Chapter-3

CHILD LABOUR- A PROFILE

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History of Child Labour

In ancient societies, the daily occupation entrusted to the adults and the children were gradual. Children were socialized by learning skills and customs so that by the time they pass through the *rite de passage*, they had become fully accomplished adults. The transitions in to the modern industrial society changed all the traditional factors for at least two basic reasons: the initiation of formal education turned childhood into a distinct phase of life and work done by the children changed its character from family employment to the sale of labour power.

During the pre-industrial period child labour had been prevalent in Germany in, a) workshops and in b) factories of postindustrial and early industrial phase between 1750-1850. Further, there are evidences to prove that the existence of child labour even as early as in 16\textsuperscript{th} and 17\textsuperscript{th} centuries, in orphanages and workhouses. In 1667, “for instance, children worked together with convicts at the loom in the orphanage of Basel (Germany) in order to turn out products of sale”. (Arno herzing, 1990)

Even in 1536, England had an act on the practice of child labour. According to this Act children who are between the age of 5-14 could work in agriculture and cottage industries to improve their skills for their adult life. Also there was a plan to fix the minimum wage for different laboures. In 1601, Queen Elizabeth implemented a new Act. Through this Act it was made clear some direction to the parents to look after their children well.

Further, there was a provision in the Act to appoint some officers at local level for the effective implement of the Act. In 1667, the Board of Trade requested
William III to constitute a committee to investigate into the present conditions of the poor and destitute children in the country. These committees recommended establishing informal schools to the working children with free supply of food and some other benefits to the poor parents. (Shah, 1992).

In 1784, the Board of Juries sent a proposal to the King to take appropriate action to improve the present condition of the child labourers. Next there was a provision in the proposal to provide all available facilities to the child workers. In 1795, the Board of Health was established to keep an eye on the health of the children working in hazardous sectors. In 1802, Robert had conducted a survey on children working in different factories and recommended to implement a new Act called Apprentices Act 1801. This act had made some provisions to provide education to working children including moral and spiritual education,

**According to this Act;**

1. There was a ban on different factories to hire apprentices to work during nighttime
2. Apprentices should not work more than 12 hours a day and
3. Factories should not hire children who are below 9 years.

Since this Act had a lot of drawbacks, again in 1819, a new Act was passed. It was a modified version of the 1802 Act. According to the new Act, factories should have arranged lunch and other facilities to the children. But this Act also failed in avoiding the exploitations of the children. So in 1833, a new Factory Act was enacted.

**According to this Act;**

1. Children who are below 13 years old could work up to 8 \( \frac{9}{9} \) hours a day and not more than 48 hours in a week.
2. Child labourers should attend school at least for about 2 hours a day and
3. Fixed holidays and other benefits should be provided to the child laboures.

During the early part of 19th century, New England Mill employed children between the age of 8 to 9 years old, to work often for 12-13 hours a day. Soon local government recognized that these children would grow up illiterate. In 1836, Massachusetts enacted a law requiring all children under 15 should have received education for at least three months in a year. Other New England State enacted a compulsory school law and passed restrictions on children’s working more than ten hours a day.

In 1844, a new Act was passed in favour of child laboures to fix minimum wage and hours of work in factories. In 1847, a new Act was brought to improve the conditions of women and children working in cotton industries. In 1850, and in 1853, there were many laws and Act in favor of working children. In 1860, a new Printing Press Act was implemented. In 1870, England brought a historical Act to provide free and compulsory education to all the children who are in between 5 to 10 years. This Act gave permission to the owners to hire children who are above 15 years old to work in households and construction sites and in factories etc.

Outside England there was no great mass employment of children until the Civil War, which gave impetus to large-scale production. Children then became an important part of toll of machine methods. As early as in 1881, adult workers were aroused with references to both the disorganization of the child laboures and the “Unfair Competition” which the children posed for adult labour. Children could operate many machines with various facilities. In that year, the newly founded American Federation of Labour urged the abolition of child labour in USA. Until such claim however, the effort to restrain employers from exploiting young children gain momentum (Department of Labour, USA, 1959).
During the period from 1885 onwards, European immigration flooded the country to participate in the vast industrial development. Industrialists sponsored immigration to promote surplus supply of labour, so that they might keep wage low for all labour and operate their businesses at higher profits. It was most common in USA, UK and Germany. The children of such labourers had little alternative but to seek work in order to contribute towards their family income.

After World War I, the number of children employed in different industries decreased sharply. It was largely because of the decline in industrial production worldwide. By this time there were some movements in USA, UK, and Germany to impose ban on child labour. The US Congress enacted a child labour Amendment in 1924, and it had been ratified by 28 states. This is the first Act against child labour in the history of this issue. In consequence of the generally aroused opinion, the number of employed children from 10 to 15 decreased by 46.7 per cent between 1910 and 1920 and 33.3 per cent in 1930 (Greene, 1954).

During the depression years of the thirties, in the USA the problem of child labour took serious turns. Because of the vast number of unemployed breadwinners, many children left school to help and support their families or themselves. Quite often such cases have not been reported to any statistical bureau. There were other trends accompanying the employment of children during the depression. Children drifted to the less desirable, lower–paid and generally unregulated industries. Many young children were out of school because they could not afford the cost of education (James, 97).

At the same time, social sentiment was mounting against child labour. The new National Recovery Act (NRA) was in force in the USA between 1933 and 1935 which prohibited children under sixteen years of age from working in industry and those between sixteen to eighteen from employment in the hazardous
industries. Children were practically eliminated from the labour scene temporarily. The NRA was declared unconstitutional in 1935 and the number of children working soon mounted as an adverse effect (Google search).

In 1937, however, the ‘Sugar Act’ (USA) was implemented to prohibit the children under fourteen years from working in the Beet Fields. Children in the age group of fourteen to sixteen were not allowed to work more than eight hours a day in the beet industry and were to receive the same wages as adults. A revision of the law in 1940 severely penalized all beet growers hiring children. Children were virtually eliminated from one of the industries in which they were most seriously exploited. Meanwhile in USA the Fair Labour Standards Act of 1938, often designated as the “Wage and Hour Act,” prohibited the shipment in interstate or foreign commerce of any article produced under conditions of “oppressive child labour” (Wolff, 1969).

The Fair Labour Standards Act was amended in 1957, and fixed sixteen years as the limit for any employment during school hours or for any time and in manufacturing, mining or processing occupations requiring duties in workrooms or factories and for power-driven machinery. Thirteen different occupations prohibiting employment in explosives, manufacturing, driving or helping on motor vehicles, coal mining, exposure to radioactive substances, operating hoisting apparatus or metal forming, punching, and shearing machines, mining in non-coal industries, work in slaughtering and meat packing, bakery, machinery work were considered hazardous particularly to the small children. In these industries, children must have been attained eighteen years of age before they could be employed. They must have also been eighteen before they can be employed as public messengers or as operators of vehicles (Markoff, 1957).
During World War II, child labour laws were relaxed in order to increase the number of available workers in the factories and to meet the demands for labour on the home front. So much of the normal labour force was absorbed either in the armed services or in the production of materials to meet with essential civilian needs. Children were recruited and in many instances were illegally employed under the coverage of existent state and federal laws.

Former USSR also had many noted laws and Acts to safeguard women and children. In 1932, Code of Labour Act was passed. According to this Act ban was enforced on employers to hiring children below 15 years to work in hazardous sectors. But there was no provision for children to work during nighttime. Further, USSR brought some guidelines to avoid exploitations of the innocent children such as;

- Imposing ban on hiring of children below 16 years except for academic or education related work
- Compulsory medical examinations before hiring children who are below 16 years
- Below 16 years old, children should not be asked to work not exceeding 6 hours a day and there should have been a provision to provide holiday and other facilities

In 1971, an Act was passed to restrict children to work in hazardous sectors like garage and mining. Further government constituted a watching committee to keep an eye on the labour market and employer’s.

In 1988, USSR brought out a powerful Act, which banned on hiring children between 6 to 14 years old. A lot of stress was given to provide free education, dress, food etc to the children and also some guidelines to the parents. But after the disintegration of former USSR, due to severe economic depression,
the rate of working children are keep increasing now a days (Perasthroyeeeka, USSR, 1980).

The Indian Context

In ancient India, it was one of the responsibilities of the king to provide education to his people. During that time child labour was existed in the form of child slaves. Children sometimes even less than 8 years of age, were purchased to do the so-called low and dishonorable works. In ancient times, parents were considering the early involvement of their children in family occupations as a part of socialization. So children were accepted to help their parents in household works and other traditional activities. They were used to learn skills by observing and participating in such activities.

In mid 19th century, many European owned industries entered India. They invested a lot of money on Coffee, Tee, and Indigo and Jute industries. So Handicrafts business gradually keep started to disappear. Later on cotton, jute industry and coal mining were started in an organised way. Due to the industrial revolution in early 19th century more or less Indian agriculture was become mechanized. Number of different factories was increased. Small landholders started to work, as farm labourers in bigger forms. It was because of small land holdings were no longer economically viable. As and when factories increased in number, they started to hire children because of cheap labour force. No demand for more wage, long hours of work for less wage, easy to disciplined were the main reasons behind hiring the children. A considerable amount of children were employed in the northern part of the India particularly in cotton and jute mills during last phase of the 19th century. A report says between 1891 and 1923 the number of children employed in factories increased from 18,880 to 74,290 an increase of 25%. (Year Book, 1953-1954, p. 96.)
Concept of Child Labour

The term ‘Child Labour’ has different meaning in different societies. A universally accepted definition of child labour is not available. A distinction is often made between child work and child labour. ‘Child Work’ refers to occasional light work done by the children, which in most of the societies is considered to be an integral part of child’s socialization process. While helping parents at home and in family farms, children learn to take responsibilities and pride in their own activities acquire certain skills and prepare themselves for the tasks of adulthood. ‘Child Labour’ implies something different in which young people are being employed to have economic benefits or overworked or deprived of their rights to health, education or just to enjoy childhood. It impairs their health, overall physical, and mental and social growth.

The distinction between both child work and child labour may be briefly stated as follows

**Child Work;**
- Light work [children learn to take responsibilities]
- Respect of Children’s right to health & education and
- Occasional and socially legal

**Child Labour;**
- Hard & hazardous work and exploitation
- Deprivation of rights to health & education
- Constant and long hours of work and Illegal.
- Basically to earn some money for livelihood *
Definition of Child Labour

The measurement of child labour depends of course on how it is defined. The Ethical and Cultural views of the society influence this in turn. Few of the social activities take the position that all non-school, non-leisure activities of children constitute child labour. This includes light work after school in a household, help in domestic works such as house cleaning and looking after the siblings. Other than these, count only a full time employment in economic activities of children or focus on worst and inhuman kind of child labours, such as child prostitution, scavenging, or backbreaking work in quarries in mines. Likewise, the concept of child differs greatly across societies and cultural settings. In many western countries chronological age is the sole criterion. But in other societies cultural and social factors play a vital role. It is depend more on social responsibilities than age. (Rodgers and Standing, ‘Current Anthropology’. Vol.12 (4): 1981).

Hence, it is clear that the concept of child labour is not so simple as it may appear. Childhood can be defined in terms of age. But different societies will have different age threshold for demarcating childhood and adulthood. In some societies, age may not be a sufficient basis for defining childhood. The fulfillment of certain social rites and traditional obligations may be important requirements in defining adult and child status. In still others, the integration of children into socio economic life may begin so early and the transition from childhood to adulthood may be so smooth and gradual that it may be virtually impossible to identify clearly the different life phase of life (Whoodhead, 1999).
The term ‘Child Labour’ is commonly interpreted in two different ways; first as an economic practice and secondly, as a social evil. In the first context, it signifies employment of children in gainful occupations with a view to add to the income of the family. In the second context, the term labour is more generally used. In assessing the nature and extent of the social evil, it is necessary to take into account the character of the job on which the children are engaged, the dangers to which they are exposed and the opportunities of development which they have been denied (Aggarwal, 1997).

The above statements clearly show that the conceptualization of the child status leads to ambiguity. So, a standard definition has to be accepted to determine an age range for defining a child or child labour. The Indian factory act of 1948, which is an elaborate and highly specific Act relating to child labour, makes use of 3 different concepts to classify the workers, i.e a ‘child’, a ‘young person’ or an ‘adolescent’ and an ‘adult’. It has been made explicit in this Act that a person below the age of 15 years is to be regarded as a child. We can say, any physical labour undertaken by a child of below 15 years either under compulsion or pressure or voluntarily in an organized or unorganized sector qualifies to be called as child labour. However International community recognizes all the children below 18 are child labourers. Recently a lot of local and international NGOs are demanding the Indian Government to follow these international guidelines in India too. (Shandilya and Khan, 2003).

The word child labour has been differently defined in various studies. According to the Committee on Child Labour (1998) it is broadly defined as ‘that segment of child population engaged in works either paid or unpaid’. In the study conducted among the working children in Bombay, Singh and others have held a view that child labour means a working child who is between the age group of 6 and 15 years of age and not attending school and working under an employer or
learning some trade as an apprentice (Singh, 2001). In the other study on working children conducted by the Indian Council of Child Welfare every child below 14 years of age who contribute to the family income or has treated as a worker. According to the UNICEF it is very important to distinguish between the works that is beneficial and works that is intolerable. Since the interpretation falls in between these two extremes it is believed that child labour is an exploitative one if it involves;

- Full-time work at an early age
- Too many hours spent working
- Work that exerts undue physical, social or psychological stress
- Work and life on the streets in bad conditions
- Inadequate wage
- Too much responsibility
- Work that hamper access to education
- Work that undermines children’s dignity and self esteem, such as slavery or bonded labour and sexual exploitations
- Work that is detrimental to full social and psychological development (UNISEF, 2001).

In India, many labour Acts have fixed the minimum age for employment. But, the definition of a child in terms of age differs from Act to Act: The Factories Act prohibits employment of children below the age of 14 years in factories. The limit in Mines Act is 15 years whereas it is 12 years in Plantation Labour Act. The Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986, defines ‘child‘ as a person who has not completed his fourteen-year of age.

Article 24 of the Constitution of India states; “No child below the age of 14 years shall be employed to work in any factory or mines or engaged in any
other hazardous employment.” Thus, one may broadly say that a child means a person who has not completed his fourteenth year of age.

Study conducted by Prasad shows that when individuals are engaged in the production process, not primarily to meet their psychological and physiological needs, but to meet the profit-motivated needs of the employer, the process they are engaged in may be called “Labour”. ‘Work’ becomes labour when the child’s capacity to produce a surplus beyond the value of means of existence is capitalised upon the employer. Labour denies the producer an opportunity for Self-direction and control. (Prasaad. 2001).

In the Indian context, there has been a tendency to formulate the definition of child labour rather loosely. Even in the latest Labour Commission Report (2001) all working children are taken as one hardly differentiated category. It also includes all the children who are out-of-school. Burra (2001) advocate that a child labourer is basically a child who is deprived of the right to education and childhood. What makes her definition important is that it makes it unambiguously clear that all out-of–children are working children in one form or another. Further, she writes that the ‘nowhere children’ are stated to be the potential child labours and are assumed to be staying at home away from schools. So that they can take over some of the house hold duties of the parents and allow the parents to go out for work. According to this definition, India has around 80 million of child labours

Hence, Litten (2003) has a more acceptable opinion that “child labour should be treated as one concept rather than two separate words, which combine in the same way as adult labour”. It is not all work done by children, but we can say it is a specific context with a specific duration and with a specific potentially harmful to their health. It is a concept, which looks at the point of view of an
under aged person from the specific interest of the child rather than from the point of view of economic accounting. Such a usage of child labour “as one concept rather than as two words would include certain activities, which until now generally have not been included in the present statistics, and would exclude many activities, which now are included”.

Meanwhile, radical changes occurred on the socioeconomic front with the advent of industrialization and urbanisation under the impact of the newly generated centrifugal and centripetal forces in case of India (Rao, 1998). This industrialization brought fundamental changes in the mode of production and in the relationship of productive factors. Intensive mechanization had made agricultural productive as capital intensive. Family based economy was destroyed. So, small and landless former start migrates to urban areas for the survival. Thus urban industries had surplus labour. As a result, the children were in a hectic situation where they had to earn for themselves as well as for the families. Profit oriented traders and other employers attracted such cheap labour force. Children are the cheapest to hire and easiest to fire (Dak, 2003).

**Occupational Structure**

The classification of labourers into various sectors can give an indication of the level of economic development. Clack (1988) has observed that ‘economic growth is a process of structural transformation of an economy from its substance sector into the secondary and then to the tertiary industrial sectors’. The shift of workers from the primary sector in their economic activities to secondary and tertiary sector follows industrialization and development of the economy.

**Primary sectors;** This relates to the production of primary goods in agriculture and in the allied pursuits. Children in this sector include engaged;

- in cultivation
• as agricultural labourers
• in livestock, forestry, fishing and
• In mining and quarrying.

Secondary sector;
This includes all children’s engaged in manufacturing, processing, servicing and repair in
• household industry
• other than the household industry and construction

Tertiary sector;
• Trade and commerce
• Transport, storage and communication
• Other services.

Child laboures are generally found in all above-mentioned three sectors in case of India. Also, in number of other economic activities like brick kilns, stone quarries, construction, carpet weaving, handlooms, matches and fireworks, glass, bangles, diamond cutting and polishing, lock making, household activities, hotels and restaurant etc.

Organized and Unorganized Sectors
We can classify the child labour in to two types; legal child labour and illegal child labour. Legal child labour is a child labour, who is above the minimum age, but not an adult. Example in factories, workers in the category of 14-18 years are child laboures. On the other hand illegal child labour is one, which is below the specified age limit and working in the sectors, which is organised themselves. For example hotels, garage, domestic, agriculture, teashops, household industries, and other occupations, which is not covered by the child
labour legislation, Acts (Murthy, 1987). Million of children are working mainly in unorganised sectors only. Because jobs will be easily available in these sectors and no need of having any special skills or experiences. Almost all jobs comes under unorganised sector are small activity oriented and children would be more suitable to these kind of occupations. Since, many of the occupations do not come under any specific law and Act/s employers are severely exploiting the children here. Low wages, long working hours, working without protections are some different types of difficulties facing by the children working in these sectors. Although organised sector is being under constant monitoring under various Government agencies as per the law her too children are exposed to various forms of hazards and are exploited in different ways by the employers. On the other hand, Mohsin writes “organised sectors are characterized by large enterprises, using highly mechanized or capital intensive technologies, the scope of children’s work relatively declines, vis-à-vis, the smaller enterprises, since child workers appear redundant and uneconomical in a production system using advanced technology and a reduced labour force” (Mohsin, 1993).

**Child labour in Hazardous Sectors**

Like organized and unorganized sectors, we can classify the children occupations into two major types based on level of the risks involved; 1 Hazardous 2 Non hazardous. The recent survey has shown that 67% of children are working in hazardous sectors (UNDP, 1999). Child laboures working in agricultural sector in India is said to be the highest in the world. Children working in agriculture often face hazards through exposure to biological and chemical agents. Children can be found mixing, loading and applying pesticides, fertilizers or herbicides, some of which are highly toxic and potentially carcinogenic (causes cancer).
Further, mining, carpet industry, glass and molding construction work sericulture, beedi rolling, firework are some of the other most hazardous sectors where most of the children are found employed with respect to India. A report said that around 3,00,000 in carpet and 40,000 child labourers are employed in glass industry. Work in the above mentioned include draw molten glass from the furnace for making bracelets and glassware. The report also states that child workers in glass industries operate in front of the furnace, where temperature goes up to 1550 degree Celsius. Many of them, due to the harsh working environment, get physically and mental scarred and may suffer from chronic illness, destroyed eyesight and even premature death (Front line, 2004).

A survey conducted in the Surath City of Gujarat ‘more than 1800 children under the age 14 is working in a diamond cutting job which has been considered as hazardous one to the children. And these children contribute nearly 1/3rd of their families total income’. In Bangalore City mostly children are working in some hazardous sectors like construction cites, carpet, glass, garage-unorganised industries, beedi rolling Zari and sericulture-etc

The plight of child labourers in unorganized sectors in India is somewhat better than that of children working in hazardous industries. These children are deprived of minimum wages, regular working hours and also job security. Most of these children belong to marginal comminutes of socially of economically deprived groups (Pattnaik and Beedi, 1998).

**Causes of Child labour**

The existence of child labour and their exploitation are deep-rooted in Indian society because of poverty, unemployment, over population, illiteracy and pressure to continue the family occupations. Not only that, culture, socialization process, kinship and marriage also influences the child labour problem.
• **Poverty**

It is the most vital reason for the existence of the child labour problem not only in India but also across the Globe. Due to poverty, parents are forced to send their children to seek employment for the survival of the families. Next, as UNISEF rightly said that while poverty was often cited as the main cause of child labour; it was equally true that child labour perpetuated poverty.

• **Unemployment**

Adult unemployment is a vital reason for the existence of the child labour problem in India. More than 55 million children are in labour force, which are equal to the number of unemployed adults in the country. Low wage structure of the adults also forces the children to work to supplement inadequate family income.

• **Caste and social discrimination**

Caste and social discrimination play a vital role in perpetuating child labour in India. The depressed class people are more vulnerable to the different kinds of exploitations. Among many backward and depressed castes of India, the rate of child labour has remained high always, due to the high rate of illiteracy, malnutrition and proper rehabilitation facilities etc. In India, 54 per cent of children belong to SC, and 22 per cent to ST remain beyond reachable to primary education till today (Panday, 2001).

• **Population explosion**

The 1981 and 1991 Census have shown much higher rate of child labour in the country. The fact, however, is that these families which already have low income find it hard to survive and are compelled to depend on the earning of their children for supplementing the family income. This encourages them to have more children, which lead to population explosion. The racket of population explosion acts a dominant and decisive role in the existence of the problem in case of India.

• **Illiteracy**
Illiteracy has an adverse affect largely on the families. Due to it, adults are compelled to send their children to work. According to the UNISEF (1991) the child labourees are in abundant number in the country where there is less expenditure on primary education. Experts says child labour can only be eliminated in India if elementary education is made compulsory and the government ensures that, there are enough schools and trained teachers and a good plan of action for getting all children into school.

- **Tradition of the family**

  Some time, early involvement of the children in continuing the family traditional work also causes child labour problem. Many Anthropological factors too have their share in this scourge. Recently ILO has criticized the Indian Government and expressed that India is not willing to ratify the ILO convention because of the fear of vanishing of her traditional cottage industry.

**Gender Issue and child labour**

Discrimination of girl children in the specific area of child labour does exist and it is often studied only as a part of the overall pattern of discrimination against girls. As far as child labour is concerned, ‘what has been observed is that most of the parameters are often defined in such a manner that discrimination is not even apparent’. Thus, a large amount of works in which girl children are engaged do not even figure as child labour. Studies have revealed that in Indian, girl children are engaged in running the household from a very early age, even before they are capable of wage earning activities. This includes collection of water fuel and looking after the younger siblings. But, such activities are not considered as child labour as these are part and parcel of their family activities. Even when the girls reach the older age group of nine and above, a significant portion of their time remains unaccounted because it is consumed by these activities. The first point that is often stressed in the case of girl children is that
there role as child labour is one, which does not receive much attention. (Sinha, 2000)

A second aspect that has received attention is the manner in which traditional and cultural factors play a major role in deciding the work patterns of girl children in India. Among Indian communities, it is the male child who is expected to assume the dominant role in all traditional activities including festivals and religious occasions, which results in an almost automatic discrimination of girls. This manifests itself in a number of ways, which have been documented in detail. Adverse sex ratios, female infanticide, deliberate neglect of girl children in the younger years, lower nutritional and educational status and even the nature of work performed by girls are some of the indicators which amply support the fact of discrimination of girl children in India.

In 1981, Census studies had shown that, the percentage of girls employed as main workers was considerably higher than boys in almost all the categories of occupations. In both rural and urban areas boys were employed more as marginal workers than girls. This difference clearly indicates that girls are being pushed to employment for full time work more than boys, which further reduces the educational and developmental opportunities for girls. The third aspect, which has dominated the studies in relation to discrimination against girls, is the immense need for promoting literacy and education as a strategy for bringing down the levels of discrimination. The positive role that education can play in this regard has not also been widely documented in case of India (Usha, 1989).

**Child labour and child abuse**

Child abuse is one of the worst forms of the child labour. It can be defined as “a condition having to do with those who have been deliberately injured by physical assault”. This definition is limited only to physical violence, which
produces a diagnostic injury. Thus, it is evident that Acts of neglect and maltreatment of children which do not produce an injury but are equally harmful, are not be included in this definition. No definition of child abuse can be considered as valid unless it includes physical, physiological and psychological ill treatment of a child. Burgess has given a wider definition of child abuse. According to him, child abuse refers to “any child who receives non-accidental physical and psychological injury as a result of acts and omissions on the part of his parents or guardians or employers…” (Burgess, 1980). Verbal abuse threats of physical violence and excessive physical punishment are also included in the definition of child abuse. So we can say that the term ‘abuse’ has different meanings and it varies according to the time and space.

**Sexual abuse**

Sexual Abuse is the most common type of child abuse more among the girl child laboures. Girls are more vulnerable to the sexual abuse than boys. Usually the victims will be 14 or above 14 years of age and they will be more from lower economic classes and are deprived of all parental care. Basically boys are the victims of employment related abuse and girls are usually the victims of ‘acquaintance related abuse’ (Kumar, 2002). The four causes of sexual abuse mostly given are; 1 adjustment of problems of the perpetrators, family disorganization, victim’s characteristics, and the psychological disorders of the abuses. The four variables related to sexual abuse are family culture and environment, family structure, individual predispositions and situational factors. Further, we can cite some other reasons that push children in to the commercial sexual exploitation are economic disparities, inequitable socio-economic structure, traditional and religious practice and finally the Globalization (from various sources).
Non-government organizations (NGOs) and child labour

NGOs are some time called as a fifth unofficial organ of the Government. Child labour has long been both an economic and social problem in our country. India has one third of the total child labour population of the world. Numerous NGOs have been working towards find a solution to the child labour problem in the country. Many NGOs have grown in size and capabilities conducting research and training while developing effective and innovative programmes to shift children from work to school. The work of NGOs in the fields of primary education, micro-financing, and alternative income generation programmes have also made important contribution in the effort to eradicate child labour in both urban and rural India. However, unless NGOs make significant improvement in their performance in promoting sustainable livelihood for the poor their best efforts may not prove sufficient for ending child labour.

Since Government various policies and programmes have experienced a mere success in the total eradication of the problem NGOs can play a vital role to solve the problem at least. The effectiveness of NGOs is attributed to two major factors. First they are relatively accepted to the people due to their aversion towards government officials. Second, since they work at the grass root level they will have an intensive knowledge about day-to-day problems and cultural resistance for the change of the concerned people. They also have the special experiences in running special schools with certain advantages over Government agencies like having a more committed work force, flexibility in operation, through Knowledge, human resources and the prepareness to work with target groups in far flung locations (Bose, 2003). So NGOs are believed to be better motivators than the Government machinery with respect to any problem concerning child labour and child abuse. In this regard many local, national and international NGOs are working against child labour in Karnataka State. In case of Bangalore City, CRY, CWC, ROAD, CRY, CACL, and DON BOSCO etc and
some of the famous International Organisations like ILO, UNISEF, WHO and DFID etc are worth to be mentioned and their programmes relating to child labour relief and rehabilitation are financially and technically supported by both State and central government and other funding agencies.