

**INCIDENCE AND DIMENSIONS OF CHILD
LABOUR IN AIZAWL CITY**

**(A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED FOR THE AWARD OF THE
DEGREE OF MASTER OF PHILOSOPHY IN ECONOMICS)**

BY

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TO

**THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS
SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS, MANAGEMENT
&
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I

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CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the dissertation entitled “**Incidence and Dimensions of Child Labour in Aizawl City**” by Shri Doumuanlal has been written under my guidance. This dissertation is the result of his investigation into the subject and was never submitted to any other University for any research degree.

II

DECLARATION

MIZORAM UNIVERISTY

2015

I, Doumuanlal, do hereby declare that the subject matter of this thesis is the record of work done by me, that the contents of this thesis did not form the base of the award of any previous degree to me or to do the best of my knowledge to anybody else, and that the dissertation has not been submitted by me for any research degree in any other University/ Institute.

This is being submitted to the Mizoram University for the degree of Master of Philosophy in Economics.

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III

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(DOUMUANLAL)

I dedicated this Dissertation to my beloved mother Lalramzau, who passed away on the 30th of March, 2008.

Appendix-I: STRUCTURED QUESTIONNAIRE

INCIDENCE AND DIMENSIONS OF CHILD LABOUR IN AIZAWL CITY

General Information of the Respondents:

1. Age: _____
2. Sex: Male () Female ()
3. Literacy: a. Illiterate () b. Literate () if so upto which standard?
(a) Primary () b) middle () c) high school ()
4. Father's/Mother's name: _____
5. Tribe: ST () SC () (OBC ()
6. Types of work: vendors () waiter/waitress ()
dumping ground () stone crushing ()
7. Birth Place: immigrant() Indigenous resident ()
Resident ()
If immigrant (please specify where you come from): _____
8. Number of family members: Below 3 () Below 5 ()
Below 7 ()
9. Family status: BPL () APL ()
10. Type of house you lived in :
rented house () owned house ()
11. Which is owned by your family? Ration card ()
job card () adhaar card ()
12. Whom do you reside with? Parents () relatives()
guardian but not relatives ()
13. Are you aware of the existence of Child Welfare
Commission? yes () No ()

Economic Aspects

1. Approx. daily income : <Rs 100 () <Rs. 200 ()
<Rs. 300 ()
2. Father's occupation: _____
3. Are you satisfied with your work?
(Yes/No):.....
4. Do you think you make some contributions to your family through your work? Yes () No ()
5. Do you have any financial support from others (govt./NGOs/relatives):_____
6. Would you be interested to do another work other than this? _____
7. How long have you been working? Less than 1 month () less than 6 months ()
less than 1 year () more than 1 year ()
8. Which among the following do you owned at home?
 - a) TV b) Refrigerator c) Two wheeler d) Computer
 - e) Gas stove f) water filter
 - g) Electric iron h) Washing machine
 - (i) Music system j) Steel almirah k) Sewing machine
 - l) mobile phone m) None

Health and Nutrition

9. Do you have any complain in your health due to this work? Yes () No ()
If yes: _____
10. Frequency of doctor visit : never () once a year ()
twice a year ()
11. Are you vaccinated? Yes () No ()
12. How often you take meal per day? Once ()
twice () thrice ()
13. How many hours you sleep per night?

14. How often you take bath in a week?

15. Items of consumption: rice () meat () ()
vegetables () () milk () ()
Vitamin syrup () () egg () () Fruits () ()

Education

16. Have you ever go to school before working? Yes ()
No () How long?
17. Whom do you think responsible for your drop-out?(please specify): _____
18. Would you be interested to continue education if you are in a position to do so? Yes () no ()
19. As a child, what is your dream/aim?

Social and Cultural Aspects

-
20. Do you go to Sunday school in your denomination?
Yes () No ()

21. Do you have any inferiority complex when you are with your friend who goes to school? Yes () No ()
22. Does your friend tease you because of your work? Yes () No ()
23. Is there any gender discrimination in your work place? Yes () No ()
24. What are the obstacles you faced at your work place?
25. How do you spend your leisure?
26. How often you visited any children recreational sites? Never () occasionally () often ()
27. Are you aware that child labour is prohibited? Yes () No ()

Appendix –II: Questionnaire for Members of Child Welfare Commission

1. Do you think that the incidence of child labour is increasing in Aizawl city?

(a) Yes () (b) No ()

2. What do you think the state government should do in order to withdraw children from the labour market?

.....

3. Do you think that the central government should make specific program of action to progressively eliminate child labour? (*other than the existing programs*)

(a) Yes () (b) No ()

What program of action would you suggest for Aizawl city?

.....

4. What would you suggest for the better functioning of the working of CWC in Aizawl city?

.....

1.1 INTRODUCTION

The problems and issues of exploitative child labour have received much attention in recent years. Yet solutions remain elusive, and they are made more complicated by the fact that the extent of child labour reflects a country's level of economic development. This means developed country calls for prohibition can seem hollow in the eyes of developing countries which maintain that the developed countries themselves relied extensively on child labour when they were at similar stage of economic (Palley 2002)¹. Therefore, child labour continues to be a great concern in many parts of the world. Moreover, innocent children with less vigor and low potential workforce are bound to add little contribution in the overall productivity. A part from government initiatives, a number of NGOs have been formed for the sake of child welfare and for the prohibition of child labour practiced. Notwithstanding, of the various laws implemented, the practice of child labour is evident and it is by far an emerging issue and challenges for society and for nationwide.

¹Palley, Thomas I (2002), ' The Child Labour Problem and the Need for International Labour Standards', *Journal of Economic Issues*, Vol.XXXVI No.3.

Child labour has been defined in various ways and has different meanings according to the place and conditions where it prevails. According to ILO², child labour is a labour performed by a child who is under a certain age specified for that kind of work and is likely to impede the child's education and full development (ILO Convention 138).

India has all along followed proactive policy in addressing the problem of child labour and has always stood constitutional, statutory and developmental measures that are required to eliminate child labour. The constitution of India has relevant provisions to secure compulsory universal primary education and for the safeguard of children. Some of the provisions listed in the constitution of India are:

Article 15(3) – it guarantees right to equality without discrimination and empowers state to make provisions relating to children.

²International Labour Organisation (ILO),(2015), ' A Report on Child Labour', ILO.

Article 21- Right to life

Article 21(A) - it guarantees free and compulsory education to all children of the age of six to fourteen years.

Article 23 – it prohibits traffic in human beings and forced labour.

Article 24 – it relates to prohibition on employment of child labour in any factory or mine or in any hazardous employment.

Besides, there are some provisions for children within the Directive Principles of State Policies under the constitution of India, viz;

Article 39(e) - State to direct its policy towards securing the health and strength of children and that their tender age is not abused and they are not forced by economic necessity to enter avocations unsuited to their age or strength.

Article 39(f) – state to direct its policy towards securing that children are given opportunities and facilities to develop in a healthy manner and in conditions of freedom and dignity; and childhood and youth are protected against exploitation and against moral and material abandonment

Article 45 – early childhood care and education for all children until they complete the age of fourteen years.

1.2 CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS ON CHILD LABOUR

Article 21 A: Right to Education

The State shall provide free and compulsory education to all children of the age of 6 to 14 years in such manner as the State, by law, may determine.

Article 24: Prohibition of employment of children in factories, etc.

No child below the age fourteen years shall be employed in work in any factory or mine or engaged in any other hazardous employment.

Article 39: The State shall, in particular, direct its policy towards securing: -(e) that the health and strength of workers, men and women, and the tender age of children are not abused and that citizens are not forced by economic necessity to enter avocations unsuited to their age or strength.

1.3 THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

1.3.1: The Cost of Raising Children in a Developing Country

Relative to advanced industrial countries, the cost of raising children in a developing country is low as a result of the low

money and time costs. The price of housing and the price of child rearing inputs are relatively low. For instance, in more economically isolated areas where market systems are not fully developed and where transportation costs are high, child rearing inputs, such as food, clothing and shelter are locally produced and relatively cheap. The time cost to parents refers to the cost of the time spent raising children, and in particular, the value of the mother's time. Therefore, the opportunity cost of child rearing primarily refers to the mother's forgone earnings and leisure, as well as the lost opportunity to accumulate further education. A low level of development is characterized by low human capital and thus, a low level of adult wages, especially for women. In addition, the cost of schooling per child is hypothesized to be high due to the high economic value of children and hence, the high opportunity cost of investing in a child's schooling³. In economies with the above features, increasing income may not imply declining fertility. An economy at an early stage of development may be characterized by a positive relationship between income and fertility.

The low money cost of childrearing inputs coupled with the low opportunity cost of child rearing perpetuates a high fertility rate,

³Becker GS and K Murphy (1990). "Human Capital, Fertility and Economic Growth," *Journal of Political Economy* 98(5): S12-S37

especially when children are economically active. At a low level of development, where the main cost to raising children is the money spent on basic childrearing inputs, the demand for children will be higher.

If children's contribution to the family is significant, the net cost of children is further depressed. As discussed, children function as security against future disability, they perform household tasks, and they may work in the home production sector or in the market. When children's time has economic value, the net cost of children is lower relative to an economy in which children have no earnings potential, and the total fertility rate may be higher. The low cost of child rearing coupled with the high productivity of children may result in a large family size as the net cost of children is low.

net cost of children = (present value of expected money cost + present value of women's time used to produce and rear children) – (present value of expected money return + present value of child time services in the home)

At an advanced stage of development, the net cost of raising children is high. Children are a consumer durable; therefore we

assume that children have some other intrinsic value that they provide to their parents. At a very low level of development, we would expect the net cost of children to be negative. Children are consumer as well as producer durables, therefore families receive income or labour from them, and the money cost of raising children may be very low.

In the long run, with economic development, market production methods become less compatible with child skills, strengths and abilities. From the supply side, children's contribution to the household becomes less significant and the cost of raising children begins to rise. With increases in the rate of return to investment in human capital, greater market opportunities for women which increase the opportunity cost of women's time, and the higher price of child-related goods, there will be pressure for fertility to fall. Families substitute away from having many children to investing more in each child.

1.3.2: Wealth Revisited

The Malthusian theory of population change essentially ignores the quality aspect of child demand. Regardless, it is important in that Malthus predicts the high responsiveness of child demand to

changes in income in the early stages of development⁴. This low level of development is characterized by a high birth rate, a high death rate and low per capita income. An abundance of historical evidence from advanced industrial countries confirms this hypothesis, particularly with respect to the rural experience⁵.

Small and middle size farms tend to rely more heavily on manual labour and are usually family operated. Greater wealth will increase the economic value of children. Within this range of farm size, it is expected that fertility will increase. Large-scale, commercial farming requires mechanization or an even greater amount of labour, likely non-familial. Consequently, the benefit of additional children, beyond this range of farming is negligible.

The rural example helps to illustrate the circumstance in which parents cannot afford to have their children not work. Beyond a certain income threshold, parents buy the leisure of their children and withdraw them from the workforce. However, below this threshold parents accept the fact that their children must work. Parents are not less concerned about the welfare of their children; on the contrary, parents wish to maximize the quality of their

⁴Malthus TR (1976). *An Essay on the Principle of Population: a Norton critical edition*. New York; W.W Norton and Company Incorporated.

⁵Knodel JE (1974). *The Decline of Fertility in Germany, 1871-1939*. Princeton; Princeton University Press.

children given the available resources, just like their wealthier counterparts. Rather, the costs associated with not having their children work are too high. As such, we would expect income elasticity of child demand to increase with income. Having a child not work can be thought of as a commodity or a luxury good that is purchased once a certain income level is attained.

The hypothesis is that when income per capita is low, the incidence of child labour may grow more rapidly and is potentially an increasing function of per capita income. When per capita income is high, the reverse is true; child labour is a decreasing function of per capita income. The result is a Kuznets curve or an inverted shaped function.

As income increases, the variance in expected income increases which may increase the supply of children to the labour market as well as children's contribution to family earnings. At this stage of development, there is a greater demand for all labour; in order to keep costs down, employers in key industries search for a cheap source, namely children. This high demand for child labour is perpetuated by poverty which ensures a continued supply of children to the work force. Children may

also be more productive in the non-market sector and their participation in this sector may increase as well.

1.3.3: Impact of Child Labour on Long run Growth and Development

The increasingly important role of human capital accumulation in the process of growth and development is widely recognized. To the extent that child labour impedes children's school attendance, proficiency and human capital accumulation, it depresses a country's labour productivity and growth in the long run. Moreover, low education is associated with lack of awareness of rights and of democratization, negatively affecting growth (democracy is a determinant of international competitiveness) and social development (non-democratic governments obviously limit people's freedom). By the same token, a successful reduction in child labour should lead to higher human capital accumulation, long run growth and development. However in this process the same remarks made at the family level remain valid: lower child labour can lead to higher growth and development only if the transition from work to school is possible and efficient. Once again, the availability and quality of schools remain crucial.

Human Capital and Fertility: As in the case of human capital, the impact of child labour on fertility observed at the family level translates into lower long run growth at the national level. The existence of child labour in fact enhances the national birth rate both directly (through the lower perceived cost of having children) and indirectly (through lower education), and higher national fertility inflicts a well-known cost in terms of growth. On theoretical grounds, Dessy⁶ has outlined an overlapping-generations model where child labour is seen as a determinant of fertility and hence as a potential delayer of the growth-enhancing fertility transition. In this model, endogenous fertility is responsive to economic incentives, including the cost of children.

On these grounds compulsory education – together with policies improving access to education as well as providing better employment opportunities for the educated – is seen as a growth enhancing policy, because by lowering the economic value of children it can accelerate the fertility transition and lead to higher economic growth even for an economy with initially a low per capita income.

⁶Dessy, S.E. 2000. “A Defense of Compulsive Measures against Child Labour”, in *Journal of Development Economics*, Vol. 62, pp. 261-275.

A successful reduction in child labour (achieved for instance through compulsory education) will affect the household's income in two ways: a reduction through the loss of children's income and an increase through adults' higher wage rates (to the extent that the withdrawal of children from the labour supply can cause an increase in adult wages. Assuming that the transition towards lower fertility occurs beyond a fixed per capita income threshold, then some form of compensation for parents' wages appear necessary to enhance the fertility transition (from direct subsidies to poor families with children at school, to creating opportunities for employment and higher wages for the unskilled adults). However, this idea contrasts with that of Balandet al⁷ who argue that if the reduction in child labour leads to unchanged or higher parental income, fertility would increase. The issue is still unresolved and further research, both theoretical and empirical, is needed.

Health: Child labour can affect negatively a country's long run growth also through health. The health problems caused to child labourers, especially those working in hazardous activities, and the lower hygiene associated with scarce education translate in the long run into a less healthy and hence less productive adult

⁷Baland, J.M. and Robinson, J.A. (2000), "Is Child Labour Inefficient?", in *Journal of Political Economy*, Vol. 108, No. 4, pp. 663-679.

labour force, subtracting from long run growth. Reducing child labour, particularly in hazardous industries, together with health-focused public expenditure and educational programmes, can therefore benefit not only the health of the children directly involved but also the country's long run growth rate through enhanced health and labour productivity. This statement is subject to the not trivial caveat that the children withdrawn from the hazardous industries are provided with valid school opportunities and their families are compensated for the missing income. Otherwise children may be pushed away from these occupations and dragged into even more hazardous or illegal activities.

Technological Change: Child labour can depress long run growth also by slowing down technological progress. The availability of cheap, unskilled child labour in fact allows employers to avoid investing in fixed capital and upgrading production processes, thereby dampening technological progress, labour productivity and output growth in the long run.

Quantitative estimates of the negative impact of child labour on labour productivity and capital per worker are virtually non-existent. The only such empirical work is that of Diamond and

Fayed⁸ who estimate the elasticity of complementarity between child labour and capital for industrial Egypt in 1991. They find that children's wages would decrease by 0.9% as a result of a 1% increase in the used quantity of capital, suggesting that the introduction of labour saving devices negatively impacts market opportunities for underage workers.

This imply that successfully withdrawing children from the labour force, by increasing the cost of labour, would lead to higher investment, innovations and long run growth but which is not necessarily the case, since most employers who rely on child labour are uneducated and poor, and hire children to survive in the low-margin highly competitive informal sector.

Once child labour – their most important profit source – is removed, the cost of unskilled labour is likely to go up. To the extent that this will happen, poor employers will go out of business. The disappearance of these small enterprises, however, may well induce the bigger enterprises to undertake investment and technological innovations. How much investment takes place crucially depends on how much adult wages rise as a consequence of the withdrawal of children from the labour force.

⁸Diamond, C. and Fayed, T. (1998). "Evidence on Substitutability of Adult and Child Labour", in *Journal of Development Studies*. Vol. 34, No. 3 (February), pp. 62-70

In the presence of unemployment or underemployment (a common situation in the developing countries) this effect is likely to be small, reducing the incentive for investment. Therefore, while it is clear that child labour is associated with slow investment and technological progress in the involved industries, it is unlikely that removing child labour from the labour force will automatically induce more investment and innovation in the same enterprises. If the removal of child labour boosts technical change and growth in the long run, this is likely to happen together with a redistribution of wealth among employers, with the poorest and least educated bearing the bulk of it.

Income Inequality: Child labour certainly has an impact on income inequality, but the direction of this impact might be ambiguous and could vary in the short and in the long run. In the short run, child labour provides poor families with the income they need for their survival. From this point of view, therefore, child labour lessens income inequality, by raising the income of those at the bottom of the distribution.

On the other side, it is often argued that child labour adds to the supply of unskilled labour, in this way depressing the wage rate

of unskilled adults. This, of course, makes the distribution of income more unequal. The net effect on income inequality in the short run therefore depends on the size of the unskilled adults wage loss relative to the children wage rate.

A different story works in the long run. As explained above, child labour negatively affects the income of the involved families and of their descendants through mutually reinforcing low education and high fertility. At the same time, the scarce supply of educated labour keeps the skilled workers wage rates at high levels. Therefore in the long run there is no doubt that child labour worsens, or at least perpetuates, income inequality. Income inequality, in turn, directly reduces a country's level of social development. Moreover, income inequality is likely to have a negative effect on long run growth.

1.4 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM:

Child labour has set deep rooted foundation in Mizoram and is increasingly affecting more and more children in various forms, especially in Aizawl district, the capital and the largest city of Mizoram. However, despite its increasing scope, it does not pay much attention and yet there is no specific study on it to the

extent that the effects it has on socio-economic and more specifically, how children have been employed illegally. Thus it becomes one of the main concern and problems not only for the whole nation but also for the state itself.

1.5 AREA OF THE STUDY

Aizawl district is one of the eight districts of Mizoram state in India. The district is bounded on the north by Kolasib district, on the west by Mamit district, on the south by Serchhip districts and on the east by Champhai district. The district occupies an area of 3,576.31 square kilometres (1,380.82 sq mi). The headquarters of the district is Aizawl city, the capital of Mizoram. According to 2011 Census, the population of Mizoram stood at 10, 91,014 as against 8, 88,573 in the previous decade with an 81.44% decadal growth rate. Aizawl district alone has a population of 4, 04,054, comprising of 22.58% in the rural and 77.42% in the urban areas. Aizawl city has reported the highest percentage of urban population in Mizoram i.e, 3,12,837.

As of 2011 it is the most populous district of Mizoram. The district has 5 R.D. Blocks, Aibawk, Darlawn, Phullen, Thingsulthliah and Tlangnuam.

The district has 14 legislative assembly constituencies. These are Tuivawl, Chalfilh, Tawi, Aizawl North-I, Aizawl North-II, Aizawl North-III, Aizawl East-I, Aizawl East-II, Aizawl West-I, Aizawl West-II, Aizawl West-III, Aizawl South I, Aizawl South II and Aizawl South III.

Recently, there has been a renewed interest in child labour issues, and this renewed interest has led to a series of studies that aim to understand the causes and consequences of child labour in order to guide appropriate policy responses. Child labour can be detrimental through the hindering of the acquisition of formal education, both quantitatively and qualitatively, and causing irreparable damage to health, reputation or other things that effect adult human capital. Engaging children in the informal sector is quite prevalent in Aizawl. However, there is hardly any information regarding their engagement. The study is therefore proposed not only to fill in the gap to acquire information but also to study the incidence and dimensions of child labour in Aizawl city.

In order to safeguard the rights of children aged between 0-18 and to ensure that they are not exploited by any means, the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act 2000 has ensured the establishment of Child Welfare Committee (CWC) in

Mizoram. The CWC is being functioned in every district where the committee has been working and protecting children according to their needs and requirements. Therefore, the study will focus on the child labourers in Aizawl City, which is selected for our area of study. The following table presents a brief description of child cases reported within Aizawl City.

Table 1.1: CWC case details during 2014-2015

A	Status of CNCP cases presented before CWC	Girls	Boys	Total
1	Number of CNCP cases carried forward from the last year (1)	3	5	8
2	Number of new CNCP cases presented to the CWC during the year reported (2)	363	281	644
3	Number of CNCP cases disposed by the CWC during the year reported (3)	347	272	619
4	Number of CNCP cases pending before the CWC as on last day of the year reported upon (1+2+3=4)	19	14	33
B	Details of New Cases			
I	Orphaned	9	7	16
Ii	Destitute	58	15	73
Iii	Neglected	12	13	25
Iv	Abandoned	11	18	29
V	Surrendered	26	18	44
Vi	Unfit parents	20	16	36
Vii	Sexually Abused Rape-Molested	1-8	13-22	16-30
Viii	Physically Abused	21	15	36
Ix	Emotionally Abused	2	3	5
X	Runaway	15	13	28
Xi	Child Marriage			
Xii	Terminally ill	1	0	1
Xiii	Child Labour	24	25	49
Xiv	Custodial Problem	16	16	32
Xv	Rights violation, educational Problem and high risk group	9	8	17
Xvi	Abducted	36	30	69
Xvii	Others (Specify)	85	52	136

Source: Child Welfare Committee (CWC), Aizawl District.

1.6: OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To analyse whether the income generated by the child labours suffice their daily consumption.
2. To examine the level of satisfaction of the children in engaging themselves as child labours.
3. To study the child labourers level of awareness of the existence of Child Welfare Committee (CWC) and the prohibition of child labouring in India.
4. To suggest measures for the reduction child labour in Aizawl city.

1.7 RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. Does the lower hygiene associated with child labour translate in the long run into a less healthy and less productive adult labour force?
2. Is child labour biased? If so, is it biased against boys or girls?
3. Does the parents or guardian of the child labourers are health conscious for their children?

1.8: METHODOLOGY

The study is based on primary data which is collected through questionnaires. Separate questionnaires are prepared for the children directly involved and staffs of Child Welfare Committee (CWC) Aizawl who are indirectly involved. Children engaged in work are given direct personal interviews to know their perceptions as well as their economic life. Maximum numbers of children who are engaged as child labour are covered by the questionnaires. According to the record of CWC for the year 2014-15, there are 49 children recorded as child labour. Of which 24 are girls (48.98%) and 25 are boys (51.02%). Based on this recorded data, the survey was conducted by taking a sample size of 37, out of the total, 11 of them could not be located, so we covered 75.51% of the recorded number. Published and unpublished sources like magazines, journals, websites etc. are also used for collecting necessary information. Hence, the study used primary as well as secondary data. The data so collected are analyzed using relevant and appropriate statistical tools.

There is no available empirical based data on child labour in Mizoram so far; though there are few secondary data generated by the government of Mizoram. This study will try to fill in the gap in order to have a clear picture of child labouring in Aizawl city.

This chapter attempts to draw relevant literature in support of the present study. Focuses have been given on the phenomena which deal with the research objectives and research questions. The present literature reviews have provided a deep insight into the subject matter relaying the need of the study and its relevance in the present day.

Suda (2001)¹, child labour in Kenya which was estimated to be over 3 million of which there were a number of domestic child workers and children working in the informal sector which were regarded as invisible mainly due to privacy of domestic sector, inadequate capacity on the part of the labour inspection unit, paucity of data, cultural values and perceptions as well as public awareness. The problem is added by the fact that no legal minimum age of employment was set in either the informal or the domestic sector. In addition, most of the people are not aware of the child labour in general. Of the many causes poverty is one of the underlying causes of child labour. It was suggested that a way

¹ Collette A. Suda (2001), The Invisible Child Worker In Kenya: The Intersection Of Poverty, Legislation And Culture, *Nordic Journal Of African Studies*, 10(2):163-175 (2001)

forward to combat against child labour is through public private partnerships of all the actors at all levels and across all sectors.

Kabeer (2001)² reviews the empirical evidence put forward for the high incidence of child labour and out of school children in the South Asian region focusing primarily on India and Bangladesh. The study concludes that these two explanations are mutually reinforced, rather than contradict to each other. Across the South Asian sub-continent, the problems tend to be greater in those regions where demographic transition has been slow or which have had poor rates of growth in the economy and labour productivity. However, within specific regions, it tends to be greater in more isolated villages which are characterized by agro-climatic uncertainty and reliant on traditional, rain-fed agricultural. He further asserted that child labour tends to be lower in more developed areas, with diversified economies, dynamic technology and higher investment in social infrastructure. Besides, although wealthier household may have higher incidence of child labour than poor landless households. However, child labour is generally associated with poverty rather than wealth in more developed areas.

² Naila Kabeer (2001), *Deprivation, Discrimination And Delivery: Competing Explanations For Child Labour And Educational Failure In South Asia*, Institute Of Development Studies (IDS Working Paper 135), Brighton, Sussex, England, ISBN 1 85864 359 7.

Okokonand (2004)³ in their article discuss hawking as a variant of child labour and examined the relationship between hawking and economic background of families in Calabar metropolis. They used historical and survey research and interviewed 700 child hawkers from the ages 1-16+ years in six clusters in Calabar. They found that although child labour has a long history in calabar, child hawking as a variant of child labour is a product of the circumstance that emanate from economic hardships since the last quarter of the twentieth century. The study concluded that although hawking begins at school age, there is higher concentration of child hawkers in late primary and secondary school classes than in early primary and late secondary school.

Singh (2005)⁴ highlighted that child labour remains a serious problem in many parts of the world and most of the laboured children are found in underdeveloped countries of Latin America, Africa and Asia. He said that their living conditions are

³ Okokon, Joseph and AritO. Charles (2004), 'Family and Child Labour: A Study of Child Hawkens in Calabar', *Journal of Social Development in Africa*, Vol.19 (2) 2004: 113-133.

⁴ Singh, Pankaj (2005), 'Child Labour in India', *Combat Law Magazine*. Bhopal, India.

crude and they have little chance for education. However, their income is necessary for the family's survival. He concluded that though there are a number of NGOs and governmental programmes to eradicate child labour, it is however not adequate and hence it remains a challenging issue.

Tiwari,(2005)⁵ explored the status of children working in footwear or leather industry in major production centers in Chennai, Ranipat, Ambur in Tamil Nadu , Mumbai, Kanpur, Agra, Jalandhar in Punjab and Delhi. The study found that children between 10 and 15 years old are mainly employed in assembling shoes and almost 80% of children work for contractors at home. Besides, children working in such industries are exposed to adverse physical factors which can harm their health. He made certain recommendations to stop children employed in such industries.

Okpukpara et.al (2006)⁶, said that there is an increasing incidence of child labour in Nigeria but comprehensive national analyses of the descriptive and causal factors of the child welfare

⁵ Tiwari R, Rajnarayan (2005), 'Child Labour in Footwear Industry: Possible Occupational Health Hazards, *Indian Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine*, Vol.9, Issue-1, page 7-9.

⁶ Benjamin Chiedozie Okpukpara and Ngozi Odurukwe (2006), Incidence and Determinants of Child Labour In Nigeria: Implications For Poverty Alleviation, *African Economic Research Consortium AERC, Paper 156*, Nairobi.

variables have not been possible until now. Therefore a study was conducted using data from the Nigeria Child Labour Survey, 2001. The study found that there are structural differences in the choice of child activity options across gender, age, sectors and zones in Nigeria. Although, there was a sector gap, the participation of children in economic activity increases particularly in rural areas. Besides, the econometric estimation of the study noted that some child, parent, household and community variables significantly affect the child activity options. Specifically the age of child, household composition, education of father and adult income also determine the child activity option. To fight against child labour, the study made some suggestions which include formulation of effective policy to reduce child labour and it was further suggested that the age of the child, income status of the household, education of the parents, sector and zone must constitute important variables.

Nityananda et al (2006)⁷ said that India possess the largest child labour force in the world despite the various measures taken up by the government and non-governmental agencies to tackle child labour. In India, during the pre-industrial period, children worked as helpers in family occupations under

⁷ Pradhan Nityananda et al.(2006), Perspective Of Child Labour In Koraput District And Related Issues In Education At Primary Stage: A Case Study, Society For Promoting Rural Education And Development (SPREAD), Koraput, Orissa.

the supervision of adult family members. However, the social scenario changed radically with the advent of industrialization and urbanization under the impact of the newly generated centrifugal and centripetal forces. There was an unbroken stream of the rural poor migrating to urban centers in search of livelihood. Therefore, the child had to work as an individual person either an employer or independently. Thus, his work environment endangered his physical health and mental growth and led to his exploitation. This study therefore set certain objectives which include the incidence of child labour, the factors responsible for child labour among vulnerable groups such as girls and children belong to ST and SC categories. The study found that poverty as the main factor which forces a child to be labourer and deprives him from most of the basic human rights including right to basic education. Henceforth, they suggest that special school for child labour be made residential with a strong component of vocational education which should form an integral part of special school programme.

Khanam (2008)⁸ examined the determinants of child labour and schooling in Bangladesh by taking 1,628 children as a

⁸ Khanam, Resheda (2008), 'Child Labour and School Attendance: Evidence from Bangladesh', *International Journal of Social Economics*, Vol.35 ISS:1/2, pp 77-98.

sample size and considers the children aged 5-17 years living in rural households. The study found that the education of parents significantly increases the probability that a school-age child will specialize in study. The study also found that the presence of very young children aged 0-4 in households increases the likelihood that a school age child will combine study with work and children who are sons and daughters of the household-head, as opposed to being relatives living in the household are more likely to specialize in work.

Lindsay Rickey (2009)⁹ empirical work on child labour investigates what households and community characteristics are common among working children in Philippines using primary data collected by the International Labour Organization (ILO). Using a multinomial logit model with child activity as the dependent variable, there are three possible outcomes: work only, work and study and study only. The study found that poverty has a strong negative impact on the probability a child works full time or part time especially in rural areas. Beside poverty, enrollment years of the household head's education, availability of electricity and access to drinking water also affect the

⁹ Lindsay Rickey (2009), The Determinants of Child Labour And Schooling In The Philippines, Department of Economics, Stanford University.

probability of child labour. The results also indicate that government programmes like welfare and community organization do little to reduce child labour due to lack of awareness among the majority populace.

Mukherjee (2010)¹⁰ examines the Indian situation using data from 50th, 55th and 61st rounds of NSSO surveys. According to this study, incidence of child Labour is more in Rural areas, higher among 10-14 years age-group and more prominent among boys and quite disparate across states. Another 30 million children in 2003-04 about 13 percent of the total are nowhere children and hence incidence of children and nowhere children are higher among girls. Poverty emerges to be necessary condition and become the breeding ground but not sufficient to drive the children to the labour market. Lack of educational infrastructure becomes important in this respect. Poverty alleviation programme is therefore to be implemented by expansion of educational infrastructure for eradicating child labour.

¹⁰ Dipa Mukherjee (2010), Child Workers In India: An Overview Of Macro Dimensions, Munich Personal RePEc Archive (MPRA) Paper No. 35049, <http://mpa.Ub.uni-muenchen.de/35049/>

Webbink et al. (2010)¹¹, conducted a study on two hidden forms of child labour- house work and family business work on the basis of representative data on 178,000 children living in 214 districts in 16 African and Asian countries. They asserted that this child labour form varies substantially among and within the countries with national average ranging from a few to over 15 hours a week and many children work much more. The study found that girls are more involved in housework and boys more in family business work as such 70-80% of the variation in both child labour forms is due to household level factors, with socio-economic variables like parental education, possession of land etc. and demographic variables like birth order, number of siblings etc. are playing an important roles. However, supply of education indicated by adult schooling level and national level of development for housework are the most important context factors. The study also found that older children and girls spend more time in housework than younger children and boys because parents considered older girls to be more able to do household chores than brother of the same age. This suggests that age effect is stronger for girls.

¹¹ Ellen Webbink et al. (2010), *Hidden Child Labour: Determinants Of Housework And Family Business Work Of Children In 16 Developing Countries*, Nijmegen Center for Economics (NiCE), Institute for Management Research, Radboud University Nijmegen. NIEC Working Paper 10-110.

Omoni et.al (2010)¹², examines the reason for child labour, the types, problems, consequences and possible solution strategies. Specifically discusses the positive aspects of child labour and how it can be properly managed to the advantage of all. They found that children are showing solidarity with their families. The study also highlighted an alternative dimension to child labour. It proffered that if the phenomenon is well managed, children can still go to school, contribute economically to the family, and even become self-reliant and self-fulfilled individuals. The study concludes by suggesting and recommending ways of positively managing child labour that include vast grassroots information campaigns and counseling on the hazardous effects of child labour and its economic values. It also discusses the roles state governments can play through public education and enforcement of the universal basic education goals that puts the recipients of child labour into consideration creating and supporting rehabilitation and integration programmes and the enactment of penalties and sanction against perpetrators negative child labour.

¹² Omoni, G.E and Ijeh, S.U (2010), Another Dimension To Child Labour: Counseling Implications, *Edo Journal Of Counseling*, Vol.3, No.1.

Acaroglu (2010)¹³, inquires the effects of globalization on child labour in developing countries via- cross country analysis by decomposing globalization to its components as Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and trade using the data obtained from UNICEF and World Bank. The findings reveals that the relationship between child labour supply and gross domestic per capita (PCGDP) can be expressed as U shape. It also indicates that child labour increases in developing countries whose PCGDP levels are above 7500 USD since the net effect of globalization is positive for the positive substitution effect is biggest than the negative income effect. The findings also indicate that the positive effects of globalization along with increasing income on child labour do not display continuity. The study also show that economic growth is not sufficient to struggle with the child problem in developing countries and should be supported with policies such as decreasing inequality in income distribution and poverty.

Whetten et. al (2011)¹⁴ examines rates and correlates of child labour among Orphaned and Abandoned Children (OAC) in

¹³ Ozcan Dagdemir and Hakan Acaroglu (2010), The Effects Of Globalization On Child Labour In Developing Countries, *Business And Economic Horizons BEH*, Vol. 2, Issue. 2, PP-37-47

¹⁴ Whetten, Rachel et. al (2011), ' Child Work and Labour Among Orphaned and Abandoned Children in Five Low and Middle Income Countries', BCM International Health and Human Rights.

five low and middle income countries (LMICs) . Based on UNICEF definition of child labour, the study found that majority of OAC (60.7%) engaged in work, out of them 17.8% (10.5% of the total sample) worked 28 or more hours. More than one –fifth 21.9% (13% of the total sample) met UNICEF’s definition. The study found that lower household wealth and care givers not earning income were associated with increased child labour while children not working fewer than 28 hours per week were associated with decreased school attendance.

Akarro et.al (2011)¹⁵, aimed to present the state of child labour and factors behind it by citing one of the most prevalent areas for child labour in Tanzania known as Njombe. Njombe district which was predominantly a rural area is one of the most prevalent areas of child labour in Tanzania. They conducted a survey of 300 household heads that were randomly selected from accessible four villages in Igima ward in Njombe district. The statistical analysis on the relationship between household poverty and child labour using chi-square test showed that household poverty was the main factor which forced children to engage in economic activities. The findings of the study reveals that child labour is a reflection of poverty and therefore stressed that

¹⁵ Rocky R.J Akarro and Nathan Anthon Mtweve (2011), Poverty And Its Association With Child Labour In Njombe District In Tanzania: The Case Of Igima Ward, *Current Research Journal Of Social Sciences*, 3(3): 199-206 pp.

tackling poverty will have positive impact on child labour. This suggests that policies such as ban on child labour in rural areas could have an adverse effect as child labour decisions are more likely a response to poverty and subsistence requirements.

Srivastava (2011)¹⁶ in her article points out that one-third of children of the developing world are failing to complete even 4 years of education. She further points out that poverty as one of the contributory factors in child labour. She states that in a cross-sectional survey in urban Lebanon, Lebanese children aged 10-17 are working full time in small industrial shops were compared with non-working matched school children and it was found that majority of child labourer had poor physical health, marked with skin lesions or ear complaints and social care needs. She concludes that as India is still high in child labour, the world would not reach its goal to have every child complete primary schools by 2015 without India.

Barman (2011)¹⁷ explores the impact of socio-economic and demographic predictor variables on likelihood of work participation of the children aged 10-14 years in India and four

¹⁶ Srivastava, Kalpana (2011), 'Child Labour Issues and Challenges', *Med Hub*, Retrieved on 5.3.15.

¹⁷ Subhash Barman (2011), Socio-Economic and Demographic Impact on Child Labour in India, *Journal Of Alternative Perspective In The Social Sciences*, Vol. 3, No 2, 376-403.

groups of states. The study is based on work participation rate of the children by different characteristics to National Family Health Service (NFHS) 3 data and census of India 2001 data. The study also applies logistic regression model to NFHS 3 data. The study found that proportion of child labour is higher in rural areas and it is higher in females. Besides, the proportion of child labour is also high among the poor households and socio-economically backward communities.

Baghebo et.al (2012)¹⁸, aimed to investigate the existence of child labour its causes, constraints and economic implications and how to eradicate it with particular interest in Calabar Municipality in Nigeria. For this purpose, a stratified random sampling method was carried out in 500 respondents who are found to be involved in child labour through interviews and questionnaires and group discussions. The data so obtained were analysed using simple percentage and chi-square to test the level of significant difference. The analyses revealed that 52% child labour is practiced in Calabar Municipality. The study also showed that there is a significant relationship between child labour and certain variables like poverty; unemployment and

¹⁸ Bassey Enya Ndem and Michael Baghebo (2012), Child Labour In Nigeria And Its Economic Implications- A Case Study Of Calabar Municipality, *Research On Humanities And Social Sciences*, Vol. 2, No. 9.

school drop-out at 0.05 level of significant which indicates a negative effect on economic growth in Nigeria. Henceforth, they suggest the government to come up with legislations that will tackle the problem of poverty and unemployment. Effective implementation of policy that would outlaw all forms of child labour. Establish a compulsory, quantitative and qualitative free or minimal cost of education. Besides, National, State and Local government orientation agencies should be mobilized to carry out extensive inspections in schools to reduce a number of school drop-out.

Idowu et al. (2013)¹⁹ carried out the analysis of child labour determinants among the farming households of Oyo state in Nigeria. Data for the study were obtained from 120 respondents from the target group using a three stage sampling procedure and analyzed using descriptive statistics and logistic model. The results showed that 85% of the respondents are male and the mean age is 58 years. Besides, age of the household and the farm size were significant at 5%. Further, age of household head, household size and number of male child in the house respectively have positive coefficients. Gender of household

¹⁹ Alao Bashir Idowu et al. (2013), Analysis Of Child Labour Among Rural Household Of Oyo State, Nigeria, *Asian Journal Of Agriculture And Rural Development*, 3(5) 2013:337-345.

head, educational level, number of female child and household income has negative coefficients. This implies that as these variables increase child labour will reduce. Besides, the more the age of the household head and the farm size, the higher the incidence of child labours. Some of the suggestions made include the initiative to be taken up by the government like social insurance for the aged to take care of them, promotion of family planning education among the rural areas.

IPEC (2013)²⁰ reported that 168 million children worldwide are in child labour, accounting for almost 11 percent of the child population as a whole. Children in hazardous work that directly endangers their health, safety and moral development make up more than half of all child labours numbering 85 million in absolute terms. Of which the largest absolute number of child labour is found in the Asia and the Pacific region but Sub-Saharan Africa continues to be the region with the highest incidence of child labour with more than one in five children in child labour. This report also provides an update on the sectors where child labourers are found. Agriculture is by far the most important sector, but the number of child labourers

²⁰ (IPEC) International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (2013), Marking Progress against Child Labour, ILO-IPEC, Geneva

in services and industry are not negligible. It further stressed that child labour is mostly found in informal sector. The report also identifies the need to reinforced action in relation to age and gender specific responses to child labour, a continued focused on Africa and on agriculture and a new focus on manufacturing and services in the informal economy and strengthening national action on monitoring and evaluation of the impact of policies and actions taken on child labour.

IPEC (2013)²¹ asserted that India has several targeted and universal social protection programmes to protect and support people from their cradle to grave. Programmes like Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), Mid-day Meal Scheme (MMS) etc have a significant impact on the well-being of children. At the same time, Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) is being regarded as the most important right-based social protection programme in the country by improving not only the right of men and women employment but also enhance the rights of children. However, there were no specific studies relating to the impact of the scheme on children. As such, the Institute of Human Development conducted a study to examine the incidence of child labour in

²¹ (IPEC) International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (2013), Impact of MGNREGS on Child Labour, ILO DWT for South Asia and ILO country office for India, New Delhi.

MGNREGS and the socio-economic conditions facing households that send their children for work and to examine the effects of the additional income generated through the scheme on the healthcare and education of children. Based on a survey conducted at MGNREGS worksites in four districts, two each from the state of UP and Tamil Nadu. Besides, interviews with 400 workers were carried out to generate the required data. It was found that the scheme has potential and demonstrable positive impacts on curtailing the practice of child labour in India. Though there were cases of adolescents working, there is no incidence of child labour in the age group of 5-14 years in the scheme.

Sahu (2013)²², analyzed the nature and magnitude of the problem and determinants of child labour and their participation in the work force at an early age in Cuttack city of Odisha on the basis of primary data. The result reveals that family income has significant negative impact on the working hour of the child labour. Family size as a non-economic factor also affect the working hour of child labour significantly. Besides, children who desire to work have a positive and significant influence on employment of working children. Generally, most of the child labours are from poor and larger families who are forced to join

²²Kabita Kumari Sahu (2013), An Empirical Study Of The Determinants Of Child Labour, *International Journal of Science, Environment and Technology*, Vol.2, No.3, 2013,423-433.

labour force to supplement the family income. Suggestions to reduce the incidence of child labour in India include free basic facilities and education to extreme poor, community participation, awareness among the people, parents and particularly women's education and active participation of the citizens and local bodies.

ILO (2013)²³ reported that the number of child labourers worldwide is fall by 30 million during 2000 to 2008. However, at the end of that period there were still over 215 million child labourers of which half of them were doing hazardous work. The report argues that child labour is driven in part by household vulnerabilities associated with poverty, risk and shocks that social security is critical to mitigate these vulnerabilities. Hence, the report aims to highlight the relevance of social security as part of a broader strategy for eliminating child labour and to help advance understanding of the specific ways in which social security systems can support efforts against child labour. The report relies specifically on evidence from rigorous impact evaluations of specific social protection instruments and

²³ International Labour Organisation (2013), World Report On Child Labour-Economic Vulnerability, Social Protection And The Fight Against Child Labour. International Labour Office, Geneva.

interventions. According to the report, when an adult member of the household loses his or her job the household can be forced to rely on children's labour as a coping strategy. Further, social protection plays an important role in fighting against child labour because it protects people from the financial consequences of the various risk and contingencies of the human life cycle, including ill health, disability, unemployment and old age.

Doran (2013)²⁴ examines the conditions of child labours in rural Mexico by using data from a Mexican schooling experiment and found that decreasing child labour in farm is accompanied by increasing adult labour. However, he states that the increased demand of adult labour was not the caused by treatment money reaching farm employers but no significant increase in harvest prices and quantities, non- labour inputs, or non-farm labour supply. He found that declining child supply causes increasing adult demand and hence employers substituted adults for children.

²⁴ Kirk B, Doran (2013), 'How does Child Labour Affect the Demand for Adult Labour? Evidence from Rural Mexico', *Journal of Human Resources*, Vol.48, No.3, pp. 702-735

Agarwal (2013)²⁵ emphasized that over 170 million children worldwide still work in order to sustain their basic needs and about 22000 children die due to occupational hazards every year which was according to ILO estimates. India being a developing nation has more than 17.5 million working children in different industries and is faced with traditional public health problems like communicable diseases, malnutrition, poor environmental sanitation and inadequate medical care. However, globalization and rapid industrial growth has resulted in emergence of occupational health related issues. Henceforth, they asserted that children who are in risky job fields have no opportunity to build their natural psychological health and long working hours breed their feeling of frustration and inadequacy. Besides a significant portion of the children working at construction and welding sector are suffering from psychological immaturity. According to them, children are more prone and at high risk than adults because of their rapid skeletal growth, development of organs and tissues, greater risk of hearing loss, greater need for food and rest, smaller size and lower heat tolerance etc.

²⁵ Sariti Bharti and Agarwal Shalini (2013), Physical And Psychological Hazards Faced By Child Labour- A Review Article, *IOSR Journal Of Humanities And Social Sciences (IOSR-JHSS)*, Vol.13, Issue 6, 29-33 pp.

Boutin (2014)²⁶ in his article clarifies and quantifies the causal impact of climate change vulnerability on child labour incidence and intensity. For this purpose, index of vulnerability to climate change was created, composed of biophysical vulnerability and communities resilience, where both economic and households participations are considered. It was found that climate vulnerability negatively affects child labour incidence intensity while it has no significant impact on households. The study concludes that child labour is an adjustment variable to local labour market conditions, not correlated with communities resilience.

Sunandamma (2014)²⁷, said that families migrated from rural areas to urban centers for livelihood could not bear the cost of living and all the family members have to work along with lack of faith in formal education results in child labour. In many cases, lack of interest in schooling made the children to prefer for work because of their inability to conceive of an alternative. According to her, the problem of child labour is widespread among low income groups who are also educationally backward. However, many people from upper castes are in a better position

²⁶ Boutin, Delphine (2014), 'Climate Vulnerability, Communities Resilience and Child Labour', CERDI University of Auvergne and IZA Discussion Paper No.8567

²⁷ Sunandamma P.G (2014), Child Labour- Social and Economic Realities Which Effecting Child Development, *International Journal Of Scientific And Research Publications*, Vol. 4.

in social and educational aspects in spite of their economic backwardness. A long percentage of working children belongs to Hindu religion and is also significant among backward classes and schedule castes. Ignorance of parents and large size of the family, lack of schooling facilities and high rates of school drop-outs also leads to child labour.

FAO (2015)²⁸ stressed that pesticides are heavily used particularly in agriculture and also in public health for pest control where children are exposed to these pesticides as workers, bystanders and consumers. Since children are particularly vulnerable to pesticide, exposure to pesticides can result in poisoning and long-term chronic health problems. When children's health is likely to be harmed from work, they are engaged in hazardous child labour. Hence, FAO is raising awareness, strengthening knowledge and building capacity across the globe to reduce and prevent children's exposure to pesticides. It also aims to strengthen action to protect the rights of children, ensuring food security for all and reducing rural poverty and also protecting human health.

²⁸ (FAO) Food and Agriculture Organization (2015), Hazardous Child Labour: FAO's Contribution to Protecting Children from Pesticide Exposure, Economic and Social Development Department of FAO (UN). www.fao.org/childlabouragriculture/en

ILO (2015)²⁹ report states that India has the highest child labour in South Asia. According to this report, it is estimate that around 16.7 million of child labours are found in South Asia of which one five of child labourer are aged 11 or under years. Of the estimated figure of 16.7 million, India has the highest child labour with 5.8 million aged between 5 and 17 years. The report also stresses that agriculture absorbs the highest percentage of children employment ranging from 46%- 94%, the report further states that an estimated of 24 million less than 14 years in India, Pakistan and Bangladesh alone are neither in school nor in employment.

Smrutisikha (2015)³⁰ in her article exposed the fact and actual conditions of child labourer in the country. According to her, child labourer are mainly employed to hazardous work with low paid but worked for long hours. Most of them are forced to foregone education. She further highlighted that majority of the working children are concentrated in rural areas, of which around 60% of them are below the age of 10 years. Besides, business and trade absorbs 23% and household constitutes 36%. She also

²⁹ International Labour Organisation (ILO), (2015), 'A Report on Child Labour', ILO.

³⁰ Smrutisikha (2015), 'Problem of Child Labour in India', *Your Article Library.com: The next Generation Library*.

stated that those children working in urban areas in canteens, restaurants etc. is also vast but there is no reliable data or they are not recorded. She further pointed out the reasons for the cause of child labour and blamed the government for not having the clear idea of the magnitude of child labour problem. She made various suggestions like defining of what actually is a hazardous industry and also punishes those who violate the laws so as to make them effective.

India is the second largest country in terms of population next only to China; having 17.5% of the world population but sharing only 2.4% of the total land surface of the world. In this chapter, an overview of the magnitude of child labour in India is presented.

3.1 DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE OF CHILDREN

India, with 1,210,193,422 people is the second most populous country in the world next only to China with over 1.35 billion people. The figures show that India represents almost 17.31% of the world's population, which means one out of six people on this planet live in India. Every year, an estimated 26 millions of children are born in India which is nearly 4 million more than the population of Australia. It is significant that while an absolute increase of 181 million in the country's population has been recorded during the decade 2001-2011, there is a reduction of 5.05 millions in the population of children aged 0-6 years during this period. The decline in male children is 2.06 million and in female children is 2.99 million. The share of Children (0-6 years) in the total population has showed a decline of 2.8 points in 2011, compared to Census 2001. In 2011, the total number of children in the age-group 0-6 years is reported as 158.79 million which is down by 3.1% compared to the child population in 2001 of the

order of 163.84 million. The share of children (0-6 years) to the total population is 13.1% in 2011 whereas the corresponding figures for male children and female children are 13.3% and 12.9%.

3.2 MAGNITUDE OF CHILD LABOUR IN INDIA

The magnitude of child labour in India has been witnessing enormous decline in the last two decades, both in terms of magnitude and workforce participation rates. Evidence drawn from the National Sample Survey data suggest that India's child workforce during 2004-05 was estimated at little over nine million (9.07 million) as against twenty-one and half million (21.55 million) in 1983. During this period, the number of child employment has declined sharply by 12.48 million. There is considerable fall in child workforce is observed among boys than girls. The corresponding fall in boys and girls workforce during 1983 to 2004-05 is observed to have decreased from 12.06 to 4.76 million, and 9.49 to 4.31 million, respectively. In effect, the gender difference that existed between boys and girls (adverse against boys) during the early 1980s has almost dissipated in recent years, the difference being slowed down from 2.57 million to roughly 0.45 million. However, in absolute numbers, the problem is large. As per the Census 2001, there are 1.26 crores

economically active children in the age-group of 5-14 years. It was 1.13 crores in the 1991 Census.

Table 3.1: Number of Working Children in the Major Child Labour Endemic States

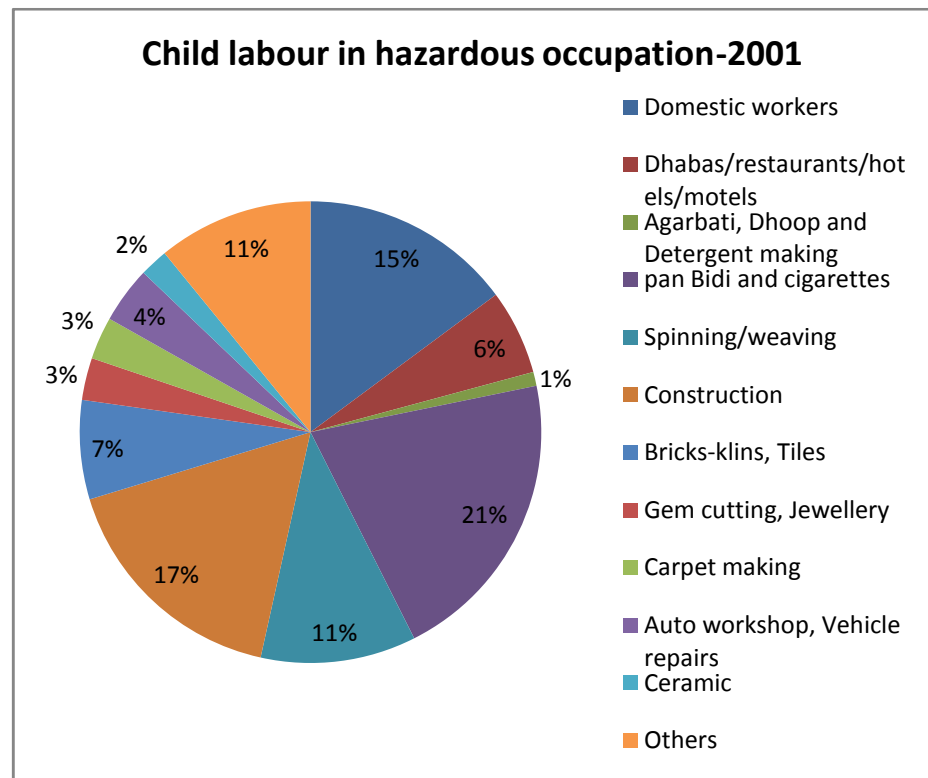
Sl. No	Name of the state/UT	Census 1991	Census 2011
1.	Uttar Pradesh	1410086	1927997
2.	Andhra Pradesh	1661940	1363339
3.	Rajasthan	774199	1262570
4.	Bihar	942245	1117500
5.	Madhya Pradesh	1352563	1065259
6.	West Bengal	711691	857087
7.	Karnataka	976247	822615
8.	Maharashtra	1068418	764075
9.	Gujarat	523585	485530
10.	Tamil Nadu	578889	418801
	All India total	1.13 crores	1.26 crores

Source: Working Group 12th Plan on Child Labour

All India total 1.13 crores 1.26 crores among the states, Uttar Pradesh accounts for a larger share of close to one fourth of all child labour in India followed by Andhra Pradesh. Maharashtra and West Bengal respectively garnered nine and eight percent of India's child employment. The share of Uttar Pradesh has dramatically shot up in the last one decade from less than 13 per cent in the mid-1990s to close to 23 per cent in 2004-05, which is a cause for serious concern. On the other hand, the share of Andhra Pradesh seems to have declined quite considerably during this period.

The occupation-wise data of children in this age group of 5-14 working in the non-agricultural sector has been classified. Though these occupations in the Census data do not match with the occupations listed as hazardous under the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, a tentative segregation of data into hazardous & non-hazardous occupations gives a broad estimation of children working in different occupations. As per this data, 36.43 lakhs children in the age group of 5-14 years are working in non-agricultural sector in the country, out of which 12.19 lakhs children are working in hazardous occupations.

Graph 3.1: Child labour in hazardous occupations -2001



Source: Census of India 2001

It is also to be noted here that there is a general increasing trend in the magnitude of child labour in the north east region of the country. Sikkim had the highest Child Work Participation Rate (WPR) in the country with 12.04 % child labourers among total children in the age group of 5-14 years, followed by Rajasthan 8.25 % and Himachal Pradesh (8.14%) during 2001. The other states having higher than the national average of 5percent WPR for children are Andhra Pradesh (7.7%), Chhattisgarh (6.96%), Karnataka (6.91%), Madhya Pradesh (6.71%), J&K (6.62%), Arunachal Pradesh (6.06%), and Jharkhand and Assam (5.07%). There is significant decline in the number of child workers per 1000 by principal usual activity category during 2004-2010.

Table 3.2: Work Participation of children

		Distribution of (per 1000) of persons by principal usual activity category					
NSS	Age (in years)	Rural		Urban		Total	
		Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
2004-05	5-9	2	1	2	1	2	1
	10-14	54	49	44	24	52	43
2009-10	5-9	2	1	0	0	1	1
	10-14	27	21	22	8	26	18

Source: Key indicators of Employment and unemployment in India, NSS July 2009-June 2010, Employment and unemployment situation in India

The National Family Health Survey (NFHS) -3 also throws light into the percentage of children age 5-14 years, who were engaged in different activities in the seven days preceding the interview, by background characteristics. As per the NFHS -3 (2005-06), nearly one in every eight (11.8%) children aged 5-14 years works either for their own household or for somebody else. Among the children who work for others, 2.2% children are engaged in paid work and 2.9% are engaged in unpaid work. 3.1% children are engaged in household chores for 28 or more hours in a week, and 4.8% are engaged in work in a family business. Since children are involved in multiple activities, the total work participation rate of 12percent is less than the sum of the percentages of children engaged in each type of work. The work participation rate as revealed by NFHS-3 is the same for girls (12 percent) as it is for boys (12 percent). The very young children (age 5-7 years), both boys and girls, are mainly doing unpaid work for someone who is not a member of their household. The older boys age 12-14 are mainly engaged in paid work or family work, whereas girls in this age group are involved mainly in household chores or family work. Notably, at all ages, girls are more likely than boys to be doing chores and boys are more likely than girls to be working for someone who is not a member of the household or doing other family work. Rural

children age 5-14 years (12.9%) is more likely to be engaged in work than their urban counterparts (8.6%). The percentage of children engaged in work activities decreases steadily with mother's increasing education, father's increasing education, and increasing wealth quintile. With parents' higher education and greater household wealth, there is a substantial reduction in the extent of paid work, involvement in household chores, and other family work, but involvement in unpaid work for someone who is not a member of the household remains more or less the same.

3.3 CHILD LABOUR POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES IN INDIA

In India, childhood has been defined in the context of legal and constitutional provisioning, mainly for aberrations of childhood. It is thus a variable concept to suit the purpose and rationale of childhood in differing circumstances. Essentially they differ in defining the upper age-limit of childhood. Biologically, childhood is the span of life from birth to adolescence. *According to Article 1 of UNCRC¹ (United Nation's Convention on the Rights of the Child), "A child means every human being below*

¹UNCRC (United Nation's Convention on the Rights of the Child), *adopted by the UN General Assembly 1990.*

the age of 18 years unless, under the law applicable to the child, majority is attained earlier.”The definition of the child as given by the UNCRC has definite bearing not only on child development programmes and on budgetary provisions for them, but also on production of statistics as applicable to different cross sections of children in terms of reference ages. A child domiciled in India attains majority at the age of 18 years. However, various legal provisions address children with differing definitions. The age-groups of 0-14 years, 15-59 years and 60 and above years form a commonly accepted standard in reporting demographic indicators. The child related legal and constitutional provisions are kept in view while statistics are generated for different cross-sections of children that align with specific age-groups standing for specific target groups of children such as, child labourers, children in school education, children in crimes, etc.

National Policies and Programmes for Children

Further, the nation is implementing a number of child centric policies addressing the issues of Child Survival, Child Development and Child Protection. The important policies among them are:

1. ***National Policy for Children 1974***: it is the first policy document concerning the needs and rights of children. It

recognized children to be a supremely important asset to the country. The goal of the policy is to take the next step in ensuring the constitutional provisions for children and the UN Declaration of Rights are implemented. It outlines services the state should provide for the complete development of a child, before and after birth and throughout a child's period of growth for their full physical, mental and social development.

2. ***National Policy on Education, 1986***: This policy was called for "special emphasis on the removal of disparities and to equalize educational opportunity," especially for Indian women, Scheduled Tribes (ST) and the Scheduled Caste (SC) communities. To achieve these, the policy called for expanding scholarships, adult education, recruiting more teachers from the SCs, incentives for poor families to send their children to school regularly, development of new institutions and providing housing and services. The NPE called for a "child-centered approach" in primary education, and launched "Operation Blackboard" to improve primary schools nationwide.

3. ***National Policy on Child Labour 1987***: This policy contains the action plan for tackling the problem of child labour. It envisaged a legislative action plan focusing and convergence of general development programmes for benefiting children wherever possible, and Project-based plan of action for launching

of projects for the welfare of working children in areas of high concentration of child labour.

4. ***National Nutrition Policy 1993***: was introduced to combat the problem of under-nutrition. It aims to address this problem by utilizing direct (short term) and indirect (long term) interventions in the area of food production and distribution, health and family welfare, education, rural and urban development, woman and child development etc.

5. ***National Population Policy 2000***: The national population policy 2000 aims at improving in the status of Indian children. It emphasized free and compulsory school education up to age 14, universal immunization of children against all vaccine preventable diseases, 100% registration of birth, death, marriage and pregnancy, substantial reduction in the infant mortality rate and maternal mortality ratio etc.

6. ***National Health Policy 2002***: The main objective of this policy is to achieve an acceptable standard of good health amongst the general population of the country. The approach is to increase access to the decentralized public health system by establishing new infrastructure in deficient areas, and by upgrading the infrastructure in the existing institutions. Overriding importance is given to ensuring a more equitable

access to health services across the social and geographical expanse of the country.

7. National Charter for Children (NCC) 2003: Highlights the Constitutional provisions towards the cause of the children and the role of civil society, communities' and families and their obligations in fulfilling children's basic needs. Well-being of special groups such as children of BPL families, street children, girl child, child-care programmes, and educational programmes for prevention from exploitation find special mention in the NCC. It secures for every child its inherent right to be a child and enjoy a healthy and happy childhood, to address the root causes that negate the healthy growth and development of children, and to awaken the conscience of the community in the wider societal context to protect children from all forms of abuse, while strengthening the family, society and the nation.

The Charter provides that the State and community shall undertake all possible measures to ensure and protect the survival, life and liberty of all children. For empowering adolescent, the Charter states that the State and community shall take all steps to provide the necessary education and skills to adolescent children so as to equip them to become economically productive citizens. National Plan of Action for Children (NPA),

2005 was adopted by Government of India in the pursuit of well-being of children. NPA has a significant number of key areas of thrust out of which the one's relating to child protection are:

- Complete abolition of female foeticide, female infanticide and child marriage and ensuring the survival, development and protection of the girl child,
- Addressing and upholding the rights of children in difficult circumstances,
- Securing for all children legal and social protection from all kinds of abuse, exploitation and neglect.

The various Schemes / Programmes are implemented by different Central Ministries, following the guidance of the national policies. They are aiming to tackle the issues relating to the overall welfare of children work independently as well as hand in hand. The State/ UT Governments also execute numerous programmes from time to time for improving the lot of children.

In spite of several focused initiatives addressing the various needs of children in India, a lot need to be done to improve their conditions in all realms of child survival, child development and child protection. The gender inequality is also wide in these areas, calling for special attention on girl child.

3.4 A BRIEF REVIEW OF THE MAGNITUDE OF CHILD LABOUR AT GLOBAL LEVEL

A child is an invaluable asset of any society and has a definite role to play in the development of the nation. The future of a country depends on how its children are being nurtured to become the future citizens of the country. Some of the children, forced by their socio-economic conditions, take up work at a crucial formative age. A child whose legitimate place is at school is found to be holding a chisel in his hand to supplement the income of his family. This not only prevents these children from getting basic education but also is highly detrimental to their health and leads to the intellectual and physical stunting of their growth. Deprivation of the life of academics and other activities of joyful childhood leads to underdevelopment of their innate capacities, which further perpetuates a scenario of poverty, illiteracy underdevelopment and deprivation.

Though there are clear provisions in our Constitution to safeguard the interest of children by ensuring that they receive education and are not forced to work for a living, it is unfortunate that the problem of child labour exists to a large extent in our country. In fact, child labour is the result of various ills in the society.

Poverty and illiteracy are two such manifestations, which are visible but there are many other factors inbuilt in our society, like the position of women in the family, traditional and cultural practices and feudal attitudes in the country, perpetuating this problem.

As per the Global Report on Child Labour released by ILO recently, there are 191 million economically active children in the world in the age group of 5-14 years in the year 2004. This has come down by 9.6% from 211 million in the year 2000. Out of these, 64% are concentrated in Asia Pacific region, followed by 26% in Sub-Saharan Africa, 3% in Latin American and Caribbean Countries and 7% in other areas. Around 70% of the working children are in agricultural sector, 22% in services and 9% in industry including mining, construction and manufacturing. There has been a sharp decline of 33% in the children working in hazardous occupations in the age group of 5-14 years. Latin America and the Caribbean stand out in terms of a rapid decline in the number of child labour from 17.4 million in 2000 to 5.7 million in 2004 i.e. a decline of 67% in child labour.

In terms of activity rate, i.e. the percentage of children who are economically active in their age group, there has been a

very significant decline in the Latin America and the Caribbean from 16.1% to 5.1%. The world average activity rate of children in 5-14 years age group is 15.8%. The activity rate in sub-Saharan Africa is 26.4% and in Asia-Pacific region is 18.8%. Interestingly, the activity rate of children in this age group in India as per Census 2001 is 5%, which has come down from 5.7% in 1991.

3.5 REVIEW OF EXISTING PROGRAMMES FOR REHABILITATION OF CHILD LABOUR

Realizing the multifaceted and complex nature of this problem, Government had embarked on a holistic and a multi-pronged programme to eliminate child labour from the country in a phased manner beginning with children working in hazardous occupations and progressively covering the children working in other occupations also. The National Policy on Child Labour announced in 1987 emphasizes the need for strict enforcement measures in the 8 areas of high child labour concentration along with appropriate rehabilitative measures to curb this menace.

Although Government is committed to the task of elimination of child labour in all its forms, considering the nature and magnitude

of the problem, gradual and sequential approach has been adopted to withdraw and rehabilitate children beginning with those working in hazardous occupations and processes.

Government strategy is multipronged, which involves strong enforcement of the existing Act with simultaneous efforts towards rehabilitation of both parents and children through linkages with the poverty eradication and income generation programmes of the Government. This is because working children are from extremely poor families and are contributing to the meagre income of their families, a blanket prohibition on all kinds of child labour without providing an alternate means of financial support is likely to punish parents who are already living in abject poverty.

In order to translate the above policy into action, the Government of India initiated the National Child Labour Project Scheme in 1988 to rehabilitate the working children starting with 12 child labour endemic districts of the country. Under the Scheme, working children are identified through child labour survey, withdrawn from work and put into the special bridge schools, so as to provide them with enabling environment to join mainstream education system. In these Special Schools, besides formal

education, they are provided stipend @ Rs.100/- per month, nutrition, vocational training and regular health checkups. In addition, efforts are also made to target the families of these children so as to cover them under various developmental and income/employment generation programmes of the Government. The Scheme also envisages awareness generation campaigns against the evils of child labour and enforcement of child labour laws.

The NCLP Scheme is implemented through a district level Project Society, headed by the District Collector. This Project Society includes prominent NGOs and Trade Unions of the district, in addition to the State Government officials from Education, Health, Rural Development, Labour, Social Welfare and Women & Child Development Departments, etc. The involvement of different departments in the Project Society is to ensure better convergence with these Departments for implementation of the Scheme. As far as possible, running of Special Schools for child labour is entrusted to NGOs. It may, however, be taken up by the Project Society itself, if competent and experienced NGOs are not available in the district for this purpose. The Scheme offers lot of flexibility and decentralization, wherein based on the broad guidelines lay down by the

Government of India, all decisions concerning running of the schools or selecting the NGOs etc. are taken at the level of Project Society. The funds under the Scheme are sanctioned by the Ministry directly to the District Collector, who in turn, disburses them amongst the NGOs for running these Special Schools for working children. The funds are also provided under the Scheme for conducting regular child labour surveys, awareness generation programmes and training of instructors/teachers, etc.

The coverage of the NCLP programme, which started with 12 districts, has been thereafter progressively increased to cover much larger number of districts in the country. In fact, major thrust to the programme came with the landmark judgment of the Humble Supreme Court in December 1996 in the case of M.C. Mehta vs. State of Tamil Nadu. The Hon'ble Supreme Court gave certain directions regarding the manner in which the children working in the hazardous occupations were to be withdrawn from work and rehabilitated, as also the manner in which the working conditions of the children employed in non-hazardous occupations were to be regulated and improved upon.

The Hon'ble Court specifically ordered withdrawal of children working in hazardous industries and ensuring their education in appropriate institutions. It also prescribed employment of at least one adult member of the family of the child so withdrawn from work, a contribution of Rs.20, 000/- per child was ordered to be paid by the offending employer into a corpus of fund set up for the welfare of child labour & their families. Failing which, the State governments to contribute to this Welfare Fund Rs.5, 000/- per child. The interest earnings of this corpus were to be used for providing financial assistance to the families of these children. The Hon'ble Court also ordered regulation of working hours for the children engaged in non-hazardous occupations, so that their working hours did not exceed 5-6 hours per day and that at least two hours of education was ensured. It further directed that the entire expenditure on education of these children be borne by their employers.

3.6 STRATEGY FOR THE 11TH PLAN

Expansion of NCLP Scheme

The NCLP Scheme, which began with a modest number of only 12 districts, has been progressively expanded to various parts of the country with a major thrust in the 10th Plan, when it was expanded to cover 250 districts, spread over in 20 States of the

country. In addition, Indus Project, which is a joint Indo-US child labour project for rehabilitation of children, is being implemented in 21 districts of the country. There have been demands from various States for expanding the coverage of the NCLP Scheme to more districts. Some States like Orissa and Bihar have proposed for coverage of the entire State under the Scheme. To target every working child engaged in hazardous occupation in the country, which is the immediate objective of the Government, there is therefore, a need to expand the scheme to all the districts in the country. Hence, all other remaining districts having a reasonable number of working children in the hazardous category was covered under the NCLP Scheme during the 11th Plan.

Revision of NCLP Scheme

The NCLP Scheme, within the broad guidelines, provides flexibility in implementing the Scheme at the field level. Various innovations and initiatives are therefore, being tried under the Scheme in different states as per their specific requirements. Some of the successful practices include development of standard curriculum for the Special Schools at the State level, Mid-day meal menu based on dietary habits and nutrition value, tracking & monitoring of children even after mainstreaming, closer interaction with education department and the mainstream

schools for smooth transition of children into mainstream education system, immunization and regular health check-ups and provision for vitamin and mineral supplements through coordination with the Health Department and the provision of vocational skills to the children based on their aptitude and market needs. There is a need to incorporate some of these successful individual state interventions into the NCLP Scheme.

The recommendations of the Working Group regarding revision of the Scheme for the 11th Plan are as follows: -

- (i) **Child Labour Survey:** - To have a correct estimate of child labour in the country, there is an immediate need for child labour survey in all the districts of the country. This is important since the last countrywide enumeration of the working children was held in 2001 Census and the incidence of child labour may have undergone change since then with population growth and the large-scale migration of workforce. The demand for child labour survey in all districts of the country has also been expressed in the Parliament and also by the State Governments, NHRC and Civil Society. Since the NCLP Scheme is proposed for expansion to all districts of the

country, there is an immediate requirement for child labour survey in all these districts. The financial implication for conducting child labour survey twice during the 11th Plan in 600 districts of the country @ Rs. 2.75 lakhs per survey per district works out to Rs. 33 crores.

(ii) Standard Curriculum and Learning Materials: -

Experience of implementing the NCLP scheme has shown that those States, which have developed a standard curriculum for teaching children in the Special Schools, have had much better results in mainstreaming and retention of children as it helps in their smooth transition to regular schools. Therefore, there is a need to develop an improved and standardized curriculum to provide basic education in the special schools. The specific recommendations in this regard are:

- State Governments to develop a standard curriculum to be adopted in all the special schools in the State for providing uniformity and linkage with normal schools.

- The content of curriculum developed should be in consonance with the curriculum followed by the regular schools for ensuring smooth mainstreaming.
- State Education Departments and the curriculum and text-book development agencies are asked to develop new bridging modules or adapt the ones developed under SSA for this target group.

(iii) **Teachers' Training:** - To make learning a joyful and enriching experience for the children, it is essential that the teachers are well trained and geared up to take this challenge. These teachers have a major responsibility of nurturing these children and developing confidence in them to join the mainstream education. Periodic training and retraining of the teachers in joyful and multi-grade teaching techniques and sensitizing the specific requirements of working children would largely help the teachers to contribute their best. Strong linkages for this may be forged with the DIETs/DRUs in the districts for the training provided under the District Primary Education Programme (DPEP)/Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA).

(iv) **Comprehensive Pre-Vocational Training:** - In India, child labour is not only the means to supplement the family income, but is also perceived as the way of

acquiring skills and learning the job which will be useful for the child to earn livelihood later in his life. As the families of the child workers are living in abject poverty, they are often not able to appreciate the need for education for the overall development of the child, and also due to various other socio-economic reasons and attitudes, young children are employed in wide range of jobs including hazardous and dangerous occupations. On the one hand, while the public elementary education in India does not provide the necessary opportunities for skill development, access to vocational training otherwise is also not easy. It is in this context that vocational training has been provided as an important component in the National Child Labour Project Scheme. Vocational training to the children would also help in development of their extra-curricular activities.

Although vocational training has been a component in the NCLP Scheme since beginning, the skills provided have been limited to the stereo-type old trades like Sewing, Tailoring, Embroidery, Wool Knitting, Bag-making, painting, Carpentry, Book-binding and toy making. To make vocational training more meaningful,

therefore, would require identifying those skills that have marketability and linkage with training institutes in the area.

Providing vocational skills to girls is another challenge, as they are mainly tuned to typical stereotype roles and any attempt to provide them with alternatives requires an attitudinal change on the part of the parents. Providing vocational training to the working children also requires developing specific modules for rural areas and urban areas, as the chances of wage employment in rural areas are considerably lower than the urban areas. Developing a flexible demand driven vocational skill training programme, post training support and regular training of the Vocational Instructors in special schools are also required to make prevocational training in NCLP schools more meaningful and effective. The specific recommendations in this regard are as follows: -

- The pre-vocational skills being imparted in NCLP schools be upgraded to enable the children withdrawn from work to be equipped to retain traditional skills with an added emphasis on theory as one of the objectives.
- Labour Market Survey to be conducted in each district to assess the skills, which have marketability.

- Regular training of the vocational teachers of the special schools through the ITIs and other vocational training institutes in the district.
- Document the successful pre-vocational training modules in some of the NCLP districts and offer them to other districts for replication. The financial implication for training Vocational Instructors twice during the 11th Plan works out to Rs. 5.4 crores.

(v) **Strengthen Health Component:** - Provision of health care to child workers in the special schools would help in timely detection of ailments and their treatment. In this regard, the specific recommendations are as follows: -

- Provision of a health kit with first-aid essentials and few basic medicines for the children of the special schools.
- Flexibility in utilizing honorarium for doctors in the special schools either on a monthly or per visit basis. In case of Government doctors, the flexibility should be there to utilize the funds allotted for this purpose for their transportation to visit special schools.
- Emphasis should be on convergence with the local Government hospitals, dispensaries or PHCs to provide health care facilities, medical camps and also preventive health education.

- Health cards for each child must be maintained in each school and the observations of the doctor recorded thereon.

The financial implication of providing a doctor for every 20 schools and first-aid kit with basic medicines works out to Rs. 54 crores.

(viii) Economic Rehabilitation and Sensitization of the

Parents: - As poverty and illiteracy are the prime reasons for child labour, a combined and coordinated effort of the various departments would greatly help to mitigate this problem. Providing income generation opportunities to the parents of these children would enable them to send their children to school rather than work. This aspect has been clearly recognized even in the National Policy on Child Labour, which prescribes need to focus on general development programmes for the benefit of the families of child labour. But, the parents need to be sensitized about all these programmes to enable them to take any benefit from them. In this regard, formation of the SHGs of the parents of the working children is being encouraged.

A concerted effort also needs to be made to continuously convince parents about the importance of education and the deleterious, long-term effects of children working. This would

also help to bring children from these families in the fold of education.

(vii) Strong Linkages with Education Department: -

Convergence with Education Department on a sustained basis is required for the following:

- Correct identification of the child labour under the survey from the information pertaining to out of school children collected under SSA.
- To ensure that the working children identified in the age group of 5-8 years are covered directly under SSA.
- One of the formal schools in the area to be identified as a lead school for the mainstreaming of the children coming out of the special schools in that area. Specific instructions to be issued by the Education Department to the lead schools for smooth mainstreaming.
- To ensure timely supply of textbooks and bridging material for children in NCLP Schools by the Education Department.
- Assistance in developing curriculum for the NCLP Schools.
- Training of teachers in NCLP Schools as a specific component under the SSA.

- Monitoring of special schools through the Village/Block Level Education Committees under SSA to ensure that no child in the area remains out of school.
- Sensitizing the district education administrative setup, SSA Planning teams and school head-masters/teachers/VEC members about child labour issues & the specific needs of these children.

Residential facility for migrant children: -

Children from the economically backward areas of Bihar, UP, West Bengal and other States are migrating to the metropolitan cities of Delhi, Mumbai & Bangalore in search of employment. Various raids conducted by the Labour Departments in these cities have revealed that these children are working in most pitiable conditions. They are living in their work places, as they have no regular shelter. They work for long hours and are provided with meagre wages.

These children have no security in terms of their family or community and are, therefore, in a highly vulnerable position for exploitation. There is an immediate need to develop special strategy to deal with the unique circumstances of migrant child workers. Strong rehabilitative measures in the States, to which these children belong, would help to keep them from migrating

from their homes. Those children, who have migrated to metropolitan cities without their parents, also need to be appropriately rehabilitated through a provision of residential schools so that they get food, shelter along with education and skill training in these cities.

Residential facility would also be required for children withdrawn from work in far-flung areas of the districts, with less concentration of working children and not having special schools. It is, therefore, proposed to make a provision of 10 residential schools each in A Class cities and 5 schools each in B Class cities.

Awareness Generation: -

The Communication approach followed under the NCLP Scheme has been to undertake awareness generation exercises at the local/district level. The activities undertaken in this regard consisted of exhibitions, fairs, rallies, street plays, camps, meetings and workshops etc. on the child labour in the district. No funds were made available to the State Governments or even kept at the Centre for awareness generation.

Being localized, these activities had a very limited impact and the need has been felt to carry out media campaign at the national level, particularly since the incidence of child labour is quite wide spread in the country. Even the states have been demanding funds for carrying out state level campaigns on the issue.

To invoke public interest and large-scale awareness on this issue, there is a need for an extensive awareness generation campaign launched over a period of time at the Centre and State on a sustained basis.

Enforcement: -

Strict enforcement measures are most essential to deter employers from employing children. Effective rehabilitation measures therefore, must be supplemented with strong enforcement measures to prevent further entry of children into the work force. Successful experiences of some states in this regard suggest that the districts must be galvanized to take enforcement measures in a targeted manner and that their performances on this front must be closely monitored by the State Monitoring Committee on a regular basis against the targets set for them. Special Task Forces against Child Labour must be set up in all

the districts to carry out raids and inspections to instill an element of deterrence among the offenders.

(xiv) Tracking & Monitoring of Child Labour

Tracking is an important tool to record the progress of the Project beneficiary right from the time of his/her identification as child labour in the survey to his/her enrolment in the special schools, through his/her stay therein and up to mainstreaming. In fact, these monitoring needs to be continued even beyond mainstreaming to determine if the child is continuing with his/her studies in the regular schools or has dropped out. Once a child is rehabilitated under the Project, it is an important follow up step to check if he/she is faring well in the mainstream school. Such a monitoring would ensure that the child does not relapse back to exploitative work. A well-designed T&M system therefore would ensure that the beneficiary has been effectively rehabilitated.

An effective web-based monitoring would also benefit in keeping track of migrant child labour from one NCLP district to another and would help in continuation of their schooling and rehabilitation in spite of their movement.

This process of Tracking & Monitoring is, therefore, important in determining the real success of the Project in terms of children's actual mainstreaming and continuation in schools thereafter. It would also provide credibility and authenticity of the efforts made under the Project.

A provision of Rs. 20,000/- for capacity building of the staff in this regard was proposed in the first year of the Plan period for every existing NCLP district or in the first year of their operation in case of new NCLPs. The web-based Monitoring & Tracking software developed under INDUS Project or under the UNICEF Child Protection Programme or that developed by the Government of Tamil Nadu could be utilized for this purpose, depending on the ease and efficacy of any of them. The customization and trial runs of this software are under way.

(xv) Vocational Training for adolescents

It is important to address the specific needs of the adolescents in order to equip them with appropriate skills before they enter the job market. This is being tried under the Indo-US Child Labour Project, where a provision of systematic vocational training has been made for working adolescents in the age group of 15-18 years. A comprehensive market survey is conducted to identify marketable skills in the area. After identifying the marketing skills and suitable training institutes, these adolescents are

provided with intensive vocational training in various trades for a period of about 6 months to enable them to get job placements on the basis of the skill learnt or to get self-employed. Specific recommendations in this regard are: -

- Identifying the marketable and employable skills by conducting labour market surveys in the districts. This could be done in coordination with local ITIs and the other vocational institutions in and around the district. If the local has recently conducted such surveys then their existing database would be used for such purposes.

3.7: STRATEGY FOR THE 12th PLAN

The strategy for dealing with Child Labour during the 12th Five Year Plan Period has been formulated based on the suggestions given by the members of the working group in the two meetings conducted on 27th May and 8July 2011. The broad highlights of the suggestions are:

- The Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act should be strengthened and amended.
- The problems of working children of the migratory families should be addressed. Child labour survey should specifically

capture migration of children. Residential schools should be opened in each Metro and Mega cities and also in every district.

- It is important to run residential schools for rehabilitation of child labour.
- The NCLP Scheme should expand further to a large geographical coverage.
- Emphasis should be given to the monitoring and tracking of NCLP school children.
- The convergence approach should be followed to enhance social protection and welfare measures for working children.
- The NCLP Scheme should be realigned in the light of Right to Education Act 2009. Teachers of the NCLP Special schools should be properly trained.
- Three tier Monitoring Committee at the District, State and National level should be made for effective implementation and monitoring of the NCLP Scheme.
- Panchayati Raj Institutions should be involved in monitoring and tracking of child labour.

3.7.1 Converging against Child Labour: Support for India's Model

Approved by the Government of India, the project of the ILO 'Converging Against Child Labour—Support for India's Model', with the duration of 42 months, is presently implemented in two districts each in the States of Bihar (Katihar and Sitamari), Jharkhand (Ranchi and Sahibganj), Gujarat (Surat and Vadodara), Madhya Pradesh (Jabalpur and Ujjain), and Orissa (Cuttack and Kalahandi). The broad objective of this project is to bring together various Government Departments and Stakeholders to work for the elimination of child labour. The contribution of US Department of Labour for this project is US\$ 6,850,000.

3.7.2 Joint Initiative of MoLE – GoI and the ILO

The Ministry of Labour and Employment (MOLE) has been working with the ILO to develop and implement an integrated, convergence based approach to prevent bonded labour. A pilot project is currently operational in Tamil Nadu in Brick Kiln and Rice Mill sectors to improve the living and working conditions of the workers and their children.

The pilot project addresses the problem of vulnerability to labour exploitation in the informal economy in India. By promoting decent work and social protection for poor women and men in selected informal industries in two destination districts and three source districts of Tamil Nadu, and operationalizing the concept of convergence for the benefit of the poor, the project aims to demonstrate that sustainable solutions can be found that will result in a progressive upgrading of the living and working conditions of men and women workers. This should lead to a reduction in their reliance on employers and recruiters for their social and economic needs, and hence a reduction in vulnerability to bonded labour. Improvements in working conditions will be secured by strengthening the capacity of employers and of workers for social dialogue to resolve workplace problems and implement improvements that will contribute to increased productivity. The project seeks also to develop and test fair and transparent recruitment and employment arrangements for migrant workers.

The project strategy thus includes the following four components:

1. Ensuring social protection for workers through convergence of existing schemes and services, both at source and destination

areas, to reduce their indebtedness and poverty situation. The main implementing stakeholder group for this component is the district administration.

2. Empowering the workers by imparting rights based awareness education and enabling them to organize themselves and engage in collective bargaining. The main implementing stakeholder group for this component is the Joint Action Forum of Central Trade Unions.

3. Implementing workplace improvement measures and facilitation to workers & their children to access government schemes while they are at workplaces. The main implementing stakeholder group for this component is the employers association.

4. Establishing active social dialogue process among tripartite partners for improving recruitment systems and working conditions.

5. The project beneficiaries are the women, men and children living and working in the selected clusters of workplaces (which were subject to a detailed enumeration at the outset of the

project). The beneficiaries include nearly 6000 families who live and work (for part of the year) in the brick kilns in Chengalpattu area of Kanchipuram, and 3000 workers who live and work year round in rice mills in the Red Hills area of Tiruvallur. Efforts are now being made to extend the project to the States of Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and Haryana.

3.7.3: Proposal for amendment in Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act:

Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act which was enacted in 1986 has been in operation from last 25 years and being a social legislation needs to be revisited on account of the societal changes having occurred since then. The existing legislation should be amended to include child labour in informal and unorganized sectors and also in the light of RTE Act. The areas need to be revisited are minimum age for prohibition of employment of children, imposition of stiffer penalty for violation of the Act, addition of more occupations and processes, framing rules for the health and safety of the children employed or permitted to work in any establishment or class of establishments, etc. It is important to protect children from exploitation, unregulated working hours and hazardous conditions of work.

Conclusion:

India has weak legal protection of children in labour market. The legislations have been inadequate due to several causes which impede child labour including poverty, inadequate policing and corruption. As a result, the policy enforcement has failed in India. Not only because the laws themselves have drawbacks, but also because of the human factors, and usually an international organizations and NGOs cannot fix the problem on their own, what they need is to intensify the cooperation with the government who has the right of making laws. In other words, the key to reduction of child labour is to emancipate children.

4.1 INTRODUCTION

The main purpose of this research is to assess the economic impact of child labour and to provide empirical evidence available on this issue. This study focused on paid work of child labourers in Aizawl city. Though there are children who are engaged in unpaid work such as domestic chores, we excluded them in order to yields a better picture of the incidence and dimensions of these paid child labourers.

Child labour is a multi-faceted issue that has been addressed at both the international and national levels. It is essentially a development problem. It is prevalent in all the developing countries. The term ‘child labour’ has been defined in different ways and the definition varies in accordance with the context and criteria applied to the subject.

According to Article 1 of the UNCRC defines everyone under the age of 18 years as a child. It lays down a detailed charter of children’s social, economic, cultural, civil and political rights and mandates their protection from any practice prejudicial to their rights.

In India, The Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act 1986 sets out a comprehensive provision pertaining to the prohibition of child labour and defines a child as “a person who has not completed his fourteenth year of age” and prohibits the employment of children in certain occupations and processes listed in Schedule Parts A and B. This Act defines an adolescent as a person “who has completed his fourteenth year of age but has not completed his eighteenth year.”

The term “child labour is commonly interpreted in two different ways: first, as an economic practice, and second, as a social evil. In the first context it signifies employment of children in gainful occupations with a view to adding to the total income of the family. It is in the second sense that the term child labour is now more generally used. In assessing the nature and extent of social evil, it is necessary to take into account the character of the jobs on which children are engaged, the danger to which they are exposed and the opportunities of development of which they have been denied. The term includes wage-labour as well as self-employed children working independently as well as in family enterprises.

The problem of child labour is a universal phenomenon. It is in existence in one form or another since historic times. However it is perverted as a social problem. Child labour problem is significantly acute in the developing countries than in the developed nation with the increasing rate of industrialization and modernization. The incidence of child labour in all the developing countries has been growing at an alarming rate. According to UNICEF, State of the World's Children 2010 an estimated 12 percent of children in India ages 5-14 are engaged in child labour activities, including carpet production.

According to the statistics given by ILO, 73 million children between 10 to 14 years of age are employed in economic activities all over the world. The figure translates into 13.2 of all children between age group 10 to 14 being subjected to child labour. Child labour is most rampant in Asia with 44.6 million or 13% percent of its children doing commercial work followed by Africa at 23.6 million or 26.3% which is the highest rate and Latin America at 5.1 million that is 9.8%. In India, 14.4% children between 10 and 14 years of age are employed in child labour.

Based on this empirical study of child labour within Aizawl district with a sample size of 37 children, information regarding

their particulars are collected through a suitable questionnaire. Regarding gender composition, 20 of them are boys and 17 are girls. Boys constitute 54.04% and that of girls constitute 45.95%. Hence, boys' participation rate is higher by 8.09. This means a 21.86% of gender participation gap.

Regarding the birth place, out of the total surveyed, 27 children are indigenous meaning they are the original native of the state. On the other hand, 10 children are immigrant meaning they are either from other states or from neighboring country especially Myanmar.

Out of the total respondents 22 children are from 5 and below family members, 15 children are from family members of 6 to 8. Further, 4 children coming from family members below 5 are in a more critical life meaning either their fathers or mothers are deceased and 1 child from a 7 members family has a deceased parents.

Regarding the position of in the family, 15 (40.54%) of them are the eldest child of the family, 3 (8.10%) of children are the second eldest child, 3 (8.10%) are third eldest child, 1 (2.70%) child is fourth eldest child, 1 (2.70%) child is in the middle position, 9 (24.32%) are the youngest child in the family, 1 (2.70%) is the second youngest child. While only 1 (2.70%) is the

only child in the family. Unspecified positions constitute 3 (8.10%) children. Also, 34 (91.89%) children lived in a rented house while only 3 (8.10%) children are living in their own house.

4.2: EDUCATION

A right to education has been recognized by some governments. At the global level, Article 13 of the United Nations' 1966 International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights recognizes the right of everyone to an education. Although education is compulsory in most places up to a certain age, attendance at school often is not. Education is formally divided into stages such as primary school, middle school, high school, secondary school, colleges and university or apprenticeship.

Formal education occurs in a structured environment whose explicit purpose is teaching students. Usually formal education takes place in a school environment, with classrooms of multiple students learning together with a trained teacher. Most school systems are designed around a set of values or ideals that govern all educational choices in that system which helps in shaping children for their future.

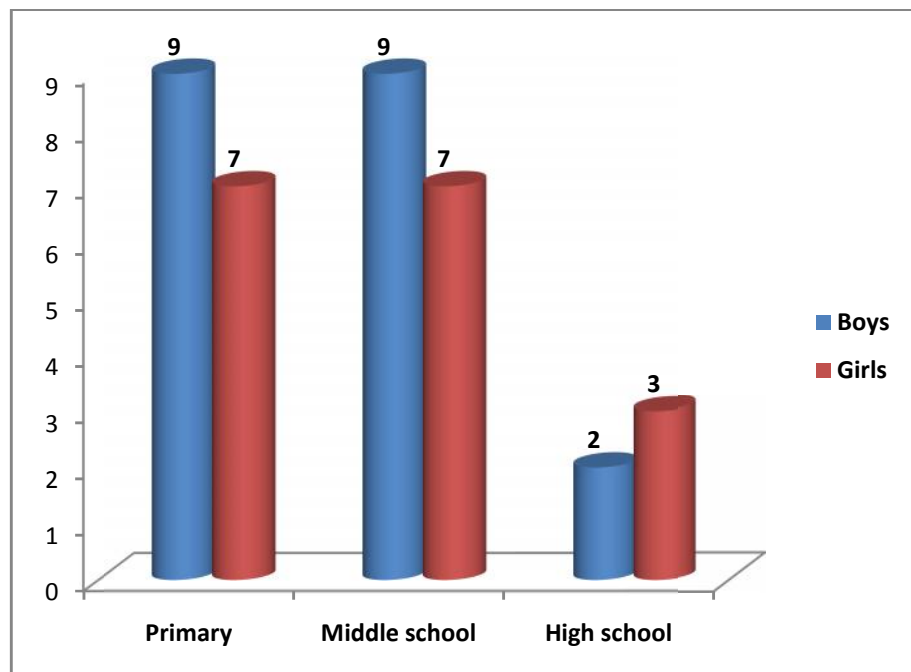
Mizoram is the second highest in literacy among the states in India next only to Kerela, having a literacy of 91.81% as per Census of India 2011. Though the state literacy is high, there are still a number of dropouts which can be one of the factors for child labouring within the study area. The following table presents educational levels of the respondents.

Table 4.1(a): Educational Level

Edn. standards	Boys	Girls	Total
Primary school	9	7	16
Middle school	9	7	16
High school	2	3	5

Source: Field Survey 2015

Graph 4.1(a): Educational Level



Primary level is from class I to IV, middle school is from class V to VIII and high school is from class IX to X. Table 4.1 (a) presents the educational level of child labourers within Aizawl city. Out of the total children surveyed, 16 child labourers have education till primary school, of which there are 9 boys and 7 girls. 16 of them have education till middle school, of which there are 9 boys and 7 girls. 2 boys and 3 girls have education till high school. Therefore, it can be concluded that maximum of the child labourers in Aizawl city drop out from school enrollment during primary and middle school.

Table 4.1 (b): Class-wise Level

Class	Boys	Girls
I	2	-
II	3	2
III	-	3
IV	4	2
V	4	4
VI	1	1
VII	3	-
VIII	1	2
IX	2	2
X	-	1
Total	20	17

Source: Field Survey 2015

In Table 4.1 (b), it can be seen that maximum of the boys are in class IV and V and maximum of girls are in class V. The minimum standard of boy's child labours is class I and the

minimum standard of girls is class II. From this analysis, it can be said that maximum of the child labours within Aizawl city are educated upto Middle school.

4.3 REASONS OF SCHOOL DROP-OUT

Drop-out rate is one of the most important indicators of quality education. Drop-out rate is defined as the proportion of children that cease to remain enrolled in the school system.

The constitution of India has relevant provisions to secure compulsory universal primary education and for the safeguard of children. Under Article 21(A), it guarantees free and compulsory education to all children of the age of six to fourteen years. To fulfill this objective, the government has implemented various schemes for greater enrollment of children in schools like Mid-Day Meal scheme across the country. In fact, the schemes have great positive impacts and the number of enrollment rate also increased to a great extent. However, there are still a number of children dropping out from school. Though some children enjoyed school life, they could no longer pursue education due to various reasons. Consequently, they drop out from school and help parents in generating income. The table 4.3 below shows the

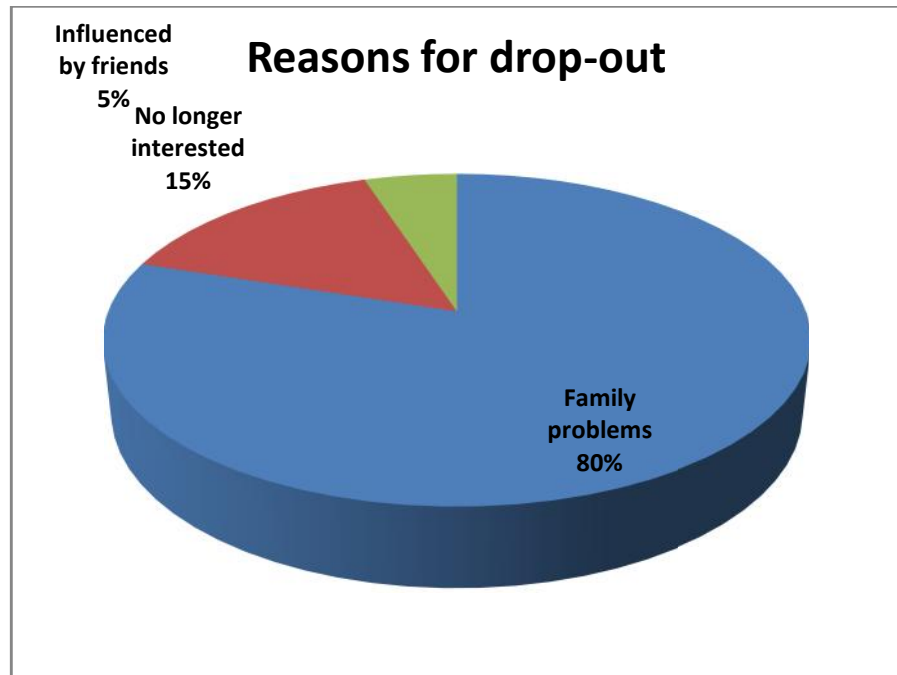
reasons why the children within our study area dropped out from school and engaged themselves in child labouring.

Table 4.2: Reasons of School Drop-out

Gender	Reasons for drop-out			Total
	Family problems	No longer interested	Influenced by friends	
Boys	6	2	1	9
Girls	10	1	-	11

Source: Field Survey 2015

Graph 4.2: Reasons of School Drop-out



There are certain factors responsible for school drop-out like family problems, influenced by friends, no longer interested in studies etc. Specifically, family problems include financial problems, health problems of parents and deceased of parents.

As seen in Table 4.2, out of the total surveyed, 9 boys dropped out from school where 6 of them are due to family problems, 2 of them are no longer interested in studies and 1 is due to friends influence. Again out of the total drop-out children, girls constitute 11 where 10 of them are due to family problems and 1 is no longer interested. Hence, we may conclude that majority of the drop-out children engaged in work in Aizawl are due to family problems. Only a little percentage out of the total comprised of those who are no longer interested in further studies. This shows that majority of dropout children are deprived off from their studies due to family problems.

4.4 TYPES OF WORK

The populations that are endowed with the capacity and willingness to work constitute the labour force and those who are actually engaged in activity or work are included in the work force. Therefore the number of people who are actually included in the workforce depends greatly on how 'work' is defined. The

two most important sources from which the concept of work can be available are the census reports and NSSO. 'Work' or 'employment' may be broadly defined as labour participation in 'gainful activities'. Gainful activities according to NSSO are those activities, which are perceived for pay, profit or family gain or that which add value to the national product. This normally results in production of goods and services for exchanged and that the activities in the agriculture in which a part or whole of agricultural produce is used for won consumptions and does not go for sale are considered gainful.

The census of India on the other hand defines work as participation in any economically productive activity. Thus, according to the census an adult woman who engaged in household activities but is not engaged in other productive work to supplement the family income may not be considered as a worker. Thus, though the definition given by NSSO is more liberal in its approach as compared to the census definition, both the surveys excludes many gainful activities, particularly of women in our country and leaves them outside the definitional frame of 'work effort'.

Regular wage/salaried employee: These were persons who worked in others' farm or non-farm enterprises (both household and non-household) and, in return, received salary or wages on a regular basis (i.e. not on the basis of daily or periodic renewal of work contract). This category included not only persons getting time wage but also persons receiving piece wage or salary and paid apprentices, both full time and part-time.

Casual labour: A person, who was casually engaged in others' farm or non-farm enterprises (both household and non-household) and, in return, received wages according to the terms of the daily or periodic work contract, was considered as a casual labour.

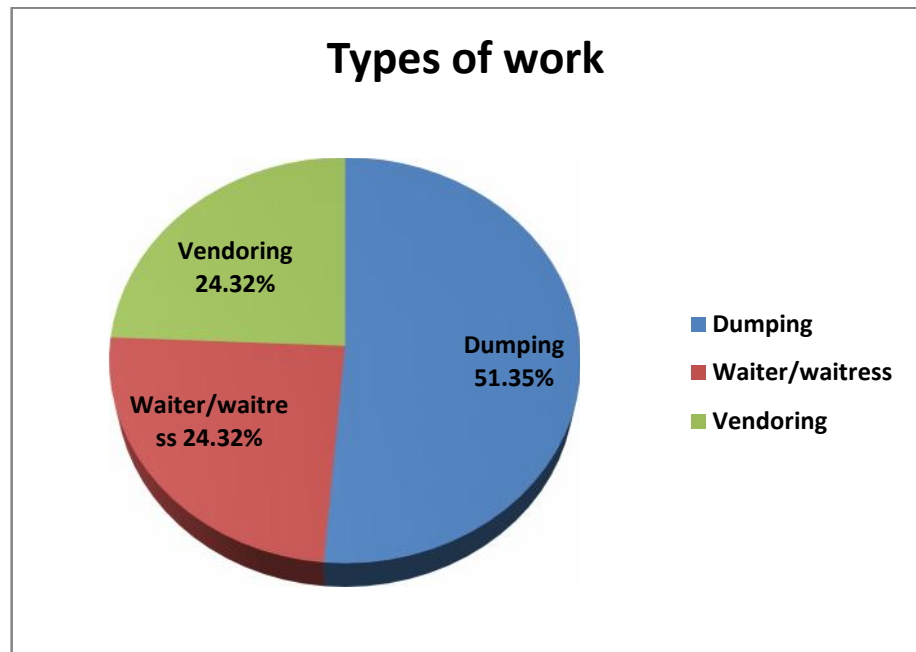
The following table highlights the types of work or activities performed by the respondents.

Table 4.3: Types of Work

Gender	Dumping	Waiter/ Waitress	Vendoring	Total Nos.
Boys	11	4	5	20
Girls	8	5	4	17

Source: Field Survey 2015

Graph 4.3: Types of Work



The main activities of child labour in Aizawl city are dumping of garbage, waiter/waitress in restaurants and vending. Dumping activity mainly involves collecting saleable items from the garbage of households, hospitals, institutions, commercial centres etc. waiter/waitress activities in restaurants mainly involves serving, cleaning the tables and washing dishes. Vending such as ice-creams, cotton candies, vegetables, fruits etc. are performed by child labourer in Aizawl city.

As seen in Table 4.3, out of the 20 boys surveyed, 11 are engaged in dumping, 4 as waiter and 5 as vendors. Out of the total girls surveyed, 8 are engaged in dumping, 5 as waitress and 4 as vendors. Therefore, it can be seen that the main activity in which child labourers within the study area generate their income is

through dumping. The items which they collected from garbage are sold to the collectors of condemned iron, plastics, papers etc. Also, there is more number of girls than boys working in restaurants. At the same time, as vendor's boys are more than girls. From this analysis, it can be concluded that of all the activities of child labourers, dumping is the main activity which is followed by both vendoring and working in restaurants.

4.5 LEVEL OF INCOME

The most obvious economic impact of child labour at the family level in the short run is to increase household income. All researchers and practitioners agree that poverty is the main determinant of child labour supply, and that child labour significantly increases the income and the probability of survival of the family. Their contribution is most of the time critical since children are sent to work when parents' earnings are insufficient to guarantee the survival of the family or are insecure so that child labour is used as a mean of minimizing the impact of possible job loss, failed harvest and other shocks on the family's income stream. In these circumstances, the survival of the family depends on child labour irrespective of whether it is carried out in hazardous or non-hazardous activities, in formal or informal

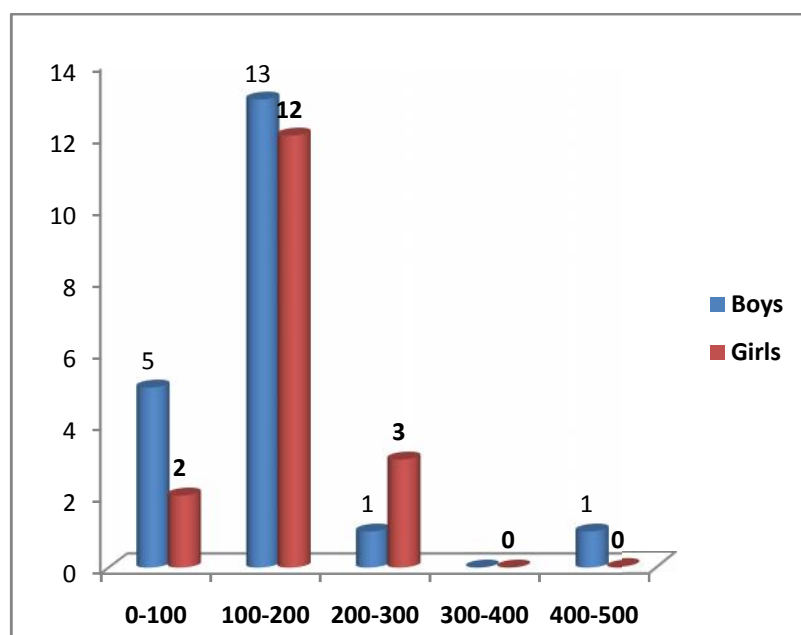
economy. Children are from poor families and are contributing to the meager income of their families, a blanket prohibition on all kinds of child labour without providing an alternate means of financial support is likely to punish parents who are already living in abject poverty. The level of income of the children surveyed also contributed extensively in their household incomes and the following table presents the daily level of income generated by the child labourers within the study area.

Table 4.4: Daily Incomes

Gender	Income (in Rs)					Total
	0-100	100-200	200-300	300-400	400-500	
Boys	5	13	1	-	1	20
Girls	2	12	3	-	-	17

Source: Field Survey 2015

Graph 4.4: Daily Incomes



As seen in Table 4.4, the daily incomes of children involved in work are not as meager as compare with other regions of child workers. From the table, 5 boys earned a daily income below Rs 100 while there are only 2 girls. Bulk of the children are concentrated in the income group ranging between Rs 100-200 having 13 boys and 12 girls. Further 1 boy earns a daily income ranging between Rs 200-300 while there are 3 children in this category. Interestingly, there are no children in income ranging between Rs 300-400, while there is 1 boy earning Rs 400-500 as his daily income. Therefore, it can be concluded that the income generated by the child labourers ranged from Rs.100.00 to Rs.200.00, which is sufficient for their survival in the short run. But what the family should perceive is the long run negative implications of the child labour for their own family. Since children sent to work do not accumulate (or under-accumulate) human capital, missing the opportunity to enhance their productivity and future earnings capacity. This lowers the wage of their future families, and increases the probability of their offspring being sent to work. In this way poverty and child labour is passed on from generation to generation.

If the work of children is needed for meeting the essential needs of the family, any effort to reduce child labour (both in

formal and informal occupations) must take into account that the income of families involved will be affected negatively, often pushed below the survival level. Hence income transfers and/or subsidies for poor families with children in school become of crucial importance for the effectiveness of child labour reduction programme.

4.6 ITEMS OWNED

The level of household items owned by households is also one of the most important indicators of the people's standard of living. When there is a slight increase in the family income, they are often used to purchase household items which can be counted as the reflection of their standard of living. Therefore, in order to know the economic status of the child workers, some household items are listed which a family generating some income would own. The selected items are listed in the following table.

Table 4.5 below highlights the items owned by children surveyed. Items include home appliances as well as electronic gadgets. The main reason behind the inclusion of these items in the survey is that they reflect the economic status and the standard of living of the people.

Table 4.5: Items Owned

Items	Owned
Television	23
Refrigerator	12
Vehicle	6
Computer	2
Gas stove	19
Water filter	5
Electric iron	4
Washing machine	3
Music system	2
Steel almirah	13
Sewing machine	1
Mobile phone	32

Source: Field Survey 2015

Therefore, this study tries to analyse the economic status of children in terms of the items they owned. Henceforth, from the table, it can be seen that among those items mobile phone constitutes the maximum number with 32 and sewing machine constitutes the minimum number with only 1. Further, Television accounts 23, refrigerator 12, vehicle (mainly two wheeler) 6, computer 2, gas stove 19, water filter 5, electric iron 4, washing machine 3, music system 2 and steel almirah 13 respectively. Therefore, we may conclude that the main reason for the maximum number of mobile phone is, it is being the most widely used and available at affordable price whose importance is indispensable these days. The second most owned items are

television followed by gas stove. Hence, it can be said that the overall economic status of the children is above average. In other words, in terms of household items acquired, child labours in Aizawl city are far better off than those child labourers in other regions.

4.7 HEALTH ASPECT

Health plays one of the most important roles. Improvements in health enhance human capital and contribute significantly to productivity and economic growth, thereby enhancing human welfare. A nation with healthy manpower produces greater output per man as compared to an unhealthy one. In this context, good nutrition plays an important role. World Development Report (1990) states, “Better nutrition improves a child’s capacity to learn and increase productivity. On the other hand, malnutrition is related to lower cognitive test scores and worse school performance”. Bad health and under-nourishment adversely affect the quality of manpower, as seen in underdeveloped countries. Moreover, due to lack of medical facilities, diseases are very common that impair the efficiency of the work force. In order to improve the quality of manpower, provision of adequate food and nourishment, better arrangement of

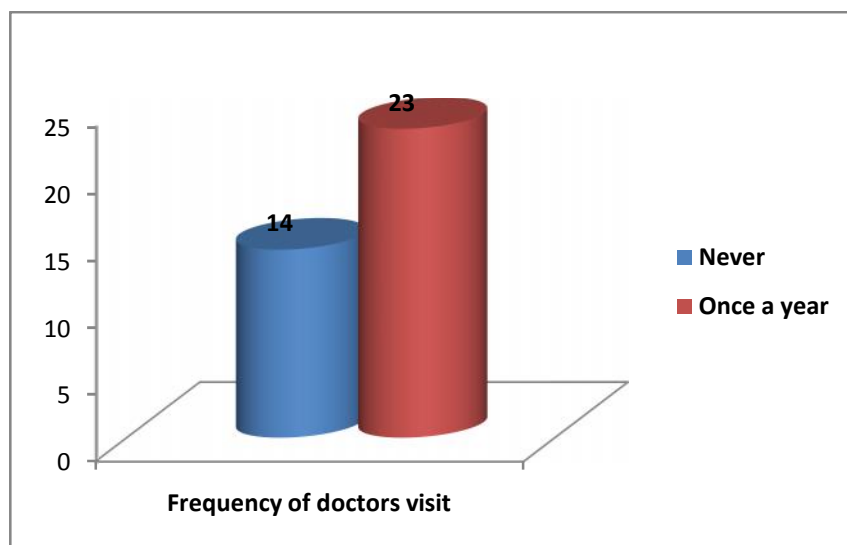
public sanitation, better extension of medical facilities etc are necessary. The expenditure on these items is a form of human investment because it tends to raise the efficiency and productivity of the people. Health facilities and services improve the life expectancy, strength and utility of the people; which are all part of human capital. The following table shows the health issues of the respondents.

Table 4.6 (a): Medical Care

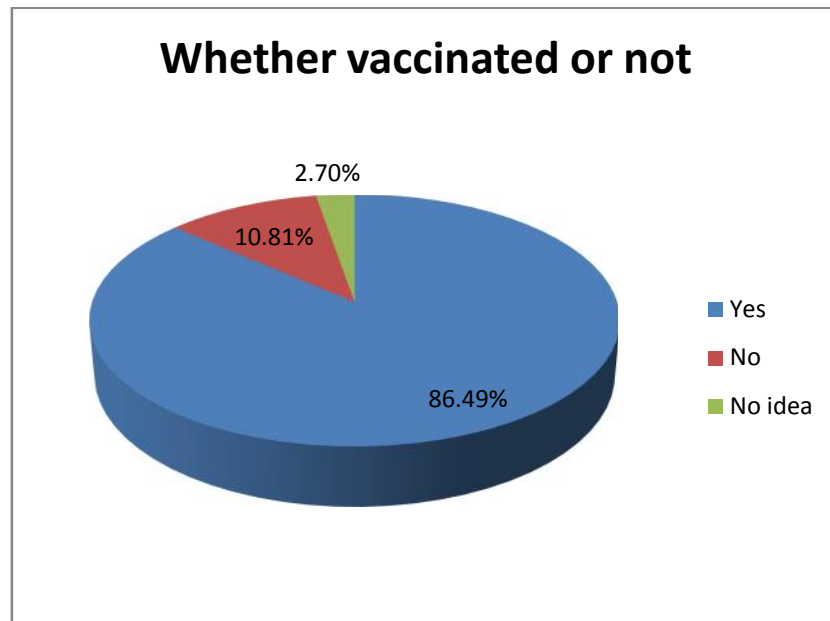
Gender	Frequency of doctor visit		Whether vaccinated or not		
	Never	Once a year	Yes	No	No idea
Boys	8	11	16	4	-
Girls	6	12	16	-	1
Total	14	23	32	4	1

Source: Field Survey 2015

Graph 4.6 (a): Medical Care (1)



Graph 4.6 (b): Medical Care (2)



As seen from Table 4.6 (a), majority of children engaged in work visited doctors only once a year, they are 62.16% of the total, i.e, 23 children. While 14 children never visit doctors or have medical check-up that make up 37.84% of the total. Since the health issues of children in a family are usually taken up by the adult members of the family, it can be concluded here that the family of the respondents are not health conscious enough in realizing the importance of consulting doctors on health issues. Also, in today's world where children's health matter is given priority, it is surprising that 37.84% did not visit doctors even once a year.

Table 4.6(a) also highlights that majority of children i.e, 32 of them are vaccinated making 86.49% of the total. Out of which there are 16 boys and 16 girls. On the other hand, 4 children who are not vaccinated constituted only boys alone. And finally, there is only one girl who was not sure whether she is vaccinated or not. Therefore, we may conclude that majority of parents are aware of their child's health while they are below 2 year of age. Also, those who are vaccinated have lesser complain about their health which was observed through interviews conducted during the field survey.

One empirical suggestion that can be drawn from this analysis is that in order to cover all the children within the public health system like vaccination, the department concern should conduct a home visit in every locality, keeping in mind the Government of India's vaccination scheme for all children in which home visit is mandatory.

There are certain factors which affect the health condition. Since children are the most vulnerable section of the society, they are easily caught up by a number of communicable and non-communicable diseases. Especially, children involved in work are likely to suffer early than those who are not. However, most diseases can be prevented by taking care of personal hygiene. Henceforth, questions on whether there are any factors which

cause health related to work and frequency of taking bath are asked to the respondents and the data so obtained are presents in Table 4.6 (b) below.

Table 4.6 (b): Family Hygiene

Gender	No. of hours sleep				Frequency of taking bath					Whether there is health problem related to work		
	5-6hrs	6-7hrs	7-8hrs	8-9hrs	Everyday	Once	Twice	Thrice	4 times	Yes	No	Yes, but not related to work
Boys	1	5	10	4	5	2	5	7	1	2	14	5
Girls	-	3	10	4	9	-	2	5	1	3	11	2

Source: Field Survey 2015

As seen from Table 4.6(b), regarding the number of hours sleeps, majority of children i.e, 20 (54.05%) of them have 7-8 sleeping hours of which there are 10 boys and 10 girls. And 8 (21.62%) children have 6-7 sleeping hours with 5 boys and 3 girls. Again, 8 (21.62%) children have 8-9 sleeping hours constituting 4 boys and 4 girls. Finally, only 1 boy has a sleeping time of 5-6 hours. Overall, the average sleeping hour is 7 hours 45 minutes. Hence, we may conclude that majority of children involved in work have enough time for sleeping which is one of the basic factors of health indicator. This further improves children's health though they may seldom visit doctors or have medical check-up. This finding is also supported by some

research conducted earlier, that children should have 7-8hours sleep for their growth and overall development.

Personal hygiene is extremely important to keep oneself to prevent from certain illnesses. One may not often visit doctors, but proper care of oneself helps them to remain in sound health. People in general, often take medicines while ignoring the basic health tips such as taking bath which could have prevented them from falling sick. Henceforth, the frequency of taking bath was included in the questionnaire. With regards to the frequency of taking bath, 5 boys and 9 girls altogether 14 children take bath everyday while 2 boys said they usually take bath once week. 5 boys and 2 girls take bath twice a week, 7 boys and 5 girls said they take bath thrice a week and 1 boy and 1 girl take bath 4 times a week. Hence, it may be concluded that since only 14 children out of 37 take bath every day, the child labourers within the study area are maintaining a low level of personal hygiene. Moreover, the main work performed by these children is engaging in dumping and garbage handling as highlighted in Table 4.3 it is very important that taking bath everyday is necessary to keep them healthy. It is suggested here that parents or guardian should be aware of the importance of taking bath everyday for these child labourers. Organising sanitation campaigns, seminars etc will have a far reaching impact in this regard.

In Table 4.6 (b), out of the total sample size, 2 boys and 3 girls (13.51%) said that they have health problems related to their work. It may be noted here that, the most common illness among the respondents are headache and cold. On the other hand, 14 boys and 11 girls (67.57%) said they did not have any illness or infection due to their work. Again, 5 boys and 2 girls (18.92%) said they have illness but not related to their work. Mention may also be made here that, though majority of them said they do not have health problems, child workers in this empirical study, especially those working at the dumping ground do said that they once suffered either from headache or cold in the early stages of their work but after adapting themselves with the environment those illnesses are slowly decreasing. Since majority of child workers in Aizawl city stated that they do not have health problems it can be concluded that this might be true in the short run but if they continue to perform these kinds of work it is very likely that they will acquire some illnesses in the long run which will eventually reduce their capacity to produced. *This finding can be said to satisfy our first research question that whether lower hygiene associated with child labour translate in the long run into a less healthy and less productive adult labour force.*

There is a growing realization that the health of the people of a nation significantly contributes to its economic growth. Assuring a minimum level of physical and mental well-being is a critical constituent of the development process. There is a trend in encouraging the present health system, both in the public and the private sector, in a way of public-private partnership in providing comprehensive health care. To the extent that health care and health services lead to better health, they make contributions for the economic development of a developing country like India.

4.7.1 Items of Consumption

The child labourers within the study area are under abject poverty and live in a subsistence economy. They are malnourished because of lack of food for consumption; as a result there is lack of human capital formation among them. A calorie is a unit which is used for measuring the energy that we consumed and used. Everything that we consume has a calorie counts which is used as one measurement of poverty. Depending upon how much calorie a person consume they are regarded as living below or above the poverty line. In this regard the calorie norms of poverty line worked out by the Lakdawala Expert Group is 2400 calories per day per person in rural areas and 2100 calories per

person per day in the urban areas. A Mixed Recall Period (MRP) was used to yields estimates which will be closer to its true value.

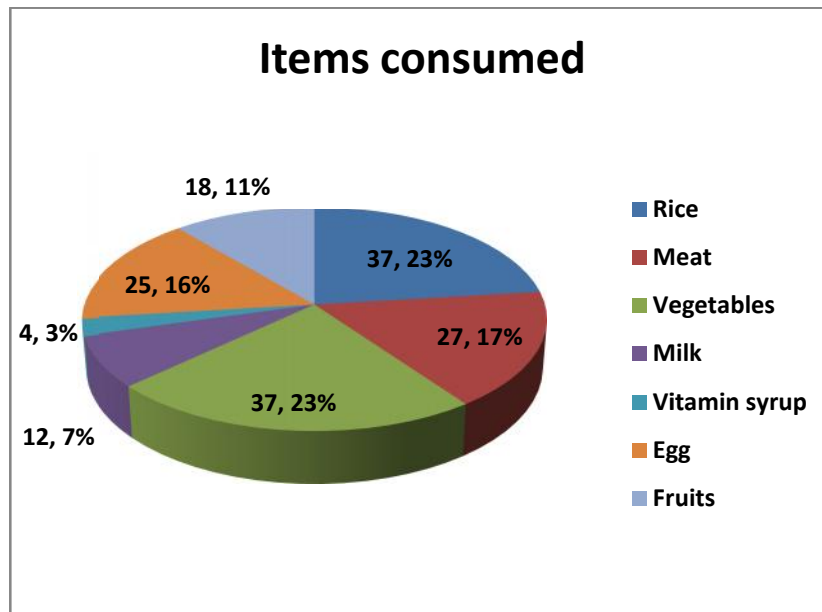
The amount of calorie intake depends on the type of our diet. In fact, though balance diet is the most desirable, most people could not meet so due to difference in economic conditions. At the same time, there is numerous food items which can be easily consume by the masses. Keeping in view, some selected food items which are most common in the study area are included in the question to draw a conclusion of whether these children are malnourished or not. Table 4.6 (c) below presents these selected items and the number of children who consumed them.

Table 4.6 (c) Patterns of Items Consumed

Items consumed	No. of children
Rice	37
Meat	27
Vegetables	37
Milk	22
Vitamin syrup	4
Egg	25
Fruits	18

Source: Field Survey 2015

Graph 4.6 (c): Patterns of Items Consumed



As seen from the table, rice being the staple food of the study area, all the children consume it every day. Vegetables such as mustard leaves, potatoes, brinjal etc are also consumed everyday along with rice. 27 of them consumed meat twice a week. Egg is one item which 25 of them consumed every day. Fruits are consumed by 22 of them twice a week and milk is consumed only once a week by 18 of them. It is seen that majority of child labour consumed high rich protein, carbohydrates and other important minerals. From this table, it can be concluded that child laborers' calories intake is above average which is quite reasonable to sustain them. Consequently, this certainly have positive impact on their health which is reflected in Table 4.6 (b) of health related issues.

4.8 SOCIAL AND CULTURAL ASPECT

Social and cultural plays an important role in the sense that they help us in assessing the social lives of the people under consideration. Children especially needs to relax themselves as also suggested by various studies that they should be given time to do some activities which they enjoy to do so for their personal development. The following Table shows the various activities done by the children during their leisure.

Table 4.7 (a): Activities during Leisure

Gender	Hanged out	Help family in household work	Playing	Rest	Study	Total
Boys	5	8	5	1	1	20
Girls	1	14	2	-	-	17

Source: Field Survey 2015

In Table 4.7 (a), 5 boys said they used to hang out with their friends while only 1 girl used to hang out during their leisure. On the other hand, 8 boys and 14 girls helped their families in household activities. Only 1 boy used to spend his leisure for studying. As seen from the Table, maximum of children used their leisure for helping their family in domestic works. This means that the children involves in paid works are also engaged in all types of unpaid works at home front which is a double

burden for them and which simultaneously is detrimental to their mental and physical health. Mention may also be made here that almost 50% of the respondents are the eldest child in the family. Henceforth, they may hardly find time for the activities they wish to perform.

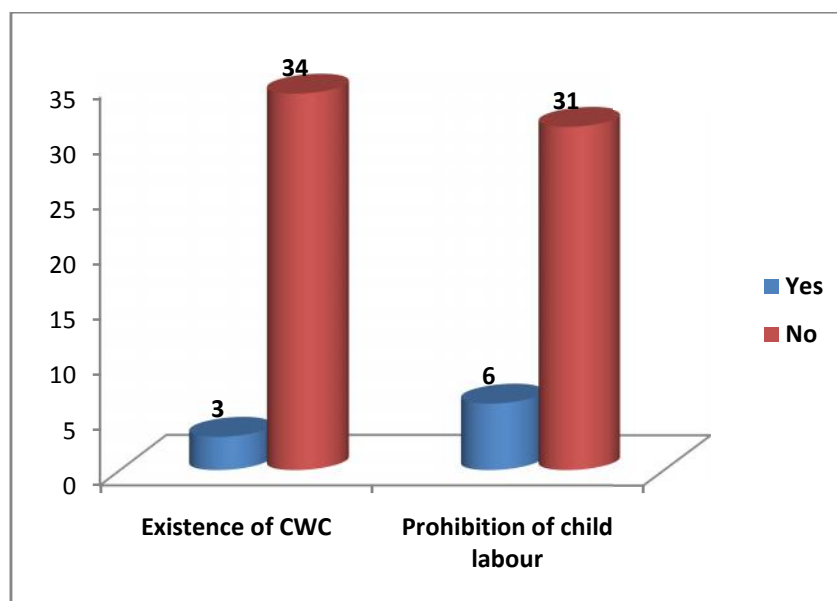
Child Welfare Committee (CWC) was set up under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000 to look after and protect children according to their needs and requirements. CWC is being functioning in every district. Article 24 of the Constitution of India prohibits employment of children age below 14 in any factory or mine or engaged in any other hazardous employment. In this empirical study, children are asked to whether they are aware of the existence of CWC and the prohibition of child labour. The following Table presents children's awareness on the existence of CWC and the prohibition of child labour.

Table 4.7 (b): Children Awareness

Gender	Existence of CWC		Total	Prohibition of child labour		Total
	Yes	No		Yes	No	
Boys	1	19	20	2	18	20
Girls	2	15	17	4	13	17

Source: Field Survey 2015

Graph 4.7 (a): Children Awareness



It is surprising to learn that maximum of the children i.e., 34 of them are not even aware of the existence of CWC in Aizawl city. Since the main objective of setting up of this committee was to look after children in need and to make arrangements for them not to fall within the child labour domain. As seen in the above table, out of the total child labourers 31 of them did not even know that engaging children below the age of 14 in any form of hazardous employment is prohibited by the Constitution of India. This finding clearly points out the need to spread awareness of this prohibition among households in Aizawl city and also that the CWC should be more vigilant in identifying these child labourers within the city. Mention may be made here that at some point, it is the decision of the parents to engage their children in

paid and unpaid jobs. In this light it is suggested here that the CWC must be more active in spreading awareness of the prohibition of engaging children below the age of 14 years in such kind of work.

4.9 ECONOMIC ASPECT

Economic aspects of the respondent in this empirical analysis include the types of work performed by the respondents, how they generate income, to what extent they are engaged in work, etc. knowing these aspects formed the basis of analyzing the economic status of the children. Henceforth, keeping in view the importance of economic aspect, the respondents are asked to whether they are still interested to do the work and the duration they are engaged in work. The following table presents the economic aspects of the respondents.

Table 4.8: Work Related Aspects

Gender	Whether interested to do another work			Total	Period of work				Total
	Yes	No	No idea		Less than 1 month	Less than 6 months	Less than 12 year	More than 1	
Boys	7	12	1	20	3	5	6	6	20
Girls	8	6	3	17	1	3	6	7	17

Source: Field Survey 2015

As seen in Table 4.8, respondents are asked whether they are interested to do other work than their present work. Accordingly, 7 (18.92%) boys said they are interested to do another work. This means that given a chance they are willing to switch to other jobs. While 12 (32.43%) boys said they are not interest to do another work. This means that they are satisfied by the work they are performing. Only 1 (2.70%) boy said he did not have any idea. On the other hand, 8 girls (21.62%) said they are interested to do another work if they find so. While 6 (16.22%) girls said they are not interest to do another work. Again, 3 (8.11%) girls said they have no idea or cannot say about their interest. As a whole 15 (40.54%) of the respondents are not interest to do another work while 18 (48.65%) are not interest to do so. Hence, we can conclude that majority of the respondents are not interested to do another work other than their current work. This shows that maximum numbers of child labour in Aizawl city are satisfied with the type of work they are engaged to, this is because of the fact that the daily income they generated is more than enough to sustain them which is also revealed in Table 4.4

In this empirical study, the respondents are also asked how long they have been working as child labourers. Accordingly, 4 (10.81%) children said they have worked less than one month as

child labourers while 8 (21.62%) have worked less than 6 (six) months. 12 children (32.42%) have been working for 12 months and 13 (35.14%) have worked as child labourers for more than one year. Hence, we can conclude that maximum number of children engaged in work within Aizawl city has worked for more than one year. This means that they have already engaged in work for a long time where the causes as well as the effects are reflected in another sections of this analysis.

4.9.1 Future Prospects

Every person's development is often governed by the plans they have for their future. Having no future plans can somehow be detrimental for personal grooming. Since maximum of them i.e., 20 children dropped out from school during primary and middle level, this particular analysis was conducted only among the children who are still enrolled in school but are engaged as child labourers.

This empirical study also analyse the future prospects of the respondents in terms of their goals. In fact, it is a well-known fact that an aimless life is like a ship without radar. Meanwhile, by setting goals for the future, it helps oneself to achieve the target no matter what types of constraints may arise. It encourages us to

take up new ventures and face certain challenges. The following Table 4.9 presents the aim in life of the respondents.

Table 4.9: Aim in Life

Gender	AIM/ GOAL										TOTAL	
	Army officer	Businessman	Doctor	Engineer	IAS	Mechanic	No idea	Nurse	Police officer	Soldier		Teacher
Boys	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	6	3	-	11
Girls	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	1	-	-	2	6

Source: Field Survey 2015

In Table 4.9, out of the total respondents who are still enrolled in school but are engaged as child labourers were asked their aim in life, there is 1 boy who wants to be an Army officer, 1 boy wants to be a mechanic, 6 boys wish to become police officer while 3 boys wish to become soldier. It is seen that maximum boys aimed to be a security personnel. On the other hand, there is 1 girl each aiming to become a doctor and a nurse, 2 girls wanted to be an IAS officer and 2 girls wish to become a teacher. Hence, it is seen that maximum of the girls surveyed wanted to be doctors and teachers. This empirical analysis shows that children who are still enrolled in school but still engaged in work aimed to become professionals. Keeping in view their future prospects, it is wise to suggest that these children should be

encouraged to pursue their education so as to fulfill their dream either through financial assistance such as scholarship, sponsorship or any other possible means. In this regards, the role of the state government as well CWC should be exercised more effectively. Especially, when it comes to girl child, the central government had launched various schemes for their upliftment and also made certain provisions to enable them to continue their education. The CWC should spare some efforts to make these schemes available for the girls in Aizawl city.

4.9.2: Social Behaviour Towards Child Labourers

The attitude and mindset of the people is a very influential factor when it comes to child labouring. Many people often looked down upon these children because of their work, this can create inferiority complex for the children. Therefore, in order to understand the extent of this kind of attitude towards the children was also analysed.

Inferiority complex means the inferiority feelings of the respondents because of their work and attitude of others. This aspect is important in the sense that the workers are doing their work with immense hardship but are often teased by others which makes them uncomfortable. Whatever work we are performing, we should derive the pleasure of doing that which helps us to

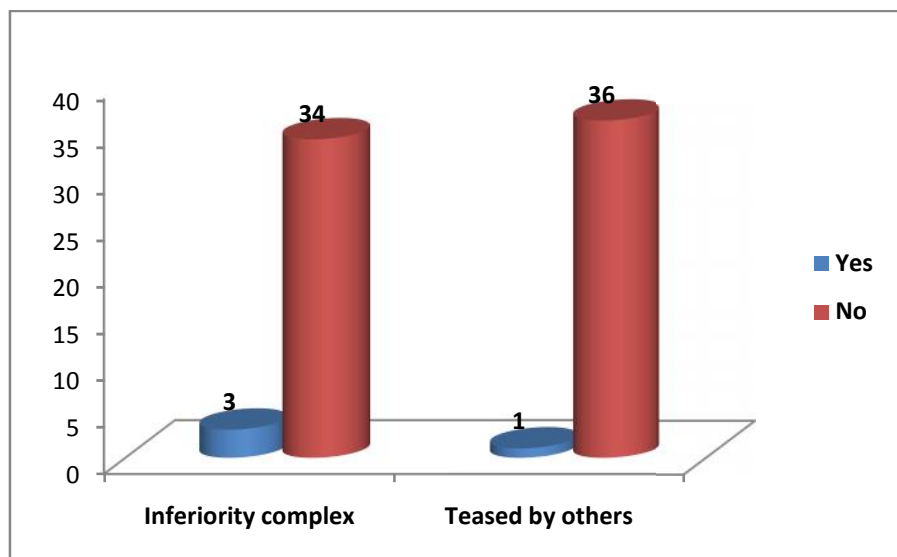
actively perform our duty. In this century, job satisfaction is regarded as one of the main driving force when people looked for a job. Looking at the condition of child labourers and the little amount of income they generated if coupled with bad attitudes towards them by others, this will make their situation worst which will have a further negative impact on their well-being. The following Table 5 highlights the conditions of workers in certain situation.

Table 4.10: Social Behaviour and Child Labour

Gender	Whether you have inferiority complex		Total	Whether you are teased by others		Total
	Yes	No		Yes	No	
Boy	2	18	20	1	19	20
Girl	1	16	17	-	17	17

Source: Field Survey 2015

Graph 4.10: Social Behaviour and Child Labour



In Table 4.10 above, 18 (48.65%) boys said they have no inferiority complex due to their work while only 2 (5.41%) boys said they have the feeling of inferiority among their friends who goes to school. On the other hand, 16 (43.24%) girls do not have inferiority complex while only 1 (2.70%) has inferiority complex regarding their work. As a whole, 34 (91.89%) of the respondents do not have inferiority complex while only 3 (8.10%) said they have the feeling of inferiority complex especially among their friends who goes to school. Hence, we can conclude that majority of child labour in Aizawl city do not have inferiority complex because of their work and that they are satisfied.

As seen in Table 4.10, 19 (51.35%) boys said they do not experienced any insult or teasing by others in their work place whereas 1 (2.70%) boy said he was not only teased by elders but also they sometimes asked him to give money. On the other hand, 17 (45.95%) girls said they are not teased either from friends or elders. However, mention may also be made here that girls' workers in dumping ground said they are sometimes infested by boys. As a whole, we can conclude that maximum of child labourers in Aizawl city are not insult or teased at work place or anywhere else. This also indicates that if we compare Aizawl city with other cities in India where child labour exist in large

numbers, the environment of the child labourers are far better in terms of the behavior of others towards them.

4.10 OPINIONS OF CHILD WELFARE COMMITTEE (CWC)

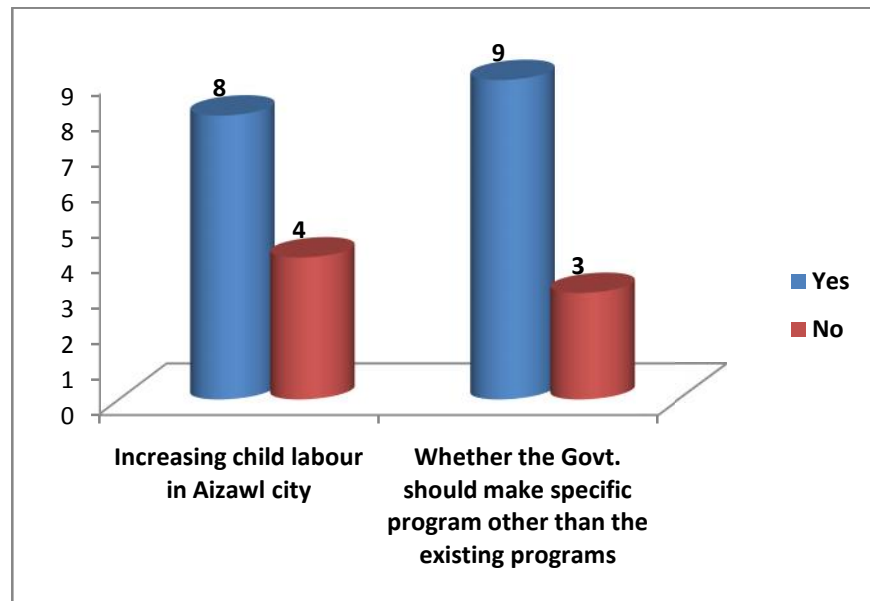
As highlighted in 4.8 of our analysis that the CWC was set up to look after children in need, we also prepared a separate questionnaire for the staff of this committee, in which their opinion on child labour policy or programmes implications, their personal views and suggestions to progressively eliminate or minimize the number of child labour were asked. There is 15 working staff who deals with child labour issues and out of that 12 staff responded. The following Table 4.11 highlights their opinions.

Table 4.11: Opinions of CWC Staffs

Incidence of child Labour is increasing in Aizawl city		Total	The central government should make specific program of action to progressively Eliminate child labour (other than the existing programs)		Total
Yes	No		Yes	No	
8	4	12	9	3	12

Source: Field Survey 2015

Graph 4.11: Opinions of CWC Staffs



As seen in Table 4.11, out of the 12 staff respondents, 8 (66.67%) think that the incidence of child labour in Aizawl city is on the rise whereas 4 (33

.33%) do not think so. On the other hand, 9 (75%) think it is necessary to make specific and effective programme to eliminate child labour other than the existing programmes whereas 3 (25%) think the existing programmes are quite satisfactory. Hence, we can conclude that maximum of the staff believes that the incidence of child labour is increasing in Aizawl city and majority of them are not fully satisfied with the existing laws in eliminating child labour. They felt that it is necessary to implement effective programmes so that child labour can be progressively eliminated.

The committee members highlighted that the CWC conducted meeting only once a week i.e, every Tuesday. It is therefore suggested by them that the committees should be conducted atleast twice a week to look into the issues of the children. The members also suggested that the existence of CWC in not known by many therefore awareness must be spread so that the masses will be aware of their existence.

The above analysis along with the suggestions made by the members strengthens our empirical work that even the children directly involves in child labouring are not aware of the existence of CWC and that the existing child labour laws are not properly implemented in Aizawl city.

The incidence of child labour has a strong correlation with the income and economic conditions of the families. Poverty is the lead driver of child labour. Children's development and the overall eradication of child labour problems in Aizawl city greatly depends on proper implementation of government policies and programmes for eliminating poverty and unemployment. Analyzing the economic roots of child labour and the effects of existing regulation policy illustrates the need for an innovative solution. Effective policy must have the ultimate goal of eliminating child labour—a goal that will benefit individuals,

nations, and the international community at large. An examination of the economic implications of child labour showed that elimination can be accomplished only through the eradication of extreme poverty and income instability. Effective child labour policy must address the economic roots of child labour by developing credit access, financial markets, and general economic growth. International treaties, bans or sanctions that impose labour standards without addressing economic realities only exacerbate the problem of child labour. Moreover, it should be kept in mind that child labour takes place along with the process of economic development; therefore its impact on economic variables is likely to change over the process of development. So far, the economics child labour should be “handled with care”.

FINDINGS:

1. The average income generated by the child labourers ranged from Rs.100.00 to Rs.200.00 daily, this is quite a sufficient amount to sustain a child per day, keeping in mind the average market price level in Aizawl city. Also, this is a much larger sum comparing to the daily income generated by child labourers in other states.*(Objective No.1)*

2. Majority of the respondents are not interested to perform any other work other than their current engagement as a child labourer. This shows that maximum numbers of child labour in Aizawl city are satisfied with the type of work they are engaged to, this is because of the fact that the daily income they generated is enough to sustain them.*(Objective No. 2)*

3. The children directly involves in child labouring are not aware of the existence of CWC, this clearly shows that the existing child labour laws are not properly implemented in Aizawl city.*(Objective No. 3)*

4. Out of the total child labourers 31 of them did not know that engaging children below the age of 14 in any form of

hazardous employment is prohibited by the Constitution of India. (*Objective No. 3*)

5. Though majority of them said they do not have health problems, child workers in this empirical study, especially those working in the dumping ground do said that they once suffered either from headache or cold in the early stages of their work but after adapting themselves with the environment, those illnesses are slowly decreasing. Since majority of child workers in Aizawl city stated that they do not have health problems, it can be concluded that this might be true in the short run but if they continue to perform these kinds of work it is very likely that they will acquire some illnesses in the long run which will eventually reduce their capacity to produced. *This finding satisfied our first research question that whether lower hygiene associated with child labour translate in the long run into a less healthy and less productive adult labour force.*

6. There is no gender biasness either towards boys or girls in child labouring in Aizawl city since almost 50% of the respondents are the eldest child of the family. But it is biased towards the eldest child of the family. *This placated our second*

research questions, whether child labour is bias towards girls or boys.

7. The average frequency doctor visit is only once a year, this shows that the families of the respondents are not health conscious enough in realizing the importance of consulting doctors on health issues. Majority of parents are aware of their child's vaccination only when they are below 2 years of age. Also, those who are vaccinated have lesser complain about their health. *This satisfies our third research question whether the parents or guardian of the child labourers are health conscious for their children.*

8. Of all the activities of child labourers, dumping is the main activity which is followed by both vendoring and working in restaurants.

9. Most of children used their leisure for helping their family in domestic works. This means that the children involves in paid works are also engaged in all types of unpaid works at home front which is a double burden for them and which simultaneously is detrimental to their mental and physical health.

10. Maximum of the child labourer within Aizawl city are educated upto middle school. They drop-out of school during and after middle school. The main reason for drop-out of students in Aizawl is due to family problem. Only a little percentage out of the total, dropped-out because they are no longer interested in further studies.

11. Children who are still enrolled in school but are engaged in child labouring wished to continue their education and aimed to become professionals such as Policemen, Doctor etc.

12. The average sleeping hour of children is 7 hours 45 minutes. This means that majority of children involved in work have enough time for sleep which is one of the basic factors of health indicators. However, only 14 children out of 37 take bath every day, the child labourers within the study area are maintaining a low level of personal hygiene.

13. On an average, majority of the child labourers frequently consumed protein rich minerals like meats and eggs, carbohydrates like rice and vegetables. Their calories intake is above average which is quite reasonable to sustain them. Consequently, this certainly have positive impact on their health.

14. Most of the child labourers have worked for more than one year on average, which means that they have been engaged as child labour for quite some time.

15. Majority of child labour in Aizawl city do not have any inferiority complex because of the work in which they are engaging themselves.

16. Maximum of child labourers in Aizawl city are not insult or teased at work place or anywhere else. This also indicates that if we compare Aizawl city with other cities in India where child labour exist in large numbers, the environment of the child labourers are far better in terms of the behavior of others towards them.

17. The overall economic status of the children is above average. In other words, in terms of household items acquired, our respondents are far better off than child labourers in other regions.

SUGGESTIONS

Based on this empirical study, overall suggestions may be made in order to minimize the number of child labour and subsequently make recommendations to the Government and institutions for the better implementation of policies and programmes to effectively eliminate child labour in Aizawl city.

1. It is suggested that effective programmes and policies should be made so that more children will be encouraged to enroll in schools. Besides, policies should be designed to facilitate the economic conditions of the children. In this regard, the state government should take up necessary action to implement these policies for the reduction of child labouring in Aizawl city in particular and Mizoram in general.

2. Keeping in view their future prospects, it is suggested that children should be encouraged to pursue their education so as to fulfill their dream either through financial assistance such as scholarship, sponsorship or any other possible means.

3. As seen in the empirical analysis that majority of the children involved in work did not have access to recreational

centres like children park, science centre etc. Therefore, it is suggested that these children should be made to avail such kinds of facilities. This can be done by establishing small recreational centres in their respective localities.

4. Education may be a necessary condition for human resource development but it is not a sufficient condition. Therefore, focus should be given on skill development of these children by providing Vocational Training Programmes (VTPs).

5. The government should encourage NGOs or social welfare workers to take more actions in order to withdraw child labour from the labour market. The government should designate/appoint a children labour prohibition officer from the concerned department who will check the issue and effectively implement the existing Child Labour Prohibition Act (CLPA).

6. Awareness is of crucial importance when it comes to child labouring. People should be aware that engaging children below of 18year of age in any kind any work is a clear violation of the law. Therefore, it is suggested here that the NGOs should play an active role in spreading this awareness among the masses.

7. In order to identify child labourers, hotels, canteens, dumping ground etc should be monitored regularly. Also, it is suggested here that there should be economic rehabilitation centres for families.

8. The Labour and Employment Department of the state government should be more concern in the issue of child labour and should work collaboratively with the Social Welfare Department in scanning and alleviating child labouring. Hence, it is suggested that more welfare schemes for these children should be implemented.

9. It is also suggested that the government should set up informal educational institutions for children engaged in work so that these children who wish to work are carefully monitored according to the rules and regulations.

10. Child labour acts and the existing laws related to children should be more effective and reaching every nook and corners of the state.

11. The existence of CWC and its functions should be effectively publicized through print and electronic media. In order

to identify children engage in work, the CWC should visit the city premises at regular intervals.

12. The government should be more vigilance in monitoring and strengthening the working of CWC and if necessary, more ventures should be undertake in order to minimize child labour. There are a number of virtuous laws and regulations on child labour; however, they are not effectively utilized as it should be. In this regard, if necessary either implementing of new policies or amendment of the existing are important and accordingly, the follow up of these laws and proper monitoring is also required.

13. Due to increasing number of cases of child labour, the sitting of CWC must be frequently conducted. As mentioned before, the Committee sits only once a week which is not sufficient enough to deal with the increasing number of cases. Therefore, in order to make CWC more effective, sitting must be held at least twice a week.

14. For the better functioning of the working of CWC, staffs need to be sterner and devote time for the children. It is important that they use a calm and nice language because they are

the one who deal with other people especially those who have family problems. They need to think in different ways or directions in solving their cases.

15. The CWC staff opines that the incidence of child labour is increasing in Aizawl city and majority of them are not fully satisfied with the existing laws in eliminating child labour. They felt that it is necessary to implement programmes effectively so that child labour can be progressively eliminated.

CONCLUSION

It is counterproductive to view child labour purely as an ethical problem and ignore the economic and social fallouts of abolishing child labour as nearly all of the children engaged in child labour depend on it. The child labour problem needs to be conceived as a broader problem of poverty and survival techniques. Without this more comprehensive view, intervention attempts are likely to become self-defeating and may actually make the situation worse. For reducing child labour successfully, it must be accompanied by alternative modes of income for those dependent on child labour. There is a strong correlation between economic development, social policy and child labouring, which explain why states in India are still mired within the vicious cycle

of poverty and child labouring and are unable to achieve virtuous cycle of growth and social development. Therefore, a multi-pronged strategy is the need of the hour to completely eliminate child labour. The findings and suggestions is hoped to have some policy implications for the policy makers for eliminating child labour in the economy of the state in general and the poor in particular.

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

- ACA- Adoption Coordinating Agency
- ACA- Advisory Committee on Adoption
- CCI- Child Care Institution
- CLPA- Child Labour Prohibition Act
- CWC- Child Welfare Committee
- DCPU- District Child Protection Unit
- DPEP- District Primary Education Programme
- FAO- Food and Agriculture Organization
- FCC- Family Counseling Centre
- ICCW- Indian Council for Child Welfare
- ICDS- Integrated Child Development Service
- ICPS – Integrated Child Protection Scheme
- ILO- International Labour Organization
- IPC- Indian Penal Code
- IPC- International Poor Children
- IPEC- International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour
- JJB – Juvenile Justice Board
- LMICs- Low and Middle Income Countries
- MMS- Mid- Day Meal Scheme
- MOLE- Ministry of Labour and Employment
- MSCPS- Mizoram Child Protection Society
- NCC- National Charter for Children
- NCLPS- National Child Labour Project Scheme
- NFHS- National Family Health Survey

NGOs- Non-Governmental Organizations
NHP- National Health Policy
NHRC- National Human Rights Commission
NNP- National Nutrition Policy
NPA- National Plan of Action for Children
NPC- National Policy for Children
NPCL- National Policy on Child Labour
NPE- National Policy on Education
NPP- National Population Policy
NSSO- National Sample Survey Organization
OAC- Orphan and Abandoned Children
PHCs- Primary Health Centres
RTE- Right to Education
SAA- Specialized Adoption Agency
SARA- State Adoption Resource Agency
SHGs- Self Help Groups
SJPU- Special Juvenile Police Unit
SSA- Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan
SWD- Social Welfare Department
UNCRC- United Nations Convention on the Rights of the
Child
UNICEF- United Nation International Children Emergency
Fund
WPR- Work Participation Rate
VTPs- Vocational Training Programmes

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