CHAPTER – I

INTRODUCTION, OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

1.0. INTRODUCTION

Child Labour is defined in the report of the International Labour Organisation as "Child labour includes children prematurely leaving adult lives, working long hours for low wages under conditions damaging to their health and their mental development, sometimes separated from their families, frequently deprived of meaningful educational and training opportunities that could open up for them a better future" (1). This problem of child labour is prevalent in almost all countries of the world and it is more prominent in India. Its incidence is however high in developing countries where a number of children are driven to undertake strenuous and hazardous job due to socio-economic compulsions. Children in almost all societies are forced to do one kind of work or another. But the extent and nature of their work are influenced mainly by the structure of the economy and the level and pace of development. In agrarian societies, work by children is an integral part of the socialisation process and means of transmitting traditionally acquired skills from parent to child. Moreover, in societies at low levels of technological development, the participation of all those who can contribute to domestic or non-domestic production is essential for meeting the consumption requirements of the

household. Similarly, in artisan workshops and small scale services, children assist their parents in ancillary tasks, acquire skills and gradually become full fledged workers in family establishments or trades. In many developing countries, children are found working in all types of industrial and service establishments in urban areas in both formal and informal sectors and also in commercial agriculture. Often they are working for low wages and for excessively long hours. Vulnerable, flexible and unorganised, child workers are used for reducing labour costs and maintaining competitive advantages and as a means of adopting and responding to economic uncertainties and fluctuations in demand. The poverty or unemployment of their parents forces children to work in households as domestic servants or in small enterprises or in street trades.

1.1. DEFINITION

a) Child Labour.

In the context of exploitation of child labour, UNICEF defined child labour as the children working at the following conditions (Fyfe -1989).

1. Starting full-time work at too early an age.

2. Working too long within or outside of the family and unable to attend school.

3. Work resulting in excessive physical, social and psychological strains upon the child as in the case of sexual exploitation and pornography, work in sweat shops, as well as dangerous work as military service and mining.

4. Work and life on the street in unhealthy and dangerous conditions.

5. Inadequate remuneration for working outside of the family, as in the case of child workers in carpet weaving who are paid US $ 3.00 for 60 hours of work.
6. Too much responsibility at too early an age as in the domestic situation where children under ten may have to look after young brothers and sisters for a whole day thereby preventing school attendance.

7. Work that does not facilitate the psychological and social developments of the child as in dull and repetitive tasks, associated with industries like handicrafts.

8. Work that inhibits the child's self esteem, as in bonded labour and prostitution and in a less extreme case the negative perception of street children.

9. In India many Labour Acts have fixed the minimum age of employment. But the definition of Child in terms of age differs from Act to Act.

10. The Factories Act prohibits employment of children below the age of 14 in factories. The limit in Mines Act is 15 years, whereas it is 12 in Plantation Labour Act.

   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.

   The Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 defines "Child" as a person who has not completed his fourteen years of age.

1.2. CHARACTERISTICS OF CHILD LABOUR

   Considering the wide variations in the different definitions of child labour and in the absence of a community accepted definition, the following characteristics may be considered as the distinguishing marks of child labour whether it is within the family or outside the family, paid or unpaid
1. Employing of children of tender age (children who have not completed the age of 14 years)

2. Exploitation of children adversely affecting their physical, mental, emotional and social development.

3. Deprivation of the right of the children to health, education and a happy childhood. Work by children in the family would be considered "child labour if family labour interferes with the child's education, recreation or physical, mental or moral health". "When the business of wage earning or if participation in self or family support conflicts directly or indirectly with the business of growth and education, the result is child labour."

1.3. CHILD WORK

"Child work" refers to occasional light work done by children which in most of the societies is considered to be an integral part of the Child's socialisation process. Helping parents at home and in family farms children learn to take responsibility and pride in their own activities, learn certain skills and prepare themselves for the tasks of adulthood. The present study is concerned about Child labour but not child work.

1.4. HISTORICAL REVIEW OF THE CHILD LABOUR:

Child labour is not a new phenomenon. It has existed in one form or another at all historical times. In ancient times agricultural and industrial workers of servile status formed the bulk of the population everywhere and their children were put to arduous work in the house and in the field at an early age. In the guild system of the early
medieval times children were apprenticed to their parent's crafts. The evil effects of children's work was brought into prominence during the Industrial Revolution in England. The cotton factories established in Lankshire and Yorkshire towards the close of the 18th Century were worked largely by pauper children from London and other towns and the atrocities committed on these boys and girls housed in horribly overcrowded and unsanitary dormitories and literally driven to death in the mills form one of the darkest chapters in the history of child-hood. The pauper apprentices were but a temporary expedient owing to the fact that the early factories were set up in the country near waterfalls and labour had to be imported with the advance of steam power, factories were setup in towns and on coal fields and they hired children who lived with their parents. The condition of children's work in factories was very trying. There was the heated atmosphere, often 80 to 85 degrees, and there was an enormous amount of dust. The hours worked were from 12 to 14 and the children were all the time on the feet.

Not only in England but in other countries also, in France, Germany, Belgium and even in the USA during the early days of industrialisation, the social evils of child labour became evident and were combated by progressive labour legislative.

The magnitude of the problem of child labour is in fact, high in the developing countries. Though the problem of child labour is manifested everywhere in the world, about 98 percent of working children are noticed in the developing countries, According to the International Programme for Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC) document (1992) the number of working children in the world ranged between 100 and 200 million. With the sustained growth of population, the problem of child labour has been rising over the years.
The Human Development Report (1993) of United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) reveals that child labourers are among the world's most exploited workers hundreds of millions of children work in fields and factories, on street corners and in garbage dumps all over the world.

1.5. CHOICE OF THE SUBJECT:

The present study entitled "Child labour in Andhra Pradesh - A Case Study of Non Agricultural Child Labour" is primarily designed for taking up the slums of Krishna, Kurnool and Hyderabad districts. The subjects whom the study concentrates are the children between 6 to 14 years of age who are deprived of school education, regular care, protection against different risks of life, and have been forced to undertake work mainly either to supplement / increase the family income or to learn working skills in the early age. In fact, the bludgeoning population in the slum areas has given rise to exploitation, neglect and abuse of children in different forms. This has become another alarming point of increasing child worker's population in urban areas as compared to rural areas. In fact, the trends of child work and later his participation in gainful employment in early age start when he proves to be quite sharp, active, flexible and tolerant of employer's and parent's criticism and minor injuries as compared to adult workers. Another important point for the parents to put them into work is that they wish to get free from their economic responsibility. However, small income in large family size, without compulsion of keeping small family size, children's survival, their tradition, behavior etc. perpetuate to continue to produce a large chunk of children in the country and the day
they become capable to do something they are put into the labour market. Thus parents get some relief from their family responsibilities and enter into the areas which give them physical pleasure and mental satisfaction.

Studies, which have been conducted from time to time in the slum areas show that slum dwellers are ready to do anything and everything whatever economic means and ways they find to pick up. However, the backwardness of the parents and their vested interests make them consider their children as economic burden on them and put them into the labour market forcibly without providing any kind of protection against health hazards, injury, accident and disease. In fact, this has raised various psychosocial problems which become the biggest question mark in the growth and development of children.

Undoubtedly, the problem of this young chunk who would be responsible for preserving, promoting and developing the interests of coming generations is a matter of great concern, debate and discussion so as to find out an early possible remedy to free them from inhumane conditions they are in and to satisfy them with the needs and welfare services which their age and maturity deserve. In fact, the problem which has been the area of interest is not one of our country alone but is quite common in many parts of the world. As pointed out earlier, this problem has been taken for the study in depth by the committees and commissions appointed from time to time by the Government of India which raised significant points. Some papers on the issue have appeared in different journals. Moreover the subject has been the point of discussion in different seminars and conferences such as National Institute of Public Co-operation and
Child Development in India (NIPCCD, 1977) and National Seminar on the Child and the Law (NSCL, 1982) and others, apart from the research studies.

All these reveal the deplorable conditions in which children work and maintain their adjustment. In fact, these studies do not speak about the problem of child labour. Therefore, the findings of the above studies may be similar to those of others but do not confirm to the clear-cut conditions, forcing factors and negative psycho-social effects of children's emergence in the field of child labour. However, except the studies conducted in Bombay by NIPCCD (1977) and another study undertaken in Delhi by International Committee on Child Workers (ICCW) 1977, no other study on child labour focuses on the working and living conditions of child labour. These studies have, however, tried to put the problem of child labour in a separate category.

The problem of child labour has come for study in the recent past. Apart from the write-ups in the leading newspapers, occasional articles and periodicals, no systematic and comprehensive research studies are available on the subject which can reflect the overall situation of this neglected section of children. In order to formulate and implement a productive, promotive welfare programme, the researcher was interested to undertake the subject for study.

The present study keeps enormous significance on the grounds discussions below:

(i) Children are the most valuable asset of human kind and any nation and mankind owes to the child the best it has to give.

(ii) Fundamental rights and the directive principles of the State policy discussed in the Constitution of India prohibit employment of children below 14 years and speak
about the education of the children, protection from abuse, exploitation, neglect and for providing just and humane conditions.

(iii) Child labour is the other important area where a large number of children are found to be working who suffer from different kinds of behavioral problems, health hazards and skin diseases.

(iv) To have a need based corrective and rehabilitative strategy for the child labour, it is necessary to study the problem and come out with corrective and welfare programmes suitable to the children in the area of study.

1.5.1 The present study was limited to the three cities, namely Vijayawada, Masulipatnam in Krishna, Kurnool, and Hyderabad of Andhra Pradesh. The State has a total population of 757.28 lakhs, according to the 2001 Census which was an increase of about 92.20 lakhs in the decade. According to 1991 Population Census State had a child worker population of 16.62 lakhs (2.50% of total population of 1991). At the time of planning the study (2000) a very little research work on this problem in the State of Andhra Pradesh had been done and so the subject was selected. Selection of districts was done in accordance with the prevalence of child labour in different districts. The three districts, namely Krishna, Hyderabad and Kurnool having high percentage of child workers (1991 Census) were selected.
1.6. OBJECTIVES:

The objectives of the study are:

1.6. To study the socio-economic background and living conditions of working children and their families;

1.7. To identify various reasons which prompt children to work or take up employment;

1.8. To highlight the working conditions and problems of children who were employed at selected occupations;

1.9. To study the attitudes of the child worker towards himself, his family and employers; and

1.10. To study Legislative provisions for the child labour in Andhra Pradesh,

1.11. To suggest measures and services which may help mitigate the evils of child labour.

1.7. HYPOTHESES:

In this study, the following hypotheses are made in view of objectives in mind and are tested on the basis of data collected from sampled child workers of Hyderabad, Krishna and Kurnool districts of Andhra Pradesh.

1.7.1 There is a positive association between child work participation and poverty intensity.

1.7.2 A literate mother encourages her children to attend school rather than to become child labour.

1.7.3. Formal education for children leads to physical and mental development
and thereby more income earning capacity and occupational mobility in their future on adult life, and

1.7.4 Wherever dropout rates are high at the primary and middle levels, incidence of child labour is also high.

1.8. METHODOLOGY.

1.8.1. The study was limited to urban slums located within the jurisdiction of Municipal Corporation in each selected study district of the city because it was presumed that in these areas, working children lived in large numbers and the problem of child labour was manifest in the acutest form. Another reason for limiting it to areas covered by the Municipal Corporation was as this was the only organisation which had some programmes and information regarding slums, which helped the research scholar to identify and select the slums. Besides, there was no other organisation which could help in this task. Table – 1.1. gives details about the number of slums selected for survey.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>Total No. of slums (as per the list available)</th>
<th>No. of slums Selected for survey</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Krishna</td>
<td>190 (18.8)</td>
<td>19 (19.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kurnool</td>
<td>156 (15.5)</td>
<td>15 (15.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hyderabad</td>
<td>662 (65.7)</td>
<td>66 (66.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1008 (100.0)</td>
<td>100 (100.0)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1.8.2 SAMPLING TECHNIQUE.

A multi-stage stratified sampling procedure is adopted to decide the sample for the study. On the basis of the available lists of slums. Ten percent of slums from Hyderabad, Krishna and Kurnool districts are selected randomly. In order to ensure that a representative sample is taken, in all 100 slums in three districts are covered. During the survey, only those families having working children were identified and included in the study. The number of slums and families covered are given in Table-1.2.

Table – 1.2

LIST OF SLUMS VISITED DURING THE SURVEY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City / Slums</th>
<th>No. of families covered</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>KRISHNA:</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Gudivada</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Machilipatnam</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Vijayawada</td>
<td>97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>KURNOOL:</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Adoni</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Kurnool</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Nandyal</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Yemmiganur</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HYDERABAD:</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Circle-I</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Circle-II</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Circle-III</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Circle-IV</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Circle-V</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Circle-VI</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Circle-VII</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total:</strong></td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

12
For the purpose of the study, a child worker was defined as the one who is below 14 years of age, who has worked for the major part of the year preceding the date of enumeration at the survey i.e. those who were engaged in any economically productive activity for not less than six months during the year.

The survey was conducted by door to door visit of households in selected slums(100). This helped in the identification of families of working children below 14 years and further revealed that children were engaged in varied types of occupations. In order to make an in-depth study, the sample for the study was drawn on the basis of the major occupation in each city. Finally four occupations namely Hotel works, garage work, shops & establishments and manufacturing service were selected and the following criteria was adopted.

i. Five percent of the child, workers population in any of the major occupation found during the survey.

ii. Only working children having work experience of not less than six months and the age range 6-14 years were selected.

The sample finally drawn had 300 families (Table 1.3)

Table - 1.3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of the city</th>
<th>No. of families surveyed</th>
<th>No. of working children in families surveyed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Krishna</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kurnool</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hyderabad</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total:</strong></td>
<td><strong>300</strong></td>
<td><strong>300</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1.9. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

The present study is based on primarily two sources. First is the material and data available in the forms of secondary sources, such as books, journals, periodicals, reports, statements showing census figures. Since child labour is also prevalent in other countries. This has made the study of at least a few countries unavoidable. At the home level, there is a lot of secondary sources available in the form of books, written by scholars in India. Further more a large number of articles and research papers have been published in journals and periodicals in our country. The library material for the purpose of theoretical frame work and related literature was collected from American Studies Research Centre, Osmania University, British Library, NIRD library, Governor's library, Administrative Staff College of India library and Commissioner of Labour library. Secondly the own collected data i.e., the primary data is presented below.

1.10. DATA COLLECTION AND STUDY TOOLS:

Data collection was mainly done through interview method, separate interview schedule each for child workers, parents and employer were used as below:

1. Interview schedule for child worker
2. Interview schedule for parent(s)
3. Interview schedule for employer
4. Observation schedule
The survey schedule had two parts. Part-I elicited information regarding socio-economic background and migratory patterns of families of working children. The second part sought information about profile of working children below 14 years, their age, income, education, work experience and nature of employment, period of occupation etc.

Schedule for parents was devised to get information regarding their role, attitudes towards the working child and their awareness about the working and service conditions of the workplace.

The employer's schedule sought information about their background, establishment, reasons for recruiting children, facilities provided at workplace, their opinion about the existing legislation on child labour.

Schedule for working child was designed to collect information about his/her income, reasons for dropping out of school and joining labour, working and service conditions, the impact of work on his health, job satisfaction and his views on child labour.

Observation schedule was formulated to gather information regarding living environment of selected working children (300).

Before administrating schedules, these were pre-tested in the city of Hyderabad. Based on the results of field testing, the schedules were revised for the study.

Respondents for the survey which covered 300 families included adult member of the family present at the time of visit who could provide information. In addition, discussions were held with government officials working in the area. Further, observations on slums were also made on the lines indicated above.
1.11. **DATA ANALYSIS:**

After the data collection work was over, all the Schedules loaded with the data were duly checked and some of the information written here and there on the Schedule was filled up against appropriate questions so that such information could be used for analysis. A code book comprising different numbers allotted for different responses was developed in order to transfer all the data on a master sheet and to analyse the data in different forms in the light of objectives set for this study. Thus, in all, to justify the objective of the study from different angles, simple and cross tables were drawn from the data available on master sheets. Wherever needed, statistical tests were administered to find out the significance of the data collected from the field. After analysis and tabulation of data in different tabular forms, findings were gathered out of it, having duly discussed, wherever needed, in different chapters and these were also corroborated with the findings of others, available on the subject.

1.12. **CONCEPTS AND DEFINITIONS:**

The following definition has been formulated for the purpose of the present study.

1.12.1. **INFORMAL SECTOR**

It includes all small enterprises engaged either in production or distribution or both, employing one or more persons, but less than 10 workers using small or nominal fixed capital and operating from a fixed or a varying location. It also includes all those workers who were employed in the service sector such as domestic servants etc.
1.12.2. WORKING CHILDREN

All those persons who are engaged in an economic activity but are less than 14 years of age have been taken as the working children.

1.12.3. HOUSEHOLD

A household consists of a group of persons, including relatives, normally living together and taking food from a common kitchen. It includes all those persons who are temporarily away because of some work, holiday, or illness, etc., but excludes all those who are visiting temporarily and guests. If a person lives in one place and takes food at another, he has been considered as a member of the household in which he lives.

1.12.4. HEAD OF THE HOUSEHOLD

Normally, the eldest male member of the household is the head but where for some reasons he is not in a position to take decisions on behalf of the household any member of the household who functions as the decision-maker has been taken as the head of the household.

1.12.5. EMPLOYED PERSON

All persons, including women and children of age of 6 years and above, who were working during the reference period whether on full-time or part-time basis, have been considered as employed.
1.12.6. UNEMPLOYED PERSONS

All persons of 6 years and above who were not working during the reference period but were available for work, including those who had never worked or held a job, have been regarded as unemployed persons.

1.12.7 OCCUPATION

Occupation is the kind of work engaged in by employed persons irrespective of the branch of economic activity in which the work (manufacturing, construction, transport and communication, trade and services), and the status they hold (employer, employee, unpaid family worker, etc).

1.12.8. MAIN OCCUPATION

An employed persons main occupation is the one in which he spends most of his working time. This is contrasted with subsidiary occupation to which he gives some of his time to eke out his income.

1.12.9 EMPLOYMENT STATUS

(i) Employer: An employer is a person who operates an enterprise or engages independently in profession or a trade and pays some other persons to hold him.

(ii) Employee (Wage or Salary-earner): An employee is a person who works for a public or a private employer and receives from him income in the form of regular, daily, weekly or monthly payment, either in cash or kind.
1.12.10. NATURE OF EMPLOYMENT

(i) Regular: This refers to stable to permanent employment or employment for an indefinite period.

(ii) Temporary: This refers to employment for a fixed period or of less than one year's duration.

(iii) Seasonal: This refers to employment that terminates at the end of each season.

(iv) Casual: This refers to intermittent employment on daily or weekly basis.

1.12.11. FULL-TIME WORKER

A full-time worker is one who works for a full working day of 8 hours or more.

1.12.12. PART-TIME WORKER

A part-time worker is one who works only for a part of the day.

1.13. CHAPTER SCHEME:

The study is divided into 7 chapters. Chapter I introduces the problematic situation, Objectives and Methodology of the study. Chapter II presents Reviews of various studies on child labour. Chapter III describes the Profile of the working children in India and Andhra Pradesh. A case study undertaken by the scholar in three different regions of the state viz., Telangana, Andhra and Rayalaseema regions respectively. Out of these three regions Hyderabad, Krishna and Kurnool districts are selected on the basis of the highest number of child workers engaged in various occupations are presented in
this chapter. Chapter IV gives a general description of Legislation and child labour in Andhra Pradesh. It deals with salient features of relevant legislation pertaining to working children and point out some of the problems involved in their effective implementation. Chapter V deals with Socio Economic features of the working children in Andhra Pradesh. Chapter VI deals with Physical and Behavioural aspects of child labour. Chapter VII deals with summaries conclusions of the study and makes suggestions and recommendations for policy formation.