

EDUCATION OF CHILD LABOURERS IN MIZORAM: STATUS AND  
PROSPECTS

BY

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Submitted

in partial fulfillment of the requirement of the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy in

Education of Mizoram University, Aizawl.



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### **CERTIFICATE**

This is to certify that **Lalliantluanga Ralte, Ph. D Scholar, Department of Education, Mizoram University, Regn. No. MZU/Ph. D. /958 of 26.05.2017** has written his thesis titled '**Education of Child Labourers in Mizoram: Status and Prospects**' under my guidance and supervision. In preparing the thesis Lalliantluanga Ralte has complied with all the requirement as laid down in the Ph. D. Regulation of the University. The thesis is the original work of the scholar and has not been submitted for any degree to any other University.

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**DECLARATION**

I, Lalliantluanga Ralte, hereby declare that the thesis/subject matter of thesis entitled “Education of Child Labourers in Mizoram: Status and Prospects” is a record of work done by me; that the content of this thesis did not form basis of the award of any previous degree to me, or to the best of my knowledge, to anybody else; and that the thesis has not been submitted by me for any research degree in any other University/Institute.

This is being submitted to the Mizoram University, Aizawl for the award of Doctor of Philosophy in Education.

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**Dated: Aizawl**  
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## **CHAPTER I : INTRODUCTION**

## **Chapter- I**

### **Introduction**

#### **1.01: Prologue**

Children need to grow in such environment which would be conducive for their all round development. They must be given proper care, guidance and affection to lead their lives with freedom and dignity. Opportunities for education and training must be provided to enable them to grow into responsible and responsive citizens. But, unfortunately, a proportion of children are deprived of their basic rights particularly rights to education worldwide. Being compelled by adverse family and social circumstances, they are found doing manual works in various sectors of the economy predominantly in the unorganised sectors to earn their lively hood and to support their family. In certain cases, minor children take the whole burden of the family. Some of them are confined, exploited and punished, reduced to slavery and are deprived of the guaranteed fundamental right of access to free and compulsory education, thus, making child labour a human rights issue and a developmental issue.

Child labour refers to the employment of children in any work that deprives children of their childhood and interferes with their ability to attend regular school, which is mentally, physically, socially and morally dangerous and harmful to them. This practice is considered exploitative by many international and national organizations. Legislations across the world prohibit child labour. These laws do not consider all works by children as child labour. Exceptions include work by child artists, supervised training etc. Some child rights activists argue that child labour must include every child who is not in school because he or she is a hidden child worker. UNICEF (18<sup>th</sup> June 2013), however, points out that India faces major shortages of

schools, classrooms and teachers particularly in rural areas where 90 percent of child labour problem is observed. About 1 in 5 primary schools have just one teacher to teach students across all grades.

Although there are governmental acts, schemes, rules and regulations for protection of interest of children and prevention of children from exploitation; child labour continues to be a serious problem in our country. Children are the future of every nation. In India; a large number of children are neglected due to various reasons i.e. poverty, illiteracy of parents/guardians, lack of proper schooling facilities, accidents in families, natural disasters, terrorism etc. Such situations lead to employment of children in various economic activities like working as agricultural labourers, in shops, marketing establishments, hotels etc. Even though people observe child labour practices right in their front, they ignore it from their views due to lack of proper awareness regarding Rights of Children, Child Labour Prohibition Acts and Educational Provisions. Though some educated and prominent persons are familiar about child rights and protection acts, they are the people who engage the children in different works, even in hazardous situations. As a result, children are not only deprived of getting proper care for their physical and mental development, but also for their education. Thus, child labour and children's right to education are closely linked.

Some parents prefer to engage their children in the labour market rather than schooling because they do not perceive schooling worth the investment of money and their children's time. Access, retention and quality are the parameters which are emphasised at all levels of education. There is broad consensus that the single most effective way to check the flow of school age children into labour market is to extend

and improve access to school so that families do not hesitate to invest in their children's education and perceive it as worth for them to do so. With no access to quality education, millions of children are left to work world wide, often in dangerous and exploitative conditions. Therefore, the efforts of international community to achieve Education for All (EFA) and the progressive elimination of child labour are inextricably linked. It is the responsibility of the nations to take suitable measures to eradicate child labour.

A renewed global commitment to end child labour has been adopted by world leaders in 2015 as target mentioned in 8.7 % of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It specifically calls on the international community to take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour and in all its forms by 2025.

The International Labour Organization ((ILO) celebrated 100 years of advancing social justice and promoting decent work this year on 12<sup>th</sup> June 2019. It was reported that 152 million children were still in child labour all over the world. Child labour occurs in almost all sectors, but, 7 out of every 10 of these children were working in agriculture. The ILO looked back on progress achieved over a 100 years of its support to countries on tackling child labour. It also looked forward towards the UN Sustainable Development Goal Target 8.7 set by the international community calling for an end to child labour in all its forms by 2025. Since the foundation of ILO in 1919, the protection of children has been embedded in the Preamble of ILO's Constitution. On 12<sup>th</sup> June, 2019, ILO celebrated its 100 years of its establishment with the theme: *Children shouldn't work in fields, but on*

*dreams.* Dr. Avul Pakir Jainulabdeen Abdul Kalam, the 11<sup>th</sup> President of India and popularly known as the Missile Man of India, used to inspire students with his words *Dream, dream, dream. Dreams transform into thoughts and thoughts result in action.*

As per Campaign Against Child Labour data, Sep 19, 2016; Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra are India's biggest child labour employers, hiring over half of India's total child labour market. However, child labour exists in all parts of the country in some form or the other. Mizoram is one of the young states of India which got its statehood in 1986. The development in education sector happened quite late as compared to other states. Because of difficult geographical location, the state does not have any major development in industrial sector. The major occupation of people is agriculture which is not that productive. The state has been reported to have child labour of 26265 and 2793 in 2001 and 2011 as per the Census data. Besides the official data, there may be more child labourers in the state as it is difficult to identify who work largely in the unorganised sector, both in rural and urban areas, within the family or in household-based units and become invisible. In the present study, an attempt has been made to find out the status of child labour in rural and urban areas of Mizoram and their prospects of education.

### **1.02: Importance of Childhood**

Different psychologists such as Hurlock, Freud, Erickson, Piaget, Kohlberg etc. talk about various stages of development from different perspectives. However, the common and popularly accepted way of classifying human development is as follows:

Infancy- From birth to 2 years

Childhood-From 3 to 12 years which includes:

- (a) Pre- childhood - From 3 to 6 years
- (b) Later childhood – From 7 to 12 years or in a strict sense up to the onset of puberty

Adolescence – From 13 to 19 years or in a strict sense from onset of puberty till the attainment of maturity

Adulthood – From 20 – 60 years or in a strict sense from attaining maturity to the age one ceases to produce one's own kind

Old age or ageing – From 61 Years or in a strict sense from the end of the reproduction capability till death

The years specified for various stages are not like watertight compartments. There are individual differences and every individual follow the above stages with little variation in the ages. Among all the stages childhood is the most important and formative period. There is consistent and strong evidence which shows that brain development is most rapid in the early years of life. When the quality of stimulation, support and nurturance is deficient, child development is seriously affected. Both biological and environmental factors affect brain development and behaviour. For attaining holistic development, children need proper health care, nutrition, water and sanitation, education and interventions that support their full development. If they are deprived of favourable conditions, they cannot develop to their full extent. Instead of being assets, they will become liabilities to the family and to the society.

Child means a person who has not completed his fourteenth year of age. The children in this age group are in formative stage physically and mentally. Any kind of

exploitation and oppression on them lead to child abuse. The working children of this age group i.e. between 6-14 years of age are therefore, called as child labourer.

### **1.03: Concept of Child Labour**

Children are not expected to be passive; by nature, they are active. Children's participation in work which does not affect their health and personal development or interfere with their schooling is generally regarded as being something positive. Such activities include occasionally helping their parents around the home, assisting in a family business or earning pocket money outside school hours and during school holidays. These kinds of activities contribute to children's development and to the welfare of their families. Such activities provide them scope to acquire skills and experiences and help to prepare them to be productive members of society during their adult life. But, the term child labour is interpreted as the work that deprives children of their childhood, their potential and their dignity, and that is harmful to their physical and mental development. It refers to work that is mentally, physically, socially or morally hazardous and harmful to children; and obstruct with their schooling by depriving them of the opportunity to attend school, by obliging them to leave school too early or by necessitating them to attempt to combine school attendance with terribly long and heavy work.

A general and universally acceptable definition of child labour is not available. Child labour literally means the employment of children as wage earners. Any such definition turns upon the precise meaning we attach to two components of the term child labour, i.e. child in terms of its chronological age, and labour in terms of its nature, quantum and income generation capacity (Report of the committee on child labour, 1981). In fact, age is a universally accepted criterion. Various acts



passed by governments have defined child labour on the basis of their age. But the minimum age criterion differs from organisation to organisation and Act to Act.

According to UNICEF, if a child between 5 to 11 years of age does at least one hour of economic activity or at least 28 hours of domestic work in a week and a child between 12 to 14 years of age does at least 14 hours of economic activity or at least 42 hours of economic activity and domestic work per week, it is defined as child labour.

International Labour Organisation (ILO) defined child labour as work that deprives children of their childhood, their potential and their dignity, and that is harmful to physical and mental development. It refers to work that is mentally, physically, socially or morally dangerous and harmful to children, or work whose schedule interferes with their ability to attend regular school, or work that affects in any manner their ability to focus during school or experience a healthy childhood.

India's Census 2001 defines child labour as participation of a child less than 17 years of age in any economically productive activity with or without compensation, wages or profit. Such participation could be physical or mental or both. This work includes part-time help or unpaid work on the farm, family enterprise or in any other economic activity such as cultivation and milk production for sale or domestic consumption. Indian government classifies child labourers into two groups: main workers are those who work 6 months or more per year and marginal child workers are those who work at any time during the year but less than 6 months in a year.

The term child labour is often used as a synonym for working child or child worker. But, the child labour is defined as any kind of work by children that interfere

with their full physical development, their opportunities for desirable minimum education and their needed recreation. In true sense of the term, the child labour indicates the employment of children in gainful occupations in which they are denied the opportunities of mental, moral development apart from physical growth. The child labour has some striking aspects i.e. employment in gainful occupation, affects physical development and injurious or dangerous to health, deny opportunities for development specially in educational sphere, at the cost of child's recreation, not completing 14 years of age and full time or part time occupation carrying remuneration or reward to augment the family income or for the material gain of child himself.

#### **1.04: Child labour - Causes and Consequences**

There can be many reasons for children going to join the labour force. The studies conducted in different parts of the country have revealed that the main causes of child labour were poverty, large family size, migration, illiteracy and ignorance, family break up, natural disasters, urbanization, unemployment of elders, addiction of parents, orphans and the like.

All forms of works that children do are not considered child labour. Child labour refers to such works which, by nature or the circumstances in which those are carried out, are likely to harm the health, safety or morals of children.

Hazardous child labour is the work that is performed by children in dangerous and unhealthy conditions that can lead to a child being killed, injured or made ill as a result of poor safety and health standards or employment conditions. It can also result in permanent disability, and psychological damage.

Child labourers can be affected in many ways. It depends upon the nature of work and the working conditions. Generally, child labourers suffer from long-term health problems due to malnutrition, exposure to chemicals, abuse, injuries, exhaustion, and psychological harm.

In agriculture, children may be exposed to toxic pesticides or fertilisers, work with dangerous appliances, and carry heavy loads. In mining, children may use poisonous chemicals, may be the victims of mine collapse, and sometimes work with explosives. In construction, they may carry heavy loads, work at heights without safety, and risk injury from dangerous machinery. In manufacturing, children may use toxic solvents, perform repetitive tasks in painful positions, and risk injury from sharp tools. In domestic work, children risk abuse, work long hours, and often live in isolation from their families and friends.

Children may be exploited through child labour. The worst forms of exploitation include slavery, trafficking, and sexual exploitation. They may suffer from burns, long-term health problems like respiratory issues, cancer, and HIV/AIDS.

They may be trapped in a cycle of poverty. Most of these children are observed to have sleep problems and behavioural problems. They may become addicted in consuming cigarettes, drugs, alcohol and other narcotic substances. They may also involve in criminal activities, and may have unwanted pregnancy and abortion, and even death. Such children are more prone to drop out from schools.

### **1.05: Workplaces for Child Labour**

In Indian context, there are many places where children are engaged as labourers. Some of the key places are households, real estates, hotel and restaurants,

handicraft industry, manufacturing plants, entertainment industry, coal & mines etc. Further, children are seen to be engaged in shops, cloth printing, dyeing and weaving, automobile workshops and garages, saw mills, handlooms, soap manufacture units, construction industry, abattoirs/slaughter houses, printing, soldering process in electronic industry, domestic workers or servants, dhabas (roadside eateries), restaurants, hotels, motels, tea shops, resorts, spas or other recreational centres, automobile repairs and maintenance including processes incidentalthereto namely, welding, lathe work, dent beating and painting, tobacco processing including manufacturing of tobacco, tobacco paste, and handling of tobacco in any form, tyre making, repairing, re-treading and graphite beneficiation, food processing, stone breaking and stone crushing, fabrication workshop, handling of pesticides and insecticide, selling of commodities in bazaar and roadside (fruits, vegetables, etc), agricultural farm, oil palm and rubber plantation farm, harvesting of coconuts and betel nuts,harvesting brooms etc.Some of these activities are quite hazardous for young children. All children cannot work carefully for which often accidents take place.

#### **1.06: The Scenario of Child Labour in India**

The scenario of child labour in India as per 2001 and 2011 Census reports is given in table 1.01. Further, the age and work category wise distribution of child labour as per 2011 Census report is given in table 1.02.

**Table 1.01**  
**State wise Working Children in the agegroup of 5-14 years as per Census**  
**Reports of 2001 and 2011**

Sl. No	Name of state/UT	No. of Working Children in the age group of 5-14 years	
		2001 Census	2011 Census
1.	Andaman & Nicobar Island	1960	999
2.	Andhra Pradesh	1363339	404851
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	18482	5766
4.	Assam	351416	99512
5.	Bihar	1117500	451590
6.	Chandigarh U.T	3779	3135
7.	Chhattisgarh	364572	63884
8.	Dadra & Nagar H	4274	1054
9.	Daman & Diu U.T	729	774
10.	Delhi U.T	41899	26473
11.	Goa	4138	6920
12.	Gujarat	485530	250318
13.	Haryana	253491	53492
14.	Himachal Pradesh	107774	15001
15.	Jammu & Kashmir	175630	25528
16.	Jharkhand	407200	90996
17.	Karnataka	822615	249432
18.	Kerala	26156	21757
19.	Lakshadweep U.T	27	28
20.	Madhya Pradesh	1065259	286310
21.	Maharashtra	764075	496916
22.	Manipur	28836	11805
23.	Meghalaya	53940	18839
24.	Mizoram	26265	2793
25.	Nagaland	45874	11062
26.	Odisha	3775994	92087
27.	Pondicherry U.T	1904	1421
28.	Punjab	177268	90353
29.	Rajasthan	1262570	252338
30.	Sikkim	16457	2704
31.	Tamil Nadu	418801	151437
32.	Tripura	21756	4998
33.	Uttar Pradesh	1927997	896301
34.	Uttarakhand	70183	28098
35.	West Bengal	857087	2354275
<b>Total</b>		<b>12666377</b>	<b>4353247</b>

*Source: Compiled from the census reports of 2001 and 2011*

**Table 1.02**

**Age and Category wise All India Child Labour Population (2011 Census)**

<b>Sl. No</b>	<b>Age Group</b>	<b>Main Workers</b>	<b>Marginal Workers group 3-6 Months</b>	<b>Total</b>
1.	5-9	1108808	1066910	2175718
2.	10-14	3244439	2808324	6052763
3.	15-19	3244439	2808324	6052763
<b>Total</b>		22056557	13333341	35389898

Table 1.01 shows that child labour is prevalent in all states of India. In the year 2001 the total child labour population was 1, 26, 66, 377 and it was reduced to 43, 53, 247 by the year 2011 as reported in the two Censuses. This may be due to expansion of educational facilities by the governments. However, the problem still remains alarming.

Table 1.02 presents the all India child labour population in 2011 age and category wise. The total child labour population of India in the age group 5-7 years is 21,75,718, 10-14 years is 60,52,763, and 15-19 years is 60,52,763. Thus, the total population of child labour in India as per 2011 Census is 3,53,89,898.

**1.07: Implications of Right to Education Act, 2009**

The Constitution of India had made a provision for free and compulsory education for all children up to the age of fourteen years within ten years of promulgation of the Constitution, but, it was in the shape of a directive principle under article 45. However, this goal could not be achieved even after 36 years of adoption of the constitution. The task of providing free and compulsory education to all children in the age group 6-14 years gained momentum after the National Policy of Education (NPE) was announced in 1986. The Government of India and State

Governments made serious efforts to fulfil this mandate as a result significant improvements were seen in providing access to all children, but, the ultimate goal of providing universal and quality education could not be fulfilled. In order to fulfil this goal, it was felt that an exclusive provision should be made in the part relating to Fundamental Rights of the Constitution.

In order to make free and compulsory education a fundamental right, the Constitution Eighty-third Amendment Bill, 1997 was introduced in Parliament and during December 2002 the 86<sup>th</sup> Amendment of Indian Constitution was made with the following provisions:

After article 21 of the Constitution, the following article was inserted, namely Right to education as 21-A.

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

For article 45 of the Constitution, the following was substituted namely Provision for early childhood care and education to children below the age of six years.

*The State shall endeavour to provide early childhood care and education for all children until they complete the age of six years.*

In article 51A of the Constitution, after clause (J), the following clause was added:

*(k) Who is a parent or guardian to provide opportunities for education to his child or, as the case may be, ward between the age of six and fourteen years.*

The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 got the assent of the President on 26<sup>th</sup> August 2009. It became effective in all Indian states, except Jammu and Kashmir with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2010 along with Article 21-A. The RTE Act, 2009 has the implications that every child has a right to full time

elementary education of satisfactory and equitable quality in a formal school which satisfies certain essential norms and standards.

In this Act, Free education means that no child, other than a child who has been admitted by his or her parents to a school which is not supported by the appropriate Government, shall be liable to pay any kind of fee or charges or expenses which may prevent him or her from pursuing and completing elementary education. Compulsory education casts an obligation on the appropriate Government and local authorities to provide and ensure admission, attendance, and completion of elementary education by all children in the 6-14 age groups. The Act also has made provisions for non-admitted children to be admitted to an age appropriate to their classes. It has laid down the norms and standards relating to buildings and infrastructure, Pupil Teacher Ratios (PTRs), school-working days, teacher-working hours etc. The RTE Act prohibits any kind of physical punishment and mental harassment, screening procedures for admission of children, capitation fee, private tuition by teachers and running of schools without recognition. Further, it provides for development of curriculum in consonance with the values enshrined in the Constitution, and which would ensure all-round development of the child, building on the child's knowledge, potentiality and talent and making the child free of fear, trauma and anxiety through a system of child friendly and child centred learning. Thus, the RTE Act is a milestone in the history of Indian school education and it is hoped that it will address the issues of child labour in our country.



### **1.08: Legal provisions for Prohibition of Child Labour in India**

The Constitution of India, through various articles, has made provisions to prevent child labour in our country. The key provisions are mentioned below:

- No child below the age of 14 years shall be employed to work in any factory or mine or engaged in any other hazardous employment (Article 24).
- The State shall provide free and compulsory education to all children of the age six to 14 years. (Article 45 till 86<sup>th</sup> amendment in 2002, now Article 21-A for children of age group 6-14).
- The State shall direct its policy towards securing that the health and strength of workers, men and women and the tender age of children are not abused and that they are not forced by economic necessity to enter vocations unsuited to their age and strength (Article 39-e).
- Children shall be given opportunities and facilities to develop in a healthy manner and in conditions of freedom and dignity and that childhood and youth shall be protected against moral and material abandonment (Article 39-f).

Child labour is a matter on which both the Union Government and state governments can legislate. A number of legislative initiatives have been made at both levels. The major national legislative developments include the following:

- *The Factories Act, 1948*: The Act prohibits the employment of children below the age of 14 years. An adolescent aged between 15 and 18 years can be employed in a factory only if he obtains a certificate of fitness from an authorized medical doctor. The Act also prescribes four and a half hours of

work per day for children aged between 14 and 18 years and prohibits their working during night hours.

- *The Minimum Wages Act, 1948*: This Act prescribes minimum wages for all employees in all establishments or to those working at home in certain sectors specified in the schedule of the Act. Central and State Governments can revise minimum wages specified in the schedule. Some consider this Act as an effective instrument to combat child labour in that it is being used in some States such as Andhra Pradesh as the basis on which to prosecute employers who are employing children and paying them lower wages.
- *The Mines Act, 1952*: The Act prohibits the employment of children below 18 years of age in a mine. Further, it states that apprentices above 16 may be allowed to work under proper supervision in a mine.
- *The Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986*: The Act prohibits the employment of children below the age of 14 years in 16 occupations and 65 processes that are hazardous to the children's lives and health. These occupations and processes were listed in the Schedule to the Act. In October 2006, the Government has included children working in the domestic sector as well as roadside eateries and motels under the prohibited list of hazardous occupations. In September 2008 diving as well as process involving excessive heat (e.g. working near a furnace) and cold; mechanical fishing; food processing; beverage industry; timber handling and loading; mechanical lumbering; warehousing; and processes involving exposure to free silica such as slate, pencil industry, stone grinding, slate stone mining, stone quarries as well as the agate industry were added to the list of prohibited occupations and

processes. Further, the Act has been amended in 2017. In this amendment, development of awareness among the stakeholders has been emphasised.

- *The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection) of Children Act, 2000:* This Act was amended in 2002 in conformity with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and covers young person below 18 years of age. Further, the Act has been amended in 2015. Section 26 of this Act deals with the Exploitation of a Juvenile or Child Employee, and provides in relevant part, that whoever procures a juvenile or the child for the purpose of any hazardous employment and keeps him in bondage and withholds his earnings or uses such earning for his own purposes shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years and shall also be liable for fine. In some States, including Karnataka and Maharashtra, this provision has been used effectively to bring to book many child labour employers who are otherwise not covered by any other law and to give relief and rehabilitation benefits to a large number of children.
- *The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009:* This act provides for free and compulsory education to all children aged 6 to 14 years. This legislation also envisages that 25 per cent of seats in every private school should be allocated for children from disadvantaged groups including differently able children.
- *Supreme Court Decision:* An important judicial intervention in the action against child labour in India was the M.C. Mehta case (1996) in which the Honourable Supreme Court of India directed the union and state governments to identify all children working in hazardous processes and

occupations, to withdraw them from work, and to provide them with quality education. The Court also directed that a Child Labour Rehabilitation-cum-Welfare Fund be set up using contributions from employers who contravene the Child Labour Act. Additionally, in 1993, the Supreme Court in *Unnikrishnan vs. State of Andhra Pradesh* ruled that each child has the right to free education until he or she completes the age of 14 years.

The above Acts and Provisions highlight the fact that the Government of India has taken note of child labour, more particularly the UDHR, 1948 and has both constitutional provisions and laws for eradication of child labour in our country.

**1.09: The Schedule of Prohibited Works for Children:** The following are list of occupations and processes prohibited under the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986.

#### **Part A**

##### **Occupations (Non Industrial Activity)**

Any occupation concerned with abattoirs/slaughter house, automobile workshops and garages, handling of toxic or inflammable substances or explosives, handloom and power loom industry, plastic units and fiber glass workshops, domestic workers or servants, dhabas (roadside eateries), restaurants, hotels, motels, tea shops, resorts, spas or other recreational centers and diving.

#### **Part B**

##### **Processes (Industrial Activity)**

Cement manufacture, including bagging of cement; cloth printing, dyeing and weaving including processes preparatory and incidental thereto; building and construction industry including processing and polishing of granite stones;

manufacturing processes using toxic metals and substances such as lead, mercury, manganese, chromium, cadmium, benzene, pesticides and asbestos; hazardous processes as defined in sec. 2 (cb) and dangerous operation as notice in rules made under section 87 of the factories act, 1948 (63 of 1948); printing as defined in section 2(k) (iv) of the factories act, 1948 (63 of 1948); soldering processes in electronic industries; automobile repairs and maintenance including processes incidental thereto namely, welding, lathe work, dent beating and painting; fabrication workshops (ferrous and non ferrous); manufacturing processes having exposure to lead such as primary and secondary smelting, welding and cutting of lead-painted metal constructions, welding of galvanized or zinc silicate, polyvinyl chloride, mixing (by hand) of crystal glass mass, sanding or scraping of lead paint, burning of lead in enameling workshops, lead mining, plumbing, cable making, wiring patenting, lead casting, type founding in printing shops, store typesetting, assembling of cars, shot making and lead glass blowing; manufacture of cement pipes, cement products and other related work; manufacture of glass, glass ware including bangles, florescent tubes, bulbs and other similar glass products; manufacturing or handling of pesticides and insecticides; processes in agriculture where tractors, threshing and harvesting machines are used and chaff cutting; sericulture processing; stone breaking and stone crushing; tobacco processing including manufacturing of tobacco, tobacco paste and handling of tobacco in any form; tyre making, repairing, re-treading and graphite beneficiation; rag picking and scavenging; processes involving exposure to excessive heat (e.g. working near furnace) and cold; food processing; beverage industry; timber handling and loading; warehousing; processes involving

exposure to free silica such as slate, pencil industry, stone grinding, slate stone mining, stone quarries, and agate industry.

### **1.10: The National Child Labour Project (NCLP)**

A National Child Labour Policy was adopted in 1987 after the enactment of the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986. This policy reiterated the directive principle of state policy in India's Constitution to achieve universalisation of elementary education. It resolved to focus general development programmes to benefit children wherever possible. Besides, it also resolved to have project based action plans in the areas of high concentration of child labour engaged in wage/quasi-wage employment.

Government of India has realised that child labour in the country is due to various socio-economic problems such as poverty, economic backwardness and illiteracy. For eliminating child labour completely, government has been following a holistic and multi-pronged strategy. Government had initiated the National Child Labour Project (NCLP) in 1988 after two years of enactment of National Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 to rehabilitate working children in 12 child labour endemic districts of the country. The NCLP is a 100% centrally funded scheme and the funds are released directly to the registered NCLP District Project Society under the chairpersonship of the administrative head of the districts through the Ministry of Labour and Employment.

As per the provision, the project is required to be implemented through a registered society under the Chairmanship of administrative head of the district (District Magistrate/Collector/Dy. Commissioner). Members of the society are drawn

from Government Departments, representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions, academicians, NGOs, Trade Unions, etc.

As mentioned in the guidelines, the objective of NCLP Scheme is to eliminate all forms of child labour through identification and withdrawal of all children in the project area from child labour, to prepare children withdrawn from work for mainstream education along with vocational training and to ensure convergence of services provided by different government departments/agencies for the benefit of child and their families. Further, the scheme has the objective to contribute to the withdrawal of all adolescent workers from Hazardous Occupations / Processes and their skilling and integration in appropriate occupations through identification and withdrawal of all adolescent workers from hazardous occupations / processes and to facilitate vocational training opportunities for such adolescents through existing scheme of skill developments. Besides, it aims at creating awareness amongst stakeholders and target communities and to orient NCLP and other functionaries on the issues of child labour and employment of adolescent workers in hazardous occupations/processes. Thus, the scheme focuses on all child workers below the age of 14 years and adolescent workers below the age of 18 years engaged in hazardous occupations / processes and families of child workers in the identified target area.

Under this Scheme, children in the age group of 5-8 years are directly admitted in the formal system of education through close coordination with the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA). But, children in the age group of 9-14 years, after being rescued/withdrawn from work, are enrolled in the NCLP Special Training Centres,

where they are provided with bridge education, vocational training, mid day meal, stipend, health care, etc. before being mainstreamed into formal education system.

As per the latest statistics available, the NCLP which was implemented in 1988 during the 7<sup>th</sup> Plan Period (1985 – 1990) has been extended up to 2020. During various plan periods more NCLPs were sanctioned. The number of NCLP increased to 100, 250 and 251 during 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup> plan periods respectively. At present, about 6000 special schools are in operation and more than 10 lakh children have been mainstreamed into the formal system of education under the Scheme.

On 24<sup>th</sup> June, 2019, Shri Santosh Kumar Gangwar, Union Minister of State (IC) for Labour and Employment gave a written reply to a question in Lok Sabha that a total of 1,44,783 child labourers were rescued & rehabilitated during last three years i.e. 2016 -2017, 2017 – 2018, and 2018 – 2019 from 16 states. The numbers of rescued & rehabilitated child labourers to the corresponding years were 30979, 47635, and 66169. These figures indicate that the child labour problem is increasing instead of decreasing in our country.

Government of India framed Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Amendment Rules in 2017 subsequent to the enactment of Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 and has also amended the Act in 2017. Since the criteria for selection of districts for implementation of NCLP is the high concentration of child labour in the district, none of the eight districts of Mizoram has been selected. Thus, NCLP is not being implemented in Mizoram and the problem has not yet been accepted as serious in the state in comparison to the selected districts in other states.



### **1.11: Back Drop of Mizoram**

Mizoram is the southernmost State of north-eastern region of India. It covers a total area of 21,081 sq. km. It shares international boundaries with the neighbouring countries of Bangladesh in the west and Myanmar in the east and the south. States of Manipur, Assam, and Tripura share the boundary in its north-east.

Little is known of Mizoram's early political history. Analysis of literature reveals that the Mizo tribes migrated from the nearby Chin Hills between 1750 and 1850. After their settlement, Mizos developed an autocratic political system based on hereditary Chieftainhood. Till the British annexed Assam in 1826, the tribes of Mizoram remained unaffected by foreign political influence. The British divided the Mizo community for their administrative convenience into Burma (now Myanmar) and India. Mizoram became a Union Territory with the implementation of the North-Eastern Reorganization Act in 1972. Subsequently, with the signing of the historic Memorandum of Settlement between the Government of India and the Mizo National Front (MNF) in 1986, Mizoram was granted Statehood on 20<sup>th</sup> February 1987 and became the 23<sup>rd</sup> State of the Indian Union. Mizoram has a single-chamber Legislative Assembly of 40 seats. Two members to the Indian Parliament i.e. one to the Rajya Sabha and one to the Lok Sabha represent the state. Administratively, the state has eight districts, 23 sub-divisions, 3 Autonomous District Councils. The official languages of the State are Mizo and English.

Administratively the state is organised into eight districts, viz., Kolasib, Mamit, Aizawl, Champhai, Serchhip, Lunglei, Lawngtlai, and Saiha. The capital of the state is Aizawl city which is the most populous city of the state. The population of

the State stood at 10, 91,014 with female population of 5,38,675 and male population of 5, 52,339 according to 2011 (P) Census of India. The literacy rate of the state stood at 91.58%, the third highest among all the states and union territories of India.

Mizoram has pleasant climate throughout the year. It is relatively cool in summer and not very cold in winter as compared to other states. It rains heavily from May to September. The hills of Mizoram are marvelously green. Mizoram has great natural beauty and variety of landscape. It is also very rich in flora and fauna.

The native people of the state are called Mizo, meaning the highlanders. As the Mizo believed to have migrated from north-western China, therefore, they are believed to be Mongoloid in origin, similar to that of many tribes of the north-eastern Indian states. The Mizo people came under the influence of the British Missionaries in the 19th century, as such; most of the Mizo have embraced Christianity. It was the Missionary activities that spread education among the Mizo. The Missionaries introduced the Roman script for the Mizo language and formal education. The credit of the present high percentage of literacy is accredited by the people to the Missionary activities.

The Mizo code of ethics moved round "Tlawmngaihna" (an untranslatable term) meaning on the part of everyone to be hospitable, kind, unselfish and helpful to others. It is an act of charity wherein self-interest is subordinated to the interest of the community, and the self sacrifice for the need of others is to come in spontaneously as a natural part of one's life.

Mizos society is a close-knit society with no class distinction and no gender discrimination. Ninety percent of them are cultivators and the village exists like a big family. The whole village used to be involved in all types of social occasions like birth of a child, marriage in the village and death of a person in the village or a community feast arranged by a member of the village. The food of Mizo people differs from the rest of the country and people are mostly non-vegetarian.

Agriculture and allied activities is the mainstay of the economy of the people. Agriculture of Mizoram is mainly based on *jhuming* (shifting cultivation) in which rice cultivation is done. In December 2008, a programme of activities called *New Land Use Policy* (NLUP) has been implemented by the government of Mizoram to progressively wean away *Jhumia* families from destructive *Jhum* practices and open opportunities for more productive and sustainable livelihood options. The state used to import bulk of its food requirements from other states.

There are not many major industries in the state due to lack of mineral resources, transport, communication and infrastructure. Industries in the state are mostly cottage industries of handloom, handicraft and bamboo products. Though Mizoram has plenty of raw materials for industry mostly from forest, agriculture and horticulture; those have not been properly exploited for boosting the economy.

Festivals and Mizo dances have a unique tribal flavour. Though the music and dance of Mizoram differs from community to community, the most popular of the dances is the *cheraw* dance, performed on bamboo checks and requires a very smooth rhythm between the dancers and the instrumentalists. Mizo art and craft items are very much appreciated. The exclusive cane and bamboo furniture of

Mizoram is marked by innovative designs.

Mizoram held 91.58% literacy rate in India based on 2011 census. Table 1.03 presents the district wise literacy rate of Mizoram as per 2001 and 2011 Census reports.

**Table 1.03**  
**District Wise Literacy Rate of Mizoram in 2001 and 2011**

District	Literacy Rate					
	Persons		Males		Females	
	2001	2011	2001	2011	2001	2011
<b>Mamit</b>	79.14	85.96	82.98	90.15	74.81	81.37
<b>Kolasib</b>	91.34	94.54	92.34	95.5	90.22	93.53
<b>Aizawl</b>	96.51	98.5	96.75	99.01	96.26	98.00
<b>Champhai</b>	91.15	93.51	93.12	94.8	89.06	92.20
<b>Serchhip</b>	95.18	98.76	96.21	99.24	94.11	98.28
<b>Lunglei</b>	84.17	89.4	87.44	92.74	80.6	85.85
<b>Lawngtlai</b>	67.16	66.41	72.74	74.68	60.96	57.62
<b>Saiha</b>	82.43s	90.01	86.28	92.64	78.39	87.34

*Sources: Census of India 2001 and 2011*

Table 1.03 shows that among the eight districts of Mizoram, the highest literacy rate is 98.76 percent in Serchhip followed by 98.50 percent in Aizawl and the lowest 66.41 percent in Lawngtlai district. Moreover, the sex differential shows that the literacy rates for males varies from 99.24 percent in Serchhip followed by 99.01 percent in Aizawl to 74.69 percent in Lawngtlai district. In case of females among all districts it fluctuates from 98.28 percent in Serchhip followed by 98.00

percent in Aizawl to the lowest of 57.62 percent in Lawngtlai district. The district wise population of the state of Mizoram according to 2011 Census of India is given in table 1.04.

**Table 1.04**  
**District Wise Populations of Mizoram in 2011**

<b>District</b>	<b>Persons</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Sex Ratio</b>	<b>Density</b>
Mamit	85, 757	44,567	41,190	924	28
Kolasib	83, 054	42,456	40,598	956	60
Aizawl	404, 054	201,072	202,982	1009	113
Champhai	125, 370	63,299	62,071	981	39
Serchhip	64, 875	32,824	32,051	976	46
Lunglei	154, 094	79,252	74,842	944	34
Lawngtlai	117, 444	60,379	57,065	945	46
Saiha	56, 366	28,490	27,876	978	40
<b>Mizoram</b>	<b>1,091,014</b>	<b>552,339</b>	<b>538,675</b>	<b>975</b>	<b>52</b>

*Source: Census of Mizoram 2011*

Table 1.04 shows that the population density of Mizoram, according to 2011 Census, is 52 persons per sq km against 42 persons per sq km as recorded during 2001. Among all 8 districts, Aizawl district occupies highest density of population with 113 persons per sq km. The lowest density of 28 per sq km is observed in Mamit district. The sex ratio of the total population of Mizoram is 975 which have significantly increased if we compare with 935 of 2001. During 2011, among all 8 districts, Aizawl district with 1009 stands in first position by crossing 1000 mark in

sex ratio, followed by Champhai and Saiha districts with sex ratio 981 and 978 respectively while Mamit district is in the lowest position with 924. The literacy rate which was 36.23% in 1951 has reached 91.58% in 2011. The literacy rate of the state is ahead that of the nation as reported in last seven censuses 1951-2011 and one key feature is that there is no much gender disparity at present. It has witnessed spectacular development in all spheres of education i.e. primary, secondary, higher and technical.

Table 1.05 presents the district wise child population of the state according to 2011 census. The total child population (0-6 years) of Mizoram is 168,531. Out of the total child population, male child population is 85,561 and female child population is 82,970. This indicates that Mizoram has large child population in proportion to its total population.

**Table1.05**  
**District Wise Child Population in the Age Group of 0-6 by Residence and Sex of Mizoram in 2011**

District	Persons Males Females	Child population in the age group of 0-6		
		Total	Rural	Urban
Mamit	Persons	14,817	12,564	2,253
	Male	7,487	6,333	1,154
	Female	7,330	6,231	1,099
Kolosib	Persons	12,702	6,176	6,526
	Male	6,394	3,127	3,267
	Female	6,308	3,049	3,259
Aizawl	Persons	52,324	14,056	38,268

	Male	26,375	7,129	19,246
	Female	25,949	6,927	19,022
Champhai	Persons	22,068	13,429	8,639
	Male	11,170	6,834	4,336
	Female	10,898	6,595	4,303
Serchhip	Persons	9,082	5,041	4,041
	Male	4,716	2,606	2,110
	Female	4,366	2,435	1,931
Lunglei	Persons	23,594	16,287	7,307
	Male	12,007	8,282	3,725
	Female	11,587	8,005	3,582
Lawngtlai	Persons	21,795	18,753	3,042
	Male	11,091	9,564	1,527
	Female	10,704	9,189	1,515
Saiha	Persons	9,154	5,449	3,705
	Male	4,725	2,786	1,939
	Female	4,429	2,663	1,766
Mizoram				

*(Source: Census of India 2011)*

### **1.12: Rationale of the Study**

Officially, there are 23 towns, 708 inhabited villages and 26 Rural Development Blocks in the state of Mizoram. Due to poor transport and

communication facilities the people, particularly in rural areas, often ignore child rights in relation to their work and education. The Constitution of India in the Fundamental Rights and the Directive Principles of State Policy prohibits child labour below the age of 14 years in any factory or mine or castle or engaged in any other hazardous employment. The constitution also envisioned that India shall provide infrastructure and resources for free and compulsory education to all children of the age six to 14 years. Although there is some child rights written in the constitution, child labour practices are common in the country as a whole and Mizoram as well. As per 2011 Census, Mizoram had 2793 child labourers.

It was found that, in the state of Mizoram, there are different government organisations and welfare schemes for children like state level child welfare committee, child protection welfare board, state child welfare committee etc. Only Fourteen cases were recorded during 2008- 2014. The real picture is different. It is because there is no proper survey relating to the problem.

Further, due to socio-economic backwardness and lack of awareness of the people the children do not receive proper education and work with their parents and are engaged in labour works violating the children's rights and keeping the rules and laws of the government at stake. In this context, the following research questions are raised:

- What are the government provisions relating to child labour and education in Mizoram?
- What are the major causes of child labour in rural and urban areas of Mizoram?



- What is the status of child labour in rural and urban areas of Mizoram?
- What are the differences between the status of child labour in rural and urban areas of Mizoram?
- What is the educational status of child labourers in rural and urban areas of Mizoram?
- What are the perceptions of parents/guardians and public leaders about the practice and prevention of child labour?
- What are the activities of recognised NGO's on welfare of child labourers in the state of Mizoram?
- What are the prospects for education of child labourers in Mizoram?
- What are the remedial measures to eradicate child labour practices and educate them in Mizoram?

### **1.13: Statement of the problem:**

Though Child Labour is a global phenomenon, its magnitude and dimension vary from nation to nation. Engagement of children at work is not new in the modern society. In the pre-industrial agricultural society, children were working as helpers and learners in hereditarily determined family occupations under the supervision of adult family members. The work place was just an extension of the home where all family members share the works related to their family occupations in very informal way according to their age, gender and capabilities. Through such association with the activities of family occupations, the children were able to learn slowly and gradually all knowledge and skills required to take up their family occupations. There was no hazard for the children as the tasks were very simple without the application of any machinery and technology and the adult members

took care of the hard works by themselves. But, the scenario has changed radically over time due to industrialization and urbanisation. There is huge difference in the activities/tasks of the past and the present, in the rural areas and in the urban areas. People including children are migrating to urban areas in large numbers to earn their livelihood. Both in rural and urban areas, the children are working under their employers, sometimes in such work environment that endangers their physical health and mental health and lead to exploitation. Most of them either do not pursue their education or do not take education seriously, but concentrate in their engagement. Protection and welfare of their interest is an issue of paramount significance.

India being the second largest populous country in the world has a huge contingency of children. The population of children in India is approximately thirty-five million of the total population. It is a country having a numerous diversity of people. People of different socio-economic status, different religious practices and traditions are inhabited in rural and urban areas. It is disheartening that there is lot of child labour throughout the country. Most of these children belong to disadvantaged sections, e.g. scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, slum dwellers and rural inhabitants. These children use to work under some sort of compulsions. Despite a host of constitutional and legal provisions for prohibition of labour by children under fourteen years of age, it continues to be a serious problem, which needs to be addressed at the earliest. It is not only the duty of the government but also every citizen of the country to stop cruelty to children. Like other states, there are lots of socio-economic problems among the people of Mizoram which are responsible for child labour, particularly in rural areas. There is enough literature on child labour, but inadequate empirical studies, particularly in the state of Mizoram. Most of the

people are unaware of their duties on child rights regarding prohibition and protection of child labourers. Some parents send their children to working places without considering their working conditions and some children especially female children are trained and imposed to do domestic works which is also considered as child labour. Thus, to get answers to the questions raised in the preceding section empirically; the following research problem was under taken:

### **Education of Child Labourers in Mizoram: Status and Prospects**

#### **1.14: Operational Meaning of Key Terms**

*Child labour:* The concept of child labour has been explained in section 1.03 of this chapter. However, the definitions given by ILO and India's Census 2001 are restated here.

International Labour Organisation (ILO) defined child labour as work that deprives children of their childhood, their potential and their dignity, and that is harmful to physical and mental development. It refers to work that is mentally, physically, socially or morally dangerous and harmful to children, or work whose schedule interferes with their ability to attend regular school, or work that affects in any manner their ability to focus during school or experience a healthy childhood.

India's Census 2001 office defines child labour as participation of a child less than 17 years of age in any economically productive activity with or without compensation, wages or profit. Such participation could be physical or mental or both. This work includes part-time help or unpaid work on the farm, family enterprise or in any other economic activity such as cultivation and milk production for sale or domestic consumption. Indian government classifies child labourers into two groups: main workers are those who work 6 months or more per year and

marginal child workers are those who work at any time during the year but less than 6 months in a year.

In the present study, keeping the right to education in view, child labour implies any work, paid or unpaid, in which children under the age of fourteen are engaged that partially or completely hamper their education. Part time working children are also considered as child labourers.

*Education:* In the present study education means elementary education i.e. from classes I to VIII meant for children belonging to age group 6-14.

*Status:* Status means a piece of information state or condition. In the present study status of child laborers implies their nature of work, work places, wages, health conditions, education etc.

*Prospects:* Prospect implies expectation of something that might happen in the future, especially something good. In the present study prospect implies the possibility of prevention and eradication of child labour in Mizoram and education of all children below the age of 14, and mainstreaming the child labourers.

### **1.15: Objectives of the Study**

The study was undertaken with the following objectives:

- i) To examine the government provisions relating to child labour and education in Mizoram.
- ii) To find out the causes of child labour in rural and urban areas of Mizoram.
- iii) To examine the status of child labour in rural and urban areas of Mizoram.

- iv) To compare the status of child labour in rural and urban areas of Mizoram.
- v) To study the educational status of child labourers in rural and urban areas of Mizoram.
- vi) To assess the perception of parents/guardians and public leaders about the practice and prevention of child labour.
- vii) To study the activities of recognised NGO's on welfare of child labourers in the state of Mizoram.
- viii) To conduct some case studies on child labourers in Mizoram.
- ix) To examine the prospect of education for child labourers in Mizoram.
- x) To suggest remedial measures to eradicate child labour practices and educate them in Mizoram.

#### **1.16: Delimitation of scope of enquiry**

Conceptually and geographically the study was limited in its scope as follows:

1. Geographically the study was delimited to rural and urban areas of Mizoram. Sample of the study was confined to two districts of Mizoram.
2. Conceptually it was limited to child labour and their education.

#### **1.17: Plan of the Report**

The report of the present study is organized in five chapters to facilitate a systematic presentation.

In chapter-I, the study is introduced. In this chapter importance of childhood, concept of child labour, causes and consequences of child labour, works places for child labour, and the scenario of child labour in India have been presented. Besides,

legal provisions and initiatives for prohibition of child labour in India, Government policies and programmes, Right to Education Act, 2009, Brief profile of Mizoram, rationale of the study, statement of the problem, operational meanings of key terms used and objectives of the study have also been presented along with delimitation of the scope of enquiry in this chapter.

Chapter II will be devoted for review of related literature. In this chapter the findings of the researches conducted in the relevant area will be presented.

The procedure adopted for the conduct of the present study will be presented in Chapter III. The research approach, sources of data, population and sample, tools and techniques used for collection of data, procedure of data collection, organization of data, and analysis of data will also be presented in Chapter III.

Chapter IV will be devoted for the analysis and interpretation of data. In Chapter V, findings of the study will be presented and discussed. Suggestions for prevention of child labour, educational implications, limitation of the study and suggestions for further research will also be presented in this chapter along with an epilogue on the study. A brief summary of the study, bibliography and appendices will follow Chapter V.

## **CHAPTER II : REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE**

## **Chapter – II**

### **Review of Related Literature**

In essential nature, a literature review synthesizes, evaluates, and identifies the significant literature within a particular field of research. It enlightens how knowledge has evolved within the field highlighting what has already been done before, what is generally accepted, what is emerging and what is the existing state of thinking on the topic. In addition, within research-based texts such as a thesis, literature reviews identifies a research gap (i.e. unexplored or under-researched areas) and articulate how a particular research project addresses this gap.

In every research, it is important to find connections with work already done by other investigators to obtain the overall relevancy and reason of the present work. The review of literature, therefore, becomes a linkage between the research planned and the studies already completed. Some of the works already done are reviewed which are related to the present work i.e. child labour and their education and they are presented below chronologically starting from 1986 till the current year. There might have been some sporadic studies on child labour in our country prior to 1986 i.e. the enactment of the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986, but, serious attempts have been made after the enactment of the act. It may be noted that the 138 ILO Convention held on 6<sup>th</sup> June 1973 at Geneva asked the member nations to fix the minimum age for labourers. Moreover, due to interventions by central and state governments, there has been lot of changes in the socio-economic status of people and in the scenario of child labour. Child labour scenario also differs from state to state, region to region, and country to country. As



such, it was considered to confine the review of related studies to our country and to the studies conducted after 1986.

**Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986** is a comprehensive act enacted by Government of India in order to prohibit child labour in the country. Its objective is to prohibit the engagement of children under the age of 14 in certain employment and to regulate the conditions of work of children in certain other employment. This act also has the provision of penalties for violating the act. Subsequent to the act, many policies and provisions have been made in our country to eradicate child labour.

**Rawat (1988)** studied 'Labour Welfareism in India: Problems and Prospects'. The study found that children were exploited by being subjected to long hours of work with least payment, with no rest period or leave provisions. It was found that child labour was playing an important role in economic structure of the developing world and it had to be accepted as a necessary evil. Poverty was the strongest factor responsible for the prevalence and perspectives of child labour. The study suggested remedial measures like provision for weekly rest, minimum wages, compensation against sickness or injuries, regular medical check-up and basic nutrition, non-formal education, vocational training and recreation centre for child labourers. Although these measures did not at all suffice for the loss already made but it could be a step to improve the then conditions.

**Honourable Supreme Court of India (1996)** in its judgment dated 10<sup>th</sup> December, 1996, in a Writ Petition (Civil) Number 485/1986, has given certain directions relating elimination of child labour in our country. The main features of the judgement are:

- Survey for identification of working children;
- Withdrawal of children working in hazardous industry and ensuring their education in appropriate institutions;
- Contribution @ Rs.20,000/- per child to be paid by the offending employers of children to a welfare fund to be established for this purpose;
- Employment to one adult member of the family of the child so withdrawn from work and if that is not possible a contribution of Rs.5,000/- to the welfare fund to be made by the State Government;
- Financial assistance to the families of the children so withdrawn to be paid - out of the interest earnings on the corpus of Rs.20,000/25,000 deposited in the welfare fund as long as the child is actually sent to the schools; and
- Regulating hours of work for children working in non-hazardous occupations so that their working hours do not exceed six hours per day and education for at least two hours is ensured. The entire expenditure on education is to be borne by the concerned employer.

The implementation of the direction of the Honourable Supreme Court is being monitored by the Ministry of Labour and compliance of the directions is being reported in the form of Affidavits from time to time to the Honourable Court on the basis of the information received from the State and Union Territory Governments.

**Pradhan, Mishra & Anuradha (2006)** conducted a study on ‘Perspectives of Child Labour in Koraput District and Related Issues in Education at Primary Stage: A case study’. The results of the study were based on the analysis of different dimensions of special school programme under NCLP being implemented in Koraput District.

The dimensions include curriculum, management of school, monitoring and supervision; and stories of selected students who had experienced the programme. Data were collected from multiple sources, e.g. school records, interviews with multiple stake holders. The study revealed that:

- Poverty was the main factor, which used to force a child to be labourer depriving him/her from the right to education.
- The vocational education being imparted in Special Schools for Child Labour was perceived to be weak. There were vocational teachers, but without any infrastructure. The needs of the beneficiaries were not taken into account in implementing courses in different schools.
- The Special Schools for Child Labourers were not provided with adequate teaching-learning materials and furniture.
- The special school programme lacked sustainability. It was seen that most of the children, after completion of their education in special schools, did not continue their formal education and thereby reverted back to work situations. Some of them were also engaged in hazardous works.
- The Syllabus prescribed for Special Schools for Child Labour included almost all the learning competencies prescribed for formal primary school under Government of Orissa in the Department of Schools and Mass Education. But, the duration of course in respect of special schools was three years, whereas it was five years in case of formal primary schools.

- NCLP, Koraput followed an integrated approach to education and rehabilitation of child labour in the district. The project envisaged convergences of services, mainly from the departments like Panchyati Raj, the Department of School and Mass Education, the Department of Health, and the Department of Sports and Culture etc.
- The programme of education for child labour under National Child Labour Project (NCLP), Koraput was managed in a mission mode, i.e. under a registered society. There was a decentralized structure of management with District Project Society headed by the district collector at the top and the village school monitoring committee at the bottom.
- The mechanism devised for monitoring and supervision of Special Schools for Child Labour under NCLP, Koraput, was decentralized and well-structured. The officers working at different levels, viz. district, block, panchayat and village; and belonging to different departments/sectors e.g. Education, Panchayati Raj, Health, NGOs, Labour, were involved in the process of monitoring and supervision of special schools for the child labour.

**Zala (2011)** conducted a study entitled ‘A Study of Problems of Child Labour in Diamond Industry in selected Cities of Gujarat’. Random sampling technique was adopted for the selection of the 400 sample of child labourers. The study reported that the children were employed in more than 300 kinds of jobs such as householdwork, brick-making, stone breaking, selling in shops and in streets, bikerepairing, garbage collecting and rag picking. Many children were also working on farms, plantations or in houses. The study found that:

- Among the child labour in the diamond industry of Gujarat, a majority were males and above 12 years age. About majority of the child labourers in the diamond industry had studied up to fifth standard only and were getting less than Rs.2000/- per month and household income was between Rs. 3001/- to Rs. 6000/- per month.
- Majority were from large families having 4 to 6 members in their family and they had joined the work force before 12 years of age.
- Among the various reasons for dropping out of schools by the child labour in the diamond industry, poverty topped the list followed by the indebtedness of the family and other compulsions.
- Almost all the child labourers in the diamond industry were appointed on temporary basis only and they used to work for 8 hours a day.
- Significant relationships between the community of the child labour and the education of the child labour, between the size of the family and the community of child labour, experience of the child labour and the income earned by the child labour, and between the income of the family of the child labour and the income earned by the child labour were found in the study.

**Kaur (2012)** in her study entitled ‘Problem of child labour in Punjab: A case study of Sangrur and Barnala districts’ found that:

- Majority of child labourers were males. The reason for low participation of girls in child labour was presumed to be socio-cultural factors.
- Maximum number of child labourers belonged to the age group of 12-14 years.

- Most of the child labours have studied up to pre-school education or primary education.
- Poverty was found to be the primary reason for child labour in the two sampled districts. It was also found that household's impoverished conditions, the economic backwardness and rising prices of consumable goods were other compelling reasons for parents to send their children for work. Besides, lack of capacity to afford school fees, lack of socialization, broken families, domestic help, untimely death of bread winner in the family, chronic illness of members in the family, large family size, drinking and gambling habits of family members were the other reasons identified by the study for child labour.
- Sometimes due to dire economic necessities arising from sibling's marriage or religious ceremony, certain families were compelled to send their children to work part time or full time. Some of the children were found working as well as attending schools. A majority of such children were working as domestic servants in homes and in agricultural fields. In some families, working children's contributions was considered important because the adult male member of the family was either not working or diverting economic resources for consumption of drugs and alcohol.
- Two NGOs namely Rationalist Society of Punjab in Barnala district and Umeed Khanna Foundation in Sangrur district differed on the issue of providing compulsory elementary education to the children. The former was of the view that education is a fundamental right and stressed the need for providing compulsory elementary education to all children. But, the later

NGO argued that making education compulsory would be tantamount in punishing poor families who are dependent on the labour of their children.

- The NGOs were of the opinion that more conventional non-formal programmes such as evening classes and on-the-job literacy classes for working children should be offered.
- The girls who were working outside their homes were facing sexual as well as mental harassment by their employers.
- Male child workers were mostly engaged in brick kiln and agricultural works and female child workers participation was high in domestic works and carpet weaving.
- Most of the parents of child labourers were neither aware of constitutional provision of compulsory and free primary education nor of the Right to Education Act, 2009.
- Most of the child labourers were not aware of child labour laws and regulations.
- Apart from Poverty, the low educational and occupational status of the parents, and inadequacy of the legislative system, as well as, its insufficient enforcement are the major reasons for the persistence of child labour. Though, there are some advantages of child labour the negative effects outweigh the positive ones. It is clear from the revelation of these respondents that they have to shoulder such hardships at their young age for a meagre payment to support their families and for them to come up in life, as their parents incomes are insufficient.

Khanikor (2013) in his study entitled 'A Study on Child Labour in Assam with Special Reference to Dibrugarh Town' found that:

- Most of the working children were below the age of 14 years and were engaged in employed labour.
- The reasons which forced children to work as labour included poverty, loss of parents, parental separation and shortage of food.
- Most of the child laborers were found working for more than 10 hours a day and their daily income was less than Rs 150/- . They were staying away from their families and had not visited their parents or relatives for long period.
- Child labourers reported that they were facing health problems like malaria, respiratory diseases, eye and skin related problems. Heavy work load, poor working conditions, malnutrition, exposure to harsh environmental conditions (working during very cold and hot weather) and poor sanitation were the reasons for vulnerability of working children to diseases.
- The children were deprived of parental affection, had no or very little freedom and opportunity for recreation and social interaction. Majority of these children were illiterates or barely literate and sometimes they used to be beaten by their employers.

In the report submitted to Government of India, Planning Commission, New Delhi entitled 'Combating Child Labour in India' based on an empirical study in Andhra Pradesh by **Narayana (2014)**; it has been reported that Andhra Pradesh was considered as Child Labour concentrated state in the country for which the Ministry



of Labour and Employment, Government of India had sanctioned NCLP schools to all the 23 districts in a phased manner during 1995-1999. Due to the intervention, Andhra Pradesh which was ranked first with regard to size of Child Labour in 1991 got declined to second by 2001. The study found that the children in rural areas were engaged in agriculture (own cultivation), processing of minor forest produce, cotton cultivation operations, cattle and goat rearing. In urban areas, the works included beedi rolling by girls, labelling and packaging, collection of scrap materials, hotel, restaurants, road side dhabas, domestic works, brick kiln works, stone cutting, weaving and dying, building and construction operations and bakeries and biscuits making. The study reported about inefficient management of government schools, lack of interest of government school teachers to retain the children once they are admitted, improper and unsatisfactory functioning of the NCLP schools in the hands of NGOs, and lack of professional qualification of teachers in NCLP schools. The study also reported about irregular health check-up, lack of vocational training, non-satisfaction on distribution of reading and writing materials, provision of food and nutrition and reversion of children to labour activities. Besides, it had reported about the bad conditions of NCLP schools and the admission procedure followed in NCLP schools.

**Swain (2014)** conducted a study entitled ‘An Economic Perspective of Child Labour in Odisha: A Case Study of Rourkela’. The sample of the study was comprised of 60 child labourers. The study revealed that:

- The main reason that gave rise to child labour was widespread unemployment and underemployment among the adult poor stratum of the population and rapid growth of population. Large families with low income, illiteracy, and

ignorance of parents about the importance of education as well as about the impact of labour on the health of their children were some of the reasons that forced child labour.

- The study found that person who was not child worker in early stage of his/her life had higher probability to enjoy better socio-economic condition than that of person who worked as child worker in the past.
- Some parents were in favour of learning the skills of fishing by their children over formal education.
- High illiteracy and dropout rates were reflective of the inadequacy of the educational system in the area.

**Lipismrita (2014)** conducted a study on ‘Child Labour, Reality, Challenges and Policies–A Case Study in Dibrugarh Town, (Assam)’. The sample of the study was comprised of 70 child labourers. The study found that:

- Poverty was the major reason for the engagement of children in labour. Parents’ terrible economic background forced children to perform difficult tasks at their early age to supplement their marginal income.
- Unemployed parents sent their children to work to compensate their livelihood.
- Migration was also found to be one of the main causes of child labour. Children from rural areas migrated to towns for work.
- Most of the child labourers were uneducated and dropouts.
- Most of girl child labourers were found working as a housemaid.
- Working children, who were living far away from their parents, were leading a desperate life.

**Shrimali & Farmer (2015)** conducted a study entitled ‘A study on child labour in Gujarat State (considering 2 blocks of Gujarat state)’ and found that:

- Children were working under very tough conditions and for long hours without adequate rest .Child labourers used to earn very low amount.
- Poverty was the major reason for the children being forced to work. Children were not aware of existing laws regarding child labour.
- Majority of children were engaged in agriculture. Others were engaged in mining, manufacturing, domestic service, construction, scavenging and begging on the streets.
- The education level of these children was found to be very low- totally illiterate 9%, from 1st to 5<sup>th</sup> standard 49% and from 6th to 9th standard 42%. Maximum child labourers from rural areas had studied up to class V and thereafter were forced to join the agriculture or animal husbandry works.

**Shanta (2015)** conducted a study entitled ‘Child labour in newspaper distribution in Mumbai: A case study of Chedda Nagar, Chembur’. The study reported that the child labourers and their parents were not having their own houses and were living in small rented houses located in slums in unhygienic conditions. All the children were pursuing their studies. In the evening they used to collect newspapers distribute in the morning after which they go to school. They hardly find time to take rest. In comparison to the child labourers engaged in other activities, the educational levels of children engaged as distribution of newspapers were higher. The main reasons for engagement were inadequate income of parents, repayment of family debts and other family obligations. The employer used to counsel the children when they came late for the work, but, there were no other incidence of harassment and abused.

**Paul (2016)** conducted a study entitled ‘A Case Study of the Prevalence of Child Labour in Ranaghat Municipality’ of West Bengal. The sample of the study comprised of 65 child labourers. Major findings of the study were:

- The child laborers were deprived of proper education, treatment, growth and development, inadequate leisure, and were working under unhygienic condition.
- Most of the children were found working in tea shops, motels / restaurants, garment shops, construction works, automobile workshops and as hawkers and maid servants. Children had to work for about eight hours per day with very low wages. Sometime, they used to be given less food by their employers. Their wages were varying depending upon the work places. Though, some parents were interested to send their children to schools, but they could not do the same due to their financial constraints.
- The factors which encouraged the phenomenon of child labour were absence of enforcement of compulsory education at the primary level, ignorance of parents regarding the bad effects of child labour practice, lack of implementation of child labour law, non availability and non-accessibility of schools, and easy availability of child labour. Besides, rural urban migration was found to be other cause of child labour.

**Ralte & Mishra (2016)** conducted a study entitled ‘Child Labour and Education in Rural Areas of Zawlnuam Block of Mizoram: A Case Study’ on a sample of 72 (36 male and 36 female) child labourers, 72 parents/guardians, 24 teachers and 12 village

leaders. The study found poverty as the primary cause of child labour among the people inhabiting in rural areas of Zawlnuam Block. Besides, the study revealed that agriculture was the main sector in which more children were engaged in work. Most of the child labourers were in receipt of formal education but dropped out at primary level mainly due to poverty and family problems. Most of them had dropped at classes 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>, which indicated that at around the age of 10, children were engaged in child labour.

**Roy and Roy (2016)** conducted a study entitled ‘Child Labour: A Case Study of Child Labourers in the Select Brick Fields of North 24 Parganas’. He conducted the study on the child labourers migrated from Bihar and working in the brick fields of West Bengal. From his study, he revealed that:

- The owners of the brick factories were well aware about the legal restrictions on employing child labour. The owners were hesitant to discuss about the issue in details.
- The incidence of child labour was many stages of brick making. But the incidence of child labour was highest in the process involving moulding.
- It was possible to employ child labour due of slackness in enforcement of law, The problem of child labour was induced by poverty of the parents who were unable to support the children with meagre incomes.
- The workers were to put in labour for 10-11 hours majority of the migrant labourers had family members accompanying them. Some had underage children.
- The study revealed 25% of the labourers were found to be illiterate while majority had not completed their primary education.

- The workers revealed that very few children used go to schools as the nearest school was a Bengali-medium one and the children of the migrant labourers were not able to understand the language.
- The children working here were subject to health hazards like limb deformities, burns, scalding and so on. Young girls were frequently victims of sexual exploitation.

**Zankharia & Divraniya (2016)** in their study ‘Girl Child Labour in Cotton Seed Farms: A Case Study of Kutiyana Taluka of Gujarat State-India’ found that:

- Poverty was the main reasons for child labour. Unemployment, illiteracy, parent’s ignorance, migration were also other responsible factors.
- Most of the girl children came to work in the cotton seed farms with their parents. They were mostly from rural tribal areas.
- They were found to have suffered from different health problems related to mosquito bites and cold. Maximum of girls were working for more than 10 hours. More than 40 percent were not enrolled in the school. Most of the girlshad dropped out from school due to shortage of attendance.
- They used to stay in their work fields for 2-3 months without proper residence, sanitation, safe drinking water and other basic facilities. Majority of them were having the addiction of chewing tobacco and Gutkha.

**Hujon (2017)** conducted a study entitled ‘A Case Study on the Problems and Difficulties of Street Children in Shillong’. The sample size of the study was 12 working children. The major findings of the study were:

- Parents of working children were unable to feed their own children due to poverty.
- Children were ill treated by the step-parents as a result, they moved to the streets. Children also faced violence and ill treatment from their own parents.
- Due to poor condition, at times, the working children deprive themselves from proper treatment.

**Shilimkhan (2017)** conducted a study entitled ‘Socio – Economic Status of Child Labourers in Beach Shack Restaurant in Goa’. The major findings of the study were:

- Maximum of the child labourers were in the age group of 10 years to 15 years, while there were also traces of children as young as 7 years to 9 years found working.
- Migration led families had sent their children to work to supplement their inadequate income. Economic factor was seen to be the major factor influencing children to take up work.
- A large number of the child labourers were found to have either completed or enrolled for primary school level of education. But, in most cases they dropped out of school to follow their family on their migrant journey and in some cases they dropped out of school on their own will.
- Majority of child labourers’ parents were illiterates, thus making their children first generation learners. The incidence of child labour was found to be high in families having large family size.
- Maximum of the child labourers were reported working for 8 to 14 hours in a day without proper rest.

- The child labourers were found earning between Rupees 15 to 30 per day.
- Though majority of the child labourers were dissatisfied with their accommodation facilities provided by the employer, yet it proved to be advantageous to those who did not have a place to stay as they could at least sleep on the premises of the establishment free of cost.
- It is revealed that the child labourers were falling prey to vices such as gambling, chewing of tobacco, smoking and drinking. The child labourers resort to such vices to suppress their sorrows and to help them undertake the arduous work.

**Kailash Satyarthi Childrens Foundation (2019)** remarked in the article “Child Labour in India’ that ‘little was done by both the State Government and the Central Government to create a legal deterrent against child labour. The Centre and the State both seems to have abdicated their responsibility leading to a great human rights abuse of the poor, marginalised and disadvantaged children of the country. The National Child Labour Project Scheme (NCLP) was put in place by the central government to eliminate all forms of child labour in India, but the fallacies in its designed and operationalisation ended up condoning child labour in the country. Even if the crime was reported and the child was withdrawn from labour, due to lack of convergence among different government departments/agencies entrusted with the responsibility of providing the benefits to the child and his/her family; the rehabilitation of all child victims remains far from being attained. In addition to this, evidence-based knowledge on child labour trends in India was also not being gathered and placed in public domain.”



## **Overview of Related Literature**

An overall analysis of the studies reveals that most of these studies and literature had focussed on revealing the real status of child labour in different parts of our country, the act being implemented to tackle child labour and the major causes responsible for child labour. Most of these studies revealed that the primary cause of child labour is poverty, family size and migration, illiteracy and ignorance of parents, family breakdown, and natural calamities. Besides, these studies pointed out that the factors responsible for the occurrence of child labour were over population, urbanization, unemployment of elders, and untimely death of parents. The children engaged in labour are low paid, suffers from various health problems and some them are misbehaved by their employers.

Not much empirical studies are found on child labour in North-eastern states on this issue. Moreover, only one study that of Ralte and Mishra (2016) was found to have been conducted in Mizoram which was limited to one R. D. block. The study has reported about the prevalence of child labour in the state. None of the eight districts of the state has been recognised having high concentration of child labour for which the NCLP is not in operation in the state.

The government of Mizoram has entrusted Mizoram Child Protection Society to deal with child labour/working children. Only twelve cases were recorded during 2015 to September, 2019. The real picture may be different. It is because there is no proper survey relating to the problem. Hence, an in-depth empirical study is required to assess the status, causes and educational status of child labourers, and perspectives of parents/guardians, public leaders and NGOs on the issue of child labour in Mizoram.

### **CHAPTER III : PLAN AND PROCEDURE**

## **Chapter III**

### **Plan and Procedure**

This chapter deals with the description of plan and procedure followed for the conduct of the study and is organized into seven sections (3.01 to 3.07). Section 3.01 describes the research approach followed for the conduct of the study and section 3.02 deals with the sources used for the collection of data. Population and sample of the study is described in section 3.03 followed by description of the tools and techniques used for the study in section 3.04. In sections 3.05, 3.06 and 3.07, the procedure followed for collection of data, organization of data and analysis of data are narrated respectively.

#### **3.01: The Research Approach**

In every research work, it is very vital to decide about the research approach that the researcher would follow in dealing with the research problem. Research approach describes the various steps of the plan of attack to be adopted in the research process.

The present study was primarily aimed at studying the status, causes, and education of child labour in rural and urban areas of the state of Mizoram. Further, the study was intended to examine the perceptions of Parents/Guardians, Public Leaders and the Victims (Child Labourers) in the areas of study regarding various issues of child labour and to offer suggestions in the light of findings of the study. Consequently, descriptive survey approach was followed for the present study. Both qualitative and quantitative approaches i.e. mixed approach was followed for the study. Besides, case studies on some cases were conducted.

### **3.02: Sources of Data**

In any research work valid data must be collected from reliable sources. The sources may be primary or secondary or both keeping the objectives of the study in view. The following primary and secondary sources were considered to be appropriate for collection of relevant data for the present study.

A. *Primary sources:* Since the major focus of the study was to find out the status, causes, and education of child labourers in rural and urban areas of Mizoram; working children, parents /guardians, and public leaders were considered to be the appropriate primary sources for collection of relevant data for the present study.

B. *Secondary sources:* For secondary sources, different national and state survey reports, books and journals and government official records, internet, published and unpublished documents and interview with government officials and prominent citizens used to be considered as major sources. For the present study, these sources were also considered important as secondary sources of information.

### **3.03: Population and Sample**

In recent year, appropriate techniques for sampling have been increasingly used in social science and educational researches to get information necessary about a specific population (target population). Through appropriate sampling techniques, it is possible to draw a representative sample from the population so that the inferences drawn from a study can be safely extended to the target population. In the present study, the investigator had taken steps as were necessary to see that the sampled population was representative of the target population.

According to Census of India 2011, there are 8 districts, 23 towns, 26 Rural Development Blocks and 708 inhabited villages in Mizoram. All child labourers in the state of Mizoram were the target population of the study. Stratified random sampling technique was followed for selection of sample for the study. Out of eight districts, two districts were randomly selected. From each district four localities were randomly selected. Further, from each locality ten child labourers, irrespective of their gender, were identified. From the rural areas four villages were randomly selected from each of the two districts. Further, from each village ten child labourers below the age of 14, irrespective of their gender, were identified. Thus, the sample of child labourers was comprised of 160 child labourers out of which 80 were from urban areas and the rest 80 were from rural areas. In addition to that, 30 public leaders from rural as well as urban areas were randomly selected. Besides, five parents from each locality were also included in the sample. Thus, the total sample of the study was comprised of 160 child labourers, 80 parents/guardians, and 60 public leaders. The list of sampled localities/villages is given in Table 3.01 and category wise sample distribution is presented in Table 3.02 and Figure 3.01. From among the sampled child labourers, six cases, three female and three male, were selected for in-depth case studies purposively considering their openness, work places and background (rural / urban).

**Table 3.01**

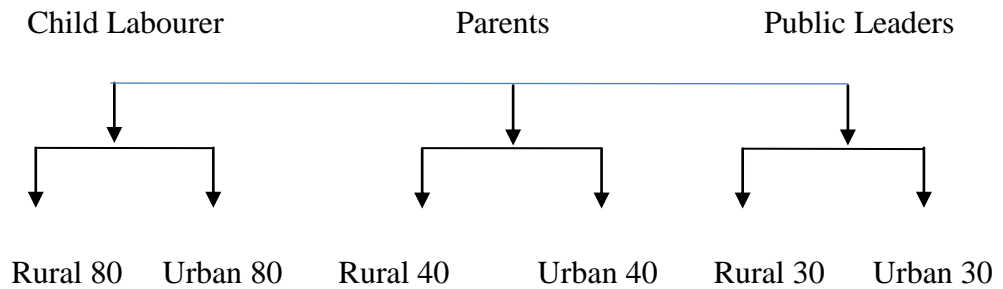
**Sample of Localities/ Villages of the Study**

Name of District	Urban Locality	Rural Locality
Aizawl	Zemabawk	Falkawn
	Tuikual North	Tachhip
	LengpuiKananVeng	Melriat
	Lengpui Model Veng	Kelsih
Mamit	Charkawn	Kolalian
	Bazar Veng	Tuidam
	Dinthar West Phaileng	Mualthuam
	Bethlehem West Phaileng	Serhmun

**Table 3.02**

**Category wise Sample of the study**

Sl.No	Category	Number
1.	Rural Child Labourer	80
2.	Urban Child Labourer	80
3.	Rural Parents/Guardians	40
4.	Urban Parents/Guardians	40
5.	Rural Public Leaders	30
6.	Urban Public Leaders	30



**Figure 3.01: Category wise Sample of the study**

**3.04: Tools and Technique used**

All researchers require data gathering tools and techniques which may vary in their complexity, design, administration and interpretation. Each tool/technique is appropriate for the collection of certain kind of data. In some situations, the researchers may not find any suitable tool for collection of relevant data for their

studies. In such cases, they have to construct their own. For the present research, the researcher did not find appropriate tools for collecting the relevant data. Moreover, most of the subjects i.e. child labourers, their parents/guardians and public leaders may not be able to respond to questionnaires due to lack of proficiency in reading and writing. It was decided to follow Interview as the main technique for collection of relevant primary data for the study.

Interview, as a technique of research, has many advantages over questionnaires and observation techniques. Personal interviews can yield high percentage of return and accurate result and can be conducted on children and adult illiterates with greater scope for clarification and explanation. It can be flexible depending upon the situation, and the responses can be crosschecked.

Keeping the subjects in view, it was decided to conduct informal interviews (unstructured interviews) with the subjects for collection of data. However, to facilitate interview and to collect the specific data for fulfilling the objectives, it was decided to develop two interview schedules as mentioned below which will be used as guide for collection of the relevant data, recording of data and will facilitate for systematic analysis and interpretation.

- Interview Schedule for Child Labourers
- Interview Schedule for Parents/ Guardians and Public Leaders

The interview schedule for child labourers was developed on causes of child labour, working conditions, status and their education besides some general information. The preliminary draft of the interview schedule had contained 37 items. It was given to ten experts who were working as Professors/ Associate Professors in the departments of education, sociology and social work. Basing upon the feedbacks

received from the ten experts, some items were edited and some were deleted. The final interview schedule contained 30 items. The items were requiring different types of responses such as alternative and multiple choices in which more than one answer may be possible. There was no right or wrong response to the items. Thus, the interview schedule was considered to be valid. Because of diverse nature of items and expected responses, reliability of the interview schedule could not be established empirically. A copy of the interview schedule for the child labourers is appended in Appendix-A1.

The Interview Schedule for Parents/Guardians and Public Leaders was also developed following the same procedure. The preliminary draft had 26 items. After editing, 22 items were retained finally excluding the identification data. The schedule contained items on status, causes, and working conditions of child labourers besides some items seeking opinion on addressing the issue. Like the interview schedule meant for child labourers, this interview schedule was also checked by the same experts. A copy of the interview schedule for the Parents/Guardians and Public Leaders is appended in Appendix-A2.

As already mentioned, unstructured interviews were conducted to get relevant information from the respondents at the time of collection of data and other supplementary information as felt necessary by the researcher. Besides, the researcher had interactions with government officials and NGO leaders/ coordinators for collection of information for the study.



### **3.05: Collection of Data**

Collection of data is an essential important part of research process. For the present study, data were collected through personal visits to the selected villages and urban localities, government offices, NGO leaders/coordinators etc. The researcher conducted personal interview with all the selected subjects. Case studies on selected cases were conducted subsequently in the second phase. Being a Mizo he did not find it difficult to establish rapport with the subjects before conducting interview and to get their opinion and relevant information.

### **3.06: Organization of Data**

Keeping the objectives of the study in view, the data were organized for the Child Labourers and Parents/Guardians and Public Leaders separately as per the items in the tools.

### **3.07: Analysis of Data**

The data were analyzed quantitatively using descriptive statistics like frequency and percentage.

## **CHAPTER IV : ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION**

## **Chapter IV**

### **Analysis and Interpretation**

This chapter is devoted for presentation of analysis and interpretation of data collected from child labourers, their parents/guardians, and public leaders in rural and urban areas of the two sampled districts of Mizoram i.e. Aizawl and Mamit. Besides, the information collected from the secondary sources regarding the government provisions relating to child labour and their education in Mizoram and the activities of recognised NGOs on welfare of child labourers in the state of Mizoram are also presented in this chapter to fulfil the first seven objectives of the study. The chapter is organised into eight sections i.e. 4.01 to 4.08. Section 4.01 is devoted for examination of the provisions relating to child labour and their education in Mizoram which was the first objective of the study. Section 4.02 has been devoted for presentation of the causes of child labour in rural and urban areas of Mizoram, which was the second objective of the study. The third objective of the study was to reveal the status of child labour in rural and urban areas of Mizoram and the fourth objective of the study was to compare the status of child labour in rural and urban areas of Mizoram. Section 4.03 has been devoted for presentation and comparison of the status of child labour in rural and urban areas of Mizoram. The educational status of child labourers in rural and urban areas of Mizoram will be presented in section 4.04 to fulfil the fifth objective of the study. To study the perceptions of parents/guardians and public leaders about the practice and prevention of child labour in rural and urban areas of Mizoram was the sixth objective of the study. This is presented in section 4.05. The seventh objective of the study was to examine the activities of recognised NGO's on welfare of child labourers in the state of Mizoram.

Section 4.06 of this chapter has been devoted for this purpose. In section 4.07, case studies of some child labourers will be presented followed by the prospect of education for child labourers in Mizoram in section 4.08 in accordance to the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> objectives of the study respectively. Suggestions for remedial measures in order to eradicate child labour practices in Mizoram, which was the 10<sup>th</sup> objective of the study, will be presented in chapter V.

#### **4.01: Government Provisions relating to Child Labour and Education in Mizoram**

To examine the government provisions related to child labour and education in Mizoram, required information were collected from the department of Labour, Employment, and Industrial Training Department of Government of Mizoram. The Department has made a Gazette notification vide notification No.A.12025/2/2010-LE&IT dated 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2010 of Child Labour and Prohibition rules of Mizoram 2009 conforming to Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 (61 of 1986) dated 23<sup>rd</sup> December, 1986 of Government of India. A copy of the notification of Government of Mizoram is given in Appendix B-1. The researcher did not get any other notification relating to child labour from that office.

An examination of the Mizoram Child labour (prohibition and regulation) Rules 2010 reveals that the notification was related to maintenance of registers and certificate of age.

Relating to registers to be maintained, the notification specifies the following two provisions:

- (1) Every occupier of an establishment shall maintain a register in respect of children employed or permitted to work, in Form A appended to these rules.*

*(2) The register shall be maintained on a yearly basis and shall be retained by the employer for a period of three years after the date of the last entry made therein.*

Relating Certificate of age the notification contains the following five provisions:

*(1) All young persons in employment in any of the occupation set forth in Part A of the Schedule or in any workshop wherein any of the processes set-forth in Part B of the Schedule is carried on, shall produce a certificate of age from the appropriate authority whenever required to do so by an Inspector.*

*(2) The appropriate Authority for the purpose of sub-rule (1) shall be - Government Medical Officer.*

*(3) The certificate of age to be obtained from the Government Medical Officer shall be issued in Form B appended to these rules.*

*(4) The charges payable to the medical authority for the issue of such certificate shall be the same as prescribed by the State Government or the Central Government, as the case may be for their respective Medical Boards.*

*(5) Any fee payable to the Medical Authority shall be paid by the employer of the child whose age is under question.*

Though it is not very clear about the implementation of the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Rules of 1986 of Government of India in the state of Mizoram, it seems that the rule has been effective in the state from 1986. Perhaps due to some confusion or observation on irregular maintenance of records and issue of certificate of age, the state government made such notification in 2010.

It was reported that even after the notification of the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Amendment Rules, 2017; the Government of Mizoram has not notified any separate notification. It implies that the child labour prohibition

acts and rules as notified by Government of India from time to time used to be effective in the state in Toto.

The Government of Mizoram also has made the rules relating to Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education known as Mizoram Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Rules, 2011 conforming to Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 of Government of India. It became effective from first April, 2011 and is intended for male or female children of the age of six to fourteen years. All provisions of RTE Act 2009 are implemented in Mizoram. This rule can be considered as a measure for prohibition of child labour in the state and their education.

Like RTE Act, 2009; Sarva Shiksha Abhyan (SSA) is a comprehensive and integrated flagship programme of Govt. of India to attain Universal Elementary Education (UEE) in the country in a mission mode. It is launched in 2000-01 in partnership with the State Governments. The broad aim of SSA was to provide useful and relevant education to all children in the 6-14 age groups by 2010. It was implemented in Mizoram in 2003 for providing free and compulsory Education. It also ensures providing quality education, equity, retention and equal opportunities of all children in Mizoram and monitors child rights in terms of prohibition of physical and mental harassment etc.

The Social Welfare Department of Government of Mizoram has made notification vide Notification No.B.12017/68/2019-SWD dated 26<sup>th</sup> July 2019 known as *Revised Guidelines for Recruitment and Conditions of Service of Employees under Mizoram State Child Protection Society, Social Welfare Department, and*

*Government of Mizoram.* This society is presently dealing with all matters related to child welfare in the state.

The above findings indicate that Mizoram state has implemented all policies and programmes formulated by Government of India in principle which are intended to prohibit child labour in the state.

#### 4.02: Causes of Child Labour in Rural and Urban Areas of Mizoram

The first item of the interview schedule meant for child labourers was intended to reveal the primary causes of child labour in the state of Mizoram. Besides, the interview schedule meant for parents/guardians and public leaders also had the first three items for revealing the primary causes of child labour, reasons of the employers for engaging children at work and reasons for parents/guardians to engage their children as labourers. The information was collected from both rural and urban areas. The responses of child labourers on the first item were organised and are presented in Table- 4.01. The responses of parents/guardians and public leaders were organised on the three items and are presented in table 4.02.

**Table - 4.01**  
**Causes of Child Labour in Rural and Urban areas of Mizoram (Response of Child Labourers)**

Question	Choices	Responses		
		Rural	Urban	Rural & Urban
		N =80	N=80	N=160
What caused you to go for your engagement as labourer?	Poverty	62 (77.50%)	58 (72.50%)	120 (75%)
	Divorce of parents	-	-	-
	Carelessness of parents	-	8 (10%)	8 (5%)
	Orphan	-	-	-
	Over population in the family	2 (2.50%)	2 (2.50%)	4 (2.50%)
	No source of income of the family	10 (12.50%)	8 (10%)	18 (11.25%)
	Supplementing the income of the Family	5 (6.25%)	3 (3.75%)	8 (5%)
	Skill enhancement	1 (1.25%)	1 (1.25%)	2 (1.25%)
	Others (specify)	-	-	-



**Table - 4.02**  
**Causes of Child Labour in Rural and Urban areas of Mizoram (Responses of Parents/Guardians and Public Leaders)**

Questions	Choices	Responses					
		Parents/Guardians			Public Leaders		
		Rural (N=40)	Urban (N=40)	Rural & Urban (N=80)	Rural (N=30)	Urban (N=30)	Rural & Urban (N=60)
According to your opinion, what are the primary causes of child labour in your locality?	Poverty	27(67.50%)	34 (85%)	61 (76.25%)	23 (76.67%)	17(56.67%)	40 (66.67%)
	Large member in the family	-	3 (7.50%)	3 (3.75%)	-	5 (16.67%)	5 (8.33%)
	Ignorance of adverse effects on child's health	-	2 (5%)	2 (2.50%)	-	1 (3.33%)	1 (1.67%)
	Compulsion of socio-economic disparity	-	-	-	-	1 (3.33%)	1 (1.67%)
	Inadequate income of parents	12(30%)	1(2.50%)	13 (16.25%)	5 (16.67%)	3 (10%)	8 (13.33%)
	Broken family	1(2.50%)	-	1 (1.25%)	2 (6.66%)	3 (10%)	5 (8.33%)
	Death of parents	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Others (specify)	-	-	-	-	-	-
According to your opinion, what are the primary reasons for the employers for engaging minor	Low wage rate	40 (100%)	25(62.50%)	65(81.25%)	30 (100%)	17 (56.67%)	47 (78.33%)
	Profit motive	-	4 (10%)	4 (5%)	-	5 (16.67%)	5 (8.33%)
	Easy to manage	-	-	-	-	1 (3.33%)	1 (1.67%)
	Trustworthiness	-	-	-	-	1 (3.33%)	1 (1.67%)
	Flexible work	-	1 (2.50%)	1 (1.25%)	-	3 (10%)	3 (5%)

	Easily available	-	10 (25%)	10 (12.50%)	-	3 (10%)	3 (5%)
	No trade union	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Others (specify)	-	-	-	-	-	-
According to your opinion, why the parents engage their minor children as labourers even knowing its adverse effects on their children's health and education?	Compulsion of socio-economic disparity	-	1 (2.50%)	1 (1.25%)	-	-	-
	Poverty	25 (62.50%)	24 (60%)	49 (61.25%)	22(73.33% )	20 (66.67%)	42 (70%)
	Divorce of parents	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Carelessness of parents	-	1 (2.50%)	1 (1.25%)	-	-	-
	Orphan	2 (5%)	-	2 (2.50%)	3 (10%)	-	3 (5%)
	Large member in the family	2 (50%)	3 (7.50%)	5 (6.25%)	-	3 (10%)	3 (5%)
	Inadequate income of the family	11(27.50% )	4 (10%)	15 (18.75%)	5 (16.67%)	2 (6.67%)	7 (11.67%)
	Supplementing the income of the family	-	7 (17.50%)	7 (8.75%)	-	5 (16.67%)	5 (8.33%)
	Skill enhancement	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Others (specify) -	-	-	-	-	-	-

### **(A) Responses of Child Labourers on Causes of Child Labour**

As revealed from table 4.01, nine probable causes i.e. poverty, divorce of parents, carelessness of parents, orphan, over population in the family, no source of income of the family, supplementing the income of the family, skill enhancement were mentioned in the interview schedule. Besides, there was also an open option 'others' to which no body responded. As revealed from the table, (77.50%) of the child labourers from rural areas reported that poverty was the major cause of child labour followed by no source of income of the family by 12.05%, supplementing the income of the family by 6.25%, over population in the family by 2.50% and skill enhancement by 1.25% as the other causes. Similarly, (72.50%) child labourers from urban areas reported that poverty was the major cause of child labour followed by carelessness of parents by 10%, no source of income of the family by 10%, supplementing the income of the family by 3.75%, over population in the family by 2.50% and skill enhancement by 1.25% as the other causes. Out of the total of 160 respondents, majority (75%) of child labourers from both rural and urban areas reported poverty as the major cause of child labour in Mizoram followed by no source of income of the family 11.25%, carelessness of parents 5%, supplementing the income of the family 5%, over population in the family 2.50%, and skill enhancement 1.25% as the other causes. It implies that, according to child labourers, poverty is the main reason of child labour in both rural and urban areas of Mizoram.

## **(B) Responses of Parents/Guardians and Public Leaders**

*Cause of Child labour:* The first question asked to parents/guardians and public leaders were intended to know about the primary causes of child labour in their locality for which seven probable causes were mentioned. Besides, there was also an open option i.e., 'others' to which no one had replied. From table 4.02, it is found that poverty was considered as the main problem for children being engaged as child labourers as reported by majority (67.50%) of parents/guardians of rural areas followed by inadequate income of parents (30%) and broken family (2.50%) as the causes of child labour in rural areas in some cases. Similarly, majority (85%) parents/guardians from urban areas also reported that poverty was the main problem for children being engaged as child labourers followed by large member in the family (7.50%), ignorance of adverse effects on child's health (5%) and inadequate income of parents (2.50%) as the other causes of child labour in urban areas of Mizoram. Out of the total of 80 parents/guardians, majority (76.25%) of parents/guardians reported that poverty was the major cause of child labour in both rural and urban areas of Mizoram. Besides, large member in the family, broken family, ignorance of adverse effects on child's health, inadequate income of parents were found to be the other causes of child labour in the state of Mizoram.

As revealed from the table 4.02, the public leaders had reported almost the same reasons like that of the parents and guardians. Poverty was considered as the main problem for children being engaged as child labourers as reported by majority (76.67%) of rural public leaders followed by inadequate income of parents (16.66%) and broken family (6.66%) as the other causes of child labour in rural areas in some cases. Similarly, majority (56.67%) of urban public leaders reported poverty as the

main problem for children being engaged as child labourers. Besides, 16.67%, 10%, 10%, 3.33%, and 3.33% of public leaders ascribed large member in the family, inadequate income of parents, broken family, ignorance of adverse effects on child's health and compulsion of socio-economic disparity as the other causes of child labour in urban areas respectively. Thus, as revealed from the responses of public leaders, poverty is the main problem for children being engaged as child labourers in both rural and urban areas of Mizoram. Besides, in some cases, large member in the family, broken family, ignorance of adverse effects on child's health, inadequate incomes of parents, compulsion of socio-economic disparity are the other causes of children being engaged as child labourers.

*Reasons of employers for engaging children at work-* The second question asked to parents/guardians and public leaders was relating to the primary reasons for the employers for engaging minor children at work. It had seven probable questions – low wage rate, profit motive, easy to manage, trust worthiness, flexible work, easily available, no trade union and others. Besides, there was also an open option 'others' to which no one had replied. As revealed from table 4.02, low wage rate was reported by (100%) of parents/ guardians of rural areas and majority (62.50%) of parents/guardians of urban areas as the primary reason for the employers for engaging minor children at work. Besides, in urban areas 25%, 10% and 2.50% of parents/guardians cited easy availability, profit motive, and flexibility to work as the other reasons for engaging minor children at work respectively. Thus, according to parents/guardians, low wage rate is the main reason for the employers for engaging minor children in both rural and urban areas of Mizoram.

From Table 4.02 it is found that low wage rate was reported by (100%) of public leaders of rural areas and majority (56.67%) of public leaders of urban areas as the primary reason for the employers for engaging minor children at work. Besides, in urban areas, 16.67%, 10%, 10%, 3.33% and 3.33% of the public leaders considered profit motive, flexibility to work, easy availability, easy to manage and trustworthiness as the other reasons for engaging minor children at work. Thus, majority (78.33%) of the public leaders from both rural and urban areas reported that low wage rate is the main reason for the employers for engaging minor children at work.

*Reasons for parents to engage their children as labourers* - The third question was asked to know the opinion of the parents/guardians and public leaders about the reasons for parents to engage their minor children as labourers even knowing its adverse effects on their children's health and education. It had eight probable options- compulsion of socio-economic disparity, poverty, divorce of parents, carelessness of parents, orphan, large member in the family, inadequate income of the family, supplementing the income of the family and skill enhancement along with an open option 'others' to which no body responded. From table 4.02, it is revealed that majority (62.50%) of the parents/guardians of rural areas opined that poverty is the main cause that compels parents to engage their minor children as labourers even knowing its adverse effects on their children's health and education followed by 27.50%, 5%, and 5% of parents/ guardians citing inadequate income of the family, orphan, large members in the family as the other reasons respectively. Among the urban parents/guardians majority (60%) opined poverty as the main reason why parents were compelled to engage their minor children as labourers even knowing its

adverse effects on their children's health and education. Besides, 17.50%, 10%, 7.50%, 2.50% and 2.50% cited supplementing the income of the family, inadequate income of the family, large member in the family, carelessness of parents, and compulsion of socio-economic disparity as the other reasons for engaging minor children as labourers even knowing its adverse effects on their children's health and education. Thus, according to parents/guardians poverty is the main cause that compels parents to engage their minor children as labourers even knowing its adverse effects on their children's health and education in both rural and urban areas.

From table 4.02, it is revealed that majority (73.34%) of the public leaders of rural areas opined that poverty was the main cause that compelled parents to engage their minor children as labourers even knowing its adverse effects on their children's health and education. Further, 16.67% and 10% of rural public leaders considered inadequate income of the family and being orphan respectively as the compulsions on the part of parents/guardians to engage the minor children as labourers even knowing its adverse effects on their children's health and education. Similarly, majority (66.67%) of public leaders of urban areas opined poverty as the reason why parents used to be compelled to engage their minor children as labourers even knowing its adverse effects on their children's health and education. Besides, 16.66%, 10%, and 6.66% of public leaders of urban areas cited supplementing the income of the family, large members in the family, and inadequate income of the family respectively as other reasons for engaging minor children as labourers even knowing its adverse effects on their children's health and education. Out of the total of 60 respondents, majority (70%) of public leaders from both rural and urban areas

reported poverty as the major reason that used to compel parents to engage their minor children as labourers even knowing its adverse effects on their children's health. Thus, according to public leaders of both rural and urban areas of Mizoram, poverty is the major reason that compels parents/ guardians to engage their minor children as labourers even knowing its adverse effects on the children's health.

#### **4.03: Status of Child Labour in Rural and Urban areas of Mizoram**

Seventeen items ranging from 2 to 18 of the interview schedule meant for the child labourers were intended to reveal the status of child labour relating to the nature of engagement, type of accommodation, duration of engagement, status before joining work, age of starting work, working places, skill trainings, status of employer, treatment by employer, punishment at work place, motivation for the work, effects on health, future prospect, satisfaction of employer, remuneration, extra payment, and medical care at the work place. Data were collected from the child labourers of both rural and urban areas through interview. The responses of child labourers were organised item wise and are presented in Table - 4.03.



**Table - 4.03**  
**Status of Child Labourers in Rural and Urban areas of Mizoram**

Questions and Choices	Rural (N= 80)		Urban (N= 80)		Total (N= 160)	
<b>What is the nature of engagement?</b>						
Working full time	35 (43.75%)		35 (43.75%)		70 (43.75%)	
Working part time and studying	45 (56.25)		45 (56.25%)		90 (56.25)	
<b>Are you staying away from your house?</b>	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
	-	80(100%)	10(12.50%)	70(87.50%)	10(6.25%)	150 (93.75%)
Own decision	-		1 (10%)		1 (0.62%)	
Parents decision	-		9 (90%)		9 (5.62%)	
<b>How long you have been engaged in the present work?</b>						
Less than 6 months	3 (3.75%)		-		3 (1.87%)	
6 months to 1 Year	55 (68.75%)		11 (13.75%)		66 (41.25%)	
1-2 Years	12 (15%)		47 (58.75%)		59 (36.87%)	
2 Years and above	10 (12.50%)		22 (27.50%)		32 (20%)	
<b>What were you doing before joining the present work place?</b>						
Pursuing education	60 (75%)		65 (81.25)		125 (78.12%)	
working at another place	20 (25%)		15 (18.75)		35 (21.88%)	
<b>At what age you started working?</b>						
10 Years	3 (3.75%)		4 (5%)		7 (4.37%)	
11 Years	5(6.25%)		22 (27.50%)		27 (16.87%)	
12 Years	45 (56.25%)		47 (58.75%)		92 (57.50%)	

13 Years	22 (27.50%)	7 (8.75%)	29 (18.12%)
14 Years	5 (6.25%)	-	5 (3.13%)
<b>What is your work place?</b>			
Shops	5 (6.25%)	3 (3.75%)	8 (5%)
Cloth printing, dyeing and weaving		-	-
Automobile workshops and garages	1 (1.25%)	3 (3.75%)	4 (2.50%)
Saw Mills	-	-	-
Handlooms	-	-	-
Soap manufacturer	-	-	-
Building and construction industry	-	1 (1.25%)	1 (0.62%)
Abattoirs/Slaughter House	-	-	-
Printing	-	-	-
Soldering process in electronic industry	-	-	-
Domestic workers or servants	-	5 (6.25%)	5 (3.12%)
Dhabas (roadside eateries), restaurants, hotels, motels, tea shops, resorts, spas or other recreational centres.	10 (12.50%)	44 (55%)	54 (33.75%)
Automobile repairs and maintenance including processes incidental thereto namely, welding, lathe work, dent beating and painting	-	4 (10%)	4 (%)
Tobacco processing including manufacturing of tobacco, tobacco paste, and handling of tobacco in any form	-	5 (6.25%)	5 (3.12%)
Tyre making, repairing, re-treading and graphite beneficiation	-	-	-

Food Processing	-	-	-	-	-	-
Stone breaking and stone crushing	3 (3.75%)		4 (5%)		7 (4.37%)	
Fabrication workshop	-		1 (1.25%)		1 (0.62%)	
Handling of pesticides and insecticides	-		-		-	
Selling of commodities in bazaar and roadside (fruits, vegetables, etc)	-		10 (12.50%)		10 (6.25%)	
Agricultural farm	42 (52.50%)		-		42 (26.25%)	
Oil palm and rubber plantation farm	5 (6.25%)		-		5 (3.12%)	
Harvesting of coconuts and betel nuts	9 (11.25%)		-		9 (5.62%)	
Harvesting brooms	5 (6.25%)		-		5 (3.13%)	
Any other (Specify)	-		-		-	
<b>Have you ever received any skill training?</b>	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
	-	80(100%)	10(12.50%)	70 (87.50%)	10(6.25%)	150(93.75%)
<b>Is your employer a government servant?</b>	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
	7(8.75%)	73 (91.25%)	25 (31.25)	55 (68.75%)	32(20%)	128(80%)
<b>Have you ever been ill-treated by your employer?</b>	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
	1(1.25%)	79(98.75%)	16(20%)	64(80%)	17 (10.62%)	143 (89.32%)
<b>Have you ever been punished by your employers at work place.</b>	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
	2(2.50%)	78 (97.50%)	18 (22.50%)	62 (77.50%)	20(12.50%)	140 (87.50%)
<b>Are you hesitant to do the work?</b>	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No

	79 (98.75%)	1 (1.25%)	74 (92.50%)	6(7.50%)	153 95.62%)	7 (4.37%)
<b>Do you feel that the work affect your health?</b>	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
	80 (100%)	-	76(95%)	4(5%)	156 97.50%)	4(2.50%)
<b>Are you confident that the present work will help for your future?</b>	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
	1(1.25%)	79 (98.75%)	5 (6.25%)	75 (93.75%)	6(3.75%)	154 (96.25%)
<b>Is your employer satisfied with your work?</b>	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
	42 (52.50%)	38 (47.50%)	65 (81.25%)	15 (18.75%)	107(66.87%)	53 (33.12%)
<b>How much you earn per month?</b>						
Less than Rs 1000/-	-		-		-	
Between Rs 1000/- and Rs 1500/-	10 (12.50%)		31 (38.75%)		41 (25.62%)	
Between Rs 1500/- and Rs 2000/-	26 (32.50%)		3 (3.75%)		29 (18.12%)	
Between Rs 2000/- and Rs 2500/-	44 (55%)		46 (57.50%)		90 (56.25%)	
Above Rs 2500/- i.e. Rs-----	-		-		-	
<b>Is there any extra payment for overtime work?</b>	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
	80 (100%)	-	70 (87.50%)	10 12.50%)	150 (93.75%)	10 (6.25%)
<b>Is there any medical care in your working place?</b>	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
	-	80(100%)	1 (1.25%)	79 (98.75%)	1(0.62%)	159 (99.37%)

## **Responses of Child Labourers on Status of Child Labour in Rural and Urban areas of Mizoram**

*Nature of engagement*-The second question of the interview schedule was intended to know the nature of engagement of the child labourers. As revealed from table 4.03, majority (56.25%) of both rural and urban child labourers reported that they were working part time and also pursuing their studies, 43.75% of rural and urban child labourers were not pursuing their studies. Thus, though majority of child labourers were studying, around 44% of the child labourers in Mizoram were out of school which is a serious problem.

*Status of accommodation*- The third question of the interview schedule was intended to know the status of the child labourers' accommodation. From table 4.03 it is revealed that all (100%) the rural child labourers were staying at their own homes. But, in urban areas, though majority (87.50%) were staying with their families, the rest 12.50% were staying outside their families. Out of the 12.50% of child labourers, who were staying outside their families, 90% had left their homes as per the decision of their parents but 10% had left their homes as per their own decision. Out of the total child labourers from both rural and urban areas, majority (93.75%) reported that they were not staying away from their houses. Thus, majority of child labourers from both rural and urban areas were staying with their families and doing the works.

*Period of engagement on work*- The fourth question of the interview schedule was intended to know how long they have been engaged in the present work. From the table 4.03, it is revealed that majority (68.75%) of rural child labourers were working since last 6 months to 1 year. Besides, 15% were working since 1-2 years, 12.50% were working since 2 years and above and 3.75% were working since less than 6

months in their present works respectively. Majority (58.75%) of urban child labourers reported that they were working since 1-2 years, 27.50% were working since more than 2 years and 13.75% were working since 6 months to 1 year in their present works respectively. Out of all the child labourers from both rural and urban areas, 41.25% were working as labourers since 1-2 years.

*Status before joining work*-The fifth question was intended to know what the child labourers were doing before joining the present work place. From table 4.03, it is revealed that majority (75%) of the rural child labourers were pursuing education, and the rest 25% were working at other places. Similarly, majority (81.25%) of urban child labourers were pursuing education, but, only 18.75% were working at other places. Out of all the child labourers from both rural and urban areas, majority (78.12%) reported that they were pursuing education before working at the present place and 21.88% were working at other places.

*Age of starting work*- The sixth question was intended to know the age when the child labourers started working. From table 4.03 it is found that majority (56.25%) of rural child labourers started working when they attained the age of 12. Besides, 27.50%, 6.25%, 6.25% and 3.75% of child labourers had started working when they were of 13, 11, 14 and 10 years respectively. Similarly, it is revealed that majority (58.75%) of urban child labourers had started working when they were of 12 years old. Besides, 27.50%, 8.75% and 5% had started working when they were of 11, 13 and 10 years old respectively. Thus, majority (57.50%) of child labourers from both rural and urban areas were found to have started working when they were of 12 years old.

*Work Places-* The seventh question was intended to know the working places of the child labourers. From table 4.03, it is revealed that majority (52.50%) rural child labourers were working at agricultural farms. The other places of works were found to be shops (6.25%), automobiles workshops and garages (1.25%), dhabas (roadside eateries), restaurants, hotels, motels, tea shops, resorts, spas or other recreational centres (12.5%), stone breaking and stone crushing (3.75%), oil palm and rubber plantation farm (6.25%), harvesting of coconuts and betel nuts (11.25%) and harvesting brooms (6.25%). Similarly, majority (55%) of urban child labourers were found working at dhabas (roadside eateries), restaurants, hotels, motels, tea shops, resorts, spas or other recreational centres. Besides, the other working places of urban child labourers were found to be shops (3.75%), automobiles workshops and garages (3.75%), building and construction industry (1.25%), domestic workers or servants (6.25%), fabrication workshop (1.25%) and automobile repairs and maintenance including processes incidental thereto namely, welding, lathe work, dent beating and painting (10%), tobacco processing including manufacturing of tobacco, tobacco paste and handling of tobacco in any form (6.25%), stone breaking and stone crushing (5%) and selling of commodities in bazaar and roadside fruits, vegetables, etc. (12.50%). Thus, majority (52.50%) of rural child labourers were working at agricultural farm. Besides, majority 55% of urban child labourers were working at dhabas (roadside eateries), restaurants, hotels, motels, tea shops, resorts, spas or other recreational centres.

*Skill trainings-* The eighth question was intended to know the provision of skill trainings at work place. From the table 4.03, it is revealed that all (100%) of rural child labourers reported that they did not receive any skill training in their work

places. Besides, majority (87.50%) of the urban child labourers reported that they did not receive any skill training in their work places, but, the rest 12.50% who were mostly working in spas, automobile repairing centres, and hotels had received some short of training at their work places. Majority (93.75%) of child labourers from both rural and urban areas reported that they had not received any skill training in their work places.

*Employment status of employers-* The ninth question was intended to know whether the employers were government employees. Majority (91.25%) of the rural child labourers reported that their employers were not government servants. Only 8.75% of the rural child labourers reported that their employers were government servants. Similarly, majority (68.75%) of urban child labourers reported that their employers were not government servants. Only 31.25% of urban child labours reported that their employers were government servants. Thus, out of all the child labourers from both rural and urban areas, majority (80%) reported that their employers were not government servants, but, 20% reported that their employers were government servants.

*Treatment by employers-* The tenth question was intended to know the behaviour of employers for the working children. From table 4.03, it is revealed that majority (98.75%) of rural child labourers were never ill-treated at their work places. Similarly, majority (80%) of urban child labourers reported that their employers had never ill-treated them in their work places, but, 20% reported that they were ill-treated by their employers at their work places. Out of all the child labourers of both rural and urban areas, majority (89.32%) of child labourers reported that they were never ill-treated by their employers in their work places.



*Punishment at work place-* The eleventh question was intended to know whether the child labourers used to be punished by their employers. From table 4.03, it is revealed that majority (97.50%) of rural child labourers were never punished at their work places by their employers. Similarly, majority (77.50%) of urban child labourers were never punished at their work places by their employers, but, the rest 22.50% of urban child labourers were given punishment by their employers at their work places. Thus, majority (87.50%) of child labourers from both rural and urban areas reported that their employers never punished them in their work places, whereas, 12.50% of working children reported that they were given punishment at their work places by their employers.

*Hesitation for the work-* The twelfth question was intended to know whether the child labourers were hesitant to do the work. From table 4.03, it is revealed that majority (98.75%) of the rural child labourers and majority (92.50%) of urban child labourers were hesitant to do the work in which they were engaged. Thus, majority (95.62%) of child labourers from both rural and urban areas were hesitant to do the work in which they were engaged, but, the rest 4.37% of working children were not hesitant to continue.

*Effects on health-* The thirteenth question was intended to know about the effect of the works on the health of child labourers. From table 4.03, it is revealed that all (100%) the rural child labourers and majority (95%) of the urban child labourers had felt the adverse impact of their work on their health. Thus, majority (97.50%) of child labourers from both rural and urban areas reported that their engagement had adverse effects on their health.

*Future prospect-* The fourteenth question was intended to know about the feelings of child labourers on their future prospects. From table 4.03, it is revealed that majority (98.75%) of rural child labourers and majority (93.75%) of urban child labourers were not confident that their present work would be helpful for their future. Thus, majority (96.25%) of child labourers from both rural and urban areas were not confident about their present work to be helpful for their future.

*Satisfaction of employers-* The fifteenth question was intended to know about the feelings of child labourers on the satisfaction of their employers. From table 4.03, it is revealed that majority (52.50%) of rural child labourers and majority (81.25%) of urban child labourers had the feeling that their employers were satisfied with their works. But, 47.50% of rural child labourers and 18.75% of urban child labourers had the feeling that their employers were not satisfied with their works. Further, majority (66.87%) of the child labourers from both rural and urban areas had the feeling that their employers were satisfied with their works, but, the rest 33.13% had the feeling that their employers were not satisfied with their works.

*Remuneration-* The sixteenth question was intended to know about the actual wages earned by child labourers. From table 4.03, it is revealed that majority (55%) of rural child labourers were earning between Rs 2000/- and Rs 2500 /- per month. Besides, 12.50% and 32.50% were earning between Rs 1000/- and Rs 1500/-, and Rs 1500/- and Rs 2000/-per month respectively. Similarly, majority (57.50%) of urban child labourers reported that they were earning between Rs 2000/- and Rs 2500 /- per month. Besides, 38.75% and 3.75% were earning between Rs 1000/- and Rs 1500/-, and Rs 1500/- and Rs 2000/-per month respectively. Thus, out of all the child labourers from both rural and urban areas majority (56.25%) reported that they were

earning between Rs 2000/- and Rs 2500/- per month at their work place though the government has made minimum wage of Rs 450/- per day.

*Extra payment-* The seventeenth question was intended to know about extra payment for overtime work. From table 4.03 it is revealed that all (100%) of rural child labourers reported that they got extra payments when they were engaged overtime. Similarly, majority (87.50%) of urban child labourers reported that they got extra payment when they were engaged overtime, but, the rest 12.50% reported that they were not given any extra payment if they were engaged for overtime. Out of all the child labourers from both rural and urban areas, majority (93.75%) reported that they used to get extra payments when they were engaged overtime.

*Medical care at the work place* -The eighteenth question was intended to know about medical support available for child labourers at their working place. From table 4.03, it is revealed that all (100%) of rural child labourers reported that there was no provision for medical care at their work places. Similarly, majority (98.75%) of urban child labourers reported that there was no provision for medical support in case of emergency, only 1.25% reported positively. Out of all the child labourers from both rural and urban areas majority (99.37%) reported that there was no provision for medical support at their work places to meet any emergency.

Comparison on the status of child labourers in rural and urban areas of Mizoram reveals no much difference as interpreted above from the data given in table 4.03. In all the seventeen items i.e. nature of engagement, type of accommodation, duration of engagement, status before joining work, age of starting work, working places, skill trainings, status of employer, treatment by employer, punishment at work place, motivation for the work, effects on health, future

prospect, satisfaction of employer, remuneration, extra payment, and medical care at the work places, the views of the child labourers are found more or less same. The variations are in negligible percentages only, but the trend is same. The variations are only due to geographical locations and the opportunities available to work.

#### **4.04: Educational Status of Child Labourers in Rural and Urban Areas of Mizoram**

Eleven items ranging from 19 to 29 of the interview schedule meant for the child labourers were intended to reveal their educational status relating to enrolment in school, reasons for discontinuation of schooling, interest to continue schooling, continuation of schooling if given chance, stages of drop out, governmental actions, educational facilities at working place, awareness about free and compulsory education, preference on type of education, and expression of idea for pursuing studies to parents. The common interview schedule meant for parents/guardians and public leaders also had two items i.e. number 4 and 5 to reveal the admission of children in the school and measures taken by them for children to continue their education. Data were collected from the child labourers, parents/guardians and public leaders of both rural and urban areas through interview. The responses of child labourers were organised item wise and are presented in table 4.04 followed by interpretations. Further, the responses of parents/guardians and public leaders were organised item wise and are presented in table 4.05 followed by interpretations.

**Table - 4.04**

**Educational Status of Child Labourers in Rural and Urban Areas (Response of Child Labourers)**

Questions and Choices	Responses					
	Rural (N =80)		Urban (N=80)		Rural & Urban (N=160)	
<b>Have you ever been admitted to school?</b>	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
	80 (100%)	-	80 (100%)	-	160 (100%)	-
<b>Have you discontinued your studies? If Yes give reasons?</b>	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
	32(40%)	48(60%)	30(37.50)	50(62.50%)	62(38.75)	98(61.25%)
Parents did not encourage schooling	10 (31.25%)		20 (66.67%)		30 (48.39%)	
School was too far	-		-		-	
Parents could not afford schooling	22 (68.75%)		10 (33.33%)		32 (35.45%)	
Not interested in school	-		-		-	
School was not considering valuable by family	-		-		-	
School was not safe	-		-		-	
<b>Do you still like being in the School?</b>	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
	N= 32 (Drop out)		N=32 (Drop out)		N = (62)	
	32 (100%)	-	30 (100%)	-	62 (100%)	-
<b>If given a chance will you continue your study?</b>	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
	N= 32 (Drop out)		N=32 (Drop out)		N = (62)	
	32 (100%)	-	30 (100%)	-	62 (100%)	-

<b>In which class did you dropped out from school?</b>						
Class I	-		-		-	
Class II	-		-		-	
Class III	-		-		-	
Class IV	3 (9.37%)		2 (6.67%)		5 (8.06%)	
Class V	4 (12.50%)		2 (6.67%)		6 (9.67%)	
Class VI	17 (53.12%)		18 (56.25%)		22 (58.33%)	
Class VII	4 (12.50%)		5 (16.67%)		9 (14.5%)	
Class VIII	4 (12.50%)		3 (10%)		7 (11.29%)	
<b>Has any government organization contacted you for pursuing education?</b>	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
	37(46.50%)	43(53.75%)	36 (45%)	44(55%)	73 (45.62%)	87 (54.38%)
<b>Does your employer provide educational facilities?</b>	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
	1(1.25%)	79 (98.75%)	7(8.75%)	73 (91.25%)	8(5%)	152 (95%)
<b>Are you aware of the Universal Compulsory primary education?</b>	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
	-	80(100%)	31(38.75%)	49 (61.25%)	31 (19.37%)	129(80.62%)
<b>If given a chance, what type of education would you prefer</b>	Formal	Non-Formal	Formal	Non-Formal	Formal	Non-Formal
	64(80%)	16(20%)	25 (31.25%)	55 (68.75%)	89 (55.62%)	71 (44.38%)
<b>Are you aware of the laws banning of children below 14 years of age from work?</b>	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
	-	80 (100%)	-	80(100%)	-	160 (100%)

<b>Have you ever expressed your idea of pursuing studies to your parents?</b>	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
	19(23.75%)	61 (76.25%)	24(30%)	56(70%)	43 (26.88%)	117 (73.12%)

*Enrolment-* The nineteenth question of the interview schedule was intended to know the enrolment of child labourers in the school. From the table 4.04, it is revealed that all (100%) child labourers of both rural and urban areas were admitted in the schools and were pursuing their studies before working.

*Reason for discontinuation of schooling-* The twentieth question in the interview schedule was intended to know the reasons for discontinuation of schooling by the child labourers. From table 4.04, it is revealed that 40% of rural child labourers had discontinued schooling and majority (68.75%) of them had discontinued because their parents could not afford schooling and the rest 31.25% had discontinued schooling due to lack of parental encouragement. Similarly, 37.5% of urban child labourers had discontinued schooling, majority (66.67%) of them discontinued schooling because their parents could not afford schooling and the rest 33.33% had discontinued schooling due to lack of parental encouragement. Out of all the child labourers, majority (61.25%) of both rural and urban child labourers were continuing schooling while working and the rest 38.75% had discontinued schooling. Out of all dropped out child labourers 48.39%, and 51.61% had discontinued schooling due to lack of parental encouragement and their parents could not afford schooling respectively.

*Interest to be in the school -* The twenty first question in the interview schedule was intended to know the motivation of the child labourers to be in the schools. From table 4.04, it is revealed that all (100%) of child labourers from both rural and urban areas responded 'Yes' to the questions. This implies that all dropped out child labourers from both rural and urban areas liked to be in the schools.



*Continuation of Schooling if given chance* -The twenty second question in the interview schedule was intended to know the interest of the child labourers for continuing schooling, if given a chance. From table 4.04, it is revealed that all (100%) child labourers of rural and urban areas responded 'Yes' to the question implying that all of them were interested to continue schooling, if given a chance.

*Stages of drop out*- The twenty third question in the interview schedule was intended to know the stages of drop out amongst the child labourers. From table 4.04, it is revealed that majority (63.12%) of rural child labourers had dropped out at class VI, followed by classes IV (12.50%), V (12.50%), VII (12.50%), and VIII (9.37%). Similarly, majority (56.25%) of urban child labourers had dropped out at class VI followed by classes VII (16.67%), VIII (10%), IV (6.67%) and V (6.67%).

*Governmental actions* - The twenty fourth question in the interview schedule was intended to know about the action of government organizations for bringing the child labourers to the purview of education. From table 4.04, it is revealed that majority (53.75%) of rural child labourers reported that they were never contacted by any government agency for pursuing education, but, the rest 46.50% were contacted by government agencies. Similarly, majority (55%) of urban child labourers reported that they were never contacted by any government agency for pursuing education, but the rest, 45% reported that they were contacted for the purpose. Out of all the child labourers, majority (54.38%) from both rural and urban areas reported that no government organization has ever contacted them to continue their education. However, 45.62% of child labourers of rural and urban areas were contacted by government agencies for pursuing education.

*Educational facilities provided by the employer* –The twenty fifth question in the interview schedule was intended to know about provisions of educational facilities for child labourers by their employers. From table 4.04, it is revealed that majority (98.75%) of rural child labourers reported that their employers did not provide them any educational facilities. Only 1.25% of rural child labourers were provided with educational facilities by their employers. Similarly, majority (91.25%) of urban child labourers reported that their employers did not provide them any educational facilities, but, the rest 8.75% reported that they were provided with educational facilities by their employers. Thus, majority (95%) of rural and urban child labourers were not provided with any educational facilities by their employers, but, only 5% child labourers were provided with educational facilities by their employers.

*Awareness about free and compulsory elementary education*- The twenty sixth question in the interview schedule was intended to know about the awareness of child labourers about the provision of free and compulsory universal elementary education. From table 4.04, it is revealed that all (100%) rural child labourers reported that they were not aware of it. Similarly, majority (61.25%) of urban child labourers reported that they were not aware such provision, but, the rest 38.75% of urban child labourers were aware about it. Out of all the child labourers, majority (80.62%) of child labourers from both rural and urban areas were not aware about free and compulsory universal elementary education, but, the rest 19.38% of the child labourers were aware about it.

*Preference on type of education*-The twenty seventh question in the interview schedule was intended to know about what type of education child labourers would prefer for schooling i.e. formal or skill training, if given opportunity. From table 4.04, it is revealed that majority (80%) of rural child labourers preferred to pursue formal education, but, the rest 20% preferred to have skill training. Further, majority (68.75%) of urban child labourers preferred to have skill training, but, the rest, 31.25% preferred to pursue formal education. Thus, majority (55.62%) of rural and urban child labourers preferred to pursue formal education, but, 44.38% preferred to have skill training.

*Awareness on law banning child labour*- The twenty-eight question in the interview schedule was intended to know about the awareness of child labourers on laws banning children below 14 years of age to work as labourers. From table 4.04, it is revealed that all (100%) the rural and urban child labourers both from rural and urban areas were not aware about the laws banning children below 14 years of age to work as labourers.

*Expression of idea to parents for pursuing studies* - The twenty ninth question in the interview schedule was intended to know whether the child labourers had ever expressed their idea to their parents for pursuing their education. From table 4.04, it is revealed that majority (76.25%) of rural child labourers had never expressed their feelings to pursue studies, but, the rest 23.75% had expressed their feelings to their parents for pursuing studies

Similarly, majority (70%) of urban child labourers reported that they had never expressed their feelings to their parents for pursuing studies, but, the rest 30% had expressed their feelings to pursue studies. Thus, majority (73.12%) of child labourers from both rural and urban areas had never expressed their feelings to their parents for pursuing studies, but, 20.62% had expressed their feelings to pursue studies to their parents.

**Table - 4.05**  
**Educational Status of Child Labourers in Rural and Urban Areas(Response of Parents/Guardians and Public Leaders)**

Question	Responses											
	Parents/Guardians						Public Leaders					
	Rural (N=40)		Urban (N=40)		Rural &Urban (N=80)		Rural (N=30)		Urban (N=30)		Rural & Urban (N=60)	
Have you admitted your child for formal/non-formal/special school education?	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
	30 (75%)	10 (25%)	40 (100%)	-	70 (87.50%)	10 (12.50%)	21 (70%)	9 (30%)	30 (100%)	-	51 (85%)	9 (15%)
	9 (22.50%)	31 (77.50%)	9 (22.50%)	31 (77.50%)	9 (11.25%)	71 (88.75%)	-	30 (100%)	5 (16.67%)	25 (83.33%)	5 (8.33%)	55 (91.67%)
Do you compel the children to continue their education?	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
9 (22.50%)	31 (77.50%)	9 (22.50%)	31 (77.50%)	9 (11.25%)	71 (88.75%)	-	30 (100%)	5 (16.67%)	25 (83.33%)	5 (8.33%)	55 (91.67%)	

*Admission of children* - The fourth question of the interview schedule meant for parents/guardians and public leaders was intended to know whether they had admitted their children in any formal/non-formal/special schools for education. From table 4.05, it is revealed that majority (75%) of rural parents/guardians had responded 'Yes' to the question. This implies that majority of parents/guardians of rural child labourers had admitted their wards in formal/non-formal and special schools and the rest 25% parents/guardians had never admitted their wards in the schools. Similarly, all (100%) of the urban parents/guardians responded 'Yes' to the question implying that they had admitted their wards for schooling.

From table 4.05, it is also revealed that majority (70%) of rural public leaders have responded 'Yes' to the question implying that children used to be admitted in the schools in their locality, but, the rest 30% of public leaders were of the opinion that all children were not admitted in the schools. Similarly, all (100%) of urban public leaders responded 'Yes' to the question implying that in urban areas all children used to be admitted in the schools for education.

Thus, it is revealed that in urban areas all children used to be admitted in different schools, but, in rural areas some children could not be admitted in the schools by their parents/guardians.

*Motivation to children to continue their education* – The fifth question in the interview schedule meant for parents/guardians and public leaders was intended to know about the motivation they provide to children to continue their education. From table 4.05, it is revealed that majority (77.50%) of both rural and urban parents/guardians had responded 'No' to the question. This implies that children were not provided with proper motivation to continue their education. The rest,

22.50% of both rural and urban parents/guardians had responded 'Yes' to the question implying that only few parents/guardians provide motivation to their children to continue their education. From table 4.05 it is revealed that all (100%) of rural public leaders had responded 'No' to the question. This implies that children were not provided with proper motivation to continue their education. Similarly, majority (83.33%) of urban public leaders have responded 'No' to the question. This implies that children in urban areas too were not provided with proper motivation to continue their education.

Thus, it can be interpreted that, both in rural and urban areas, child labourers had not received proper motivation from their parents/guardians and public leaders to continue their education.

#### **4.05: Perceptions of parents/guardians and public leaders on the practice and prevention of child labour**

Nine items ranging from 6 to 14 of the interview schedule (Section-C) meant for the parents/guardians and public leaders were intended to reveal their perceptions on child labour practices in the state of Mizoram and their implications. Data were collected from the parents/guardians and public leaders of both rural and urban areas through interview. The perceptions of parents/guardians and the perceptions of public leaders were organised item wise and are presented in two separate tables - 4.06 and 4.07 respectively followed by interpretations.

Similarly, seven items ranging from 15 to 21 of the interview schedule (Section-D) meant for the parents/guardians and public leaders were intended to reveal their awareness and perceptions on prevention of child labour in the state of Mizoram. The perceptions of parents/guardians and the perceptions of public leaders were organised item wise and are presented in two separate tables - 4.08 and 4.09 respectively followed by interpretations.



**Table - 4.06**  
**Perceptions of Parents/Guardians on Child Labour Practices in Rural and Urban areas of Mizoram**

Questions	Responses of Parents/Guardians					
	Rural (N=40)		Urban (N=40)		Rural & Urban(N=80)	
Have you seen children engaged in any kind of job?	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
		40 (100%)	-	40 (100%)	-	80 (100%)
According to your observation, which are the major fields in which more child labourers are working in your locality?	<b>Choices</b>					
	Shops		2 (5%)	2 (5%)	4 (5%)	
	Cloth printing, dyeing and weaving		-	-	-	
	Automobile workshops and garages		-	1 (2.50%)	1 (1.25%)	
	Saw Mills		-	-	-	
	Handlooms		-	-	-	
	Soap manufacturer		-	-	-	
	Building and construction industry		-	1 (2.50%)	1 (1.25%)	
	Abattoirs/Slaughter House		-	-	-	
	Printing		-	-	-	
	Soldering process in electronic industry		-	-	-	
	Domestic workers or servants		-	3 (7.50%)	8 (10%)	
	Dhabi's (roadside eateries), restaurants, hotels, motels, tea shops, resorts, spas or other recreational centres		3 (7.50%)	22 (55%)	25 (31.25%)	
	Automobile repairs and maintenance including		-	3 (7.50%)	3 (3.75%)	

	processes incidental thereto namely, welding, lathe work, dent beating and painting					
	Tobacco processing including manufacturing of tobacco, tobacco paste, and handling of tobacco in any form		-	1 (2.50%)	1 (1.25%)	
	Tyre making, repairing, re-treading and graphite beneficiation		-	-	4 (5%)	
	Food Processing		-	-	-	
	Stone breaking and stone crushing		2 (5%)	4 (10%)	2 (2.50%)	
	Fabrication workshop		-	-	-	
	Handling of pesticides and insecticides		-	-	-	
	Selling of commodities in bazaar and roadside (fruits, vegetables, etc)		-	3 (7.50%)	3 (3.75%)	
	Agricultural farm		24 (60%)	-	24 (30%)	
	Oil palm and rubber plantation farm		5 (12.50%)	-	3 (3.75%)	
	Harvesting of coconuts and betel nuts		1 (2.50%)	-	1 (1.25%)	
	Harvesting brooms		-	-	-	
	Any other (Specify)		-	-	-	
<b>According to your observation, child labour practice is more serious in which area?</b>	Rural		40(100%)	38 (75%)	78 (97.50%)	
	Urban		-	2 (5%)	2 (2.50%)	
<b>Do you feel that child labour is a serious problem in your locality?</b>	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
	40(100%)	-	34 (85%)	6 (15%)	74(82.50%)	6 (7.50%)
<b>Do you feel that child labour adversely</b>	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No

<b>affects the health of the children?</b>	40(100%)	-	40 (100%)	-	80(100%)	-
<b>Do you think that child labourers are being exploited in their work places?</b>	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
	22 (55%)	18 (45%)	22 (55%)	18 (45%)	44 (55%)	36 (50%)
<b>Do you think that child labour contributes for socio-economic development?</b>	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
	-	40 (100%)	5 (12.50%)	35(87.50%)	5 (12.50%)	75 (93.75%)
<b>Do you think that child labour is a serious obstacle on the path of progress and prosperity of your locality?</b>	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
	40 (100%)	-	33(82.50%)	7 (17.50%)	73 (91.25%)	7 (8.75%)
<b>Do you think that adoption of nuclear families in the Mizo society, at present times, has increased the demand for child labour, especially in attending household works?</b>	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
	30 (75%)	10 (25%)	40 (100%)	-	70(87.50%)	10(12.50%)

**Table - 4.07**  
**Perceptions of Public Leaders on Child Labour Practices in Rural and Urban areas of Mizoram**

Questions	Responses					
	Public Leaders					
Have you seen children engaged in any kind of job?	Rural (N=30)		Urban (N=30)		Rural & Urban (N=60)	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
		30 (100%)	-	30 (100%)	-	80 (100%)
According to your observation, which are the major fields in which more child labourers are working in your locality?	Choices					
	Shops		2(6.67%)	-	2(3.33%)	
	Cloth printing, dyeing and weaving		-	-	-	
	Automobile workshops and garages		-	2 (6.67%)	2(3.33%)	
	Saw Mills		-	-	-	
	Handlooms		-	-	-	
	Soap manufacturer		-	-	-	
	Building and construction industry		-	2 (6.67%)	2 (3.33%)	
	Abattoirs/Slaughter House		-	-	-	
	Printing		-	-	-	
	Soldering process in electronic industry		-	-	-	
	Domestic workers or servants		-	3 (10 %)	5 (8.33%)	
Dhabas (roadside eateries), restaurants, hotels, motels, tea shops, resorts, spas or other recreational centres		3 (10%)	16 (53.33%)	19(31.67%)		

	Automobile repairs and maintenance including processes incidental thereto namely, welding, lathe work, dent beating and painting	-	1(3.33%)	1 (1.67%)		
	Tobacco processing including manufacturing of tobacco, tobacco paste, and handling of tobacco in any form	-	2 (6.67%)	-		
	Tyre making, repairing, re-treading and graphite beneficiation	-	-	2(3.33%)		
	Food Processing	-	-	-		
	Stone breaking and stone crushing	2 (6.67%)	2 (6.67%)	4(6.67%)		
	Fabrication workshop	-	-	-		
	Handling of pesticides and insecticides	-	-	-		
	Selling of commodities in bazaar and roadside (fruits, vegetables,etc.)	-	2 (6.67%)	2(3.33%)		
	Agricultural farm	17 (56.67%)	-	17(28.33%)		
	Oil palm and rubber plantation farm	2 (6.67%)	-	2 (3.33%)		
	Harvesting of coconuts and betel nuts	4 (13.33%)	-	4(6.67%)		
	Harvesting brooms	-	-	-		
	Any other (Specify)	-	-	-		
<b>According to your observation, child labour practice is more serious in which area?</b>	Rural	30 (100%)	30 (100%)	60(100%)		
	Urban	-	-	-		
<b>Do you feel that child labour is a serious problem in your locality?</b>	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
	30 (100%)	-	25 (83.33%)	5 (16.67%)	55 (91.67%)	5 (8.33%)
<b>Do you feel that child labour</b>	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No

<b>adversely affects the health of the children?</b>	30 (100%)	-	30 (100%)	-	60 (100%)	-
<b>Do you think that child labourers are being exploited in their work places?</b>	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
	17 (56.67%)	13 (43.33%)	18 (60%)	12 (40%)	35 (58.33)	25 (41.67)
<b>Do you think that child labour contributes for socio-economic development?</b>	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
	-	30 (100%)	3(10%)	27 (90%)	3(5%)	57 (95%)
<b>Do you think that child labour is a serious obstacle on the path of progress and prosperity of your locality?</b>	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
	30 (100%)	-	25 (83.33%)	5 (16.67%)	55 (91.67%)	5 (8.33%)
<b>Do you think that adoption of nuclear families in the Mizo society, at present times, has increased the demand for child labour, especially in attending household works?</b>	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
	30 (100%)	-	16 (53.34%)	14 (46.66%)	46 (76.67)	16 (26.67%)

## **Practices of Child Labour**

*Prevalence*- The sixth question in the interview schedule meant for parents/guardians and public leaders was intended to know on the prevalence of child labour in their locality. From tables 4.06 and 4.07 it is revealed that all (100%) rural and urban parents/guardians and public leaders admitted the prevalence of child labour in their locality.

*Major work fields* - The seventh question of the interview schedule was intended to know the major fields in which more child labourers were working in the locality.

From table 4.06 and 4.07, it is revealed that majority (60%) of parents/guardians and majority (56.67%) public leaders of rural areas reported that agriculture was the major field in which more child labourers were working in their locality. In rural areas the other work fields were found to be shops, Dhabas (roadside eateries), restaurants, hotels, motels, tea shops, resorts, spas or other recreational centres, stone breaking and stone crushing, oil palm and rubber plantation, and harvesting of coconuts and betel nuts. In rural areas, no child was reported working on cloth printing, dyeing and weaving, automobile workshops and garages, saw mills, handlooms, soap manufacture, building and construction industry, abattoirs/slaughter house, printing, soldering process in electronic industry, domestic workers or servants, automobiles repairs and maintenance including processes incidental thereto namely, welding, lathe work, dent beating and painting, tobacco processing including manufacturing of tobacco, tobacco paste and handling of tobacco in any form, tyre making, repairing, re-treading and graphite beneficiation, food processing, fabrication workshop, handling of pesticides and

insecticides and selling of commodities in bazaar and roadside (fruits, vegetables etc.).

Similarly, majority (55%) of urban parents/guardians and majority (53.33%) of public leaders reported that Dhabas (roadside eateries), restaurants, hotels, motels, tea shops, resorts, spas or other recreational centres was the largest sector in which more children were engaged in work. Besides, the other working places of urban child labourers were found to be shops, automobiles workshops and garages, building and construction industry, domestic workers or servants, automobiles repairs and maintenance including processes incidental thereto namely welding, lathe work, dent beating and painting, tobacco processing including manufacturing of tobacco, tobacco paste and handling of tobacco in any form, stone breaking and crushing, and selling of commodities in bazaar and roadside (fruits, vegetables, etc. In urban areas no child was reported working on cloth printing, dyeing and weaving, saw mills, handlooms, soap manufacture, abattoirs/slaughter house, printing, soldering process in electronic industry, tyre making, repairing, re-treading and graphite beneficiation, food processing, fabrication workshop, handling of pesticides and insecticides, agricultural farm, oil palm and rubber plantation, harvesting of coconuts and betel nuts and harvesting of brooms.

Thus, according to parents/guardians and public leaders, the largest sector of engagement of child labour in rural areas is agriculture. In urban areas, Dhabas (roadside eateries), restaurants, hotels, motels, tea shops, resorts, spas or other recreational centres is the largest sector in which more children are engaged in work.

*Child labour in rural urban settings-* The eight questions of interview schedule was intended to know where the child labour practice is more. From table 4.06 it is



revealed that majority of parents/guardians and also public leaders of both rural and urban areas perceived rural areas where child labour practice is more prevalent. In response to the ninth question on seriousness of child labour in their own locality, majority of the parents/guardians and also public leaders of both rural and urban areas replied that child labour was a serious problem in their locality.

Thus, it can be interpreted that child labour practice is more serious in rural areas than urban areas of Mizoram and it prevails in all localities.

*Impact on health* -The tenth question of interview schedule was intended to know the perceptions of parents/guardians and public leaders about the impact of child labour practice on the health of child labourers. From table 4.06 and 4.07, it is revealed that all parents/guardians and all public leaders from both rural and urban areas were of the view that child labour practice has adverse effects on the health of the children.

*Exploitation of child labourers*- The eleventh question of interview schedule was intended to know the perceptions of parents/guardians and public leaders about exploitation of child labourers at their work places. From table 4.06 and 4.07, it is revealed that majority of parents/guardians and majority of public leaders from both rural and urban areas were of the view that child labourers used to be exploited at their work places.

*Contributions of child labour*-The twelfth question of interview schedule was intended to know the perceptions of parents/guardians and public leaders about the contribution of child labour practices for socio-economic development. From table 4.06 and 4.07, it is revealed that majority of parents/guardians and majority of public

leaders from both rural and urban areas were of the view that child labour does not have much contribution to socio-economic development.

*Child labour as obstacle for progress and prosperity* - The thirteenth question of interview schedule was intended to know the perceptions of parents/guardians and public leaders whether child labour practice is a serious obstacle on the path of progress and prosperity of their locality. From table 4.06 and 4.07, it is revealed that majority of parents/guardians and majority of public leaders from both rural and urban areas perceived child labour as a serious obstacle on the path of progress and prosperity of their locality.

*Impact of nuclear family on demand of Child Labour in Mizo Society*– The fourteenth question of interview schedule was intended to know the perceptions of parents/guardians and public leaders on the demand of child labour consequent upon adoption of nuclear families in Mizo society, especially in attending household works. From table 4.06 and 4.07, It is revealed that majority of parents/guardians and majority of public leaders from both rural and urban areas perceived that nuclear family is one of causes for demand of child labour in Mizo society.

**Table - 4.08**  
**Perceptions of Parents/ Guardians on Prevention of Child Labour in Rural and Urban areas of Mizoram**

Questions	Responses of Parents Guardian					
	Rural (N=40)		Urban (N=40)		Rural & Urban (N=80)	
<b>Do you think that child labour is increasing in Mizo society as certain sectarian religious groups prevent children from pursuing education?</b>	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
	-	40 (100%)	-	40 (100%)	-	80 (100%)
<b>Do you know that there are child labour prevention acts and laws in our country?</b>	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
	-	40 (100%)	-	40 (100%)	-	80 (100%)
<b>Do you feel the government policies are adequate for eradicating child labour in our country?</b>	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
	-	40 (100%)	1 (2.50%)	39 (97.50%)	1 (1.25%)	79(98.75%)
<b>Do you find any government agency in your locality working for prevention of child labour?</b>	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
	-	40 (100%)	1 (2.50%)	39 (97.50%)	1 (1.25%)	79 (98.75%)
<b>Do you think that child labour should be totally banned in Mizo society?</b>	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
	30 (75 %)	10 (25%)	32 (80%)	8 (20%)	62 (77.50%)	18 (22.50%)
<b>Are you aware that engagement of child labour is an offence?</b>	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
	5 (12.50%)	35 (87.50%)	1 (2.50%)	39 (97.50%)	6 (7.50%)	74(92.50%)
<b>Are you aware that child labour will cause adult unemployment?</b>	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
	-	40 (100%)	1 (2.50%)	39 (97.50%)	1 (1.25%)	79 (98.75%)

**Table - 4.09**  
**Perceptions of Public Leaders on Prevention of Child Labour in Rural and Urban areas of Mizoram**

Questions	Responses of Public Leaders					
	Rural (N=30)		Urban (N=30)		Rural & Urban(N=60)	
<b>Do you think that child labour is increasing in Mizo society as certain sectarian religious groups prevent children from pursuing education?</b>	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
	-	30 (100%)	-	30 (100%)	-	60 (100%)
<b>Do you know that there are child labour prevention acts and laws in our country?</b>	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
	-	30 (100%)	-	30 (100%)	-	60 (100%)
<b>Do you feel the government policies are adequate for eradicating child labour in our country?</b>	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
	-	30 (100%)	-	30 (100%)	-	60 (100%)
<b>Do you find any government agency in your locality working for prevention of child labour?</b>	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
	-	30 (100%)	-	30 (100%)	-	60 (100%)
<b>Do you think that child labour should be totally banned in Mizo society</b>	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
	25(83.33%)	5 (16.67%)	25 (83.33%)	5 (16.67%)	50(83.33%)	10 16.67%
<b>Are you aware that engagement of child labour is an offence?</b>	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
	4 (13.33%)	26 (86.67%)	1(3.33%)	29 (96.67%)	5 (8.33%)	55(91.67%)
<b>Are you aware that child labour will cause adult unemployment?</b>	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
	-	30 (100%)	1 (3.33%)	29 (96.67%)	1 (1.67%)	59(98.33%)

## **Prevention of child labour in Mizo society**

*Role of sectarian religious groups-* The fifteenth question of interview schedule was intended to know the perceptions of parents/guardians and public leaders if any sectarian religious groups prevent children from pursuing education which may result engagement of children as child labourers in Mizo society. From table 4.08 and 4.09, it is revealed that all parents/guardians and public leaders of both rural and urban areas were of the view that no sectarian religious group prevents children from pursuing education in their societies.

*Awareness about Child Labour Prevention Acts and Laws -* The sixteenth question of interview schedule was intended to know if parents/guardians and public leaders were aware of child labour prevention acts and laws of our country. From table 4.08 and 4.09, it is revealed that all parents/guardians and public leaders of both rural and urban areas of Mizoram were not having proper awareness on child labour prevention Acts and Laws of our country.

*Adequacy of government policies for eradication of child labour -* The seventeenth question of interview schedule was intended to know about perceptions of parents/guardians and public leaders on adequacy of government policies for eradicating child labour in our country. From table 4.08 and 4.09, it is revealed that majority of parents/guardians and public leaders of both rural and urban areas felt the existing government policies to be inadequate for eradicating child labour in our country.

*Availability of government agency for prevention of child labour-* The eighteenth question of interview schedule was intended to know about the availability of

government agencies working for prevention of child labour. From table 4.08 and 4.09, it is revealed that majority of parents/guardians and public leaders of both rural and urban areas were ignorant of any government agency in their locality working for prevention of child labour.

*Banning of child Labour-* The nineteenth question of interview schedule was intended to know the views of parents/guardians and public leaders on banning child Labour in Mizo society. From table 4.08 and 4.09, it is revealed that majority of parents/guardians and public leaders of both rural and urban areas were of the view that child labour should be totally banned.

*Awareness on engagement of child labour as an offence-* The twentieth question of interview schedule was intended to know the awareness of parents/guardians and public leaders about engagement of child labour as an offence. From table 4.08 and 4.09, it is revealed that majority of parents/guardians and public leaders of both rural and urban areas were not aware that engagement of child labour is as an offence.

*Awareness about engagement of child labour as a cause of adult unemployment-* The twenty first question of interview schedule was intended to know the awareness of parents/guardians and public leaders about engagement of child labour as a cause of adult unemployment. From table 4.08 and 4.09, it is revealed that majority of parents/guardians and public leaders from both rural and urban areas were not aware child labour causes adult unemployment.

#### **4.06: Activities of Recognised NGO's on Welfare of Child Labourers in Mizoram**

There are number of recognized NGOs in Mizoram such as YMA (Young Mizo Association), MHIP (Mizo Hmeichhe Insuihkhawm Pawl), MUP (Mizoram Upa Pawl), MZP (Mizo Zirlai Pawl) and MSU (Mizo Students Union). The investigator interviewed the aforesaid NGO leaders and revealed that they did not have any kind of activities related to the protection and prohibition of child labour in Mizoram.

Two recognized NGOs named Centre for Peace and Development (CPD) and World Vision were found which had undertaken some activities for protection of child rights and rehabilitation of child labourers. To reveal the activities undertaken by recognized NGO's for child labourers in Mizoram, the investigator had informal interview with the leaders of the two NGOs. As reported by the Coordinator of CPD, their organisation used to observe 12<sup>th</sup> June as the 'World day against Child Labour' every year. Besides, the CPD used to organize awareness and sensitization programme regarding child labour. Further, in their branches located at Aibawk and Tlangnuam R.D. Block, they had organized awareness campaign and sensitization campaign to stop child labour in Mizoram. As reported by the Coordinator of CPD, intervention regarding child labour was carried forward by the CPD only if the child labourer is found to be out of the formal education system. The CPD is not in receipt of any financial support specifically meant to address child labour related problems.

Similarly, there is no activity taken up by World Vision, the other NGO, to directly address child labour problem. World Vision used to provide support to those who are

in need and those who are at risk by sponsoring their educational expenses voluntarily.

Thus, as reported by the leaders of NGOs in Mizoram, the NGOs are not much involved in child labour prohibition related activities.

#### **4.07: Case Studies on Child Labourers in Mizoram**

With the increasing alarming figures of child labour, lot of scholarly literature about such cases is emerging with new insights and learning. The problem of child labour is much more complex than it seems to be. In the context of Mizoram which is an ethnic close knit society lot of cultural practices do not directly bring all forms of child works under the domain of child labour. This can be because of deep association of the society with cultural practices and traditions where children working with elders are not an issue of compromising the child rights. In reality, most of native people are not aware of the accurate number of children who are engaged as employee or involved in one or other forms of work throughout Mizoram and moreover, in depth study of them have not been conducted so far that could create the required awareness among the people. Hence, the eighth objective of the study was to conduct in depth analysis of some children who have been engaged as child labourers in the present study. In order to ensure equality and equity measures, it is the duty not only of the educationists but also of the people of the state to find out those children who have been denied their right to education. With the hope that more information on the life and education of such cases can be revealed, the investigator has undertaken following case studies where the self narrations of the selected child labourers have been provided followed by interpretations.



### **Methodology:**

**Selection of the cases:** The data required for case studies were collected from the sampled child labourers. Purposive sampling technique was followed for selection of cases for in-depth study basing upon the openness, place of work, and rural-urban back ground of the child labourers from among the 160 sampled child labourers. Though initially ten cases were identified, finally three male and three female child labourers were selected for the present study.

**Collection of data:** Semi-structured Interview was used as the technique for data collection. The investigator visited the cases under study and interviewed them after establishing rapport in the second phase of data collection. The information collected are organized and presented below with interpretation.

### **Case Descriptions:**

In description of the cases, anonymity has been maintained due to ethical considerations. The real identity of the cases are not exposed, instead, pseudo names have been used.

#### **Case 1: Case Study of Puii**

Puii is a thirteen and half year old girl living in Aizawl District. She is the eldest child in her family and has three sisters and two brothers. Family does not own a house and is living in rented house. Her parents are uneducated and their occupation is stone crushing on daily basis. They earn daily wages according to their work but the family income is very low. Their standard of living is also below an average living compared to their neighbourhood. In spite of all the shortcomings, both the parents are struggling hard to educate their children and they spend money what they earn everyday for their children's education in their locality. Puii was admitted in a

local school at the age of 5 years. She was very weak in English, Mathematics and Science subjects and her parents were too poor to afford any private tuition for those difficult subjects. Moreover, because of their low educational status, parents could give her no guidance and help. All through her school days, she was attending household chores. In the morning and evening she had to do domestic works like cooking, washing, caring of her younger sisters and to support her parents. Presently, she is enrolled in class VII, but she is not regular in attending school every day as she is having more load of household works as she has grown into an adolescent. Subsequently, she is not finding any time to relax and concentrate on her education. She narrated - *“I think that I may not pursue very high education because I am the eldest child and I have to always help and support my parents and take care of my younger sisters and brothers, but, I wish to complete Graduation.”*

As told by the case, she was engaged as a part time labourer initially and she joined her parents when she attained the age of 10 years. She was simultaneously pursuing her education while working. Further, every Saturday and holidays she used to be busy in helping her parents at stone quarry for crushing stones. Due to lack of time, she could not concentrate on her studies for which her academic performance was very poor and gradually deteriorating. Her family income was falling short of educational expenditures to support all the children. Due to this deficiency in family income, she is trying to work more often. With her work in supporting to parents she is able to earn around Rs. 300/- per day, if she works for full day. She shared her responsibilities in supporting her family in the following words:

*I am working with my parents since last few years, when I was 10 years. There is a growing need of increasing family income and I have to support my parents. I am*

*able to earn around Rs. 300/- per day if I work hard for whole day with my parents at the stone quarry”*

Further, the case informed that her family is poor as there is no one in their family who is holding a permanent government job. Also, the family size is large in comparison to the family income. The main reason specified for her engagements daily wager is lack of family income, big family size and poor economic status. Recently, she suffered from infection as she narrated -“*When I was a child I was very healthy but when I started working with my parents in stone quarry, while crushing stones I developed coughing symptoms. Doctor said I have developed some sinus problem, and now I feel weak”*

**Interpretation:**

After studying the present case, the investigator could draw the following:

Poverty is the main factor which forced the child to join the work force and deprived her from enjoying the childhood and affecting her education. She had health problems because of her engagement in stone quarry. Often the choice to work and where to work is not in the hands of a child who is very ignorant of his/her rights. She is in need of proper medical attention to get relieved from her health problems. In spite of all the shortcomings, she has concern for her family, particularly the education of her siblings, and is aspiring to get her Graduation degree. She is hopeful that her parents will support her. She did not have any negative attitude towards her parents as she knows how hard they are working for the family.

## **Case 2: Case Study of Sangi**

Thirteen year old girl Sangi is the eldest child of the family living in Aizawl district. She had lost her father recently in 2017 in a road accident and her mother is working in stone crushing on daily basis. Sangi has two sisters and one brother who are pursuing their studies. Her mother is uneducated and can only work on as daily wager for supporting her family. Their standard of living is very low as compared to her friends. Her father was driving taxi, but after his death, her mother was the only person to earn for the family. Her mother is working hard to educate all her children. When the father was alive, the family was not having any serious financial problem and the parents were able to take proper care of all the children. Sangi shared that, at times, she feels unsecured after the death of her father. She finds difficulty in coping up and adjustment in school. She feels that she is being subjected to bullying by her schoolmates very often and some children often make comments on her present status. On a very shy note she narrated -*“I am not able to make good friends now as some comment on my family. I can do nothing about this but have to constantly face this. I wish my father would have been there to solve my problem.”*

Sangi was admitted in the school at the age of 6 years and she was an average student in her class. She is presently studying in local school in class VII and has apprehension for her academic performance. She told -*“As I am moving to higher classes, I am facing difficulty in understanding Science and Mathematics subjects. These subjects are very hard and I am not getting any help from any tutor. I think I cannot study it on my own.”*

As the eldest child of the family, Sangi has to do domestic works like cooking, washing, caring of her younger siblings and guiding them in their studies.

Due to financial problem of the family her mother cannot afford the schooling of all children of the family. Though she was average in studies, at present, she is not able to give time to her studies and apprehending about her success. She narrated- *“I may not have a chance to continue my education, although I want to continue education because of high expectations from my teachers.”*

As told by Sangi she was engaged as a part time labourer since her father passed away. She had joined with her mother when she was 12 years. Till date she has not quit her studies as she wants to finish her school education at least. She also reported some health problems after she started working in stone quarry. She told that she is not able to earn enough as per her work. She revealed- *“If we work whole day crushing stones to fill a tin bucket full to its top, we can only earn Rs. 20 per tin which is very negligible in return of time and energy we spend.”*

### **Interpretation:**

After studying the present case, the investigator could draw the following:

Due to loss of father, the present case has a struggling life so far. She felt unsecured at school and her present status creates difficulties to make friends and constantly trouble her in coping up and adjustment in school. She has difficulties in Science and Mathematics subjects. She got some health problems after she started working in stone quarry.

### **Case 3: Case Study of Kimi**

Thirteen years old Kimi is the only girl child in her family. She is the eldest child and has three brothers. Her family lives in a village of Mamit district. Her parents are uneducated and agriculture is the source of income of the family. The family practices jhum cultivation to support their everyday life. The standard of living of

family is very low. Unfortunately, her father is an alcohol addict and he spends a lot of money on his habit. Consequently, he did not take proper care of his children. Further, her mother had medical problems of allergy and thyroid abnormality for which she requires treatment. Besides, she cannot perform household chores. The elderly children in the family help their parents in agriculture. When the children are free, they work outside to earn in order to support the family. Kimi was admitted in the school at the age of 5 years but now she is a drop out of class VII. As a student, Kimi was an average student and language subjects were her favourite. However, due to the family situation she was compelled to drop out. As an only girl child in the family, she has to do domestic works like cooking, washing etc. when she was at home. Due to the addiction of her father to alcohol, there used to be break of peace at her home about which she narrated - *“Our home environment is not supportive for our studies and my father does not care about us. We are living difficult life and to support my siblings, I have to earn.”*

Sangi left her family and village to work as a domestic helper at Aizawl city. At her work place, she takes care of her employer's children and also doing household works full time. In her words - *“The main reason why I engaged myself as a servant is poverty. Poverty compelled me to work as domestic servant without attending school.”*

She is not satisfied with her present work as the job is of low dignity and also has adverse effects on her health. Regarding her job she narrated - *“It affects my health because I have to do a lot of household chores besides taking care of children; I feel tired very often and some time have back pain, and I feel uncomfortable as my working hours are very long.”*

Kimi expressed that she would have continued her education but she had to earn to support her family. She has almost lost her touch with studies and yearns to go back to school. She misses her school and wants to get back there regarding which she exclaimed - *“I miss my school; that was a good time and place where I had friends. If there is any way, I want to return to my school.”*

**Interpretation:**

After studying the present case, the investigator could draw the following:

Due to poverty, bad habit of the father, illness of the mother and to support the education of her brothers, Kimi had dropped out from the school and is engaged as domestic helper. Due to work pressure, she has got some health problems. She is recalling her sweet experiences at school and missing her friends.

**Case 4: Case Study of Thanga**

Thanga, 13 year old boy is found working in an automobile work shop. When he was only of 9 years old, his parents got divorced. Initially, he was taken care of by his mother but subsequently, her mother got remarried. Thanga’s father was working as a lower division clerk in one government office, but, he always spent money on gambling, extra-marital relations and did not care about his family. His mother is uneducated and was earning by vending vegetables to support herself and her son. They were living in a rented house in an isolated area of Aizawl city. Thanga was admitted to the school at the age of 6 years and he was a much disciplined student. After remarriage of her mother he has dropped out of school at class VI. He narrated - *“I would have continued my education but, there was no one to provide support to me. Sometimes, I feel pity on myself as I failed to continue my education like my friends.”*

He has been working in the automobile workshop on daily basis which is located in his locality. He joined his present job as a full time wagger when he was just 12 years old. He receives an amount of Rs 2500 /- per month and if there is an extra work, he also receives some bonus from his employer.

He further narrated –*“I get very tired after every day’s work and get no time for anything else. I do not like my present work because there used to be lots of customers every day and my employer scolds me if my work is not up to the satisfaction of the customers,* “He further expressed - *“My ambition was to be a government servant, but as of now, I have no scope to reach my aspiration. I always consider that this work would not help me in my future prospect.”*

Though Sanga was a healthy boy during his childhood, he often suffers from back pain and headache which he feels may be due to the effect of his present work. There is no medical support in his place of work in case of emergency and he used to get himself checked up in the hospital at his own expenses. The doctors have suggested him not to continue his present work, but he has to continue until he gets another job.

**Interpretation:**

The case study on the boy revealed that he dropped out mainly due to divorce of parents and remarriage of his mother who was taking his care. Thus, he became like an orphan. To maintain himself he has joined as a full time worker in an automobile workshop. His aspirations and dreams could not be fulfilled and he did not see any future prospect working at his present work. Besides, he also hesitated continue at his present workplace because it was affecting his health and his employer used to scold him when customers were not satisfied with his job.



### **Case 5: Case Study of Kima**

The thirteen year old eldest son in the family Kima has two sisters and two brothers and their grandparents who are being looked after by the parents in a joint family. His father is a watchman in one of government office and this is their main sources of income. Their standard of living is very low due to big family size and lack of adequate income. They do not have their own house and are living in a rented house which is located in the isolated area of his locality. Unfortunately, one of his brother got bone marrow cancer and the family spent a lot of money for his treatment and that has created a lot of financial problem in his family. His mother is also unhealthy may be because she delivered many children at young age. He narrated - *“As we are a big family, my father’s income is not adequate to support our education; we have to take care of our grandparents, and we spent a lot of money for my brother in his treatment as well which is very costly; it amounted continuous hardship of finance.”*

Like other children, Kima was admitted in the school at the age of 6 years. However, he dropped out at class VI due to the family problems. As the eldest child among the siblings in his family, he has to do a lot of works such as taking care of his siblings, performing household works etc. He did not have sufficient time to study at his home. Further, his family could not support his education due to lack of income. He expressed - *“I am still interested to continue my education, if given a chance with non-formal education as a part-timer, but to support my family, I have to work whatever job I get.”*

He has been working at a construction sitesince last two years. His nature of work comprises of doing cement work and carrying heavy loadsto his age. It is due to this work that he is now a school dropout. He joined his present job when he

attained the age of 11 years and he received an amount of Rs 3000 /- per month, as he informed. In his words - *“I am very tired due to my present work as this job is very tough and harmful to my physical development.”*

**Interpretation:**

The case study of Kima revealed that due to poverty he has dropped out from school and joined full time job at construction work to supplement his family income. Though his health condition was good before joining the work, he is getting shoulder pain which may be due to the effect of his present work. He used to get very tired and dislike his present work because his job was very tough and harmful to his physical development. He is interested to continue his education if he is given a chance through non-formal education as he is compelled to do some job.

**Case 6: Case Study of Liana**

Thirteen years old Liana is the only child in his family whose parents passed away in a road accident when he was only 10 years old. Since then he has been looked after by his grandmother who is also old. The family does not have own house and living in a rented house in south corner of the Aizawl city. He is selling tobacco and its products for income along with his grandmother. He was admitted in the school at the age of 6 years but his grandmother could not afford his school expenditure after the death of his parents, and the school environment was not friendly to him as sometimes he used to be bullied by his friends. He narrated - *“I am one of the most unfortunate persons in this world, because I have lost my parents very early, and I could not continue my education for which I was interested. I had to leave the school at Class VI, while most of my friends are pursuing education supported by their families.”*

His grandmother is engaged by the agent in selling of tobacco and its products every day and he helps her. He used to earn Rs 20/- if he could sell a dozen of cigarette packets. In his words - *“I am engaged fulltime with my grandmother and we are selling tobacco and its products around the city every day. I wish to pursue education, but my grandmother has become old now and she cannot work for the whole day. So, if I do not help her, we will not be able to pay even the rent of the house and cannot survive.”*

*He further expressed -“I was a very healthy boy during my childhood, but when I started selling tobacco and its products, I feel, I am suffering from coughing and allergic problems.”*

### **Interpretation:**

The case of Liana revealed that he has dropped out from school and is engaged in selling tobacco and its products along with his grandmother for their survival. It is because he lost both his parents at the age of 10 and there is no other person to look after them. He is interested to continue his education, but he has no way out. He was found ignorant of the fact that selling of tobacco in Mizoram is prohibited. Besides, he thought that he had no choice other than his present work which is dangerous to his health causing cough and allergy problems.

### **Holistic Interpretation on Case Studies:**

In all the six cases, poverty is found to be the main factor, which forces the children to be engaged in labour and deprives them from enjoying the basic human rights including right to education. In some cases the families have been ruined due to accidents, family break up, and addiction to bad habits leaving the children as orphans or like orphans. In some cases, large family size also has caused hardship.

Engagement in labour has badly affected their health. The children are not happy with their nature of work and also, in some cases, at their work places and want to get themselves relieved but they find helpless. Out of the six cases, only the first two were studying while working but the rest four cases were school dropouts. All the four cases have reported that they are interested to pursue education, if given a chance, but in non-formal mode as they are not in a position to give up the works which is badly required for their own survival and to support their dependants. Though there are prohibition rules and regulation act, the people in and around their life are absolutely blind about them. The people who are engaging them for different kinds of work as cited here, be it stone crushing, domestic serving, working in automobile workshops, construction sites and selling of tobacco; all job providers are negligent about the child right issues. Moreover, they are also not aware of the severity of such issues and its negative implications on the children. All the cases selected are below the age of 14 years and fall within the purview of strict prohibition of child labour of any form. It was closely observed that the Mizo families have very strong emotional attachment and the eldest children, irrespective of their age, take the responsibility of the family if any accident happens in the family. This condition becomes worst if there are issues of broken families, addiction of alcohol and drugs among the family members especially the earning member, father or mother. Under such conditions, children are found to be more prone to become victims to condition of child labour.

Subjects like Science, Mathematics and English were reported to be difficult to children and as such require more efforts from children in higher classes and often this has been pointed out by them to be a reason of their underperformance in school.

The children feel that they need guidance in these subjects through private coaching and tuitions which their families are not able to afford.

There is no effort from local bodies to combat the problem of child labour. People do not consider the child labour acts and provisions as described as a form of child labour rather they regard it as a kind of responsibility with grown up children once they enter their teenage. The problem of child labour, especially in context of Mizoram, is not easily visible and is very safely hidden underneath varied socio-cultural, socio-economic practices. However, all the cases analyzed here, are very much aware of importance of education and want to continue education. Two such cases were found to continue their education along with their works as observed.

#### **4.08 : Prospect of Education for Child Labourers in Mizoram**

The study found that, in Mizoram, the National Child Labour Project (NCLP) is not in operation because of the fact that the problem is not yet acute. But, it is a truth that child labour practice is going on. Before the problem becomes acute, it is desired that the issues related to child labour in the state should be addressed.

Education is the right of every child. Children should be given full time to study in schools and enjoy their childhood. Child labour is not uniform, it is local specific. Mizoram does not have any heavy industry for which children are engaged in house hold works, particularly girls, and in other sectors like agriculture, stone quarries, hotels, Dhabas, shops and the like. The works may not be hazardous but it amounts to their deprivation and exploitation.

Education can improve the lot of exploited child labourers. Our earlier national and social leaders were very much aware of the positive effects of

Education. Gopal Krishna Gokhale, Raja Ram Mohan Roy, R.N. Tagore, Mahatma Gandhi, Jai Prakash Narain. Dr. B. R. Ambedkar and many more had emphasized education as a catalyst to liberate oppressed people. After independence, it was aspired to achieve Free and Compulsory Universal Education within ten years of implementation of our constitution. But, it was in the Directive Principle of State Policy under Article 45. Now, education has become a fundamental right under Article 21A. Thus, education must be used to liberate and rehabilitate child workers.

United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) has been working to reduce and eliminate child labour using the strategies such as reform of existing legislation, ensuring the implementation of the Child labour Acts and provisions, expanding access to education, improving quality and relevance of education, raising awareness among families and communities against the exploitation of children, implementing social protection programmes and cash transfers to improve the economic situation of families, strengthening child protection systems, implementing Juvenile Justice Act, and converging different government departments to prevent child labour and rehabilitate existing child labourers. These strategies are appropriate in all situations to curb child labour.

Mizoram is having small population. It has ideal system of education at all levels, more particularly at school levels in terms of access and teacher pupil ratio. Quality of education largely depends on quality of teachers and their sincerity. Mid Day Meal (MDM) scheme is in operation. It is said that *feeding a child at school is such a simple thing – but it works miracles*. Poor children are supposed to be maximally benefited out of the scheme. It motivates them for regular attendance and prevents them being drop outs. But, simply having provisions are not enough. The

provisions need to be implemented in true spirit. Effective monitoring and supervision is essential. It is said that *prevention is better than cure*. Thus, it has to be seen that no student drops out from the schools and quality education is imparted in the schools so that no child labour is produced any more.

So far the education of existing child labours is concerned; the study found that Mizoram does not have any special school for the purpose. The Mizoram Child Protection Society does not conduct any serious survey to identify the child labourers. It needs to conduct survey and to rescue the child labourers and to rehabilitate them. Mainstreaming of children is required. The grown up/ overage children, who had dropped much earlier, may not prefer to be mainstreamed in the formal education due to psychological factors. Such children would prefer to have vocational training. Hence, it is required that special schools and vocational institutions need to be established in the state. Initially, one special school and one vocational institution of residential nature need to be established for the purpose.

*“Child in Pain is No Gain.” “Small Hands Can Handle a Pen Better.”*

*“Let Children be Children, Not Child Labourers.”*

The above quotes should be reflected by all and suitable measures should be taken.

## **CHAPTER V : RESULT AND DISCUSSIONS**



## **Chapter V**

### **Results and Discussion**

This chapter is organised in to seven sections i.e. 5.01 to 5.07 for presentation of major findings, discussion of results, suggestions, educational implications, limitations of the study, suggestions for further research and an epilogue on the study.

#### **5.01: Major Findings of the Study**

##### **Government Policies and Provisions**

- Mizoram state has implemented all policies and programmes formulated by Government of India in principle which are intended to prohibit child labour in the state.

##### **Causes of Child Labour**

- According to child labourers, poverty is the main reason of child labour in both rural and urban areas of Mizoram.
- According to parents/guardians, poverty is the major cause of child labour in both rural and urban areas in Mizoram. Besides, large member in the family, broken family, ignorance of adverse effects on child's health, inadequate income of parents are also found to be the other causes of child labour in the state of Mizoram.
- According to public leaders, poverty is the main problem for children being engaged as child labourers in both rural and urban areas of Mizoram.

Besides, in some cases, large member in the family, broken family, ignorance of adverse effects on child's health, inadequate incomes of parents, compulsion of socio-economic disparity are the other causes of children being engaged as child labourers.

#### **Reasons of employers for engaging children at work**

- According to parents/guardians, low wage rate is the main reason for the employers for engaging minor children in both rural and urban areas of Mizoram.
- Majority of the public leaders of rural and urban areas reported that low wage rate is the main reason for the employers for engaging minor children at work.

#### **Reasons for parents to engage their children as labourers**

- According to parents/guardians and public leaders, poverty is the main cause that compels parents to engage their minor children as labourers even knowing its adverse effects on their children's health and education in both rural and urban areas of Mizoram.

#### **Status of Child Labour in Rural and Urban areas of Mizoram**

- Though, majority of child labourers were studying, around 44% of the child labourers in Mizoram were out of school which is a serious problem.
- All rural child labourers were staying at their own homes. But, in urban areas, majority(87.5%)were staying with their families and the rest (12.5%)were staying outside their families.

Out of child labourers, who were staying outside their families, 90% had left their homes as per the decision of their parents but 10% had left their homes as per their own decision. Majority of child labourers from both rural and urban areas were staying with their families and doing the works.

- Majority (68.75%) of rural child labourers were working since last 6 months to 1 year. Besides, 15% were working since 1-2 years, 12.50% were working since 2 years and above and 3.75% were working since less than 6 months in their present works respectively. Majority (58.75%) of urban child labourers reported that they were working since 1-2 years, 27.50% were working since more than 2 years and 13.75% were working since 6 months to 1 year in their present works respectively. Out of all the child labourers from both rural and urban areas, 41.25% were working as labourers since 1-2 years.
- Majority (78.12%) of child labourers of rural and urban areas were pursuing education before working at the present place and 21.88% were working at other places.
- Majority (57.50%) of child labourers of rural and urban areas had started working at the age of 12.
- Majority, (52.50%) of rural child labourers were working at agricultural farms. Besides, majority (55%) of urban child labourers were working at dhabas (roadside eateries), restaurants, hotels, motels, tea shops, resorts, spas or other recreational centres.
- Majority (93.75%) of child labourers did not receive any skill training in their work places.

- Majority, (80%) of child labour employers were not government servants. But, 20% of the employers, mostly from urban areas, were government servants.
- Majority (89.32%) of child labourers were never ill-treated by their employers in their work places.
- Majority (87.50%) of child labourers were never given punishment by their employer at their work places, the rest 12.50% of child labourers were given punishment by their employer at their work places.
- Majority (95.62%) of child labourers were hesitant to continue in their work places.
- Majority (97.50%) of child labourers from both rural and urban areas reported that their engagement had adverse effects on their health.
- Majority (96.25%) of child labourers from both rural and urban areas were not confident about their present work to be helpful for their future.
- Majority (66.87%) of the child labourers from both rural and urban areas had the feeling that their employers were satisfied with their works, but, the rest 33.13% had the feeling that their employers were not satisfied with their works.
- Majority (56.25%) of all the child labourers from both rural and urban areas reported that they were earning between Rs 2000/- and Rs 2500/- per month at their work places though the government has made minimum wage of Rs 450/- per day.

- Majority (93.75%) of all the child labourers from both rural and urban areas reported that they used to get extra payments when they were engaged overtime.
- Majority (99.37%) of all the child labourers from both rural and urban areas reported that there was no provision for medical support at their work places to meet any emergency.
- Comparison on the status of child labourers in rural and urban areas of Mizoram reveals no much difference. In all the seventeen items i.e. nature of engagement, type of accommodation, duration of engagement, status before joining work, age of starting work, working places, skill trainings, status of employer, treatment by employer, punishment at work place, motivation for the work, effects on health, future prospect, satisfaction of employer, remuneration, extra payment, and medical care at the work places, the views of the child labourers are found more or less same. The variations are in negligible percentages only, but the trend is same. The variations are only due to geographical locations and the opportunities available to work.

#### **Educational Status of Child Labour in Rural and Urban Areas of Mizoram**

- All (100%) child labourers of both rural and urban areas were admitted in the schools and were pursuing their studies before working.
- Majority (61.25%) of both rural and urban child labourers were continuing schooling while working and the rest 38.75% had discontinued schooling. Out of all dropped out child labourers 48.39%, and 51.61% had discontinued schooling due to lack of parental encouragement and their parents could not afford schooling respectively.

- All dropped out child labourers from both rural and urban areas expressed that they would like to be in the schools.
- All child labourers of rural and urban areas were interested to continue schooling, if they would be given a chance.
- Majority (63.12%) of rural child labourers had dropped out at class VI followed by classes IV (12.50%), V (12.50%), VII (12.50%), and VIII (9.37%). Similarly, majority (56.25%) of urban child labourers had dropped out at class VI followed by classes VII (16.67%), VIII (10%), IV (6.67%) and V (6.67%).
- Majority (54.38%) of child labourers from both rural and urban areas reported that no government organization has ever contacted them to continue their education. However, 45.62% of child labourers of rural and urban areas were contacted by government agencies for pursuing education.
- Majority (95%) of rural and urban child labourers were not provided with any educational facilities by their employers, but, only 5% child labourers were provided with educational facilities by their employers.
- Majority (80.62%) of child labourers from both rural and urban areas were not aware about free and compulsory universal elementary education, but, the rest 19.38% of the child labourers were aware about it.

### **Preference on type of education**

- Majority (55.62%) of child labourers preferred to pursue schooling with formal education. Besides, 44.11% of child labourers preferred to pursue schooling with non- formal education in rural and urban areas of Mizoram.
- All (100%) the rural and urban child labourers both from rural and urban areas were not aware about the laws banning children below 14 years of age to work as labourers.
- Majority (73.12%) of child labourers from both rural and urban areas had never expressed their feelings to their parents for pursuing studies, but, 20.62% had expressed their feelings to pursue studies to their parents.
- In urban areas all children used to be admitted in different schools, but, in rural areas some children could not be admitted in the schools by their parents/guardians.
- Both in rural and urban areas of Mizoram, child labourers had not received proper motivation from their parents/guardians and public leaders to continue their education.
- All (100%) rural and urban parents/guardians and public leaders admitted the prevalence of child labour in their locality.
- According to parents/guardians and public leaders, the largest sector of engagement of child labour in rural areas is agriculture. In urban areas, Dhabas (roadside eateries), restaurants, hotels, motels, tea shops, resorts, spas or other recreational centres is the largest sector in which more children are engaged in work.

- Child labour practice is more serious in rural areas than urban areas of Mizoram and it prevails in all localities.
- All parents/guardians and all public leaders from both rural and urban areas were of the view that child labour practice has adverse effects on the health of the children.
- Majority of parents/guardians and majority of public leaders from both rural and urban areas were of the view that child labourers used to be exploited at their work places.
- Majority of parents/guardians and majority of public leaders from both rural and urban areas were of the view that child labour does not have much contribution to socio-economic development.
- Majority of parents/guardians and majority of public leaders from both rural and urban areas perceived child labour as a serious obstacle on the path of progress and prosperity of their locality.
- Majority of parents/guardians and majority of public leaders from both rural and urban areas perceived that nuclear family is one of the causes for demand of child labour in Mizo society.
- All parents/guardians and public leaders of both rural and urban areas were of the view that no sectarian religious group prevents children from pursuing education in their societies.
- All parents/guardians and public leaders of both rural and urban areas of Mizoram were not having proper awareness on child labour prevention Acts and Laws of our country.



- Majority of parents/guardians and public leaders of both rural and urban areas felt the existing government policies to be inadequate for eradicating child labour in our country.
- Majority of parents/guardians and public leaders of both rural and urban areas were ignorant of any government agency in their locality working for prevention of child labour.
- Majority of parents/guardians and public leaders of both rural and urban areas were of the view that child labour should be totally banned.
- Majority of parents/guardians and public leaders of both rural and urban areas were not aware that engagement of child labour is as an offence.
- The NGOs in Mizoram are not much involved in child labour prohibition related activities.

### **Findings on Case Studies**

- Poverty is found to be the main factor, which forces the children to be engaged in labour and deprives them from enjoying the basic human rights including right to education. In some cases the families have been ruined due to accidents, family break up, and addiction to bad habits leaving the children as orphans or like orphans. In some cases, large family size also has caused hardship. Engagement in labour has badly affected their health. The children are not happy with their nature of work and also, in some cases, at their work places and want to get themselves relieved but they find helpless.
- Child labourers are interested to pursue education, if given a chance, but in non-formal mode as they are not in a position to give up the works which is

badly required for their own survival and to support their dependants. Though there are prohibition rules and regulation act, the people in and around their life are absolutely blind about them. The people who are engaging them for different kinds of work are negligent about the child right issues. They are also not aware of the severity of such issues and its negative implications on the children.

- Issues of broken families, addiction of alcohol and drugs among the family members especially the earning member make children more prone to be the victims of child labour.
- Subjects like Science, Mathematics and English are found to be difficult to children and as such require more efforts from children in higher classes and often this has been pointed out by them to be a reason of their underperformance in school.

### **Findings on Prospects of Education for Child Labourers in Mizoram**

The study found that, in Mizoram, the National Child Labour Project (NCLP) is not in operation because of the fact that there is no high concentration of child labour in any of the districts of Mizoram.

- Mizoram does not have any heavy industry for which children are engaged in house hold works, particularly girls, and in other sectors like agriculture, stone quarries, hotels, dhabas, shops and the like. The works may not be hazardous but it amounts to their deprivation and exploitation.
- Mizoram is having small population. It has ideal system of education at all levels, more particularly at school levels in terms of access and teacher pupil

ratio. Quality of education largely depends on quality of teachers and their sincerity.

- Mid-Day Meal (MDM) scheme is in operation in the state. Poor children are supposed to be maximally benefited out of the scheme. It motivates them for regular attendance and prevents them being drop outs. But, simply having provisions are not enough. The provisions need to be implemented in true spirit.
- Effective monitoring and supervision is essential. It is said that *prevention is better than cure*. Thus, it has to be seen that no student drops out from the schools and quality education is imparted in the schools so that no child labour is produced any more.
- Mizoram does not have any special school for the purpose. The Mizoram Child Protection Society needs to conduct survey regularly and seriously to rescue the child labourers and to rehabilitate them. Mainstreaming of children is required. The grown up/ overage children, who had dropped much earlier, may not prefer to be mainstreamed in the formal education due to psychological factors. Such children would prefer to have vocational training. Hence, it is required that special schools and vocational institutions need to be established in the state. Initially, one special school and one vocational institution of residential nature need to be established for the purpose.

## **5.02: Discussion of Results**

The study found the prevalence of child labour in both rural and urban areas of Mizoram. The main reason of child labour is revealed to be poverty. Some of the child labourers stay with their families and some stay at their work places. Some continue their education while working and some have left their schooling. The common work places are agriculture, dhabas/hotels and other's homes in rural areas, and dhabas/hotels, shops and other's homes in urban areas. They are not mostly ill-treated by their employers. The Government of Mizoram has implemented all policies and programmes formulated by Government of India in principle which are intended to prohibit child labour in the state.

Besides, the state has implemented the Sarva Shiksha Abhyan (SSA) and RTE Act, 2009 not only to achieve universalisation of elementary education, eventually to do away with child labour practices in the state.

Many factors may be responsible for such situation. Above 90% of the people in the state are Christians. Unlike other religious groups, the Christian people attend the church activities where literacy is desired and insisted. Mizoram has the credit of being the state having third highest position in literacy among the states and union territories of the country. But, after primary education, children used to drop out due to many socio economic factors. Moreover, many people are poor, particularly in rural areas. In urban areas though poverty also persists, people have scope to work as skilled and unskilled workers to earn their livelihood. In contrast, the rural economy is mostly based on agriculture and forest products. Now a day, stone quarry is also found in rural areas.

By the time a child completes his/her primary education; he/she becomes 11/12 years old and is capable of doing some manual work. As such, though Mizoram is one among the highest literate states in India, the practices of child labour is still prevalent in both rural and urban areas. Initially, such children associate themselves with their parents/guardians and subsequently they move out for works.

Further, the conceptualization of child labour by the Mizo people may be different as compared to that of other states of the country. Since bonded child labour is hardly found in Mizoram, people tend to interpret the concept of child labour casually. The awareness level of the Mizos on child labour is very low and some people do not realise that they are involved in child labour practices as most of the child labour practices are related to works which are not hazardous. It is worth to mention that Mizoram does not have any heavy industries. Whatever industries exist in Mizoram, those are mostly like cottage industries and the Mizo community is somewhat used to such practices. They do not distinguish between child work which characterizes by light work, occasional, and not in violation of legal provisions and child labour which characterizes hard and hazardous works, exploitation, deprivation of rights to health and education, regular and for long time and in violation of legal provisions.

The Traditional Mizo society is a classless society. They are closely associated with each other and extend helping hands to each other on every important occasion. They are very hospitable and very tolerant. This may be the reason for which the employers do not behave like masters but, treat the child labourers sympathetically.

Mizoram shares porous international border with Myanmar and Bangladesh through which many goods including narcotic substances are smuggled to the state and to the country. A good number of people are addicted to such narcotic substances. Thus, though Mizoram is a dry state, many people are found addicted to alcohol and drugs. Such people not only create disturbances in their families, but are found to be the cause of many unwanted happenings such as diverse, crimes, critical diseases and even succumb to their habits leaving their children as orphans and helpless. Such behaviour by adults severely affects the physical, mental, social and emotional developments of children which ultimately affects their studies. To avoid embarrassment, children give up studies and join the work force as labours to support their families.

The cost of living in Mizoram is quite high in comparison to any other states of the country and also among the north-eastern states not only due to its geographical location, but also due to the fact that it imports all commodities including food ingredients. The transportation cost is quite high. Most of the Mizo people do not adopt family planning measures and they like to have large families. As such, for the poor people, it is difficult to manage the family day today expenditures with the income of one person as it is found in other societies.

Further, the economy of majority of Mizo people is based on agriculture, more particularly in rural areas. Due to mountainous region, the people adopt Jhum (burning of forests) cultivation. Agriculture requires more man power in which all family members, including children above eight/ ten years, used to be involved. After gaining some experience, they go out to work as daily wagers/ regular workers to

supplement the income of the family. This may be another reason for children joining the work force.

Another possible factor for children joining the work force may be the modern style of living. Being influenced by high voltage advertisements, and multimedia; the adolescents are very much tempted to possess and have access to various sources of amusement. Moreover, Mizo society is more influenced by western society. In order to earn their pocket money, the children, particularly adolescents, might be joining the work force which are not hazardous and to which their parents/guardians might not object.

The study found the ignorance of child labourers, parents/guardians and even the public leaders about the child labour prohibition acts in our country. Such ignorance may also be a cause for which parents/guardians are not conscious about their responsibilities not to engage children as labourers.

Another possible cause of child labour in Mizo society may be due to the fact that parents/guardians give ample freedom to children to decide their carrier, choosing their life partners and avoid interfering in such affairs. They do not realise that children need guidance of parents/guardians, particularly in their educational and professional carriers. Overtime, situation is changing. Now a day, some parents/guardians are taking care, but not all.

Last, but not the least, the cause of child labour may be lack of strict implementation of child labour acts and laws in the state of Mizoram. The Mizoram child welfare society is supposed to take care of protection, rescue and rehabilitation

of child labourers. Perhaps, the society is attending the cases which are being reported. The society perhaps does not take proactive steps to prevent child labour.

There is no effort from local bodies to combat the problem of child labour. People do not consider the child labour acts and provisions as described as a form of child labour rather they regard it as a kind of responsibility with grown up children once they enter their teenage. The problem of child labour, especially in context of Mizoram, is not easily visible and is very safely hidden underneath varied socio-cultural, socio-economic practices. However, all the cases analyzed here, are very much aware of importance of education and want to continue education. Two such cases were found to continue their education along with their works as observed.

The findings of the present study are in agreement with the findings of all other studies conducted on child labour in other parts of our country. All studies have found poverty as the primary cause of child labour besides some other social causes. The findings on educational status, residence, working hours, salary, treatment of employers, interest for further education, reasons for parents to engage their children etc., as found in the present study, are more or less same, except variations in percentages, in other studies. All researchers have stressed on poverty eradication to which the present researcher agrees. Since NCLP is not in operation in the state, it is required that either NCLP be implemented in the state of Mizoram or the state government should take similar measures. Thus, the findings of previous studies validate the findings of the present research.



### **5.03: Suggestions for Prevention of Child Labour in Mizoram**

There are many causes of child labour in our country such as extreme poverty, shortage of full-fledged schools, increased population, ignorance of rules and laws that have been made to prevent child labour and increasing demand of labour, low wage rate and the like. Mizoram is not an exception to it. Poor parents do not understand how much their children are affected in the process of their physical, mental, moral and social development. Children are the future citizen of the country and getting education, playing, enjoying childhood is the natural rights of children. Child labour should be prevented and eradicated. All children must complete their secondary education minimum. The following suggestions are made for prevention and eradication of child labour in Mizoram based on the study.

- Government of Mizoram should plan and implement poverty eradication programmes seriously in rural and urban areas of Mizoram.
- Poverty stricken family/people should be identified objectively.
- Child labourer Acts and Laws should be strictly enforced by the government agencies in both rural and urban areas.
- Government agencies should take proactive action to prevent child labour.
- The children engaged in the works in the permissible ones should be paid the wages as fixed by the government for adult labourers.
- The offenders should be punished as per the provisions.
- The Mizoram Child Protection Society should conduct survey regularly every year in both rural and urban areas of the state to identify, rescue and rehabilitate the child labourers.

- The child labourers working in rural and urban areas should be brought to the arena of Education.
- The rescued child labourers, if not willing to join the mainstream of education, may be provided some vocational training for development of skills for their future.
- Right to Education Act should be implemented seriously throughout the state of Mizoram, more particularly in the rural areas.
- Functioning of schools should be monitored through effective and surprise supervision.
- School teachers and headmasters should visit the families of the children who used to remain absent or perform badly in examination and conceal the facts to their parents/guardians.
- The education officers at different levels should monitor enrolment, retention and quality education in the schools.
- Schools must be well equipped and must create the school environment attractive for the students.
- Awareness campaign should be made among the school students, parents and guardians and public leaders through different activities in the schools and outside the schools.
- The NGO's should play active role in preventing child labour. NGOs should look to enrolment, retention and quality education of children in the schools of their locality.
- Children from poor background should be provided with hostel facilities with free boarding and lodging.

- If required, residential schools should be established in every block head quarters to accommodate the needy children.
- Special schools in the model of NCLP may be established in every district of the state depending upon the need. Minimum one special school may be established in the state capital for rehabilitation of the child labourers.
- All support in shape of boarding, lodging, study materials, garments, nutrition and health care and stipends may be provided.
- People should refrain from engaging children as labourers. If people engage children in their household due to distress condition of children, they should behave them like adopted children and support their education.
- Appropriate actions by law enforcing agencies and social leaders should be taken against the parents/guardians who compel their children for child labour.
- The government should ensure regular health checkups of the children and adolescents in all localities time to time.
- Mizo society should think of adopting family planning measures without having any prejudice and inhibition.
- People should be aware of the fatal consequences of addiction upon their family and children.
- Parents should give priority to proper education of their children. They should provide study materials to their children.

#### **5.04: Educational Implications of the Study**

The present study has implications for the government of Mizoram, educational planners, supervising officials, parents/ guardians, village leaders, school teachers, headmasters, child labourers, NGOs and all those who are concerned with child welfare and education in Mizoram.

Grace Abbott, the American social worker who worked in improving the rights of immigrants and advancing child welfare, had said “Child labour and poverty are inevitably bound together and if you continue to use the labour of children as the treatment for the social disease of poverty, you will have both poverty and child labour to the end of time.” Thus, there should be serious efforts by the state government to eradicate poverty in the state.

The people below poverty line should be identified and be provided support for the education of their children. If required, residential schools may be established in every block where the child labourers may be provided facilities to pursue their education after rescuing them. Further, hostel facilities may be provided in the upper primary and secondary schools with free boarding and lodging. Study materials and school uniforms may be provided. State government should ensure providing engagement to the adults for earning their livelihood and to support their families. All relevant acts and laws should be strictly implemented. The law enforcing agencies should be instructed to take proactive measures for prevention of child labour. The offenders should be punished as per the provisions.

Educational planners and supervisors must look into creation of attractive and motivating school environment where quality education is imparted. Regular attendance of students and their academic progress should be given stress.

The supervisors/inspecting authorities should make surprise visits to schools and monitor academic activities. The Mid Day Meal (MDM) scheme being operated in the schools should be monitored effectively by which the poor students can be benefitted. It would help in preventing drop out.

Parents/guardians should be made aware of the various laws and acts relating child labour and the implications of child labour upon the physical, mental, social and emotional development of their children. They should be made aware of the provision of punishments in the acts and laws so that they will refrain from engaging their wards in the work force. They should support the education of their children at any cost and look to the future of their children without discontinuing their education. Parents who are addicted to bad habits and that create difficulties to the family and education of their children should give up such habits. They should lead peaceful family life.

In Mizo society, people participate in different socio-cultural activities voluntarily. Though, there is gradual change in the scenario, people respect the customary laws more than the constitutional/ government laws. In various socio-cultural activities people make voluntary financial contributions. Poor people should not make it as a prestige issue and should not compete with others for equal contributions being in trouble.

The village leaders in rural areas and the councillors in the urban areas must take accountability for any kind of child labour in their locality. They should have a vigilant eye on school going children and try to get feedback from the schools relating absentees, visit their homes, counsel the children, their parents and guardians

and see that no child drops out from the school. They should see that no one engages children as labourers. They should facilitate the poverty stricken people of their village/wards to improve their economic status availing the various welfare schemes of government.

The school teachers and headmasters have to take the issues of absenteeism of students and their drop out seriously. They should not only focus on quality education in their schools but also focus on creating attractive and motivating environment for the students. They should have counselling with students and their parents through their personal visits to the villages and homes of the students. Teachers may cite the examples of great personalities who could reach high positions and have achieved credentials in spite of lot of hindrances during their childhood.

The school children must be aware of the consequences of hard manual labour upon their health. At no cost they should give up their studies, and should think their future carrier. They should dream for future with realistic aspirations and put efforts to achieve the same.

NGOs plays important role in Mizo society and have great influence on the people. The NGOs should play actively to prevent child labour practices in Mizo society. Their efforts should be to put every child in class.

### **5.05: Limitations of the study**

The investigator had tried to be scientific and objective in the conduct of the study.

However, the study might have contained the following limitations:

- Interview as a technique requires more time for collection of data. As such, the sample of the study was limited to 160 child labourers, 80 parents/guardians, and 60 public leaders from two districts of Mizoram.
- For collection of data no standardized tool was used. Two interview schedules were developed by the investigators himself which might have not been free from defects.
- The data were collected through interview only. The investigator might have failed to get right information from the subjects due to lack of expertise.
- Effective interview presupposes proper rapport with the respondents and creation of suitable atmosphere to facilitate free and frank responses. This difficult requirement might not have been fulfilled in all cases.
- The respondents might have hesitated to give correct responses with the fear that it would adversely affect their image.
- The respondents might have been emotionally involved with the interviewer and given answers in order to please the interviewer. Also, some respondents might have inhibited free responses.
- Due to lack of resources the researcher might not have gone through all related literature and research studies.

### **5.06: Suggestion for further research**

- More serious case studies on child labourers can be conducted.
- Similar studies can be conducted with larger sample to validate the present findings.
- More intensive studies can be conducted in remote areas of Mizoram.
- Similar Studies can be conducted at all the districts of Mizoram.
- Similar Studies can be conducted in all the states and at national level.

### **5.07: Epilogue**

If we can eradicate child labour, then we can aspire for a better future. Since 2002, every year 12<sup>th</sup> June is observed as World Day Against Child Labour as has been launched by the International Labour Organization (ILO) to focus attention on the global extent of child labour and the action and efforts needed to eliminate it.

To highlight the plight of child labourers and what can be done to help them is the objective of observation of this World Day bringing together governments, employers and workers organizations, civil society, as well as millions of people from around the globe.

Child labour is one of the main obstacles for achievement of universalisation of elementary education in our country even after 72 years of independence. The children who are engaged in child labour practices cannot go to school regularly. The academic achievement of such children who combine work and school suffers. There used to be a strong tendency with such children to drop out of school and enter into full-time employment in different working areas. Our country has made provision for free and compulsory education for all children belonging to age group 6-14 years.



This has become a fundamental right vide Article 21(A) of our constitution. Further, along with RTE Act, 2009, the Rashtriya Madyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) has been launched since 2009. Child labour is banned in our country. Hence, there is no lack of government provisions to prevent child labour in our country. The results depend upon how it is implemented and how people respond to such acts and laws.

Mizoram is one of the young states of the country which got its statehood in 1986. It is a small state having a population of around eleven lakhs as per 2011 census of India. Traditionally, it was a classless society. People are very simple, discipline, tolerant and have close relationship among each other. After getting statehood, the state has followed the path of peace and is marching ahead. The future of the state largely depends upon the education which is considered as pillar of progress for the state.

The state used to implement all centrally sponsored schemes, policies and programmes for the welfare of the state. The teacher pupil ratio at all levels of education is found to be ideal, better than the prescribed ones. The cooperation of all stake holders in achieving quality education is very important.

India's child rights crusader Kailash Satyarthi who got the Nobel Peace Prize along with Pakistani girls' education activist teenager Malala Yousafzai in 2014 said after receiving the Prize that his life's aim was to "make sure that every child is a free child". Mr.Satyarthi is a child rights' activist and the founder of the Bachpan Bachao Andolan (BBA), an organization dedicated towards the eradication of child labour and rehabilitation of child workers. Satyarthi has argued that child labour perpetuates poverty, unemployment, illiteracy and population growth. Further, Kailash Satyarthi has said *child slavery is a crime against humanity. Humanity itself is at stake here. A*

*lot of work still remains, but I will see the end of child labour in my lifetime.* It is reported that KailashSatyarthi, through his hard work, has so far freed over 83,000 children from 144 countries from slavery and child labour. There are many NGOs which are very active and keep the people united in Mizoram. Even some NGOs are there which are more influential and popular like YMA that work as pressure group. People voluntarily respect and accept the decisions of such NGOs. Thus, if the NGOs can take a stand and take active steps, it will not be impossible to end child labour in Mizoram. The NGO activists have to take it as a challenge.

The government of Mizoram has to look to the problem seriously though the prevalence of child labour practices in Mizoram is found to be lower as compared to other parts of the country. The government have to direct the administrative machineries and the Mizoram Child Protection Society to be vigilant and proactive and enforce the provisions strictly before the problem get aggravated.

All should reflect the American social worker Grace Abbott's remark that *Child labour and poverty are inevitably bound together and if you continue to use the labour of children as the treatment for the social disease of poverty, you will have both poverty and child labour to the end of time.*

Let it be hoped that all will respond and dedicate their efforts to the call of World Day against Child Labour 2019 that *children shouldn't work in fields, but on dreams* in order to end child labour in Mizoram and to make Mizoram a child labour free state of our country.

## Glimpses of child labour in Mizoram



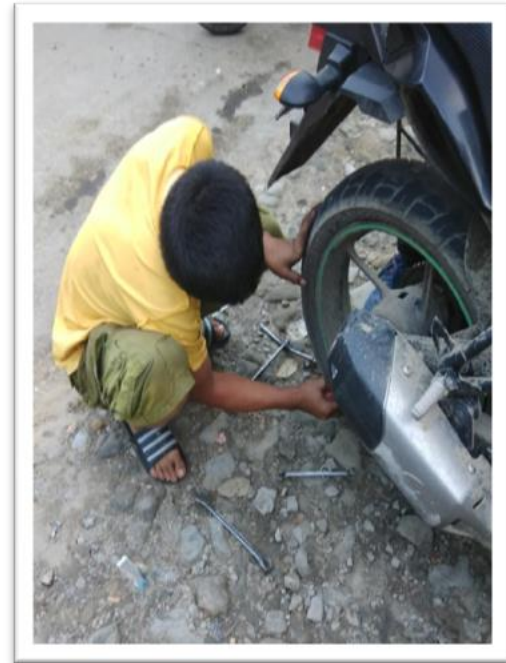
Child selling of vegetables in Bazar



Child working in construction sites



Children collecting sand at river bank



Child working in Automobile workshop



Children working in stone quarries      Children working in Car washing



Child selling tobacco products      Children engaged in manual work





Children engaged as harvesting rice



Child collecting vegetables from jhum



Child working as domestic servan



Children working in agricultural farm

## **SUMMARY**

## SUMMARY

### **Introduction**

Children need to grow in such environment which would be conducive for their all round development. They must be given proper care, guidance and affection to lead their lives with freedom and dignity. Opportunities for education and training must be provided to enable them to grow into responsible and responsive citizens. But, unfortunately, a proportion of children are deprived of their basic rights particularly rights to education worldwide. Being compelled by adverse family and social circumstances, they are found doing manual works in various sectors of the economy predominantly in the unorganised sectors to earn their lively hood and to support their family. In certain cases, minor children take the whole burden of the family. Some of them are confined, exploited and punished, reduced to slavery and are deprived of the guaranteed fundamental right of access to free and compulsory education, thus, making child labour a human rights issue and a developmental issue.

Although there are governmental acts, schemes, rules and regulations for protection of interest of children and prevention of children from exploitation; child labour continues to be a serious problem in our country. Children are the future of every nation. In India; a large number of children are neglected due to various reasons i.e. poverty, illiteracy of parents/guardians, lack of proper schooling facilities, accidents in families, natural disasters, terrorism etc. Such situations lead to employment of children in various economic activities like working as agricultural labourers, in shops, marketing establishments, hotels etc. Even though people observe child labour practices right in their front, they ignore it from their views due

to lack of proper awareness regarding Rights of Children, Child Labour Prohibition Acts and Educational Provisions.

Though some educated and prominent persons are familiar about child rights and protection acts, they are the people who engage the children in different works, even in hazardous situations. As a result, children are not only deprived of getting proper care for their physical and mental development, but also for their education. Thus, child labour and children's right to education are closely linked.

Officially, there are 23 towns, 708 inhabited villages and 26 Rural Development Blocks in the state of Mizoram. Due to poor transport and communication facilities the people, particularly in rural areas, often ignore child rights in relation to their work and education. The Constitution of India in the Fundamental Rights and the Directive Principles of State Policy prohibits child labour below the age of 14 years in any factory or mine or castle or engaged in any other hazardous employment. The constitution also envisioned that India shall provide infrastructure and resources for free and compulsory education to all children of the age six to 14 years. Although there is some child rights written in the constitution, child labour practices are common in the country as a whole and Mizoram as well. As per 2011 Census, Mizoram had 2793 child labourers.

It was found that, in the state of Mizoram, there are different government organisations and welfare schemes for children like state level child welfare committee, child protection welfare board, state child welfare committee etc. Only fourteen cases were recorded during 2008- 2014. The real picture is different. It is because there is no proper survey relating to the problem.



Further, due to socio-economic backwardness and lack of awareness of the people the children do not receive proper education and work with their parents and are engaged in labour works violating the children's rights and keeping the rules and laws of the government at stake. In the present study, an attempt has been made to find out the status of child labour in rural and urban areas of Mizoram and their prospects of education.

### **Research Questions**

- What are the government provisions relating to child labour and education in Mizoram?
- What are the major causes of child labour in rural and urban areas of Mizoram?
- What is the status of child labour in rural and urban areas of Mizoram?
- What are the differences between the status of child labour in rural and urban areas of Mizoram?
- What is the educational status of child labourers in rural and urban areas of Mizoram?
- What are the perceptions of parents/guardians and public leaders about the practice and prevention of child labour?
- What are the activities of recognised NGO's on welfare of child labourers in the state of Mizoram?
- What are the prospects for education of child labourers in Mizoram?
- What are the remedial measures to eradicate child labour practices and educate them in Mizoram?

### **Objectives of the Study**

- xi) To examine the government provisions relating to child labour and education in Mizoram.
- xii) To find out the causes of child labour in rural and urban areas of Mizoram.
- xiii) To examine the status of child labour in rural and urban areas of Mizoram.
- xiv) To compare the status of child labour in rural and urban areas of Mizoram.
- xv) To study the educational status of child labourers in rural and urban areas of Mizoram.
- xvi) To assess the perception of parents/guardians and public leaders about the practice and prevention of child labour.
- xvii) To study the activities of recognised NGO's on welfare of child labourers in the state of Mizoram.
- xviii) To conduct some case studies on child labourers in Mizoram.
- xix) To examine the prospect of education for child labourers in Mizoram.
- xx) To suggest remedial measures to eradicate child labour practices and educate them in Mizoram.

## **The Research Approach**

The present study was primarily aimed at studying the status, causes, and education of child labour in rural and urban areas of the state of Mizoram. Further, the study was intended to examine the perceptions of Parents/Guardians, Public Leaders and the Victims (Child Labourers) in the areas of study regarding various issues of child labour and to offer suggestions in the light of findings of the study. Consequently, descriptive survey approach was followed for the present study. Both qualitative and quantitative approaches i.e. mixed approach was followed for the study. Besides, case studies on some cases were conducted.

## **Sources of Data**

The following primary and secondary sources were considered to be appropriate for collection of relevant data for the present study.

B. *Primary sources:* Since the major focus of the study was to find out the status, causes, and education of child labourers in rural and urban areas of Mizoram; working children, parents /guardians, and public leaders were considered to be the appropriate primary sources for collection of relevant data for the present study.

B. *Secondary sources:* For secondary sources, different national and state survey reports, books and journals and government official records, internet, published and unpublished documents and interview with government officials and prominent citizens used to be considered as major sources. For the present study, these sources were also considered important as secondary sources of information.

### **Population and Sample**

There are 8 districts, 23 towns, 26 Rural Development Blocks and 708 inhabited villages in Mizoram. All child labourers in the state of Mizoram were the target population of the study. Stratified random sampling technique was followed for selection of sample for the study. Out of eight districts, two districts were randomly selected. From each district four localities were randomly selected. Further, from each locality ten child labourers, irrespective of their gender, were identified. From the rural areas four villages were randomly selected from each of the two districts. Further, from each village ten child labourers below the age of 14, irrespective of their gender, were identified. Thus, the sample of child labourers was comprised of 160 child labourers out of which 80 were from urban areas and the rest 80 were from rural areas. In addition to that, 30 public leaders from rural as well as urban areas were randomly selected. Besides, five parents from each locality were also included in the sample. Thus, the total sample of the study was comprised of 160 child labourers, 80 parents/guardians, and 60 public leaders. The list of sampled localities/villages is given in Table 3.01 and category wise sample distribution is presented in Table 3.02 and Figure 3.01. From among the sampled child labourers, six cases, three female and three male, were selected for in-depth case studies purposively considering their openness, work places and back ground (rural / urban).

### **Tools and Technique used**

Interview was used as the main technique for collection of relevant primary data for the study. Interview, as a technique of research, has many advantages over questionnaires and observation techniques. Personal interviews can yield high percentage of return and accurate result and can be conducted on children and adult

illiterates with greater scope for clarification and explanation. It can be flexible depending upon the situation, and the responses can be cross checked. Keeping the subjects in view, it was decided to conduct informal interviews (unstructured interviews) with the subjects for collection of data. However, to facilitate interview and to collect the specific data for fulfilling the objectives, the following two interview schedules were developed by the investigator which were used as guide for collection of the relevant data, recording of data and for systematic analysis and interpretation.

- Interview Schedule for Child Labourers
- Interview Schedule for Parents/ Guardians and Public Leaders

The interview schedule for child labourers was developed on causes of child labour, working conditions, status and their education besides some general information. The preliminary draft of the interview schedule had contained 37 items. It was given to ten experts who were working as Professors/ Associate Professors in the departments of education, sociology and social work. Basing upon the feedbacks received from the ten experts, some items were edited and some were deleted. The final interview schedule contained 30 items. The items were requiring different types of responses such as alternative and multiple choices in which more than one answer may be possible. There was no right or wrong response to the items. Thus, the interview schedule was considered to be valid. Because of diverse nature of items and expected responses, reliability of the interview schedule could not be established empirically. A copy of the interview schedule for the child labourers is appended in Appendix-A1.

The Interview Schedule for Parents/Guardians and Public Leaders was also developed following the same procedure. The preliminary draft had 26 items. After editing, 22 items were retained finally excluding the identification data. The schedule contained items on status, causes, and working conditions of child labourers besides some items seeking opinion on addressing the issue. Like the interview schedule meant for child labourers, this interview schedule was also checked by the same experts. A copy of the interview schedule for the Parents/Guardians and Public Leaders is appended in Appendix-A 2.

Besides, unstructured interviews were conducted to get relevant information from the respondents at the time of collection of data and other supplementary information as felt necessary by the researcher. Besides, the researcher had interactions with government officials and NGO leaders/ coordinators for collection of information for the study.

### **Collection of Data**

For the present study, data were collected through personal visits to the selected villages and urban localities, government offices, NGO leaders/coordinators etc. The researcher conducted personal interview with all the selected subjects. Case studies on selected cases were conducted subsequently in the second phase. Being a Mizo he did not find it difficult to establish rapport with the subjects before conducting interview and to get their opinion and relevant information.

### **Organization of Data**

Keeping the objectives of the study in view, the data were organized for the Child Labourers and Parents/Guardians and Public Leaders separately as per the items in the tools.

## **Analysis of Data**

The data were analyzed quantitatively using descriptive statistics like frequency and percentage.

## **Major Findings of the Study**

### **Government Policies and Provisions**

- Mizoram state has implemented all policies and programmes formulated by Government of India in principle which are intended to prohibit child labour in the state.

### **Causes of Child Labour**

- According to child labourers, poverty is the main reason of child labour in both rural and urban areas of Mizoram.
- According to parents/guardians, poverty is the major cause of child labour in both rural and urban areas in Mizoram. Besides, large member in the family, broken family, ignorance of adverse effects on child's health, inadequate income of parents are also found to be the other causes of child labour in the state of Mizoram.
- According to public leaders, poverty is the main problem for children being engaged as child labourers in both rural and urban areas of Mizoram. Besides, in some cases, large member in the family, broken family, ignorance of adverse effects on child's health, inadequate incomes of parents, compulsion of socio-economic disparity are the other causes of children being engaged as child labourers.

### **Reasons of employers for engaging children at work**

- According to parents/guardians, low wage rate is the main reason for the employers for engaging minor children in both rural and urban areas of Mizoram.
- Majority of the public leaders of rural and urban areas reported that low wage rate is the main reason for the employers for engaging minor children at work.

### **Reasons for parents to engage their children as labourers**

- According to parents/guardians and public leaders, poverty is the main cause that compels parents to engage their minor children as labourers even knowing its adverse effects on their children's health and education in both rural and urban areas of Mizoram.

### **Status of Child Labour in Rural and Urban areas of Mizoram**

- Though, majority of child labourers were studying, around 44% of the child labourers in Mizoram were out of school which is a serious problem.
- All rural child labourers were staying at their own homes. But, in urban areas, majority(87.5%)were staying with their families and the rest (12.5%)were staying outside their families. Out of child labourers, who were staying outside their families, 90% had left their homes as per the decision of their parents but 10% had left their homes as per their own decision. Majority of child labourers from both rural and urban areas were staying with their families and doing the works.



- Majority (68.75%) of rural child labourers were working since last 6 months to 1 year. Besides, 15% were working since 1-2 years, 12.50% were working since 2 years and above and 3.75% were working since less than 6 months in their present works respectively. Majority (58.75%) of urban child labourers reported that they were working since 1-2 years, 27.50% were working since more than 2 years and 13.75% were working since 6 months to 1 year in their present works respectively. Out of all the child labourers from both rural and urban areas, 41.25% were working as labourers since 1-2 years.
- Majority (78.12%) of child labourers of rural and urban areas were pursuing education before working at the present place and 21.88% were working at other places.
- Majority (57.50%) of child labourers of rural and urban areas had started working at the age of 12.
- Majority, (52.50%) of rural child labourers were working at agricultural farms. Besides, majority (55%) of urban child labourers were working at dhabas (roadside eateries), restaurants, hotels, motels, tea shops, resorts, spas or other recreational centres.
- Majority (93.75%) of child labourers did not receive any skill training in their work places.
- Majority, (80%) of child labour employers were not government servants. But, 20% of the employers, mostly from urban areas, were government servants.

- Majority (89.32%) of child labourers were never ill-treated by their employers in their work places.
- Majority (87.50%) of child labourers were never given punishment by their employer at their work places, the rest 12.50% of child labourers were given punishment by their employer at their work places.
- Majority (95.62%) of child labourers were hesitant to continue in their work places.
- Majority (97.50%) of child labourers from both rural and urban areas reported that their engagement had adverse effects on their health.
- Majority (96.25%) of child labourers from both rural and urban areas were not confident about their present work to be helpful for their future.
- Majority (66.87%) of the child labourers from both rural and urban areas had the feeling that their employers were satisfied with their works, but, the rest 33.13% had the feeling that their employers were not satisfied with their works.
- Majority (56.25%) of all the child labourers from both rural and urban areas reported that they were earning between Rs 2000/- and Rs 2500/- per month at their work places though the government has made minimum wage of Rs 450/- per day.
- Majority (93.75%) of all the child labourers from both rural and urban areas reported that they used to get extra payments when they were engaged overtime.

- Majority (99.37%) of all the child labourers from both rural and urban areas reported that there was no provision for medical support at their work places to meet any emergency.
- Comparison on the status of child labourers in rural and urban areas of Mizoram reveals no much difference. In all the seventeen items i.e. nature of engagement, type of accommodation, duration of engagement, status before joining work, age of starting work, working places, skill trainings, status of employer, treatment by employer, punishment at work place, motivation for the work, effects on health, future prospect, satisfaction of employer, remuneration, extra payment, and medical care at the work places, the views of the child labourers are found more or less same. The variations are in negligible percentages only, but the trend is same. The variations are only due to geographical locations and the opportunities available to work.

#### **Educational Status of Child Labour in Rural and Urban Areas of Mizoram**

- All (100%) child labourers of both rural and urban areas were admitted in the schools and were pursuing their studies before working.
- Majority (61.25%) of both rural and urban child labourers were continuing schooling while working and the rest 38.75% had discontinued schooling. Out of all dropped out child labourers 48.39%, and 51.61% had discontinued schooling due to lack of parental encouragement and their parents could not afford schooling respectively.
- All dropped out child labourers from both rural and urban areas expressed that they would like to be in the schools.

- All child labourers of rural and urban areas were interested to continue schooling, if they would be given a chance.
- Majority (63.12%) of rural child labourers had dropped out at class VI followed by classes IV (12.50%), V (12.50%), VII (12.50%), and VIII (9.37%). Similarly, majority (56.25%) of urban child labourers had dropped out at class VI followed by classes VII (16.67%), VIII (10%), IV (6.67%) and V (6.67%).
- Majority (54.38%) of child labourers from both rural and urban areas reported that no government organization has ever contacted them to continue their education. However, 45.62% of child labourers of rural and urban areas were contacted by government agencies for pursuing education.
- Majority (95%) of rural and urban child labourers were not provided with any educational facilities by their employers, but, only 5% child labourers were provided with educational facilities by their employers.
- Majority (80.62%) of child labourers from both rural and urban areas were not aware about free and compulsory universal elementary education, but, the rest 19.38% of the child labourers were aware about it.

#### **Preference on type of education**

- Majority (55.62%) of child labourers preferred to pursue schooling with formal education. Besides, 44.11% of child labourers preferred to pursue schooling with non- formal education in rural and urban areas of Mizoram.

- All (100%) the rural and urban child labourers both from rural and urban areas were not aware about the laws banning children below 14 years of age to work as labourers.
- Majority (73.12%) of child labourers from both rural and urban areas had never expressed their feelings to their parents for pursuing studies, but, 20.62% had expressed their feelings to pursue studies to their parents.
- In urban areas all children used to be admitted in different schools, but, in rural areas some children could not be admitted in the schools by their parents/guardians.
- Both in rural and urban areas of Mizoram, child labourers had not received proper motivation from their parents/guardians and public leaders to continue their education.
- All(100%) rural and urban parents/guardians and public leaders admitted the prevalence of child labour in their locality.
- According to parents/guardians and public leaders, the largest sector of engagement of child labour in rural areas is agriculture. In urban areas, Dhabas (roadside eateries), restaurants, hotels, motels, tea shops, resorts, spas or other recreational centres is the largest sector in which more children are engaged in work.
- Child labour practice is more serious in rural areas than urban areas of Mizoram and it prevails in all localities.

- All parents/guardians and all public leaders from both rural and urban areas were of the view that child labour practice has adverse effects on the health of the children.
- Majority of parents/guardians and majority of public leaders from both rural and urban areas were of the view that child labourers used to be exploited at their work places.
- Majority of parents/guardians and majority of public leaders from both rural and urban areas were of the view that child labour does not have much contribution to socio-economic development.
- Majority of parents/guardians and majority of public leaders from both rural and urban areas perceived child labour as a serious obstacle on the path of progress and prosperity of their locality.
- Majority of parents/guardians and majority of public leaders from both rural and urban areas perceived that nuclear family is one of causes for demand of child labour in Mizo society.
- All parents/guardians and public leaders of both rural and urban areas were of the view that no sectarian religious group prevents children from pursuing education in their societies.
- All parents/guardians and public leaders of both rural and urban areas of Mizoram were not having proper awareness on child labour prevention Acts and Laws of our country.
- Majority of parents/guardians and public leaders of both rural and urban areas felt the existing government policies to be inadequate for eradicating child labour in our country.

- Majority of parents/guardians and public leaders of both rural and urban areas were ignorant of any government agency in their locality working for prevention of child labour.
- Majority of parents/guardians and public leaders of both rural and urban areas were of the view that child labour should be totally banned.
- Majority of parents/guardians and public leaders of both rural and urban areas were not aware that engagement of child labour is as an offence.
- The NGOs in Mizoram are not much involved in child labour prohibition related activities.

#### **Findings on Case Studies**

- Poverty is found to be the main factor, which forces the children to be engaged in labour and deprives them from enjoying the basic human rights including right to education. In some cases the families have been ruined due to accidents, family break up, and addiction to bad habits leaving the children as orphans or like orphans. In some cases, large family size also has caused hardship. Engagement in labour has badly affected their health. The children are not happy with their nature of work and also, in some cases, at their work places and want to get themselves relieved but they find helpless.
- Child labourers are interested to pursue education, if given a chance, but in non-formal mode as they are not in a position to give up the works which is badly required for their own survival and to support their dependants. Though there are prohibition rules and regulation act, the people in and around their life are absolutely blind about them. The people who are engaging them for

different kinds of work are negligent about the child right issues. They are also not aware of the severity of such issues and its negative implications on the children.

- Issues of broken families, addiction of alcohol and drugs among the family members especially the earning member make children more prone to be the victims of child labour.
- Subjects like Science, Mathematics and English are found to be difficult to children and as such require more efforts from children in higher classes and often this has been pointed out by them to be a reason of their underperformance in school.

#### **Findings on Prospects of Education for Child Labourers in Mizoram**

- The study found that, in Mizoram, the National Child Labour Project (NCLP) is not in operation because of the fact that there is no high concentration of child labour in any of the districts of Mizoram.
- Mizoram does not have any heavy industry for which children are engaged in house hold works, particularly girls, and in other sectors like agriculture, stone quarries, hotels, dhabas, shops and the like. The works may not be hazardous but it amounts to their deprivation and exploitation.
- Mizoram is having small population. It has ideal system of education at all levels, more particularly at school levels in terms of access and teacher pupil ratio. Quality of education largely depends on quality of teachers and their sincerity.



- Mid-Day Meal (MDM) scheme is in operation in the state. Poor children are supposed to be maximally benefited out of the scheme. It motivates them for regular attendance and prevents them being drop outs. But, simply having provisions are not enough. The provisions need to be implemented in true spirit.
- Effective monitoring and supervision is essential. It is said that *prevention is better than cure*. Thus, it has to be seen that no student drops out from the schools and quality education is imparted in the schools so that no child labour is produced any more.
- Mizoram does not have any special school for the purpose. The Mizoram Child Protection Society needs to conduct survey regularly and seriously to rescue the child labourers and to rehabilitate them. Mainstreaming of children is required. The grown up/ overage children, who had dropped much earlier, may not prefer to be mainstreamed in the formal education due to psychological factors. Such children would prefer to have vocational training. Hence, it is required that special schools and vocational institutions need to be established in the state. Initially, one special school and one vocational institution of residential nature need to be established for the purpose.

The findings of the present study are in agreement with the findings of all other studies conducted on child labour in other parts of our country. All studies have found poverty as the primary cause of child labour besides some other social causes. The findings on educational status, residence, working hours, salary, treatment of employers, interest for further education, reasons for parents to engage their children etc., as found in the present study, are more or less same, except

variations in percentages, in other studies. All researchers have stressed on poverty eradication to which the present researcher agrees. Since NCLP is not in operation in the state, it is required that either NCLP be implemented in the state of Mizoram or the state government should take similar measures. Thus, the findings of previous studies validate the findings of the present research.

### **Suggestions for Prevention of Child Labour in Mizoram**

There are many causes of child labour in our country such as extreme poverty, shortage of full-fledged schools, increased population, ignorance of rules and laws that have been made to prevent child labour and increasing demand of labour, low wage rate and the like. Mizoram is not an exception to it. Poor parents do not understand how much their children are affected in the process of their physical, mental, moral and social development. Children are the future citizen of the country and getting education, playing, enjoying childhood is the natural rights of children. Child labour should be prevented and eradicated. All children must complete their secondary education minimum. The following suggestions are made for prevention and eradication of child labour in Mizoram based on the study.

- Government of Mizoram should plan and implement poverty eradication programmes seriously in rural and urban areas of Mizoram.
- Poverty stricken family/people should be identified objectively.
- Child labourer Acts and Laws should be strictly enforced by the government agencies in both rural and urban areas.
- Government agencies should take proactive action to prevent child labour.
- The children engaged in the works in the permissible ones should be paid the wages as fixed by the government for adult labourers.

- The offenders should be punished as per the provisions.
- The Mizoram Child Protection Society should conduct survey regularly every year in both rural and urban areas of the state to identify, rescue and rehabilitate the child labourers.
- The child labourers working in rural and urban areas should be brought to the arena of Education.
- The rescued child labourers, if not willing to join the mainstream of education, may be provided some vocational training for development of skills for their future.
- Right to Education Act should be implemented seriously throughout the state of Mizoram, more particularly in the rural areas.
- Functioning of schools should be monitored through effective and surprise supervision.
- School teachers and headmasters should visit the families of the children who used to remain absent or perform badly in examination and conceal the facts to their parents/guardians.
- The education officers at different levels should monitor enrolment, retention and quality education in the schools.
- Schools must be well equipped and must create the school environment attractive for the students.
- Awareness campaign should be made among the school students, parents and guardians and public leaders through different activities in the schools and outside the schools.

- The NGO's should play active role in preventing child labour. NGOs should look to enrolment, retention and quality education of children in the schools of their locality.
- Children from poor background should be provided with hostel facilities with free boarding and lodging.
- If required, residential schools should be established in every block head quarters to accommodate the needy children.
- Special schools in the model of NCLP may be established in every district of the state depending upon the need. Minimum one special school may be established in the state capital for rehabilitation of the child labourers.
- All support in shape of boarding, lodging, study materials, garments, nutrition and health care and stipends may be provided.
- People should refrain from engaging children as labourers. If people engage children in their household due to distress condition of children, they should behave them like adopted children and support their education.
- Appropriate actions by law enforcing agencies and social leaders should be taken against the parents/guardians who compel their children for child labour.
- The government should ensure regular health checkups of the children and adolescents in all localities time to time.
- Mizo society should think of adopting family planning measures without having any prejudice and inhibition.

- People should be aware of the fatal consequences of addiction upon their family and children.
- Parents should give priority to proper education of their children. They should provide study materials to their children.

### **Educational Implications of the Study**

The present study has implications for the government of Mizoram, educational planners, supervising officials, parents/ guardians, village leaders, school teachers, headmasters, child labourers, NGOs and all those who are concerned with child welfare and education in Mizoram.

*Grace Abbott*, the American social worker who worked in improving the rights of immigrants and advancing child welfare, had said “Child labour and poverty are inevitably bound together and if you continue to use the labour of children as the treatment for the social disease of poverty, you will have both poverty and child labour to the end of time.” Thus, there should be below poverty line should be identified and be provided support for the education of their children. If required, residential schools may be established in every block where the child labourers may be provided facilities to pursue their education after rescuing them. Further, hostel facilities may be provided in the upper primary and secondary schools with free boarding and lodging. Study materials and school uniforms may be provided. State government should ensure providing engagement to the adults for earning their livelihood and to support their families. All relevant acts and laws should be strictly implemented. The law enforcing agencies should be instructed to take proactive measures for prevention of child labour. The offenders should be punished as per the provisions.

Educational planners and supervisors must look into creation of attractive and motivating school environment where quality education is imparted. Regular attendance of students and their academic progress should be given stress. The supervisors/inspecting authorities should make surprise visits to schools and monitor academic activities. The Mid Day Meal (MDM) scheme being operated in the schools should be monitored effectively by which the poor students can be benefitted. It would help in preventing drop out.

Parents/guardians should be made aware of the various laws and acts relating child labour and the implications of child labour upon the physical, mental, social and emotional development of their children. They should be made aware of the provision of punishments in the acts and laws so that they will refrain from engaging their wards in the work force. They should support the education of their children at any cost and look to the future of their children without discontinuing their education. Parents who are addicted to bad habits and that create difficulties to the family and education of their children should give up such habits. They should lead peaceful family life.

In Mizo society, people participate in different socio-cultural activities voluntarily. Though, there is gradual change in the scenario, people respect the customary laws more than the constitutional/ government laws. In various socio-cultural activities people make voluntary financial contributions. Poor people should not make it as a prestige issue and should not compete with others for equal contributions being in trouble.

The village leaders in rural areas and the councillors in the urban areas must take accountability for any kind of child labour in their locality. They should have a vigilant eye on school going children and try to get feedback from the schools relating absentees, visit their homes, counsel the children, their parents and guardians and see that no child drops out from the school. They should see that no one engages children as labourers. They should facilitate the poverty stricken people of their village/wards to improve their economic status availing the various welfare schemes of government.

The school teachers and headmasters have to take the issues of absenteeism of students and their drop out seriously. They should not only focus on quality education in their schools but also focus on creating attractive and motivating environment for the students. They should have counselling with students and their parents through their personal visits to the villages and homes of the students. Teachers may cite the examples of great personalities who could reach high positions and have achieved credentials in spite of lot of hindrances during their childhood.

The school children must be aware of the consequences of hard manual labour upon their health. At no cost they should give up their studies, and should think their future carrier. They should dream for future with realistic aspirations and put efforts to achieve the same.

NGOs plays important role in Mizo society and have great influence on the people. The NGOs should play actively to prevent child labour practices in Mizo society. Their efforts should be to put every child in class.

## **Limitations of the Study**

The investigator had tried to be scientific and objective in the conduct of the study.

However, the study might have contained the following limitations:

- Interview as a technique requires more time for collection of data. As such, the sample of the study was limited to 160 child labourers, 80 parents/guardians, and 60 public leaders from two districts of Mizoram.
- For collection of data no standardized tool was used. Two interview schedules were developed by the investigators himself which might have not been free from defects.
- The data were collected through interview only. The investigator might have failed to get right information from the subjects due to lack of expertise.
- Effective interview presupposes proper rapport with the respondents and creation of suitable atmosphere to facilitate free and frank responses. This difficult requirement might not have been fulfilled in all cases.
- The respondents might have hesitated to give correct responses with the fear that it would adversely affect their image.
- The respondents might have been emotionally involved with the interviewer and given answers in order to please the interviewer. Also, some respondents might have inhibited free responses.
- Due to lack of resources the researcher might not have gone through all related literature and research studies.



## **Conclusion**

If we can eradicate child labour, then we can aspire for a better future. Since 2002, every year 12<sup>th</sup> June is observed as World Day Against Child Labour as has been launched by the International Labour Organization (ILO) to focus attention on the global extent of child labour and the action and efforts needed to eliminate it. To highlight the plight of child labourers and what can be done to help them is the objective of observation of this World Day bringing together governments, employers and workers organizations, civil society, as well as millions of people from around the globe.

Child labour is one of the main obstacles for achievement of universalisation of elementary education in our country even after 72 years of independence. The children who are engaged in child labour practices cannot go to school regularly. The academic achievement of such children who combine work and school suffers. There used to be a strong tendency with such children to drop out of school and enter into full-time employment in different working areas. Our country has made provision for free and compulsory education for all children belonging to age group 6-14 years. This has become a fundamental right vide Article 21(A) of our constitution. Further, along with RTE Act, 2009, the Rashtriya Madyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) has been launched since 2009. Child labour is banned in our country. Hence, there is no lack of government provisions to prevent child labour in our country. The results depend upon how it is implemented and how people respond to such acts and laws.

Mizoram is one of the young states of the country which got its statehood in 1986. It is a small state having a population of around eleven lakhs as per 2011 census of India.

Traditionally, it was a classless society. People are very simple, discipline, tolerant and have close relationship among each other. After getting statehood, the state has followed the path of peace and is marching ahead. The future of the state largely depends upon the education which is considered as pillar of progress for the state.

The state used to implement all centrally sponsored schemes, policies and programmes for the welfare of the state. The teacher pupil ratio at all levels of education is found to be ideal, better than the prescribed ones. The cooperation of all stake holders in achieving quality education is very important.

India's child rights crusader Kailash Satyarthi who got the Nobel Peace Prize along with Pakistani girls' education activist teenager Malala Yousafzai in 2014 said after receiving the Prize that his life's aim was to "make sure that every child is a free child". Mr.Satyarthi is a child rights' activist and the founder of the Bachpan Bachao Andolan (BBA), an organization dedicated towards the eradication of child labour and rehabilitation of child workers. Satyarthi has argued that child labour perpetuates poverty, unemployment, illiteracy and population growth. Further, Kailash Satyarthi has said *child slavery is a crime against humanity. Humanity itself is at stake here. A lot of work still remains, but I will see the end of child labour in my lifetime.* It is reported that Kailash Satyarthi, through his hard work, has so far freed over 83,000 children from 144 countries from slavery and child labour. There are many NGOs which are very active and keep the people united in Mizoram. Even some NGOs are there which are more influential and popular like YMA that work as pressure group. People voluntarily respect and accept the decisions of such NGOs. Thus, if the NGOs can take a stand and take active steps, it will not be impossible to end child labour in Mizoram. The NGO activists have to take it as a challenge.

The government of Mizoram has to look to the problem seriously though the prevalence of child labour practices in Mizoram is found to be lower as compared to other parts of the country. The government have to direct the administrative machineries and the Mizoram Child Protection Society to be vigilant and proactive and enforce the provisions strictly before the problem get aggravated.

All should *reflect* the American social worker *Grace Abbott's* remark *that Child labour and poverty are inevitably bound together and if you continue to use the labour of children as the treatment for the social disease of poverty, you will have both poverty and child labour to the end of time.*

Let it be hoped that all will respond and dedicate their efforts to the call of World Day against Child Labour 2019 *that children shouldn't work in fields, but on dreams* in order to end child labour in Mizoram and to make Mizoram a child labour free state of our country.

## **APPENDICES**

**APPENDIX A1**

**INTERVIEW SCHEDULE FOR CHILD LABOURERS**

**General Information of child labourers**

Name :  
Father's Name :  
Age :  
Sex : Male  Female   
Locality : Urban  Rural   
Main sources of income of the family: Service  Business   
Agriculture  Labour  Any other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

**Section A: Causes of Child Labour:**

1. What caused you to go for your engagement as labourer?

Poverty   
Divorce of parents   
Carelessness of parents   
Orphan   
Large member of the family   
Inadequate income of the family   
Supplementing the income of the family   
Skill enhancement   
Compulsion by parents

Others (specify) –

**Section B: Status of Child Labour**

2. What is the nature of engagement?

Working full time   
Working part time and studying   
Working part time and helping in the house hold works

3. Are you staying away from your house? Yes  No

If yes, it was of whose decision?

Own decision  Parents' decision

4. How long you have been engaged in the present work?
- Less than 6 months
- 6 months to 1 Year
- 1-2 Years
- 2 Years and above

5. What were you doing before joining the present work place?
- Pursuing education  Working at another place

6. At what age you started working: \_\_\_\_\_

7. What is your work place?

- Shops
- Cloth printing, dyeing and weaving
- Automobile workshops and garages
- Saw Mills
- Handlooms
- Soap manufacturer
- Building and construction industry
- Abattoirs/Slaughter House
- Printing
- Soldering process in electronic industry
- Domestic workers or servants
- Dhabas (roadside eateries), restaurants, hotels, motels, tea shops,  
resorts, spas or other recreational centres
- Automobile repairs and maintenance including processes incidental  
thereto namely, welding, lathe work, dent beating and painting
- Tobacco processing including manufacturing of tobacco,  
tobacco paste, and handling of tobacco in any form
- Tyre making, repairing, re-treading and graphite beneficiation
- Food Processing
- Stone breaking and stone crushing
- Fabrication workshop
- Handling of pesticides and insecticides
- Selling of commodities in bazaar and roadside (fruits, vegetables, etc)

- Agricultural farm
- Oil palm and rubber plantation farm
- Harvesting of coconuts and betel nuts
- Harvesting brooms
- Any other (Specify)\_\_\_\_\_

8. Have you ever received any skill training? Yes  No

9. Is your employer a government servant?  
 Yes  No

10. Have you ever been ill-treated by your employer?  
 Yes  No

11. Have you ever been punished by your employers at work place?  
 Yes  No

12. Are you hesitant to do the work?  
 Yes  No

13. Do you feel that the work affect your health?  
 Yes  No

14. Are you confident that the present work will help for your future?  
 Yes  No

15. Is your employer satisfied with your work?  
 Yes  No

16. How much you earn per month?
- Less than Rs 1000/-
  - Between Rs 1000/- and Rs 1500/-
  - Between Rs 1500/- and Rs 2000/-
  - Between Rs 2000/- and Rs 2500/-
  - Above Rs 2500/- i.e. Rs-----

17. Is there any extra payment for overtime work? Yes  No

18. Is there any medical care in your working place? Yes  No

**Section C: Education**

19. Have you ever been admitted to school?  
 Yes  No

20. Have you discontinued your studies?

Yes  No

If, Yes? (Give reasons)

Parents did not encourage schooling

School was too far

Parents could not afford schooling

Not interested in school

School was not considering valuable by family

School was not safe

21. Do you still like being in the School?

Yes  No

22. If given a chance will you continue your study?

Yes  No

23. In which class did you dropped out from school?

Class I

Class II

Class III

Class IV

Class V

Class VI

Class VII

Class VIII

24. Has any government organization contacted you for pursuing education?

Yes  No

25. Does your employer provide educational facilities?

Yes  No

26. Are you aware of the Universal Compulsory primary education?

Yes  No

27. If given a chance, what type of education would you prefer?

Formal  Skill training



28. Are you aware of the laws banning of children below 14 years of age from work?

Yes  No

29. Have you ever expressed your idea of pursuing studies to your parents?

Yes  No

**Section D: Liberation**

30. Do you have any suggestions to get liberated yourself from child labour?

Yes  No

If yes please specify? \_\_\_\_\_

**APPENDIX A2**

**INTERVIEW SCHEDULE FOR PARENTS/ GUARDIANS,  
AND PUBLIC LEADERS**

**Identification Data**

Name of the Village /Streets and Address :

Name of the interviewee :

Sex : Male  Female

Status: Parent/ Guardian  Public Leader

**Section A: Causes of Child Labour:**

1. According to your opinion, what are the primary causes of child labour in your locality?

Poverty

Large member in the family

Ignorance of adverse effects on child's health

Compulsion of socio-economic disparity

Inadequate income of parents

Broken family

Death of parents

Others (specify) -

2. According to your opinion, what are the primary reasons for the employers for engaging minor children at work?

Low wage rate

Profit motive

Easy to manage

Trust worthiness

Flexible work

Easily available

No trade union

Others (specify) -

3. According to your opinion, why the parents engage their minor children as labourers even knowing its adverse effects on their children's health and education?

- Compulsion of socio-economic disparity
- Poverty
- Divorce of parents
- Carelessness of parents
- Orphan
- Large member in the family
- Inadequate income of the family
- Supplementing the income of the family
- Skill enhancement
- Others (specify) –

**Section B: Education**

4. Have you admitted your child for formal/ non-formal/special school education?

Formal  Non-Formal  Special School

5. Do you compel the children to continue their education? Yes  No

**Section C: Practice**

6. Have you seen children engaged in any kind of job? Yes  No

7. According to your observation, which are the major fields in which more child labourers are working in your locality?

- Shops
- Cloth printing, dyeing and weaving
- Automobile workshops and garages
- Saw Mills
- Handlooms
- Soap manufacturer
- Building and construction industry
- Abattoirs/Slaughter House
- Printing

- Soldering process in electronic industry
- Domestic workers or servants
- Dhabas (roadside eateries), restaurants, hotels, motels, tea shops, resorts, spas or other recreational centres
- Automobile repairs and maintenance including processes incidental thereto namely, welding, lathe work, dent beating and painting
- Tobacco processing including manufacturing of tobacco, tobacco paste, and handling of tobacco in any form
- Tyre making, repairing, re-treading and graphite beneficiation
- Food Processing
- Stone breaking and stone crushing
- Fabrication workshop
- Handling of pesticides and insecticides
- Selling of commodities in bazaar and roadside (fruits, vegetables, etc.)
- Agricultural farm
- Oil palm and rubber plantation farm
- Harvesting of coconuts and betel nuts
- Harvesting brooms
- Any other (Specify)\_\_\_\_\_

8. According to your observation, child labour practice is more serious in which area? Urban  Rural
9. Do you feel that child labour is a serious problem in your locality? Yes  No
10. Do you feel that child labour adversely affects the health of the children? Yes  No
11. Do you think that child labourers are being exploited in their work places? Yes  No
12. Do you think that child labour contributes for socio-economic development? Yes  No
13. Do you think that child labour is a serious obstacle on the path of progress and prosperity of your locality? Yes  No

14. Do you think that adoption of nuclear families in the Mizo society, at present times, has increased the demand for child labour, especially in attending household works? Yes  No

**Section D: Preventions**

15. Do you think that child labour is increasing in Mizo society as certain sectarian religious groups prevent children from pursuing education? Yes  No

If so, name them-

16. Do you know that there are child labour prevention acts and laws in our country? Yes  No

17. Do you feel the government policies are adequate for eradicating child labour in our country? Yes  No

18. Do you find any government agency in your locality working for prevention of child labour? Yes  No

19. Do you think that child labour should be totally banned in Mizo society? Yes  No

20. Are you aware that engagement of child labour is an offence? Yes  No

21. Are you aware that child labour will cause adult unemployment? Yes  No

**Section E: Eradication**

22. For completely eradicating child labour problem in your locality what measures need to be taken?

Effective enforcement of Right to Education (RTE) Act

Poverty eradication programme

Effective enforcement of child labour rules and regulation Act

Development of awareness of people through Multi Media

Adoption of small family norm

Active role of NGOs like YMA, KTP, TKP, MHIP, MZP, MSU etc.

APPENDIX B1



# The Mizoram Gazette

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## NOTIFICATION

No.A.12025/2/2010-LE&IT, the 23<sup>rd</sup> June, 2010. In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) of Section 18 of the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 (61 of 1986) the Government of Mizoram hereby makes the following rules, namely:-

1. **Short title and commencement -**

- 1) These rules may be called the Mizoram Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Rules, 2010.
- 2) They shall come into force on the date of their publication in the Mizorm Gazette.

2. **Definitions :**

- In these rules, unless the context otherwise requires :-
- a) "Act" means the Mizoram Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 (61 of 1986)
  - b) "Form" means a form appended to these rules.
  - c) "Government" means the Government of Mizoram.
  - d) "Register" means the register required to be maintained under Section 11 of the Act;
  - e) "Schedule" means the schedule appended to the Act;
  - f) "Section" means a section of the Act.

3. **Registers to be maintained :**

- (1) Every occupier of an establishment shall maintain a register in respect of children employed or permitted to work, in Form A appended to these Rules.
- (2) The register shall be maintained on a yearly basis and shall be retained by the employer for a period of three years after the date of the last entry made therein.



**4. Certificate of Age-**

- (1) All young persons in employment in any of the occupations set forth in Part A of the Schedule, or in any workshop wherein any of the processes set forth in Part B of the schedule is carried on, shall produce a certificate of age from the appropriate authority when ever required to do so by an Inspector.
- (2) The appropriate Authority for the purpose of sub-rule (1) shall be - Government Medical Officer.
- (3) The certificate of age to be obtained from the Government Medical Officer shall be issued in Form B appended to these Rules.
- (4) The charges payable to the medical authority for the issue of such certificate shall be the same as prescribed by the State Government or the Central Government, as the case may be for their respective Medical Boards.
- (5) Any fee payable to the Medical Authority shall be paid by the employer of the child whose age is under question.

P. Lianhrima,  
Secretary to the Govt. of Mizoram,  
Labour, Employment & Industrial Training Department,  
Mizoram : Aizawl.



**FORM 'A'**  
[ See rules 3 (1) ]

Year : \_\_\_\_\_

Name & Address : \_\_\_\_\_  
of employer

Place of employer : \_\_\_\_\_

Nature of work being done by the establishment : \_\_\_\_\_

Sl.No.	Name of Children.	Father's Name	Date of Birth	Permanant address	Date of joining the establishment	Name of the work on which employed	Daily hours of work	Intervals of rest	Wage paid	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11

**FORM 'B'**  
(Certificate of Age)  
[ See rule 4 (3) ]

Certificate No. \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby certify that I have personally examined (name) \_\_\_\_\_  
Son/daughter of \_\_\_\_\_ residing at \_\_\_\_\_ and that he/she  
\_\_\_\_\_ has completed his/her fourteenth year and his/her age, as nearly as can be  
ascertained from my examination is \_\_\_\_\_ years (completed). His/her descriptive marks are  
\_\_\_\_\_

Thumb impression/signature of child \_\_\_\_\_

Passport size Photo of the child

Signature by Medical officer on the photo

Place \_\_\_\_\_

Medical Authority/Medical Officer,

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Designation



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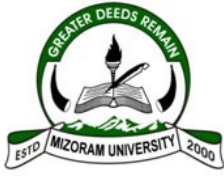
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## **Child Labour in Mizoram: A Case Study**

**Lalliantluanga Ralte**<sup>\*</sup>  
**B. B. Mishra**<sup>†</sup>

### **Abstract**

*Child labour is a serious issue and the figure is alarming in the global context and in the context of our nation. The problem of child labour is much more complex than it seems to be. In the context of Mizoram which is an ethnic close knit society, all forms of works performed by children are not considered child labour as per the cultural practices. This can be because of deep association of this society with cultural practices and traditions where children working with elders are not an issue of compromising the child rights. In reality, officially no accurate figure of children who are engaged as employee or involved in one or other form of work throughout Mizoram are not available. Moreover, in-depth study of them has not been conducted so far that could create awareness among the people of the society and for taking measures by the state government. The present study was undertaken to have some close in-depth case observations of children who were engaged as labourers. Six children, three male and three female, under the age of fourteen were identified from their work places in rural and urban areas of Aizawl. The study revealed the socio-economic causes of child labour in the state.*

**Keywords:** *Child Labour, Poverty, Social Causes, Educational Status, Educational Prospect.*

### **Introduction**

Child labour is a global phenomenon, particularly in developing and under developed countries. Since the foundation of International Labour Organization ((ILO) in 1919, the protection of children has been embedded in the Preamble of ILO's Constitution. The ILO celebrated 100 years of advancing social justice this year on 12<sup>th</sup> June 2019. In the convention, it was reported that 152 million children were still in child labour all over the world. The ILO review edits achievement over the 100 years of its support to countries on tackling child labour and also looked forward towards the UN Sustainable Development Goal Target 8.7 set for an end to child labour in all its forms by 2025. The theme of ILO's 100 years celebration is *Children shouldn't work in fields, but on dreams.*

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Though, there is no universally acceptable definition of child labour, age is a universally accepted criterion. India's Census 2001 defines child labour as participation of a child less than 17 years of age in any economically productive activity with or without compensation, wages or profit. Keeping the Right to Education Act, 2009 in view which is meant for universalising elementary education for the children between the age group 6-14 years, in the present study child means who has not completed his fourteenth year of age. The children in this age group are in formative stage physically and mentally. Any kind of exploitation and oppression on them lead to child abuse.

Child labour continues to be a serious problem in our country though there are governmental acts, schemes, rules and regulations for protection of children's interest and end child labour. Access, retention and quality are the parameters which are emphasised at all levels of education. There is broad consensus that the single most effective way to check the flow of school age children into labour market is to extend and improve access to quality school education. The Constitution of India had made a provision under article 45 as a directive principle for free and compulsory education for all children up to the age of fourteen years within ten years of promulgation of the constitution. Free and compulsory education became a fundamental right with the 86th Constitutional Amendment in December 2002 resulting insertion of Article 21-A in part III of the constitution. Subsequently, The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 was made on 26th August 2009 and became effective in all Indian states, except Jammu and Kashmir, with effect from 1st April 2010 confirming Article 21-A. This Act is a milestone in the history of Indian school education which would address the issues of child labour in our country. Besides, through articles 24, 39-e, and 39-f, the Constitution of India has made provisions to prevent child labour in our country.

The major national legislative and judicial developments for eradication of child labour in our country include The Factories Act, 1948, The Minimum Wages Act, 1948, The Mines Act, 1952, The Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986, Supreme Court Decision, 1996, and The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection) of Children Act, 2000. Some of these acts have also been amended. After the enactment of the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986, a National Child Labour Policy was adopted in 1987. Government of India has initiated the National Child Labour Project (NCLP) in 1988 after two years of enactment of National Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 to rehabilitate working children which is a 100% centrally funded scheme.

### **Causes and Consequences of Child Labour**

For many reasons children join the labour force. Studies conducted in different parts of the country have revealed children working the main causes of child labour to be poverty, large family size, migration, illiteracy and ignorance, family break up, natural disasters, urbanization, unemployment of elders, addiction of parents, orphans and the like. Child labour refers to that type of works which are likely to harm the health, safety or morals of children. Hazardous child labour is the work that is performed by children in dangerous and unhealthy conditions that can lead to a child being killed, injured, permanently disable, and

psychological damage. The worst forms of exploitation include slavery, trafficking, and sexual exploitation. Generally, child labourers suffer from long term health problems due to malnutrition, exposure to chemicals, abuse, injuries, exhaustion, and psychological harm. They may suffer from burns, respiratory issues, cancer, HIV/AIDS and may have sleep problems and behavioural problems. Some of them become addicted to consuming cigarettes, drugs, alcohol and other narcotic substances and also involve in criminal activities. Many have unwanted pregnancy and abortion, and even death. Such children are more prone to drop out from schools.

### **Rationale of the Study**

India is the second largest populous country in the world and has a huge contingency of children i.e. approximately thirty-five million. It is a country having a numerous diversity of people. Most of the children engaged in labour used to work under some short of compulsions. Despite of constitutional and legal provisions for prohibition of labour by children under fourteen years of age, it continues to be a serious problem.

Mizoram got its statehood in 1986. The development in education sector happened quite late as compared to other states. The state does not have any major development in industrial sector because of difficult geographical location and lack of mineral resources. The major occupation of people is agriculture which is not that productive for which many people are there below poverty line. The children engaged in labour are low paid and suffer from various health problems. As per the 2001 and 2011 Census data, the state had 26,265 and 2793 child labourers respectively. Besides the official data, the number may be more as it is difficult to identify who work largely in the unorganised sectors, within the family or in household-based units and become invisible. Since the criteria for selection of districts for implementation of NCLP is the high concentration of child labour in the district, none of the eight districts of Mizoram has been selected. There is lack of empirical studies on child labour. With the hope that more information on the life and education of such cases can be revealed, the investigators had conducted case studies where the information provided by the cases and self-narrations of the selected child-labourers have been mentioned followed by interpretations.

### **Objectives of the Study**

The study was conducted with the key objective of conducting case studies on child labourers under the age of fourteen for revealing the causes of child labour in Mizoram and to examine the prospect of education of child labourers in Mizoram.

### **Methodology**

**Selection of the Cases:** Though initially ten cases were identified and data were collected, finally six, three male and three female, child labourers were selected for analysis and interpretation basing upon their openness and nature of work.

**Collection of Data:** Semi-structured interview was used as the technique for data collection. The investigator visited the cases under study and interviewed them after establishing rapport. The information collected are organized and presented below with interpretation.

**Case Descriptions:** In description of the cases, anonymity has been maintained due to ethical considerations. The real identity of the cases are not exposed, instead, pseudo names have been used.

### **Case 1: Case Study of Puii**

Puii is a thirteen and half year old girl living in Aizawl District. She is the eldest child in her family and has three sisters and two brothers. Family does not own a house and is living in rented house. Her parents are uneducated and their occupation is stone crushing on daily basis. They earn daily wages according to their work but the family income is very low. In spite of all the shortcomings, both the parents are struggling hard to educate their children and maintain the family. Puii was admitted in a local school at the age of 6 years. She was very weak in English, mathematics and science subjects and her parents were too poor to afford any private tuition for those difficult subjects. She used to attend household chores like cooking, washing, caring of her younger sisters and to support her parents. Presently, she is enrolled in class VII, but she is not regular in attending school as she is having more load of household works as she has grown into an adolescent. Subsequently, she is not finding any time to relax and concentrate on her education. She narrated - *“I think that I may not pursue very high education because I am the eldest child and I have to always help and support my parents and take care of my younger sisters and brothers, but, I wish to complete Graduation.”*

Puii was engaged as a part time labourer initially and she joined her parents when she attained the age of 10 years. Every Saturday and holidays she used to be busy in helping her parents at stone quarry for crushing stones. Due to lack of time, she could not concentrate on her studies for which her academic performance was very poor. Due to the deficiency in family income, she is trying to work more often. With her work in supporting to parents she is able to earn around Rs. 300/- per day. She shared - *I am working with my parents since last few years, when I was 10 years. There is a growing need of increasing family income and I have to support my parents. I am able to earn around Rs. 300/- per day if I work hard for whole day with my parents at the stone quarry”*

Further, the case informed that her family size is large in comparison to the family income. Recently, she suffered from infection as she narrated - *“When I was a child I was very healthy but when I started working with my parents in stone quarry, while crushing stones I developed coughing symptoms. Doctor said I have developed some sinus problem, and now I feel weak”.*

### **Interpretation**

Poverty is the main factor which forced Puii to join the work force and deprived her from enjoying the childhood and is affecting her education. She had health problems because of her engagement in stone quarry. She is in need of proper medical attention to get relieved from her health problems. In spite of all the shortcomings, she has concern for her family, particularly the education of her siblings, and is aspiring to get her graduation degree. She did



not have any negative attitude towards her parents as she knows how hard they are working for the family.

### **Case 2: Case Study of Sangi**

Thirteen year old girl Sangi is the eldest child of the family living in Aizawl district. She had lost her father recently in 2017 in a road accident and her mother is working in stone crushing on daily basis. Sangi has two sisters and one brother who are pursuing their studies.. Her father was driving taxi, but after his death, her mother was the only person to earn for the family. Her mother is working hard to educate all her children. When the father was alive, the family was not having any serious financial problem and the parents were able to take proper care of all the children. Sangi shared that, at times, she feels insecure after the death of her father. She finds difficulty in adjustment in school. She feels that she is being subjected to bullying by her schoolmates. On a very shy note she narrated - *“I am not able to make good friends now as some comment on my family. I can do nothing about this but have to constantly face this. I wish my father would have been there to solve my problem.”*

Sangi was admitted in the school at the age of 6 years and she was an average student in her class. She is presently studying in local school in class VII and has apprehension for her academic performance. She told - *“As I am moving to higher classes, I am facing difficulty in understanding science and mathematics subjects. These subjects are very hard and I am not getting any help from any tutor. I think I cannot study it on my own.”*

As the eldest child of the family, Sangi has to do domestic works like cooking, washing, caring of her younger siblings and guiding them in their studies. Though she was average in studies, at present, she is not able to give time to her studies and apprehending about her success. She narrated - *“I may not have a chance to continue my education, although I want to continue education because of high expectations from my teachers.”*

Sangi is engaged as a part time labourer since her father passed away. She has joined with her mother when she was 12 years and hopes to finish her school education at least. She also reported some health problems after she started working in stone quarry. She revealed - *“If we work whole day crushing stones to fill a tin bucket full to its top, we can only earn Rs. 20 per tin which is very negligible in return of time and energy we spend.”*

### **Interpretation**

Due to loss of father, Sangi has a struggling life so far. She feels insecure at school and her present status creates difficulties to make friends and constantly trouble her in coping up in school. She has difficulties in Science and Mathematics subjects. She got some health problems after she started working in stone quarry.

### **Case 3: Case Study of Kimi**

Thirteen years old Kimi is the only girl child in her family. She is the eldest child and has three brothers. Her family lives in a village. Her parents are uneducated and agriculture is the source of income of the family. The family practices jhum cultivation to support their

everyday life. Unfortunately, her father is an alcohol addict and he spends a lot of money on his habit. Consequently, he did not take proper care of his children. Further, her mother had medical problems of allergy and thyroid abnormality for which she requires treatment. Besides, she cannot perform household chores. The elderly children in the family help their parents in agriculture. When the children are free, they work outside to earn in order to support the family. Kimi was admitted in the school at the age of 6 years but now she is a drop out of class VII. As a student, Kimi was an average student and language subjects were her favourite. However, due to the family situation she was compelled to drop out. As the only girl child in the family, she has to do domestic works like cooking, washing etc. when she used to be at home. Due to the addiction of her father to alcohol, there used to be break of peace at her home about which she narrated - *“Our home environment is not supportive for our studies and my father does not care about us. We are living difficult life and to support my siblings, I have to earn.”*

Kimi left her family and village to work as a domestic helper at Aizawl city. At her work place, she takes care of her employer’s children and also doing household works full time. In her words - *“The main reason why I engaged myself as a servant is poverty. Poverty compelled me to work as domestic servant without attending school.”*

She is not satisfied with her present work as the job is of low dignity and also has adverse effects on her health. Regarding her job she narrated - *“It affects my health because I have to do a lot of household chores besides taking care of children; I feel tired very often and some time have back pain, and I feel uncomfortable as my working hours are very long.”*

Kimi expressed that she would have continued her education but she had to earn to support her family. She has almost lost her touch with studies and yearns to go back to school. She misses her school and wants to get back there regarding which she exclaimed - *“I miss my school; that was a good time and place where I had friends. If there is any way, I want to return to my school.”*

### **Interpretation**

Due to poverty, bad habit of the father, illness of the mother and to support the education of her brothers, Kimi had dropped out from the school and is engaged as domestic helper. Due to work pressure, she has got some health problems. She is recalling her sweet experiences at school and missing her friends. She has the desire to pursue education.

### **Case 4: Case Study of Thanga**

Thanga, 13 year old boy, is found working in an automobile work shop. When he was only of 9 years old, his parents got divorced. Initially, he was taken care of by his mother but subsequently, her mother got remarried. Thanga’s father was working as a lower division clerk in one government office, but, he always spent money on gambling, extra-marital relations and did not care about his family. His mother is uneducated and was earning by vending vegetables to support herself and her son. They were living in a rented house in an isolated area of Aizawl city. Thanga was admitted to the school at the age of 6 years and he

was a much disciplined student. After remarriage of her mother he has dropped out of school at class VI. He narrated - *“I would have continued my education but, there was no one to provide support to me. Sometimes, I feel pity on myself as I failed to continue my education like my friends.”*

He has been working in the automobile workshop on daily since one year. He receives an amount of Rs 2500 /- per month and, at times, receives some bonus from his employer.

He narrated – *“I get very tired after every day’s work and get no time for anything else. I do not like my present work because there used to be lots of customers every day and my employer scolds me if my work is not up to the satisfaction of the customers.”* He further expressed - *“My ambition was to be a government servant, but as of now, I have no scope to fulfil my aspiration. I always consider that this work would not help me in my future prospect.”*

Though Thanga was a healthy boy during his childhood, he often suffers from back pain and headache. There is no medical support in his place of work in case of emergency and he used to get himself checked up in the hospital at his own expenses. The doctors have suggested him not to continue his present work, but he has to continue until he gets another job.

### **Interpretation**

Thanga has dropped out mainly due to divorce of parents and remarriage of his mother. To maintain himself he has joined as a full time worker in an automobile workshop. His aspirations and dreams could not be fulfilled and he did not see any future prospect working at his present work. Besides, he also hesitates continuing at his present work place because it was affecting his health and his employer used to scold him when customers are not satisfied with his work.

### **Case 5: Case Study of Kima**

The thirteen year old eldest son in the family Kima has two sisters and two brothers and their grandparents in a joint family. His father is a watchman in one of government office and this is their main sources of income. Their standard of living is very low due to big family size and lack of adequate income. They do not have their own house and are living in a rented house. Unfortunately, one of his brother got bone marrow cancer and the family spent a lot of money for his treatment and that has created financial hardship. His mother is also sick may be because she delivered many children at young age. He narrated - *“As we are a big family, my father’s income is not adequate to support our education, we have to take care of our grandparents, and we spent a lot of money for my brother’s treatment.”*

Like other children, Kima was admitted in the school at the age of 6 years. However, he dropped out at class VI due to the family problems. As the eldest child among the siblings in his family, he has to do a lot of works such as taking care of his siblings, performing household works etc. He did not have sufficient time to study at his home. Further, his family

could not support his education due to lack of income. He expressed - *“I am still interested to continue my education, if given a chance with non-formal education as a part-timer, but to support my family, I have to work whatever job I get.”*

He has been working at a construction site since last two years. His nature of work comprises of doing cement work and carrying heavy loads to his age. It is due to this work that he is now a school dropout. He joined his present job when he attained the age of 11 years and he receives an amount of Rs 3000 /- per month. In his words - *“I am very tired due to my present work as this job is very tough and harmful to my physical development.”*

### **Interpretation**

The case study of Kima revealed that due to poverty he has dropped out from school and joined full time job at construction work to supplement his family income. Though his health condition was good before joining the work, he is getting shoulder pain which may be due to the effect of his present work. He used to get very tired and dislike his present work because his job is very tough and harmful to his physical development. He is interested to continue his education if he is given a chance through non-formal education as he is compelled to do some job to supplement the income of the family.

### **Case 6: Case Study of Liana**

Thirteen years old Liana is the only child in his family whose parents passed away in a road accident when he was only 10 years old. Since then he has been looked after by his grandmother who is also old. The family does not have own house and living in a rented house in south corner of the Aizawl city. He is selling tobacco and its products for income along with his grandmother. He was admitted in the school at the age of 6 years but his grandmother could not afford his school expenditure after the death of his parents, and the school environment was not friendly to him as sometimes he used to be bullied by his friends. He narrated - *“I am one of the most unfortunate persons in this world, because I have lost my parents very early, and I could not continue my education for which I was interested. I had to leave the school at Class VI, while most of my friends are pursuing education supported by their families.”*

His grandmother is engaged by the agent in selling of tobacco and its products every day and he helps her. He used to earn Rs 20/- if he could sell a dozen of cigarette packets. In his words - *“I am engaged fulltime with my grandmother and we are selling tobacco and its products around the city every day. I wish to pursue education, but my grandmother has become old now and she cannot work for the whole day. So, if I do not help her, we will not be able to pay even the rent of the house and cannot survive.”*

He further expressed - *“I was a very healthy boy during my childhood, but when I started selling tobacco and its products, I feel, I am suffering from coughing and allergic problems.”*

### **Interpretation**

The case of Liana reveals that he has dropped out from school and is engaged in selling tobacco and its products along with his grandmother for their survival. It is because he lost both his parents at the age of 10 and there is no other person to look after them. He is interested to continue his education, but he has no way out. He was found ignorant of the fact that selling of tobacco in Mizoram is prohibited. Besides, he thought that he had no choice other than his present work which is dangerous to his health causing cough and allergy problems.

## **Conclusion**

In all the six cases, poverty is found to be the main factor, which forced the children to be engaged in labour and deprived them from enjoying the basic human rights including right to education. Besides, accidents, large family size, family break up, and addiction to bad habits by the adult members are the other causes. Engagement in labour has badly affected their health. The children are not happy with their nature of work and also, in some cases, at their work places and want to get themselves relieved but they find helpless. All dropout cases are interested to pursue education, if given a chance, but in non-formal mode as they are not in a position to give up the works which is badly required for their own survival and to support their dependants. It was closely observed that the Mizo families have very strong emotional attachment and the eldest children, irrespective of their age and gender, take the responsibility of the family if any accident happens in the family. Under such conditions, children are found to be more prone to become victims to condition of child labour. Subjects like science, mathematics and English are difficult to children and as such require more efforts from children in higher classes and often this has been pointed out by them to be a reason of their underperformance in school. The children feel that they need guidance in these subjects.

The National Child Labour Project (NCLP) is not in operation in Mizoram because of the fact that the problem is not yet acute. Before the problem becomes acute, it is desired that the issues related to child labour in the state should be addressed. Child labour is not uniform, it is local specific. Education can improve the lot of exploited child labourers. Mizoram has ideal system of education at all levels, more particularly at school levels in terms of access and teacher pupil ratio. Mid Day Meal (MDM) scheme is in operation in the state. It is said that *feeding a child at school is such a simple thing – but it works miracles*. But, simply having provisions are not enough. The provisions need to be implemented in true spirit. Effective monitoring and supervision is essential. It is said that *prevention is better than cure*. Child labour can never be a measure for eradication of poverty rather it will perpetuate poverty. The Mizoram Child Protection Society needs to conduct survey and to rescue the child labourers and to rehabilitate them. It is required for establishment of special schools and vocational institutions in the state. “*Child in Pain is No Gain*” “*Small Hands Can Handle a Pen Better*” “*Let Children be Children, Not Child Labourers*”. These quotes should be reflected by all and suitable measures should be taken.

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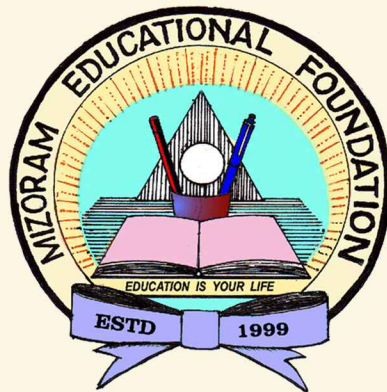
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## **A Study of the Intelligence of Government K.M. Higher Secondary School Students, Aizawl**

Vanlalruatfela Hlondo\*  
Lalliantluanga Ralte\*\*

### **Abstract**

*Intelligence has been defined in many different ways such as in terms of one's capacity for problem solving. In the school, it is possible for the teacher to classify the students in his/her class as backward, average, bright or gifted and thus arrange for homogeneous grouping to provide them with proper educational opportunities according to their individual capabilities. The result of intelligence test may be used successfully in providing educational, vocational and personal guidance to students' by teachers and guidance personnel. The objective of this study is to examine the general intelligence level of higher secondary students. It also aims to compare the intelligence of higher secondary students in relation to their gender and stream of study. The study found that the overall intelligence level of higher secondary students is average and there is a significant difference in intelligence with reference to gender and stream of study.*

**Key words:** *Intelligence, Gender, Secondary, Students, Arts, Science*

### **Introduction:**

Intelligence can only be observed on how it works in terms of behaviors. The assumption is that behaviors reflect intelligence. A mathematics teacher says that a boy is intelligent as he attempts the problems quickly and correctly, because his behavior in the class is above all the students. Teacher does not say that he is good in mathematics. Thus intelligence is nothing but intelligent behavior. An intelligent behavior is that which is above the norms of a particular group. If a child of two years behaves above his age group, he is known as an intelligent boy. Thus intelligence is an inferred phenomenon.

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Intelligence has been defined in many different ways such as in terms of one's capacity for problem solving. Intelligence is most widely studied in human but has also been observed in animals and in plants. Within the discipline of psychology, various approaches to human intelligence have been adopted. The psychometric approach is especially familiar to the general public, as well as being the most researched and by far the most widely used in practical settings

In view of the lacunae (gap) in the existing definitions, David Wechsler (1944) tried to provide a somewhat comprehensive definition. He defined "Intelligence as the aggregate or global capacity of an individual to act purposefully, to think rationally, and to deal effectively with his environment.

We can observe the intelligence of an individual only to the extent that it is manifested by him in one or more intelligence tests. Many tests have been devised by psychologists for the measurement of intelligence. Various types of tests have been constructed so far for measuring the intelligence but the credit goes to Binet and Stanford, who have first developed the test to measure intelligence. Binet is considered as the father of intelligence.

The first practical group tests of general intelligence were developed for the Armed forces during the First World War. The number of men to be tested required a quick and economical measurement device, and the individual test was unsuited for that purpose.

Most group tests are sufficiently self-explanatory so that the test examiner need not have little or no specialized knowledge of testing procedures. The test forms are simply passed out to subjects; either they are allowed to work at their chosen rate or the examiner directs the subject when to start and stop.

Group tests are less time consuming and less expensive, it takes no more time to administer and score one individual, it is usually easier to construct than individual tests. The difficulties in constructing test materials, standardizing the test, and particularly the setting of instructions for administration and scoring make the development of an individual test a time consuming and an expensive job.

### **Need and Importance of the Study:**

Test of intelligence is highly needed in the field of higher level of education, this is because by using this test we can develop students' personality according to their intelligence level. Intelligence test also helps in classifying individuals according to their mental make-up. In the school, it is possible for the teacher to classify the students in his/her class as backward, average, bright or gifted and thus arrange for homogeneous grouping to provide them with proper educational opportunities according to their

individual capabilities. The result of intelligence test may be used successfully in providing educational, vocational and personal guidance to students by teachers and guidance personnel. Intelligence test results can be used for predicting the future performance of the students. Results of intelligence test can help a teacher to discover what the child can learn and how quickly he can learn. It also helps to discover the teaching method that should be applied and the learning content that should be utilized to guide the learner to use his mental potentialities to their utmost. Thus, we can conclude that intelligence test is needed in educational settings. In view of all these, the investigators decided to take up the present study which is stated as 'A study of the intelligence of Gov't. K.M. Higher Secondary School Students, Aizawl'.

### **Objectives of the Study**

- 1) To find out the level of intelligence among K.M. Higher Secondary school students.
- 2) To compare the intelligence of K.M. Higher Secondary school students with respect to gender.
- 3) To compare the intelligence of K.M Higher Secondary School students with respect to their stream of study.

### **Hypothesis**

- 1) There is no significant difference in the intelligence of K.M. Higher secondary school students with reference to their gender.
- 2) There is no significant difference in the intelligence of K.M. Higher secondary School students with reference to their stream of study.

### **Operational Definition of Key Word.**

**Intelligence:** Intelligence is judgment, good sense initiative, the ability to comprehend and to reason well and to adapt one's self to circumstances, and it is the ability of an individual to adapt himself adequately to relatively new situation in life , we can also say that it is the proportion that he/she is able to carry on abstract thinking. In the present study, the level of intelligence implies the scores obtained from the test of general intelligence developed by Dr. K.S. Mishra and Dr. S.K.Pal.

### **Methodology**

The method used for the present study is a status survey method. The population includes all students of K.M. Higher secondary school, Aizawl. The sample consists of 100 students, 50 students from Science stream (25 Male and 25 Female), and 50

students from Arts stream (25 Male and 25 Female) were selected for the present study. The investigators used ‘TGI- Test of general intelligence’ developed by Dr K.S.Mishra and Dr S.K.Pal as a tool for the collection of data. The investigator personally went to the school and met the Principal and asked the consent of the principal to collect data. After getting the permission, the test named General Intelligence Scale (TGI), test booklet and answer sheets were given to the subjects. Before administering the test, the instructions and the procedure given in the manual were explained to the students to make sure that the subjects understood the instruction. After test administration was completed, the investigators collected the test booklets. The responses obtained from the subjects were scored following the standard scoring procedures. The scores were classified, tabulated and analyzed.

### Analysis and Interpretation of Data.

Analysis and interpretation of the data were carried out with the help of standard statistical techniques and in accordance with the objectives of the present study as follow:

### Objective No.1: To find out the intelligence of K.M. Higher Secondary school students.

In order to find out the intelligence of the students, Test of General Intelligence was administered to all the respondents, after this, their scores were tabulated and classified in accordance with the norm given in the manual. Score below P25 is taken as low IQ, score above P75 is taken as High IQ and score between P25 and P75 is taken as average IQ. The following table shows the respondents’ intelligence which is categorized into three levels.

**Table 1: Classification of students with respect to their intelligence**

Categories	Low Intelligence	%	Average Intelligence	%	High Intelligence
All students N=100	44	44	56	56	0
Male N=50	10	20	40	80	0
Female N=50	34	68	16	32	0
Arts N=50	32	64	18	36	0

Science N=50	12	24	38	76	0
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The above table shows that out of 100 respondents, 44% of the students are categorized as having low intelligence, 56% as having average intelligence, and among all of them there is no student with high level of intelligence.

The above table also reveals that among the male respondents, 20% of them had low intelligence and 80% had average intelligence. On the other hand, among the female respondents, 68% had low intelligence and 32% are found to have average level of intelligence.

As depicted in table no. 1, among science students, 24% possess low intelligence and 76% had average intelligence. Among Arts students 64% had low intelligence whereas 36% had average intelligence.

**Objective No.2: To compare the intelligence level of K.M. Higher secondary school students with respect to their gender.**

The intellectual levels of the student were compared on the basis of their gender. For this, the mean and standard deviation of the scores were calculated. The mean differences were tested by applying “t” test and the details are presented in the following tables.

**Hypothesis no. 1.** There is no significant difference in the intelligence of K.M. Higher secondary school students with reference to their gender.

**Table 2 : Difference in intelligence between male and female respondents.**

Groups	Number	Mean	SD	MD	SEM	t-value	Significant level
Male	50	28.74	4.92	8.1	1.409	5.749	0.01
Female	50	20.64	8.673				

Table 2 shows that there is a significant difference between male and female students in relation to their intelligence. The test is significant at 0.01 level. The result indicates that the two groups differed significantly and the null hypothesis – *There is no significant difference in the intelligence of K.M. Higher secondary school students with reference to their gender* is rejected. The mean score of male students is found to be greater than that of female. This shows that male students of K.M Higher secondary school have higher IQ level than that of female students.

**Objective No.3: To compare the intelligence level of K.M. Higher secondary school students with respect to their stream of study.**

The intellectual levels of the student were compared on the basis of their stream of study. For this, the mean and standard deviation of the scores were calculated. The mean differences were tested by applying “t” test and the details are presented in the following tables.

**Hypothesis no. 2:** There is no significant difference in the intelligence of K.M. Higher secondary school students with reference to their stream of study.

**Table 3: Difference in intelligence between Science and Arts respondents.**

Groups	Number	Mean	SD	MD	SEM	t-value	Significant level
Arts	50	21.54	8.127	6.3	1.5	4.201	0.01
Science	50	27.84	6.813				

As depicted in table No 3, the t-value of 4.201 is found to be significant at the level of .01 level. The mean of Science students is found to be greater than the mean of Arts. The result indicates that the two groups differed significantly and the null hypothesis – *There is no significant difference in the intelligence of K.M. Higher secondary School students with reference to their stream of study* is rejected. This indicates that Science students have higher IQ level than that of Arts students.

**Major Findings**

1. Majority of the students possessed average level of intelligence, no students possessed high intelligence level and a fewer number of the students had low level of intelligence.
2. There is a significant difference in the intelligence of K.M. Higher secondary school students with reference to their gender. Male students possessed higher level of intelligence than that of their female counterpart.
3. There is a significant difference in the intelligence of K.M. Higher secondary School with reference to their stream of study. It was also found that Science students possessed a relatively higher level of intelligence than Arts students.

**Conclusion:**

The study found that no student possessed high level of intelligence. One reason for this could be that the students did not actually understand the test as it was developed

in English. Since majority of the students had average intelligence, the teachers and parents had great responsibility in helping the students so that they will have satisfactory academic achievements. Teachers need to be cautious in the method of teaching they apply and in giving motivations to the students and parents need to monitor their children so that they develop good study habits.

Male students were found to possess higher level of intelligence as compared to the females. Differences in intelligence have long been a topic of debate among researchers and scholars. With the advent of the concept of *g* or general intelligence, some researchers have argued for no significant sex differences in general intelligence while others have found greater intelligence in males. The split view between these researchers depends on the methodology and tests they use for their claims. However, it is suggested that female students be given more motivation and better attention by their teachers.

When arts and science students were compared, it was found that science students possessed higher intelligence than the arts students. This is not surprising considering the fact that those students who took up science stream were mostly those who did well in their matriculation, and usually those who had good achievements in HSLC were those who possessed higher level of intelligence. Students who took up Arts were mostly students who did not get admission in the science stream because of their low level of achievements. But this does not mean that all Arts students possessed low level of intelligence or that all of them achieved at a low level.

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ABSTRACT

EDUCATION OF CHILD LABOURERS IN MIZORAM: STATUS AND  
PROSPECTS

LALLIANTLUANGA RALTE

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

MIZORAM UNIVERSITY

## **Introduction**

Children need to grow in such environment which would be conducive for their all round development. They must be given proper care, guidance and affection to lead their lives with freedom and dignity. Opportunities for education and training must be provided to enable them to grow into responsible and responsive citizens. But, unfortunately, a proportion of children are deprived of their basic rights particularly rights to education worldwide. Being compelled by adverse family and social circumstances, they are found doing manual works in various sectors of the economy predominantly in the unorganised sectors to earn their lively hood and to support their family. In certain cases, minor children take the whole burden of the family. Some of them are confined, exploited and punished, reduced to slavery and are deprived of the guaranteed fundamental right of access to free and compulsory education, thus, making child labour a human rights issue and a developmental issue.

Although there are governmental acts, schemes, rules and regulations for protection of interest of children and prevention of children from exploitation; child labour continues to be a serious problem in our country. Children are the future of every nation. In India; a large number of children are neglected due to various reasons i.e. poverty, illiteracy of parents/guardians, lack of proper schooling facilities, accidents in families, natural disasters, terrorism etc. Such situations lead to employment of children in various economic activities like working as agricultural labourers, in shops, marketing establishments, hotels etc. Even though people observe child labour practices right in their front, they ignore it from their views due to lack of proper awareness regarding Rights of Children, Child Labour Prohibition Acts and Educational Provisions. Though some educated and prominent persons are

familiar about child rights and protection acts, they are the people who engage the children in different works, even in hazardous situations. As a result, children are not only deprived of getting proper care for their physical and mental development, but also for their education. Thus, child labour and children's right to education are closely linked.

Officially, there are 23 towns, 708 inhabited villages and 26 Rural Development Blocks in the state of Mizoram. Due to poor transport and communication facilities the people, particularly in rural areas, often ignore child rights in relation to their work and education. The Constitution of India in the Fundamental Rights and the Directive Principles of State Policy prohibits child labour below the age of 14 years in any factory or mine or castle or engaged in any other hazardous employment. The constitution also envisioned that India shall provide infrastructure and resources for free and compulsory education to all children of the age six to 14 years. Although there is some child rights written in the constitution, child labour practices are common in the country as a whole and Mizoram as well. As per 2011 Census, Mizoram had 2793 child labourers.

It was found that, in the state of Mizoram, there are different government organisations and welfare schemes for children like state level child welfare committee, child protection welfare board, state child welfare committee etc. Only fourteen cases were recorded during 2008- 2014. The real picture is different. It is because there is no proper survey relating to the problem.

Further, due to socio-economic backwardness and lack of awareness of the people the children do not receive proper education and work with their parents and

are engaged in labour works violating the children's rights and keeping the rules and laws of the government at stake. In the present study, an attempt has been made to find out the status of child labour in rural and urban areas of Mizoram and their prospects of education.

### **Research Questions**

- What are the government provisions relating to child labour and education in Mizoram?
- What are the major causes of child labour in rural and urban areas of Mizoram?
- What is the status of child labour in rural and urban areas of Mizoram?
- What are the differences between the status of child labour in rural and urban areas of Mizoram?
- What is the educational status of child labourers in rural and urban areas of Mizoram?
- What are the perceptions of parents/guardians and public leaders about the practice and prevention of child labour?
- What are the activities of recognised NGO's on welfare of child labourers in the state of Mizoram?
- What are the prospects for education of child labourers in Mizoram?
- What are the remedial measures to eradicate child labour practices and educate them in Mizoram?

### **Objectives of the Study**

- i) To examine the government provisions relating to child labour and education

in Mizoram.

- ii) To find out the causes of child labour in rural and urban areas of Mizoram.
- iii) To examine the status of child labour in rural and urban areas of Mizoram.
- iv) To compare the status of child labour in rural and urban areas of Mizoram.
- v) To study the educational status of child labourers in rural and urban areas of Mizoram.
- vi) To assess the perception of parents/guardians and public leaders about the practice and prevention of child labour.
- vii) To study the activities of recognised NGO's on welfare of child labourers in the state of Mizoram.
- viii) To conduct some case studies on child labourers in Mizoram.
- ix) To examine the prospect of education for child labourers in Mizoram.
- x) To suggest remedial measures to eradicate child labour practices and educate them in Mizoram.

### **The Research Approach**

The present study was primarily aimed at studying the status, causes, and education of child labour in rural and urban areas of the state of Mizoram. Further, the study was intended to examine the perceptions of Parents/Guardians, Public Leaders and the Victims (Child Labourers) in the areas of study regarding various issues of child labour and to offer suggestions in the light of findings of the study. Consequently, descriptive survey approach was followed for the present study. Both qualitative and quantitative approaches i.e. mixed approach was followed for the study. Besides, case studies on some cases were conducted

## **Sources of Data**

The following primary and secondary sources were considered to be appropriate for collection of relevant data for the present study.

A. *Primary sources:* Since the major focus of the study was to find out the status, causes, and education of child labourers in rural and urban areas of Mizoram; working children, parents /guardians, and public leaders were considered to be the appropriate primary sources for collection of relevant data for the present study.

B. *Secondary sources:* For secondary sources, different national and state survey reports, books and journals and government official records, internet, published and unpublished documents and interview with government officials and prominent citizens used to be considered as major sources. For the present study, these sources were also considered important as secondary sources of information.

## **Population and Sample**

There are 8 districts, 23 towns, 26 Rural Development Blocks and 708 inhabited villages in Mizoram. All child labourers in the state of Mizoram were the target population of the study. Stratified random sampling technique was followed for selection of sample for the study. Out of eight districts, two districts were randomly selected. From each district four localities were randomly selected. Further, from each locality ten child labourers, irrespective of their gender, were identified. From the rural areas four villages were randomly selected from each of the two districts. Further, from each village ten child labourers below the age of 14, irrespective of their gender, were identified. Thus, the sample of child laborers was comprised of 160 child labourers out of which 80 were from urban areas and the rest 80 were from



rural areas. In addition to that, 30 public leaders from rural as well as urban areas were randomly selected. Besides, five parents from each locality were also included in the sample. Thus, the total sample of the study was comprised of 160 child labourers, 80 parents/guardians, and 60 public leaders. The list of sampled localities/villages is given in Table 3.01 and category wise sample distribution is presented in Table 3.02 and Figure 3.01. From among the sampled child labourers, six cases, three female and three male, were selected for in-depth case studies purposively considering their openness, work places and back ground(rural /urban).

### **Tools and Technique used**

Interview was used as the main technique for collection of relevant primary data for the study. Interview, as a technique of research, has many advantages over questionnaires and observation techniques. Personal interviews can yield high percentage of return and accurate result and can be conducted on children and adult illiterates with greater scope for clarification and explanation. It can be flexible depending upon the situation, and the responses can be cross checked. Keeping the subjects in view, it was decided to conduct informal interviews (unstructured interviews) with the subjects for collection of data. However, to facilitate interview and to collect the specific data for fulfilling the objectives, the following two interview schedules were developed by the investigator which were used as guide for collection of the relevant data, recording of data and for systematic analysis and interpretation.

- Interview Schedule for Child Labourers
- Interview Schedule for Parents/ Guardians and Public Leaders

The interview schedule for child labourers was developed on causes of child

labour, working conditions, status and their education besides some general information. The preliminary draft of the interview schedule had contained 37 items. It was given to ten experts who were working as Professors/ Associate Professors in the departments of education, sociology and social work. Basing upon the feedbacks received from the ten experts, some items were edited and some were deleted. The final interview schedule contained 30 items. The items were requiring different types of responses such as alternative and multiple choices in which more than one answer may be possible. There was no right or wrong response to the items. Thus, the interview schedule was considered to be valid. Because of diverse nature of items and expected responses, reliability of the interview schedule could not be established empirically. A copy of the interview schedule for the child labourers is appended in Appendix-A1.

The Interview Schedule for Parents/Guardians and Public Leaders was also developed following the same procedure. The preliminary draft had 26 items. After editing, 22 items were retained finally excluding the identification data. The schedule contained items on status, causes, and working conditions of child labourers besides some items seeking opinion on addressing the issue. Like the interview schedule meant for child labourers, this interview schedule was also checked by the same experts. A copy of the interview schedule for the Parents/Guardians and Public Leaders is appended in Appendix-A2.

Besides, unstructured interviews were conducted to get relevant information from the respondents at the time of collection of data and other supplementary information as felt necessary by the researcher. Besides, the researcher had

interactions with government officials and NGO leaders/ coordinators for collection of information for the study.

### **Collection of Data**

For the present study, data were collected through personal visits to the selected villages and urban localities, government offices, NGO leaders/coordinators etc. The researcher conducted personal interview with all the selected subjects. Case studies on selected cases were conducted subsequently in the second phase. Being a Mizo he did not find it difficult to establish rapport with the subjects before conducting interview and to get their opinion and relevant information.

### **Organization of Data**

Keeping the objectives of the study in view, the data were organized for the Child Labourers and Parents/Guardians and Public Leaders separately as per the items in the tools.

### **Analysis of Data**

The data were analyzed quantitatively using descriptive statistics like frequency and percentage.

### **Major Findings of the Study Government Policies and Provisions**

- Mizoram state has implemented all policies and programmes formulated by Government of India in principle which are intended to prohibit child labour in the state.

### **Causes of Child Labour**

- According to child labourers, poverty is the main reason of child labour in both rural and urban areas of Mizoram.
- According to parents/guardians, poverty is the major cause of child labour in

both rural and urban areas in Mizoram. Besides, large member in the family, broken family, ignorance of adverse effects on child's health, inadequate income of parents are also found to be the other causes of child labour in the state of Mizoram.

- According to public leaders, poverty is the main problem for children being engaged as child labourers in both rural and urban areas of Mizoram. Besides, in some cases, large member in the family, broken family, ignorance of adverse effects on child's health, inadequate incomes of parents, compulsion of socio-economic disparity are the other causes of children being engaged as child labourers.

#### **Reasons of employers for engaging children at work**

- According to parents/guardians, low wage rate is the main reason for the employers for engaging minor children in both rural and urban areas of Mizoram.
- Majority of the public leaders of rural and urban areas reported that low wage rate is the main reason for the employers for engaging minor children at work.

#### **Reasons for parents to engage their children as labourers**

- According to parents/guardians and public leaders, poverty is the main cause that compels parents to engage their minor children as labourers even knowing its adverse effects on their children's health and education in both rural and urban areas of Mizoram.

#### **Status of Child Labour in Rural and Urban areas of Mizoram**

- Though, majority of child labourers were studying, around 44% of the child

labourers in Mizoram were out of school which is a serious problem.

- All rural child labourers were staying at their own homes. But, in urban areas, majority (87.5%) were staying with their families and the rest (12.5%) were staying outside their families. Out of child labourers, who were staying outside their families, 90% had left their homes as per the decision of their parents but 10% had left their homes as per their own decision. Majority of child labourers from both rural and urban areas were staying with their families and doing the works.
- Majority (68.75%) of rural child labourers were working since last 6 months to 1 year. Besides, 15% were working since 1-2 years, 12.50% were working since 2 years and above and 3.75% were working since less than 6 months in their present works respectively. Majority (58.75%) of urban child labourers reported that they were working since 1-2 years, 27.50% were working since more than 2 years and 13.75% were working since 6 months to 1 year in their present works respectively. Out of all the child labourers from both rural and urban areas, 41.25% were working as labourers since 1-2 years.
- Majority (78.12%) of child labourers of rural and urban areas were pursuing education before working at the present place and 21.88% were working at other places.
- Majority (57.50%) of child labourers of rural and urban areas had started working at the age of 12.
- Majority, (52.50%) of rural child labourers were working at agricultural farms. Besides, majority (55%) of urban child labourers were working at dhabas (roadside eateries), restaurants, hotels, motels, tea shops, resorts, spas

or other recreational centres.

- Majority (93.75%) of child labourers did not receive any skill training in their workplaces.
- Majority, (80%) of child labour employers were not government servants. But, 20% of the employers, mostly from urban areas, were government servants.
- Majority (89.32%) of child labourers were never ill-treated by their employers in their workplaces.
- Majority (87.50%) of child labourers were never given punishment by their employer at their work places, the rest 12.50% of child labourers were given punishment by their employer at their workplaces.
- Majority (95.62%) of child labourers were hesitant to continue in their workplaces.
- Majority (97.50%) of child labourers from both rural and urban areas reported that their engagement had adverse effects on their health.
- Majority (96.25%) of child labourers from both rural and urban areas were not confident about their present work to be helpful for their future.
- Majority (66.87%) of the child labourers from both rural and urban areas had the feeling that their employers were satisfied with their works, but, the rest 33.13% had the feeling that their employers were not satisfied with their works.
- Majority (56.25%) of all the child labourers from both rural and urban areas reported that they were earning between Rs 2000/- and Rs 2500/- per month at their work places though the government has made minimum wage of Rs

450/- per day.

- Majority (93.75%) of all the child labourers from both rural and urban areas reported that they used to get extra payments when they were engaged overtime.
- Majority (99.37%) of all the child labourers from both rural and urban areas reported that there was no provision for medical support at their work places to meet any emergency.
- Comparison on the status of child labourers in rural and urban areas of Mizoram reveals no much difference. In all the seventeen items i.e. nature of engagement, type of accommodation, duration of engagement, status before joining work, age of starting work, working places, skill trainings, status of employer, treatment by employer, punishment at work place, motivation for the work, effects on health, future prospect, satisfaction of employer, remuneration, extra payment, and medical care at the work places, the views of the child labourers are found more or less same. The variations are in negligible percentages only, but the trend is same. The variations are only due to geographical locations and the opportunities available to work.

#### **Educational Status of Child Labour in Rural and Urban Areas of Mizoram**

- All (100%) child labourers of both rural and urban areas were admitted in the schools and were pursuing their studies before working.
- Majority (61.25%) of both rural and urban child labourers were continuing schooling while working and the rest 38.75% had discontinued schooling. Out of all dropped out child labourers 48.39%, and 51.61% had discontinued

schooling due to lack of parental encouragement and their parents could not afford schooling respectively.

- All dropped out child labourers from both rural and urban areas expressed that they would like to be in the schools.
- All child labourers of rural and urban areas were interested to continue schooling, if they would be given a chance.
- Majority (63.12%) of rural child labourers had dropped out at class VI followed by classes IV (12.50%), V (12.50%), VII (12.50%), and VIII (9.37%). Similarly, majority (56.25%) of urban child labourers had dropped out at class VI followed by classes VII (16.67%), VIII (10%), IV (6.67%) and V(6.67%).
- Majority (54.38%) of child labourers from both rural and urban areas reported that no government organization has ever contacted them to continue their education. However, 45.62% of child labourers of rural and urban areas were contacted by government agencies for pursuing education.
- Majority (95%) of rural and urban child labourers were not provided with any educational facilities by their employers, but, only 5% child labourers were provided with educational facilities by their employers.
- Majority (80.62%) of child labourers from both rural and urban areas were not aware about free and compulsory universal elementary education, but, the rest 19.38% of the child labourers were aware about it.



### **Preference on type of education**

- Majority (55.62%) of child labourers preferred to pursue schooling with formal education. Besides, 44.11% of child labourers preferred to pursue schooling with non- formal education in rural and urban areas of Mizoram.
- All (100%) the rural and urban child labourers both from rural and urban areas were not aware about the laws banning children below 14 years of age to work as labourers.
- Majority (73.12%) of child labourers from both rural and urban areas had never expressed their feelings to their parents for pursuing studies, but, 20.62% had expressed their feelings to pursue studies to their parents.
- In urban areas all children used to be admitted in different schools, but, in rural areas some children could not be admitted in the schools by their parents/guardians.
- Both in rural and urban areas of Mizoram, child labourers had not received proper motivation from their parents/guardians and public leaders to continue their education.
- All(100%) rural and urban parents/guardians and public leaders admitted the prevalence of child labour in their locality.
- According to parents/guardians and public leaders, the largest sector of engagement of child labour in rural areas is agriculture. In urban areas, Dhabas (roadside eateries), restaurants, hotels, motels, tea shops, resorts, spas or other recreational centres is the largest sector in which more children are

engaged in work.

- Child labour practice is more serious in rural areas than urban areas of Mizoram and it prevails in all localities.
- All parents/guardians and all public leaders from both rural and urban areas were of the view that child labour practice has adverse effects on the health of the children.
- Majority of parents/guardians and majority of public leaders from both rural and urban areas were of the view that child labourers used to be exploited at their workplaces.
- Majority of parents/guardians and majority of public leaders from both rural and urban areas were of the view that child labour does not have much contribution to socio-economic development.
- Majority of parents/guardians and majority of public leaders from both rural and urban areas perceived child labour as a serious obstacle on the path of progress and prosperity of their locality.
- Majority of parents/guardians and majority of public leaders from both rural and urban areas perceived that nuclear family is one of causes for demand of child labour in Mizo society.
- All parents/guardians and public leaders of both rural and urban areas were of the view that no sectarian religious group prevents children from pursuing education in their societies.

- All parents/guardians and public leaders of both rural and urban areas of Mizoram were not having proper awareness on child labour prevention Acts and Laws of our country.
- Majority of parents/guardians and public leaders of both rural and urban areas felt the existing government policies to be inadequate for eradicating child labour in our country.
- Majority of parents/guardians and public leaders of both rural and urban areas were ignorant of any government agency in their locality working for prevention of child labour.
- Majority of parents/guardians and public leaders of both rural and urban areas were of the view that child labour should be totally banned.
- Majority of parents/guardians and public leaders of both rural and urban areas were not aware that engagement of child labour is as an offence.
- The NGOs in Mizoram are not much involved in child labour prohibition related activities.

### **Findings on Case Studies**

- Poverty is found to be the main factor, which forces the children to be engaged in labour and deprives them from enjoying the basic human rights including right to education. In some cases the families have been ruined due to accidents, family break up, and addiction to bad habits leaving the children as orphans or like orphans. In some cases, large family size also has caused hardship. Engagement in labour has badly affected their health. The children are not happy with their nature of work and also, in some cases, at their work

places and want to get themselves relieved but they find helpless.

- Child labourers are interested to pursue education, if given a chance, but in non-formal mode as they are not in a position to give up the works which is badly required for their own survival and to support their dependants. Though there are prohibition rules and *regulation* act, the people in and around their life are absolutely blind about them. The people who are engaging them for different kinds of work are negligent about the child right issues. They are also not aware of the severity of such issues and its negative implications on the children.
- Issues of broken families, addiction of alcohol and drugs among the family members especially the earning member make children more prone to be the victims of child labour.
- Subjects like Science, Mathematics and English are found to be difficult to children and as such require more efforts from children in higher classes and often this has been pointed out by them to be a reason of their underperformance in school.

#### **Findings on Prospects of Education for Child Labourers in Mizoram**

- The study found that, in Mizoram, the National Child Labour Project (NCLP) is not in operation because of the fact that there is no high concentration of child labour in any of the districts of Mizoram.
- Mizoram does not have any heavy industry for which children are engaged in house hold works, particularly girls, and in other sectors like agriculture, stone quarries, hotels, dhabas, shops and the like. The works may not be hazardous but it amounts to their deprivation and exploitation.

- Mizoram is having small population. It has ideal system of education at all levels, more particularly at school levels in terms of access and teacher pupil ratio. Quality of education largely depends on quality of teachers and their sincerity.
- Mid-Day Meal (MDM) scheme is in operation in the state. Poor children are supposed to be maximally benefited out of the scheme. It motivates them for regular attendance and prevents them being drop outs. But, simply having provisions are not enough. The provisions need to be implemented in true spirit.
- Effective monitoring and supervision is essential. It is said that *prevention is better than cure*. Thus, it has to be seen that no student drops out from the schools and quality education is imparted in the schools so that no child labour is produced anymore.
- Mizoram does not have any special school for the purpose. The Mizoram Child Protection Society needs to conduct survey regularly and seriously to rescue the child labourers and to rehabilitate them. Mainstreaming of children is required. The grown up/ overage children, who had dropped much earlier, may not prefer to be mainstreamed in the formal education due to psychological factors. Such children would prefer to have vocational training. Hence, it is required that special schools and vocational institutions need to be established in the state. Initially, one special school and one vocational institution of residential nature need to be established for the purpose.

The findings of the present study are in agreement with the findings of all other studies conducted on child labour in other parts of our country. All studies have found poverty as the primary cause of child labour besides some other social causes. The findings on educational status, residence, working hours, salary, treatment of employers, interest for further education, reasons for parents to engage their children etc., as found in the present study, are more or less same, except variations in percentages, in other studies. All researchers have stressed on poverty eradication to which the present researcher agrees. Since NCLP is not in operation in the state, it is required that either NCLP be implemented in the state of Mizoram or the state government should take similar measures. Thus, the findings of previous studies validate the findings of the present research.

### **Suggestions for Prevention of Child Labour in Mizoram**

There are many causes of child labour in our country such as extreme poverty, shortage of full-fledged schools, increased population, ignorance of rules and laws that have been made to prevent child labour and increasing demand of labour, low wage rate and the like. Mizoram is not an exception to it. Poor parents do not understand how much their children are affected in the process of their physical, mental, moral and social development. Children are the future citizen of the country and getting education, playing, enjoying childhood is the natural rights of children. Child labour should be prevented and eradicated. All children must complete their secondary education minimum. The following suggestions are made for prevention and eradication of child labour in Mizoram based on the study.

- Government of Mizoram should plan and implement poverty eradication programmes seriously in rural and urban areas of Mizoram.
- Poverty stricken family/people should be identified objectively.
- Child labourer Acts and Laws should be strictly enforced by the government agencies in both rural and urban areas.
- Government agencies should take proactive action to prevent child labour.
- The children engaged in the works in the permissible ones should be paid the wages as fixed by the government for adult labourers.
- The offenders should be punished as per the provisions.
- The Mizoram Child Protection Society should conduct survey regularly every year in both rural and urban areas of the state to identify, rescue and rehabilitate the child labourers.
- The child labourers working in rural and urban areas should be brought to the arena of Education.
- The rescued child labourers, if not willing to join the mainstream of education, may be provided some vocational training for development of skills for their future.
- Right to Education Act should be implemented seriously throughout the state of Mizoram, more particularly in the rural areas.
- Functioning of schools should be monitored through effective and surprise supervision.

- School teachers and headmasters should visit the families of the children who used to remain absent or perform badly in examination and conceal the facts to their parents/guardians.
- The education officers at different levels should monitor enrolment, retention and quality education in the schools.
- Schools must be well equipped and must create the school environment attractive for the students.
- Awareness campaign should be made among the school students, parents and guardians and public leaders through different activities in the schools and outside the schools.
- The NGO's should play active role in preventing child labour. NGOs should look to enrolment, retention and quality education of children in the schools of their locality.
- Children from poor background should be provided with hostel facilities with free boarding and lodging.
- If required, residential schools should be established in every block head quarters to accommodate the need children.
- Special schools in the model of NCLP may be established in every district of the state depending upon the need. Minimum one special school may be established in the state capital for rehabilitation of the child labourers.
- All support in shape of boarding, lodging, study materials, garments, nutrition and health care and stipends may be provided.
- People should refrain from engaging children as labourers. If people engage children in their household due to distress condition of children, they should



behave them like adopted children and support their education.

- Appropriate actions by law enforcing agencies and social leaders should be taken against the parents/guardians who compel their children for child labour.
- The government should ensure regular health checkups of the children and adolescents in all localities time to time.
- Mizo society should think of adopting family planning measures without having any prejudice and inhibition.
- People should be aware of the fatal consequences of addiction upon their family and children.
- Parents should give priority to proper education of their children. They should provide study materials to their children.

### **Educational Implications of the Study**

The present study has implications for the government of Mizoram, educational planners, supervising officials, parents/ guardians, village leaders, school teachers, headmasters, child labourers, NGOs and all those who are concerned with child welfare and education in Mizoram.

*Grace Abbott*, the American social worker who worked in improving the rights of immigrants and advancing child welfare, had said “Child labour and poverty are inevitably bound together and if you continue to use the labour of children as the treatment for the social disease of poverty, you will have both poverty and child labour to the end of time.” Thus, there should be below poverty line should be identified and be provided support for the education of their children. If required, residential schools may be established in every block where the child labourers may be provided facilities to pursue their education after rescuing them. Further, hostel facilities may be provided in the upper primary and secondary schools with free boarding and lodging. Study materials and school uniforms may be provided. State government should ensure providing engagement to the adults for earning their livelihood and to support their families. All relevant acts and laws should be strictly implemented. The law enforcing agencies should be instructed to take proactive measures for prevention of child labour. The offenders should be punished as per the provisions.

Educational planners and supervisors must look into creation of attractive and motivating school environment where quality education is imparted. Regular attendance of students and their academic progress should be given stress. The supervisors/inspecting authorities should make surprise visits to schools and monitor academic activities. The Mid Day Meal (MDM) scheme being operated in the schools should be monitored effectively by which the poor students can be benefitted. It would help in preventing drop out.

Parents/guardians should be made aware of the various laws and acts relating child labour and the implications of child labour upon the physical, mental, social and emotional development of their children. They should be made aware of the provision of punishments in the acts and laws so that they will refrain from engaging their wards in the work force. They should support the education of their children at any cost and look to the future of their children without discontinuing their education. Parents who are addicted to bad habits and that create difficulties to the family and education of their children should give up such habits. They should lead peaceful family life.

In Mizo society, people participate in different socio-cultural activities voluntarily. Though, there is gradual change in the scenario, people respect the customary laws more than the constitutional/ government laws. In various socio-cultural activities people make voluntary financial contributions. Poor people should not make it as a prestige issue and should not compete with others for equal contributions being in trouble.

The village leaders in rural areas and the councilors in the urban areas must take accountability for any kind of child labour in their locality. They should have a vigilant eye on school going children and try to get feedback from the schools relating absentees, visit their homes, counsel the children, their parents and guardians and see that no child drops out from the school. They should see that no one engages children as labourers. They should facilitate the poverty-stricken people of their village/wards to improve their economic status availing the various welfare schemes of government.

The school teachers and headmasters have to take the issues of absenteeism of students and their drop out seriously. They should not only focus on quality education in their schools but also focus on creating attractive and motivating environment for the students. They should have counseling with students and their parents through their personal visits to the villages and homes of the students. Teachers may cite the examples of great personalities who could reach high positions and have achieved credentials in spite of lot of hindrances during their childhood.

The school children must be aware of the consequences of hard manual labour upon their health. At no cost they should give up their studies, and should think their future carrier. They should dream for future with realistic aspirations and put efforts to achieve the same.

NGOs plays important role in Mizo society and have great influence on the people. The NGOs should play actively to prevent child labour practices in Mizo society. Their efforts should be to put every child in class.

### **Limitations of the Study**

The investigator had tried to be scientific and objective in the conduct of the study.

However, the study might have contained the following limitations:

- Interview as a technique requires more time for collection of data. As such, the sample of the study was limited to 160 child labourers, 80 parents/guardians, and 60 public leaders from two districts of Mizoram.
- For collection of data no standardized tool was used. Two interview schedules were developed by the investigators himself which might have not been free from defects.

- The data were collected through interview only. The investigator might have failed to get right information from the subjects due to lack of expertise.
- Effective interview presupposes proper rapport with the respondents and creation of suitable atmosphere to facilitate free and frank responses. This difficult requirement might not have been fulfilled in all cases.
- The respondents might have hesitated to give correct responses with the fear that it would adversely affect their image.
- The respondents might have been emotionally involved with the interviewer and given answers in order to please the interviewer. Also, some respondents might have inhibited free responses.
- Due to lack of resources the researcher might not have gone through all related literature and research studies.

### **Conclusion**

If we can eradicate child labour, then we can aspire for a better future. Since 2002, every year 12<sup>th</sup> June is observed as World Day Against Child Labour as has been launched by the International Labour Organization (ILO) to focus attention on the global extent of child labour and the action and efforts needed to eliminate it. To highlight the plight of child labourers and what can be done to help them is the objective of observation of this World Day bringing together governments, employers and workers organizations, civil society, as well as millions of people from around the globe.

Child labour is one of the main obstacles for achievement of universalization of elementary education in our country even after 72 years of independence. The children who are engaged in child labour practices cannot go to school regularly. The academic achievement of such children who combine work and school suffers. There used to be a strong tendency with such children to drop out of school and enter into full-time employment in different working areas. Our country has made provision for free and compulsory education for all children belonging to age group 6-14 years. This has become a fundamental right vide Article 21(A) of our constitution. Further, along with RTE Act, 2009, the Rashtriya Madyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) has been launched since 2009. Child labour is banned in our country. Hence, there is no lack of government provisions to prevent child labour in our country. The results depend upon how it is implemented and how people respond to such acts and laws.

Mizoram is one of the young states of the country which got its statehood in 1986. It is a small state having a population of around eleven lakhs as per 2011 census of India. Traditionally, it was a classless society. People are very simple, discipline, tolerant and have close relationship among each other. After getting statehood, the state has followed the path of peace and is marching ahead. The future of the state largely depends upon the education which is considered as pillar of progress for the state.

The state used to implement all centrally sponsored schemes, policies and programmes for the welfare of the state. The teacher pupil ratio at all levels of education is found to be ideal, better than the prescribed ones. The cooperation of all stake holders in achieving quality education is very important.

India's child rights crusader Kailash Satyarthi who got the Nobel Peace Prize along with Pakistani girls' education activist teenager Malala Yousafzai in 2014 said after receiving the Prize that his life's aim was to "make sure that every child is a free child". Mr. Satyarthi is a child rights' activist and the founder of the Bachpan Bachao Andolan (BBA), an organization dedicated towards the eradication of child labour and rehabilitation of child workers. Satyarthi has argued that child labour perpetuates poverty, unemployment, illiteracy and population growth. Further, Kailash Satyarthi has said *child slavery is a crime against humanity. Humanity itself is at stake here. A lot of work still remains, but I will see the end of child labour in my lifetime.* It is reported that Kailash Satyarthi, through his hard work, has so far freed over 83,000 children from 144 countries from slavery and child labour. There are many NGOs which are very active and keep the people united in Mizoram. Even some NGOs are there which are more influential and popular like YMA that work as pressure group. People voluntarily respect and accept the decisions of such NGOs. Thus, if the NGOs can take a stand and take active steps, it will not be impossible to end child labour in Mizoram. The NGO activists have to take it as a challenge.

The government of Mizoram has to look to the problem seriously though the prevalence of child labour practices in Mizoram is found to be lower as compared to other parts of the country. The government have to direct the administrative machineries and the Mizoram Child Protection Society to be vigilant and proactive

and enforce the provisions strictly before the problem get aggravated.

All should *reflect* the American social worker *Grace Abbott's* remark that *Child labour and poverty are inevitably bound together and if you continue to use the labour of children as the treatment for the social disease of poverty, you will have both poverty and child labour to the end of time.*

Let it be hoped that all will respond and dedicate their efforts to the call of World Day against Child Labour 2019 that *children shouldn't work in fields, but on dreams* in order to end child labour in Mizoram and to make Mizoram a child labour free state of our country.



