REVIEW OF LITERATURE

The problem of child labour is prevailing all over the world with different magnitudes. The researchers and social workers all over the world have identified it as a social evil and tried their best to know its basic causes. In the present chapter a brief review of some of the important studies is made in order to understand the problems of child labour. The chapter has been divided in to three categories i.e. International Level Studies, National and State level Studies in India, and Studies in Relation to Jammu and Kashmir.

International Level Studies

Jenson and Neilson (1997) in their study investigate the factors which affects school attendance and child labour in less developed countries, using data from Zambia. While using logit model for analysis the authors conclude that both economic and sociological factors are important determinants for the choice between school attendance and child labour, in extra of this the analysis also support the hypothesis that poverty forces households to keep their children away from school.

Psacharopoulos (2000) in his paper addresses the issue of child labour in relation to educational attainments of working children. The empirical analysis is based on household survey in Bolivia and Venezuela. The results of the study shows that labour force participation is non-trivial among those below the legal working age or supposed to be in schools, contribute significantly to household
income. The author concludes that work reduces the educational attainments by about two years of schooling relative to the control group of non-working children. The author suggests that complementary policies such as subsidies to poor families to keep their children in schools are needed to encourage school participation. This will ensure that the country’s human capital stock will not diminish and future generations will be less impoverished than the present ones.

Ray (2000) analyzed child labour participation and its key determinants using data from Peru and Pakistan. The analysis includes tests of “Luxury” and “Substitution” hypothesis that plays a key role in child labour and child schooling. The results of the study reject both hypothesis in the context of child labour in Pakistan and suggests that income and relative variables do not have the expected negative effect on children work input. Rising wages of adult female labour in Pakistan and falling adult male wages in Peru leads to increased participation of children in labour market. The author suggests that female education and infrastructure investment in basic amenities can play an important role in discouraging child labour and encouraging child schooling.

Delap (2001) conducted a study titled “Economic and Cultural Forces in the Child Labour Debate: Evidence from Urban Bangladesh” using data of Bangladesh slums. The author concludes that household poverty and income stability are important economic determinants of children’s work. However, economic forces alone can
explain child-work deployment. Evidence on availability of adult household to replace child contributions, and on adult and age differentials in household labour deployment, point towards the importance of cultural factors. Key cultural determinants of children’s work include gender norms, age subordination and the importance of avoiding idleness.

Hazan and Burdugo (2002) conducted a study on child labour titled “Child Labour, Fertility, and Economic Growth” by exploring the dynamic evolution of child labour fertility and human capital in the process of development. The authors conclude that in the early stages of development, the economy is in development trap where child labour is abundant, fertility is high and output per capita is low. Technological progress, however increases the wage differentials between parental and child labour, decreases the benefits from child labour and ultimately permits a take-off out of development trap. Parents find it optimal to substitute child education for child labour and reduce fertility. The economy converges in to a steady-state equilibrium where child labour is abolished and fertility is low. The authors suggest that ban on child labour can be pareto improving if it induces certain changes in children wages in the current and next period, and the supply of efficiency units of labour in the next period.

Kulk and Tudlor (2002) in their paper titled “Child Labor and Multinational Conduct: A Comparison of International Business and Stakeholder Codes” examines the way in which multinationals, business associations, governmental and non governmental
organizations deal with the problem of child labour in their codes. With a standardized framework it analyses 55 codes drawn up by these different actors to influence the external and societal behavior. The authors conclude that issues of child labour can not be resolved by business government interaction only, but requires the involvement of other national and international stakeholders as well. The authors suggest research efforts in this direction might focus on the importance of firms, country of origin, particularly the regulatory and societal context, including the role of stakeholders.

Hazarika and Bedi (2003) in their article draw a distinction between child labour with in the household and child labour in the labour market, and examine the separate effects of schooling costs upon these two types of child labour in rural Pakistan. The theoretical framework of study concludes that extra-household child labour and schooling costs are positively related, where as inter-household child labour is insensitive to changes in the cost of schooling. The study suggests that reduction in schooling costs will have limited success in the abatement of child labour in rural Pakistan.

Basu and Chau (2004) in their study concerned with debt, bondage, and child labour employment in the content of an agrarian economy with overlapping generations. The study explores the principal agent interaction between landlords and tenants, and identifies a set of reasons such as why households put children to the work in response to the need to serve outstanding debt, only to realize that children work is “exploited” and households are strictly worse-off.
in general equilibrium. The study finds that debt bondage turns out to be an important future in the cycle of poverty and bonded child labour in the agrarian economies. The authors highlight the role of agrarian institutions in determining the effectiveness of policy measures to combat child labour.

Ventkateswarlu and Ramesh (2004) in their study titled “Child Labour Issues (Dimensions at Global and Indian level)” finds that the prevalence of child labour is strongly correlated with the average level of income in a society. Mere survival sometimes made it necessary for parents of the poor stricken families to send their children to work, and the survival strategy was the push factor for the child labour. Most children started work by helping their families, before they went out to work for others. they did so partly because of poverty. But also in many societies, cultural values and expectations view this as a natural and right way to introduce a child to the roles and responsibilities as a member of a family. This occurred throughout the world in millions of agricultural families. Furthermore the demand side referred to the factors that induced employers to engage children as workers. The more pressure was exerted on the demand side i.e. more uses for child labour was generated, the more productive and remunerated it will be.

Erasdo (2005) in his study titled “Child Labour and Schooling Decisions in Urban and Rural Areas: Comparative evidence from Nepal, Peru and Zimbabwe”. The study throws some light on the causes of child labour using cross country empirical data. He found
that poverty was the main cause of child labour in rural areas. The evidence from all countries suggested that efforts to bolster adult education level and wage will help curb the prevalence and intensity of child labour and improve the likelihood that children stay the schools. O’Donnell et.al (2005) tests health effects of child work, by focusing on dominant form of child work world wide. The study examines three indicators of health i.e. height for age, reported illness and height growth using data from Vietnam Living Standards Survey. The study concludes that there is a little evidence of contemporaneous negative impact of child work on health but, particularly for females, work undertaken during childhood raises the risk of illness up to five years latter. For boys, the risk increases with the period of time in work. There is no evidence that work impedes the growth of the child.

Wahaba (2006) examine the influence of adult market wages on child labour using data from Egypt. The empirical results of the study suggests that low adult market wages are key determinants of child labour, a 10% increase in illiterate wage market wage decreases the probability of child labour by 22% for boys and 13% for girls. The finding also indicates that importance of social norms in the intergenerational persistence of child labour: parents who where child labourers themselves are on average 10% more likely to send their children to work. In addition, higher local regional income inequality increases the likelihood of child labour.

Lee (2007) in his study titled “Three Essays on Child Labour, Schooling Outcomes and Health” examined interrelationship between
child labour, schooling and health using data from United States and Brazil. The study finds that in developing countries child labour begins at an early age and in developed countries it starts from teenage. The study also concluded that U.S child labour laws were not effectively enforced in limiting teenage labour supply or improving school outcomes. The author suggested that policies limiting child labour might be justified as means of improving child’s welfare later in life but weak enforcement means that such policies had been only modesty successful in the past.

Hou (2010) in his study uses cross sectional time series data to examine the relationship between wealth, child labour and schooling in Pakistan. The study finds that wealth is crucial in determining the child’s activities, but is far from being a sufficient condition to enroll a child in school and same is the case rural girls. Non –parametric analysis shows a universal increase in school enrolment for rural girls from 1998 -2006 and this increase is independent of wealth. Multinomial logit regression still further shows that wealth is insignificant in determining households decision about rural girls. The author suggests that goal of increasing school enrolment should be broadly targeted in order to eradicate the problem of child labour.

Ray and Chatterjee (2010) considers a general equilibrium model of small open less developed economy suffering from unemployment problem in adult labour market on the one hand and the existence of child labour on the other hand. There are three sectors in the model. The rural sector of the economy produces
exportable commodity using adult and child labour. One of the urban sector produces non-traded intermediatively commodity using adult labour and capital. The other urban sector is tariff protected import competing sector of the economy that produces its product using adult labour and a non-traded intermediary input. There is presence of adult unemployment, but other inputs are fully employed. The paper examines the effectiveness of alternative non-traded policies on the incidence of child labour as well as on the urban unemployment.

The main results of the study are:

i) Government encouragement to school education is effective in eradicating child labour incidence but does not have any impact on urban adult unemployment rate.

ii) Unemployment allowance to urban adult workers will not unambiguously curtail either child labour incidence or urban adult unemployment problem.

iii) Increase in adult literacy rate will create favorable impact on school enrolment of children as well as on child labour supply.

Kiskotas and Schulze (2011) in their study titled “Child Labour in Indonesian Small Industries” analyze the geographical incidence of child labour in manufacturing firms of Indonesia at village level. They used unique data set which covers virtually all Indonesian villages and urban neighborhood, in order to distinguish between demand and supply side determinants of child labour. The authors conclude that credit access and school proximity reduce child labour supply but simultaneously constitute positive location factors for firms thereby increasing the demand for child labourers.
Chapter 2

Review of Literature

National and State Level Studies in India

Singh and Maya (1990) in their study “The Problems of Child labour” based on census data (1961-81) has shown that the majority of child labourers in India are employed in agriculture sector and as family labourers in peasant form known as cultivators. The study has further pointed out that nearly 1/5th of the child labourers in India are engaged in organized sector. The author suggests that government should take proper policies and programs to eradicate the problem of child labour.

Behura and Behra (1991) in their study on child labour concluded that child labour is deep rooted in economic and social setup of India. Poor economic conditions, parental education, their attitude towards socialization of child, and large size of family are strong factors identified by author for compelling children to work.

Mishra and Mahapatra (1991) concluded that parental occupation plays an important role in deciding whether the children will go to school or work. The author analyzed the occupation of parents with incidence of child work and finds that those parents who are employed in jobs with good salary or wages send their children to schools and those whose earnings are low send them to work. The author suggests that wage rate in every sector should be hiked to reduce the incidence of child labour in the country.

Dhillion and Arora (2001) in their paper “Child Labour in Prosperous State: A study of Socio-economic and Working conditions in the Knitting industry in Amritsar” found that out of the sample of
100 child workers, 67 percent was below 14 years and 33 percent was between 14-15 years. The minimum age of sampled child worker was 10 years. The study shows that 58 percent of children joined labour force between 10-12 years of age. The perception of the study shows that 72 percent of the sampled children wants to study but could not continue it because of the poverty. 5 percent of the sampled children joined labour force because of death of their father and 21 percent joined labour force they were to pay off their family debt.

Mayura (2001) concludes in his article titled “Child Labour in India” though India has definitely made a marked progress in overall social development and implemented measures required necessary for protection of working children, there is still need to expand the network of enforcement machinery required for enforcing various existing laws on child labour in the country. This exercise if done will certainly go a long way in solving the precious future of millions of working children in India.

Aggarwal (2004) in his study “Child Labour and Household Characteristics in Selected States: Estimates of NSS 55th Round” found that there exists considerable variation in India in the age, sector and sex-wise distribution of child labour. The study delineates the magnitude of child labour and household characteristics in four selected states (M.P, Maharashtra, Tamilnadu, and U.P). The analysis shows that among other things, poverty and illiteracy have a bearing on child labour. The author suggests that a policy is needed to make education more meaningful and rewarding so that households are
given incentives to send their children to school and keep them there. Policy measures aims at poverty alleviation and social and physical infrastructural development may also help to reduce child labour.

Das and Mukherjee (2007) uses 55th round household data from National Sample Survey Organisation of India to show that there exists significant wage incentive for schooling of urban male children. The results of the study shows that parent’s level of education plays an important role in reducing the tendency of children to become child labour and mothers education also appears as a very important factor in curbing the incidence of child labour. The authors suggest that women’s empowerment is needed to eliminate the problem of child labour.

Chambarbagwala (2008) in his paper titled “Regional Returns to Education, Child Labour and Schooling in India” tries to establish the relationship between regional returns to primary education and schooling. The empirical analysis of study shows that children’s participation in school responds positively to regional returns to primary education, and regional returns to primary education is negatively related with child labour. The study also supports the hypothesis that besides poverty and credit constraints, parents expectations of future earning for their children affect schooling and child labour decisions. The author suggests that effectively banning child labour in developing countries will worsen rather than improving the conditions of child labourers. The view of the author in regard to reducing child labour is to implement such policies that raise the
economic benefits of education and thereby create the incentive for parents to educate their children rather than send them to work. The results presented in paper suggest that instead of banning child labour it more appropriate and effective to implement a part time work study policy. Allowing the poorest children to work and allocating a small proportion of time each day to educating them may help to acquire some human capital. Programmes that teach these children to read, write and some technical skill may be more beneficial to them than a regular academic programme. Such a policy would not only allow the poorest households to retain the children’s income, but will also provide basic education to their children that may help them to break vicious circle of sending their children to school.

Kanth and Sahi (2009) in their paper titled “Globalization, Vulnerability, and Child Labour: Indian Context” finds micro level poverty within the family as the major factor behind the prevalence of child labour. Everywhere parents prefer to send their children to school, but it is poverty, lack of resources which compels parents to send their children to work instead of school. The authors suggest that need of the hour is to frame such policies which target poverty, and then the problem of child labour will eradicate himself.

Mehta and Sherry (2009) in their paper attempts to address the demand side strategies of child labour in traditional Zardosi (golden embroidery) industry based on primary survey. The detailed analysis reveals that child workers constitute a critical factor in determining the productivity and profitability due to nature of work in the
industry. However, exploitation of child workers is also reported in the industry with low wages and longer hours of work. Overall demand side analysis clearly shows that presence of child workers plays a significant role in determining the profitability of workshops, the authors suggest that training and skill development with schooling for children needs special attention so they can later enter into the labour market with skills in hand, which would enhance their bargaining power.

Swami (2010) in her article “God’s lesser children” observed that child labour in India is a human right issue for the whole world. It is a serious and extensive problem, with many under the age of 14 working in carpet making factories, glass blowing units and making with bare little hands. Children work for eight hours at a stretch with only a small break of frugal meals: they are ill nourished. Most migrant children, who cannot go home, sleep at work places, which is very bad for their health and development. Child labour is a complicated problem, but enough has been discovered over the years to conclude that children are often placed in extremely hazardous activities such as mines and factories with exposure to toxic chemicals. She also founds that some common causes of child labour are poverty, parental illiteracy, social apathy, ignorance, lack of education and exposure, exploitation of cheap and unorganized labour, but from them poverty and over population have been identified as two main causes of child labour.
Studies in Relation to Jammu and Kashmir

Ali (1987) in his study “Child Labour in Carpet Industry of Kashmir” tried to examine the nature and causes of child labour in carpet industry of Kashmir. The author observed that 97 percent of child labourers joined work due to poverty and only 3.5 percent joined due to lack of interest in education. In case of age profile of child labour majority was in the age group of 10-14 years. While discussing about the wage rates received by the child labourers the author finds that 1/4th of the working children were either unpaid or paid below Rs 1 per day and more than half of the child labours get less than Rs 3 as daily wages.

Ahmad (2009) in his study “Child Labour Practices in Kargil” found that most of child labourers in District Kargil of Jammu and Kashmir were illiterate and compelled to work at an early age due to poverty and other low socio-economic factors of the family. The study also finds that children were paid very low wages and work in very unhygienic atmosphere which badly affects their health. The author suggests that government should arrange night schools and counseling canters for child workers. So that they can be awared about their rights.

Hamid and Hamid (2011) undertake a study to analyze the socio-economic conditions of child labour in district Budgam of Kashmir. The study founds that out of the sample of 160 child labourers 60 percent was in the age bracket of 13-14 years and 40 percent amoung them have started their work at an early age of 11-12
years. The study also finds out of the 160 sampled children 75 percent join labour force due to poverty and 6.25 due to death of one or both of their parents. The authors suggest that acceleration of economic growth of the countries and improvement in workers income would reduce the necessity of having children work. The argument is credible because poor families need the income in spite of the legal restrictions and government policy.

Nengroo (2012) conducted a study entitled “Determents of Child Labour in Carpet Industry of Kashmir – A Case Study of District Kulgam” to determine the factors which compel children to work at an early age. The author concludes that low family income, low wages of adults, natural calamity in the area, extravaganza in superstitious customs, absence of culture of sending children to school, unfaithful implementation of laws regarding child labour, and lack of compulsory education are some of the major factors constituting supply of child labour. The author suggests that government should implement the laws related to child labour on priority basis and stress on polices which target poverty at rural level.

To conclude we can say that most of the studies point out that poverty, low parental education, low income of parents, bad habits of parents, and negligence on the part of the government are the main factors which govern the problems of child labour at the global level, National level, and in the State of Jammu and Kashmir.

After reviewing the existing literature it has been found that the main loopholes of the studies are as follows:
1. Most of the studies are based on secondary data.

2. Very little research has been done on child labour in carpet industry in Jammu and Kashmir.

3. Very little literature is available on the socio-economic conditions of child labour working in carpet industry of Kashmir.

4. Considering Jammu and Kashmir the separation of child labour data on rural urban pattern and in relation to district level total population and child population is not available in any of the study.

This research work tries to clear all the above mentioned gaps.