CHAPTER - II
REVIEW OF LITERATURE

2.1. INTRODUCTION

A spate of articles appeared in the national press from time to time since 1974 highlighting the pitiable condition of working children; the occupational hazards they were exposed to, the way they had suffered in the past and the manner they were being exploited. These articles, even though segmental and disparate, did throw sufficient light on the problem of child labour to attract the attention of Government. The refrain of these articles was basically humanitarian reflecting a shift in our perspective on child labour from economics to social welfare. Even in Government, there has been an increasing tendency to view child labour. But before formulating any plan of action or remedial strategy, the Department of Social Welfare wanted to equip themselves with relevant data so as to have a proper perspective of the problem in all its ramifications. The existing literature was too scanty and shallow to help them to devise appropriate measures.

The earliest known survey on the problem dates back to 1946, when Labour Bureau, Ministry of Labour conducted a nationwide study on child labour. The 48-page report was based mainly on secondary sources of information and on ‘a few rapid on-the-spot investigations in industries where it was suspected that child labour was still persisting.’ This report provides a good descriptive account of child labour as it obtained in mid fifties but it cannot be taken to reflect the current situation.

In addition to this macro-study, a few surveys were also conducted in different parts of the country at different times by different agencies. These surveys, however, could not
project severally or jointly, a comprehensive picture of the problem because of their limited coverage and scope. The problem had its brazen manifestations and obtrusive visibility especially in metropolitan towns where its mechanics and dynamics could not be probed in sufficient depths by these studies. As seen from the above reports and various surveys conducted by different Institution/Organisations shows that child labour has been in vogue since times immemorial. The review of earlier studies on “child labour in non-Agricultural sector in India shows that most of the studies are confined to few states namely Uttar Pradesh, Tamilnadu, and Karnataka, states only and the major findings of these studies with reference to Child Labour can be summarised as below:

1. The literacy level of children is very poor.
2. Child labour arises mainly due to economic compulsions.
3. The families of the child labourers are in favour of sending their children to school and also favour some vocational training during the age of 10-14 years.
4. Very importantly, children are not averse to daily work and are willing to work.
5. Child labour is a socio-economic problem. It is generally considered that low wages; illiteracy, ignorance, unemployment and social life all are roots of child labour.
6. Children are subject to economic and social exploitation by employers whose Primary concern was maximisation of profit. Thus preference for child labour by many employees is mainly due to the fact that is cheap safe and without any liability.
7. Child Labour was not only paid very low wages, but also was, made to work under hazardous conditions.
8. The lacuna in the implementation of Child Labour Legislation.
In addition to the above causes of child labour, there are also certain significant reasons for child labour. It is the poverty coupled with ignorance that force parents to send their children to seek employment. Inadequate income of the bread-earner, drinking and other social evils in adults and absence of school and provision of compulsory education, illiteracy and ignorance of parents etc. are the main reasons of the child labour.

The results of these studies can not be generalised and differ from region to region owing to heterogeneous factors. In this chapter an attempt is made to take brief review of the literature. in fact, review of related research in periodic, perpetual and acontinuously expanding body of knowledge that permeates all aspects of research process *. We taken review of different studies of Child Labour impact on the basis of different aspects, rather than chronological review.

The problem of Child Labour has received considerable attention of the researchers and constitutional experts because of its inherent importance. Some of them have been reviewed as follows.

2.2. CHILD LABOUR IN HAZARDOUS INDUSTRIES

Manju Gupta (1) studied the employment pattern of Child Labour in the Match making industry in and around Sivakasi (Tamilnadu). Out of total employment of the industry (1,00,000) 50 percent i.e. 50,000 were children. The age of the children ranges from three and half years to fifteen years. These children work for a minimum of 12 hours each day without any facility provided to children for protecting their eyes from burns and other hazards of the industry. Children were employed in every branch of production viz., mixing of Chemicals, working in boilers and furnace rooms, packing etc. The author has also pointed out that since each child was paid wages on piece rate basis, the children were forced to work for long hours for larger amount of wages, which intern lead to higher production to the factory owner. The author also observed that the parents sought their children to work as they worked in their childhood days even under hostile conditions without masks and fully exposed to fire and other dangers. Author drew inference from his study that 80% of child labourers were illiterates i.e., practices of child labour would lead to more illiteracy.

Debarash Chatterji (2) made an attempt to study the conditions of child labour in Glass industry of Ferozabad in Uttar Pradesh. He found more than one-third of workers of the industry were children below 14 years of age. These children work under most oppressive conditions without any security for life (work premises temperature would be 55 degrees Celsius) and continuity in employment. They suffer from Anemia, retardation of physical and mental growth etc. The children were under paid and over worked.

2. Debarash Chatterji: Child Labour in Glass Industry Surya, India, 1986
Kiran Bhattiy (3) observed that the Wimco factory which makes matches more profitably than other match manufacturers because it did so with better technology and no child labour. He also opined that the child labour is less a phenomenon of poverty than of social attitudes and sensibilities. Learning skills through education is a sure way to break the cycle of child labour and low income.

Radha Krishna Rao, (4) has pointed out that any thing between five lakh and one crore children in India are engaged in carpet weaving. They slog for 10-12 hours a day with little to hope for the future. Working as they do in dark dingy rooms clogged with woolen smog, many of these young boys develop tuberculosis, asthma, and common cold. Some of the loom owners are said to have to the extent of branding children with red hot iron rod burning them with cigarette butt and hanging them upside down for minor faults at work. These helpless children are roped into work for loom owners by recruiting agents who go round the hamlets during the festival season and induce parents to part with their wards for a one time payment ranging between Rs.3000 to Rs.10000.


Kothari’s (5) study on child labour in Sivakasi shows that 45,000 child workers work in and around the Sivakasi in the match and fire work industries. The age of these children range from 3 1/2 years to 15 years and they work as long as 12 hours a day in degrading and hazardous working conditions (Kothari 1983). Similar to Arunachalam’s (1990) study has shown that for the child labour in match box factories at Sivakasi minimum wages and statutory working hours are alien words. Several industries have come out openly against the abolition of child labour and stated if child labour is banned they will introduce the putting out system i.e., giving work on contract to the family and doing very little work in the factory itself. Thus, the situation in which the child labour is employed in these hazardous industries are alarming.

Vijayagopal (1993). (6) have described how the child labour in carpet industry is being exploited by their employers. Virtually these child labourer are bonded labour since their parents have been given the lumpsum payments of Rs.2300 to 2800 per child and they are required to work for a specified number of years, mutually agreed upon by the parents and the agents. In the event of breaking the agreement the parents have to repay the amount with interest. Obviously, the poverty struck parents would not be in a position to repay back the amount. Consequently the children are bound to work for the employer. Due to acute poverty in the area, parents are forced to send their children for work and employers are employing them as bonded labourers.

There is also cruel exploitation of workers and children in the Mandsour Slate Pencil factory in Madhya Pradesh workers and children are dying out of occupational diseases called Silicosis by inhaling dust containing Silica while cutting, slate with electric saw for manufacturing pencils (Rao 1980)(7) though there are machines with suction fans and dust collectors which could remove this fatal dust and save the lives of the workers, the owners of these factories have not installed them just to cut cost and earn profit. The insatiable quest for profit makes them blind towards the health and safety of the children. Similarly the Beedi and Cigar workers condition of employment Act prohibits the employment of children in that industry. However the Beedi industry in India employ a considerable number of child labour who are exposed to the tobacco fame during the process of work and even subject to the occupational disease like T.B. Asthma, Gas troubles, Rheumatic problems etc. These occupational diseases are aggravated due to the lack of ventilation, over crowding and uncongenial work atmosphere in this place of work.

Sheela Barse’s Report on ‘Children Playing with Fire,’ has observed that: thousands of boys between the ages of 6 and 16 literally play with fire every minute in the multi-crore glass industry of Firozabad in Agra district of Uttar Pradesh. The work environment is heavily polluted with heat, chemical fumes, and coal dust, while the floor is littered with broken glass. Child workers in the age group of 7 to 12 deal with burning looms of glass stuck on the tips of iron rods known as labias. They hold the heavy labias in such a way that the burning glass is just two feet away from their own bodies and a foot away from the bodies of other child workers. The workers are constantly on the move with this blazing material in hand in the congested space. Standing next to the furnace, sweating in the scorching heat, the way the labourer blows to force the solid mass into a fragile form of glass, you feel his lungs will burst any minute now. The worker stands and blows constantly for eight hours. While blowing, he must use his foot to press a lever to open and close the mould into which he shapes the glass. For this work, they are paid Rs.16 per shift, i.e. 3 paisa per minute of torture, risking life and life span. At any given moment, red hot glass is on two or three sides of a child worker’s body, within inches of it. And under his feet is a carpet of broken glass. The glass manufacturing units work three shifts 8 A.M. to 4 P.M. to midnight and midnight to 8 A.M. In every shift there are about 100 to 150 workers including child workers. However even during the night hours, the presence of one chowkidar, one supervisor and one or two clerical staff ensures that the workers do not relax even for half a minute. They do not even get lunch or dinner breaks. In Firozabad, children in the age group 7 to 12 handle blazing glass and work close to the numerous furnaces as even during summer when the temperature outside the factory is 40-45 degrees Celsius. All this for just Rs.7 to Rs.10 per day. The very thought of it would explode the heart and mind of any sane human being.

Neera Burra(9) in her article on “Learning Without Earning” stated that India earns about Rs.1400 crores every year from the export of gems. Ninety five percent of all coloured gem stones in India are polished in Jaipur. The other centres of gem polishing are Cambay in Gujarat, Bombay, Hyderabad, Karwar, Trichur, Coimbatore, Nellore, Cuttack and Calcutta. A child of 6 or 7 has neither the physical nor the mental ability to observe the work. The child who starts working at this age can never become an artisan, he will only be a worker and he will ending by sending his own children to work at an early age. These Children are not being trained, They are being used.

A Report by Prashant Kumar(10) titled “Squeezing Blood from Glass.” reveals that: the Firozabad glass industry produces bangles, utensils, electric bulbs and show pieces worth about Rs.50 lakhs every day. The number of factories has more than doubled since independence with many new units coming up in the past few years in the neighbouring Makkhanpur town in Mainpuri distrcit. But no effort has been made so far to modernise and improve the working conditions in the industry. About 75,000 workers in Firozabad and Makkhanpur - the largest segment of skilled and unskilled labour - produce nearly four crore finished bangles daily. In a complicated tour-stage process, the raw material passes through atleast 50 pairs of hands before it is shaped into beautiful bangles.


First the glass is manufactured by fusing silica sand with soda ash potash and other chemicals at very high temperature in the underground furnace. In the second stage the liquid glass is drawn into a coil. A lump of molten glass is picked up on the tip of a four to five foot long iron bar through the windows of the furnace. This lump is brought in contact with a manually rotated iron cylinder that spins a fine glass thread which takes the shape of a three foot long coil. This coil is cooled and cut to separate the bangles. The workers have to constantly inhale toxic fumes emanating from the boiling glass, the colouring substances and the coal furnace which damage the lungs, liver and other vital internal organs. Besides prolonged exposure to the extraordinary heat leads to various grades of skin burns and irreversible visual impairment. The tragedy is worse when accidents occur in the congested factories. Sometimes the molten glass hanging precariously from the tip of the iron rod drops on unwary workers when handled by fatigued hands. In the third stage the bangle-ends are leveled and joined over kerosene and acetylene flames in the dark and suffocating cottage units. The process locally known as jhalai and jural, involves an eight - hour daily inhalation of poisonous hydrocarbon fumes and accounts for the high incidence of tuberculosis and other lung diseases among the bangle-makers of Firozabad. Forty year old Phulwari Lal who stuck to the job for 25 years had to quit six months ago. This emaciated worker is suffering from several chronic ailments including tuberculosis. He cannot walk and has difficulty in breathing. The family’s responsibility has now fallen on the shoulders of his 18 year old son. Umesh who has no option but to take up the same job. There are no other employment opportunities in and around the town. Finally the bangles are sent for designing. The plain glass rings are grooved on mechanised wheels in crowded cells where skilled workers inhale the extremely harmful glass dust. The grooves are then filled with golden, silver or other colours and sent for hardening on asbestos sheets in ovens where the workers again have to toil for over eight hours in searing heat.
According to a survey carried out by Asha Singh \(^{11}\) of the Department of Anatomy, Maulana Azad Medical College, New Delhi, five to 10 years of exposure to an average of 55 degrees Celsius every day can lead to cancer. At the simplest fatigue, chronic anaemia, retardation of growth, muscle cramps, irritability, added proneness to addictions and a general feeling of ill health are a certain outcome of this kind of exposure. Most workers employed in glass factories for over five years have in fact complained of these symptoms. They are; unaware of the horrifying long-term implications: the risk of genetic destruction by which not only their health but that of their progeny is likely to be adversely affected. Exposure to excessive heat among children causes a loss of fertility and a drop in sperm count. The offspring of this child labour stand the risk of being born mentally retarded, if a miscarriage hasn’t already taken place.

Anil Awachat \(^{12}\) has studied the existing system of powerlooms in Ichalkaramji town in Maharashtra. The town is full of powerlooms. He says that 2,000 children are working in these powerloom units. They are all under aged. They are all illiterates or semi literate. Most of them left school after the first four years. Accidents are very common in these powerlooms. He says that children are not enrolled in the muster-rolices and if they met with accidents the employer will refuse to pay any compensation.

\(^{11}\) Asha Singh: “Report On Child Labour, Moulana Azad Medical College, New Delhi”

\(^{12}\) Anil Awachat: “The Warp and the Weft Economic and Political Weekly, Vol. XXIII, No.34.
Apart from accidents, the children will lose their eyesight while working on the looms. The heat, humidity and crowding in work place makes them susceptible to tuberculosis. The cotton-dust clogs up their lungs and they get asthma. The disease spreads fast in their work places. The child labourers are paid piece rate wages and have no sick leaves, paid leave, casual leave or holiday or any Provident Fund or bonus or gratuity.

Vishwapriya Iyengar (13) writes about the health hazards of children in the match industry of Sivakasi. In her report on "Child Labour in the Match units of Southern Tamilnadu" reveals that there are 45,000 children working in these units. These children mixing chemicals in the boiler room get lung full of toxic fumes, suffer high degrees of intense heat and runs the risk of being badly injured in fire accidents. Children who stamp frames on the metal sheet too suffer heat, toxic fumes and excessive strain on the arms and shoulders which have to remove and place the heavy frames with great rapidity. Delay of a second can cause the entire frame to go up in roaring flames which cause instant death”.

Neera Burra(14) has pointed out in her report on “Born to Work,” Children in Lock industry of Aligarh”, children work on hand presses, on buffing machines polishing rusted metal pieces, in electroplating work-shops and in spray painting units. Most polishers suffer from tuberculosis and other respiratory tract diseases. Workers in electroplating plants complained of breathlessness, asthma and acute headache. She has found that there are almost 10,000 children working in the lock industry.

Neera Burra's report on "Exploitation of Child Workers in Glass Industry in Ferozabad", found that glass industry provides employment opportunity to most of the children in U.P. It is a hazardous occupation seriously affecting the health of workers in the glass industry. The temperatures in the furnaces in the glass bangles and glass blowing industry range from 700 to 1800-C. The life span of the worker is reduced by a third because of the intense heat and dust. Private doctors at Firozabad spoke of the gravity of the situation: "It takes just three or four years" says Apurv Chaturvedi, one of the six surgeons in town, 'to destroy their lungs in the dangerously polluted atmosphere of the glass factories.' Doctors in Firozabad said that 90% of the workers contract pneumoconiosis, a condition which leads to tuberculosis. Infact Firozabad has the highest incidence of T.B. in the State.

Amiya Rao said that approximately 1,000 children are employed in Mandsaur and cut plates of shale into small pieces with electrically operated saws, a process which emits dense clouds of a fine light dust that the workers constantly inhale. The result of silicosis or pneumoconiosis, a lung disease similar to, but much deadlier than tuberculosis. Further he said that...the medical check-up conducted by the Social service Club of Indore earlier this year (in 1980) has revealed that most of the child workers have got this disease (silicosis) and will soon die. The disease cause fibrous changes in the lungs are gradually eaten away, patients suffer respiratory trouble, begin to spit blood and then die a painful death."


16. Apurva Chaturvedi: Extracts from Burra Neera's "Born to Work"

Aishath Suhara\(^{(18)}\) says that "a work shed in a Sivakasi match factory where girl child labourers work for 16 to 18 hours under the eagle eyes of the supervisors. Most of them wear sarees to hide their childhood. Sending a child to work may solve the short financial problems of the family but in the long term the cost of the child is extremely heavy.”

Manjusreee Kollegal’s \(^{(19)}\) report on “Child Labour in Biscuit Manufacturing Units in Hyderabad,” (1997) found that Andhra Pradesh has the largest number of working children in India. The Biscuit industry in Hyderabad attracts poor children who work from 9 A.M. to 8 P.M. on all working days and they are paid only on piece rate basis. The employers prefer child workers because they are faster in arranging biscuits and making packs. Children work in these units instead of going to school because whatever if their parents earn it is not sufficient for an average size of the family of 5 to 6 people. Infact many children are working in the night shift also.

A case study conducted by Geetha Raghuraman\(^{(20)}\) pointed out that in North Chennai of Tamilnadu where hundreds of stainless steel vessel manufacturing units flourish set up in thatched dingy huts, this hazardous enterprise thrives largely on the labor of children. She says that in Tondiarpet and Korukkupet localities of North Chennai, there are about 1,500 units manufacturing stainless steel vessels. Of an estimated three lakh work force, 50% are believed to be children in the age group of 5-14. Less than a handful of these units are registered with the Inspector of Factories. Most units function as were extensions of the owner’s house and thus escape any legislation.

The author has pointed out that the children working in these units suffer from disease, accidents and jobless days. even if the children met an accident at their work place, since the children or their parents are not considered seeking compensation. The parents do not want to seek any legal recourse. The house owners are their neighbours and are probably relatives. Worse still they have to send their children out to work in these units and cannot afford to antagonise the owners by being branded as trouble-shooters. The author has revealed that even if N.G.Os of the region pursued them to go to Court, the procedures and hearings are so intimidating that they shy away. If they were to appear in Court for about five days a week, they loose that amount of their earnings and in their run for survival every day’s earnings counts. Protective gadgets are unheard of in this business. Unit owners plead inability when it comes to purchasing gloves or goggles. These children are paid less than half the wages an adult is eligible to. Inhaling smoke and polishing dust for the best part of the day, these children are prone to lung infections and skin ailments.

Neera Burra\(^{21}\) said that Inter-disciplinary group of the Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) has conducted a study on Child Labour engaged in Lock industry of Aligarh in 1987. The study revealed that while there is a demand for child labour, there is also high adult unemployment and underemployment. This study was concentrated in 30 mohallas of the Upper Kote area where 46.4 percent of the Muslim population was engaged in lock manufacture. In the course of the study it was found that the number of children below the age of 15 years numbered 1,560 while the number of persons above 60 years of age was only 62. It was observed that “there are many children who are earning and many adults who are not able to find remunerative work.” The irresistible conclusion is that children are employed in such large numbers because they can be paid less and exploited more than adults, they later revolt atleast in principle if not so far in practice.

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2.3 SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND DEMOGRAPHIC FACTORS AFFECTING CHILD LABOUR

Ramesh Kanbargi and Kulkarni\(^{22}\) tried to know the inter relationship between child work, Schooling and fertility and also examined the socio-economic and demographic factors effecting child labour and their school attendance. The reciprocal relationship between child labour and child schooling was handled by simultaneous equations system. Child labour and child schooling were endogenous variables. Exogenous variables were female work input, livestock size, average rainfall, cultivated land, caste, opportunity consciousness (awareness of various opportunities), education of father, school accessibility, presence of younger children (0-4 years age group) etc. The author also observed how fertility was influenced by child labour and child schooling with the help of path analysis. Authors drew inference that as the children grow in age, they put in increase amount of time on more productive activities. Children working for wages were significantly large among the age group of 12-14 years than the other age groups of less than 12 years. Girls work for more number of hours than the boys in all age groups. The time input of children in school declined as they grow in age. The positive effect of father’s education on child schooling and the negative effect of rainfall on child labour were clearly established. The authors also inferred that the gross association between child labour and fertility was positive while it was negative between child schooling and fertility.

\(^{22}\) Ramesh Kanbargi and P.M.Kulkarni : Child Labour, Schooling and Fertility in Rural Karnataka, South India. - 1988
Barket-E-Khuda \(^{(23)}\) observed that the children, in a village in Bangladesh, joined in work at their early ages. As they grew, they attended to serious and multiple of the work done at their early ages. The children belonging to households having no land and less land worked for longer hours than those belonging to households having relatively more land.

Murali Dhar Vemuri and Sastry \(^{(24)}\) made an attempt to study the economic participation of male and female children in the rural areas of India. They found that the children are more susceptible to ill-health and some of the work they perform can even retard their mental and physical developments. Their analysis shows that regions having higher wage rate for women show a lower work participation of girls as they are retained for domestic and related activities.

Mukta Mittal \(^{(25)}\) gives a vivid accrued statistical profile of children along with their situational analysis in India. Different spheres of children like, education nutrition health etc., have been covered. In her subsequent paper on child labour in “Chikan Industry”, Mittal has concluded that the children are the seedlings of human resource development and deserve main attention as the inputs of present generation for the future development of India. If this is not done, the world risks a great loss at both personal and global level.

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23. Barket-E-Khuda: “Child Labour in Rural Bangladesh, some findings from a relatively developed villages.; Child Labour, Schooling and Fertility in Rural Karnataka, South India.


Ashok Kumar (26) has pointed out despite the fact that there are some weaknesses and drawbacks in the government programmes and policies in the areas of child welfare viz., nutrition, health, education and recreation for children. It has been observed that some of the programmes, services and inputs meant specifically for the children of weaker sections are utilised for the benefit of better off sections because of weak delivery system. Efforts for raising the level of children in the rural development programme did not bring the expected results in proportion to which money is spent.

Sunil Gupta (27), Director institute for Environmental Developments studies observed that the Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) have played an important role in welfare and development of children. The NGOs are having close contact with the community at their gross root level they can play an important role in sensitizing issues relating to this vulnerable section of the society.

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27. Sunil Gupta, Director Institute for Environmental Developmental Studies: A report on “Child Labour in Hazardous Industries in A.P.” Centre for Public Policy, Hyderabad.
Nagaraju and Thippaiah (28) has studied the child labour in unorganised industries in Belgaum Division in Karnataka. They pointed out that most of the organised industries employing children pay them on the basis of piece rate. Children tend to work more hours to take home more wage everyday. Most of the employers justify employing the children in the name of helping the poor families. But the fact that many of the employers conceded that the children work obediently and wages paid to them are cheap, as compared to adults. Because of their childhood, enthusiasm and innocence they can be made to work more than they have been paid for. Jobs involving drudgery and monotonous, the children are preferred as the adults get bored easily and while their time away. Centre for Public Policy in Hyderabad brought out a report on “Child Labour in Hazardous Industries in Andhra Pradesh”. This study focus on Beedi, Slate, Lime kilns and Sericulture Industries in Andhra Pradesh. The report highlights that parents are desperate for the additional income to run the family just on essentials. The community elders feel they should not deprive a family of its due because stopping child may mean that the family has to forego atleast one meal. Official and other Law Enforcing Authorities are also driven by the same emotions as the community elders. For the officials it means pursuing the matter in court so that both parents and employers are deterred from committing the offence. However, most officials admit openly that the procedures in the court are cumbersome, time consuming and reliant on too much paper work. In the mean while both the employer and the parents of the child pressurise them to be human as they did not commit any crime. They did not steal or commit murder -“the children are only doing an honest day’s work”.

Kanbargi and Kulkarni (1985)\textsuperscript{29} have observed that age and gender constrain the quantum and nature of the gainful and domestic activities of children. While boys aged 5 to 7 years work, on the average, for about 2 hours a day, by 12 to 14 years they work for 5 hours a day. Boys put in more time tending livestock and working on the family farm or enterprise. Girls work for longer hours in very different activities from boys, such as in food preparation and domestic chores. The daily time spent at school and in school related activities does not increase appreciably with age for school going children but the proportion of children at school declines sharply with age. The higher the father’s level of education, the more likely are children to attend school. Scheduled Caste families have the lowest school attendance rate for children wherein higher caste have higher rates. There are regional differences in child labour participation and the schooling of children.

Srikantan (1978)\textsuperscript{30} has studied child work participation in the integrated development of a command area. Their investigation shows that for the younger generation males aged 15 to 19 years, the percentage literate were much higher for dependants than for earners in the three study groups used. This suggests that early work participation perhaps prevents (regular) attendance at school and leads more illiteracy. Similar differences were observed for girls. Again, compared to the older generation, the younger generation had less literacy among earners and more literacy among dependents. This indicates competition between work participation and schooling so that, among dependents, youths are more literate than adults of the same sex, where as among earners, the contrary is true. The relationship between education and work participation of children is similar. These differences tend to confirm the competing demands made on children by work participation and schooling, both on boys and girls and, especially among poor families.

\textsuperscript{29} Kanbargi, Ramesh and P.M. Kulkarni, 1985 Child Labour, Schooling and fertility in Rural Karnataka, South India, Mimeo Bangalore. Institute of Social and Economic Change.

In another study Rao\(^{31}\) surmised that a child working at an early age unable to go to school, is deprived of any opportunity for upward mobility and remains unskilled worker all its life.

A study on child labor was conducted by Krishna Chaitanya\(^{32}\) among Digaru Mishmis of Arunachal Pradesh in 1991, says that the main occupations of Digaru Mishmi child labourers are portage, hunting, fishing and participation in cultivation. The study revealed that more than three-fourth of the children are illiterates and had not seen the school. The situation is worse in the case of female children. Not even 15% of the girls had received education even upto the Class-I stage. The reason for this dismal state is the need to supplement family income. Men folk do not work at all in the fields. They either go hunting or sit idle. Most of the cultivation is done by women and children. He says that even in remote border areas child labor is flourishing. What is required to combat this is vigorous and sustained intervention by the Government for economic upliftment of the tribals.

Geeta Menon’s\(^{33}\) report on ‘Health Problems and Working Children - Some Observations’ reported that the children work nine hours a day, six days a week. Medical reports state that "inhalation of acids continuously over a period of time can burn respiratory lining of the child workers and cause pneumonia, broncho-pneumonia, cough, breathlessness and heart failure,.....".


Nirmal Mitra\(^{34}\) reports "children at the age of 12 and even less, are forced into fatal work to sustain their dying parents, brothers and sisters only to learn that they will die soon enough too-of the dust, fatigue and inhumanity. The story has been repeated year after year, for five decades now.

Ninety-five percent of the respondent in a study conducted by Mohandas\(^{35}\) among bidi workers claimed "their health problem were because of their occupation. The bidi industry is one of the largest employers in the unorganised sector and the bulk of the work force is made up of women and children".

Kulshreshta and Sharma\(^{36}\) wrote in 1980 that about 24,000 children were working in the brassware industry of Moradabad. They work in large numbers in polishing units inhaling quantities of metal dust as well as in electroplating workshops and once the workers get industrial tuberculosis, they just vomit blood and die.

Piyus Ganguly\(^{37}\) pointed out that "a large number of children working in dhabas and as domestic servants live on the footpaths or on their employer's premises. By virtue of being children, they are at the mercy of their irate customers and employers often. They are vulnerable and fall prey to the anti-social elements of the urban jungle.

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Sudhindra Shukla\(^{38}\) writes about the exploitation of the dhaba boys that leads not merely to physical but also to mental torture. Says Shukla, “It was a small, dark, dingy cafe or dhabas as it is known, in Delhi a grimy, peaky boy, ill-clad barely 12 years old was handing out cups of tea to a dozen odd customers in the shop I, too, was there. Balancing several cups, in his two small hands, this small boy was hurrying to serve the yelling customers, when a man rushing in to the dhaba dived towards the washbasin, bumping in to the boy and upsetting the tea cups. The tea spilled and the man’s clothes were stained so was his temper. He lashed out at the boy slapping him hard, leaving him in a trance”

Shahnaz Anklesaria \(^{39}\) has pointed out that another factor that makes “working in dhabas unsafe for children is that many of these tea stalls are road side tea stalls become gambling dens at night. The child worker who may be serving tea in the day time is often made to carry bottles of liquor or paddle drugs among the clients at night.”

Musafir Singh \(^{40}\) said that “many children who work in dhabas live on the premises because they have either run away from home or have or have been sold by middlemen to the employers. Dhaba owners very rarely employ slum children because these children are not available round the clock. They are at the mercy of the employer who often pushes them beyond their physical capacity.”

Amit Sengupta \(^{41}\) writing about working children, says: “In old Delhi, Jama Masjid, Chandini Chowk, Ghanta Ghar and Paharganj, I met children and adults who said there are many among those who rule the pavement shops, dhabas and mohallas in these places who can rape children, sodomine them and leave them in the grip of disease.”

Bouhdiba \(^{42}\) says that “a large number of children working as domestic servants face very hardships. Young boys of 7 and 8 are often seen at 5 in the morning walking the employer’s dog or buying milk. Many of these children work from dawn to late at night, cooking, cleaning, washing and running errands. They are often not given adequate food and if caught eating what they are not given, are subject to corporal punishment. Not only are they severely punished for mistakes but often accused of theft when the employer has merely misplaced his things.”

George \(^{43}\) has pointed out that “long hours of work, late hours of night employment, continuous standing, sitting or use of single set of muscles, emphasis on the finer neuromuscular coordination with attendant nervous strain, indoor in noisy factories and dusty trades, carrying heavy loads under the arm of lifting heavy weights, pressure of speed in the performance of simple mechanical acts, contact with industrial poisons, exposure to inclement weather are unsuitable occupations and provide harmful conditions for the growing child particularly susceptible to certain deformities and diseases.”

Sahay (44) said that ‘Poverty is often considered the main reason for child labour. The more important reason, he says, is that parents do not know what to do with their children once they are eight years or so. The only legitimate place for a child between 6 and 18 years is school. But, if this is not available for any reason, then parents are left with two choices, either they allow the children to loiter around and be a nuisance or fend for themselves resulting in child labour’.

Kapoor (45) has pointed out that there are constitutional safeguards against employment of children aimed at maintaining health. However Central and State Governments have failed to protect children on account of socio-economic realities. The fundamental rights assured by the Constitution will not be effective till there is further legislation making it a penal offence to violate the law.”

Mittal (46) said that ‘child labour is an offence against civilisation Their number in India is anything between four and eight crores. Poverty, tradition and entrenched social patterns drive children into jobs which are often hazardous. The solution lies in free and compulsory education and wider legal protection.’

Abolishing child labour, Harbans Singh (47) writes ”will upset their industries which are the major source of income in the area not only for the children but also for the adults.” He also said that “child labour is an economic problem and should be tackled accordingly without upsetting the industries which have created employment.”

Naik, \(^{(48)}\) for many years Special Advisor to the Govt. of India on educational policy has pointed out that “of every 100 children enrolled in Class-I only about 40 reach Class-V and only about 25 reach Class-VIII.”

Kuldip Nayyar \(^{(49)}\) pointed out that ‘no country has ended child labour without first making education compulsory. The argument that the nimble fingers of children are better than those adults is fictitious. There is no evidence that children weave carpet better than adults.”

Nalini Rajan \(^{(50)}\) has critically said that ‘Statistically speaking, one of the fine primary reasons for the high drop out rate among girls even at the primary school level is the need to take care of young siblings while the parents work. The solution is not to stop mothers from working. “Further she said that ‘education for children upto 14 years should be made compulsory and a fundamental right. This measure will drastically reduce the incidence of child labour, both paid and unpaid (Taking care of younger siblings too is a form of work. Secondly it will oblige parents to look for attentive solutions to the problem of child care.”

Kalpana Sharma \(^{(51)}\) in her article ‘Why should Children Work?’ states that both the Supreme Court judgment and the UNICEF report bring out the fact that although child labour is linked with poverty in some countries, it is not only reason for the existence of this unacceptable practice.” Her observation makes it clear that the occurrence is not just one to one equation but the result of multiple causes and that no culture would suggest that the children should be the bread winners of their respective families.

\(^{48}\) J.P Naik “Elementary Education In India “. A Promise to Keep ( Bombay) Allied publications-1975 p.10.
\(^{51}\) MS. Kalpana Sharma- Why should Children Work “.The Hindu dated 20-12-1996.
Kannan (52) has observed that “the problem of child labour arises primarily because of attitude. The point is that the lack of familial attachment, declining moral values, wrong priorities, attitude to education and the absence of human dimension in parents decision making, ruin the future of children. The theory that child labour should be attributed to economic compulsions is contested here only to suggest that any study on child labour should address social issues as well so that the problem is tackled from the right end.”

Subramanyam (53) said that ‘abject poverty aggravated by lack of family planning, lack of faith in the education system and taking up traditional activities as a matter of course, appear to be the reasons for the prevalence of child labour. As many as 25% of the workers in the unorganised are children under 14 years of age.’

Deepak Bankar, (54) President of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) said that ‘Social empowerment of the masses, especially women and the abolition of child labour, are two of the crucial issues to be addressed to ensure that the economic reforms conform to the tenets of social justice. Addressing the issue of child labor, Banker said the number of school dropouts had been swelling over the years and ‘current unofficial statistics’ suggest that the number was around 100 millions. Economic compulsions were the over-riding reasons for the large scale child employment which was a social and economic issue.

Satish Chander and Devi Lal (55) conducted a study on child labour in four villages of Mahendragarh District and Rewari Tehsil, Haryana. Data shows that 80.5 per cent parents in the child labour families were illiterate, followed by six per cent who could merely read and write. The overall educational status of their families was very poor. About 49 per cent child labour had never gone to school whereas 40 per cent had discontinued schooling. About 56 per cent parents expressed favourable view regarding the children's education whereas remaining 44 percent doubted the utility of school education for their children. Caste playing a dominant role, it was revealed that the maximum (39 per cent) children belonged to Chamar families alone. The greater load was on the shoulders of children belonging to nuclear families. (70 per cent) more than on those of (30 per cent) joint families. The maximum number (66 per cent) of children came from the most prevalent family size. The study also confirmed that small family reduces the necessity of sending children for labour in rural areas.

K.D. Gangrade and J.A. Gathia's (56) report on Women and Child Workers (1983) in Unorganized Sector indicates that India has the largest number of working children. The brick kiln industry in Stwarigaon near Delhi attracts poor rural families who work from Oct.-June when there is no agriculture work. Families are paid on piece work basis ranging from Rs. 18 to Rs. 21 per 1,000 bricks, so they use their children to increase their production.


The children risk injury from the work as well as silicosis of the lungs after three or four years of exposure to brick dust. Carpet weaving work in states like U.P., Kashmir and Tamil Nadu are flourishing centres of carpet weaving. Varanasi, Bhadohi, Mirzapur are big centres of carpet weaving. In Mirzapur belt, 50,000 workers are engaged in this work of which nearly 20 per cent are children. Match industries of Sivakasi in Tamil Nadu employ thousands of children form the age of 5 for over 10 hours a day. Women and children come predominantly from Harijan landless families. They are paid on piece rate basis. In Sivakasi, of total 1,00,000 workers, the child labour population is estimated around 45,000. Similarly a report says that in bidi making units, the piece rate system of wages has encouraged the use of children as helpers. The self-employed children work as newspaper sellers, cleaning cars, etc. Studies further indicate that these children come from families earning less than Rs. 200 per month. Along with such self employed children are the rag-pickers of Delhi. The rates fixed for rags are 25 paise a kilo of waste paper, Rs.2 for a kg. of plastic waste, Re. 1 for a kg. of iron pieces. These rates are reported to be much lower in other places. The children working in the garbage heaps with bare feet often get cuts by glass pieces and rests suffers from skin diseases and risk tetanus infections. The child rag-pickers and other self employed unorganised children have no means to increase their professional capacity and are unprotected. The child labour is essentially a problem of poor and destitute families, where parents cannot afford education of their children.
Gopunjkar, V. Pratibha and V.S. Dhole (57) conducted a study on working children in a tribal area of Maharashtra (TISS, Bombay). It reveals that children are the source of cheap labour to employers. The poverty-stricken parents also welcome what ever the child can bring in and add to the meagre household income. Child workers are paid in cash and in kind out of the jobs they perform. For many cases the wages which children get are less than what is due to them. It is also found that except for a few activities like saldari, children enjoy a real free life and do not feel the constraints of work. The hours of work are not rigid and in some cases maltreatment does exist. School facility is available for the children and existing health facilities are inadequate to cater to the needs of people. Diseases are resulting out of malnourishment and unhygienic conditions. The Special Nutrition Programme (SNP) was found to be satisfactory.

Mendelievich Elia's (58) work in the form of edited book on children at work shows that the age of children's entry to various jobs varies according to the place and the occupation. Children, only six years old, have been found working, although the usual age of entry into employment is from eight to nine years. In agriculture child workers are usually unpaid. There seems to be no particular division of labour among men, women and children in agriculture family undertakings. Children working in tea stalls and dhabas are exposed to the vagaries of the weather, since they are exposed in the open without adequate clothing or footwear. The most unhygienic working conditions are those endured by the children who collect rags and other waste materials. Virtually, training to these children is not available. Most of them learn their job while at work.

A study on the problems of social service needs of child labour in agriculture in U.P. (Singh, Surendra, 1982\(^{(59)}\)) showed that an average monthly income of a child worker had been Rs.68 which came to about Rs. 2 per day. In the majority of cases, the payment of wages was made directly by the employers and received directly by the child workers. The child workers were suffering minor ailments only caused due to seasonal variation though they were exposed to various serious diseases.

Another study conducted by Musafir Singh, V.D. Kaura and S.A..Khan \(^{(60)}\) on working children in Bombay (NIPCCD, New Delhi, 1980) revealed the difficult conditions of working children who were residing in slums and depressed areas. The majority of the families of working children had five to eight members, the average being 5.8 per family. Out of 703 children in the age group of 6-15 years as many as 319 (45.4 per cent) were found working. Out of these 403 (57.3 per cent) were boys and 300 (42.7 per cent) girls. Majority of children (68.2 percent) were getting a salary of Rs. 100 or below per month. Children engaged in construction work, arts and crafts and production were highest paid and those working in households and restaurants were the lowest paid in terms of hard cash. It is also found that 64.9 percent received pocket money to spend. 64.9 per cent, i.e., 133 children worked on regular basis and the rest on daily wages. The minimum number of hours a child worked was four and the maximum 14, the average being 8.7. As many as 54 percent did not express any difficulties in the performance of their jobs. Similarly, 88.6 per cent of the

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59. Singh Surendra : "Some Sociological Observations in Delhi Slums : A Study of their Life Conditions" New Delhi, NIPCCD (mimeo)

children were satisfied with the treatment accorded to them by their employers and 14.4 per cent were not satisfied with their salary, 66.6 per cent with the length of their working hours, 13.7 per cent with the physical conditions of the work, 5.9 per cent with the facilities and benefits available, 10.2 per cent with the security to their jobs, 3.9 percent with the treatment of their employers and 2.4 per cent with the treatment of their colleagues.

Another group of self-employed children remained away from home for over 10 hours and earned around Rs. 82 per month. Lack of fixed place of shelter, dearth of investment capital, inadequacy of equipment and harassment by officials were the main problems in carrying out the job smoothly.

A similar study on child labour - a socio economic perspective (Singh, A.N.,\(^{61}\) 1990; 113) revealed that economic conditions of 41.5 per cent of child workers' families forced them to undertake carpet weaving, 14 per cent of the child workers' parents felt motivated to put their children in labour market who were getting into bad company and in case of 13 per cent child workers, they themselves wanted to earn and live like their colleagues in the community. A majority of children (62.1 percent) were illiterate and in rest of them education varied from first standard to eighth standard. Of the total child labour force, 72.5 per cent of child workers came from backward caste families, 19.1 per cent from scheduled caste and 5.5 per cent from upper caste families. The employers' preference to

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have child labour indicates that 33.5 per cent preferred to employ children because they work hard. For 18.5 percent of the employers, child labour is cheaper than adult workers are and for 15 percent of the employers motivation has been that they can be put to any job. It is also indicated that 39.9 per cent child workers earned between Rs. 151 and Rs. 200 per month, 35.4 per cent between Rs. 101 and Rs. 150, 44.0 per cent between Rs. 51 and Rs. 100, 41 per cent earned Rs. 50 or less whereas 18 respondents did not earn any thing. The data analysis further reveals that the majority of the child workers accepted that they worked for 11 or more than 11 hours per day. This statement was also confirmed by 73 per cent of the parents of child workers and 11 per cent of the employers. Similarly, 28.8 per cent of child workers accepted that they worked daily during night. Forty-two per cent accepted to work for two hours per day, 28 per cent for three hours whereas 11 per cent accepted to work for four hours daily during night. It has been found that 30 per cent of child workers have spoken about their cordial relationship with their adult workers and the rest of them have non-cordial relations. Similarly, 24.3 percent child workers have talked about their cordial relationship with their employers and the rest of them did not have cordial relationship. Their participation in work with the adult co-workers leads to unwanted behaviour, as they speak like adult, start smoking, increase expenditure on their own. This also retards their physical growth and social development.
One dissertation on the working and living conditions of rag picking children in Delhi, Bhatia, Meenakshi \(^{62}\) (1988-89) found that of the children, 67.11 percent were from Tamil speaking areas, 27 percent from Hindi speaking areas whereas 39 percent from Rajasthan. Similarly, 9.2 per cent boys and 66.67 per cent girls were from nuclear family. Fifty-six percent felt their work as tiresome and 27 percent did not feel so. Visual difficulty was found in the respondents between 5 -10 years and in 11-15 years. Seventy per cent of the respondents did not use oil. Forty-nine percent took bath on alternate days and the rest weekly and did not use soap. Similarly, 60 percent showed interest in study, 65 per cent were not happy with work they took up. Seventy per cent boys and 50 per cent girls did not get pocket money.

Another dissertation on situational analysis of girl rag-pickers in Delhi (Aggarwal, Ritu, \(^{63}\) 1989) found that the daily earnings of rag pickers are between Rs. 4-6. On an average six to eight members had been found living in the families of rag-picking children. They spend their leisure time watching T.V. and remaining in the rooms. Girls are allowed to go for collection of rags along either with their mother or father or elder brother and they work for three to four hours in a day.

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A case study conducted by Neelkamal Puri (64) observed that in Punjab, the problem of child labor is not so acute and that is why it has not drawn too much attention. In any case most of the child labor migrated from the neighbouring States and there are no statistics to gauge the extent of exploited childhood. The mother carries home contractual work from industries such as the Sports industry in Jalandhar, the hosiery industry in Ludhiana or the badge-making industry in Malerkotla, children are promptly inducted into the proceedings such as sewing foot balls and buttons, embroidering blazer pockets etc. The author felt that child labor in Punjab is not so much a consequence of poverty but more the fallout of a degenerating education system. “Parents find it extremely difficult to send a reluctant child to school not because they cannot afford it but because schools cannot hold their interest and in fact acquire the dimensions of a monster in their little eyes and since they are hanging around at home, they automatically begin to take part in the adult’s labours.”

The studies conducted by Arunodaya, (65) N.G.O. in North Chennai of Tamilnadu reveal that children work in stainless steel vessel manufacturing units suffer from severe lung ailments. Their eyesight also diminishes by the time they are 35. And when they become unfit to work in the units, they find in their children good replacements. Thus the circle continues.

Mahender Pande (66) observed that a large number of children in urban areas are rag-pickers. They sort out the clinical garbage with great ease pathogenic contamination. He says that rag-pickers undergo many difficulties and are often unaware of the health hazards of their job. Apart from infection diseases and AIDs, rag-pickers are vulnerable to rabies and intestinal disorders. In the profession, their competition includes Cows, Buffaloes and dogs. Dog's bites leading to Rabies is common among the rag pickers. He also says that resource recovery and recycling of material is their way of life and the rag-pickers know how to make money out of wastes without any technological support.

Geetha Raguram (67) has recently conducted an opinion survey in gems units of Tiruchirapally district of Tamilnadu. She has pointed out that the employers of gem polishing unit employ child labourers because they are available at cheaper rate. If they employ adults in the place of children, they have to face many complications such as provident fund, insurance and Union activities. If children are debarred from working in gem units, the employers have no other option but to close their shops.

Sahoo (68) has observed that Government of India have passed numerous Acts such as Indian Factories Act, 1881, Mines Act, 1938, Plantation Labour Act, 1951 etc., hardly provide any protection to the children by limiting their working hours, wages, safety in hazardous occupation. Even the recently passed Child Labour Regulation Act, 1986 adds nothing substantial to previous Acts. He says that not a single case of enactment of this law is observed. In fact, prohibition of child labour makes it harder to protect children from exploitation and diverse forces of oppressions. Thus child workers are automatically excluded from organisations such as trade unions which could fight to improve their working conditions, hours of work and levels of wage.

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2.4 GOVERNMENT REPORTS

2.4.1. LABOUR INVESTIGATION COMMITTEE REPORT.

The Labour Investigation Committee (1946) found that due to inadequacy of inspection staff, it has become difficult to enforce the relevant provisions of law. Similarly, the Labour Bureau's study showed that in small industries and cottage industries such as match manufacture, Cashew nut processing, Bidi making, Carpet weaving, employment of under-age children, either uncertified or having false age certificates continues. The gradual reduction in the employment of children since independence is partly due to expansion of educational facilities by the state and also relatively due to the expansion of statutory provisions relating to child labor.

In the bidi industry in South India children are employed as helpers to adult workers. Child labour is employed in homes as well as in the workshops. In the Tirunelveli district in Madras State bidi making is carried on the home work system and it is difficult to assess the extent of child labour. In Madras, Tiruchirapalli and Vellore, children are employed in the workshops where bidis are rolled as well as in homes under the home work system. The organisation of the bidi industry in Madras has undergone a radical change since the enforcement of the Factories Act, 1948 and difficult as it was to enforce legal provisions in the industry in former times it has now become well nigh impossible to do so. The sub-contractor or the manager of the branch factory as he was called do not provide the work premises and it is now the responsibility of the workers themselves to find premises for their work. The sub-contractors issue the modalities get back the finished product but escape the labour legislation. The number of workshops has consequently increased and the premises have shifted to the new slum areas as the workers cannot afford anything better.
Invariably the employers of child labour are the workers themselves and often the children are related to the workers whom they help. Several workers stated that they realised that such work was deleterious to the children but they could not afford to send them to school and to buy books, slates and clothes for them. The earnings of these children though meagre helped to bridge the gap between a bare subsistence and destitute poverty. In many cases the child workers were the sole bread winners having to support an aged or infirm parent.

In Vellore town which is an important bidi manufacturing centre, children are not usually employed in the workshops in the heart of the town but in the workshops at the outskirts particularly in the Kasba and Cheri areas a large number of children are employed. About a third of the persons seen working were children below 14 years of age and about half the children were of a tender age about 5 to 10 years. The sub contractors invariably deny that the children are working there. They say that they had come to the shop bringing meal to their relations. Each child however had a separate work basket before him.

In Bangalore, particularly in the bidi workshops in the Cantonment area, about a third of the bidi workers are children between the ages of 6 and 12. Warangal is one of the important bidi making centres in Hyderabad. Some of the big factories come under the Factories Act but a large number of smaller units are unregulated. The restrictive provisions regarding the employment of children do not deter even the big factories from engaging child labour. Only they are careful not to show them on the registers.
2.4.2 MINISTRY OF LABOUR BUREAU’S REPORT ON CHILD LABOUR

Ministry of Labour Bureau, Government of India, in its report on Child Labour in India (1954) has pointed out that, the Indian Mines Act, 1923 prohibited the employment of children below 13 in mines but in 1926, children below 12 still constituted about 1.6 of the labour force in mines. In 1935, the minimum age of employment of children was raised to 15. Persons between the ages of 15 and 17 could not be employed as adults or allowed to work underground unless they were certified medically to fit for work as adults. In their main report the Labor Investigation Committee has remarked: “In contravention of the provisions of the act regarding employment of women and children, both women and children appear to be employed underground in Mica mines. Both these sections (relating to employment of children below 15 and young persons between 15 and 17 underground) are infringed. Workers collude with employers in the employment of women and children in order to augment their family income as their own wages are basically low.”

Ministry of Labour, Labour Bureau Government of India, in its report on Child Labour in India (1954) “ has pointed out that “ Mirzapur in U.P. was for a long time, a very important centre for carpet weaving. In recent years, however, activity in this regard has shifted to a large extent to Bhadohi although Mirzapur still remain the trading centre. With advent of Factories Act, 1948 the organisation of the carpet weaving industry has undergone a radical change and the connected with weaving has shifted from the factory to the home of the master weavers. The various carpet factories now keep their looms in charge of several master weavers who engage about three more persons to work each loom. At least one, and in many cases two, of these helpers are children between the age of 10 and 12 years. It is estimated that in and around Bhadohi over 50,000 workers are engaged in carpet weaving and at least 25 percent of these are children. In Mirzapur, it is said that every two of the four

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workers to a loom, are children. The estimated total number of workers in Mirzapur is 20,000 out of whom 8,000 to 9,000 are children.

The Report on Child Labor in India, Government of India, Ministry of Labor, Labor Bureau, 1954, has observed that: In 1952 an attempt was made to collect some information from the two main centres of the match industry in South India, Sattur and Sivakasi.

The percentage of children employed in these factories varies from 3.2 to 53.7 and the average extent of child labor was 25.9 percent of the total labor force. Adolescents also formed a large part of the working strength, namely, 10.3 percent. Both among adolescents and children, females formed the bulk accounting for 72.6 percent and 73.3 percent respectively, of the total number of adolescents and children. Several of the children were very young, obviously between the ages of 8 and 12, but they had age certificates declaring them to be 14. Another peculiarity of the match industry in these centres is the prevalence of the out work system particularly in frame filling and box making and much of the work is done by children as out workers. In many cases such children take the material from the factory and work in the factory premises but outside the factory building, sitting in shady nooks and corners. Often the factory premises are crowded with such children ranging in age from 5 to 12. In regard to the employment of children in match factories in South India, the position does not appear to have improved in any way since the Labor Investigation Committee reported. ‘A most remarkable sight was that on arrival it was found that young persons of about the age of 8 or 10, particularly girls ran helter skelter with trays on their heads. It was explained to me by the Factory Inspector that this was a usual sight when he visited these factories. The meaning of it all was that these youngsters were all uncertified children working in the factories who were trained to pretend, on the appearance of the
Factory Inspector or any other visitor that they were only carrying the trays etc., to their homes for the work to be done by their elders in their homes. In these factories were also found working many children who were obviously under 12 years of age although they seemed to be in possession of badges showing that they were certified.

2.4.3. REPORT OF THE NATIONAL COMMISSION OF LABOUR, EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN

The report of the National Commission of Labour, Employment of Women and Children (Government of India, 1969) has found that in many cities large number of young boys are employed for long hours and discipline is strict. Even children five years of age may be found in some of these places working without adequate meal, intervals or weekly rest days, and 10 to 12 hours daily for as low as 2 annas in the case of those of tender age.

2.4.4. HARBANS SINGH’S REPORTS ON THE PROBLEMS OF CHILD LABOUR.

Harbans Singh's reports on the problems of child labour in various factories in Ramanathapuram district (1976) are as follows:

1. Due to continuous drought and non-availability of agricultural work, enterprising people in West Ramanathapuram district have started the match manufacturing and fire works factories. The climatic conditions in the town of Ramanathapthuram district, particularly the poor rainfall are largely responsible for the concentration of match and fire works factories which cannot flourish in areas of dampness and wet weather. The same factor has helped the growth of these industries in another way. Scanty rainfall means poor agriculture and the
need to find alternative jobs. Thus a large body of labor became readily available throughout the year for employment in the match and fire works industries.

2. An important feature of this industry is the preponderant employment of women and children. The two together constitute about 80% of the total labour force in this industry. The children outnumber the women. Their percentage to total labour employed is between 40-45. Again among the children the girls outnumber the boys, the ratio being one to three. Only for a few processes which are arduous or hazardous, men are employed in the factories. Further a part of the work is done in the houses. For example the process of inner and outer box making is done mostly in the houses. Similarly part of the frame filling operation is also carried on in the house. The adults as well as children work on these operations often on a part-time basis to supplement their earnings.

3. The workers in the match industry are paid wages on piece-rate basis depending on their out turn unlike the traditional time-rate system prevalent in other industries. The justification given for the piece rate system is that the industry has to compete against an industrial giant, viz; Wimco, and must always keep its cost of production low.

4. The growth of the industry has been phenomenal so much so that for the last many years it has been experiencing a severe shortage of labour. To meet its requirements the industry transports labour from distant places at its own cost. Some units run their own buses or lorries and some others pay the bus fare to workers coming from distant places. Most of the workers transported over long distances are children. They are brought to the factories from the villages early in the morning and are taken back at the convenience of the management. They take rest whenever they like as they receive wages on piece-rate basis. But whether they actually work or not, the children have to stay away from their homes for long hours. It has been stated by some labour leaders that the children have to get up at 4 A.M. to catch the
bus and return to their houses by 7 P.M. and some times even later depending on whether the bus comes up to the village or the children have also to cover some distance on foot.

5. Since the children have to stay in the factories until they are transported back and wages are paid on piece-rate basis, usually they are employed for more than the stipulated hours of work viz. 4 ½ hours per day. Because of the poverty the children themselves opt work for more than 4 ½ as they can earn more. The employers representatives stated that the parents of the working children forced them to work longer hours to maximise their earnings.

6. Children are overcrowded in certain sections like frame and box filling. Drinking water and latrine facilities are inadequate and are not on the scales prescribed in the factories rules. Creches and rest sheds are provided in larger factories but are inadequate and more often than not they are used for purposes for which they are not meant (like storing raw materials and finished goods). Proper washing facilities are not provided in most of the factories due to inadequate availability of water and space.

7. Fire and explosion are the worst hazards in the fire works and match factories. The Inspectorate of Explosives of the Government of India as well as the State Inspector of Factories attempt to control such accidents by insisting on safety precautions being taken to avoid such unfortunate accidents.

2.4.5. LABOUR BUREU’S REPORT ON CHILD LABOUR (1979)

In a report based on study of Child Labour (Labour Bureau, 1979), it was revealed that out of six tea factories studied, the total employment was 1,484. Of these 434 were adolescents and 171 were children. The rates of wages of children varied from Rs. 2.99 to Rs. 3.05 per day. Children were also entitled to subsidised ration. In addition, free medical aids, free firewood and tealeaf (250 GM) were also provided. In these factories, children
were working for more than the prescribed hours of work, i.e., four hours. No special welfare facilities for children existed there. In the match and fire works factories approximately 40,000 to 50,000 children below 15 years of age are working in Sivakasi and surrounding areas. The reason for such an alarming magnitude of child employment in these areas was that these areas happened to be labour intensive and where the entire process of work is done manually and 60 per cent of the country's matchboxes and 90 per cent of its fire works are produced here. Similarly, in bidi industry, of the total workers, 40 percent were children below 14 years. The average minimum and maximum earning of child workers ranged between Rs. 1 to 1.50 per day. The working conditions in these industries were unhygienic and deplorable. The work places were extremely crowded, dark and dingy. The workers were living in small and congested houses situated in the slums of the town and were forced to work for long hours to earn their livelihood. In glass and potteries, child workers were engaged in all sorts of hazardous jobs involving handling of red-hot glass, cutting the unwanted portions of goods manufactured. Children were seen living in almost inhuman conditions with bone injuries merely to earn a living. In the carpet weaving industry, wages of children varied from Rs. 2 to Rs. 10 per day. For weavers where the wages were Rs. 2 to Rs. 4 per day during past six months of service when full skill of the trade was achieved. The child workers were required to work for same hours as fixed for adult workers.

The same report of the committee on Child Labour (Ministry of Labour, Government of India, December, 1979) indicated that in our country, the tradition of educational learning outside home was confined to the upper caste and the privileged classes. Children of the producing classes learnt the necessary skills and work in the family. Step by step these children get steeped in the ethos of labour. Thus poverty and child labour always make each other and tend to reinforce themselves in families and communities. For a number of tasks,
employers prefer children to adults. Children can be put on non-status, even demeaning jobs, without much difficulty. Children are more amenable to discipline and control. Child labour is also cheaper to buy and is a greater source of profit. In fact child workers are not organized on lines of trade unions which can militantly fight for their cause. Child labour is also justified on the ground that it trains the child's fingers in the required skill.

Report of the Committee on Child Labour, Ministry of Labour, Government of India (December, 1979) has also observed that the Carpet weaving industry of Jammu & Kashmir employs, 6,500 children of 8 to 10 years of age, forcing them to work 8 hours a day for Rs.80/- per month. The children are packed into sheds, in low long rows behind giant looms feverishly picking warp and wool as a master craftsman gives instructions. The air is thick with particles of cotton fluffs and wool and 60% of the children are asthmatic or have primary tuberculosis.

The Report of the Committee on Child Labour (1979) has also observed in Kanchipuram in Tamilnadu that children between the age group of 7 to 14 working on looms. It was pointed out that because of their nimble fingers they were particularly deft in weaving designs and borders. Most of them never been to school. They were getting a wage between Rs.60/- to Rs.100/- a month. Some of the young children were paid as low as Rs.15/- a month. In some cases, it was also pointed out that children had been pledged into work by guardians on a long term basis. In Shantipur area in West Bengal, again children of young age were found likewise working on cotton hand looms. Even 6 to 7 years old children had been given the task of preparing reels. While a few others, slightly senior in age, were operating the looms.
2.4.5. KICHU GURUPADASWAMY COMMITTEE'S REPORT ON CHILD LABOUR (1979)

Kichu Gurupadaswamy, Chairman of the Committee of Child Labour (1979) looked into the causes leading to and the problems arising out of the employment of children. He also examined the existing laws, their adequacy and implementation. The Committee found that the bulk of labour continue to be employed in rural environment without wages. Children handled dangerous chemicals and they were employed on machines with sharp edges and blades. The Committee felt that definite efforts would be called for to prohibit their working in such occupations. The Committee would wish to emphasis unequivocally that unless a systematic evaluation is made from time to time in respect of jobs in which children are employed and certain purposeful policy decisions would be taken to meet the deficiencies, the existing situation would not be likely to undergo any dimensional, qualitative or quantitative change.

It is estimated that nearly 50,000 child workers are employed in Match and Fireworks units of Sivakasi, Tamilnadu. There is an organized system to arrange for their transport from the neighbouring villages and to bring them to the factory sites. The children have to leave their homes in the early hours of the morning to catch the factory bus. An incredibly large number of them are jam packed into ramshackle buses. Children actually start work from 7 in the morning and continue till 6 in the evening. In between there is a short break around noon time, when most of them eat their tiffins which they bring from home. Because the wages are determined on the basis of piece-rates (and this system generally prevails in other areas also where children are employed) they all work feverishly in the time available to them to show the maximum output. This results in a complete
neglect of their own requirements and many of the children were found rather frail and anemic in their looks. There was no medical assistance available to them and children even in sick conditions had no option except to sit in the factory and work on box making, frame-filling, box-filling, labelling and band role pasting. Despite their best efforts for the day their return was a very meagre one.

2.4.7. THE REPORT ON CHILD LABOUR IN INDIAN INDUSTRIES (1981)

The Report on Child Labour in Indian industries (1981) Labour Bureau, Shimla, Ministry of Labor, Government of India. have observed that: In Tamilnadu the hosiery industry is mainly concentrated in Tiruppur township in the district of Coimbatore. There are approximately 2,000 hosiery establishments at Tiruppur (registered under the Factories Act, 1948 and unregistered Units). Out of the registered units, four units were selected for the study. All these units were in the private sector.

(1) Employment:

The total employment in the four units selected for the study was 118. Out of this 65 were adults, 13 adolescents and 40 (34%) children. All the child workers were unskilled. Out of these, 38 percent were temporary while the other 62 percent were casual i.e. daily paid workers. In recruitment of child labour, preference was given to the children and relatives of the workers already employed. The recruitment was done at the factory gate.

(2). Wages And Earnings:

The children were mostly found working as helpers to the tailors. While working as helpers they were paid Rs.1.50 to Rs.5.00 per day and when they attend to label Stitching they were paid 5 to 10 paise per dozen on piece-rate basis. About 43 percent children were
employed on piece-rates while about 52 percent on time-rate basis. In three units, payments were made weekly while in one unit wages were paid daily.

(3). **Working Conditions:**

No discrimination was made between adults and child workers regarding the hours of work. The working hours for all workers including children were 8 hours a day with regular rest interval.

Children were found working in ill-ventilated and over-crowded houses where less care was given for cleanliness and sanitary facilities. Though the jobs were light in nature but excessive working hours made the children overworked. No welfare facilities were provided to the children in any of the sample units.

Report on Child Labour in Indian Industries (1981) has observed that: Though employment of young children is prohibited under various labour enactments, yet it was gathered that approximately, 40,000 to 50,000 children below 15 years of age were working in Sivakasi and the surrounding localities. Inquiries into the causes of such an alarming magnitude of child employment in this particular area revealed very cogent and convincing explanations. Sivakasi situated in Ramanathapuram district of Tamilnadu is a highly drought-prone areas and thus the entire rural population suffering from the vagaries of nature and pangs of poverty are left with no other alternative but to flock to the local factories of Sivakasi to earn their livelihood. The extreme climatic conditions of the area have a unique influence on the origin and development of the three popular industries of Sivakasi viz., Match, Fire works and Printing Presses, for which the dry climate is considered as an ideal prerequisite. At one end the dry climate and scarcity of rains, provide an ideal natural environment for the growth and development of these industries while on the other end, the overall poverty and economic backwardness of the drought-stricken rural population provide abundance of cheap local labour. It is observed that 45,000 children employed in Sivakasi

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Match Units. Parents own land but are unable to cultivate the drought-prone Sivakasi town in Ramanathapuram district of Tamilnadu which has 250 factories producing matches and fireworks. Schooling is ruled out for children, who worked anywhere between 12 and 14 hours everyday to take home a mere Rs.2. Since wages are paid on piece-rate and labourers work painfully for an additional rupee on most days. There are 45,000 children aged from four to 15 working in degrading and hazardous conditions.

2.4.8. REPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONFERENCE, ON CHILD LABOUR (1983).

The report asserts that child labour in urban activities, though some times found in the organised sectors, can be considered to be a problem, mainly of the unorganised sectors. The work force of entire industries (mainly small scale and informal sector enterprises.) in some African and Asian cities consists largely of low paid child labour. The report points out the economic activities in which children participate

1. Domestic work such as cleaning, cooking, childcare and other chores in the child’s own household undertaken by children in almost all societies.

2. Non-domestic but non-monetary work: This covers such activities as farm work, fuel and water collection and hunting. Even in the urban sector many urban household production units engaged in trade and services as well as in artisan manufacturing production rely on children for activities such as running errands, guarding goods, marketing etc.

3. Bonded labour: Usually illegal, it arises as one of the obligations to landlords whereby the provision of child labour is part of the family’s rent or in a situation where children are given in settlement of debts.
4. Wage employment: Children working as part of a family group or individually in agricultural sites, in domestic services, in manufacturing and services activities etc. They may work on a piece-rate or time rate basis, as regular or casual workers, in jobs that may or may not involve some training.

5. Marginal work: The types of activities in this category vary in nature and intensity. They may be irregular or of a short-term nature such as selling newspapers, shoe-shining, 'looking after' cars, garbage collection and sorting out objects from garbage.

2.4.9. STUDY ON 'WORKING CONDITIONS OF CHILDREN EMPLOYED IN UNORGANIZED SECTOR - LABOUR IN SIVAKASI' (CSR, MADRAS, 1984)

Another study 'Working Conditions of Children Employed in Unorganized Sector - labour in Sivakasi' (CSR. Madras, 1984) found that majority of the children employed in match units were girls. Working children were found to be main breadwinners in most of the families in Sivakasi. The study further indicates that 36 per cent of the families have more than two children employed in match units. It is reported that 95 per cent of the child workers took job in match units because of the poor financial condition of their families. According to the report given by the Chamber of Match Industry, the industry is paying 35 per cent to 50 percent more than the minimum wages fixed by the Government. But an analysis shows that the wages of child workers are less than what is stated by the Chamber of Match Industry. Moreover, child workers were found to be working for long hours in ill-ventilated places without basic amenities and rest pause. This affects their health and retards
their physical growth. The welfare facilities extended to the child workers and their working conditions were not commensurate with the growth and monetary turnover in the match industry. Health and nutrition of these children had been completely ignored by the employers. The toilet facilities were almost non-existent in their places of work as well as in their homes. Fifteen percent of the children stated that they are forced to work in spite of their poor health conditions. These children work for more than 10 hours per day. Out of all the child workers, 11 per cent stated that they were treated harshly by their employers, 88 per cent stated that they are scolded when they committed mistakes, the rest are beaten on such occasions.

2.4.10. STUDY BY THE INSTITUTE OF ECONOMICS AND MARKET RESEARCH ON CHILD LABOUR IN HIMACHAL PRADESH

A study conducted by the Institute of Economics and Market Research on Child Labour in Himachal Pradesh estimates that one third of 10-14 years' old children in rural and one-eighth of those in urban areas are at work. In agriculture they work for about 280 days in a year. In villages, children were used as bonded labour and as contract labour in urban areas. Economic condition of the family was the main reason for children to take up jobs. Employer desired to have child labour because they were easy to manage and also available for less wages. Of the working children 36.79 per cent belonged to scheduled caste scheduled tribe household, another 20.75 percent to lower castes. Most of the children worked for less than a year but child labour engaged in tea plantations was more stable. 41.10 percent children were having temporary jobs and 30.14 per cent seasonal. The job they got was on the basis of personal contact and quite a few through newspapers etc. About 37.59 per cent parents conceded that working children were getting better treatment at home in the shape of

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better food, clothes etc. It was also found that working children were sober and better behaved. However, bad habits like smoking, gambling had been acquired and some become disobedient. Majority of children was working for long hours. About 5.26 percent worked for more than 15 hours and 18.31 per cent for 10 - 15 hours. In Kangra 76 per cent of children worked for 7-8 hours and 9.07 per cent mentioned about poor safety conditions, but mostly did not feel it as a problem. A few complained that their work affected their lungs etc. The working conditions of these children are by and large, very unsatisfactory. Children continue to work in places, which lack proper sanitary and ventilation facilities. Medical facilities are also not available.

2.4.11. STUDY ON RAG-PICKING CHILDREN IN DELHI (NIPCCD, 1986)

Another study on Rag-Picking children in Delhi (NIPCCD, 1986) found that 90 percent children came from nuclear families. A large number, i.e., 90 percent lived in houses owned by them. Every three out of four lived in katcha houses with minimum civic amenities. These respondents were migrants from the States of Haryana, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. Similarly, 37.7 percent attended school. Out of them, 40.7 percent had dropped out before completing their primary education. One-third of the members of the families studied were engaged in rag-picking. They contributed to the extent of 31.24 per cent of the total monthly income of the families. The circumstances which forced them to undertake this work were poverty, non-availability of suitable jobs for children and family occupation etc. According to their parents, 90 per cent of child rag-pickers took up this work willingly. The average frequency of cuts and injuries reported by parents and their children was six times more than average which occurs in a month. Every fourth parent/guardian did not report about any change in the habits and behaviour of the children engaged in rag-picking.
2.4.12. SURVEY ON NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS (N.G.O) INCLUDING VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS IN 1989 IN EAST GODAVARI DISTRICT IN ANDHRA PRADESH

According to a survey conducted by Non-Governmental Organisations (N.G.O) including Voluntary Organisations in 1989 in East Godavari district in Andhra Pradesh reveals that there are a total 1950 child labourers working in hazardous industrial units. They include 900 in tiles factories, 800 in quarries and crushers, 150 in cashew processing units and 100 in brick kilns. The 1950, “Bala Karmikulu,” were freed from the harmful industries and rehabilitated into 39 special schools opened by 16 Non-Government Organisations for non formal education up to the primary stage. After completing their education in these special schools, the children are eligible to pursue formal education in regular schools. The report has observed that parents of the children freed from hazardous industries who were solely dependant on the earnings of their children are each given Rs.100 a month and made to actively participate in savings schemes like DWCRA, with a view to making these families self-reliant economically. The report has pointed out that unless the Acts relating to the rehabilitation of ‘bala karmikulu’ are properly and strictly implemented, the social problem would continue to plague the society and the Government as well. Government is also responsible for the proper implementation of Acts enacted by it.

2.4.13. CENTER FOR PUBLIC POLICY (CPP) HYDERABAD:(1995):

CPP has conducted a study on Child Labour in Hazardous Industries in Hyderabad. CPP points out that most of the parents send their children to work and they view education as an expenditure and not as an investment. The study says that while children work in
hazardous industries due to poverty or parental attitudes, a complex set of realities influence the level of acceptance of child labour. Parents are desperate for additional income to run the family. The community elders feel they should not deprive a family of its due as stopping a child may mean the family will have to forego at least a meal. The study further reveals that over 85% of the families surveyed have never benefited from the Integrated Rural Development Programmes. The study has recommended the strengthening, re-orienting and reforming of the existing schools in the State and pointed out that admissions should be open to all children wherever the Special Schools are set up. In selecting teachers also the preference should be given to dynamic, imaginative local youth even if they do not possess trained teacher certificates.

2.4.14. STUDY “ERADICATION OF CHILD LABOUR IN HOSIERY INDUSTRY IN COIMBATTORE IN TAMILNADU (1996) BY GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU

Another study “Eradication of Child Labour in Hosiery industry in Coimbatore in Tamilnadu (1996) by government of Tamilnadu found that child labour was rampant in Hosiery industry, The study revealed that out of 1.01 lakh child workers, 9,249 were full time workers and the remaining (8,741) part time workers. Out of 1.01 lakh child workers, 15,904 were never attended school. Hosiery Units are considered as hazardous for child workers. These units are manufacturing knit wear for export purposes. Child workers are subject to work more than 10 hours per day in these units and they are paid Rs. 10/- per day. In order to abolish child labour in hazardous units, the District Administration has established 40 Special Schools for these children. In these schools, non-formal education using play
methods of teaching was imparted to child workers after their working hours. These children were provided with free uniform and evening meals.

2.4.15. STATE OF WORLD CHILDREN’S REPORT BY UNICEF.

The ‘State of the World’s Children’ Report- (1996) released by the UNICEF has demanded the elimination of child labour and also insist for free and compulsory education for every child, stringent anti-child labour laws and their vigorous enforcement birth registration of all children, data collection and monitoring and codes of conducts for procurement policies. Calling for a change in national and international priorities to ensure that every child has access to relevant good quality primary education, the report exhorts. Governments of various countries to allocate 20% of their budgets to education and basic social services. The report further defies the fact that the child labour is only found in the developing world that it cannot be eliminated until poverty disappears. It points out that child labour exists primarily because there are people willing to use children for profit, exploiting their poverty, defying existing national laws. Another myth regard child labour, that it exists primarily in the export oriented industry, is also denied by, the report. It holds less than 5% working children are employed in there industries. The report also denies that sanctions and boycotts are the only way to make headway against child labour.

2.4.16. STUDY ON WORKING CHILDREN IN URBAN DELHI (ICCW, NEW DELHI, 1997)

A study on working children in urban Delhi (ICCW, New Delhi, 1997) has examined the extent, causes and consequences of child labour practices in Delhi. The study found that most of the children were employed in workshops in tea stalls, dhabas and as domestic
servants, they are coming mostly from Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. The average monthly income of their families was Rs. 321.50 and the average size of the household with working children was 5.5. The number of working children per household generally increased with family size. The daily hours of work in most of the establishments were 6 to 10; and against the maximum of six hours (for young persons between the ages of 12 and 18) laid down in the Delhi Shops and Establishments Act. Nearly 50 per cent of the children in registered tea stalls and dhabas worked for more than 12 hours a day. The environment and working conditions are unsatisfactory and most of the establishments are situated in the walled city and are located in lanes and by-lanes. The lighting and ventilation in these working areas are just sufficient to carry on the work but sanitation and hygiene cannot be simply thought of in such conditions. The children engaged in manufacturing and servicing earned less than Rs. 60, domestic workers earned Rs. 26-50 and those in shops and dhabas earned Rs. 26-50. The child workers in auto repairs and cycle repair shops are being given Rs.30 as wages. These children have to be satisfied with low status, occupations and/or low wages with unfavourable working conditions.

2.4.17. NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION (NHRC - 1997).

The Commission (NHRC) (1997) has found that the real problem of child labour was education unless there is compulsory schooling for atleast six years, it will not be possible to eradicate child labour. It has been observed that no country has ended child labour without first making education compulsory to the children. Since schooling is not compulsory for any age group in India, there are no restrictions on when children can enter the labor force. The Commission also observed that Government policy promoted the employment of children as small-scale industries were legally permitted to use child labor in family-owned workshops.
Further there is no statutory protection for children in factories which employ more than 10 workers.

2.4.18. THE SOCIETY FOR PARTICIPATORY RESEARCH IN ASIA (PRIA) (GUJARAT-1997).

This Society has conducted a study on child labour in hazardous industries in Bhavanagar city of Gujarat during the year 1997. The Society has pointed out that with no consideration for age, children are predominantly occupied in Diamond cutting and polishing industries, and Biscuit manufacture units. Child workers in these industries are not provided any basic faculties like drinking water or toilet facilities at their work places. These children were beaten up even for small mistakes and they are not allowed to avail sick leave. These children are paid only daily wages and which are not sufficient even to buy their meals and they are subjected to work more number of hours than adults. These children are suffering from respiratory and eye disorders, skin infections, severe stomach ache and tuberculosis and their growth is stunted. They are also subject to work in extremely unsafe and accident prone conditions and became frequent victims of injuries.

2.4.19. SAVE THE CHILDREN FUND REPORT (1997):

The study has observed that Tamilnadu which ranks highest in the performance of health care facilities and access to educational opportunities has not been able to reduce the social deprivation for children, rendering them vulnerable to the life-long trap of child labour. The report has further observed that nutritional levels of children has to be given
utmost importance. It has also stressed the need for comprehensive data base for child workers.

2.4.20. CONFEDERATION OF VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS (COVA), HYDERABAD (1997):

A study Commissioned by the Confederation of Voluntary Organisations (COVA) on “Incidence of Child Labour in Hyderabad,” has revealed that a majority of the children earned a meager amount of Re 5. to 10 a day, much less than the amount paid to adults for the same work. The study covering child labour employed in Zari work, bangles and agarbathi making, welding and wood works, brass and automobile workshops found that though a majority of such children earned a monthly income of Rs. 300 only neither they nor their parents complained about low wages. Child workers’ parents perception is that the child while being gainfully employed kept out of trouble and also learnt a skill for the future. The children too were ‘proud’ that they were contributing to family income. Even at a tender age of five to nine years the child worked hard for one to two years while many of the 10 year-olds had already put in three years of work. The children worked in to eight hours a day and had very little free time for themselves. Yet surprisingly there was a warm relationship at work place between the child and the employers. The latter may not pay wages for the day, some times nor give them a paid holiday, but is always there to help them when they are sick and is generally concerned about the child and the family. A majority of the children were school drop outs, the main reason cited being poverty. Only 30% of the children were going to school. Though the Government schools were free, the parents and the children suspected their ability to impart education that was of any value and therefore preferred private institutions. 70 percent of the children had recognised the advantage of education and wanted
to go to school, poverty, inconvenient timings, lack of financial supporting incentives like midday meals were discouraging them from pursuing education. Of the sample of 165,150 were boys and 15 were girls. As most children lacked education and other alternative skills, their ultimate ambition was to acquire expertise in the trade. They were working and later set up a work shop of their own. Some of the child workers complained about backache, arising from sitting long hours in one position or burning of eyes from flames from the furnace. The survey throws light on their lifestyle, their disarmingly modest ambitions and their mortality at times beyond their years. Girls worked in trades that were operated from homes. The boys usually went to work in the neighborhood sheds and workshops. Work was more often than not gender. Most of the children came from joint families where grand parents, uncles and aunts shared a common kitchen. Majority of the child workers, the father of the child was either involved in petty business or was a wage earner and had an average income of Rs.700 to Rs.1,000 a month while most women were housewives. Therefore the average income of the family including that of wards employed as labor worked out to Rs.1,500 to Rs.2,500 barely sufficient to subsist, especially given the fact that on an average a family had five and in some cases eight children.

2.4.21. INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION'S REPORT ON CHILD LABOUR IN GUJARATH(1997):

The report revealed that the out of every ten paid rural workers is a child labour in Gujarat, Surat and Surendranagar districts. Schooling and non-schooling activities affected the 5 - 14 age group of children. Census and survey techniques do not capture the true extent of child labour, hence there is the necessity to adopt a different methodology. Children were paid less than the adult workers with the difference being less in the case of children
working in tea or snack stalls. The survey has revealed that girls were more likely to work than boys, although much of their work was unpaid household work. Work was rare among children under 10, but increased rapidly in the 10-14 age group and by far the largest group of working children was unpaid family workers. Rural children worked more than urban children with agricultural work being the main type of rural work and informal sector activity the main urban occupation. And a high proportion of child employees gave their extra wages to their parents or the relatives they lived with. Children’s work was considered essential to maintain the economic level of the household either in the form of work for wages or of help in household enterprise or of household chores that freed adult household members for economic activity elsewhere. A majority of these children who worked did so more hours per day a week, including on public holidays, especially in the rural areas. The study has further revealed that in many instances, girls worked longer hours than boys. Upto two-third of employed children worked extra hours without additional payment. Quite a few working children were injured, ill or fatigued consequent to their working conditions or environment. A very high proportion of these injuries were due to work accidents.

2.4.22. STATE OF THE WORLD’S CHILDREN REPORT, 1997:

This report has pointed out that 20 million children in India work in hazardous industries and 15 millions work as bonded labour. For them, right to play, recreation, education and health simply do not apply. The report has mainly concentrated on six key steps, namely elimination of hazardous child labour, free and compulsory education for all the children. Stringent anti-child labour laws and their vigorous enforcement, registration of all children at birth, data collection and monitoring (data on child labour is very scarce) and lastly, codes of conduct and procurement policies.