parents and guardians 28.14% earned between Rs.1500 - Rs.2000 per month, 24.62% families earned between Rs.500 - Rs.1000 per month, 19.61% earned between Rs.1000 - Rs.1500 per month, 9.55% earned between Rs.2500 - Rs.3000 per month, 6.53% earned less than Rs.500 per month, 6.03% earned between Rs.2000 - Rs.2500 per month and 5.53% earned Rs.3500 - Rs.4000 per month.

Age at the starting of work:

It was found that the highest number of children (36.67%) had started working at the age between 10-12 years, 30.33% children started working between ages 12-14 years, 18.67% children started at the age between 8-10 years while only 14.33% children started working between 6-8 years of age.
Reasons for joining work:

The study reveals that poor financial condition of the family was the most prominent reason for joining work by children. Majority of the child labourers (49.33%) joined work to help their families financially, 30% children joined due to the pressure from their parents and guardians, 13.67% children joined work because they wanted to earn some money and 7% children joined work as they themselves wanted to work.

Monthly Income of child labourers:

The study reveals that majority of the children 40.33% earn between Rs.600.00 – Rs.900.00 per month, 24.67% children earn between Rs.900.00 – Rs.1200.00 per month, 18.00% children earn between Rs.300.00 – Rs.600.00 per month, 10.33% children earn between Rs.1200.00 – Rs.1500.00 per month, 4.33% children earn between Rs.1500.00 – Rs.1800.00 per month, while 2.33% child labourers earn less than Rs.300.00 per month.

Working hours of child labourers:

As children are bound to follow the terms and conditions of work laid down by the employers, hence the employers can utilize these child labourers according to their wish and necessity. It was found that maximum number of children (41.67%) worked between 10-12 hours a day, 24.67% children worked for above 12 hours a day, 15.33% children worked between 8-10 hours, 6.67% worked for less than 4 hours a day, 6.33% children
worked between 6-8 hours while 5.33% children worked between 4-6 hours a day.

**Leisure time activities:**

A large number of child labourers (34%) utilized their leisure time to sleep and for taking rest, 32% child labourers enjoyed their leisure time by watching movies and T.V., 18% children utilized leisure time for playing with friends, 7.33% used leisure time for personal work, 4.67% did nothing in particular during leisure time and 4% children utilized leisure time to study.

**Educational qualification of parents and guardians:**

Regarding the educational qualification of parents and guardians of the child labourers it was found that out of the 199 parents/guardians, 61.81% were illiterate, 27.14% parents/guardians had studied up to primary level and only 11.05% parents/guardians had studied up to secondary level.

**Reasons for sending the children to work:**

It was found that majority of the parents/guardians (61.81) had sent their children to work to supplement the family income, 28.14% had sent the children to work so that the children could learn a trade, 6.03% parents/guardians had sent because their children wanted to work and 4.02% had sent to reduce the burden on the family.

**Parents’ attitude towards child’s workplace:**

It was found that a large number of parents/guardians i.e. 137 (68.84%) were satisfied with the child’s workplace and 62 (38.16%)
parents/guardians of the child labourers were not satisfied with the child’s workplace. Out of 62 parents/guardians who were not satisfied with the child’s workplace 36 parents/guardians were dissatisfied due to low wage payment by the employers, 13 parents/guardians were dissatisfied due to child’s abuse by the employers, 7 parents/guardians were dissatisfied due to hard and tiring work done by the children, 4 parents/guardians were dissatisfied due to dirty workplace and only 2 parents/guardians were dissatisfied due to irregular employment of children.

**Reasons for preferring child labourers:**

The problem of child labour is also becoming more serious due to the employers’ preference for child labourers. It was found that 72 (41.86%) employers preferred child labourers as they were cheap and employer could not afford an adult worker 43 (25%) preferred because they were trustworthy, amenable to discipline and quick learners, 19 (11.05%) employers preferred child labourers because Adult worker was not available, 13 (7.56%) preferred child labourers as their parents/guardians constantly requested them to employ them, 9 (5.23%) preferred because the children were unemployed while 5 (2.91%) employers preferred child labourers as these children were experienced and trained.

**Source of recruitment:**

The study reveals that 36.62% employers recruited the child labourers as their parents/guardians approached for the children’s job, 27.33% employed as the children themselves approached for the job, 19.19%
employers employed child labourers on request of other child labourers, 11.63% employers recruited child labourers as the employers themselves approached the children while 5.23% employers recruited child labourers through neighbour/family friends.

**Inspection by Labour Inspectors:**

Lack of inspection of the business establishments and market places by the Labour Inspectors and other competent authority is another cause for the increase in the number of child labourers. 124 (72.09%) employers of the child labourers had reported that Labour Inspectors had never visited their establishments while business establishments of only 48 (27.91%) employers had been visited by Labour Inspectors. Out of these 48 establishments which were visited by Labour Inspector 36 were visited once a year and 12 establishments were visited once in six months by the Labour Inspectors.

**Awareness regarding Universal Primary Education:**

It was found that out of 199 parents/guardians of the child labourers 113 parents/guardians were aware about the provision of Universal Primary Education and 86 parents were not aware about it. Out of 172 employers of child labourers 139 employers were aware about the provision of Universal Primary Education for the age group of 6-14 years while only 33 employers were not aware about the same.

**Awareness regarding Child Labour Prohibition Act:**

The study reveals that out of 199 parents/guardians of the child labourers 143 parents were not aware about Child Labour Prohibition Act
while only 56 parents were aware about the Act. Out of 172 employers of the child labourers 123 employers were not aware about the Child labour Prohibition Act and only 49 employers were aware about this Act.

**Impact of Child labour Act on the promotion of Universal Primary Education:**

Due to lack of awareness of parents and employers, sincere and serious efforts by the Central and the State Governments, dedicated services by the Non-Governmental Organizations and other agencies related with the problem of child labour, the impact of Child Labour Act on the promotion of Universal Primary Education is found to be ineffective. Hence, a large number of children are still out of the four walls of the educational institutions and are compelled to work to earn their livelihood. The study reveals that out of 300 child labourers 189 children had never attended school and 99 had attended but dropped out while only 12 children are continuing their education.

**Services provided by NGO’s and GO’s for child labourers:**

Different Government Organizations and Non-Governmental Organizations are working towards mainstreaming of child labourers. Different schemes and projects are undertaken by these organizations. The Ministry of Child and Social Welfare has been providing funds, which is very meagre to run these projects and schemes. These organizations are running Residential Bridge Course Centre and schools which are located in rented house or local club houses which are very congested. The conditions
of these centres are also very pathetic. There is no provision of proper light, ventilation and water etc. There is also dearth of trained vocational teachers, language teachers. During rainy season, the attendance is low because most of the children suffer from common cold, viral fever, diarrhoea and dysentery. Moreover, frequent migration of the families of the child labourers is the main cause for inconsistent attendance in the centres and schools. There is also lack of proper nutritious food provided to these child labourers.

5.3 SUGGESTIONS:

1. Provisions should be made to improve the economic conditions of the people living in the villages by implementing various employment schemes.

2. The home environment of the child labourers should be healthy and adequate so that the children do not choose to leave their home.

3. Child labourers mostly come from large families due to inability of the parents to meet the basic requirements of their children. Family planning programmes must be rigorously undertaken among parents known for such problems.

4. Continued medical check-ups and hospital facilities should be provided for child labourers who suffer from diseases frequently.

5. There is need to provide mobile health services or wayside dispensaries for child labourers.
6. Medical facilities should be provided at low cost or free of cost to child labourers.

7. Schooling is the obvious and the only best alternative to child labour along with several anti-poverty programme implementations as poverty coupled with mass illiteracy aggravate the situation.

8. Health education programmes informing children about prevention of disease and promotion of health by changing habits, ways of living and encourage them to the health services available, in deed to help them in improving their health conditions.

9. Child labourers were more vulnerable as they had no adults for advices and support and were more vulnerable to physical abuse. There was need to provide some services where an adult aloud talk to them and advise them when needed.

10. As parents and families are involved in abusing children, the existing family welfare agencies should be strengthened to provide counselling and guidance to parents on the upbringing, it is necessary to promote a healthy family environment in order to ensure in-built mechanism within the family to prevent child abuse.

11. Child labour was a breeding ground for drug peddling; the drug control authority and the police department must be alert to this fact.

12. Top priority needs to be given to welfare programmes to rehabilitate children affected by drugs, alcohol, tobacco and sexual abuse, sensitizing the judiciary and police regarding these is necessary.
13. The awareness of child abuse needs to be created through curriculum input among professionals like psychologists, social workers, paediatricians, counsellors and the family life educators.

14. Child labourers need to be integrated into the mainstream of society by providing them with their basic rights.

15. Compulsory education should be provided to the child labourers for their overall development.

16. Education facilities should be provided in the evening late afternoon or holidays at Government school premises.

17. Parents need to be instructed about health and nutritional issues, cleanliness and hygiene.

18. In the area of education, much needs to be explored regarding the appropriate pattern and content of education for child labourers.

19. Vocational training and professional institutions could draw up short term training courses, which could enhance job prospects for children.

20. Employment schemes should be implemented by the Government or voluntary agencies to provide more employment opportunities.

21. The existing educational programmes need to be made flexible and alternatives may be offered to allow child labourers to benefit, develop self confidence and promote self help.

22. For grown-up girls, term training in some productive crafts should be started.
23. Training in tailoring, doll making, bag making, and embroidery should be provided by a skilled and trained person. A stipend would go a long way in encouraging them to attend the training seriously and live a decent living.

24. Government sources and NGO's need to collaborate and work together to meet the basic need of child labourers.

25. National and local Government need to strengthen and extend poverty alleviation programmes to urban poor families, to improve their quality of life.

26. Community Centres need to be established for child labourers, so that they can organize themselves for social meetings, read, watch television etc. to increase their skills and knowledge.

27. Various measures should be taken up by the Government and NGO's to arrest or reduce migration and remove poverty.

28. Space should be provided to start contact centres where initial contact and follow up action may be continued.

29. There is need for active involvement of NGO's in the planning and policy making process for the welfare of the child labourers.

30. Specially trained social workers should provide orientation and awareness programmes for the children as well as parents and members of the family.

31. The Centres should issue certificates after completion of the training programmes, which would help them to secure jobs.
32. More projects need to be launched by the NGO’s where social workers can give new hope of life to the neglected and working children.

33. The negligence of the Indian Railways plays a major role in the growing population of child labourers. Failure in the part of railway authorities in looking after their property leads to the setting up of slums in those areas, thus leading to the emergence of child labourers. Therefore, Indian Railways should take necessary steps in this regard.

34. The Labour Department and Social Welfare Department of the Government should also come forward to arrange for regular inspection of the business establishments. The number of Labour Inspector should also be increased meet the necessary requirement.

35. The employers of the child labourers should also be punished by the Government as per the existing legal provisions.

36. Laws on child labour and education should be consistent in purpose and implemented in a mutually supportive way.

37. Top priority should be given to universalization of elementary education for children between 6 to 14 years within a time frame not exceeding more than 5 years. The other important programme would be non-formal education to help children who are unable or unwilling to attend full time school. These facilities should be provided by NGO’s.
38. The Government and NGO’s should take necessary initiatives to make public aware about the existing Child Labour Prohibition Act.

39. Along with general education, vocational training should be imparted to the children to make them economically independent in their adulthood.

40. Educating the child is not enough without also educating the parents. Hence, there should be greater emphasis on adult education which will teach about nutritional needs of the child and also make a parent aware of the hazards of sending their child to work.

41. The role of trade unions may be very important and effective in the abolition of child labour system. The unions should endorse the idea of outright banning and discontinuing of child work.

42. Seminars, conferences, debate and discussion etc. should be organized from time to time on the Child Labour Prohibition Act as well as on the issues related to child labour.

43. The Government should also take immediate steps for proper and effective implementation of Universal Primary Education.

5.3.1 Suggestions for further studies:

Child labour is a deep rooted and wide spread problem in India. Though this problem existed in India since a long time, no notable investigative literature was available until 1979, the year which was declared as the International Year of the Child. Since then a large number of such literatures of great merit were published in India. Many of these works dealt with the
problem of child labour at macro level and others gave us micro level or regional studies such as child labour issues in various states, cities, urban and rural areas, in particular employment etc. All these works were helpful in bringing the issue to limelight and put pressure on Government and volunteer organization and others to do the needful. But there is almost total lack of such works in Assam inspite of the known presence of large number of child labourers in the state, particularly in tea industry and unorganized sectors.

From the review of related literature it was found that no more studies have been conducted on the impact of Child Labour Act on the promotion of Universal Primary Education. The investigator felt that there is still much scope for research in this field. Some suggestions have been made for further studies.

- The present work “A study on the impact of Child Labour Act on the promotion of Universal Primary Education” can be extended to Assam or India for further studies.
- As Kamrup district houses a large number of child labourers, studies may be made covering all the industrial and commercial establishments.
- Further a study can be made regarding the life style of child labourers.
- A study can be made on the child labourers working in the organized sectors.
- A study may be done on the child labourers working in the unorganized sectors.

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• A comparative study can also be made on the child labourers in organized sector and unorganized sectors.
• A study can be made on the child labour in tea industry of Assam.
• A study may be done on the socio-economic condition of the parents of child labourers.
• A study can be made on the attitude of the parents and employers towards the child labourers.
• In depth study may be done on the contribution of Government organization and NGO’s for the upliftment of child labourers.
• An analytical study may be done on the implementation of various welfare programmes, schemes and projects formulated for child labourers.
• A study can be made on the effects of labour on children’s mental and physical health.
• A research may be done on legal and statutory aspects of child labour.
• Further a study can be done on awareness of rights of child labourers.
• A comparative study may also be done on common children and child labourers.
• A study can be made regarding child labourers in agriculture sector of Assam.
• A study may also be made on the child labourers of rural areas of Assam.
5.4 CONCLUSION:

During the childhood years, children are supposed to be primarily engaged in exploring new ideas, learning new things, playing, friendship and fun, but there is a group of children who do not have the access to those amenities of life. This group of children spends most of their time in working for their livelihood. Some of them do not have a house to live in at all and the workplace becomes their only shelter to live in, even if they are in the most dilapidated and deplorable condition which is not at all suitable for living.

This section of children is trapped in difficult and serious circumstances, all of whom need attention, but do not necessarily receive special care and affection. In India, due to urbanization, industrialization and migration from rural areas and disintegration in the traditional family and community structure, there is a change in the socio-economic scenario, which has given rise to a new vulnerable group of children in the metropolitan cities called “child labourers”. The main reasons which promoted these children to start working and torturing around poverty, family situation, parental neglect, beating and cruel treatment by the parents and employers, attraction towards city life, wish to earn money etc. There are thousands of child labourers both male and female sexes. They live and grow up on the margins of security often without education, affection, care and
guidance from parents and adults. Their places of abode are the workplaces like bus stands, hotels, restaurants, factories, shops, garages etc.

The problem of child labour is a global one and exists in both the developed as well as developing countries. A difference in size and magnitude, the number of child labourers is swelling with every passing year. Most of the cities in India today face the challenge of dealing with the problem of child labour.

The present was restricted to Kamrup district of Assam with some major sections of child labourers. Findings of this study are not expected to differ that much in respect of child labourers in other sectors of Kamrup district and for that matter the state as a whole. Findings of the study have depicted only the sorry plights of this unfortunate and unprivileged section of the society- the child labourers. Findings, which are perhaps not unexpected, tells the story of neglected and exploited children working long hours for a meagre earning in unhealthy environment which is detrimental to the development of economic, psychological and social potentials of children.

It is not true that nothing has been done to check the evils of child labour. It has been considered as a serious problem by the international community. The United Nations Organization and the International Labour Organization have been playing important role in the protection of rights of a child and gradual elimination of child labour globally. Various conventions,
forwarded by the UNO and the ILO are instrumental in formulating laws aiming at regulating and abolishing child labour in countries worldwide.

Indian laws relating to child labourers have also been influenced by various conventions of the International Labour Organization and the declaration of the Rights of Child unanimously adopted by the General Assembly of the UNO in 1959. In fact, India has a large number of legal provisions regulating and prohibiting employment of children in various sectors. Besides these legislative measures Government of India had in the past appointed committees to look into the problem of child labour and had adopted number of policies.

Inspite of the legal provisions for prohibition and regulation of child labour, the Government of India has also initiated various policies and programmes with the objective of providing education, particularly primary education to each and every child of the country irrespective caste, creed, religion, sex, place of birth, socio-economic status etc. Universalisation of Elementary Education (UEE) has been a national goal since Independence. India’s National Policy on Education, 1986 gave the highest priority to the programme of universal elementary education, and recommended that free and compulsory education of sufficient quality be provided to all children up to the age of 14 years before we enter the 21st century. The present thrust is on three aspects, namely, universal access and enrollment, universal retention of children up to 14 years of age, and substantial improvement in the quality of education to enable all children to achieve essential levels of learning. All these aspects have
been incorporated in the various initiatives taken up by the Ministry of Human Resource Development.

Despite of all these, child labour continues to be a serious, deep rooted and wide spread problem in India. Many attribute this to loopholes in the existing laws, inadequate law enforcement mechanism, practical difficulties in enforcing the laws etc. It is also very difficult to totally abolish child labour altogether in a developing country like India where high percentage of population live under poverty line and where percentage of literacy is still comparatively low.

Of course, many believe that compulsory primary education will reduce the problem of child labour to a great extent. In this regard UNICEF comments, "Education can literate today’s child labourers and prevent children drifting into workforce in future....the longer and better the education the less the likelihood that a child will be forced into damaging work." Thus, it can be concluded that Child Labour Acts have been ineffective in eliminating the problem of child labour and also in promoting Universal Primary Education and hence, thousands of children are still out of the four walls of school and are working as child labourers in various sectors of employment.